



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 13th September 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that interviews conducted by Monash University has revealed politicians, frontline researchers and senior members of mental health peak bodies have all express concern that the evidence was "not there yet" to support the clinical use of psychedelic drugs. *Also reported by: [The Guardian](#)*
- **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that Reverend Faaimata Havea Hiliau, the moderator of the Uniting Church in NSW and the ACT, has called for the NSW government to keep drug decriminalisation on the table at a promised drug summit.
- **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports that ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith has confirmed that two "code yellows" had been activated at Centenary Hospital for Women and Children as the hospital continues to experience staffing pressures.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page1) reports that new state-government data has revealed Queensland's major hospitals were unable to adequately service patient needs at least 156 times over a three-month period. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman stated that "long-stay patients are putting enormous pressure on our emergency departments," and that she has raised the issue with the Federal Health Minister.

- [The Canberra times](#) (page 3) reports that Mental Health Australia Chair Matt Berriman will use a speech to Parliament House on Wednesday to demand wholesale changes to the nation's mental health system in order to deliver an "equitable, well-funded, integrated mental health system for all Australians". *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- [Herald Sun](#) (page 9) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler's office has confirmed that the 60 day script policy has a price ceiling of \$30 for general patients, who will still have to pay for two scripts if their medicine is less than \$30. *Also reported by: [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#),*
- [Australian Financial Review](#) (page 12) reports that experts warn that regularly lifting the tobacco excise could end up incentivising the tobacco black market. Health Minister Mark Butler will introduce legislation to enhance graphic warnings on packaging and include vapes under advertising restrictions.

MINISTER BUTLER

Tax billions lost to illegal tobacco

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/09/2023, Ronald Mizen, Page 12

Australian Border Force has confiscated nearly a billion illegal cigarettes worth nearly \$1.1 billion in forgone tax over the past two years as the Illicit Tobacco Taskforce ramped up its campaign against the booming black market.

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2-for-1 on scripts a dud deal

Herald Sun, General News, 13/09/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 9

General patients will not get the promised two scripts for the price of one under the federal government's new 600day script policy because of a quirk in the nation's complicated drug subsidy scheme. [...] Announcing the start of the policy, Health Minister Mark Butler promised that "millions living with an ongoing health condition will be able to get two months' worth of medicine for the price of one".

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Hospitals overrun

Courier Mail, General News, 13/09/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

Bombshell data has exposed a health system in crisis, with at least three of the state's major hospitals hitting official breaking point at any time. [...] "We know long-stay patients are putting enormous pressure on our emergency departments and I have raised this issue with the Commonwealth Health Minister."

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

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

Vaping sucks message

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 13/09/2023, Page 11

Tougher laws to crack down on cigarettes and vaping will be unveiled in parliament on Wednesday. Health Minister Mark Butler said the tobacco control legislation was the "critical" next step in the fight against tobacco and nicotine addiction and getting the national smoking rate down to five per cent by 2030.

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No smoke without ire

West Australian, General News, 13/09/2023, Kimberley Caines, Page 12

Smokers will be encouraged to quit every time they light up with health warnings to be placed on every individual cigarette under new proposed laws. [...] "Since the inception of plain packaging, big tobacco has become increasingly creative and cunning with their marketing tactics," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Have your say on scope of practice review

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 12/09/2023, Robert Fedele

The federal government is seeking submissions for its independent workforce review examining the barriers and incentives Australia's health practitioners face working to their full scope of practice in primary care. [...] In announcing the callout for submissions this week, Health Minister Mark Butler said making sure Australia optimises its health workforce across a stretched primary care sector would lead to improved health access and equity across all communities.

[Read More](#)

MCIA set to meet new TGA boss Tony Lawler this week

Cannabiz, Other, 12/09/2023, Martin Lane

Medicinal Cannabis Industry Australia (MCIA) chair Peter Crock and executive officer Patty Holmes are in Canberra this week for a host of meetings with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), Office of Drug Control (ODC), and government advisors. Crock and Holmes are due to meet with new TGA boss Professor Tony Lawler and manufacturing quality branch head Jenny Burnett as well as advisors to health minister Mark Butler and chair of the cross-party Parliamentary Friends of Medicinal Cannabis Group (PFMCG) Warren Entsch.

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Gov't seeks input on full-scope review

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 12/09/2023

Submissions are being invited to an independent review that will explore the opportunities and obstacles to Australia's health professionals working to the full scope of their practice. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler commented that supported by technology, innovation and multidisciplinary teams, healthcare professionals working to their full capability can provide "significant benefits" to both patients and the healthcare system.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(None\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(None\)](#).

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Johnston: No Action on Vaping

Tasmanian Times, Other, 12/09/2023

In Parliament today I pressed the Premier to take more immediate and concrete action on the vaping scourge sweeping through our schools, and ruining the lives of our children. [...] The Federal Minister, Mark Butler, has been very clear on his position and included in the federal budget some \$737m to fund a number of measures to protect Australians against the harm caused by tobacco and vaping products.

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E-cigarettes to take another regulatory hit

The Medical Republic, Other, 12/09/2023

Personal importation of nicotine liquids and single-use vapes are on the chopping block. [...] On ABC Radio this morning Health Minister Mark Butler said the plan was to "ban all vapes that are being marketed for recreational use, in order to get them back to what the industry said was their original stated purpose, which was to be a therapeutic good to help very hardened smokers kick the habit".

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 12/09/2023, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister on banning single use vapes. Butler says they're banning all vapes that are being marketed for recreational use in order to get them back to what the

industry said was their original stated purpose, therapeutic use to help very hardened smokers kick the habit. He states they got a comprehensive approach to it that stops vapes at the border, but also has on the ground policing of these vape stores and other stores that deliberately set themselves up down the road from a school. He's also proposing to close down the personal import scheme for vapes.

Continuing interview on: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#).

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MINISTER WELLS

Life-savers issue water safety message

Kyabram Free Press, General News, 13/09/2023, Page 21

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 Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells, 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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Superannuation group slams Labor's push to force you to spend retirement savings on aged care

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/09/2023, Stephen Johnson

The superannuation industry has slammed Labor's push to make Australians set aside part of their retirement savings to fund aged care. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells in June established a 16-member aged care taskforce, to meet monthly in 2023, after aged care groups raised concerns about meeting new staffing requirements.

[Read More](#)

New scholarships to boost aged care nurses

Nursing Review, Other, 12/09/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) has opened scholarships to help boost the aged care nursing 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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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Marking a landmark policy symposium, with a collective focus on planetary health equity

Croakey, Other, 12/09/2023, Melissa Sweet

More than 500 people are registered to attend the Planetary Health Equity Hothouse inaugural annual policy symposium , Extinction thwarted? The nexus between climate change, social equity and health', at the Australian National University in Canberra tomorrow [...] Hosted by Professor Sharon Friel, Director of the Planetary Health Equity Hothouse, with opening remarks from ANU Vice-Chancellor,

Professor Brian P. Schmidt AC, and Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney, attendees will hear government, non-government and academic experts discuss the political, economic, and social dimensions of planetary health equity.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Help out of reach

Herald Sun, General News, 13/09/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 13

The rising cost of living is driving a surge in mental health problems at the same time as it is making it harder for people to afford treatment, a major national survey has found. [...] Mental Health Australia CEO Caroline Nikoloski said the federal Health Department had completed a mental health workforce strategy but it was sitting on a shelf and the government had failed to release it.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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Full funds for care

Gannawarra Times, General News, 12/09/2023, Peter Bannan, Page 5

A regional community health service has been awarded full funding for in-home and community-based aged and disability services after Gannawarra Council withdrew from the program. [...] "The Department of Health and Aged Care's decision to award all of council's CHSP funding to Northern District Community Health will ensure a smooth transition of services for residents who receive these vital services and their loved ones," council chief executive Geoff Rollinson said.

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Murphy on board

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 12/09/2023, Page 1

Just two months after Prof Brendan Murphy retired as the Secretary of the Department of Health, he has been appointed as a board member of Kidney Health Australia. Murphy, a past President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology, joins at a time of change.

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Culturally Appropriate Care as a Fundamental Human Right Within the New Aged Care Act

Aged Care Online, Other, 12/09/2023

The Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing (The Centre), supported by Benetas, welcomes the Australian Government's deliberations to introduce a new Aged Care Act replacing the Aged Care Act 1997. The Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing provided a policy submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care's consultation paper on the foundations of a new Aged Care Act.

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Medicare funding comparison doesn't add up

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/09/2023

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) gets more government funding than Medicare. [...] Representatives from the Treasury and the Department of Health and Aged Care confirmed the above

figures to AAP FactCheck in an email.

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Gov't seeks input on full-scope review

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 12/09/2023

Submissions are being invited to an independent review that will explore the opportunities and obstacles to Australia's health professionals working to the full scope of their practice. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler commented that supported by technology, innovation and multidisciplinary teams, healthcare professionals working to their full capability can provide "significant benefits" to both patients and the healthcare system.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(None\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(None\)](#).

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Long wait on wound consumables program

The Medical Republic, Other, 12/09/2023

Despite being promised in May 2023, subsidised wound care products won't be available until mid-2025. [...] The Medical Republic confirmed with the Department of Health and Aged Care that work on implementation of the consumables scheme was under way.

[Read More](#)

New aged care bed development fell 50% in 2022

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/09/2023, Caroline Egan

Analysis of the Department of Health and Aged Care's Aged Care Service list reveals the pace of new aged care beds being added to the system is declining, with the number of beds in NSW actually falling in the year to 30 June 2023. Overall, there were 225,388 residential aged care places as of 30 June 2023 (including multipurpose, innovative, and places in Aboriginal and Torres-Straight Islander programs), an increase of 1,765 from the previous year.

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Building confidence in migrants helps to boost workforce

Launceston Examiner, General News, 13/09/2023, Molly Appleton, Page 6

Another 13 people are ready to join the workforce in the aged care sector after gaining skills from a program run by the Migrant Resource Centre Northern Tasmania. Khrihsan Thenboih, 18, was one of those who graduated from the Aged Care and Hospitality Program, which was also funded by the Tasmanian government.

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Treating hypertension into old age lowers dementia risk

Canberra Times, Other, 13/09/2023, Kathryn Magann

Over-60s who receive treatment for high blood pressure are substantially less likely to develop dementia than those who go untreated, according to a study. Researchers at the University of NSW have found treating hypertension over the age of 60 reduces the risk of dementia occurring by more than 25 per cent, with ongoing treatment the key to keeping the odds down as people age.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

New CPD digital module

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 12/09/2023

The Australasian College of Pharmacy has launched a new CPD module as it believes that digital initiatives in health can produce significant benefits for patients and healthcare providers. The aged care system can help older Australians get support for tasks they are no longer able to conduct on their own, the organisation explained.

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How many retirement village residents move into the co-located aged care home? We asked Carinity

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/09/2023, Ian Horswill

The 2022 PwC Property Council Retirement Census showed that 26% of surveyed retirement villages nationally said they had co-located aged care facilities onsite. Other operators, like the nation's leading operator Aveo Group, partner with nearby aged care operators.

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Five retirement villages and seven co-located aged care and retirement living sites planned for NSW

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/09/2023, Ian Horswill

The simplified planning scheme by NSW Department of Planning and Environment for State Significant Developments has led to 21 senior housing lodgments in the past nine months. Five are solely independent living units with another seven co-location proposals with resident aged care beds and retirement living apartments in separate buildings.

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Retirement Living Council at “pivotal juncture”, it tells Aged Care Taskforce

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/09/2023, Ian Horswill

Executive Director Daniel Gannon has made a submission to the Aged Care Taskforce, which is due to issue its Interim Report next month. Daniel writes the retirement living sector is "at a pivotal juncture, evolving from a property-focused sector in years gone by to one that focuses on health, wellbeing and care".

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Now all Goodwin retirement villages recognised by Australian Retirement Village Accreditation Scheme

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/09/2023, Ian Horswill

The Manor, just outside of Batemans Bay, has been recognised for its ongoing dedication to enhancing quality by receiving accreditation from the Australian Retirement Village Accreditation Scheme (ARVAS). With the achievement, all Goodwin retirement villages are now ARVAS accredited.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Aussies' diet on a bad roll

Courier Mail, General News, 13/09/2023, Page 3

We're not eating enough vegetables and still drinking too much, according to fresh research from Australia's science agency. The CSIRO's Healthy Diet Score report, released on Tuesday, is the culmination of eight years of canvassing Aussie dietary habits, assessing nine areas of diet quality and compliance with Australian dietary guidelines.

Also reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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Alcohol and being male: risk factors for inland drowning

Central Western Daily, General News, 13/09/2023, Sarah Falson, Page 3

Inland waterways are high risk for drowning deaths in Australia, and alcohol and isolation are contributing to the statistics. This is according to the National Drowning Report 2023 which shows there were 281 drowning deaths in Australian waterways over the past year and inland waterways accounted for 27 per cent of them.

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Overdoses up

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 12/09/2023, Madeleine Clark, Page 1

A regional breakdown of the latest statistics on deaths caused by unintentional overdoses in Australia shows the Goldfields climbed to 25 deaths in the 2017-21 period while other regions dropped. The report developed by the Penington Institute highlighted the devastating impact of drug-induced deaths in the past 20 years, demonstrating an escalating crisis which has claimed 37,000 lives since 2001.

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Australia has had school nurses for more than 100 years – but we don't use them enough

Nursing Review, Other, 12/09/2023, Arshmah Jamal

Teachers are not always equipped to deal with the growing health needs of their students, from mental health challenges to complex medical needs. Federal and state governments are currently looking at "key targets" as part of the next National School Reform Agreement, which starts in 2025.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/09/2023, Kate Freebairn

Australians are failing to stick to a healthy and balanced diet, and junk food is a major culprit. A new report from the CSIRO reveals on average Australians are consuming around 28 serves of junk food each week, leaving the National Diet score well below a healthy level.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 12/09/2023, Joe O'Brien

Less than 5% of Australians are eating enough vegetables each day and according to the latest research by the CSIRO we're overindulging in unnecessary food and drink like alcohol, chocolate and confectionery. The average overall diet score barely scraped through at 55.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 12/09/2023, Janice Petersen

The CSIRO has canvassed almost a 250,000 adults between 2015 and 2023, rating their compliance with the Australian Dietary Guidelines out of 100 nationwide. The average diet score was 55, with women doing slightly better than men largely due to their higher consumption of vegetables. The shortcomings relate to junk food, thanks to an overindulgence in alcohol, cakes, confectionery and takeaway.

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Digital rehab kickstarts cardio hope

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/09/2023, Sarah Berry, Page 15

Twenty years ago, within a week of having a heart attack, David Brown went back to work as a mechanic. He was also back to smoking cigarettes and doing little physical activity.

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Funding can ease the pain

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/09/2023, Page 7

People living with chronic illnesses should get 10 Medicare funded allied-health visits according to women whose lives have been crippled by pain. Peak body Pain Australia will today launch a campaign, Walk My Pain, to highlight the plight of the 3.4 million people with a chronic illness, almost 70 per cent of whom are working-age Australians.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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It is never too early to be SunSmart

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/09/2023, Penny Egan, Page 21

Ignorance is no excuse for not covering up from dangerous UVs, writes Penny Egan [...] Cancer Council Tasmania has accredited 95 per cent of Tasmanian primary schools, 59 per cent of year K-10/12 and 99 per cent of childcare centres as being SunSmart.

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Shining light on relief for eczema sufferers

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/09/2023, Chelsea Bunting, Page 5

Mietta Smith was only two when she was diagnosed with the chronic and inflammatory skin condition eczema. Mum Bronwyn Jennings had noticed dry skin and red rashes on Mietta's body.

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

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Be prepared for thunderstorm asthma season

Shepparton News, General News, 13/09/2023, Page 4

People vulnerable to respiratory conditions are being urged to take extra care as the start of thunderstorm season approaches. Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit clinical director Dr Will Cross said it was important asthma sufferers and people with breathing problems planned ahead for the start of thunderstorm asthma season on October 1.

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

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Concerns over climbing prostate cancer deaths among Australian men

Canberra Times, Other, 12/09/2023, Anna Mcguinness

If it wasn't for his family history, Jason Strange's prostate cancer may not have been caught so early. The most common cancer in Australia affected his dad, grandfather and father-in-law.

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

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

The Mercury, 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.

Waiter with lung cancer sues Melbourne's Crown casino over smoking in high-rollers room

The Guardian, Other, 12/09/2023, Benita Kolovos

A waiter with terminal lung cancer is suing Melbourne's Crown casino, alleging in court documents that his job in the venue's high-rollers room where smoking was permitted contributed to his condition. Dien Nguyen, 39, was diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer in 2020, six years after he began working full-time in Crown's Mahogany Room, where patrons had been permitted to smoke due to a special exemption from the Victorian government.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 12/09/2023, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Human trials are set to begin on a new treatment that could see severe asthma sufferers ditch steroid inhalers. The drug being developed by Australian health giant CSL puts the brakes on the inflammatory reaction in the lungs that causes severe attacks. Around 2.7 million Australians are living with the chronic condition.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9 Darwin, National Nine News, 12/09/2023, Paul Murphy

One in five Australians will suffer concussion or other traumatic brain injuries in their life, and Western Australian researchers are hoping to limit the long-term impacts. A new drug currently being trialled on stroke patients is found to protect brain cells and reduce the severity after brutal head knocks after suffering three concussions in the space of nine months. ARG-007 is found to have neuroprotective properties. It's currently being trialled on stroke patients and pre-clinical studies for traumatic brain injury have been positive.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 12/09/2023, Leon Compton

Interview with Marc Pellegrini, Department Head Infection and Immunity Division, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research about cancer drug venetoclax showing promise to treat HIV. Pellegrini says the human clinical trials will commence in Denmark.

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PRIMARY CARE

Aspiration for private health a test of Labor's centrist credentials

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/09/2023, Tanveer Ahmed, Page 39

his issue could be a bellwether regarding whether the government can retain the support of the aspirational left.

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Dan urges docs to speak up

Herald Sun, General News, 13/09/2023, Mitch Clarke, Page 15

Premier Daniel Andrews has urged doctors and nurses to disclose serious emergency department failings that lead to the death or injury of patients. The Herald Sun yesterday revealed doctors alerted the government before the 2022 election that emergency failings were driving a rise in child deaths in hospitals.

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

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Look at you now, Eva

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/09/2023, Duncan Abey, Page 1

Little Eva playing big role in vital research. When Eva de Jong was born in Hobart in 2019, she weighed just 1200g and could fit into the palm of her dad's hand.

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

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Budget to boost funding for NSW women's health centres

Canberra Times, Other, 12/09/2023, Maeve Bannister

Women's health centres will receive a funding boost in the NSW budget to help increase staff numbers, reduce counselling waitlists and provide more services. The state's 20 centres provide tailored care for women and assist with physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health services.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Victoria's digital licence rollout unlikely to include organ donor status, inquiry hears

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/09/2023, Carly Douglas

Victoria could be years away from restoring organ donation status on driver's licences, despite the state's lagging registration rates. A parliamentary inquiry into the state's sluggish organ and tissue donor numbers has heard VicRoads hasn't considered whether registrations should once again be included on driver's licence applications and renewals.

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

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Royal Prince Alfred: Doctors slam hospital's reaction after bombshell claims

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/09/2023, Natalie O'Brien

A dramatic proposal move amid a backlog of radiology scans at Australia's top hospital has come under fire by concerned doctors. Here's why.

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

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Camden councillor Cindy Cagney calls for clarity on future of Camden Hospital Palliative Care Unit

The Mercury, Other, 12/09/2023, Annie Lewis

Weeks after rumours first started swirling about the future of Camden's palliative care unit, there is still no answer from health authorities as to if the service will remain open. But one councillor is determined for answers.

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

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Incredible workload of Gold Coast ambos revealed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/09/2023, Keith Woods

Ambulance staff on the Gold Coast say they are being stretched to the limit working overtime on most shifts, unable to take meal breaks and sometimes struggling to even find time to use the toilet. However bosses say everything possible is being done to support staff and help them to finish their shifts on time, while more paramedics than ever have been employed in the city.

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

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Trainee nurse says overworked ED staff at Hobart hospital misdiagnosed life-threatening condition

ABC Online, Other, 12/09/2023, Laura Beavis

Late last month, Tasmanian mother-of-five Cass Whitehill went to the Royal Hobart Hospital with chest pain and shortness of breath, which she knew were symptoms of blood clots in her lungs. She said hospital staff told her the symptoms were from gas trapped in her abdomen following recent surgery and sent her home with a prescription for painkillers.

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Spencer's battle with inoperable brain cancer has left his parents battling the health system

ABC Online, Other, 12/09/2023, James Wakelin & Daniel Keane

Aldinga Beach resident Spencer Barton was diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer in July. His parents are seeking support but say that battle is being made unnecessarily difficult

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Calls for better remote NT ambulance, aeromedical access after family forced to drive hours to hospital

ABC Online, Other, 12/09/2023, Natasha Macfarlane

The family members of a man who suffered a medical episode and later died in a remote Northern Territory homeland say they are furious after having to drive his body more than four hours to a hospital despite multiple calls for help. The incident has raised questions about remote medical services and aeromedical coverage in East Arnhem Land.

Also reported by: [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#),

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Channel 7, Seven News, 12/09/2023, Peter Mitchell

Top doctors are accusing the Andrews Government of ignoring critical warnings that could have saved young lives. Paediatricians raised the alarm about failings after a rise in child deaths in hospitals. The State Government introduced a support service in reaction to the spike called Safer Care for Kids.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 12/09/2023, Peter Hitchener

The Andrews Government has denied claims it kept secret at 2022 report on failings in hospital emergency departments, leading to a spike in child deaths. It follows the discovery of virtual meeting videos showing doctors expressing concerns about the results of the review. Mental Health Minister Gabrielle Williams says there is nothing secret about that review, adding it was shared with over 100 people clinicians, families, patients. The review was commissioned by the Health Department and Safer Care Victoria but has not been made public.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Call for mental health system reform

Canberra Times, General News, 13/09/2023, Natalie Vikhrov, Page 3

The nation's "dysfunctional and underfunded" mental health system needs urgent reform as cost of living pressures take a toll on Australians, according to Mental Health Australia Chair Matt Berriman. In a speech to be delivered in Parliament House on Wednesday, Mr Berriman will call on politicians to provide an "equitable, well-funded, integrated mental health system for all Australians".

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

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Kids invited to a lesson in body kindness

Border Mail, General News, 13/09/2023, Jodie O'Sullivan, Page 10

One of the Border's leading eating disorder clinicians will lead a free online workshop to help 11 to 14-year-olds build their body confidence and detangle the hidden harms of social media. Anyone is welcome to join the The Body Kind workshop, which will be live streamed tomorrow from 4.30pm, as part of Body Image Awareness Month.

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

Help needed

Launceston Examiner, General News, 13/09/2023, Page 15

People have tried to seek help with mental health. The problem is even in cases of a suicide risk some services are unable to provide assistance.

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Sleep key for mental illness

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/09/2023, katelin cameron, Page 5

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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Risk of suicide calls rise

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/09/2023, Page 7

Australian children are seeking help for suicide at record breaking levels, with Kids Helpline reporting a significant increase in calls requiring an urgent "duty of care" response. In Victoria alone, suicide related calls to the helpline have jumped from 14.5% to 17.5% since 2018, and have remained higher than the rest of the country since 2021.

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'Dysfunctional and underfunded' Organisations call for urgent mental health reform

Canberra Times, Other, 13/09/2023, Natalie Vikhrov

Watch: How expensive is mental health in Australia? The nation's "dysfunctional and underfunded" mental health system needs urgent reform as cost-of-living pressures take a toll on Australians, according to Mental Health Australia Chair Matt Berriman.

[Read More](#)

Distress Brief Support service to offer immediate support to at-risk

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/09/2023, Sandhya Ram

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 (NQPHN) and Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (CHHHS).

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

[Read More](#)

Sleep problems the key to dealing with post-traumatic stress

SBS, Other, 12/09/2023, Stergos Kastelloriou

While around 75 per cent of the Australian population experiences trauma, only around five to ten per cent will develop post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. But rates of PTSD are rising, with the Royal Commission into Veteran and Defence Suicide again drawing attention to the condition.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 12/09/2023, Sarah Dingle

New research has shed light on the link between gambling and suicide, after analysis of Coroner's Court cases in Victoria. Advocates for gambling reform say it supports anecdotal evidence of what they're seeing on the ground, and they're calling for urgent action from state and federal governments. Dr Angela Rintoul, Federation University says a full gambling advertising ban is needed, as well as a national strategy to identify the true extent of gambling related suicides.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

'MeToo' for mothers: Shocking stories shared at NSW birth trauma inquiry

Nursing Review, Other, 12/09/2023, Arshmah Jamal

"I'm sorry." These are the words that Naomi Bowden repeated as she tearfully attempted to get through her opening statement to a New South Wales inquiry into birth trauma. Ms Bowden tearfully spoke about her daughter, Bella, who was born stillborn 14 years ago at Wollongong Hospital.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Hospital staff emergency

Canberra Times, General News, 13/09/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 1

Staffing pressures at Canberra's women's and children's hospital have resulted in the hospital declaring two internal emergencies in recent weeks. The Centenary Hospital for Women and Children has come under intense pressure due to midwifery staffing shortages.

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Nurses in vax directive sacked

Courier Mail, General News, 13/09/2023, Hayden Johnson, Page 5

Nurses and health workers stood down for almost two years for refusing to be vaccinated against Covid-19 are being terminated by Queensland Health, as the government edges closer to removing the controversial mandate. Unvaccinated Rockhampton nurse Tiffany Judd was last week sacked despite the Queensland government reviewing the 2021 directive that required health employees to be vaccinated against the virus.

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Labor faces pressure from paramedics

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 13/09/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 4

Illawarra paramedic and senior HSU delegate Tess Oxley has led a rally outside Parliament House to call on the NSW Government to change the way paramedics across the state are paid. A week from Labor's first budget, paramedics say they are not happy with the response from Premier Chris Minns and Health Minister Ryan Park over their calls for better pay.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

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Study subsidies aimed at boosting health workforce

Canberra Times, Other, 12/09/2023, Maeve Bannister

Current and future healthcare students will be given a greater incentive to join the workforce as part of a NSW budget measure to boost staff numbers. Study subsidies worth \$4000 a year for new students and a one-off \$8000 payment for existing students will be provided in a bid to address the sector's recruitment crisis.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

GPs again listed among Australia's most ethical

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/09/2023

GP was ranked as the fifth-most ethical occupation in Australia. Most Australians consider GPs to be very ethical', findings contained in the Governance Institute of Australia's Ethics Index 2023 report have revealed.

[Read More](#)

Medical deans say GP funding and pay review 'urgently needed'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/09/2023

The recommendation is among 23 suggestions in a position paper advocating for a skilled, sufficient and sustained' general practice workforce. Medical deans have said general practice needs to be an attractive career proposition for graduates, as well as a sustainable career option.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 12/09/2023, Andrew Clennell

New South Wales paramedics have rallied in Sydney demanding better pay. It comes as the Minns Government prepares to hand down its first budget next week. Earlier this year, the Health Services Union rejected the Labor Government's offer of a 4% pay rise. Now the union is accusing the Premier of breaking his election promise of negotiating in good faith with the Premier.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

The owner of Bunnings and Kmart is now in the prescriptions business, raising fears over patient data

The Guardian, Other, 13/09/2023, Andrew Messenger

The integration of a controversial online doctor service alongside Bunnings, Kmart and hundreds of pharmacies in the Wesfarmers portfolio has raised concerns among medical practitioners about potential risks to patient data security. InstantScripts sprang to prominence during the pandemic, offering an alternative to the GP by generating prescriptions via an online form that was then remotely checked by a doctor.

[Read More](#)

Petition calls for 60-day U-turn

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 12/09/2023

A petition, signed by 28 individuals, is calling for the federal government to renegotiate its 60-day dispensing policy "before millions of Australians are impacted". The petition, titled Save our local pharmacies and local health issues', was presented to the House of Representatives on Monday,

[Read More](#)

TerryWhite Chemmart and Sanofi Promote Safe Medication Disposal

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 12/09/2023

TerryWhite Chemmart joins Sanofi, one of Australia's largest medicines and vaccines suppliers, to raise awareness of the Return of Unwanted Medicines (RUM) program nationally. Known as The RUM

Project, the initiative has already disposed of 12.5 million kilograms of medicinal waste over the past 22 years and aims to reduce the impact of unwanted or out-of-date medicines on the environment through safe and responsible disposal.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Is bulk-billing an ethical necessity? Patients seem to think so

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/09/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

It would be less ethical for GPs to risk closing, says former RACGP president who rallied against universal bulk-billing. GPs who do not bulk-bill have been dubbed unethical in an annual survey of 1000 people.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Cosmetic cowboys face fines with new surgeon laws

Canberra Times, Other, 12/09/2023, fraser barton

Cosmetic "surgeons" with no recognised medical training face jail terms in Queensland after an overhaul of industry regulations passed state parliament. [...] Ms Fentiman said an Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) hotline had received almost 400 calls from patients in 11 months, with 14 doctors subsequently suspended from practice.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Rego cancelled after \$360k Medicare fraud

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 12/09/2023, Megan Haggan

A pharmacist with an impairment due to alcohol use has had her registration cancelled for three year. A series of financial problems took place before a pharmacist began defrauding Medicare, a Tribunal has heard.

[Read More](#)

Riverina nurse caught on CCTV tampering with COVID vaccines suspended

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 12/09/2023, Jack Gramenz

A nurse suspended for tampering with COVID-19 vaccines told a pharmacist she was only checking they had the correct dose. [...] The MLHD began investigating her conduct in early November, and nine days later its chief executive Jill Ludford submitted a complaint with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Authorities seize \$100k worth of illegal vapes hidden in South Australian businesses

The Australian, Other, 12/09/2023, Madeleine Achenza

Health authorities have seized \$100,000 in illegal vapes as concern reaches new heights over the rate of young people taking up the highly addictive act. South Australia Health seized more than 4500 vapes containing highly addictive amounts of nicotine during a recent crackdown on businesses.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Pill testing debate: Expert warns pure drugs just as deadly as Premier rejects testing pilot

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/09/2023, Madeleine Bower

An expert has warned pure party drugs are every bit as deadly as those cut with filler after Premier Chris Minns rejected a push for summer pill testing pilot to be set up. 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 summer.

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

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SPORT

Andrews' Games 'kabaddi ambush'

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 13/09/2023, Damon Johnston , Page 3

Daniel Andrews' vote-grabbing election promise to add the popular Indian sport of kabaddi to the 2026 Commonwealth Games came despite organisers opposing the late inclusion of extra events. Less than two weeks before last year's November 26 election, the Victorian Premier ignored hard-pressed organisers and announced kabaddi as an exhibition event as Labor stepped up its pitch for Indian community votes.

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

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Fong asked to fix WAIS

West Australian, General News, 13/09/2023, Rebecca Le May, Page 14

New board members have been appointed to the scandal-hit WA Institute of Sport after a mass exodus, with the replacements to potentially consider removing its longstanding chief executive. Nine of the WAIS 10-person board have either resigned or not had their terms extended in recent weeks, leaving behind ex-officio board member Jennifer McGrath, who is a Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries deputy director-general.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Melatonin misunderstood as a 'natural sleeping pill', but clock-setter for some

Age, General News, 13/09/2023, Liam Mannix, Page 12

In the early weeks of my daughter's life, I developed an unhealthy obsession with sleep. After a feed, she would fall asleep soundly.

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

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Gender-affirming therapy 'life saver' for trans adults: study

Launceston Examiner, General News, 13/09/2023, Molly Appleton, Page 2

The risk of gender dysphoria, depression and suicidality is significantly reduced for transgender adults who have access to timely gender-affirming testosterone therapy, a report has found. The University of Melbourne study trial of 62 trans adults seeking initiation of testosterone halved the participants and provided the hormone replacement to one cohort while the other waited three months.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Why we're still a nation divided

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/09/2023, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 14

Closing the gap Fifteen years after a bipartisan vow to improve the outlook for Indigenous people, little has changed, writes Caitlin Fitzsimmons.

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Six graphs reveal the gap still a far cry from closing

Age, General News, 13/09/2023, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 14

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

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Celebrating legacy of health unit

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/09/2023, Daniel Shirkie, Page 5

Staff at North Queensland's first youth-focused mental health unit have marked a decade since the facility first opened doors, and came together to remember the woman who it was named for. The Josephine Sailor Adolescent Inpatient Unit and Day Service, at the Kirwan Health Campus, was the first service of its kind in Townsville in 2012, and named for a woman who pioneered Indigenous and community care in the north.

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

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Victorian Aboriginal Aged Care Summit to discuss what it's like to be an Aboriginal Elder today

SBS, Other, 12/09/2023, Bertrand Tungandame

Co-convened by the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) and the Victorian Committee Aboriginal for Aged Care & Disability (VCAACD), the 2-day Victorian Aboriginal Aged Care Summit will commemorate and celebrate the vital role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders play as the heart and soul of their Communities.

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Pneumococcal infections up year-on-year, expert says more healthy people contracting pneumonia

ABC Online, Other, 12/09/2023, Anita Ward

More people have been sick this year with pneumococcal infections that can cause pneumonia and meningitis, according to health data from a number of states. Experts say more people with health immune systems have been sick with pneumonia this year

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First locally-acquired Buruli ulcer cases detected in NSW

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/09/2023, Antony Scholefield

The necrotising skin disease is typically found in Victoria, Queensland and the NT. Buruli ulcer has officially spread to NSW after health authorities uncovered the first locally acquired case of the necrotising skin disease in the seaside town of Batemans Bay. The surprise diagnosis sparked an investigation that turned up two historical cases in the same area going back to 2021, the local health district says.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Evidence 'not there' to back psychedelic drugs

The Australian, General News, 13/09/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Health and government insiders believed there was not enough evidence to support clinical use of psychedelic drugs just weeks before Australia became the first country in the world to approve their use to treat mental health. [...] The interviews were conducted between September 2022 and January this year, just a month before the Therapeutic Goods Administration made the shock decision to down-schedule psilocybin for clinical use in treatment-resistant depression and MDMA for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder.

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

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Vaporiser recalled over risks

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 13/09/2023, Duncan Evans, Page 4

A vaporiser popular with parents helping their little ones get past congestion and other breathing difficulties has been urgently recalled. [...] The recall was made after consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the company said.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#)

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Families can't access the most-prescribed antibiotics for their kids, but experts say children are not at risk

ABC Online, Other, 12/09/2023, Owen Jacques

Parents and carers have been warned that a shortage affecting the most-prescribed antibiotics for children could continue until early next year. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), Australia's medicine regulator, said shortages of the four antibiotics were first reported late last year.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Church calls on Labor to keep promise

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/09/2023, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 1

One of the major Christian churches has rebuked the NSW government for its lack of courage on drug reform, and called for decriminalisation to be back on the table at a promised drug summit. Reverend Faaimata Havea Hiliau, who will be installed as the new moderator of the Uniting Church in NSW and the ACT tomorrow, said the Minns government should keep its election promise for a drug summit and hold one early next year.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#)

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2CC, Canberra Live, 12/09/2023, Leon Delaney

The Opposition has attempted to delay the Government from decriminalising small quantities of illicit drugs. Deputy Leader of the Canberra Liberals Jeremy Hanson believes the reforms should be delayed until after the 2024 election due to concerns from a number of parties.

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

PFAS in playground: calls to close school

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/09/2023, Matthew Kelly, Page 1

Salt Ash community members have called for the closure of the local school after recent testing revealed the continued presence of elevated PFAS levels in the playground. A Department of Education letter sent to parents has advised recent testing had shown "slightly elevated" levels of PFAS in the north east area of the school and near the covered playground and sandpit.

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ABC, ABC News, 12/09/2023, Jeremy Fernandez

Residents near the Richmond Air Force Base in Sydney are calling for more testing for PFAS contamination. The toxic chemical was found at the base five years ago, but there has only been limited testing of homes in the area.

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