



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 1st October 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Age \(page 6\)](#)** reports that the Victorian Ambulance Union have cited that triple-zero calls for unnecessary and minor incidents divert resources away from emergency situations and has called for an overhaul of what the Victoria state government labels as "urgent" in its emergency call system.
- **[The Sunday Tasmanian \(page 4\)](#)** reports that the Royal Hobart Hospital's recruitment drive at a healthcare job fair in London has received 175 expressions of interest, prompting a return trip to the UK in November.
- **[The Sunday Tasmanian \(page 7\)](#)** reports that the Tasmanian state government has begun conducting an independent review of the state's emergency departments with the report to be finalised by the end of the year.

MINISTER BUTLER

Bitter pill for this tiny town to swallow

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 01/10/2023, David Ellery, Page 4

Trundle, the locals will tell you, is all the town you'll ever need. [...] While the policy reduces costs for patients, the Pharmacy Guild warns it jeopardises the viability of local pharmacies - concerns Health Minister Mark Butler dismisses as "a cynical scare campaign".

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Long queue

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 01/10/2023, Page 87

A woman who rang the Commonwealth Bank was told she could leave her number and would be called back, without losing her place in the queue. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler drove the change as horror stories emerged of botched procedures.

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Vaping a trail of toxins

Sunday Times, General News, 01/10/2023, Page 16

The millions of Australians who vape are leaving the nation with a toxic mountain of waste and there's no national strategy to deal with it. [...] And Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who has promised a crackdown on illegal, black-market nicotine vapes and disposable vapes, estimates Australia has two million vapers.

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

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Urgent care clinics confirmed for Coast

Coast Community News, Other, 30/09/2023, Terry Collins

Providence Medical Umina and Coastal Lakes Medical Practice Lake Haven will be the providers of two Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs) set to open in November. Member for Robertson Gordon Reid and Member for Dobell Emma McBride recently announced the two sites, which will see urgent care facilities servicing both the south and north of the region. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the UCCs would make a big difference to patients on the Central Coast who would be able to get the urgent care they need when they need it.

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Ipswich residents urged to have their say in new PFAS review

Ipswich News Today, Other, 30/09/2023

Residents near RAAF Base Amberley are encouraged to have their say on the new review of land uses around Defence bases impacted by per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination. [...] "This is why I have continued to call for free voluntary blood testing to be made available to residents in these areas and have written to the Health Minister Mark Butler to request this.

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MINISTER WELLS

Why incoming AFL boss Andrew Dillon was jokingly likened to Prince Charles

Herald Sun, Other, 30/09/2023, Fiona Byrne

Big political and sporting names kicked off Grand Final day at a time honoured event that got off to a serious start when the audience was urged to be respectful as the referendum debate heats up. [...] Picture Caption: Anika Wells and Richard Goyder at the North Melbourne Grand Final breakfast at MECC.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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See the list: Abusers, fraudsters banned from NDIS and aged care work

The Courier Mail, Other, 30/09/2023, Julie Cross

Two government watchdogs have shared information on child abusers and sex offenders to prevent rogue workers moving from one care sector to another. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the aged care sector was "suffering" under a decade of mismanagement by the Coalition.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Urgent care clinics confirmed for Coast

Coast Community News, Other, 30/09/2023, Terry Collins

Providence Medical Umina and Coastal Lakes Medical Practice Lake Haven will be the providers of two Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs) set to open in November. Member for Robertson Gordon Reid and Member for Dobell Emma McBride recently announced the two sites, which will see urgent care facilities servicing both the south and north of the region. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the UCCs would make a big difference to patients on the Central Coast who would be able to get the urgent care they need when they need it.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

New stay-at-home program launched

The Senior - SA, General News, 01/10/2023, Page 41

Resthaven has launched a new government-funded program which aims to support older people living with dementia to stay at home for as long as possible. [...] It is free for carers and the person they care for, as the program is funded by the federal Department of Health and Aged Care.

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How they're working, talking and eating their way to good health

South Gippsland Sentinel-Times, Other, 30/09/2023, Michael Giles

There's work to be done, yes, but sometimes it's just as important to sit down at a table over lunch and have a chat. [...] And that's certainly in line with the attitude of the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care which is right behind the spread of Men's Sheds across Australia as places where you mightn't only learn a new skill while working on worthwhile projects including toys for children, outdoor

furniture, kindling bags or possum boxes for Wildlife Victoria in a safe, friendly and inclusive environment but also learn how to look after your fitness, health and wellbeing a lot better.

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Retreat boosts quality of life

The SE Voice, Other, 30/09/2023, Eb Garamond

Resthaven now offers a new government-funded program that aims to support older South Australians living with dementia to stay at home for as long as possible by offering a retreat for them and their carers. [...] "As the program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, the retreats are free to eligible people.

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CORONAVIRUS

Book tells of Tassie's virus woes

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 01/10/2023, Sue Bailey, Page 15

The staff shortages at Burnie's North-West Regional Hospital were "so dire" that the general manager had to work in the morgue, a new book on the Covid pandemic reveals. Soon to be released, *Life As We Knew It*, by Melbourne newspaper journalists Aisha Dow and Melissa Cunningham investigates the untold stories of the pandemic and is based on more than 150 interviews with politicians and health chiefs.

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Pandemics need fight, not fright

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 01/10/2023, Rion Ahl, Page 51

It's far too easy to get lost in the politics of the recently lannounced inquiry into Australia's Covid-19 response. But as a future medical professional and a young Australian likely to experience another pandemic in my lifetime, I think it's important to shift the dialogue.

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

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What do we know about long COVID in kids? And what do I do if I think my child has it?

ABC Online, Other, 30/09/2023, Shidan Tosif

While COVID in children has generally been milder than in adults, there are concerns long COVID may be a major consequence for children and young people arising from the pandemic. Long COVID, also known as "post-COVID condition" is an umbrella term for a range of symptoms that can persist for months after the initial acute phase of COVID.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Women speak out against ageism

The Senior - QLD, General News, 01/10/2023, Eileen Wood, Page 3

Imagine if someone described you as "mutton dressed as lamb" because you were wearing a stylish dress from a clothing label popular with a younger set. This frequently happens to 70-year-old Gwenda Darling, who likes to wear the bright and colourful Mister Zimi clothing range.

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Govt must strike balance

The Senior - TAS, General News, 01/10/2023, Therese Murray, Page 6

The Retirement Living Council is encouraging the state government to strike a balance between operator viability and consumer-focused reforms as it reviews the Retirement Villages Act. Executive director Daniel Gannon said the retirement living industry supports greater clarity and certainty for residents plus the impact on operators.

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The 'ism' so many people are guilty of

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/10/2023, Page 3

Gwenda Darling, Val Fell and Lesley Forster could write the definitive book on how ageism impacts older people. They live the experience almost daily.

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Respite project an escape into nature

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/10/2023, Page 13

Dementia care people living with dementia in the Loddon-Mallee region will engage with the great outdoors thanks to a new \$1.7 million initiative. Funded by the federal government, the Australia-first GreenCare Respite Project will see those with early-stage dementia and their carers escape into nature to improve quality of life, offer relief and boost wellbeing.

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Spot checks target workers' safety

The Senior - WA, General News, 01/10/2023, Page 6

WorkSafe has begun an inspection program to look at safety issues in WA aged care and residential care facilities. Residential aged care has been identified as an industry with significant challenges in relation to workplace violence and aggression.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Sniffer dogs join 50,000 music festival fans

Sun Herald, General News, 01/10/2023, Amber Schultz, Page 2

More than 50,000 music fans kicked off the festival season yesterday alongside a high-visibility police operation involving drug detection dogs. Crowds rushed to the Listen Out festival in Centennial Park, Knockout Outdoor festival in Sydney Olympic Park and Heaps Gay Street Party in Marrickville as the mercury hit 33 degrees in parts of Sydney, prompting health warnings from drug safety advocates.

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

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Brain fog, lung issues: Sydney tenants living with mould

Sun Herald, General News, 01/10/2023, Amber Schultz, Page 8

Mould has always been an issue in Nada Suzal's apartment, but four years ago it turned catastrophic. The toxic fungi crept up the walls of her public housing unit in Waverley and grew across her ceiling. It lined her bathroom window and took over her wardrobe, ruining her clothes.

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

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Drugs, festivals and hot weather a lethal cocktail

Sun Herald, Editorials, 01/10/2023, Page 38

It's a long weekend and temperatures are expected to soar into the mid-30s as crowds head to the

start of the music festival season. Along with the party-goers, to the concern of some, are the NSW Police drug-detection dogs.

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Drugs threat 'just horrible'

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 01/10/2023, Suzan Delibasic and Olivia Jenkins, Page 12

Music festivals and other popular events are becoming "overrun" with deadly synthetic drugs, police and security sources say. Security guards who work at some of Melbourne's biggest concerts and festivals say they have seen a concerning rise in suspected overdoses from synthetic drugs.

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Every little step can help premature babies

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 01/10/2023, Tess McCracken, Page 4

Twins Tasman and Daisy Whitehouse are just two of the 48,000 babies born premature or with an illness every year in Australia. The now 18-month-olds were born at 30 weeks gestation at the Royal Hobart Hospital before they spent 60 days in an intensive care unit and special care nursery, both weighing just over 1kg at birth.

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Woman, 27, feared her drink had been spiked - only to discover she had suffered a stroke

7news.com.au, Other, 30/09/2023, Katie Pearson

A woman thought her drink had been spiked at a hen's party only to discover she had suffered a stroke. Joanna Whitelaw, 27, was celebrating her friend's upcoming wedding, in her hometown of Edinburgh, Scotland, in May 2023, when her body suddenly went numb and her vision blurred.

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'What is biohacking and should I be doing it?'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 30/09/2023, Zac Turner

Hi Dr Zac , What the heck is biohacking? I hear about it quite a bit, and now there's this billionaire, called Bryan Johnson , on TikTok and Instagram saying he can reverse his age by experimenting on himself and living the world's healthiest lifestyle. He's even taking blood transfusions from his 17-year-old son.

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

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Sabrina Damiano raising awareness of ovarian cancer

The Australian, Other, 30/09/2023

Antoinetta Damiano was only 29 years old when she died from ovarian cancer, just six months after the birth of her second child, Ben. [...] According to Cancer Australia, there were approximately 1,815 females diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2022.

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Adelaide woman one of 30 cases worldwide of broad ligament leiomyosarcoma

7news.com.au, Other, 30/09/2023, Sowaibah Hanifie

An Adelaide woman has been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer that has been reported in less than 30 other cases worldwide. Mother of two, Lara Hall, 38, was diagnosed with broad ligament leiomyosarcoma this year when doctors removed a 16cm tumour that was blocking her kidney.

Breast cancer cases climb, screening drop over pandemic

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/10/2023

The Australian Institute for Health and Welfare estimates about 20,428 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, up from 19,866 two years ago. An estimated 212 men are expected to be diagnosed with the cancer, too.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend), 30/09/2023, Chris Bath

A staggering number of Australian women are skipping breast screening, a decision that could prove deadly heading into Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Experts say October is the time to stop putting it off and undertake screening. Mater Hospital breast surgeon Dr Ben Lancashire says nearly 50% of women miss their screening mammograms, and that would equate to nearly 1.8 million appointments. Mater Hospital breast cancer nurse Ash Mondolo encourages people to prioritise health.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Overhaul urged as triple-0 calls come in for sore ears, constipation

Sunday Age, General News, 01/10/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 6

Triple-zero callouts for toothaches, constipation and blocked ears are diverting ambulances from more serious emergencies, leading paramedics to warn the state's emergency call system must overhaul how it classifies "urgent" incidents. The Victorian Ambulance Union is blaming the situation on unnecessary triple-zero phone calls and a call-taking and dispatch system that it says wrongly classifies minor incidents as urgent code 1 emergencies, which trigger a lights-and-sirens response.

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Emergency care review begins

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 01/10/2023, Page 7

An independent review into patient experience at emergency departments across Tasmania is under way. The state government is conducting an independent review into the operations of public hospitals' emergency departments and has finalised a panel which will produce a report by the end of the year.

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I get to choose my own ending

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 01/10/2023, Emily Kowal, Page 33

In a few months, Dan Colgan will end his own life. Since making the decision, he has never felt more alive. The 63-year-old has an incredibly rare and aggressive brain cancer. There is no cure.

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Physiotherapist eases allied health demand in regional NSW community of Bingara

ABC Online, Other, 30/09/2023, Kristy Reading and Brigitte Murphy

Leigh Miller never expected he would be playing a vital role in bridging a regional health care gap when he moved back to the family farm in Bingara in north-west NSW. The physiotherapist of 12 years had expected his days to be focused on farm work, but decided to have a go at picking up physio work two mornings a week.

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Improvements to Australia's birth education system key to better maternity care, experts say

ABC Online, Other, 30/09/2023, Rhiannon Hobbins and Olivia Willis

Gaps in antenatal education are contributing to life-long injuries and birth trauma, maternity experts and mothers say. More than 300,000 babies are born in Australia each year, but chief midwife of the Australian College of Midwives Alison Weatherstone said the content, quality and cost of antenatal classes varied significantly.

[Read More](#)

Are doctors making a case for pharmacy UTI services?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/09/2023

Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ) president, Dr Maria Boulton, called for the sunshine state's pharmacy-based UTI treatment program to be scrapped following an increase in hospital presentations for the condition.

[Read More](#)

Labor MP, palliative care advocates speak out against funding cuts

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/09/2023, Joanne Vella

Prospect state Labor MP Hugh McDermott wants to double funding for palliative care despite his government slashing it by \$150m a cut that has also left his fellow advocates distressed. Premier Chris Minns made a shock decision this week that his government would cut funding for terminally ill patients and put an extra \$97m towards voluntary assisted dying laws.

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

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 30/09/2023, Miriam Corowa and Casey Briggs

Maternity experts and mothers say gaps in antenatal education are contributing to lifelong injuries and birth trauma. There have been calls for minimum guidelines and greater access to care.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Vigilance warning over suicide deaths

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 01/10/2023, Page 29

A rise in suicide deaths in 2022 shows the nation can't take its "foot off the pedal", Suicide Prevention Australia chief executive Nieves Murray says. Australian Bureau of Statistics data released this week revealed 3249 Australians died by suicide in 2022, compared to 3166 in 2021.

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

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I knew the dangers but the govt let me down

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 01/10/2023, Michael Madigan, Page 25

"If you were to tell me 10 years ago I would suffer something like this I would have said 'no way, I have no problem doing my job' Peter Solomon A smalltown ambulance paramedic left mentally scarred after attending accidents where his own friends were the victims has alleged the Queensland Ambulance Service ignored its own protocols in dealing with his work-related trauma.

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Don't worry be happy

The population is ageing rapidly, with the last census recording people over age 65 making up 16 per cent of the Australian population. It is projected that number will reach up to 23 per cent by 2066.

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Wife's heartbreak as FIFO husband dies after losing twin babies

The Courier Mail, Other, 30/09/2023, Clare Sibthorpe

The widow of a FIFO worker who died by suicide after losing their twin babies has shared her heartbreak, saying she would "do anything for one last kiss". It comes as new statistics show a rise in suicide rates across the country.

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

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Causes of death data shows lives lost to suicide but doesn't capture

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 30/09/2023, Natalie Croxon

Last year, 3249 people in Australia died by suicide. The Australian Bureau of Statistics released the figure earlier this week in its annual Causes of Death report.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Health job fair success

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 01/10/2023, Sue Bailey, Page 4

An overseas recruitment drive to attract health workers selling Tasmania's "lifestyle and culture" has been so successful another mission will go to the UK later this year. More than 175 expressions of interest were received at the world's biggest healthcare job fair in London recently and plans are under way to return to another healthcare job fair in Birmingham in November.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Tassie woman's top honour

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 01/10/2023, Sue Bailey, Page 20

Tasmanian Pene Snashall has become the first woman in 130 years outside the Royal Family to become an officer of the prestigious Commonwealth Royal Life Saving Council. Ms Snashall, who has worked tirelessly to try to reduce deaths from drowning for more than a decade, received the rare honour at a recent meeting she attended in Ontario, Canada.

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Yes campaigners accused of 'politicising' SA First Nations sports carnival in Port Augusta

ABC Online, Other, 30/09/2023, Stephanie Richards

The organisers of a First Nations sports carnival in regional South Australia are facing criticism for allowing Voice to Parliament supporters to "politicise" the event, but they say some community members wanted the Yes campaign to attend. Up to 3,000 people are expected to gather in Port Augusta this weekend for the annual South Australian Aboriginal Football and Netball Carnival (SAAFNC).

[Read More](#)

Channel 7 smashed over quality of AFL grand final as fans experience crashes and delays on footy's biggest day: '7Plus is the North Melbourne of the streaming game'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/09/2023, Josh Alston

Channel 7 has been lashed by footy fans on AFL Grand Final with viewers forced to endure crashes, delays and buffering on the broadcaster's streaming service 7PLUS. The broadcaster has the exclusive rights to the decider between Brisbane Lions and the Collingwood Magpies at the MCG.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Seeking bus converts to join health study

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 01/10/2023, Sue Bailey, Page 2

A new Tasmanian study is seeking participants to determine whether using buses helps people's overall health and fitness. Associate Professor Verity Cleland from the University of Tasmania's Menzies Institute for Medical Research began a pilot study in 2019 which was affected by the Covid pandemic.

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Success grows in Tackling Leukaemia's Indigenous and Pasifika donor mission

National Indigenous Times, Other, 30/09/2023

Since its inception, Tackling Leukaemia has been achieving the monumental task of increasing the amount of Indigenous and Pasifika donors available on the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. Employing an efficient saliva swab strategy, free of needles, Tackling Leukaemia targets donors from the 18-35 age bracket in grassroots sporting clubs featuring high Indigenous and Pasifika populations.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Calls to can drug dogs, strip searches

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 01/10/2023, Page 10

The NSW Greens have renewed calls for pill testing and an end to drug dogs and strip searches at music festivals following a damning report exposing the police canines' low success rate. NSW police search figures show the dogs scored an average drug detection success rate of just 25 per cent during the last decade while a Law Enforcement Conduct Commission review revealed officers routinely failed to follow proper strip search procedures.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Public health unit investigating Gladstone cryptosporidiosis outbreaks

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/09/2023, Geordi Offord and Dacia Stewart

The Central Queensland Public Health Unit (PHU) is investigating an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis in the Gladstone region. The illness, known as 'crypto', is an intestinal infection caused by the microscopic parasite cryptosporidium.

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

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Fresh calls to end use of sniffer dogs at festivals after report finds low success rate

SBS, Other, 30/09/2023

New figures indicate drug detection dogs have a low success rate. Some are urging for an end to their use at music festivals as well as the practice of strip searches and the implementation of pill testing.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Next big fat drug rolls out

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 01/10/2023, Cydonee Mardon, Page 25

Move over Ozempic, there's a new player in town. And it has the backing of a big name baller, NBA Hall of Famer Charles Barkley. [...] Last week the Therapeutic Goods Administration said that it had been advised by Novo Nordisk, the company which makes Ozempic, that supplies were expected to be limited for this year and 2024.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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Influencers are exchanging content for injectables and Brazilian butt lifts. It's become a slippery slope.

Mamamia, Other, 30/09/2023, Isabella Ross

As a curve model and digital creator, Shani Chantel has been exposed to all that the industry has to offer - including free cosmetic procedures. [...] As far as AHPRA is concerned, it can only really control the promotion of health services, not products. That's where TGA comes in.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

How crack team traced deadly listeria culprit

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 01/10/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 24

It was a case cracked against the odds. The team of sleuths spent weeks speaking to victims, checking records for clues and testing samples linked to suspects before they managed to find the elusive culprit the shredded chicken.

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

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Hospital listeria outbreak solved by Queensland food detectives, with a NSW poultry supplier to blame

ABC Online, Other, 30/09/2023, Janelle Miles

It's the scientific equivalent of finding a needle in a haystack. When people began falling seriously ill with listeria infections across south-east Queensland, NSW and Victoria in mid-August, a crack team of investigators set out to track down the source of the bacteria.

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