



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 18th September 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports doctors are calling for national intervention to tackle "exponential" growth in the diagnosis of diabetes type 2 in children and young people.
- The **[Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports emergency department workers and trauma experts are calling for a shift in public education campaigns following a surge in patients at Melbourne's Alfred Hospital injured while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- The **[Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports a world-first, Adelaide-developed contraceptive device able to reduce pain by calming excess immune activity in the uterus is beginning human trials in South Australia. *Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury](#)*
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports a decision not to repair the only Paxman scalp cooling system available in a Queensland public hospital has been labelled "a kick in the guts" by cancer patients.
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports only half of patients presenting to emergency departments of Queensland public hospitals are receiving care within clinically recommended time frames, new performance data has shown.

- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 1) reports unions are calling for Tasmania's government to offer incentives to attract healthcare workers to counter a challenging international jobs market, accelerating post-COVID retirement rates and high wages interstate.
- [The Australian](#) (page 5) reports Queensland Health is leading an urgent investigation to determine the source of listeria infections in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, while more at-risk people have been urged to avoid certain foods. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#), [9News](#), [Channel 10](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

The Australians left with rotting teeth and unable to smile in 'completely unaffordable' dental system

ABC Online, Other, 17/09/2023, Janelle Miles and Emma Pollard

The mouth-watering aroma of sausages sizzling on a barbecue wafts over a suburban park triggering hunger pains, but Mark McDonnell has been unable to chew on food for years. Mr McDonnell is in Bunyapa Park, in inner-Brisbane's West End, where he feeds homeless and disadvantaged Queenslanders once a week. [...] But a meeting with Labor's federal Health Minister Mark Butler remains elusive.

[Read More](#)

Patients win reprieve with Novo Nordisk listing a new form of insulin aspart

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 18/09/2023

Health minister Mark Butler has announced the 1 October listing on the PBS of a new form of Novo Nordisk's insulin aspart, FIASP.

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MINISTER WELLS

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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CORONAVIRUS

WHO presses China on cause of COVID-19

Australian Financial Review, International News, 18/09/2023, Donato Paolo Mancini, Page 16

The chief of the World Health Organisation has urged Beijing to offer more information on the origins of COVID-19 and is ready to send a second team to probe the matter. The genesis of the pandemic still remains unclear nearly four years after th...

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

A loss like no other

Daily Telegraph, General News, 18/09/2023, Mikaela Wilkes, Page 5

Home And Away actor Jessica Redmayne's mum does not know who she is and can no longer "relish in and appreciate" her beloved daughter's success. Monday is the first day of Dementia Action Week, which the 31-year-old is fronting to raise awareness about the "invisible" disease which she says caused her mum "to disintegrate".

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

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No perfect aged care solution

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2023, David Norton, Page 28

If we always knew the right solution in life, I am sure that we would implement it. However, the reality is that for many of the challenges facing the community, we don't have the right or perfect solution. This is especially apparent in the aged care sector.

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Take time to understand dementia

Border Mail, General News, 18/09/2023, Page 14

During this year's Dementia Action Week (September 18-24) we are encouraging people to learn more about the signs and symptoms of the condition and how to make their communities more accessible to people living with dementia. There are estimated to be more than 400,000 Australians living with dementia and more than 1.5 million involved in their care and those numbers are set to rise.

Similar coverage reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [2GB \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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Memory records help dementia patients, families, carers

Canberra Times, Other, 17/09/2023, Katelyn Catanzariti

When Dimity Brassil's father was diagnosed with Lewy body dementia, the family rallied around to support him. But when he died 12 years ago, the family of storytellers realised they had lost all of his. "We didn't capture his story. By the time that we thought we should, it was too late - he was unable to share it anymore," writer and teacher Ms Brassil tells AAP. "Often we don't really realise how important it is until we can't do it anymore."

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

How you can get a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card thanks to new higher income test limits

West Australian, Other, 18/09/2023, Nick Bruining

On the back of this week's big increase in Centrelink income support payments, the other big winners will be seniors who qualify for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. The card is normally provided to seniors over pension age who don't otherwise qualify for an age pension, usually because of the asset means test.

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The most important thing you must do to cut your risk of dementia

The New Daily, Other, 17/09/2023, John Elder

We run as many news stories about dementia as we can, and for good reason. As we wrote in February, the impact of dementia in Australia has more than doubled in the past 12 years. That was according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). Dementia has overtaken coronary heart disease as the leading cause of disease burden among Australians aged 65 and over, the AIHW said in an update to its 2022 report. Read more here

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 17/09/2023, Kathryn Robinson and James Glenday

Interview with Maree McCabe, Dementia Australia. McCabe says dementia friendly communities have a positive impact on all those living in them. She says dementia research is growing and it's certainly becoming more compelling about things that we can do to reduce our risk of developing dementia.

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

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POPULATION HEALTH

Childcare shame

Northern Territory News, General News, 18/09/2023, Zizi Averill and Annabel Bowles, Page 1

Emergency call-outs to Territory daycare centres have doubled in the past 12 months, while the number of injuries has reached a seven-year high. The NT Education Department has confirmed the number of injuries, trauma, illnesses including those requiring emergency responses has shot up in the past 12 months. The Productivity Commission found there were 191 recorded instances of kids being injured, or exposed to trauma or illness in 2021-22.

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Temps tipped to soar 10-15C above monthly averages as NSW warned of potentially severe heatwave

The Australian, Other, 17/09/2023, Jessica Wang

Parts of NSW have been warned to brace for a potentially severe heatwave as the state swelters through a second day of hot temperatures. The mercury is tipped to peak at 30C on Sunday as thousands of athletes compete in the 42km+ Sydney Marathon. The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has issued a low-intensity to severe heatwave warning for Batemans Bay and other parts of the Illawarra and South Coast Districts, where temperatures could extend into the mid-thirties.

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How can I lower my cholesterol? Do supplements work? How about psyllium or probiotics?

ABC Online, Other, 17/09/2023, Lauren Ball and Emily Burch

Your GP says you have high cholesterol. You've six months to work on your diet to see if that brings down your levels, then you will review your options. Could taking supplements over this time help? You can't rely on supplements alone to control your cholesterol. But there's some good evidence that taking particular supplements, while also eating a healthy diet, can make a difference.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Diabetes surging threat to children

The Australian, General News, 18/09/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Doctors have issued an urgent plea for national intervention to stem the rising tide of type 2 diabetes diagnoses in children and young people, warning patients are suffering heart attacks as young as 25 and some are expected to reach end-stage renal failure by the age of 30. [...] Figures collated by Diabetes Australia indicate there are now 1155 children and young people living with type 2 diabetes, an 18.3 per cent increase in the past decade, while among those aged under 30, the increase has been 37 per cent since 2012.

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

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Arthritis breakthrough

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 3

Almost 500,000 Australians suffer from rheumatoid arthritis, but Flinders Medical Centre consultant Associate Professor Mihir Wechalekar hopes to stop it in its tracks with his clinical trial. "By using targeted therapy, we assess the joint lining for the particular type of inflammation a patient has and attempt to specifically use specific therapy for that type of inflammation rather than standard practice," Professor Wechalekar said.

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

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New vaccine set to reduce infections

Border Mail, General News, 18/09/2023, Page 15

A new vaccine being developed by researchers at the University of Adelaide (UOA) could help ward off painful ear infections for children. Dr Erin Brazel from the University of Adelaide's Research Centre for Infectious Diseases said an effective vaccine would be incredibly beneficial given more than 80 per cent of children experience a middle ear infection by the time they are three years old.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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ED staff look to put in the big steps for kids in need

Burnie Advocate, General News, 18/09/2023, Simon McGuire, Page 3

Staff from the Emergency Department (ED) at the North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) will walk from Penguin to Ulverstone to raise funds for a charity that helps children with cancer. The staff have so far raised \$5000 towards the Kids Cancer Better Challenge and are hoping to increase that by September 23 when the fundraising walk is held, with the event starting at 9am at the Penguin Scout Hall on Johnsons Beach Road..

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A desperate need for donors

Daily Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2023, Taylor Dodge, Page 5

A Wagga woman battling a rare form of blood cancer has made it her mission to draw awareness around the importance of bone marrow donors. Jennifer Nixon was diagnosed with myelodysplasia, a rare form of blood cancer affecting only one in 500,000 people, on Christmas Eve in 2016.

I had awful indigestion for two years - but every time I went to the doctors they sent me home and told me to tweak my diet. One finally took a look and found a rare and deadly cancer

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/09/2023, Shania O'Brien

An architect who was handed a shock cancer diagnosis revealed the one persistent sign that went ignored for over two years. Anthony Vecchio , from Sydney , suddenly began to experience 'awful' acid reflux and indigestion in 2021 - but the medication his GP provided didn't seem to work. He was misdiagnosed several times - with many assuming his discomfort was due to his diet or a bacterial infection.

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Recognising primary aldosteronism as a disorder in its own right

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/09/2023, John W Funder

Elisabeth Ng and her colleagues report their very important investigation of aldosterone, renin, and blood pressure in this issue of the MJA. 1 Those of us who care for people with hypertension or teach medical students should read and ponder the entire report, but here I summarise its context, major findings, and their implications.

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Increased risk of death from breast cancer if treatment interval guidelines are not followed

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/09/2023

Clinicians must ensure they follow the Australian guidelines for the treatment of early breast cancer to ensure treatment intervals are adhered to, researchers say. The risk of death from breast cancer is 43% higher for women who had at least one treatment interval longer than the recommended treatment timeframes, according to new research. [...] Breast cancer is the second most frequent cause of cancer-related deaths of Australian women, Dr Kou Kou said, who was lead author of the study and is the Senior Research Officer of Epidemiology at Cancer Council Queensland.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Ambos take you home

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2023, Page 10

A team of 20 new specialised ambulance officers has been recruited to help move nonemergency patients out of hospitals. The new Patient Transfer Service officers are in addition to the 350 extra paramedics who are being recruited following a pledge made by the state government ahead of the 2022 election.

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We are doing our pest: CEO

Herald Sun, General News, 18/09/2023, Shannon Deery, Page 14

The Alfred's chief executive has blamed a shocking rodent plague on the ageing hospital's facilities and nearby construction works. Alfred Health CEO Andrew May told staff this week patients and staff should expect better. It came after the Herald Sun revealed the Alfred was overrun with mice and rats, with faeces found on beds and rodents seen running in patients' rooms.

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The price of dignity

Courier Mail, General News, 18/09/2023, Kylie Lang, Page 1

Distressed cancer patients have slammed a decision by Gold Coast University Hospital to mothball a world-leading medical device that prevents hair loss during chemotherapy treatment. The Paxman scalp cooling system broke in July but the hospital has refused to have it fixed, the cost of which is estimated to be less than \$5000. Gold Coast Health claims the machine was only used in a trial, but sources say it was meant as a permanent fixture.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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ED patients left waiting

Courier Mail, General News, 18/09/2023, Mohammad Alfares, Page 1

About half of all patients who present to emergency departments at large Greater Brisbane hospitals and strifetorn regional hospitals are not being seen within clinically recommended times, new performance results reveal. [...] Australian Medical Association Queensland president Dr Maria Boulton said the new figures showed the pressure the state's EDs were under, particularly in rural and regional towns.

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

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How easy is it to access dental care in Australia?

ABC Online, Other, 17/09/2023

About one in 25 people have no natural teeth left, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data. As of June, in Queensland alone, about 135,000 people were on waiting lists for publicly funded dental care.

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The freakonomics of Australian healthcare: an ophthalmology case study

Australian Doctor, Other, 17/09/2023, Paul Smith

Tucked away down a back street in one of the less salubrious suburbs of Melbourne is a former karate studio turned private hospital. Even to the untrained eyed it does not exactly look like a hospital, more like a few office rooms behind a concrete and glass facade and a couple of plant pots.

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Lily Thai made pinky promise with friend Annaliese Holland before using assisted dying laws to end life

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/09/2023, Tita Smith

As Lily Thai counted down the days until she ended her life through voluntary assisted dying, her friend Annaliese Holland pinky promised they would always stay by each other's side. The young women had several things in common: both were 23, from South Australia , and battling terminal illness autoimmune autonomic gangliopathy (AAG).

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GPs with a special interest improve connection between hospitals and primary care

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/09/2023

General practitioners are learning vital new skills and supporting hospitals in the General Practitioners with a Special Interest program, which has been running for five years across Queensland. In the past, it was not unusual for GPs to work across both community and hospital settings.

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ABC, ABC News (Sunday), 17/09/2023, Jeremy Fernandez

Long public waiting lists for dental care are seen across the country, but most Australians aren't eligible for free care and 1 in 6 adults delay or avoid seeing a dentist because of the cost. The Greens have long pushed to include dental in Medicare, which they say would cost about \$77 billion over a decade.

Successive governments have baulked at the price tag of universal care. The current one says it acknowledges that there are barriers to accessing affordable dental services and it's committed to the long-term goal of expanding Medicare. The Australian Dental Association wants more public funding for vulnerable groups by targeting those socioeconomic demographics that need it most, like those in aged care, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and those with low incomes.

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

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 17/09/2023, Kathryn Robinson and James Glenday

Interview with Dr Stephen Liew, President, Australian Dental Association. Liew says 1 in 3 Australian adults has untreated tooth decay while 1 in 3 kids has experienced tooth decay. He states the most worrying part is that almost all dental conditions are preventable and it's time for the Federal Government to act. He notes the public dental system is oversubscribed and underfunded. Liew explains they could only treat 30% of those eligible for public dental care.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental health compo adds \$2.5b to NSW budget hit

Australian Financial Review, General News, 18/09/2023, Samantha Hutchinson, Page 3

The rocketing number of workers claiming psychological injury will help to push the NSW budget a further \$2.5 billion into the red over the next five years, with the state predicting a 12 per cent surge in workers compensation liabilities by 2027.

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First-time Melbourne mother details experience with perinatal anxiety and postnatal depression

7news.com.au, Other, 17/09/2023, Molly Magennis

Many women describe pregnancy as a joyful, happy time. For Elnaz Rafiee, it was one of the hardest periods of her life. Elnaz Rafiee was just months into her first pregnancy when she started feeling not quite right. The now-30-year-old had suffered with depression most of her life, but this was different. "I started to struggle more than I ever had before," she told 7NEWS.com.au.

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'I spent 3 years trying to have a baby. When she was born, I didn't want to touch her.'

Mamamia, Other, 17/09/2023, Tara Meakins

When Bec and her husband Jesse finally fell pregnant after a "rough" two-and-a-half-year journey involving two rounds of IVF, they were excited and "really ready" to meet their little girl. While the Adelaide couple knew that their baby had a heart condition and would need special care after she was born, what they didn't expect was a 23 hour labour with lots of complications and an episiotomy.

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Addressing mental health problems in doctors' children

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/09/2023

Many medical organisations and health services are working diligently to reduce the enormous scale of burnout and mental injury in doctors, but further action is required to address its impact on doctors' families, writes Dr Leanne Rowe in part one of this three-part series.

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Redesigning mental health care to stop people 'going in circles'

The Strengthening Medicare Report lays the foundation to redesign mental health care around a generalist approach, fundamentally helping reverse Australians' poor mental health outcomes. Bea*, a 28-year-old, is struggling with her mental health, but she is not seeing her GP for mental health support, she has other health priorities she needs to address.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Health pay divide

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/09/2023, Sue Bailey, Page 1

With industrial action by nurses looming over pay and workloads, unions back the government offering incentives to attract health workers to the state. They say the only way to compete in a challenging national and international job market is to increase wages and pay relocation expenses and HECS debts for graduate nurses.

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What is it like to be pregnant amid crazy trauma stories?

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 18/09/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 4

With shocking stories of widespread birth trauma in the spotlight, it might seem like a terrible time to be a pregnant woman in the Illawarra. But local advocate Sharon Settecasse, of Better Births Illawarra, believes this could end up being the best time to be getting maternity care in Illawarra hospitals.

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'I'm the Minister of Health': NSW MP Ryan Park savaged by nurses during secret hospital visit

The Australian, Other, 17/09/2023, Jessica Wang

Two Sydney nurses have unknowingly savaged NSW Health Minister Ryan Park who was nearly barred from entering a hospital ward, before he was mistaken as his predecessor Brad Hazzard. Sharing the story on TikTok, Kaille a nurse in Sydney's Upper North Shore said she was told by a trauma nurse there was "a minister," who wanted to "visit patients".

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Perth parents spend four agonising months in the intensive care unit not knowing if their son would survive - after losing their first child to a rare but fatal genetic condition

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/09/2023, Louise Allingham

Little Noah celebrated his first birthday in May this year. It should have been in mid-September. But there were moments when his parents wondered if he would make it at all. His mother, Sarah Girvan, gave birth to him at just 24 weeks, three days after she started having contractions. Sarah and her fianc Brad, 38, were terrified their baby would die, after losing their first son, Baby G, who was stillborn at 21 weeks.

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How nurse practitioners can help address rural health workforce shortages

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/09/2023

Nurse practitioners could play an integral part in addressing the rural health workforce shortage, write Rachel Rossiter, Katie Prior and Rosemary Phillips. The persistent challenges arising from nationwide shortages of general practitioners in regional, rural and remote Australia are well known. [...] On successful completion, the candidate is eligible for endorsement from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia to use the legislatively protected title of nurse practitioner.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

\$3.6b fund to pay for wage rises

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/09/2023, Jacob Shteyman, Page 8

Increases to frontline worker wages in NSW will be made possible by a \$3.6 billion fund as the Minns government reveals how it will pay for its signature policy of removing the public sector wage cap. The four-year funding commitment will support long-term pay growth for workers such as nurses, paramedics, health workers, police, firefighters, prison officers, teachers and child protection workers, Treasurer Daniel Mookhey says.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Ceremony recognises tireless efforts

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 18/09/2023, Page 5

The friendly face who helps cancer patients settle into their Tamworth accommodation has been recognised with a volunteer award. Cecily Wicks is the welcoming face at the Cancer Council NSW Inala House at Tamworth hospital, where she supports patients from regional and remote communities.

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We definitely need more officers: mayor

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 18/09/2023, Rachel Gray, Page 2

Only days out from the NSW state budget, Gunnedah's mayor Jamie Chaffey said 24-hour policing and the full upgrade of Gunnedah hospital are the two top priorities for the shire. Cr Chaffey met with senior staff from the NSW Police Minister Yasmin Catley's office and state treasurer Daniel Mookhey's office in Sydney on Wednesday, September 13.

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The impact of burnout on medical education

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/09/2023, Anne Powell

One does not simply wake up one morning at the age of 49 and decide to start a PhD. Despite coming from an extensive line of teachers, no one in my family had ever pursued a career in academia or completed a PhD, so it was never something I thought about as I finished my medical degree and later obtained my fellowship with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

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Pharmaceutical company sponsorship of doctors: is gender equity a concern?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/09/2023, Barbara Mintzes and David Menkes

Pharmaceutical companies often provide gifts and payments to doctors and other health professionals. Such support is associated with greater prescribing of promoted medicines, 1 including more expensive drugs without advantages compared with standard treatment.

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Reducing medication-related problems: GPs and pharmacists come together

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/09/2023

A trial to improve collaboration between GPs and pharmacists to reduce medication-related problems in patients is under way in Queensland. People at risk of serious medication-related problems, including patients with atrial fibrillation, heart failure or cardiovascular disease, are the focus of a trial being carried out in Queensland.

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

A hard-fought win to save local pharmacies

Burnie Advocate, General News, 18/09/2023, Gavin Pearce, Page 13

I wholeheartedly support access to cheaper medicines, but it should never come at the expense of our community pharmacists who play such a crucial role in the provision of primary healthcare right across the North-West, West Coast and King Island. That's why, for months, I've been representing local pharmacists in Canberra who say that they were not adequately consulted by the Labor government before they announced their new 60-day dispensing policy, risking the very viability of pharmacies across our region and the nation.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No need to means test NDIS: Shorten

Canberra Times, General News, 18/09/2023, Page 11

NDIS Minister Bill Shorten is confident the government can rein in billions of dollars worth of spending to make the scheme sustainable without means testing participants. The National Disability Insurance Scheme is expected to cost the public purse almost \$42 billion this financial year - a more than 14 per cent increase - and could cost as much as \$90 billion by 2031/32.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Morgan, first Indigenous league international, mourned at 85

The Australian, General News, 18/09/2023, Travis Meyn and Robert Craddock, Page 5

The NRL has been urged to induct Indigenous trailblazer Lionel Morgan into its Hall of Fame following the former Kangaroos flyer's death. Morgan, who died in Brisbane at the weekend aged 85, was the first Indigenous man to play Test rugby league for Australia, scoring two tries in his Kangaroos debut against France in 1960.

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Marathon heat puts dozens in hospital

At least 26 people have been taken to hospital, seven of them in serious condition, after running the Sydney Marathon in heatwave conditions yesterday. About 17,000 took part in the marathon and more than 20,000 ran in associated distance events as the temperature peaked at 32 degrees.

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Call to extend anti-siphoning protection to sports streaming

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 18/09/2023, Calum Jaspan, Page 34

Australia's free-to-air networks are urging the government to extend its anti-siphoning protections to digital sports rights, in a bid to prevent streaming services and pay-TV providers from putting major events behind a paywall. Majority Rupert Murdoch-owned Foxtel Group, which operates the sports streaming service Kayo, says broadcast rules are outdated, and relaxing regulation would create more competition and innovation in sports broadcasting and unlock extra funding for grassroots sport.

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

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Sports club or road: can't have both

Age, General News, 18/09/2023, Kieran Rooney, Page 1

A booming suburb in Melbourne's west could be forced to make a difficult decision between fixing its traffic problems or building a sports facility for clubs that are bursting at the seams. A junior cricket club that runs its operations out of garages is facing an uncertain wait for a headquarters as cost pressures and flood management force Wyndham City Council to review a new Werribee sports precinct that several growing clubs would have called home.

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The grandest farewell

Herald Sun, General News, 18/09/2023, Patrick Carlyon, Page 1

Long ago we were told that Ron Barassi had already arranged his funeral. He wanted to reach 100, of course, an endeavour furnished with regular bouts of gym or golf or sudoku. But Barassi was Barassi. He was prepared. There was even talk at the time of scattering his ashes on the MCG, a notion that disturbed wife Cheryl, who openly wondered if footballers cared to be "sliding around" in her husband's remains.

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DV respect in sports delay

West Australian, Edition Changes, 18/09/2023, Hannah Cross, Page 9

The State Government is failing to deliver its promise to expand its respectful relationships program to the sport and recreation sector in 2023, despite the move being announced 2 years ago. The Department of Communities has admitted the sport and recreation version of the program which was meant to kick off at the beginning of the year has not even been designed yet.

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They fled the Taliban ... now all they want is to play football

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/09/2023, Simon McCarthy, Page 12

Their mothers were calling frantically to know their children were safe. Inside the airport, as the panic set in, the girls - some of them as young as 16 - disguised in long dresses and face masks to try to avoid detection, had become separated from their families. Some had managed to hold close to a brother or sister. Ten others were left entirely alone.

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When and how Victoria's plans for the 2026 Commonwealth Games went awry

ABC Online, Other, 17/09/2023, Bridget Rollason and Leanne Wong

Last week marked another flashpoint in the search for answers as to why the Victorian government suddenly cancelled its hosting of the 2026 Commonwealth Games, shocking the nation and costing

taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. An interim report published by a Nationals-led Senate committee this week shed new light on when red flags began to emerge.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

DNA overhaul: top scientist barred

The Australian, General News, 18/09/2023, David Murray and Hedley Thomas, Page 3

The woman who exposed the wrongdoing in Queensland's DNA lab has been excluded from helping on the reform process. Kirsty Wright called out the lab's failures on The Australian's podcast Shandee's Story and was proved spectacularly right in retired judge Walter Sofronoff's subsequent commission of inquiry triggered by her findings.

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Pain cure conceived in Adelaide

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 1

In a world-first, Adelaide biopharmaceutical company Alyra Biotech is conducting human trials on a birth control device that also prevents pain. Developed and made in Adelaide, the intra-uterine device calms excess immune activation in the uterus, which can manifest in pain throughout the body.

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

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DNA fix for dismissed cases

Courier Mail, General News, 18/09/2023, James Hall, Page 1

Queensland's forensic lab has recruited nearly 30 scientists to rebuild the scandal-plagued state-run facility as the government commits another near\$100 million to deliver critical reforms. The first progress report to track the transformation of the embattled lab in the aftermath of a commission of inquiry reveals more than 70 per cent of the recommendations are either completed or underway.

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Victorian Cancer Biobank helping to develop new monitoring test

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/09/2023, Robyn Riley

Thousands of Victorians are helping with the development of a simple finger prick blood test set to revolutionise cancer monitoring worldwide. Around 40,000 have generously donated vital tissue and blood samples following cancer treatment to the Victorian Cancer Biobank (VCB) over the last two decades.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'It beggars belief': Bed bug outbreaks highlight Tennant Creek public housing issues

ABC Online, Other, 17/09/2023

Norman Frank Jupurrurla, a Warumungu Elder and traditional owner is living in public housing that's been stripped bare after bed bugs ripped through his three bedroom home. The contents of his house are at the local tip. It's the second time in six months that bed bugs have spread throughout his home in Village Camp, a community living area on the outskirts of Tennant Creek, a remote town five hours north of Alice Springs.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Three states in listeria outbreak

The Australian, General News, 18/09/2023, Charlie Peel, Page 5

Health authorities are racing to determine the common link between three separate genetically related clusters of listeria infections. The deadly bacteria has been detected as the cause of illnesses in NSW, Victoria and Queensland, where three hospitals have become the focus of a Queensland Health-led investigation into the origin of the outbreak.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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Nipah virus outbreak sparks growing concern

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/09/2023, Andrew Backhouse

A virus with a fatality rate that can reach 75 per cent is resurgent in India, sparking growing concern. Nipah virus is classified as a zoonotic disease, meaning it can jump from animals to humans. It was first identified after an outbreak in Malaysian pig farmers in 1999. It then popped up in Bangladesh in 2001 and outbreaks occur there annually, along with eastern India, the World Health Organisation (WHO) stated. More than 100 people have died of Nipah.

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Is BCG vaccination of possums the solution to the Buruli ulcer epidemic in south-eastern Australia?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/09/2023, Daniel O'Brien, Kim Blasdell, Stephen Muhi, Ben Marais, Bryce Buddle, Bridgette McNamara and Eugene Athan

Buruli ulcer (BU) is a flesh-eating infection caused by Mycobacterium ulcerans that leads to significant community morbidity, with an estimated cost to Victoria in 2016 of more than \$2.5 million. It was first recognised in Victoria, Australia, in 1948. Until the turn of the century, it was only reported in low numbers and a few localised regions, but the BU epidemic in Victoria has shown a consistent upward trend in recent years.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Over-the-counter weed to help with sleep still a dream, as clinical trials fail

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 17/09/2023, Liam Mannix

Insomniacs dreaming of obtaining marijuana in a pharmacy without a prescription to help them sleep will have to keep waiting, as several clinical trials have failed to prove its effectiveness. [...] In 2020, drug regulator the Therapeutic Goods Administration announced it would allow low-dose CBD products to be sold over-the-counter providing the industry could prove they worked as medicines.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Unwitting drug dog

Canberra Times, General News, 18/09/2023, Steve Evans, Page 1

When Olive the dog started showing increasingly erratic symptoms, the last thing owner Kathryn Hind expected was a positive result for cannabis poisoning. Canberra vets say cases of drug toxicity in animals are increasing as drugs become less criminalised.

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Price of getting out of it

Herald Sun, General News, 18/09/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 1

An alarming number of drunk and drug-affected Victorians are ending up in the country's largest adult trauma centre following serious incidents of violence or major injuries in the home or at play. A new study published on Monday has revealed at least one in three patients at The Alfred's busy Emergency and Trauma Centre in Melbourne were injured in "non-transport" events while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs known as "AOD".

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Deadly opioid concern

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 2

A strong opioid pain medication fuelling an overdose epidemic in the US is sparking concern locally. It's understood people using fentanyl, which is about 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine, recreationally have presented to Barwon Health. Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association acting executive officer Scott Drummond said we were likely to see more fentanyl going forward, as well as similar highly hazardous novel substances.

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NSW rejects pill testing for summer festival

SBS, Other, 17/09/2023

In Australia, over the past two decades, deaths from accidental drug use have risen by 71 per cent, with most users unaware exactly what they are taking. In an open letter petition to the Premier of New South Wales, advocates claim that testing the pill can save lives,

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Less than half registered for PFAS claim

Daily Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2023, Taylor Dodge, Page 2

Less than half the landowners eligible for compensation over toxic firefighting foam contamination at Forest Hill have applied for a share of class action cash. The Federal Court last month approved a \$132.7 million settlement, meaning funds will start flowing to around 3900 registered landowners living near seven separate defence force bases across the country.

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