



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 11th September 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports inflation, low financial returns and newly legislated staffing benchmarks have seen a drop in the growth of available beds in aged care homes, with providers warning of future shortfalls without further investment in infrastructure.
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 1) reports decades of progress to counter heart and lung disease is being undone by easy access to cheap black market tobacco, Sydney-based vascular surgeon John Crozier says.
- **The Australian** (page 4) reports prominent drug safety advocates have called on New South Wales to trial fixed and mobile drug-checking facilities over the summer following the success of a similar program in the ACT which reduced the risk of drug-related emergencies and overdose deaths.
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 4) reports the New South Wales Police Association has called on the state government to end police involvement in non-threatening mental health checks, saying health professionals should take over the role. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#)*
- The **Canberra Times** (page 7) reports one in three Australians with a life-impacting mental health condition won't seek assistance, while over 20 per cent will avoid or delay accessing

professional care, the latest Beyond Blue survey has found. *Also reported by: [West Australian](#)*

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 11) reports women who experience complications during pregnancy, like gestational diabetes or high blood pressure, are six to ten times more at risk of heart disease in later life, new research by Victoria-based not-for-profit Cabrini Health has found. *Also reported by: [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Northern Territory News](#)*
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 16) reports a collective of federal MPs, including Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing Ged Kearney, have called for legislation to ban genetic discrimination by life insurance companies following research showing a fear such discrimination might see Australians forego vital testing.
- [ABC News](#) reports the New South Wales government has committed over \$3 billion to upgrade hospitals in western Sydney and to secure a new healthcare workers salary package. *Also reported by: [Canberra Times](#), [9News](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

Bulk billing in bad health

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/09/2023, Will Keech and Sue Dunlevy, Page 1

A Geelong Advertiser analysis has found just 13 practices across our region offer no-fee bulk billing, down from 20 clinics less than a year ago. Only 13 local practices offer free consults for all [...] Health Minister Mark Butler blamed the fall on a decade of cuts and neglect by the former government.

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MINISTER WELLS

Staffing reforms spark slowdown in aged-care homes

The Australian, General News, 11/09/2023, Jess Malcolm, Page 1

Aged-care homes are growing the number of beds at only half the average rate of the past five years, as experts and providers warn a projected shortfall in places is being exacerbated by Anthony Albanese's sweeping new 24/7 nursing targets. [...] But Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the number of residential aged care places had continued to increase each year from 217,067 in 2019 to 225,388 in 2023 and that Labor's 24/7 nursing reforms had led to better care for elderly Australians.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Why is genetic discrimination allowed?

Canberra Times, General News, 11/09/2023, Jane Tiller and Paul Lacaze, Page 16

Genetic tests can provide life-saving information. They can help diagnose disease, enable access to preventive care, prompt early screening and treatment, and guide patients' therapeutic options. [...] Separate speeches by MP Dr Daniel Mulino and Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing Ged Kearney also supported the motion.

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

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CORONAVIRUS

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Million-dollar pensioners

West Australian, Business News, 11/09/2023, Nick Bruining, Page 37

A big jump in Centrelink pension payment rates will flow through to means-test thresholds next week, meaning WA's millionaire homeowners now qualify for a partpension for the first time. The regular indexation of payment rates coupled with lingering high inflation in the first half of the year means single age pensioners will receive an extra \$32.70 a fortnight from Wednesday next week.

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Meeting the needs of older Western Australians

West Australian, Other, 11/09/2023

With the Federal Cabinet meeting in Perth last month, a lot of focus from our federal politicians, including Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Treasurer Jim Chalmers, was on the significant impact the Western Australian economy has on national economic growth. [...] An ageing population presents significant economic and fiscal challenges, with fewer people of working age relative to the number of older Australians, as well as a growing demand for quality care and support services.

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POPULATION HEALTH

3200 deaths a year: One of many reasons air pollution demands urgent action in Australia

7news.com.au, Other, 10/09/2023, Alex Chapman

Experts say co-ordinated national leadership is urgently needed to make our air safer. This article first appeared in The Conversation Australia is holding its collective breath ahead of a bushfire season that may bring a return of the smoke linked to 400 deaths and 4500 hospitalisations and emergency department visits during the 20192020 Black Summer fires.

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Urgent efforts needed to reduce vaping in adolescents

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/09/2023

More government investment is needed to help adolescents stop vaping, and from taking it up in the first place, the results of an Australian study have found. Urgent efforts are needed to reduce the uptake and use of e-cigarettes in Australian adolescents, with a study finding a fifth of young people had vaped in the past 12 months.

Similar coverage reported by: [Medical Journal of Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Hot summer predictions show climate change risks

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/09/2023

With a hot summer expected in Australia, only global action by governments can achieve the society-level change required to tackle climate change. After an unusually warm winter, many of us are approaching summer with some concern as we face what is likely to be another El Nio season.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

On the trail of illicit tobacco trade

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/09/2023, Perry Duffin, Page 1

A Sydney surgeon is on a crusade to unmask criminal syndicates making a fortune on Sydney streets while also unravelling decades of progress against lung cancer and heart disease. Prominent vascular surgeon John Crozier's growing concern prompted him this year to hang back with his patients at Liverpool Hospital.

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Way to a woman's heart

Herald Sun, General News, 11/09/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 11

Women who have complications in pregnancy such as gestational diabetes or high blood pressure are known to be at greater risk of heart disease later in life. Now new research in Victoria says having regular heart health checks at female-specific clinics in the years after they deliver could save their lives. The study of Victorian mothers by a team led by Cabrini Health's Swati Mukherjee has been published in the Journal of the American Heart Association.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Grit & love help mum after a stroke at 26

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/09/2023, Lily Mccaffrey, Page 4

Dianne Speed was overjoyed when gave birth to her baby daughter, Bashia, in 1988. But 18 hours later, while still at the Colac hospital, she suddenly found herself unable to walk, talk, use her right arm or care for her baby. The otherwise healthy 26-year-old had suffered a life-altering stroke. "I thought I was going to die and never see my little girl grow up," Ms Speed said.

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20-minute check could save your life

Launceston Examiner, General News, 11/09/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 5

Even after decades of progress, cardiovascular disease remains the nation's biggest killer, accounting for one in four Australian deaths. Cardiovascular disease puts immense strain on patients, their families, and the health system and costs Australia more than \$12.7 billion each year. However, up to

90 per cent of heart disease is preventable, and something as simple as a 20-minute Heart Health Check with your GP could prove lifesaving.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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EJ's 'roller coaster ride'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 11/09/2023, Emma Downey, Page 1

What started as symptoms of nausea with some aches and pains escalated within days to a life and death situation for Barraba woman, Elizabeth "EJ" Ervine. Ms Ervine's parents, Aileen and Dallas Ervine, who live in Barraba, said their daughter's condition deteriorated very quickly - from feeling quite normal to seriously sick within 48 hours.

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'Third-hand' vape smoke linked to asthma, emphysema with danger to children

The Australian, Other, 10/09/2023, James Dowling

Vape residue left on clothes and surfaces poses a greater health risk than cigarette residue and can cause serious lung disease, a study has found, with children the most likely to be affected. The residues identified in new research from the Sydney-based Woolcock Institute of Medical Research stick to surfaces after someone smokes, and are absorbed through touch.

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Dustin Cole-Putland, 6, spent months without part of his skull after brain bleed

Adelaide Now, Other, 10/09/2023, Evangeline Polymeneas

On a family holiday, little Dustin began screaming in the back seat of the car. He ended up having to have part of his skull removed for months. Dustin Cole-Putland suddenly felt immense pain while he was heading on a family holiday doctors discovered he experienced a brain bleed.

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I was fit, healthy and planning my dream wedding before I noticed a strange symptom that led to my leukaemia diagnosis at 30 years old

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 10/09/2023, Carina Stathis

Hannah Langman was having one of the best years of her life. She was busy planning her dream wedding with her soulmate and talking about starting a family. But that was soon cut short when she was handed a shock 'rare' blood cancer diagnosis at just 30 years old.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Healthy Living, 10/09/2023, Dr Ross Walker and Ned Green

Interview with Tracy O'Mara, Associate Professor, QIMR Berghofer about testosterone may hold the key to diagnosing and treating endometrial cancer. O'Mara says their analysis of 12,000 samples across Europe, Australia, and the US found this link between increasing levels of testosterone and increasing risk of endometrial cancer.

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PRIMARY CARE

Call to operate sooner after hip fractures

Age, General News, 11/09/2023, Mary Ward, Page 11

Hospital operating theatres will need to make space for an increase in hip surgeries as Australia's population ages, with new guidelines recommending faster turnarounds to improve recovery outcomes. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's new national clinical care standard

for hip fracture, to be released today, will shorten the recommended maximum time to surgery following the injury from 48 hours to 36 hours.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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The regional healthcare gap is deadly

Newcastle Herald, General News, 11/09/2023, Page 15

Although it would be wildly unrealistic to demand the same level of health services in regional cities and rural communities that capital city teaching hospitals can provide, it appears the gap is much wider than it should have been. That is because the Morrison government dropped the ball in a spectacular fashion on the delivery of the \$2 billion Community Health and Hospitals Program it promised ahead of the 2019 election.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#).

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Has assisted dying prompted conversations about death?

Launceston Examiner, General News, 11/09/2023, Sandy Powell, Page 2

Tasmanians' ability to access voluntary assisted dying has brought great relief to the families of those who have made that choice. That is the perspective of Elizabeth McDonald, a member of the Tasmanian Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Commission, which regulates and implements the legislation.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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NSW government to invest \$3 billion on Western Sydney hospitals

ABC Online, Other, 10/09/2023, Xanthe Gregory

The New South Wales government has committed \$3 billion towards building new, or improving existing hospitals in Western Sydney. Premier Chris Minns said it was one of the fastest growing areas in Australia and deserved "world-class healthcare".

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Tasmania's public healthcare is failing, family says, as lengthy waitlists force patients to private practices

ABC Online, Other, 10/09/2023, Fiona Blackwood

In short: Wait times for Tasmania's public health system have blown out, as some patients turn to private practices for specialist appointments. What's next? The Tasmanian government will overhaul its outpatient services to alleviate the pressure on the hospital system.

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Clinicians 'must adapt their approach' to culturally or linguistically diverse patients

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/09/2023

Patients from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds are at a higher risk of experiencing harm during health care, highlighting the need for clinicians to adapt their approach to better engage with these patients. Clinicians across the globe will mark the World Health Organization's World Patient Safety Day with a focus on its theme of "Engaging patients for patient safety".

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Trauma a block to soldiers' new life

The Australian, General News, 11/09/2023, Nicholas Finch, Page 7

Concerning rates of sexual assault and exposure to combat trauma have emerged as key factors blocking Australian soldiers from reintegrating into civilian life, according to a new study. The research by the La Trobe University Rural Health School, also found rank, physical health and age could be barriers to soldiers transitioning to everyday life.

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

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One in three Aussies won't reach out for help: Beyond Blue

Canberra Times, General News, 11/09/2023, Page 7

Almost one in three Australians suffering from depression, anxiety or another life-altering mental health condition won't reach out for help, a survey shows. The Beyond Blue survey of 5212 adults found 30 per cent of those living with a life-impacting mental health condition are unlikely to seek support from anyone.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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We've had enough of copping it at inquests

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/09/2023, Mark Morri, Page 4

Police are threatening to stop attending emergency calls relating to mental health incidents in protest against their "hostile" treatment at coronial inquests, their union says. The Daily Telegraph can reveal the Police Association of NSW (PANSW) has written to two attorney-generals raising concerns about the "unfair" treatment of its members at inquests, with some officers left feeling "destroyed" and "broken", and quitting the police force as a result.

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

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Drug may lift spirits

Herald Sun, General News, 11/09/2023, Satria Dyer-Darmawan, Page 15

A commonly prescribed blood pressure medication could provide a much-needed treatment alternative for people with severe depression. The drug, candesartan, an angiotensin receptor blocker, is used to treat high blood pressure and heart failure, but could also help people with major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder.

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

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Pre-term bubs' struggles

Herald Sun, General News, 11/09/2023, Lauren Hutchinson, Page 17

Babies born early are at an increased risk of mental health problems before their school years. That's the finding of a Monash University study following a review of more than 200 children. The study found those born before 30 weeks' gestation were twice as likely to experience mental health or neurodevelopmental disorders from the age of five, compared to their full-term peers.

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

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'Beautiful boy' Kayde Cooper remembered at event

Ballarat Courier, General News, 11/09/2023, Alex Dalziel, Page 3

Ballarat teenager Kayde Cooper has been remembered as a "beautiful" and "one-of-a-kind" boy at a suicide prevention event in his honour at Lake Wendouree on Sunday. Crowds gathered by the lake on

the chilly Sunday morning for a nine-kilometre walk - one kilometre for each Australian who dies every day by suicide.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#)

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CWA focuses on rural neurodiversity

Border Mail, General News, 11/09/2023, Jodie Bruton, Page 6

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) affects more than 800,000 Australians. That is made up of 280,000 children and 530,000 adults. But women are often diagnosed later in life because their symptoms and behaviours are not always obvious in young girls. It's also possible that doctors diagnose girls and young women with other mood disorders such as anxiety or depression rather than ADHD.

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Jodie helps others be 'stronger together'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 11/09/2023, Rodney Woods, Page 5

After losing a family member to suicide, the determination to help prevent it from happening to others grows. That is what Smithton's Jodie Saville has experienced since the death of her cousin "a few years ago". "I formed a group - Stronger Together in Circular Head and I am the chair and founder of that group," she said. "What we do is try and share information and we bring suicide prevention training to our community.

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Mental health

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 11/09/2023, Page 14

Women face far higher rates of depression, mental illness. We need to know why women are always putting other people's needs in front of their own. For some women, that means their partner. For others it might be their children, or parents, or relatives, or grandparents, nieces, nephews or friends. This increased burden of care can often come with worse mental health outcomes.

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These women were searching for the right holiday — they found 'Fat Camp'

ABC Online, Other, 10/09/2023, Riley Stuart

Devon Kitzo-Creed becomes emotional when asked what advice she has for her 12-year-old self. "I would just tell her you're beautiful and that you need to be confident," she says. "Don't get caught up on the size that you are and the trends that all the skinny girls are participating in. Just be true to yourself." It's not the first or the last tears that will be shed at Fat Camp. The event's founder, Annette Richmond, has already started welling up three times.

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Its not just mums that get perinatal depression and anxiety

ABC Online, Other, 10/09/2023

1 in 10 dads experience perinatal depression and anxiety, and more seem to be willing to reach out for help. Chris Jephcott wishes he'd been one of them.

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The friendship mixers breaking through the loneliness epidemic

9News, Other, 10/09/2023, Mikala Theocharous

Single mother-of-two Victoria Hubbard found herself at the end of a 20-year relationship with "little to no" friends and a craving for social connection. Unsure where to go or how to make friends, she stumbled upon a social media page titled Your Butterfly Chapter discussing a friendship mixer in Sydney. "My situation made me more unique, as I found that I don't exactly fit in with people my own age, circumstances and mindset," Hubbard, 46, said.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 10/09/2023, Kathryn Robinson and Jeremy Fernandez

Interview with Dr Joanna Prendergast, psychologist and author. Prendergast says recent studies in Australia have suggested up to 25% of young people have harmed themselves in the last year. She talks about teen mental health difficulties with psychologists reporting a 60% increase in young people presenting with anxiety and depression and eating disorders.

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2GB, Weekends, 10/09/2023, Michael McLaren

Interview with Professor David Horgan, Australian Suicide Prevention Society. Horgan discusses Suicide Prevention Foundation's new app, Prevent a Suicide.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Patients her virtue

West Australian, General News, 11/09/2023, Page 46

Madeleine McPherson Nurse, pioneer in infection research Born: Kellerberrin, 1933 Died: Perth, aged 90 Many nurses of a certain vintage have horror stories of Matron and her insistence on dress rules and behaviour of regimental propriety. Nurse Madeleine Kirby's first hospital training, in 1951, was in the era of uniforms, caps and "hideous hall shoes," as her later memoir put it.

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More than 6,000 women told us **exactly** what they want for their next pregnancy and birth.

Mamamia, Other, 10/09/2023, Hazel Keedle, Daniella Susic and Hannah Dahlen

Many women want a different kind of pregnancy and birth the next time around. Many want to see the same one or two midwives throughout and want to choose where they give birth. And when the time comes, they want a vaginal birth, with less intervention. This is what thousands of Australian women told us when we asked if they would do anything differently if they had another baby.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Why hospital doctors are worried about the GP payroll tax

Canberra Times, General News, 11/09/2023, Walter Abhayaratna, Page 16

As a doctor working in Canberra's public hospital system over the last 30 years, I am deeply worried by the worsening state of general practice in the ACT. The Barr government's decision to impose a new payroll tax on GPs is the latest assault on a primary care sector already on its knees.

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Failure in medicine: these exams need to change

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/09/2023

There must be a better approach to measuring a junior doctors' skills, commitment and knowledge than the current battery of examinations, writes a trainee who obtained the highest clinical examination score at their training hospital. I thought it was time we talked about the exams through which we put every doctor who wants to specialise.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News (Sunday), 10/09/2023, Juanita Phillips

A funding worth \$3 billion will be spent on new hospitals in western Sydney and adding beds to others. But a union is warning the Government may have trouble staffing the facilities unless it offers better pay. The Nurses and Midwives Association welcomes the spending but says more needs to be done to attract and retain staff to fill the hospitals.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

'Dirty' fear fuels NDIS flashpoint

The Australian, General News, 11/09/2023, Stephen Lunn, Page 1

A "quick and dirty" review of the \$35bn-a-year National Disability Insurance Scheme will not address its longstanding problems in time to meet national cabinet's hard cost-control targets set for three years from now, advocates have warned, signalling a fresh battle over its future. Amid a growing backlash from the disability community about the review's proposed NDIS reforms, advocates say children with autism are being "thrown under the bus" for the scheme's financial sustainability problems, fearing they may be targeted for cuts to services.

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

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NDIS review must set out reform

The Australian, Editorials, 11/09/2023, Page 12

Some stakeholders are already opposing the idea of containing costs Even before Bruce Bonyhady and Lisa Paul hand their independent review of the National Disability Insurance Scheme to the Albanese government, some with a direct interest in the scheme have launched a backlash in anticipation of the report recommending cost-cutting. It needs to do so if the NDIS is to be sustainable for those who need it most, for whom it was designed to help the severely disabled.

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

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Sixty-five per cent bulk-billing rates not realistic for Canberra

Canberra Times, Other, 10/09/2023, Clara Tuck and Meng Soo

When I started working as GP in inner west Sydney in the early 1990s, the difference between bulk-billing a patient and privately billing a patient was only \$5. So, if I saw Mr Wing for his cold and his wife wanted me to check her blood pressure and give her a repeat prescription for her diabetes medications, it was easy to fit her in and bulk-bill her and make up the lost income from private billing.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Lewd picture' doc's ID revealed

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/09/2023, Kathryn Bermingham, Page 5

An Adelaide doctor accused of sending a picture "revealing his genitals" to a medical student has failed

in a bid to keep his name a secret. Shamyal Hamoon Jamil argued that publication of his identity would cause "particular shame and distress" because of his Muslim background, and that his parents' health would suffer if they found out about the allegations.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Nine banks on bumper Olympics ad spend

Australian Financial Review, Marketing & Media, 11/09/2023, Sam Buckingham-Jones, Page 34

Nine Entertainment has been secretly pitching for companies to pay up to \$12.5 million to back its Olympic Games coverage next year a roughly 60 per cent increase on the Tokyo Games as it aims to recoup the \$305 million it agreed for the broadcast rights....

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Students hope to get ahead in the game

Age, General News, 11/09/2023, Nicole Precel, Page 6

Adam Sweid, 15, has always preferred sport to study. "Even when I'm at my school normally, I'm always thinking about footy," he said. He's one of many students opting for a sporting alternative for his final school years and hoping to go to former AFL player Bachar Houli Foundation's Islamic College of Sport. The school aims to offer years 11 and 12 and open early next year pending approval from the educational regulator the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority.

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NQ stars swoop in to bring cheer to sick fans

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 11/09/2023, Cameron Bates, Page 9

North Queensland Cowboys' stars have swapped their Akubras for superhero capes to lift the spirits of hospital patients on their often arduous roads to recovery. A new Cowboys in Capes program involves club favourites such as Jake Granville and Valentine Holmes visiting North Queenslanders at Townsville University Hospital and Ronald McDonald House to lift spirits and bring positivity.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Insight: Winter Olympian Jackie Narracott opens up on the concussion issues that nearly ended her career

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/09/2023, Rebecca Williams

Jackie Narracott was walking around the streets of London feeling like she'd had a few too many drinks at the pub. The problem was she hadn't touched a single drop. For someone who has made a sporting career out of cannoning down an ice track head first at speeds of more than 130 km/h, there is not much that scares the Queensland skeleton racer.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Lung Cancer Screening Program must be codesigned with Indigenous Australians

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/09/2023

The recently announced National Lung Cancer Screening Program has the potential to deliver significant health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but only if the program is codesigned by the communities who need it most. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the most to gain from the National Lung Cancer Screening Program and, therefore, must be involved in the codesign of such a program, according to a

Similar coverage reported by: [Medical Journal of Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Medical community has role to play in achieving a Yes vote: Kelvin Kong

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/09/2023

Professor Kelvin Kong, a prominent otolaryngology, head and neck surgeon, believes the majority of Australians would vote Yes to the Voice to Parliament if given the right information, and that the medical community has a role to play. Professor Kelvin Kong is a Worimi man, working on Awabakal and Worimi Country at Newcastle's John Hunter Hospital and John Hunter Children's Hospital.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

'Cop shop mould killed my hubby'

Courier Mail, General News, 11/09/2023, Thomas Chamberlin, Page 12

The wife of a police officer who says he died from pancreatic cancer after exposure to carcinogenic toxic mould at a Queensland station is calling for an inquest into his death and national legislation to identify and remove mould and mycotoxins in workplaces. Senior Constable Justin Darney, 41, died in January from the rare form of cancer.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Rise in reported NSW cases of listeriosis

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 11/09/2023, Natalie Croxon, Page 5

People at increased risk of listeriosis - including those who are older, pregnant, or immunocompromised - are urged to avoid certain foods after an increase in cases across NSW. Listeriosis infection comes from consuming food contaminated with a particular bacteria and can cause severe illness and death in vulnerable people, although most healthy people will not become ill.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

United push for drug testing

The Australian, General News, 11/09/2023, Jessica Wang, Page 4

A contingent of 20 drug safety advocates across the legal, medical and welfare space will petition NSW Premier Chris Minns to trial drug checking ahead of the summer festival season. Signatories include the Royal College of GPs, the Australian Lawyers Alliance, Unharm and the Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA) called on Mr Minns to take action.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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Afghan meth trade surges amid crackdown on heroin: UN

Canberra Times, Other, 10/09/2023, Charlotte Greenfield

Methamphetamine trafficking in and around Afghanistan has surged in recent years, even as the Taliban has curbed heroin trafficking since taking power, a United Nations report says. "The surge in methamphetamine trafficking in Afghanistan and the region suggests a significant shift in the illicit drug market and demands our immediate attention," said Ghada Waly, executive director of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

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

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Founder draws on seeds of change with hemp construction

Canberra Times, Other, 10/09/2023, Marion Rae

Local women are the driving force behind a hemp start-up that is crowdsourcing funding to build the world differently. Dozens of energy efficient, fire and flood resistant homes have already gone up using their "hempcrete" and there is demand for new products such as hemp flooring, insulation and weed matting.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

Think outside the apple box

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/09/2023, Andrew Hough, Page 4

South Australian shoppers have been urged to "embrace imperfections and give blemished fruit a go" to save on food waste in the cost-of-living crisis. Opposition spokeswoman Nicola Centofanti has urged shoppers to "challenge misconceptions" odd-shaped produce was unhealthy or not tasty.

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