



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 24th September 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane \(page 1\)](#)** reports that government payroll data shows that most regional Queensland towns are operating with fewer doctors than they did 18 years ago. "It is important that we continue working with the federal government to address these national challenges," Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman said.
- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane \(page 1\)](#)** reports that for the first time in sporting history, a Brisbane AFL team and NRL team will be competing in their respective competition grand finals in the same year.
- **[The Sunday Territorian \(page 4\)](#)** reports that Minister for Health Mark Butler has allocated \$240,000 to the Asthma Foundation NT. AFNT Chair Ian Crundall said the funds will go to training Aboriginal health workers in regional and remote areas "because that's the area that has had the least access to support."

MINISTER BUTLER

Health alarm as vape shops lure kids with lollies, toys

Sunday Age, General News, 24/09/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 4

Vape shops selling lollies, sugary drinks and toys are cropping up across Melbourne, alarming health experts who claim such items are a tactic to lure children. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said vape stores were selling a product "deliberately designed to recruit a new generation to nicotine addiction".

Also reported by: [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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How it's costing you \$400 a policy

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 24/09/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 31

Health fund members are being sluggish with soaring management fees worth an annual average of almost \$400 per policy. [...] And as the government prepares to approve next year's premium rises, health policy experts are calling on Health Minister Mark Butler to be far tougher on funds with bloated bureaucracies and high-earning executives.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Asthma funding will help in bush

Sunday Territorian, General News, 24/09/2023, Sierra Haigh, Page 4

The Territory's peak body for asthma services has been handed a lifeline after its funding was knocked back by almost 80 per cent earlier this year. Territorian and asthmatic Fiona Darcy was thrilled to hear federal Health Minister Mark Butler had allocated \$240,000 to the Asthma Foundation NT over the next two years.

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Presence 'optional'

CQ Today, General News, 23/09/2023, Kat Wong, Page 36

State premiers could choose to front an inquiry into Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Jim Chalmers says. [...] Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler on Thursday announced the inquiry which will examine the provision of vaccines, mental health support for those impacted by COVID-19 and lockdowns, financial support, and assistance for Australians abroad.

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View from The Hill: We can't prepare for a future pandemic without fully looking at state governments' decisions in the last one

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 23/09/2023, Michelle Grattan

Nearly a year ago, a privately financed inquiry, led by Peter Shergold, a former head of the prime minister's department, finished a review of Australia's handling of the COVID pandemic. [...] But Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler summed up the inquiry's remit when they said in a statement it would consider Commonwealth responses, including "the provision of vaccinations, treatments and key medical supplies to Australians, mental health support for those impacted by COVID-19 and lockdowns, financial support for individuals and business, and assistance for Australians abroad".

Also reported by: [The Times Australia \(Online\)](#).

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2SM, Hi Tide, 24/09/2023, Keiren Reekie and Alan Blake

Advocates say the Federal Government's recently announced Covid 19 inquiry should examine the impact of school closures on young people. Rebecca Duke reports. [...] Responding to criticism, Health Minister Mark Butler has announced a widened scope that would include school closures and social distancing.

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MINISTER WELLS

Visionary Barassi helped turn ugly ducklings into our Swans

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/09/2023

The great Ron Barassi who died last week, aged 87 took over as coach of the Sydney Swans in the middle of the 1993 season. [...] But the one that blew the room away was federal sports minister Anika Wells who, it turns out, speaks fluent and near accentless French courtesy of years studying the language having spent an exchange year in Nantes.

Also reported by: [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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DEPARTMENT

On the cusp of calamity

Sunday Age, General News, 24/09/2023, Page 27

A midnight email. A Friday night webinar with a scientist who had visited Wuhan. [...] The chain of events that culminated with a ban on foreigners who had recently been in China began with a midnight email from the director of epidemiology at the Doherty Institute, Professor Jodie McVernon, to Australia's chief medical officer, Professor Brendan Murphy.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#).

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How it's costing you \$400 a policy

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 24/09/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 31

Health fund members are being slugged with soaring management fees worth an annual average of almost \$400 per policy. [...] And as the government prepares to approve next year's premium rises, health policy experts are calling on Health Minister Mark Butler to be far tougher on funds with bloated bureaucracies and high-earning executives.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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CORONAVIRUS

Junk Covid inquiry is a Labor cover-up that lets states off the hook

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 24/09/2023, Peta Credlin, Page 21

On multiple occasions prior to last year's election, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese promised "a royal commission or some other inquiry" into the pandemic. But the "inquiry" he's just announced into Covid won't hold public hearings, can't compel witnesses to appear, can't subpoena documents and, most notably, won't investigate any actions by the state governments.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Scared, weak feds capitulate to states

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 24/09/2023, Dan Petrie, Page 62

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's announcement last week of an inquiry into the nation's Covid response absolving the states of any scrutiny is a craven capitulation of weakness and shows if anything, Labor states call the shots. This a view shared not just by this media organisation but also Nine Newspapers, whose Sydney Morning Herald masthead was equally scathing of the government's timid response in its Friday editorial.

Also reported by: [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#).

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Calls grow louder for a full, no-limits COVID royal commission

The New Daily, Other, 23/09/2023, Samantha Lock

The Albanese government is facing increasing pressure to widen the scope of a COVID-19 inquiry to include actions taken by state and territory governments as well as the impact of school closures on children. The inquiry announced on Thursday excludes an investigation of any "unilateral" state and territory decisions.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 23/09/2023, Kathryn Robinson and James Glenday

Interview with Anne Hollonds, National Children's Commissioner. Hollonds on criticism towards the Federal Government's COVID-19 inquiry for failure to look into the impact of school closures on children. She believes children should be looked at by the inquiry, but they must look at all the decisions made that impacted children.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Bruce Weber is transforming his regional community centre to be more welcoming for locals also living with dementia

ABC Online, Other, 23/09/2023, Anisha Pillarisetty

Bruce Weber said he had to learn to walk and talk again after coming out of a coma. But it was the stigma of a dementia diagnosis that left him feeling isolated.

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32 per cent of Aussies scared of people with dementia, study says

Almost a third of Australians are scared of people with dementia. Those are the confronting results of a "devastating" new survey.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Saturdays, 23/09/2023, Rohan Barwick

Interview with Dr Helena Popovic, author, Can Adventure Prevent Dementia?. Popovic says adventure can prevent dementia, and it is time they spread the word that dementia is an umbrella term for around 100 diseases, which can lead to cognitive decline. She notes Alzheimer's Disease is the most common type of dementia.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Wowzers who sank Solo now whining about wine

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 24/09/2023, David Penberthy, Page 82

Those of us of a certain age have enduring memories of the Solo Man. [...] The most recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found the number of people aged 14 to 24 drinking at risky levels almost halved between 2001-19, down from 25 per cent down to 13 per cent.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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'We failed her'

Sunday Territorian, General News, 24/09/2023, Fia Walsh, Page 1

The tragic drowning death of a two-year-old girl at a backyard barbecue while dozens of adults sat just metres away could prompt an overhaul of one of the Territory's most controversial pool safety loopholes. The NT Coroner on Friday handed down her findings in the death of the girl, who was discovered unresponsive in the pool by another child at a local footy team catch-up in Katherine on April 2, 2022.

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Young pilot Hayden McDonald flying 14,000km around Australia to squash autism stigma

ABC Online, Other, 23/09/2023, Bill Ormonde and Oliver Brown

Two weeks since he took off from the south of Western Australia, 22-year-old Hayden McDonald is creeping closer and closer to the country's east coast. The adventurer from Esperance is attempting to fly solo around the country to squash the stigma surrounding autism for those wishing to work in the aviation industry.

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Perth low-sensory nightclubbing experience a hit for people with a disability

ABC Online, Other, 23/09/2023, Nick-Mcallister, Nick McAllister and Abby Richards

Consider a packed, dimly lit nightclub full of loud raucous conversations and music. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's most recent data from 2022, one in six (17 per cent) of people with a disability aged between 15 and 64 experience social isolation.

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'My daughter pushed her doctor's hand away, and I knew I had to let her go'

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 23/09/2023, Joel Erickson

"Maddie was the most beautiful child who loved everyone," she said. "She just wanted to meet them and say hello and believed that everybody needed to meet her and get to know her."

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

'It doesn't stop him': Born deaf, Indigenous ranger James Tucker inspires colleagues

SBS, Other, 23/09/2023, Ciara Hain and Emma Kellaway

Australians have been encouraged to spread awareness about deaf communities and recognise their achievements, following the National Week of Deaf People. In Western Australia, Aboriginal ranger turned firefighter James Tucker has discovered an innovative way of working - despite his disability.

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PRIMARY CARE

Healthy profit for fat cats

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 24/09/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 30

Health fund executives have been rewarded with million-dollar-plus pay rises, as their members brace for the misery of another round of above-inflation premium hikes. News Corp can reveal bosses of two of the big four funds nib and Medibank each received pay rises of more than \$1.1m in the past three years.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Rex Airlines route suspensions spark fears for health services in regional Australia

ABC Online, Other, 23/09/2023, Danuta Kozaki and Nick Parmeter

Sydney-based doctors who travel to treat patients in regional New South Wales are concerned Rex Airlines' decision to cut flights will put more pressure on limited access to healthcare in the bush. On Friday the regional carrier announced services would be reduced across the state and that the Sydney to Armidale route would be suspended until March 2024.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Minister for the lonely wanted

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 24/09/2023, Lauren Novak, Page 11

South Australia needs a minister for loneliness and a strategy to tackle the social issue that is thought to affect a third of the population. This is the surprising call from crossbench politician Connie Bonaros, who is warning that a lack of social connection is as dangerous as chronic smoking or drinking.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

It's just natural to have fun

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 24/09/2023, Sue Bailey, Page 5

A Tasmanian primary school principal hopes an innovative bush playground will give students the chance to "reconnect with outdoor environments". Angela Crane, the principal of Kingston Primary School, believes the progressive, nature-inspired playground has "numerous advantages".

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AFP officer takes own life

Sunday Times, General News, 24/09/2023, Lauren Price, Page 1

An Australian Federal Police officer has taken his own life inside the Perth headquarters. It is believed the 34-year-old, who was a protective services officer, used his service firearm.

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A mother's love

Sunday Times, General News, 24/09/2023, Page 29

The second time the pair of Perth school friends came out to their parents was a little more complicated. "In Year 6 I thought I was a lesbian, which is a classic trans guy move," Felix recalls.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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AFP officer takes his own life at police headquarters, first since 2019

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/09/2023, Natalie O'Brien

A police officer has taken his own life in the new headquarters of the Australian Federal Police building in Perth in Friday. The 34-year-old man who was a Protective Services Officer is understood to have used his with his service firearm.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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Importance of postvention support for people bereaved by suicide

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 23/09/2023, Natalie Croxon

After Hope Carberry's beloved father Frank took his life in November 2014, she didn't think she would have to face the torment of losing someone to suicide again. But in 2021 her younger brother Andrew - a "bit of a ratbag" who was "the epitome of a country guy" - also died by suicide, at the age of 38.

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The evidence grows that ultra-processed foods play a role in depression

The New Daily, Other, 23/09/2023, John Elder

There's a party in your pantry that's waiting to happen. Think of those packets of biscuits, sugary cereals, crackers and chips and those salamis on a string!

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Bush doc shortage

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 24/09/2023, Jackie Sinnerton and Mohammad Alfares, Page 1

Several regional Queensland towns have no dedicated doctor in their local hospital and most bush facilities are operating with fewer doctors or nurses than they did 18 years ago, government payroll data shows. The extent of the workforce crisis is exposed in the state government's Hospital Performance website.

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Only one cure for this case

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 24/09/2023, Page 62

In a wealthy nation such as ours, it is truly disturbing to learn that there are some regional towns in this state where an entire generation has grown up without a permanent doctor at the local hospital. A Sunday Mail analysis shows a serious decline in healthcare, with 36 inpatient hospitals now hosting fewer medical professionals than a generation ago.

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Ambos 'worked to the bone', paramedic says

Sunday Examiner, General News, 24/09/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 2

A Tasmanian paramedic who has worked in the service for 18 years says the ambulance service is "worked to the bone" and needs more staffing resources and support. Paramedic Simone Haigh said the service needed more paramedics, but also support staff such as managers, clinical supports and educators.

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Nurse wins prestigious state health award

Sunday Examiner, General News, 24/09/2023, Duncan Bailey, Page 4

A Launceston Statewide Mental Health Services nurse took home a Maggie Award this week, which recognises staff who provide exceptional care to consumers and outstanding contributions to the service. Winner of the Maggie Qualities category Joanne Beswick said it felt "overwhelming and wonderful" to receive the award.

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Royal Australian College of General Practitioners remote supervision eases Armidale GP shortage

ABC Online, Other, 23/09/2023, Brigitte Murphy

When the town of Armidale lost eight experienced GPs this year, thousands of locals from the Northern Tablelands in NSW feared they would no longer have access to a doctor. But the arrival of GP registrar Dr Daniel Mastroianni, who is taking part in an innovative remote supervision program, is helping relieve the pressure.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Surgery left Aylin feeling 'deformed'

Sunday Age, General News, 24/09/2023, Aisha Dow, Page 13

Standing in a room as a doctor filmed her naked body for TikTok was one of the last things Aylin Senkul says she remembers before she underwent major cosmetic surgery at the clinic of celebrity surgeon Daniel Lanzer. Senkul, a mother of five from Melbourne's north, says she was booked in to have six procedures in April 2021 under the care of Lanzer's associate, Dr Daniel Aronov, then the most followed cosmetic surgeon on TikTok, with 13 million followers.

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Hospital 'told man to go home'

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 24/09/2023, Gianni Francis, Page 36

The partner of a man who suffered gruesome injuries when he was kicked in the face by a horse claims a hospital tried to wrongfully discharge him. Alan Woolford was left with his face "torn open" with bone exposed, lower jaw fractured and teeth loose this week after the incident at Grafton.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Collie woman sues dentist for negligence after alleged overdose on Baclofen prescription triggers seizure

ABC Online, Other, 23/09/2023, Tom Robinson

A West Australian woman is suing her dentist for medical negligence after an alleged overdose of prescription drugs triggered a seizure that she says led to a serious shoulder injury and mental health problems. Michelle Gibson, from Collie in the state's South West region, is seeking damages from Bhumi Pankaj Kumar Shah due to the 2021 incident, which she claimed led to an overdose of the muscle relaxant Baclofen.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

And they said yes: celebrating the day the IOC put five rings on it

Sun Herald, General News, 24/09/2023, Helen Pitt, Page 31

It was a green scarf that was the secret sign that would change the course of Sydney history forever. Thirty years ago, on September 23, 1993 in Monaco, 88 International Olympic Committee delegates filed into the Louis II Stadium to decide which city would host the 2000 Olympic Games.

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Brisbane's double pass to big dance - Ain't it grand

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Edition Changes - Townsville, 24/09/2023, Greg Stolz and Vishaak Gangasandra, Page 1

The winner is Brisbane. For the first time in history, the city's flagship footy teams will play grand finals in the same year.

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Brisbane hotels almost full to the brim as footy fans pump \$10m into economy

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/09/2023, Cloe Read

Brisbane's accommodation is almost full, and more than \$10 million is expected to be pumped into the economy this weekend amid the sold-out NRL and AFL preliminary finals. A combined total of about 90,000 tickets have been sold at Suncorp Stadium and the Gabba for Saturday's Broncos and Brisbane Lions home games.

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First Nations designs to be made permanent across Australian cricket teams

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/09/2023

Australia has become the first cricketing nation to incorporate a permanent First Nations design on all three uniforms across Test, ODIs and T20s that star bowler Mitchell Starc called a "fantastic progression". Australia's men's T20 team will also ditch the black uniforms they have been wearing in recent years and revert back to dark green, with the colour also to feature on all Test shirts.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Warning on drug toll rise

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 24/09/2023, Talara McHugh, Page 26

Alarming new data from the Penington Institute shows Indigenous Australians are almost four times more likely to die of a drug overdose than non-Indigenous Australians, sparking calls for more support services to combat the crisis. Unintentional drug-induced deaths were significantly higher for Indigenous people nationally with the death rate increasing from 9.5 to 20 deaths per 100,000 people compared to 4.9 to 5.9 deaths for non-Indigenous people between 2009-2021.

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New boss to build on vision for good health

Sunday Territorian, General News, 24/09/2023, Zayda Dollie, Page 4

The Arnhem Land Progress Association has just elected a new chairman to its board of directors after health issues forced the previous chairman into retirement after 30 years of service to the corporation. Micky Wunungmurra from Gapuwiyak in East Arnhem Land has replaced outgoing chairman Djiniyini Gondarra.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#) and widely syndicated across regional publications

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Lack of reform on drugs raises festival fears

Sun Herald, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 24/09/2023, Amber Schultz, Page 9

Drug reform advocates are concerned about NSW's coming festival season, fearing drug deaths will

reach crisis point before the government implements promised reforms. NSW Premier Chris Minns has ruled out introducing pill testing ahead of the festival season, which begins next Saturday with Listen Out Festival in Centennial Park, while NSW Police have confirmed drug detection dogs will be used at the festival as part of a "high-visibility police operation".

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Warning as flu hangs on

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 24/09/2023, Page 77

Aussies are being warned not to be complacent with a lingering flu season, as latest health data reveals a spike in patients with influenza B. Despite the warmer days, Dr Jane Wehipeihana, of Medical on Robina, said people needed to continue practising proper hygiene by washing hands and limiting contact if they are sick as the flu season continues.

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Albert Park gastro outbreak: Illness that struck down more than 100 wedding and conference function centre guests is finally revealed

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/09/2023, Brett Lackey

The type of contagion which left more than 100 attendees at Melbourne function centre The Park violently ill has been identified by the health department. At least 30 guests at a September 13 wedding along with at least another 70 medical professionals attending a conference on September 16 were struck down by the mysterious illness at the Albert Park venue.

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The next pandemic is already coming and it could kill millions more than Covid. We need to prepare for it now... writes experts KATE BINGHAM and TIM HAMES

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/09/2023, Kate Bingham and Tim Hames

The next major pandemic is coming. It's already on the horizon, and could be far worse killing millions more people than the last one. We don't yet know for certain what form it will take just that its arrival, according to global health experts, is not just a possibility but a probability.

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'Unusual': Aussies warned of virus trend

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 23/09/2023

Despite the warmer days, Dr Jane Wehipeihana, of Medical on Robina, said people needed to continue practising proper hygiene by washing hands and limiting contact if they are sick as the flu season continues. The Gold Coast-based GP has reviewed data obtained by Medical on Robina from a local pathology provider and found a huge increase in positive results for influenza B across Queensland.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Ozempic ads 'pushing the boundaries'

Sun Herald, General News, 24/09/2023, Mary Ward, Page 15

A social media obesity "awareness campaign" by the company behind controversial weight-loss drug Ozempic will be reviewed to ensure it complies with Australia's strict medicine advertising laws, as public health advocates raise concerns about blurred boundaries. [...] A Novo Nordisk spokesperson said it complied with the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct, TGA regulations and all regulatory obligations.

Also reported by: [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Weight loss drug runs thin

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 24/09/2023, Page 12

A diabetes drug that has skyrocketed in popularity after being hailed as a weight loss solution should not be given to new patients amid a worldwide shortage, Australia's medicines regulator says. The Therapeutic Goods Administration said Novo Nordisk, the company that makes Ozempic, had advised that supplies were expected to be limited this year and 2024.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Huge wait for wonder drug

Sunday Times, General News, 24/09/2023, Steve Zemek, Page 9

Popular diabetes drug Ozempic should not be given to new patients amid a worldwide shortage, Australia's medicines regulator has announced. The Therapeutic Goods Administration said it was recently advised by Novo Nordisk the company that makes Ozempic, hailed as a breakthrough weight-loss solution that supplies were expected to be limited for this year and 2024.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Rules tightened for Australians taking popular drug Ozempic

9News, Other, 23/09/2023, Richard Wood

Australia's pharmaceuticals regulator has tightened advice on a diabetes drug which skyrocketed in popularity due to its weight loss effects. Ballooning demand for the diabetes medicine Ozempic has triggered major shortages and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has restricted access for Australians.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Cookie dough recalled

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 24/09/2023, Page 35

A food safety recall has been issued for two types of cookie dough bite snacks sold at Woolworths supermarkets nationally. [...] "Any consumers who have a milk allergy or intolerance may have a reaction if the product is consumed," reads the product recall notice on the Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) website.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Dimethoate use suspended after insecticide residue found to exceed safety levels

ABC Online, Other, 23/09/2023, Nathan Morris

A range of tropical fruit including mangoes and avocados are now no longer allowed to be dipped in dimethoate, a neurotoxin banned in Europe but still used in some countries as an insecticide. This week Australia's chemical regulator, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

(APVMA), issued a 12-month suspension notice after testing found dimethoate residue above the maximum permissible limit on the skin of mango and avocado samples.

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AICIS

Industries push govt to expand ban on forever chemicals

Canberra Times, Other, 23/09/2023, Tracey Ferrier

Two major Australian industries say the government must expand a limited ban on toxic "forever chemicals" as concerns mount over human and environmental health risks. The government is proposing to halt the importation, manufacture and use of three groups of PFAS chemicals by July 2025.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#) and widely syndicated across regional publications

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