



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 30th September 2023

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)  
| [Coronavirus](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)  
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)  
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)  
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)  
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)  
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |  
[First Nations Health](#) | [Office of Health Protection and Emergency Management](#)  
| [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office for Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)  
| [AICIS](#)

## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that private hospitals are struggling to manage the influx of patients joining from an overloaded public health system, with rising costs and workforce shortages also putting at risk their ability to offer critical services such as cardiac and cancer surgery.
- **[The Weekend Australian \(page 3\)](#)** reports that doctors are worried patients prescribed the weight loss and diabetes drug Ozempic risk malnourishment due to not getting comprehensive healthcare.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 2\)](#)** reports that a state government-ordered independent review into birthing services at Whyalla Hospital has identified a "fractured" relationship between midwives and health officials, contributed to the hospital having suspended its birthing service which the hospital says was due to a lack of staff.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 19\)](#)** reports that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has moved to include more stringent safety warnings on the packaging of the osteoporosis drug Evenity, following the death of two Australians. Calls for the tougher warnings were led by

federal MP, Julian Hill, who said the information sheet for Evenity was sub-standard as it didn't mention death as a possible side-effect.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Yes will help close health gap

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 30/09/2023, Mark Butler, Page 136

Moorditj Koort is a fantastic example of the outcomes that can be achieved by listening to Indigenous Australians. It is an Aboriginal health clinic in Midland, run and staffed by highly trained and hardworking Indigenous health workers.

*Also widely syndicated across regional publications*

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### New Norfolk nurse a trailblazer in care

New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News, General News, 29/09/2023, Page 2

Local nurse practitioner Tammy Harvey has been recognised nationally for her important work in leading the establishment of an innovative new model of care in a rural hospital. [...] At that event, Sydney nurse Lauren Barber was named the 2023 Award for Nursing Trailblazer by federal health minister Mark Butler.

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### Less red tape for overseas trained doctors

Medical Forum, Other, 29/09/2023

The Government is cutting red tape to make it easier to recruit doctors from overseas a major step forward to ease skills shortages. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mr Mark Butler, said the independent review of regulatory settings for overseas trained health professionals consulted widely with a broad range of stakeholders to ensure the recommendations "were practical and can deliver the health workforce Australia needs to ensure high-quality, safe and timely health services."

[Read More](#)

### 5AA, Mornings, 29/09/2023, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Robert Tickner, Every Age Counts. Tickner discusses the issue of ageism. He notes it is a real thing, and recalls the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, made an absolutely insightful speech highlighting some of the key issues. Tickner notes there is quite significant discrimination against older people in society, despite the fact that age discrimination is made illegal.

[Play Now](#)

### ABC North and West SA, Breakfast, 29/09/2023, Tom Mann

Interview with Federal Health Minister for Aged Care for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler. Butler says he will hold a public forum in Whyalla, to hear from health providers and patients about challenges they experience in accessing good and affordable healthcare. He adds he is about to meet with the Northern Eyre Peninsula Health Alliance.

*continuing interview on: [ABC North and West SA \(Port Pirie\)](#).*

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[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### What Maggie did next

Daily Telegraph, Weekend, 30/09/2023, Alison Turner, Page 22

She's one of the most cherished identities on the Australian food scene, and now Maggie Beer is taking on a new food challenge In the realm of Australian icons, few could be more beloved than the incomparable Maggie Beer. [...] On August 29, along with Beer, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Aged Care officially launched the Improving Food in Aged Care through Education and Training program.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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## Concussion research a focus at Collingwood AFL HQ

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/09/2023

A new sports medicine hub will create tools to help athletes and clubs manage concussion injuries as the AFL grapples with the repercussions of hard knocks. [...] Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells stood out as she donned a Lions vest, proudly showing her allegiance to the Queensland team during the tour of enemy heartland.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### UNSW awarded NHMRC funding for research into early childhood health

The Sector, Other, 29/09/2023, Freya Lucas

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) has been awarded \$7.5 million in the latest round of National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding for three Centres of Research Excellence (CRE), one of which focuses on early childhood health. The funding is part of a \$35 million investment in 14 new centres announced by Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, the Hon. Emma McBride MP.

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### New Norfolk nurse a trailblazer in care

New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News, General News, 29/09/2023, Page 2

Local nurse practitioner Tammy Harvey has been recognised nationally for her important work in leading the establishment of an innovative new model of care in a rural hospital. [...] At that event,

Sydney nurse Lauren Barber was named the 2023 Award for Nursing Trailblazer by federal health minister Mark Butler.

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## Memo was a step in the right direction

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 30/09/2023, Page 6

Growing concerns about access to a range of health services in rural and regional communities were aired at the Country Mayors Association of NSW inaugural Rural and Regional Health Forum in Wagga Wagga earlier this month. [...] We discussed many health-related issues and we heard from health leaders and politicians including the Federal Member for Riverina, Michael McCormack; National Rural Health Commissioner, Professor Ruth Stewart, and NSW Rural Doctors Network chief executive officer, Richard Colbran.

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## Retreat boosts quality of life

SE Voice, General News, 28/09/2023, Page 5

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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## Battle with 'silent epidemic'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 30/09/2023, Monique Patterson, Page 19

An Ellerslie woman who has been suffering from debilitating symptoms after being bitten by a tick six years ago has spoken about her painful journey. [...] The federal government states on the Department of Health and Aged Care website "the Australian government does not support the diagnosis of locally acquired Lyme disease".

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## No default to 60-day scripts

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/09/2023

Concerns that GPs' prescribing software platforms automatically prompt doctors to issue 60-day prescriptions are misplaced, according to officials from the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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## Plea to take up free Japanese encephalitis jab

Bendigo Times, General News, 29/09/2023, Rachael Ward, Page 5

There's a plea for more Victorians to get vaccinated against Japanese encephalitis this summer with the jab available for free in regional areas. [...] Data from Federal health department showed 45 cases were detected across the country between January 2021 and December 2022 with seven deaths.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Times \(Online\)](#), [Mclvor Times \(Heathcote\)](#) and widely syndicated across regional publications

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## After the Disability Royal Commission report, all Australian governments must now be held to account

Croakey, Other, 29/09/2023, Melissa Sweet

The Australian Government has been urged to establish a Disability Rights Act to recognise, protect and advance the human rights of people with disability in the final report of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability published today. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care should expand the scope of work on an intellectual disability health capability framework and resources to apply at all stages of education and training.

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## CORONAVIRUS

### Commission to get to the heart of Covid response

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 30/09/2023, Karen Matthews, Page 41

Australians searching for some sense of justice will be disappointed with the federal government's decision to hold an inquiry, rather than a royal commission, into Australia's response to Covid-19. It seems the proposed inquiry is expected to examine health response measures, advice for dealing with future pandemics, financial support and advice and broader health support.

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### 'This study is incredibly important': Research reveals damage Covid can do to your heart

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/09/2023, Mandy Squires

Covid can directly infect the arteries of your heart, causing plaque inside arteries to become inflamed and increasing the risk of heart attack and stroke, major international research shows. It comes as the number of people with Covid in Victorian hospitals increased this week to a daily average of 168, up from 143 last week, and the highly infectious EG.

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

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### Shot through the art: How COVID policy jeopardised Australian culture

Crikey, Other, 29/09/2023, Esther Anatolitis

The ways we support our culture give us strength in difficult times. The COVID inquiry must ensure that disruptions to Australian art cannot occur again.

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### COVID's deadly impact confirmed

Medical Forum, Other, 29/09/2023

According to statistics released this week by the ABS, COVID was the third leading cause of death in 2022, accounting for more than one in 20 deaths. This marks the first time an infectious disease has appeared in the top five leading causes of death since 1970, when influenza and pneumonia ranked fifth.

[Read More](#)

### New electronic Covid test is 93% accurate and gives results in 45 minutes - study

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 30/09/2023, Daniel Keane

Scientists have unveiled an electronic diagnostic kit for Covid -19 that delivers test results in 45 minutes. The Electro-chemical LAMP (eLAMP) kit, designed by researchers at the University of Surrey, can be performed at home or in a GP surgery and has the same accuracy as the gold standard PCR test.

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[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Abusers on aged care's ban list

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/09/2023, Julie Cross, Page 24

Child abusers, sex offenders, fraudsters and those accused of neglect are on the list of people who have been banned from working in aged care this year, even though some have never been employed in the sector. What they do have in common is they've all been blacklisted from working with clients on the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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## Researchers trialling heat warning system for seniors

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/09/2023, Natasha Egan

Researchers from Griffith University are testing a digital in-home warning system they've developed for older people facing extreme heat in their homes. Using small sensors, the system monitors temperature and humidity in the home and sends an alert to users when these levels become dangerous, with personalised cooling options.

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## Sky News Live, Credlin, 29/09/2023, Peta Credlin

The Albanese Government has invited superannuation industry representatives to the next meeting of its aged care taskforce. The Government is considering asking Super to directly invest in the aged care sector.

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[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Diabetes drug's health risks worry doctors

Weekend Australian, General News, 30/09/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

Leading doctors are becoming increasingly concerned at the health risks to people being prescribed the diabetes drug Ozempic who are not getting comprehensive healthcare, warning that many risk becoming "lean but malnourished" with significant loss of muscle and bone mass. There has been an explosion of patients being prescribed Ozempic for weight loss since commercial telehealth providers gained access to prescribe the drug.

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### Going cold on the idea of summer

Canberra Times, General News, 30/09/2023, Ebony Bennett, Page 28

Summer used to be a time I looked forward to with anticipation: lazy days at the beach or reading a book by the pool, hiking and camping adventures, and long evenings with friends with the sound of cicadas ringing all around. Now that La Nina has ended, I greet summer with a sense of fear and trepidation.

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### Heart check for shoppers

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 30/09/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 11

Free heart-screening checks were offered at Mildura Central this week to raise community awareness of heart disease. Pharmaceutical company Novartis partnered with Federal Government MPs around Australia to provide proactive wellness checks outside of a traditional health setting.

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### Keep an eye on your heart

Weekend Post, General News, 30/09/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 7

A standard eye test can now reveal underlying heart conditions thanks to the assistance of artificial intelligence software as figures show Cairns is worse off than the national average for hospitalisations. First delivered in Australia by BUPA Optical, a microvascular health assessment is now available to

patients thanks to AI-enabled eye tests, which after studying the retinal age of a patient can detect if they are susceptible to heart health issues.

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## Penicillin allergy is rarer than thought: pharmacists' report

The Australian, Other, 29/09/2023, Kat Lay

Nine out of 10 people who believe they are allergic to penicillin are not, pharmacists have said. People incorrectly thought to be allergic may be harmed, they warned, receiving less effective drugs that mean prolonged recovery periods or treatment in hospital.

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## Increasing the cost of selling tobacco

Medical Forum, Other, 29/09/2023

New research into the impact of tobacco retailer licensing fees on tobacco availability has prompted public health experts to call on all Australian Governments to adopt a higher minimum standard of licensing to help drive down smoking rates. Tobacco licensing was changed significantly in SA in January 2007, when the annual cost of retail tobacco licences rose 15-fold from \$12.90 to \$200.

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## On TikTok, videos promoting steroids are exploding — and at times targeting teens

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 29/09/2023, Taylor Hatmaker

"Young women and girls aren't the only group of young people who are being exposed to potentially damaging and dangerous content online," CCDH CEO Imran Ahmed said. "A growing and chronically understudied crisis is being fomented among young boys and men, wrapped in toxic ideas of masculinity, strength, and misogyny, and amplified by unaccountable algorithms."

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[Back to Top](#)

# CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

## The private route to keeping us healthy

Weekend Australian, General News, 30/09/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 19

It was frequently when digging up the dirt of the raised garden beds in her sprawling garden in Richmond, a historic town dotted with wineries and cheesemongers on the Coal River northeast of Hobart, that 69-year-old Annette Moulton experienced painful twinges in her hips. As months passed and the discomfort grew, she saw her GP, who ordered an MRI that revealed osteoarthritis.

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## Thousands duck testing

Courier Mail, General News, 30/09/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 20

Queensland women are missing lifesaving mammograms more often than before the Covid pandemic, with 376,000 skipping BreastScreen appointments in 2021-22. While free government screening is recovering from the dip recorded in the pandemic, the 1.82m participants is still below the 1.88m who took part in 2019-20.

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

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## A dream to save Tommy

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/09/2023, Madeline Crittenden, Page 22

Thomas Adams-Bennett's life changed almost overnight when he was diagnosed with a killer cancer.

Earlier this month, the seven-year-old was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG), which has no known treatment.

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

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## Osteo pain first hand

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/09/2023, Page 25

When it comes to hand osteoarthritis, painkiller tablets and steroid pills work best for pain and function, while joint injections seem to show little to no effect, according to international researchers. University of Copenhagen, Denmark scientists found non-steroidal antiinflammatories and steroid tablets were better than a placebo, with steroid tablets edging painkillers.

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## Little fighter given lifeline

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 30/09/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 17

A young family say they have been given a "lifeline" after a desperate global search for a bone marrow donor to help a toddler with an extremely rare cancer. Three months ago, David and Kylie Bacon's worst fears were realised when their two-year-old son Tommy was diagnosed with JMML leukaemia a cancer that affects only one in 1.2 million children.

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

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## What is Dupuytren's disease?

Launceston Examiner, General News, 30/09/2023, Rod Taylor, Page 71

Dupuytren's disease is a common condition resulting in painless contractures of the fingers. It often runs in families and has been linked to Anglo-Saxon inheritance. For this reason it has been sometimes called "The Viking's disease", with the gene spread during the Viking invasion of northern Europe.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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## Tiny robots, giant steps: how nanotechnology could improve cancer and fertility treatment

The Guardian, Other, 30/09/2023, Rachel Williams

Advances in treatment and earlier detection have significantly improved cancer survival rates in recent decades. But some cancers remain devastatingly lethal. For patients with glioblastoma (GBM), the most common and aggressive form of brain cancer, the average life expectancy is just 12 to 18 months after diagnosis.

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## Scientists are developing an implant smaller than a crayon that doctors hope will cure cancer in 60 DAYS

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/09/2023, Caitlin Tilley

Researchers from seven states led by Rice University in Houston, Texas, have developed a three-inch implantable device that works as both a cancer detection system and a drug administration system. Doctors determine what drugs a patient needs and then put that drug into the device to be released into their body.

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[Back to Top](#)



## Private hospitals threaten to cut out critical services

Weekend Australian, General News, 30/09/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Private hospitals say they may stop offering vital services including cardiac and cancer surgery as the sector struggles to manage rising costs and severe workforce constraints amid a flood of patients responding to public hospital overload by pouring into the private system. Australian Private Hospitals Association chief executive Michael Roff said the pressures on private hospitals had continued to increase after the pandemic and hospitals had struggled to sustainably manage surgery lists.

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

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Weekend Australian, General News, 30/09/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 19

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## Whyalla to adopt new birthing changes

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/09/2023, Talara McHugh, Page 2

An independent review into birthing services at Whyalla identified a "fractured" relationship between midwives and health officials. The evaluation was ordered by the state government in June after the hospital was forced to suspend its birthing service due to a lack of staff.

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## Socials beauty dilemma

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/09/2023, Eva Blandis, Page 9

Experts are calling for more regulations to be put in place as a worrying trend emerges showing more young women having cosmetic surgery. Cosmetic injector Petta Day, of Enhance Skin Cosmetic Clinic in Largs Bay, said she promotes "looking natural", but has noticed a worrying trend.

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

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## Regional MPs' plea to new premier: Don't ignore us

Border Mail, General News, 30/09/2023, Ted Howes, Page 4

Fixing the North East's crumbling, pot-hole riddled roads, healing the ailing health system and solving the housing crisis should be the top priorities for Victoria's new premier Jacinta Allan, North East politicians say. And visiting regional areas on a regular basis to see first-hand the challenges rural people face would be a great start, they said.

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## MP's letter 'disrespectful'

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 30/09/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 5

Dedicated heart disease awareness advocate Katrina Umback said a recent letter from Victoria's Health Minister left her feeling insulted, dismissed and disrespected. Ms Umback had pushed for the establishment of a Mildura-based catheterisation lab since the sudden heart attack death of her husband Scott in 2019, at the age of 42.

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## ACT government still aiming for 60,000 elective surgeries as North Canberra theatres set to reopen

Canberra Times, Other, 29/09/2023, Lucy Bladen

Canberra's public health system may fall short of a 60,000 elective surgery target, promised at the last election, but the Health Minister remains hopeful. Rachel Stephen-Smith revealed the territory fell short

of its elective surgery target by more than 2000 over the past year.

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## **SA Health to adopt all recommendations after report found Whyalla midwives face lack of support, outdated facilities**

ABC Online, Other, 29/09/2023, Isabella Carbone

An independent review into birthing services in Whyalla has uncovered a fractured relationship between midwives and SA Health executives. The review was commissioned by the South Australian government in June after the Whyalla Hospital was forced to suspend its birthing service due to a lack of staff.

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## **Pharmacists push for affordable medicines**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/09/2023, Geoffrey Timbs

Commonwealth policies are creating barriers for patients with diabetes to access vital medications. It's September 1923 and patients with diabetes are battling medicines supply shortages and significant out-of-pocket costs, and it has nothing to do with social media fads.

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## **New script for pharmacists to help women battling UTIs**

In Daily, Other, 29/09/2023, Belinda Willis

Health Minister Chris Picton is flagging support for pharmacists to prescribe antibiotics for women suffering from uncomplicated urinary tract infections despite the move being opposed by local GPs. [...] Doctor's groups including the Australian Medical Association in SA and the College of Rural and Remote Medicine were concerned that UTI symptoms can reflect those for other illnesses such as sexually transmitted infections and "these conditions may be missed by pharmacist".

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## **AMAQ admission "extremely concerning"**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/09/2023

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia Qld Branch Acting President Rick Xynias said this week that it was a historic moment when the Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ) publicly admitted that women are struggling to get an appointment to see a GP to treat a UTI. "It is extremely concerning to see the admission of failure by the AMAQ and only reconfirms the Queensland Government's decision, supported by the Liberal National Party Opposition, to make the UTI service permanently available for all Qld women with uncomplicated UTIs.

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## **Putting patients first through collaboration**

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 29/09/2023

As community hubs, pharmacies are vital in working with allied health to enhance patient services. Through working with other allied health professionals, patients can benefit from a range of skills and knowledge, enhancing patient care. Pharmacies can provide several health services by working with allied health.

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## **'Shameful' palliative care cut to fund NSW nurses**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 29/09/2023, Duncan Murray

A promised funding boost for end-of-life care in NSW will be cut by \$150 million to help hire more nurses to fill staff shortages. Premier Chris Minns confirmed the change, saying part of the \$750 million pledged by the former coalition government for palliative care would be shifted to the broader health budget.

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## **Health insurance hikes: 5 steps to save \$448**

Millions of Aussies will be hit with a cost hike this weekend, as some of the country's biggest health insurance providers raise their premiums, but there are ways you can minimise the pain. From October 1, Bupa, NIB, GMHBA, Frank and Defence Health will put up their premiums for customers.

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## 2GB, Breakfast, 29/09/2023, Ben Fordham

Interview with NSW Premier Chris Minns. Minns comments on the budget for palliative care. He says palliative care budget is going to increase by nearly 7% this year and then another 8% the year after. He admits \$150m of the \$750m have been redirected within health, because they were advised that pushing that much money into palliative care would not work because they do not have enough people working in the sector. Minns says they redirected \$150m to recruit nurses in NSW.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### At a time of need, Phoebe knows where to turn

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/09/2023, Jessica McSweeney, Page 13

When Phoebe Heperi became pregnant at 20, she was forced to give up her cheerleading dreams and the weekends partying with friends for a life as a stay-at-home mum. She made the tough decision to cut off risk-taking friends and focus on her baby, a choice that came with loneliness during the Covid-19 lockdowns.

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### No time to paws at Myers Flat therapy farm

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 30/09/2023, Jonathon Magrath, Page 8

When Kristy Kemp went on stage to accept the not-for-profit award at the 2023 Bendigo Business Excellence Awards for her business Flash Farm, she was overcome with feelings of anxiety. In that moment, she empathised with the clients she sees at her assisted therapy farm, who live with their own mental health issues.

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### Geelong woman speaks out after compulsory electroconvulsive therapy

The Courier Mail, Other, 30/09/2023, Tamara McDonald

A Geelong woman who was involuntarily treated with electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) says the mental health system is broken. Lisa, not her real name, said she was diagnosed with complex post-traumatic stress disorder caused by family violence, and attempted suicide in early 2021.

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

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### WorkCover cost hike as Qld mental health injuries skyrocket

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/09/2023, Madura McCormack

A rise in mental health injury workers' compensation claims has forced Queensland's state-owned insurance scheme to hike costs for only the second time in a decade. While the direct disruption of the pandemic on workplace mental health has eased, Australian workplaces are facing new pressures, as new research reveals cost of living is having a direct impact on employee sentiment towards

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

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## Abbie died from an eating disorder. Her friend Zoe watched her 'disappearing' in front of her

ABC Online, Other, 29/09/2023, Arj Ganesan

Zoe Nolan remembers how quickly her close friend Abbie White's health deteriorated while they were both battling eating disorders. Both from Adelaide, the girls met through an online support group in 2017 and quickly became friends.

[Read More](#)

## 'Inspiring journeys out of real hardship': Why this GP wanted to work at Headspace

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/09/2023, Heather Saxena

"Young people I have seen over difficult periods lasting several years, I later find out are married and working in a stable job or studying. "These are inspiring journeys, coming out of places of real disadvantage and hardship."

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## Beyond Blue calls for mental health system reform

Shepparton News Online, Other, 29/09/2023

Beyond Blue has called for urgent mental health care reform as new data shows that 3249 people in Australia died by suicide in 2022. Beyond Blue chief executive Georgie Harman said suicide took a toll on everyone.

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## Channel 7, Sunrise, 29/09/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Tom McDonald, Melbourne Demons. The AFL has teamed up with Movember to deliver a mental health program called Movember Ahead of the Game. McDonald says participating in the program is important, noting there are people doing worse than they are.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Life on the front lines in Ukraine

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/09/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 24

Life on the front lines in Ukraine is "surreal and inspiring", Adelaide surgeon Dr Craig Jurisevic says. After seeing the carnage of Russia invading Ukraine, he jumped on a plane to put his finely honed skills to use to save lives.

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

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### Volunteers dish-up lunch for hard working hospital staff

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 30/09/2023, Rachel Gray, Page 3

Doctors, nurses and other health staff have been honoured with a barbecue for their hard work, dedication and sacrifice during the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent flu season. The banquet was

organised by Rapid Relief Team (RRT) volunteers at the Tamworth hospital from 11.30am to 2.30pm on Friday, with staff from all sections of the hospital arriving for a lunchtime burger.

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## Better health must start from the top

Courier Mail, General News, 30/09/2023, Hayden Johnson and Jackie Sinnerton, Page 10

Queensland Health whistleblowers will be protected and the families of regional doctors offered attractive job packages under a major overhaul of the system under an LNP government. In an exclusive and wide-ranging interview, Ros Bates, the woman who could become health minister, insists doctors and nurses have nothing to fear under an LNP government.

*Also reported by: [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications*

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## Leading doctor apologises after being accused of 'minimising' sexual assault of female doctors

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/09/2023, Carmel Sparke

A leading doctor has apologised for appearing to downplay the experiences of doctors facing sexual assault, acknowledging his comments may have "undermined" efforts to change workplace cultures. Dr Tony Sara, president of the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation (ASMOF), says he faced "valid criticism" after he was quoted in The Guardian as saying overall incidents of sexual assault in medicine are "not high".

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[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Heart technology is available to more

Canberra Times, Other, 29/09/2023, Jen Walker

More people with severe aortic stenosis (AS) are now able to access minimally invasive, non-surgical treatment options thanks to changes to Medicare funding last year. As outlined by the Medical Services Advisory Committee public summary document, Medicare-funded access to transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) can now be considered in all patients with severe AS.

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### New Board Chair

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/09/2023

The Australian Digital Health Agency has appointed Lyn McGrath as the agency's new Board Chair. McGrath's three-year appointment will take effect from today to help ensure a "seamless and person-centred system that consumers expect".

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[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

## Surgeon sued over boob job

Courier Mail, General News, 30/09/2023, Page 18

A Melbourne sex worker is suing a top plastic surgeon over claims he performed an unauthorised breast reduction which ended her career. The woman, aged 31, went to Craig Rubinstein in 2020 for a breast lift to remove excess skin caused by weight loss.

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## Doctor struck off register

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 30/09/2023, Allan Murphy, Page 7

A long-serving Sunraysia GP who conducted an internal examination of a female patient without adequate consent and treated an undiagnosed cancer patient for "back pain" has been stripped of his medical registration. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal found Dr Kandandalea Shetty displayed both "professional misconduct" and "unprofessional conduct" respectively in relation to the two allegations, which occurred when he was 75 years of age.

Also reported by: [Sunraysia Daily \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## SPORT

### Lions tragic hotfoots it from Paris with love

AFR Weekend, General News, 30/09/2023, Mark Ludlow, Page 3

Brisbane Lions director and healthcare millionaire Cathie Reid has made a dash back from Paris Fashion Week to watch her team in Saturday's AFL grand final in Melbourne.

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### Former Lions king pushes fix for when Gabba's a no-go

Weekend Australian, General News, 30/09/2023, Sarah Elks and MacKenzie Scott, Page 5

Former Lions chair Bob Sharpless says an upgrade to the Brisbane Lions' training stadium at Springfield while the Gabba is rebuilt for the Olympics would be the best value for money for taxpayers. Mr Sharpless, the deputy chair of Springfield City Group, says building an entirely new stadium at the RNA Showgrounds would be more costly, with no guarantee that it would be used in the future.

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### Precipice of doom

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/09/2023, Emma Kemp and Anne Hyland, Page 23

In one of his first interviews as Rugby Australia chairman, Hamish McLennan made a couple of statements that, in retrospect, are illuminating. The first was that "Dave Rennie is going to be a fantastic coach for us".

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

### On summer's doorstep, the Rip Doctor's work current as ever

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/09/2023, Julie Power, Page 24

If you really want people to learn about rips, tell them sharks live in rips," says 'coastal scientist Professor Rob Brander, who is frustrated by the failure of beachgoers to recognise the greatest threat in our waters. Arriving for lunch at the beachside Tamarama Kiosk, Brander can't stop surveilling the surf for rips and other dangers.

## Swim-ready weekend weather prompts safety reminders

Canberra Times, General News, 30/09/2023, Jasper Lindell, Page 3

Hot weather across the long weekend is expected to prompt a significant influx of Canberrans to the South Coast, while swimmers are warned to take care to avoid drowning. Craig Roberts, Royal Life Saving ACT general manager of drowning prevention, said communities needed to prepare now ahead of the summer swimming season.

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## Phillip pool to finally reopen ahead of summer

Canberra Times, General News, 30/09/2023, Megan Doherty, Page 15

After being closed for the past two years, the Phillip swimming pool will reopen to the public in November, the new owner Geocon has finally confirmed. In a letter to the Woden Valley Community Council on Thursday, Geocon boss Nick Georgalis said the pool would re-open at "the beginning of November" and remain open until "the end of March".

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## They're kings of the kids out in the bush

Courier Mail, General News, 30/09/2023, Emma Cam, Page 8

Young fans this week got a chance to meet one of their rugby league heroes and see the winner's trophy as part of the code's mission to get back to "the beating heart of footy" the bush. The NRL Telstra Footy Country Tour kicked off in the remote community of Aurukun, North Queensland, on September 6, and will end at the NRL grand final at Accor Stadium.

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## Club clinics unite community

Northern Territory News, Sport, 30/09/2023, Darcy Jennings, Page 66

With the purpose of bolstering community participation among juniors, Darwin Olympic Football Club has played host to more than 70 school students in a holiday clinic. Out at Malak Oval, children from the local area have been engaged in skill and speed exercises as well as lessons on the importance of a balanced, healthy and nutritional diet.

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

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## WA Institute of Sport chairman says unfair to pin justice delays for abused gymnasts on outgoing CEO Steve Lawrence

ABC Online, Other, 29/09/2023, Garrett Mundy

Delays in delivering justice to dozens of gymnasts who suffered abuse at WA's elite athlete support institute would be unfair to pin on the organisation's outgoing CEO, its chairman says. Steve Lawrence confirmed on Thursday he would step down as the chief executive of the Western Australian Institute of Sport (WAIS) after more than 20 years in the role.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Clean the house or you will die

Canberra Times, General News, 30/09/2023, Kathryn Magann, Page 6

Moving your body for short bursts of vigorous activity every day for just one to three minutes can significantly cut the risk of heart attack, stroke and premature death. A new study has found it can be just as beneficial as being active for 10 minutes.

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

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## Health: It's your move

Courier Mail, General News, 30/09/2023, Page 24

A new wearables study tracking more than 25,000 people provides the best evidence yet that short bouts of incidental activity, the kind we do as part of daily living, could reduce risk of heart attack, stroke and even premature death but the length of activity and intensity matters. A University of Sydney-led team of international researchers found short bouts of less than 10 minutes of physical activity at a moderate to vigorous intensity were associated with a steep decrease in major cardiac events (heart attack/stroke) and death by any cause.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#)

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## Meet our clever Churchill fellows

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/09/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 24

Eight Tasmanian experts in fields as diverse as traditional boat building, palliative care, adult literacy, miso fermentation, astronomy and freshwater ecology are set to broaden their knowledge base overseas via their nomination as Churchill Fellows. The Churchill Fellowship, established in 1965 in the wake of Sir Winston Churchill's death, has awarded more than 4500 fellowships in its existence, funding participants on a four to eight week international study tour to glean knowledge and further their craft.

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## Mopping the way to fitness

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 30/09/2023, Page 3

It will come as welcome news to those who aren't regulars at the gym or don't like the idea of heading out for a run. For short bursts of everyday exercise like mopping the floor or walking up flights of stairs can be enough to cut your risk of heart attacks and strokes, a Sydney University study shows.

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## House proceeds to help fund research into SIDS

Geelong Advertiser, GT, 30/09/2023, Page 20

After losing their baby River to SIDS in 2011, parents Alex Hamilton and Karl Waddell have worked tirelessly through their foundation River's gift to prevent other families from suffering a similar tragedy. Now they have teamed up with Geelong homes to help raise vital funds for the work the charity does.

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## Ozempic-selling start-up Eucalyptus does 'silent dismissals'

Australian Financial Review, Other, 29/09/2023, Nick Bonyhady

Sydney start-up Eucalyptus, which sells the buzzy weight loss drug Ozempic online, has been quietly offering staff a choice: resign or go on a performance management plan.

[Read More](#)

## Switching off muscular dystrophy?

Medical Forum, Other, 29/09/2023

Researchers have gained insight into how a toxic protein, known to trigger muscular dystrophy, could be switched off' a pre-clinical discovery that could spearhead a treatment for the debilitating disease which affects around 870,000 people worldwide, including more than 1,000 Australians.

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## Sofi has 100 seizures a year. Her father runs marathons to raise awareness about epilepsy

SBS, Other, 29/09/2023, Esther Lozano



Rafael Garcia plans to run 25 straight hours to support research for treatments of epilepsy and help families who, like his, have a member with this condition.

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[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Sorry state of closing the gap initiatives

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/09/2023, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 28

In February 2008, when then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologised to Indigenous Australians, the iPhone was new, George W Bush was in the White House and Low by Flo Rida and T-Pain was top of the charts. A lot has changed, but First Nations people still live shorter, unhealthier and poorer lives.

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### Indigenous health institute dismayed by 'misleading' funding claims in Voice debate

ABC Online, Other, 29/09/2023

An Indigenous-controlled health research institute has expressed alarm over "misleading" claims about Indigenous funding being circulated in the lead-up to the national Voice to Parliament referendum. Earlier this month, singer Kamahl suggested \$40 billion a year was given to Indigenous people during an interview with Channel 10's The Project.

[Read More](#)

### Tips on managing stress and anxiety ahead of Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum

ABC Online, Other, 29/09/2023, Paige Cockburn

Wesley Enoch hasn't been able to sleep properly for weeks. "I have to fall asleep watching trash television at night, just trying to unwind."

[Read More](#)

### NT suicide rates climb as Tiwi Bombers mourn loss of player

National Indigenous Times, Other, 29/09/2023

New data has revealed the Northern Territory's suicide rate has climbed to more than 50 per cent higher than the national average. The Australian Bureau of Statistics data showed 130 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the NT died by suicide between 2018 and 2022, compared to 105 in the four years prior.

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### First Nations people's mental health is at risk right now – here are ways to care for yourself and community

The Guardian, Other, 29/09/2023, Rachel Fishlock

As Australia is immersed in a heated and divided debate over the impending referendum, it is critical to recognise the unique challenges that First Nations Australians are facing. This moment in our country's history demands empathy, respect, and a commitment to ensuring the mental health and wellbeing of First Nations communities.

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[Back to Top](#)

## Frightening rise in silicosis

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 30/09/2023, Page 30

Tradies are being urged to join the fight in a national health campaign amid a "frightening" rise in silicosis cases. Almost 600,000 workers are being exposed to silica dust, and experts warn more than 10,000 new lung cancer cases could be created without intervention.

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

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## Uranium is still unwanted, uneconomic and unsafe

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 30/09/2023, Jo Vallentine and Mia Pepper, Page 21

WA Labor's ongoing ban on uranium mining in WA is something we should all be glad about. It has kept the door closed on an industry that is underpinned by a history of failures, leaks, spills, accidents, cost overruns, and blowouts.

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## What is hMPV and why are case numbers continuing to surge?

Canberra Times, Other, 29/09/2023, Rachel Clark

The relatively unknown respiratory virus hMPV is spreading in Australia, with symptoms similar to COVID-19, the flu, and common colds, primarily affecting vulnerable groups, with no vaccine available. Just as COVID-19 and influenza numbers begin to ease, NSW health has found a little known virus has spread like wildfire across the state in just a matter of weeks.

[Read More](#)

## Father and son Telegraph journalists Mark and Mitchell Morri debate pill testing

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/09/2023, Mark Morri and Mitchell Morri

On Saturday the music festival season begins, with more than 30,000 people flocking to Listen Out at Sydney's Centennial Park. It has sparked an increasing call for pill testing sites to be introduced.

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

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## Queensland Health investigating cryptosporidiosis outbreak in Gladstone region

ABC Online, Other, 29/09/2023, Jasmine Hines, Rachel-McGhee and Rachel McGhee

Queensland Health is investigating a highly infectious disease outbreak in Gladstone caused by microscopic parasites. The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service confirmed the outbreak of cryptosporidiosis, reporting 12 cases in recent weeks and 31 so far this year.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Today, 29/09/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen and Brooke Boney

A deadly mosquito borne disease is on the rise in Australia, with health departments seeing a worrying increase in Murray Valley encephalitis cases. The disease has already claimed two lives this year, including a child in WA's Kimberley region and a Victorian woman in her 60s.

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[Back to Top](#)

## The next big fat drug

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/09/2023, Cydonee Mardon, Page 3

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 it had been recently advised by Novo Nordisk, the company which makes Ozempic, that supplies were expected to be limited for this year and 2024.

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## Deaths spark tougher safety warnings

Herald Sun, General News, 30/09/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 19

Safety warnings for an osteoporosis medication will be toughened after two Australians using it died. The move by the Therapeutic Goods Administration should bring the nation in line with Europe and the US, where information sheets for Evenity outline the risk of cardiovascular death.

*Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#) and widely syndicated across regional publications*

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## Glucagon shortage extended

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/09/2023

Coronavirus panic hoarding led to sold out shelves. shortage of hand sanitizer, mask products. [...] The company had initially expected supplies of the medication to return to normal levels by 30 September, when it originally notified the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of manufacturing delays This content is restricted to registered users only.

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## What will Palmer's \$2m give the No Camp, and cost Australian voters?

Crikey, Other, 29/09/2023, Emma Elsworthy

How effective the fossil fuel billionaire and UAP founder's cash injection will be will depend on how much of a say he has in how it's used. [...] In June 2021, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) slammed a radio ad authorised by Palmer that falsely claimed Australia had experienced just one COVID-19-related death in 2021 and 210 deaths from the vaccine.

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## ASX Health Stocks: Proteomics soars 13pc after US sets price for PromarkerD

The Australian, Other, 29/09/2023, Eddy Sunarto

Proteomics International Laboratories soared 13 per cent after its shares came out of voluntary trading suspension, thanks to good news from the US. [...] Meanwhile, the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised that its decision not to include the PromarkerD test in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) was due primarily to a change of manufacturer.

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

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## US price locked in for Proteomics diabetes test

West Australian, Other, 29/09/2023, Doug Bright

Proteomics International Laboratories' share price has hit a seven-month high after a United States federal health agency set a national reimbursement price for the company's predictive "PromarkerD" test for diabetic kidney disease. [...] While the pricing is a key step forward in the US, Proteomics has also revealed today that Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has decided not to include the PromarkerD test in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### WA Health to target gastro bug

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Edition Changes, 30/09/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 9

The State Government is investigating food safety in the meat supply chain and educating consumers as WA experiences one of its worst years of foodborne gastrointestinal diseases. WA Health was prompted to act by skyrocketing cases of campylobacteriosis the State's most common foodborne cause of gastro in the past two years.

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

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## AICIS

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[Back to Top](#)

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