



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 12th September 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that CSL is developing a drug called trabikibart that could replace steroid therapies for people with severe uncontrolled asthma.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that the Victorian state government was warned by experts that understaffed emergency departments were driving a rise in child deaths in hospitals in the lead up to the 2022 state election.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports that only 8 aged care providers have signed up for the immigration program designed to fast-track foreign workers into the sector. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#)*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports that the RACGP has stated that a greater involvement of GP's in NDIS support plans could make the scheme more efficient.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that the Albanese government will amend the Therapeutic Goods Act to prohibit the "importation, manufacture and supply" of vapes that are not therapeutic.

- [The Guardian](#) reports that the National Eating Disorder Strategy was released last week which identified challenging weight stigma as one of the key factors that can help prevent eating disorders. A federal health department spokesperson stated the government will "use positive, contextual and culturally safe language to avoid weight related stigma and disordered eating" when questioned if changes will be made to the language on government websites to adhere to the new eating disorder strategy.

MINISTER BUTLER

Vaping reforms 'lipstick on a pig'

The Australian, General News, 12/09/2023, Rhiannon Down, Page 7

The Albanese government will amend federal legislation to prohibit the "importation, manufacture and supply" of vapes that are not therapeutic, with pharmacists responsible for refilling the devices for those who need them for medical reasons. [...] The crackdown, including a limit on flavours and colours, was foreshadowed by Health Minister Mark Butler, who announced his intentions to stamp out vapes in May, in response to spiralling numbers of children vaping.

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

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Nicola Roxon appointed AIHW Chair

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 11/09/2023

Former Minister for Health and current Chair of VicHealth Nicola Roxon has been appointed as the new Chair of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). [...] "The AIHW report shows the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to linger, as the global cost of living shock hits household budgets," said Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler.

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Call for views on scope of practice

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 11/09/2023

A review into Australian health professionals' scope of practice, which seeks to unleash the potential of the workforce, is open for feedback. [...] According to an announcement from Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler on Monday, the review will look into evidence about health professionals working to their full scope of practice in primary care, including any obstacles that might prevent from doing so.

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Diabetes 'needs dedicated MBS item numbers'

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/09/2023

Submissions to a parliamentary inquiry say rebates do not support proper assessment of obesity, comorbidities and prevention strategies. [...] Commissioned by Health Minister Mark Butler in May, the inquiry aims to look at the causes of type 1, type 2 and gestational diabetes as well as the broader impacts of diabetes on the health system and economy.

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Diagnostic tests: can't we make them here?

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/09/2023

An industry action plan calls for better TGA funding and a shift in government attitudes. [...] 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".

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 11/09/2023, Tiffany Warne

There's a new warning that children of adults who use e-cigs threats could be at risk of asthma or emphysema, even if they never directly come into contact with the vapour they produce. The government has ruled out legalising and taxing them like cigarettes, instead choosing to treat them more like medicine where you need a prescription to get them. Health Minister Mark Butler says they're utterly determined to stamp out this public health menace.

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Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 11/09/2023, Kim Millar

Report about third hand vaping and the dangers of vape residue, which is particularly harmful to children. A new study led by the Woolcock Institute examined different groups of mice over four weeks, finding exposure to e-vapor residue with or without nicotine caused changes to the lungs consistent with asthma and emphysema. Health Minister Mark Butler calls it a public health menace.

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2SM, 12:00 News, 11/09/2023

A review into improving health professionals' opportunities for Better Work Outcomes is seeking submissions. Mikaela Egan reports. The review is exploring what opportunities could add to health professionals' performance and what obstacles may need to be removed. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says whether it is nurses, pharmacists or allied health professionals in a global health workforce shortage, we need everyone working as close as possible to the top of their scope.

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MINISTER WELLS

New scholarships to boost aged care workforce

Aged Care Insite, Other, 11/09/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) has opened scholarships to help boost the aged care workforce. [...] Last month, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells announced that 98 per cent of aged care homes had a registered nurse on-site 24/7.

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Hot Conditions Prompt Water Safety Warning

Royal Life Saving Society Australia, Other, 11/09/2023

With predictions of a long, hot summer, new research from the Royal Life Saving Society Australia in partnership with Surf Life Saving Australia has prompted urgent calls to keep water safety top of mind when planning a day in, on or near the water. The National Drowning Report 2023, which was released today by Hon Anika Wells MP Minister for Sport, found there were 281 drowning deaths over the past 12 months, which is 17 per cent lower than last year (339), and returns the annual drowning toll closer to pre-pandemic levels.

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Pleas for water safety awareness as beach drowning deaths climb

SBS, Other, 11/09/2023

New research has warned of an increased risk of drowning on public holidays. [...] Federal Minister for Sport Anika Wells says the government supports the idea of greater water safety awareness, especially as summer approaches.

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WIN Cairns, WIN News Far North Queensland, 11/09/2023, Jared Constable

Water safety experts are urging Aussies to avoid complacency and keep water safety as a priority. It comes as a new report found significant dangers for outer regional and remote communities, despite a

decrease in the number of drowning deaths over the past 12 months. Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells says the National Drowning Report provides valuable insights and important reminders to help that cause, which is at the end of the day, to help save lives.

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4BC, 14:00 News, 11/09/2023

Fresh data from Surf Life Saving Australia reveals people aged 45yo and above are drowning at a higher rate. Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells says Australians love swimming, but no one should be complacent as there remains risk.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Genetic discrimination by life insurers must be outlawed

Harden Express, Other, 11/09/2023, Jane Tille & Paul Lacaze

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.

Also reported by: [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Blue Mountains Gazette \(Online\)](#), [Southern Cross \(Online\)](#), [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

\$10K for registrars to move to the NT

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/09/2023

The RACGP is offering \$100,000 in grants to registrars who relocate to the top end for six months or more.[...] It comes just weeks after a primary healthcare workforce summit hosted in Alice Springs by assistant health ministers Malarndirri McCarthy and Ged Kearney and attended by the RACGP, ACRRM, NT Health and the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory.

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DEPARTMENT

New Aged Care Act

Star Observer, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 22

The recommendation from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety has underscored the necessity for a comprehensive revamping of the Aged Care Act. The existing Aged Care Act 1997 is said to have lost its relevance and effectiveness, prompting the need for a completely new

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Queensland mother's plea for son in need of bone marrow transplant not covered by Medicare

ABC Online, Other, 11/09/2023, Janelle Miles

The distraught mother of a six-year-old boy with leukaemia who needs a bone marrow transplant has been assured his treatment will go ahead on time, even if the family cannot pay the full cost of about \$500,000. Amelia Corzo-Remigio said her son Daniel's "aggressive" leukaemia had relapsed in July this year after 18 months of treatment, funded by the family's health insurer, Allianz Care. [...] A Federal Health Department spokesman said while Australia had reciprocal health care agreements with 11 countries the UK, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Slovenia, and Norway it had no such arrangement with Peru.

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'You are still overweight': how a doctor's health advice triggered Sarah's eating disorder

The Guardian, Other, 12/09/2023, Natasha May

Sarah Cox was admitted to hospital and placed on a feeding tube because she was malnourished, yet hospital staff discharged her with a weight loss plan. [...] Asked whether there were plans to change the language on government websites to adhere to the new eating disorder strategy, a federal health department spokesperson told Guardian Australia the government would "consider how messaging, communication methods and platforms are tailored to different groups and use positive, contextual and culturally safe language to avoid weight related stigma and disordered eating".

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Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder program expanding with \$1.5m funding

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 11/09/2023

Professor Dianne Shanley of Griffith University and team will partner with community organisations, including Indigenous-led health service providers, to examine whether their Tracking Cube tool can be used by Indigenous health service providers nationwide. [...] Professor Shanley's project is co-funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Obesity Prevention Research Special Initiative.

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My Health Record to add pathology results 'by default'

InnovationAus, Other, 11/09/2023, Justin Hendry

Sensitive health data from pathology providers will be shared to the My Health Record "by default" by December 2024 under a plan to boost the amount of information on the national digital health platform. [...] Peak bodies in the pathology and diagnostic imaging sector are already in "broad agreement" about sharing by default, having engaged with the Department of Health and Aged Care through an earlier consultation process in April.

[Read More](#)

Gov sets 2024 target to get more data into My Health Record

ITnews, Other, 11/09/2023, Ry Crozier

Pathology and diagnostic imaging providers face new legal obligations. The government intends to place "legal obligations" on diagnostic imaging and pathology providers to upload reports to My Health Record from December 2024, with limited exceptions.

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'You never know who you will inspire': Melbourne couple's journey to body and organ donation

Manmohan Singh Saxena, who has chosen to donate his body for medical research, and Gurjinder Kaur, who has decided to donate her organs after death, hope to serve as an example for communities where such practices are still not fully accepted. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, 1,224 Australians received a life-saving organ transplant in 2022.

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FHIR starter to deliver data-sharing standards

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/09/2023

Australia could have interoperability in two years with a national accelerator program. Australia is set to have its own set of national, community-led FHIR standards within the next two years with the launch of the first FHIR accelerator program.

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Australia's genome data black hole

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/09/2023

We keep outsourcing our genomics analysis and losing ownership of the data; countries like Estonia are decades ahead. If ever there was sector that highlights Australia's continued interoperability challenges it is genomics. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care recently declared a new national body, to be called Genomics Australia, would be established as a quasi-government agency to advise on all things DNA and accelerate the integration of genomic health technology into Australia.

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged-care providers hesitant on change

The Australian, General News, 12/09/2023, Jess Malcolm, Page 5

Immigration Minister Andrew Giles has revealed just eight aged-care providers have signed up to Labor's union-backed policy designed to fast-track foreign workers into the sector, conceding the scheme is "very much in its infancy". The new figure comes after The Australian revealed warnings of a projected shortfall in aged-care places, with aged-care homes growing the number of beds at only half the average rate of the past five years.

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

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Move to reel in hip surgery wait times

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/09/2023, Page 11

Australians who sustain fractured hips, usually in a fall, are waiting longer than they should for surgery, with a health care watchdog warning this is seriously impacting survival rates. Older Australians are more susceptible to the injury with most hip fractures happening to people age 65 or older.

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'Blank': Ben Fordham outraged over redacted release of FOI documents related to taser death of Clare Nowland

Adelaide Now, Other, 11/09/2023, Eli Green

Ben Fordham has slammed NSW Premier Chris Minns over the "blacked out" release of documents

related to Clare Nowland's death, describing it as "almost laughable". There was an "extraordinary" delay between the tasering of 95-year-old Clare Nowland and the NSW Police's media release about the incident, says NSW Opposition Leader Mark Speakman.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [2GB \(Online\)](#).

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How virtual reality technology is being used to improve the care of people living with dementia

ABC Online, Other, 11/09/2023, Adrienne Francis

Canberran Sally Banyard is getting ready to celebrate her 103rd birthday next month. She says while she didn't plan it, decades of living in moderation may have contributed to her long life.

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Study finds ageism worsens health outcomes for aged care patients

Aged Care Insite, Other, 11/09/2023, Erin Morley

As part of research into ageism's effect on older people's health, the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) held educational workshops that saw 90 per cent of its participants rethink the way they communicated with old people. Evaluations conducted both immediately after and 2-3 months post-intervention saw the 329 aged-care worker participants focus on combating negative assumptions and stereotypes associated with old people in their workplaces.

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Aged care homes crucial to hip fracture recovery

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 11/09/2023, Natasha Egan

The new national clinical standard for hip fracture care emphasises the role aged care providers play in ongoing care of individuals and minimising their risk of future falls and fractures. Hip fractures are more common in older people.

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Pension to rise but more targeted support needed for older battlers, say advocates

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 11/09/2023, Eileen Wood & Anthony Caggiano

As inflation continues its upward spiral, many older people are finding themselves falling through the cracks of income support. So while age pensioners will receive a much needed boost to their fortnightly income support payments from September 20, few are seeing it as a windfall, claiming the pension increase will barely help them keep their heads above water - especially as it reflects cost of living increases they have already been paying over the past six months.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

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Tasmanian aged care provider nears completion of \$7 million back pay bungle

HelloCare, Other, 11/09/2023, Alex Jacobs

Two years after it recognised fundamental errors in its payroll and human resources systems, Southern Cross Care (Tasmania) (SCCT) has almost back-paid nearly \$7 million to part-time staff and shift workers who missed out on expected entitlements. A total of 1708 current and former employees were impacted over a seven-year period, with the majority part-time aged care workers, nurses and community care workers

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New survey tackles public opinion on what 'ageing well' really means

HelloCare, Other, 11/09/2023, Alex Jacobs

Aged care provider Bolton Clarke has shed light on perceptions surrounding the ageing experience and the top priorities for ageing well in a new report that surveyed over 2000 Australians of all ages. The

Ageing Well Report 2023 is the first of its kind from Bolton Clarke, and they have uncovered several important themes after asking some impactful questions on ageing, including how Australians feel about ageing.

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10 aged care priorities

In Daily, Other, 11/09/2023, Jim Plouffe

Two and a half years on from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, CEDA gathered industry experts to discuss what still needs to be done to meet the commission's recommendations. The Royal Commission's final report into aged care was tabled in March 2012 and laid out an extensive plan to overhaul Australia's troubled aged-care system.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 11/09/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

A virtual reality tool called the Educational Dementia Immersive Experience is helping aged care staff gain greater empathy and insight on people suffering with dementia. Dementia Australia has created the immersive training based on the accounts of 20 people living with dementia.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 11/09/2023, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

A new dementia campaign led by the University of Sydney and Flinders University has been launched to diagnose the disease faster. It's one of the leading causes of death in Australia, but half of sufferers don't even know they have it.

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5AA, Afternoons, 11/09/2023, Jade Robran

Not many aged care providers have signed on to a programme aimed at tackling staff shortages. The scheme makes it easier for foreign workers to secure employment in the sector. The Federal Government has confirmed only eight companies have joined the agreement so far. But Labor insists many more planned to sign up soon.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Drowning warning as summer approaches

Canberra Times, General News, 12/09/2023, William Ton, Page 12

A scorching summer mixed with poor post-pandemic swimming skills has lifesaving groups fearing a spike in drownings despite a recent drop in the number of deaths. The 2023 National Drowning Report showed 281 people died from drowning in Australian waterways and swimming pools in 2022/23, slightly up on the 10-year-average but well down from the previous year's 339 drownings.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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20pc of young vaped

Courier Mail, General News, 12/09/2023, Page 6

A fifth of young people have vaped in the past 12 months, new research reveals. The University of Sydney researchers surveyed 4445 students aged 14-17 years from 70 schools in NSW, Queensland and Western Australia on their e-cigarette use.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

Healthy food choices out of reach for cash-strapped families

West Australian, General News, 12/09/2023, Megan Lee, Page 37

The rising cost of living is putting healthy food out of reach for more Australian families and it's time the Government stepped in, or we'll all be worse off. New research shows that the cost of grocery staples continues to rise, and that includes basic building blocks of a healthy diet for those on lower incomes including tinned and frozen vegetables and tinned fish.

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The body mass index can't tell us if we're healthy. Here's what we should use instead

ABC Online, Other, 11/09/2023, Rachael Jefferson-Buchanan

We've known for some time the body mass index (BMI) is an inaccurate measuring stick for assessing someone's weight and associated health. But it continues to be the go-to tool for medical doctors, population researchers and personal trainers.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 11/09/2023, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

A statewide vape blitz has uncovered the shocking link sellers are going to as they pushed their illegal products to Adelaide kids. Investigators busted one store worker hiding nicotine loaded vapes in a pizza box while another was caught trying to move their haul out as authorities moved in on illegal vapes hidden inside an empty pizza box.

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Channel 9 Darwin, National Nine News, 11/09/2023, Paul Murphy

A new study by the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research and the University of Technology Sydney has found that the residue left behind after someone uses a vape sticks to surfaces and can then be absorbed through touch.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, PM, 11/09/2023, Sarah Dingle

Nicotine vapes worth more than \$100,000, have been seized in a crackdown on illegal e-cigarettes in South Australia. Nearly 5000 vapes were seized, some contained enough nicotine to kill a child. The Federal Government is introducing stricter controls on sales of vapes, but health experts aren't convinced they'll discourage users from trying to buy them without the required prescription. Western Australia is leading the way in regulating vapes. The state has already banned all types of vapes without a prescription and last month the Government seized 15 tonnes worth of vapes in the biggest raid of its type in the country.

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

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Western Sydney stroke patients at risk due to lack of vital equipment

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/09/2023, Laura Banks, Page 7

Nepean hospital Stroke patients in western Sydney are waiting three times longer than their eastern and northern counterparts to access a life-saving treatment, a study reveals, and a Sydney neurosurgeon has called for the specialised service to be established at Nepean Hospital to "save lives and permanent disability".

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Poison punters

Herald Sun, General News, 12/09/2023, Ashley Argoon, Page 1

A waiter at Crown Casino's exclusive Mahogany Room is suing the entertainment venue after he was diagnosed with lung cancer, claiming smoking exemptions that allowed high rollers to puff away put him at risk. Dien Nguyen, 39, was diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer in 2020.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Spreading SunSmart message

Launceston Examiner, General News, 12/09/2023, Declan Durrant, Page 3

The Cancer Council's national school sun protection program is celebrating 25 years of encouraging Australians to stay vigilant against the most preventable form of cancer. The organisation's National SunSmart Schools program launched in 1998 and is this year commemorating a quarter of a century of Tasmanian children staying safe from harmful UV exposure.

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Medicines increase risk

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12/09/2023, Page 9

A new study has found vulnerable patient groups, including those with dementia, psychiatric conditions and patients aged 85 years and older, are more likely than other patient groups to be prescribed older antiseizure medications following ischaemic stroke. The Monash University team followed 19,601 people hospitalised with a first stroke in Victoria from 2013-17. Some 989 were dispensed antiseizure medication within 12 months of hospital discharge.

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Cabrini study finds surprising concerns for mums after pregnancy complications

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 11/09/2023, Robyn Riley

Women who have these pregnancy complications should do this it could save their lives. Women who have complications in pregnancy such as gestational diabetes or high blood pressure are known to be at increased risk of heart disease later in life.

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Simple cancer blood test could save your life

Your Life Choices, Other, 11/09/2023, Brad Lockyer

More than 10 Australians are dying every day due to one type of cancer and that number is growing. Advocates are now pleading for more community screening and say a simple blood test is all it takes to get a diagnosis.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 11/09/2023, Natalie Forrest

A team at Cabrini Health has found women who had high blood pressure, gestational diabetes or pre-eclampsia during their pregnancies are more likely to develop heart disease, which makes them 6 to 10 times more likely to have a heart attack. The narrative that heart disease is only a man's disease needs to change.

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ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 11/09/2023, Eddie Williams

Interview with Dr Jane Tiller, the Ethical, Legal and Social Advisor in Public Health at Monash University. Ms Tiller discusses how health insurers use data from genetic testing to determine the cost

PRIMARY CARE

GPs reach out to help NDIS work

The Australian, General News, 12/09/2023, Stephen Lunn, Page 5

GPs could make the NDIS more efficient and cost effective if they were being supported to play a greater role in navigating a patient's plan, but are hamstrung by the system. In particular, using a GPs knowledge of a patient's history could help inform what disability supports have and haven't worked, meaning resources aren't wasted, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners says.

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

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Child deaths alert

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 12/09/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Damning videos show top doctors alerted the state government in the lead-up to the 2022 election that serious emergency department failings were driving a rise in child deaths in hospitals. The footage also reveals a significant review had been conducted into five years of child deaths a fact the government did not disclose at the time.

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

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They threw my leg away

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/09/2023, David Killick, Page 1

An East Coast man who has spent two years waiting on a replacement leg after his prosthesis was accidentally thrown away says he is worried he will spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair because of what he describes as health department "incompetence". Double amputee Doug Bishton, 73, finally received an apology on Monday, after his prosthetic leg was thrown out by staff at Burnie Hospital while he was in Hobart for a surgical procedure in 2021.

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Vital signs for stressed EDs

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 12/09/2023, Page 14

Our hospital emergency departments are often the first point of contact for individuals facing critical medical issues. These vital facilities serve as the backbone of our healthcare system, providing immediate care when every second counts.

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

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Take two as date set for takeover vote

Border Mail, General News, 12/09/2023, Anthony Bunn, Page 6

A second special general meeting of Yackandandah Health members to vote on a takeover by Apollo Care will be held on September 27. The latest ballot follows a vote in June on the same proposition which resulted in 61 per cent approval, short of the required 75 per cent threshold for it to proceed.

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Ambos under the pump

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 12/09/2023, Keith Woods, Page 1

Our frontline paramedics are at breaking point, run off their feet working heavy overtime, and skipping toilet and meal breaks. "It is not uncommon to hear over the radio at night a crew asking permission if

they can pull over on the way to their next case to use a public toilet for relief," union coordinator Fiona Scalon said.

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New tax a 'desperate cash grab': MP

Shepparton News, General News, 12/09/2023, Djembe Archibald, Page 3

The Victorian Government's new "tax" could cause a loss of health services, according to state Member for Shepparton Kim O'Keeffe. "Patients in regional areas already face barriers when it comes to seeing a GP, with many people being made to wait several months for an appointment," Ms O'Keeffe said.

Also reported by: [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

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Nats' focus on women and health

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 11/09/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 3

Nationals leader David Littleproud says Dr Anne Webster's work on regional health policy will be part of their 2025 election aspirations as they try to win back women voters. At the weekend's federal Nationals conference, Mr Littleproud's leader's address expressed the party's need to re-engage with voters who lost confidence in the party at the last federal election.

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A remote chance of care

The Farmer, General News, 01/10/2023, Sue Wallace, Page 78

NSW Farmers is keeping an eye on the growing gap in access to healthcare for rural and remote residents. With more reports providing stark statistics on worse health outcomes for those missing out, the issue is becoming fairly black and white.

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New Hip Fracture Clinical Care Standard launched

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 11/09/2023, Anmj Staff

Undergoing surgery for a hip fracture as soon as possible is critical to survival, new data has revealed. The outlook emerges from an updated Hip Fracture Clinical Care Standard, launched today by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care at the binational Hip Fest 2023 conference.

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North Queensland Cowboys in Capes program for Townsville Hospital patients

The Mercury, Other, 11/09/2023, Cameron Bates

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.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Don't leave it to our ambos

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/09/2023, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis & Mark Morri, Page 8

Paramedics fear their safety would be put at risk if police stop attending emergency mental health incidents after NSW Premier Chris Minns said he would consider following in the footsteps of the UK

police. Mr Minns yesterday said senior NSW police would travel to London to learn from the city's Metropolitan police, who will no longer be the first responders for mental health incidents after winning a battle with the NHS.

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Happiness a lifestyle

Herald Sun, General News, 12/09/2023, katelin cameron, Page 12

An international study of almost 290,000 people has found the key to happiness could be as simple as a good night's sleep. The major study, published in the Journal Nature Mental Health on Tuesday, found that between seven to nine hours of sleep every night helped to reduce the risk of depression by 22 per cent.

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Trial to help save lives

Cairns Post, General News, 12/09/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 9

A new suicide prevention trial will launch in the Tablelands to provide immediate support to those at risk as part of a wider regional approach to combat the issue. The Tablelands is one of two regions across the state to trial the new Distress Brief Support service, which will be delivered in partnership by Northern Queensland Primary Health Network and Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service.

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One in three with mental condition won't get help

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 11/09/2023, Page 8

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.

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Gambling addiction a factor in 184 suicides in Victoria over eight years, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 12/09/2023, Henry Belot

Gambling addiction has contributed to 184 suicides in Victoria over eight years, although the true figure could be much higher, a landmark study of coroner's court data has found. The research, led by Dr Angela Rintoul from Federation University and published in the Lancet Regional Health Journal, found the vast majority of cases involved men aged between 17 and 44.

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2GB, Breakfast, 11/09/2023, Ben Fordham

The Police Association president, Kevin Morton wants officers freed up from attending mental health call outs and says officers have complained about being ambushed at critical incident inquiries.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Sweetener aims to hold public health workers

Healthcare students will be offered 12,000 scholarships worth \$4000 a year as the state government attempts to halt the troubling exodus of nurses, doctors and paramedics from the public system, but experts say it is not the solution. Up to 850 new nursing students, 400 medical students and 150 people studying midwifery will be eligible to receive the \$4000 grant.

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Med schools need 'explicit zero-tolerance policy' on derogatory comments about GPs: report

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/09/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Medical school deans have also urged the government to increase funding for GP training. All medical schools should have GPs in senior academic roles to counter negative biases against the specialty, says a report by Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Sydney woman details 'humiliating' moment pharmacist mistook her for 'a junkie'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/09/2023, Rebekah Scanlan

A young woman living with endometriosis has detailed a horrific encounter with a pharmacist after she tried to obtain prescribed painkillers for the debilitating condition. Anna Dooley, 30, is one of 830,000 people in Australia who endures agonising symptoms as a result of the disease, which can include intense cramping, pain on or around your period and heavy bleeding as well as discomfort during sex and when urinating.

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

[Read More](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 11/09/2023, Patricia Karvelas / Hamish Macdonald

Deputy Opposition Leader Sussan Ley says pharmacies are already laying off staff after the Government's 60 day dispensing policy came into force last week. The change halves the number of scripts required for selected medications and by extension cuts the dispensing fees paid to pharmacies.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Pap smears' doctor suspended

Herald Sun, General News, 12/09/2023, Jon Kaila, Page 7

A doctor has been suspended from working after patients complained of being sexually assaulted. [...] An Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency spokesman said: "We can confirm that a committee of the Medical Board of Australia suspended (Dr Ratan's) registration," he said.

Tiger Woods' surgeon accused of negligence over patient's loss of function

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/09/2023, Vanda Carson

A world-renowned Queensland spinal surgeon who advised on golfer Tiger Woods' back operation has been sued for nearly \$750,000 by a former patient. Matthew Scott-Young has been sued in the District Court in Brisbane by Peter William Ashworth, who claims he was negligent and caused him to suffer permanent nerve damage in his lower back, severely limiting his ability to walk.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Party drug warning as season heats up

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/09/2023, Madeleine Bower, Page 7

Drug experts warn pure party drugs are just as dangerous as those that have been cut with fillers, as a coalition of health experts heaps pressure on Premier Chris Minns to set up pill testing facilities in time for a scorching festival season. Director of UNSW's Drug Policy Modelling Program, Professor Alison Ritter said just because party drugs such as MDMA might not be cut with other substances does not mean the drug is safe.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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2GB, Breakfast, 11/09/2023, Ben Fordham

The Royal College of GPS are among those calling for Chris Minns to take action ahead of the summer festival season. Advocates are calling for fixed and mobile drug checking sites to be implemented across the state.

[Play Now](#)

ABC, ABC News, 11/09/2023, Jeremy Fernandez

The premiers facing new calls to bring in pill testing at music festivals this summer. An open letter signed by more than a dozen groups says testing at festivals can save lives, especially in the warmer months. Queensland is due to bring in testing later this year. The New South Wales Premier is declining to do the same, saying there needs to be more consultation. The drug harm minimisation group Unharm says the absence of drug testing facilities could increase the risk of fatal overdoses.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 11/09/2023, Sandra Sully

Drug experts have stepped up their calls for pill testing ahead of this year's summer festival season, warning that the hot weather forecast could, in fact, prove deadly. They've written to the NSW Premier urging him to green light a trial before lives are lost.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 11/09/2023, Janice Petersen

Drug safety advocates, lawyers and doctors are behind a renewed push to introduce pill testing sites ahead of the summer festival season. In an open letter to the New South Wales Premier, they claim it'll save lives by giving users the chance to avoid potentially lethal additives in common party drugs.

SPORT

Paralympics boss axed

Courier Mail, General News, 12/09/2023, Hayden Johnson, Page 7

Paralympics Australia president Jock O'Callaghan has been removed by his board less than a year out from the Paris Games and amid claims he attempted to change the organisation's constitution to stay on the board beyond next year. Mr O'Callaghan, who was inspired by his son's disability to join Paralympics Australia, was dismissed by the board over the weekend.

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Hunter Sports High named an Olympic pathway

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/09/2023, Alanna Tomazin, Page 7

With former Olympians as their teachers and following in the footsteps of Hockeyroos player Mariah Williams, the students of Hunter Sports High are bound to strive for sporting success. The high school was officially named as an Australian Olympic Pathway School on Monday, and year 12 prefects Charlie Norton and Tai Manaelers are excited to see what it brings for future students.

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

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Experts call for contact ban in children sport

6PR, Other, 11/09/2023, Gary Adshead

Sadly concussions a regular occurrence in professional sport and conversation regularly sparks about how significant concussions are for the brain. There are significant talks calling for a ban on contact in children's sport to prevent children getting concussions at such an early age.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Drug giant offers hope on asthma

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 12/09/2023, Jared Lynch, Page 1

Australia's biggest health company CSL is aiming to crack the asthma market, developing a drug that could help millions by preventing inflammation in the lungs. The drug, called trabikibart or CSL311, could shift people away from long-term use of traditional steroid therapies usually administered with an inhaler, and prevent side effects that can range from impaired growth in children to cataracts.

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

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Woman donating cells for cancer research wants to help 'the incurable to become curable'

The Courier Mail, Other, 12/09/2023

A former art teacher with terminal cancer has said donating her biological samples for medical research and leaving a gift in her will is the "best legacy" she can leave. Alison Torrens, from Portstewart, has given consent to donate her own surgical samples to a new research project she is funding via the Northern Ireland Biobank.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Tjuntjuntjara community calls for better tuberculosis screening after woman's death last year

ABC Online, Other, 11/09/2023, Giulia Bertoglio

Authorities in one of Australia's most remote communities are calling for help to screen its residents for tuberculosis, after a 19-year-old woman who spent time there died from the contagious disease in Kalgoorlie. Paupiyala Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation chief executive Jon Lark said the young woman died in November last year was a transient resident of Tjuntjuntjara.

[Read More](#)

New regional sleep program targets First Nations people

Ballarat Courier, Other, 11/09/2023, Eelemarni Close-Brown

A new program aimed at improving sleep health in regional Indigenous communities is linking western science and traditional ways of knowing to better address the health condition of obstructive sleep apnoea. According to Queensland University Professor Yaquoot Fatima from the Poche centre for Indigenous Health, one in four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are suffering from the sleep condition.

[Read More](#)

Call to integrate pharmacists within Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to fight chronic disease

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/09/2023

The Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council's submission to the recent House of Representatives Inquiry into Diabetes centers on the impact of social, environmental, and health system factors that create additional challenges for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in preventing the illness and its associated complications.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Burke under pressure to release report

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/09/2023, Angus Thompson, Page 14

States and territories are agitating for the release of a secret report on banning the use of deadly engineered stone as the union movement and health experts call for the recommendations to be made public. Business groups are at loggerheads with unions and health experts, who want a blanket ban on high-concentration crystalline silica slabs used for fashionable kitchen benchtops but riddling tradies with an incurable disease after Workplace Relations Minister Tony Burke and his state and territory counterparts gave Safe Work Australia six months to investigate the prospect of a prohibition of the substance.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Chew your way to a calmer day

West Australian, Today, 12/09/2023, Katie Hampson, Page 1

Could a fix to mild stress be as simple as chewing gum? [...] The gum is now a listed medicine with the Therapeutic Goods Administration for people over the age of 18 and is stocked in 180 retailers across Australia, including at various pharmacies.

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Medicinal cannabis at work

Law Institute Journal, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 70

Workplace law Employers should consider relevant policies around drugs and alcohol as well as health and safety laws. [...] According to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, prescriptions have been issued for more than 140 different conditions including arthritis pain and anxiety.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

'I get judged for smoking medical marijuana while I'm pregnant'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/09/2023, Emma Guinness

"It's very stigmatised. I've lost countless TikTok accounts for just talking about it.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

I'm a paediatric nutritionist and you're being tricked by 'no sugar' ice blocks

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/09/2023, Leah Goulis

"i was shocked to learn how many food products with a health star rating over 2.5 contained some extremely harmful ingredients." Parents feel more relaxed knowing they're giving their children a treat with a 3.5 health star rating , but just how healthy is the 'No Sugar' alternative to regular Zooper Dooper ice blocks

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

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AICIS

UN calls out toxic cost of Hunter's major polluters

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/09/2023, Matthew Kelly, Page 2

Australia's failure to effectively deal with coal mining and coal-fired power station pollution and PFAS contamination have been highlighted in a new United Nations report. UN Special Rapporteur Marcos Orellana recently visited key sites of concern, including Lake Macquarie, as part of an investigation into toxic substances and human rights.

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