



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 7th September 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports a 'No' vote to the Indigenous Voice to parliament could be seen as a mandate to "do nothing" and worsen Closing the Gap outcomes for First Nations people, Indigenous academic Marcia Langton has warned. *Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [The Age](#), [West Australian](#)*
- The **Hobart Mercury** (page 1) reports Tasmania's opposition has blamed ten years of under-investment in primary care after locals yesterday were advised to avoid the state's three largest public hospitals as they struggled to deal with high demand amidst unexpected staff shortages. *Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury](#), [Canberra Times](#), [ABC Online](#), [ABC News](#)*
- **The Australian** (page 6) reports psychological distress remains higher than in the pre-COVID era, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's latest biennial report has found, with the cost of living found to be a significant driver of negative mental health outcomes. *Also reported by: [Canberra Times](#)*
- **The Australian** (page 6) reports staff at Sydney's Concord Hospital have called for an independent investigation, saying a state government "workplace culture review" does not go far enough to address toxic management at the site.

- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 7) reports a Queensland research project will use AI to develop social media content aimed at countering the uptake of vaping amongst teens.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 23) reports the skin condition eczema is costing Australia's economy \$4 billion a year and impacting over three million people but a shortage of dermatologists and a lack of training has led to it being too often dismissed, a new report by Eczema Support Australia has found. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#), [Retail Pharmacy](#), [PharmacyITK](#)
- [The Guardian](#) reports women experiencing menopause are not receiving effective treatment due in large part to widespread misinformation, a new report by Monash University has found.
- [The Guardian](#) reports instances of cancer in people aged under 50 have risen almost 80 per cent since the 90s, a new global report says. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#), [Medical Forum](#)

## MINISTER BUTLER

### COVID-19 inquiry must ask the really hard questions

Australian Financial Review, General News, 07/09/2023, John Kehoe, Page 39

Pandemic lockdowns and overstimulus were responsible for inflation and cost-of-living pressures. Australia must learn from what policymakers did right and wrong.

*Also reported by:* [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).

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### Pharmacists positive after rally

Daily Advertiser, General News, 07/09/2023, Abhranil Hazra, Page 3

Wagga pharmacists have returned home optimistic after protests over the federal government's 60-day dispensing policy disrupted question time in Parliament. The policy, which came into effect last Friday, has left pharmacists worried that they would have to pay more for costs and could result in overdoses. [...] Mr Adamson was joined by member for the Riverina, Michael McCormack, during the rally of health professionals outside Parliament House calling for health minister Mark Butler's resignation over the policy.

*Also reported by:* [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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### Pharmacies face a bleak future

Great Southern Herald, General News, 07/09/2023, Harry Grigson and Daniel Rooney, Page 1

Great Southern pharmacy owners Paul Buck and Shayan Hooshmand, pictured, say they will be among the hardest hit after the new 60-day prescription policy came into effect on Friday. Mr Buck has estimated a 30 to 40 per cent dip in revenue. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said that 60-day prescriptions, first recommended by medicine experts in 2018, would ease the cost-of-living pressures faced by community members with chronic and ongoing health conditions.

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### Prescription changes are just the medicine for many patients

Midwest Times & Northern Guardian, General News, 06/09/2023, Kimberley Caines, Page 16

Millions of Australians can now access two months' supply of common medicines for half the price, with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia backing down on its campaign against 60-day dispensing. The Federal Government's prescription changes came into effect on Friday, with 92 medicines for those living with ongoing health conditions now half the price. [...] "It will mean fewer visits to the GP and pharmacist as well as more money in your hip pocket," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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### Health Workforce Ouyen Bowls Club news review welcomed

North West Express, General News, 07/09/2023, Page 3

Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health Dr Anne Webster has welcomed a Federal Government Review into the Australian health workforce, which is in line with the findings of her Regional Health Workforce Summit held in Mildura in March this year. [...] "When Health Minister Mark Butler enacted that expansion the number of international doctors moving away from the regions increased by 57 percent in just six months to the end of 2022," Dr Webster said.

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## Game-changing guidelines

Seniors Today, General News, 06/09/2023, Page 13

Around eight million Australians will benefit from a game-changing new approach to stopping cardiovascular disease (CVD) before it strikes. Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler has launched the country's new Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Guideline and accompanying CVD Risk Calculator a 'tool kit' that sets improved clinical standards for the prevention of cardiovascular disease before it takes hold.

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## 'Unacceptable': Dying dad's treatment denied

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 07/09/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 22

An unfair government lottery is denying dying cancer patients treatments they are entitled to, while funding others who don't qualify. Patients and medical professionals will converge in Canberra this week to fight the gross inequity in access to the lifesaving treatment, CAR Tcell therapy, which has been approved for use in some blood cancers but not others. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said "bringing any new health technology into Australia doesn't happen overnight but our Government is aware of the challenge and working methodically to make it a reality.

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

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## CAPS makes more demands at rally

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 06/09/2023, Page 1

Around 2,800 people travelled across the country to protest against the 60-Day Dispensing (60DD) policy at a rally in Canberra on 04 Sep, held by the Community and Pharmacy Support Group (CAPS). [...] The letter also stated that the Minister of Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, should stand down immediately, adding "he has mishandled the 60DD policy, broken the 7CPA and his preelection commitments to the pharmacy profession".

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

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## Liquidators appointed for Hawthorn Day Surgery as company and director accused of breaching Melbourne's lockdowns

The Australian, Other, 06/09/2023, Liam Beatty

A cosmetic surgery clinic named as part of the "cosmetic cowboys" scandal is in liquidation, a court has been told. Hawthorn Day Surgery Pty Ltd, which traded as Cosmos Clinic in Melbourne, was due to face the Melbourne Magistrates' Court on Wednesday but failed to appear. [...] Last year, Health Minister Mark Butler announced a crackdown on the cosmetic surgery industry following a series of reports by The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald and 60 Minutes.

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## Health department says minister blocked MSAC consideration of expanded access

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 06/09/2023

Health minister Mark Butler directed the Medical Services Advisory Committee not to consider submissions seeking to expand access to a significant diabetes technology.

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## The surprising thing smokers are doing to cope with the cost of living

## **crisis and new cigarette taxes**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/09/2023, .Stephen Johnson.

.Australians are now turning to illegal loose leaf tobacco to cope with the cost of living crisis and avoid a hike in cigarette taxes, a professor says. New Australian Bureau of Statistics released this week data showed spending on alcoholic beverages and tobacco dropped by four per cent in the year to July, based on bank transaction data. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced a ban on flavoured vapes, restricting them to pharmacies with a prescription.

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## **3AW host Jacquie Felgate unleashes about Melbourne toy store selling vapes**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/09/2023, .Olivia Day.

Concerned parents have unleashed on a 'loophole' that allows stores to sell vapes and tobacco products alongside toys targeted to children. [...] In May, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced a major vaping crackdown, including banning popular single-use disposable vapes and barring the import of non-prescription vaping products into Australia.

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## **Make it here or rely forever on OS supply chains, say device experts**

Oncology Republic, Other, 06/09/2023, Sharlotte Thou

The medical devices industry has pushed for Australia to manufacture its own diagnostic products, instead of relying on those produced overseas, following the release of a national action plan. [...] Sovereign manufacturing appears to be backed by the Albanese Government; a joint press release in January 2022 from now PM Anthony Albanese, Health Minister Mark Butler, Deputy PM Richard Marles, and Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic stated that "critical medical supplies should be made in Australia and the Australian Government should be buying Australian made medical supplies".

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## **Alleged conversion therapy facility only applied for funding after PM announced it**

OUTinPerth, Other, 06/09/2023

A WA based facilities that allegedly conducted exorcisms and gay conversion therapy only formally applied for \$ 4 million dollars worth of Commonwealth funding after Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the grant was being awarded has shared that documents released under Freedom of Information laws show that bureaucrats were left racing around to get information to create an application of the funding after the PM made an announcement in the leadup to the 2019 federal election. [...] Current Health Minister Mark Butler said Scott Morrison needed to explain why he'd made this Captain's pick".

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## **Plea for eczema strategy to address 'neglected disease'**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 06/09/2023, Michelle Wisbey

Sufferers say they are lost in a treatment maze', left thousands of dollars out of pocket, sore, itchy, and still with no answers. Eczema sufferer Harry Fischer undergoing wet wrapping to treat his severe symptoms. [...] ' Eczema Support Australia has written to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and the Department of Health and Aged Care, pleading for the introduction of a National Eczema Strategy.

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## **Expert reaction: Aussies' wellbeing has improved since COVID-19, but not back to original levels**

Science Media Exchange (Scimex), Other, 07/09/2023, Rachel McDonald

Levels of life satisfaction and psychological distress have improved compared to the height of the COVID-19 pandemic but are still below pre-pandemic levels, according to a report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. [...] The latest 2-yearly Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report on the welfare and wellbeing of Australians will be launched today by the Hon Mark

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## **COVID-19 – Is every effort being made to vaccinate the most vulnerable people in society” aged care residents?**

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/09/2023, Ian Horswill

The first covid-19 vaccination of aged care residents took place in February 2021 and there are very few aged care residents without a third dose of the vaccine. [...] "The latest advice from our vaccination experts is that, if you're aged 75 or older and it's been at least six months since your last COVID-19 vaccine dose, it's time to top up your protections with an additional dose," Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, said on 1 September.

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## **Older Aussies lead the charge as the country recovers from the pandemic**

Your Life Choices, Other, 07/09/2023, Brad Lockyer

The darkest days of the pandemic are in the rear-view mirror for many older Australians, but the stresses of the cost-of-living crisis are weighing heavily on some, new research reveals. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) releases its biennial report on the overall welfare and wellbeing of the nation today, launched by Mark Butler, minister for health and aged care, and Amanda Rishworth, minister for social services.

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## **ABC, 7:30, 06/09/2023, Laura Tingle**

Report on patients' safety being put at risk by medicine shortages. While making more drugs in Australia is an option, experts say it's unlikely. Health Minister Mark Butler says new laws came into effect in July to ensure suppliers keep up to six months stock of nearly 3000 critical brands. He says there have been more global shortages of medicines over the last three years than is normal. He states the security of supply arrangements that we've put in place that came into effect in July are just so important. In a statement, industry group Medicines Australia told 7.30 pharmaceutical companies have robust business continuity plans and work with the government to ensure patients aren't adversely affected.

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## **Sky News Regional, Breakfast, 06/09/2023, Lucy Polkinghorne**

Interview with David Littleproud, Nationals Leader about 60-day dispensing. Littleproud urges the Federal government to sit down and negotiate with the pharmacists. pointing out that it fundamentally changed their business model. He notes Health Minister Mark Butler and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese have realised that the pharmacists were right that they had to bring forward the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement to make sure that they understand that there is a way to make them sustainable and keep them sustainable.

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## **MINISTER WELLS**

### **Call for Games to run 24/7**

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 07/09/2023, Tahlia Leathart and Andrew Potts, Page 3

Business kingpin Katie Page has thrown her support behind the sensational push for the Gold Coast to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games - with an international edge. [...] Mr Tate was buoyed by federal Sports Minister Anika Wells opening the door to the bid in a letter last week saying she would be "willing to consider such a proposal" if support was "forthcoming from the Queensland government".

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

## Expectation that aged care will improve

Seniors Today, General News, 06/09/2023, Ian Henschke, Page 4

Two years after the completion of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, there are great expectations the quality of aged care will be improved. While much has been done, including better pay, better nursing care, new quality standards and star ratings, one of the key difficulties in this long-term reform process is funding. [...] To address this issue, Minister for Aged care, Anika Wells announced an Aged Care Taskforce in mid-June.

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## 6PR, The Nightshift, 06/09/2023, Tod Johnston

Interview with Macquarie University neurologist Rowena Mobbs. Ms Mobbs discusses new standards recommended for concussions and head trauma in sports and says the next step will be to see the response from Minister Wells and the federal government.

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## ABC South East NSW, Breakfast, 06/09/2023, Scott Bevan

Interview with Kristy McBain, MP for Eden Monaro on access to aged care in the Monaro. McBain says money has been put into working directly with the Department of Health and Aged Care on how to support aged care facilities across the southeast. She states Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has been doing a fabulous job in working with all of the providers to see how they can assist and make sure that they're not losing beds and capacity across the region.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Voice to make big impact on health

Courier Mail, General News, 07/09/2023, Emma McBride, Page 25

The Voice referendum is about making practical progress for First Nations Australians with a focus on health, education, jobs and housing. It makes sense in the country of the "fair go" that all Australians are given the very best chance in life. No one in Australia should have worse health because of the circumstances of their birth and yet First Nations Australians experience preventable disease and early death.

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### Sky News Regional, Breakfast, 06/09/2023, Lucy Polkinghorne

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health. McBride discusses the Stay Afloat programme. She says they're rolling this out to 50 communities right around Australia where they'll be Stay Afloat hubs. She notes they might be located in the local fish co-op or other places where people within the fishing industry work to make sure that every person within an industry themselves, their family members or the broader community get the right support and care.

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### ABC North and West SA, Regional Mornings, 06/09/2023, Tom Mann

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Federal Minister for Health and Suicide Prevention. McBride says the Stay Afloat programme is receiving \$1.5 million over two years. She notes studies suggest that the rate of mental illness can be higher for commercial fishers compared to the general population, but at the moment only about 1 in 3 are seeking help. She states the Stay Afloat programme will make a big difference in allowing those conversations, reducing stigma and people being linked in with the right support and care.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### **Conservative Freya Leach targeted by leftist panel on Q+A**

Sky News Australia, Other, 06/09/2023

On Monday, ABC's Q+A invited a young conservative, Freya Leach, Director of Youth Policy at the Menzies Research Centre, to argue against the voice on a panel stacked with leftists. This was in front of an audience that was also stacked and sneered at her when Labor MP Ged Kearney falsely accused her of misinformation.

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### **Indigenous leader Marcia Langton points out gaping hole in Anthony Albanese's Voice referendum: 'Tell us what the future holds'**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/09/2023, Padraig Collins

Marcia Langton has used a speech to the National Press Club to urge Anthony Albanese to say what the future holds for Indigenous people if the referendum fails. [...] Speaking on ABC's Q+A program on, Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said she had grave concerns as to what a No vote would mean.

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### **Call for 'every woman' to share gender bias health stories**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 06/09/2023, Jolyon Attwooll

The results of a newly launched survey will help shape policy to reduce gender inequities in the health system. Evidence suggests women disproportionately experience delayed diagnosis, overprescribing, and a failure to properly investigate symptoms. [...] Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said the feedback from a new survey will help shape policy to improve health outcomes for women and girls.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

### **Health to benefit with Voice**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/09/2023, Malarndirri Mccarthy, Page 53

The power to make a practical, positive difference in the lives of our fellow Australians is in our hands. When we step into the voting booth on referendum day, we will have the chance to be part of a great, unifying moment by saying "Yes". Yes to recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution and yes to giving them their best chance of being properly heard with a Voice.

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### **MPs demonstrate they are 'Fit for Office' with Exercise Challenge**

The Times Australia, Other, 06/09/2023

More than 13 Federal Parliamentary members and 70 of their staff are being put through their paces to prove they are 'Fit for Office' during the four-week Fit for Office Get All Parliamentarians Physically Active' challenge to raise awareness of the importance of regular physical activity.

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## DEPARTMENT

## Eight weeks' work generates consultancy \$1.2m

The Australian, Business News, 07/09/2023, Matt Bell, Page 24

A major consultancy firm will receive almost \$1.2m in taxpayers' money for eight weeks work to provide economic analysis for the Albanese government's plans to reduce emissions. The contract awarded to McKinsey by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is one of the most lucrative yet for a consulting group since the government came to power in May last year. [...] The third-highest deal was one for \$145,000 a week for a total of \$2.3m over 16 weeks to the embattled PwC in March for auditing services with the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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

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## DISR prioritising Health's work over its own, finds ANAO

The Mandarin, Other, 06/09/2023, Anna MacDonald

The ANAO has found the National Measurement Institute within the Department of Industry, Science and Resources has been prioritising work it does on behalf of the Department of Health and Aged Care over its own. A memorandum of understanding between the two departments relates to Australia's Tobacco Plain Packaging (TPP) rules.

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## CORONAVIRUS

### As grant applications open for research into long COVID, experts stress the importance of avoiding reinfections

Croakey, Other, 07/09/2023, Melissa Sweet

A round of research grants opened today for four streams of research on long COVID or, using the term preferred by the Department of Health and Aged Care, for PASC or Post-Acute Sequelae of COVID-19. The Medical Research Future Fund grants, administered by NHMRC, have four streams: A large-scale multidisciplinary project in partnership with primary care researchers and consumers (including all age groups and priority populations), to identify how people experience PASC, including the impact on their physical and mental health and social and emotional wellbeing.

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### Ben Falconer: Anti-vaccine police officer takes COVID-19 fight to court, says 'bodily integrity' was vitiated

West Australian, Other, 06/09/2023, Tim Clarke

Outcast vaccine-resistant police officer Ben Falconer has taken his fight against the COVID-19 inoculation mandated by his former Commissioner to the state's highest court arguing that his "bodily integrity" was illegally curtailed by the order to get jabbed. As the pandemic swept across the world, in November 2021 WA Police staff were told by then Commissioner Chris Dawson that they had to get fully jabbed, or face disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### New national guidelines to set the gold standard for future aged care builds

9News, Other, 06/09/2023, Annalise Bolt

HammondCare has already rolled out the "cottage" care model in facilities around the country, and its new Miranda campus in southern Sydney is a textbook example of the design guidelines. "People are first and foremost in control of their environment and that's the key that underpins this model of care,"

HammondCare's General Manager of Residential Care and Dementia Care Angela Raguz said. [...] The Royal Commission called for the design guidelines by the start of this financial year.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## Sunraysia to lead new dementia initiative

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 04/09/2023, Wade Stephens

Sunraysia will be the test bed for a nation-first project aiming to improve the quality of life for people living with early-stage dementia, and their carers. Funding of \$1.7 million from the Australian Government has been delivered to a consortium of six rural aged care organisations, stretching from Heathcote to Merbein.

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## Wagga registered nurse Isabel Baker launches first book A to Z of Dementia Care

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 06/09/2023, Jodie Bruton

When Isabel Baker started working one-on-one with people living with dementia at Wagga, NSW had not long stopped admitting them to psychiatric wards. The Richmond Report (March 1983) finally changed mental health and disability provision in NSW. A registered nurse, Ms Baker said the groundbreaking work at the Coloola Centre Aged Care Home in 1989-1990 changed the course of her career.

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## Map aims to showcase, grow ageing and aged care tech

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 06/09/2023, Natasha Egan

A new platform focused on finding and promoting better ways to live in the later years has launched a map of Australian technology innovators in the ageing space. Launched by Silver Futures last week, Australia's Agetech Startup Map 2023 (above) includes tech many in the aged care sector will be familiar with among solutions for service providers, preventative health, independence, end of life and connection.

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## New aged care design guidelines welcomed by OPAN

Australian Seniors News, Other, 06/09/2023

The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) has welcomed the release of national design principles for residential aged care homes. "Older people and their families have been calling for the deinstitutionalisation of aged care for some time," said OPAN CEO, Craig Gear OAM.

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## Carers Victoria announces new collaboration for care

Australian Seniors News, Other, 06/09/2023

Carers Victoria has teamed up with CareAbout, an organisation which specialises in helping families find the right aged care services for their older relatives. The collaboration aims to provide caregivers with the necessary resources and expert assistance to navigate the aged care process successfully, Carers Victoria said today.

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## Modest profit lift for sector, says report

Community Care Review, Other, 06/09/2023, Christopher Kelly

The financial performance of home care providers improved slightly, according to the latest government report. Released by the Department of Health and Aged Care, the Quarterly Financial Snapshot for January to March 2023 shows compared to the previous quarter profits were up for home care providers by \$0.

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## Survey shows priorities for ageing well

Community Care Review, Other, 06/09/2023, Christopher Kelly

Financial security, staying active and good relationships are the three core components to ageing well, according to a national survey. Commissioned by Bolton Clarke and involving 2,000 people aged 25-75-plus, the survey aims to shine a light on people's perceptions about ageing.

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## Eye-tracking technology giving voice to dementia sufferers

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 06/09/2023

More than 50% of Australians living in residential aged care facilities have a dementia diagnosis, with aged care services around the world preparing for the number of older people aged 65 years and above to double in the next 30 years. For the first time, experts at the Caring Futures Institute (CFI) at South Australia's Flinders University are using innovative eye-tracking technology to ensure that the voices of all older people are heard to drive positive and effective change in keeping with the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's call to re-assess the quality of aged care in Australia.

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## Gidgee Healing passes management of three Northern QLD aged care homes to selectability

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/09/2023, Caroline Egan

Not for Profit community healthcare provider Gidgee Healing, which delivers culturally appropriate services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across 640,000 sqm in northern Queensland, has announced it has transferred the operation of its three aged care services in the Gulf of Carpentaria to Queensland Not For Profit health and wellbeing services provider selectability as of 1 September 2023.

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## NewDirection Care aims to prove high rise and existing aged care housing stock can be adapted to small house model

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/09/2023, Caroline Egan

Innovative aged care provider NewDirection Care, which has developed the trademarked MICRO TOWNS concept in the suburb of Bellmere, 44km north of the Brisbane CBD, is setting out to prove that its small home model of care can be adapted to high rise buildings and existing aged care housing stock.

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## Southern Cross Care (SA, NT & VIC) unveils plans for \$18M expansion of Darwin aged care services

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/09/2023, Caroline Egan

Southern Cross Care (SA, NT & VIC) has unveiled plans for an expansion of its aged care service in the heart of Darwin. The \$18 million development will expand the footprint of Pearl Supported Care residential aged care facility in Fannie Bay, 4km from the city centre, and include an age-friendly Health & Wellness Centre that will be open to the community and will offer physiotherapy, podiatry, exercise physiology, group fitness, strength and rehabilitation classes, social activities and more.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Eczema action plan call

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/09/2023, Page 23

A common yet often dismissed condition that causes undue pain and distress to millions of Australians and costs the economy \$4bn a year is the focus of a new report calling for a national strategy to counter it. Launched by Eczema Support Australia, the report reveals that up to 3 million of us including

one in three children under the age of seven are afflicted by eczema, which causes severe pain, distress and sleep disruption.

Similar coverage reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy ITK \(Online\)](#).

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## Reminder to get into the routine of looking after yourself

Western Advocate, General News, 07/09/2023, Page 2

This year's Women's Health Week is being used as a reminder for women to book important health check-ups to take care of their physical and mental health and to expand their knowledge on their bodies. Women's Health Week is an annual national event, run by not-for-profit organisation Jean Hailes for Women's Health, and this year's theme is "grow your knowledge".

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## Fear-free care would get more Aussies in the dentist chair

Canberra Times, Other, 06/09/2023

Dental Health Week is the Australian Dental Association's major annual oral health campaign. One in three Australians have untreated tooth decay, but are still refusing or delaying going to the dentist out of fear. We can trace tooth decay back to a fear of the dentist. Up to 50 per cent of adult Australians fear the dentist and it's the fifth most common anxiety - and as dentists we have a responsibility to change that narrative.

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## 'Google Maps for indoors' shows the way, as tech for disability sector gets moving

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/09/2023, Jeremy Liddle

New tech helping people with disabilities and others find their way indoors offers important benefits to businesses too, says Jeremy Liddle. Jeremy Liddle, executive director of climate, tech and finance PR agency Third Hemisphere and Stockhead columnist reports on a tech helping people with disabilities, and others, to navigate their way through buildings.

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## Why are so many people on TikTok trying to reduce their cortisol levels?

ABC Online, Other, 06/09/2023, Megan MacDonald

TikTok, the world's fastest-growing social media platform, is fuelled by content trends that take over our feeds and daily conversations. Recently, users may have noticed an increase in health and wellness content advising how to manage high cortisol levels.

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## Misinformation preventing women from getting effective menopause treatment, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 07/09/2023, Natasha May

Most women going through menopause are not receiving effective treatment for their symptoms, in part because of widespread misinformation, according to new research. A comprehensive literature review led by Prof Susan Davis from Monash University in Australia and published on Thursday calls for more personalised treatment plans that address the greatly varying physical and mental symptoms of menopause.

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## Eight healthy habits that may add 24 years to your lifespan

The New Daily, Other, 06/09/2023, John Elder

When you think of the word 'lifestyle', you might think of barbecues at the beach, or evening drinks on the patio with the smell of jasmine in the air. You tend to think about how you've chosen or hope to live.

The making of life being good, and so forth. Last week, we ran three pieces that looked at how lifestyle affects your health.

[Read More](#)

## Kicking up a stink: Ipswich mayor slams government inactivity over toxic smell

7news.com.au, Other, 06/09/2023, Sarah Keszler

It's making people sick physically, as well as making people sick and tired of being ignored by the state government.' Fed up Ipswich residents claim they are plagued by foul odours making them sick, but the state government says there is nothing for the residents to worry about despite images of locals plagued by large rashes emerging online.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 06/09/2023, Mark Ferguson

A new report by Eczema Support Australia is calling for a consistent model of care to help almost 3 million Australians living with eczema. Patients want more skin specialists made available and better medication. The report also claims one of the primary problems is a lack of dermatologists.

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# CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

## Cancer research medal

Herald Sun, General News, 07/09/2023, Page 8

The Melbourne scientist whose research into the role of T cells in tissues has helped advance medicine worldwide is to be awarded one of Australia's most prestigious science medals. University of Melbourne professor Laura Mackay, who leads her own immunology laboratory at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, discovered a unique population of protective T cells in tissue a decade ago, leading to new cancer treatments.

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

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## Cruel lottery on lives

Northern Territory News, General News, 07/09/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 24

An unfair government lottery is denying dying cancer patients treatments they are entitled to, while funding others who don't qualify. Patients and medical professionals will converge on Canberra this week to fight the gross inequity in access to the life-saving treatment, CAR T-cell therapy, which has been approved for use in some blood cancers but not others.

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

## Cancer cases in under-50s worldwide up nearly 80% in three decades, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 06/09/2023, Andrew Gregory

The number of under-50s worldwide being diagnosed with cancer has risen by nearly 80% in three decades, according to the largest study of its kind. Global cases of early onset cancer increased from 1.82 million in 1990 to 3.26 million in 2019, while cancer deaths of adults in their 40s, 30s or younger grew by 27%. More than a million under-50s a year are now dying of cancer, the research reveals.

Similar coverage reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Medical Forum \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## New cancer forum promises to answer the questions you can't ask

3AW, Other, 06/09/2023, Neil Mitchell

On September 13, the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre will host the VCCC Alliance Cancer Communities Forum which promises to answer the questions you can't ask. Executive director of the VCCC Alliance, Professor Grant McArthur, says the panel of experts want to demystify new developments in cancer research and treatment.

[Read More](#)

## Adelaide girl Jazmin Farr lives in constant agony from her Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/09/2023, Ashley Nickel

The desperate family of a girl who has been diagnosed with the world's most painful condition, which she calls 'the great evil', is pleading for help to afford treatment. Jazmin Farr, 11, has suffered from Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) since she broke her foot jumping from a trampoline in Adelaide three years ago. CRPS is a rare neurological disorder which is rated as the most painful condition on the McGill Pain Index, even higher than unmedicated child birth.

[Read More](#)

## You can now DIY your cervical screening test

myDr, Other, 06/09/2023, Alicia Pyke

If you've ever had an uncomfortable pap smear, or more recently an awkward cervical screening test, the thought has probably crossed your mind, "If only I could just do this myself!" Well believe it not, you can DIY, with policy changing in 2022, giving Australian women the choice of whether to have their cervical screening test administered by their doctor, or collect the sample themselves.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9 Darwin, National Nine News, 06/09/2023, Paul Murphy

There is new evidence that more people around the globe under the age of 50 are being diagnosed with cancer. A global study published in the British Medical Journal shows the incidence is rising in adults under 50. Over three decades, cancer cases in under 50 have increased by 79%. Early onset breast cancer had the highest incidence. Upper throat and prostate cancers are rising more quickly.

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## 3AW, Afternoons, 06/09/2023, Jacquie Felgate / Jimmy Bartel

Interview with Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute physical activity lab chief Professor David Dunstan. Professor Dunstan says Australians need to do more to mitigate the risk of diabetes and heart disease by including periods of regularly activity into work days that would otherwise see them sitting for extended periods.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Only sick people please

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/09/2023, Blair Richards, Page 1

A plea from the Health Department for Tasmanians to avoid the state's major hospitals has prompted further criticism of the state government's handling of the health system. In a statement issued at 7pm on Tuesday, Department of Health secretary Kathrine Morgan-Wicks asked Tasmanians not to attend the state's major hospitals unless their case was a genuine emergency.

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

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## Clinic improving outcomes

The doctor leading Townsville's new Rapid Access Clinic has described their effect on patient outcomes and satisfaction as a "great success" as the Townsville University Hospital works to divert patients suffering from chronic conditions away from the city's emergency department.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#),

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## Not getting any better

Western Advocate, General News, 07/09/2023, Allison Hore and Bradley Jurd, Page 1

A Bathurst Regional councillor and health bureaucracy critic says a lack of staff at the city's hospital is tying up paramedics as new data shows people are sometimes waiting over an hour for an ambulance. Between April and June this year, some patients in Bathurst, Dubbo and Orange were left waiting for over half an hour after calling for an ambulance in potentially life-threatening situations, a new healthcare report says.

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## Bond University, clinical facility estimates 700 public patient appointments a week

The Courier Mail, Other, 06/09/2023, Ashleigh Jansen

A major Gold Coast university has lifted the lid on a massive new facility expected to be used by thousands each year. See the details. Bond University unveiled its new \$50 million health and sport precinct on Wednesday, which Vice Chancellor Professor Tim Brailsford said will help train the next generation of allied health professionals.

[Read More](#)

## Patients sicker, waiting longer: NSW Health Numbers revealed

ABC Online, Other, 06/09/2023, Tom Melville

New South Wales Emergency departments are straining under intense pressure -- they're seeing more patients with life threatening conditions than ever before, and wait times are still going up. The numbers are contained within the bureau of health information's quarterly report, and experts say it's not just a problem in New South Wales.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#),

[Read More](#)

## New endo clinics

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/09/2023

Adelaide and Western Sydney patients will be able to access multidisciplinary care with two new Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinics opening. The Australia-first clinics will provide more women with specialised care they need with the number of clinics increasing from 20 to 22.

[Read More](#)

## RACGP backs 'comprehensive' abortion care guideline

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 06/09/2023, Jolyon Attwooll

The college was invited to give feedback on the draft RANZCOG evidence-based clinical guideline. The RACGP has said the guideline will be helpful for GPs who support women in the various aspects of reproductive health.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 06/09/2023, Yvonne Yong

Doctors are calling on the South Australian Government to urgently move staff and patients out of the Pregnancy Advisory Centre building in Adelaide's western suburbs. Almost two months after serious building issues were uncovered, including mould, asbestos and bug infestations, the Government is yet to confirm when the service will relocate but it's meant to be a safe space for women with unplanned pregnancies. In a statement to the ABC the Central Adelaide Local Health Network said it was committed to working through the building issues at the existing centre. It said it had received

SafeWork SA inspection reports and was working with the Department for Human Services to address immediate concerns. The network said it was looking at other sites to relocate staff, but no final decision had been made on a new location. The Health Department and the Department of Human Services are working as fast as they can to resolve the quality of the building.

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### **ABC News, ABC Evening News, 06/09/2023, Gemma Veness**

Interview with Dr John Saul, President, AMA Tas on Tasmanians being urged to stay away from the state's two biggest hospitals unless it's an emergency. Saul says they're underprepared, understaffed and just not ready for the influenza surge that's happening at the moment. He calls for appropriate funding to get people through the system and clear the logjam.

*Also reported by: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).*

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### **Channel 7, Seven News, 06/09/2023, Mark Ferguson**

The state's hospitals are now facing a double burden in demand, more serious cases leading to longer waits in emergency for less urgent cases. The government says it's hiring more nurses and paramedics but admits there's more to be done. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has promised to lift the performance of the hospital system as the pressure. A record 43% of patients spent more than four hours in hospital in the June quarter.

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### **ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 06/09/2023, Adam Steer**

Interview with Vicki O'Halloran and Duncan MacDonnell, who will lead community consultation efforts ahead of planned legislation for voluntary assisted dying in the Northern Territory.

*Also reported by: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).*

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### **Radio National, PM, 06/09/2023, Sarah Dingle**

New figures released in New South Wales show hospital emergency departments there are straining under intense pressure. Their doctors are seeing more patients with life threatening conditions than ever before and waiting times are still going up. The New South Wales Bureau of Health Information's quarterly report and experts say other states have the same problem. Between April and June this year, emergency departments in New South Wales saw nearly 118,000 category two patients. Ambulance ramping where paramedics are forced to wait outside hospitals with ill patients, sometimes for hours before they can be admitted is rife and patients are waiting longer and longer in emergency rooms around the country. Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, CEO, Australian College of Nursing says more needs to be done outside the hospital system to keep people healthy and prevent them from getting to critical stages in the first place.

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **Covid loneliness lingers, especially among young**

The Australian, General News, 07/09/2023, Stephen Lunn and Nicholas Finch, Page 6

Australia's Covid hangover is lingering as life satisfaction remains lower and psychological distress higher than before 2020, a new report has found. Despite some recovery since the height of the pandemic, the national psyche is still fragile, with life satisfaction again falling and psychological distress rising so far in 2023, likely driven by increasing financial stress.

*Similar coverage reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).*

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

## Climate fears put youth on red alert

West Australian, Edition Changes, 07/09/2023, Bethany Hiatt, Page 3

New figures have laid bare the enormous impact of eco-anxiety on young Australians, with more than half fearful of their future because of the effects of climate change. Results of a survey by national youth mental health group headspace released on Thursday revealed that 53 per cent of 18 to 25-year-olds across Australia believed their lives would be negatively affected by long-term changes to climate.

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## Help to find light in dark days

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/09/2023, Mark Murray, Page 7

A Geelong leader has opened up on his harrowing experience with the tragedy of suicide after four friends took their own lives, including three in a year. Benny Le Fevre, 31, who now chairs the Suicide Prevention Awareness Network (SPAN) in Geelong, has also revealed the dark day he almost joined them.

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## Hope rises as providers join forces for R U OK? Day

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 07/09/2023, Carwyn Monck, Page 3

Goldfielders are invited to spark conversations surrounding mental health on Friday during the region's first combined R U OK? Day. R U OK? Afternoon in the Park will be at Centennial Park from 3-5pm in collaboration with local service providers and community organisations.

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## LGBTIQA+ hit barriers

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 07/09/2023, Page 6

Barriers to accessing potentially lifesaving support persist, according to new research into suicidality in the LGBTIQA+ community. The team interviewed members of the LGBTIQA+SB community to understand their lived experiences of suicidal thoughts and behaviours and uncover factors that protect people at these times of distress.

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## 'My period gave me severe depression - every month'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/09/2023, Mia Erickson

For Ashleigh, overcoming her mental health struggles and the stigma attached was only half the battle. Now, she's ready to raise awareness and inspire other women to do the same. Let's face it, periods are anything but a walk in the park. When you weigh up the cramps, irritability, bleeding and bloating, it's hard not to feel a little cheated, like we drew the short straw in the developmental lottery.

[Read More](#)

## Nightlife Health with Sophie Scott - writer on mental health and workplace wellbeing

ABC Online, Other, 07/09/2023

A new mental health report has shed light into what young Australians are worried about. The number of men dying from prostate cancer has increased 25% in the past 20 years, with diagnoses of the disease set to skyrocket, and a new study reveals alarming rates of CTE among young female athletes under 30.

[Read More](#)

## More than half of Australian families report higher than normal distress due to cost of living

The Guardian, Other, 07/09/2023, Natasha May

More than half of Australian families are reporting higher than normal distress due to rising cost of living, according to new data from Suicide Prevention Australia. The organisation's community tracker has found cost of living and personal debt to be the highest cause of distress among Australians for the

fifth quarter in a row, with 46% nationally reporting elevated distress this September quarter compared with 40% in June.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Mandarin \(Online\)](#)

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## Psychiatrists warn of 'severe consequences' after Victoria cuts funding for hospital placements

The Guardian, Other, 07/09/2023, Adeshola Ore

Victorian psychiatrist trainees have sounded the alarm over a reduction in government funding for junior doctors in mental health wards, warning it will have "severe consequences". Having junior doctors completing mandatory stints in public hospital psychiatry wards was a recommendation by Victoria's landmark mental health royal commission to tackle workforce shortages. The state has a target of 70% of junior doctors doing a psychiatrist stint, and has funded some of these positions since 2021.

[Read More](#)

## Grant scheme provides mental health relief for healthcare workers, first responders

HelloCare, Other, 06/09/2023, Bianca Iovino

Healthcare workers and first responders reportedly have double the rate of diagnosed mental health conditions compared to the general population (39% compared to 20%) and their vulnerability to mental health injuries is clear and worrying. In a bid to prevent these numbers from increasing, Sana Healthcare Group is launching a new Wellness Grants scheme to support those who work hard every day to support us.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 06/09/2023, Adam Shirley

Interview with Canberra and Queanbeyan ADD Support Group secretary Beryl Gover about wait times on seeing a psychiatrist and correct diagnosis and medication. Gover says they'd like to see the psychiatrist take an active view with how the medication is affecting the person concerned. She calls for proper funding for ADHD treatment.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Midwife unit's fully staffed

Cairns Post, General News, 07/09/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 5

A Far North health service's midwifery unit is fully staffed for the first time in three years following an intensive recruitment process. Cooktown's Multipurpose Health Service's (MPHS) midwifery team now includes a clinical midwife consultant, three midwives and a women's health nurse.

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

### Monitoring key to births

Daily Advertiser, General News, 07/09/2023, Dan Holmes, Page 1

Submissions to the NSW Birth Trauma Inquiry have revealed women in regional, rural and remote areas face additional challenges during pregnancy and childbirth. But emerging medical technology could help reduce these challenges, by creating a digital link between pregnant women and their healthcare providers.

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

### Bid to improve rural maternity services

Farm Weekly, General News, 07/09/2023, Jamieson Murphy, Page 13

When a rural town's maternity unit shuts down, it has a domino effect and other healthcare services quickly follow. Almost 100 maternity experts met in Canberra last week, calling for the Federal government to step in and end the steady decline of services for regional mothers.

Also reported by: [Queensland Country Life \(Brisbane\)](#).

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## Calvary nurses start industrial action, stop work not ruled out

Launceston Examiner, General News, 07/09/2023, Charmaine Manuel, Page 3

Calvary nurses across Tasmania who are Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) members are taking industrial action over staff and wage issues. ANMF Branch Secretary Emily Shepherd said the number of nurses taking industrial action was around 400. Ms Shepherd was joined outside Calvary St Vincent on Wednesday by a small group of nurses on action, which has come after months-long negotiations with the hospital stalled.

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## New study adds weight to birth trauma claims in NSW

Canberra Times, Other, 06/09/2023, Dan Holmes

One in three Australian women experience birth trauma, but the vast majority who display symptoms go undiagnosed. Most women would make different choices about their maternity care if they had another baby, according to new research.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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## How social media is changing expectations around giving birth

ABC Online, Other, 06/09/2023, Tim Shepherd

You might not be thinking about having kids yet, but you've probably seen young parents and influencers talking about it online. But not everyone has a calming, wonderful, instagrammable birth experience.

[Read More](#)

## Nurse Practitioner pens book detailing 'honest insights' into the life of a nurse

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 06/09/2023, Robert Fedele

Rasa Kabaila never imagined that her everyday nursing stories from a decade in the job could one day form an entire book. That was until a friend planted the seed in her mind that her experiences, and those of colleagues, deserved to be told.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Framed in the philippines

West Australian, General News, 07/09/2023, Shannon Hampton, Page 1

A public health expert from WA who is languishing in a Philippines jail says he has been falsely accused by corrupt police amid the country's war on narcotics. Elden Chamberlain, 60, is accused of selling 1000 Philippine pesos (\$27) of methamphetamine. He said the charges were "ludicrous".

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

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### Modest profit lift for sector, says report

Community Care Review, Other, 06/09/2023, Christopher Kelly

The financial performance of home care providers improved slightly, according to the latest government

report. Released by the Department of Health and Aged Care, the Quarterly Financial Snapshot for January to March 2023 shows compared to the previous quarter profits were up for home care providers by \$0.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Script shift not such a bitter pill for pharmacists

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/09/2023, Peter Breadon, Page 26

The scare campaign against 60-day medication dispensing was bad enough. Then, on Monday, aggrieved pharmacists descended on Parliament House, reportedly hurling abuse at people who work there. [...] The government's policy follows independent advice from the expert group that oversees the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

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

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### Weight drug ends recession

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 07/09/2023, Page 13

It's difficult to underestimate the success of Novo Nordisk, the company behind "miracle" weight loss jab Wegovy. Such is the popularity of the revolutionary weekly appetite suppressant lauded by Elon Musk and Kim Kardashian that the company has become the most valuable in Europe.

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### Channel 7, Seven News, 06/09/2023, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

There's a new push to give South Australian women better access to the oral contraceptive pill. Pharmacists want permission to refill customer's scripts without a regular visit to a doctor but say that's a health risk. Local pharmacists have made submissions to a parliamentary inquiry already looking at bypassing GPs for medications, asking for the pill to be considered as well.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Doctors want probe, not 'a culture review'

The Australian, General News, 07/09/2023, Alexi Demetriadi, Page 6

A \$300,000 "workplace culture" review at a Sydney hospital has been criticised by doctors and staff, who have demanded an independent investigation into allegations of a toxic management style, false data and a severe backlog of radiology scans. In July, Concord Hospital staff revolted against the local health district's chief executive, with a majority of the hospital's senior medical staff voting in favour of a no-confidence motion against Teresa Anderson.

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

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## Minister's neglect

Courier Mail, General News, 07/09/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 1

A comprehensive investigation into one the state's biggest child safety failures was called off by Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath on the eve of the last election, documents published by the Disability Royal Commission reveal. The Disability Royal Commission this week called for an urgent inquiry into how a pair of Brisbane brothers were failed by multiple state agencies, enduring nearly two decades of horror at the hands of their alcoholic father.

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## Sex 'fiend' doctor caught out preying on female patients again

West Australian, General News, 07/09/2023, Tim Clarke, Page 22

A sex-fiend doctor already serving one of the longest bans ever handed to an Australian medical practitioner has been found guilty of misconduct yet again for having sex with a vulnerable, alcoholic, depressed patient. Late last year, Lucien "Lou" LaGrange was banned for 25 years by medical authorities after decades of "calculated" and "opportunistic" behaviour towards female patients.

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

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## Watchdog declares pretend doctor a 'public health risk'

Canberra Times, Other, 06/09/2023, Maeve Bannister

A COVID-19 swab collector who pretended to be a doctor has been permanently barred from providing health services to the public. Jeremy Chatterton, 51, was investigated by the Health Care Complaints Commission after he was convicted of falsely claiming to be a doctor while working at a COVID testing clinic on Sydney's northern beaches in 2022.

[Read More](#)

## Local doctor's guilty plea to forging opioid medications

Murray Pioneer, Other, 06/09/2023, Alexandra Bull

A Riverland doctor has pleaded guilty to forging more than 40 prescriptions for opioid medications for personal use. Dr Adrian Herbert, who was employed as a GP by the Renmark Medical Clinic, was charged with forging or uttering prescriptions between September 2021 and November 2022, according to a report by Global Village Space (GVS). [...] It is supported in its role by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and both bodies operate independently of the Australian Government.

[Read More](#)

## Orthopaedic surgeon is not a monster but he did fail, defamation trial told

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/09/2023

More than 30 former patients of Associate Professor Munjed Al Muderis are expected to give evidence. Associate Professor Munjed Al Muderis is not a monster, but there is a public interest in reporting when his surgical operations fail, as they have for dozens of people, a defamation trial has been told.

[Read More](#)

## Botox and fillers to come under greater scrutiny by the medical regulator. Will it be too little too late?

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 06/09/2023, Christopher Rudge

It plans to develop stricter guidelines for non-surgical cosmetic procedures especially advertising practices, consent procedures and pre-procedure suitability screening. The regulator's primary targets are health practitioners authorised to prescribe restricted drugs (schedule 4 medicines) to patients for aesthetic enhancement.

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## Biotech is a gold mine waiting to be tapped

The Australian, Business News, 07/09/2023, Chris Nave, Page 25

Australia is one of the wealthiest nations on the planet, yet our economy is one of the least sophisticated, ranking alongside Uganda and Pakistan for economic complexity. [...] Thanks to the sustained longterm investment through the National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia's biomedical research capability is world-class with highly regarded Nature ranking us the 10th highest country for research output.

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

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## SPORT

### Nine bets on Games for advertising lift

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 07/09/2023, Calum Jaspan, Page 31

Nine Entertainment is banking on its recently inked Olympics deal to springboard a unified digital and sales proposition to the nation's most powerful advertisers. The company, which owns the Herald, held an event yesterday at Sydney's Moore Park to kick off "upfronts" season, an eight-week stretch where media companies pitch programming to advertisers for the year ahead.

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

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### Raising a Voice ruled out at grand final

Age, General News, 07/09/2023, Paul Sakkal, Caroline Wilson and James Massola, Page 1

The AFL has rejected promoting the Voice on grand final day after the powerful league commission warned against using its finals series to spruik the referendum, dashing hopes the marquee event would draw attention to the Yes case a fortnight from voting day. Top government figures had said privately earlier this year they expected the AFL and NRL, who both declared support for the referendum in May, to capture the millions watching their grand finals to bring home the Yes message.

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### Lara baiting bust renews calls to outlaw greyhound racing

Ballarat Courier, General News, 07/09/2023, Callum Godde, Page 6

A live baiting scandal has erupted in Victoria's greyhound racing industry, prompting renewed calls for a ban on the sport. A greyhound trainer and fellow registered industry member were immediately suspended on Tuesday after evidence of luring and baiting was found during a targeted inspection of a property at Lara.

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### France boosts security ahead of Rugby World Cup

Canberra Times, Other, 06/09/2023

With no room for mistakes ahead of next year's Paris Olympics, French authorities have pledged to mobilise a record number of police officers to guarantee a smooth Rugby World Cup. Authorities are desperate not to have a repeat of the chaos outside the stadium that marred the 2022 Champions League final.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### Senate committee calls on federal government to set concussion guidelines for contact sports

ABC Online, Other, 06/09/2023, David Mark

A Senate committee has recommended the federal government consider developing a national strategy to reduce concussions in contact sports. The recommendation is one of 13 in an inquiry into concussions and repeated head trauma that was tabled in the Senate on Tuesday night by the deputy chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs, Janet Rice.

*Similar coverage reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [6PR \(Online\)](#), [Medical Forum \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).*

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## Football Australia chair Chris Nikou to step down at pivotal time for game

The Guardian, Other, 06/09/2023, Guardian sport

Chris Nikou has announced he will stand down as chair of Football Australia before the end of the year with the game at a "pivotal" juncture following the huge success of the Women's World Cup on home soil. Nikou, who took the position five years ago after having initially joined the FA board in 2014, will not seek re-election as chair at the upcoming AGM, to be held on 22 November.

[Read More](#)

## 6PR, Perth Live, 06/09/2023, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Rowena Mobbs, neurologist, Macquarie University. Mobbs discusses standardised concussion protocols in sports. She commends the Senate with the national sports injury database recommendation. She adds one of the recommendations was to call for the Department of Health and Aged Care to work with stakeholders in the community around education and awareness on head injury and CTE.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Combo drugs are a lifesaver

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/09/2023, Page 12

A double combination of cholesterol-lowering drugs after someone suffers a heart attack could save hundreds of thousands of lives, according to international researchers. Giving drugs known as statins and ezetimibe straight after a heart attack could be connected to a reduction in the number of people dying in the following three years by close to half, the team says.

*Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).*

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

### AI plan to stop vaping

Courier Mail, General News, 07/09/2023, Jill Poulsen, Page 7

Artificial intelligence will harness the power of social media on young people by infiltrating their Instagram feeds to warn against the harms of vaping. The Queensland researcher at the helm of the project, Dr Janni Leung, has been announced as the winner of the prestigious UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award for her work using AI to develop posters, slogans, and other messaging about the dangers of vaping on teens to be used on social media - namely Instagram - to reach her target audience.

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### Bequest benefits research

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 07/09/2023, Bethany Westwood, Page 5

A generous bequest of \$34m will pave the way for a new research centre and training programs at James Cook University thanks to funds set aside in the trusts of two champions of Australian literature, the late Colin and Margaret Roderick. Margaret was a science graduate when she married scholar-publisher Colin Roderick, and the pair arrived in North Queensland in 1965 when Colin was recruited

from Sydney to be the English professor at the University of College of Townsville (now James Cook University), marking the beginning of a lifetime in service of literature.

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## Medicinal cannabis eases pain, anxiety, fatigue: study

West Australian, Other, 07/09/2023, Callum Godde

Medicinal cannabis boosts the health and quality of life of patients suffering from mental health conditions, chronic pain and fatigue, an Australian study shows. The longitudinal study, led by the University of Sydney, followed 2327 Australian patients who were prescribed medicinal cannabis for health conditions between November 2020 and December 2021.

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

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## 'Complete' models of human embryos created from stem cells in lab

The Guardian, Other, 07/09/2023, Ian Sample

Researchers have created "complete" models of human embryos from stem cells in the lab and grown them outside the womb, in work that paves the way for advances in fertility, pharmaceutical testing and transplants. The tiny balls of tissue were made by combining stem cells that arranged themselves into structures that mimic the 3D organisation of all the known features found in human embryos from one to two weeks old.

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## SA baby gene tests on the health horizon

In Daily, Other, 06/09/2023, Belinda Willis

South Australians can expect to see their babies' genes tested at birth in the future, as the State Government launches a process to make local researchers integral to the global genetic revolution. Health Minister Chris Picton today launched South Australia's first Health and Medical Research Strategy Green Paper to outline ways the state can be at the forefront of "monumental changes to the delivery of healthcare in the next 10 to 15 years".

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## Ancient virus implicated in MND

Medical Forum, Other, 07/09/2023

New research is set to explore the role of endogenous retroviruses, which first emerged during the early Palaeozoic Era, 460 to 550 million years ago, and the development of Motor Neuron Disease (MND) in the modern-day population. Retroviruses are enveloped RNA viruses that depend on host for survival and reproduction, which evolved alongside vertebrates, integrating with their host to the point where they become embedded in the germline and can be potentially passed on to the host's offspring.

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## No insulin needed

Medical Forum, Other, 07/09/2023

Researchers from the US have found that after treatment with a drug typically used for Type 2 diabetes, newly diagnosed Type 1 diabetes patients required little to no insulin. Treating newly diagnosed Type 1 diabetes patients with semaglutide (also known as Ozempic, Wegovy and Rybelsus) could drastically reduce or even eliminate their need for injected insulin according to the findings of a small University at Buffalo study, published 6 September 2023 in the New England Journal of Medicine.

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## More than \$575k in RACGP Foundation Grants awarded

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 06/09/2023, Matt Woodley

A host of general practice researchers are set to benefit from hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding for upcoming projects. Twelve general practice projects have received grants totalling more than \$575,000.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### What if it fails? Indigenous leader voices her fear of a bleak future

The Australian, General News, 07/09/2023, Rosie Lewis, Page 1

Indigenous leader Marcia Langton has urged the Albanese government to lay out what the future holds for Aboriginal Australians in the event of a No vote for the voice referendum on October 14, fearing it could give governments a mandate to "do nothing and to make our lives worse". Declaring this was Australia's "one chance" to achieve constitutional recognition, leading Yes campaigners joined with Professor Langton on Wednesday in warning they would not work with Peter Dutton on a second "voiceless" referendum if the poll next month failed because it was not what they wanted.

*Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Australia\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).*

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### Push for easier redress of human rights breaches

Age, General News, 07/09/2023, Kieran Rooney and Jack Latimore, Page 5

The Yoorrook Justice Commission wants the Victorian government to make it easier and cheaper for people to seek compensation for human rights abuses by allowing them to take their claims to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Australia's first truth-telling commission this week tabled its report on the failures in the state's criminal justice and child-protection systems for Aboriginal Victorians.

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### Coalition members refuse to meet with Indigenous mental health experts calling for respectful Voice referendum

ABC Online, Other, 06/09/2023, Dana Morse

Members of the federal Coalition have refused to meet with peak bodies for mental health and Indigenous wellbeing advocating for a respectful referendum debate while at Parliament House. Representatives from the Black Dog Institute, Indigenous Allied Health Australia and Indigenous mental health and suicide prevention group Gayaa Dhuwi have travelled to Parliament House to speak with politicians and encourage them to be careful and considered in their comments about the referendum.

*Similar coverage reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#).*

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### Advocates call for national commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

ABC Online, Other, 06/09/2023, Samantha Dick and Myles Houlbrook

A number of state and territory children's commissioners are among a group of official advocates calling for a dedicated national commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The group, known as First Nations Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates (FNCCG), is made up of official Indigenous children's advocates from across the country.

*Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).*

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### Australia's e-safety regulator warned Twitter about rise in online hate speech during voice debate

Australia's online safety regulator warned Twitter of a likely increase in online hate targeting Indigenous Australians in the lead-up to the voice to parliament referendum but the platform did not substantially respond to its concerns, a freedom of information request reveals. The eSafety commissioner, Julie Inman Grant, sent a legal notice to X in June demanding an explanation over what she said was an increase in complaints since Elon Musk's takeover of the company in October last year.

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## Why Indigenous doctors are saying 'yes' to the Voice

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/09/2023, Simone Raye

As we head towards the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum on 14 October, we know that current systems and processes are failing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As I heard Ngunnawal woman Selina Walker say recently at the National Rural Maternity Services Forum: "If we change nothing, nothing changes.

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## DrinkWise FASD awareness program in full effect ahead of annual Awareness Day

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/09/2023

DrinkWise and medical professionals, including prominent Indigenous Health expert Dr. Mark Wenitong, have collaborated to recommend women avoid alcohol before and during pregnancy, as well as while breastfeeding ahead of International FASD Awareness Day on September 9.

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 06/09/2023, Stacey Lee and Nikolai Beilharz

Children's advocates from across the country meeting in Darwin will today call for a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner. First Nations children's advocates meeting in Darwin say a national office is needed to coordinate efforts to reduce social disadvantage.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Explanation sought for ACT infections

Canberra Times, General News, 07/09/2023, Steve Evans, Page 17

The assembly opposition to the ACT government is calling for an explanation of why a particular type of infection is higher in the territory than elsewhere in Australia. Figures released earlier in the year showed that Canberra hospitals had the highest rate of golden staph infections in the country.

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### The risk of animal-borne parasites infecting humans increasing

ABC Online, Other, 06/09/2023

We're all now familiar with how COVID is thought to have come about through animals but the bizarre case of an Australian woman who had a live worm removed from her brain has again highlighted the dangers of zoonotic diseases. Scientists warn that infections jumping from animals to humans is becoming more common and that we should get used to it.

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### Meningitis: Gold Coast girl Norah, 4, was told by doctors she just had gastro and died days later

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/09/2023, Pdraig Collins

When little Norah Terei-Bristowe got sick with a fever, vomiting and a headache, her parents called a doctor to their home. The doctor thought the four-year-old had gastroenteritis, but she her symptoms worsened over that weekend, and by Monday morning on August 28, she was unresponsive.

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## Accurate and timely diagnoses of respiratory illnesses strengthen antimicrobial stewardship

Medical Forum, Other, 06/09/2023, Sudha Pottumarthy-Boddu

Every winter virus season is unique, especially influenza trends. Well-established global influenza surveillance systems aim to gauge, predict, report and ultimately provide guidance for protection (vaccine development) for the upcoming influenza season.

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## How dangerous is Meningococcal disease?

SBS, Other, 06/09/2023, Ciara Hain

According to data from the Department of Health in Australia, there were 67 cases of Meningococcal disease nationwide, which is an increase of 49 percent compared to the previous year. Available in other languages Key Points First-time mom Hazel Westland is focused on taking care of her child because the baby was born with sensitive conditions like food allergies.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Patients' safety being put at risk by medicine shortages

ABC Online, Other, 06/09/2023, Alison Branley

Medicine shortages have been an issue around the country. Just as some come back into the country, others go into short supply.

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### So you think you're smarter than ChatGPT? See how it went on the latest RACGP exam

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/09/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

ChatGPT is also facing new competition from Microsoft and Google. Seeing an AI deal with GP fellowship exam questions is eye-opening and a little scary. [...] While doxycycline is usually a first-line treatment for this condition, it is TGA pregnancy category D and should be avoided after 18 weeks' gestation as it may cause discolouration and malformation of the teeth of the developing fetus.

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### ABC, 7:30, 06/09/2023, Laura Tingle

Medicine shortages have been an issue around the country. Just as some come back into the country, others go into short supply. Nationally, there are more than 400 medicines in short supply or out of stock. More than 40 are listed as critical. Regulators say most drugs have substitutes available but pharmacists around the country have told 730 it's not so straightforward. Tasmanian pharmacist Judy Lamb says it's costing patients' money. Health economist Bonnie Parkinson says substitutions impact the Pharmaceutical Benefits scheme, or PBS.

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

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

## Alarm on deceptive street drugs as coroner calls for public pill tests

Age, General News, 07/09/2023, Aisha Dow, Page 4

A little blue pill with the imprint of a skull. An orange tablet branded with a Nike tick. A black powder that turns grey when crushed. These are among the dangerous new street drugs, sometimes being sold as something they're not, that have made their way into the Victorian community.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Gaffney keen to push drug law reform

Burnie Advocate, General News, 07/09/2023, Sandy Powell, Page 5

The independent upper house MP responsible for Tasmania's assisted dying legislation has left the door open to pursuing drug possession decriminalisation as his next project. On Tuesday, September 5, Mersey MLC Mike Gaffney said he is keen to see the state to move away from its current punitive approach to illicit drug use and possession.

Similar coverage reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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## Top cop Neil Gaughan says ACT police officers are undergoing attitudinal change ahead of drug decriminalisation

ABC Online, Other, 06/09/2023, Tahlia Roy

Police patrolling Canberra's nightlife precincts are being told to change how they respond to witnessing drug use, ahead of next month's nation-leading decriminalisation laws coming into effect. Despite ACT Policing's initial opposition to the legislation, Chief Police Officer Neil Gaughan said he accepted the law has changed and was readying his officers.

Similar coverage reported by: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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## SA media and leaders are demonising a health condition

In Daily, Other, 06/09/2023, David Washington

Some South Australian media, politicians and community leaders are stigmatising people with drug and alcohol dependency, putting barriers in the way of potentially life-saving health care, writes Michael White First, do no harm In health, there is an adage that practitioners should do no harm.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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## AICIS

### 'Potentially hazardous material' found in storeroom at Sydney's Castle Hill high school

The Guardian, Other, 06/09/2023, Tory Shepherd

A "potentially hazardous material" has been discovered at Sydney's Castle Hill high school. The New South Wales education department said in a statement it discovered "a potentially hazardous material in a locked science block storeroom" at the school on 30 August 2023. The department said the material was in a sealed box in a room that students could not access.

Similar coverage reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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