



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 19th September 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Queensland's chief health officer, John Gerrard, has confirmed that M&J Chickens easy serve breast fillet 2kg packs is the source of nine listeria cases across three states.
- **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 2) reports that a new residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders will be built in Watson and will be run by Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services. Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith stated that the facility will "promote rehabilitation and recovery in a culturally safe and inclusive environment."
- **[Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 3) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has announced an inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic response. Former prime minister Scott Morrison has stated the inquiry will need to have the powers to compel current and former state officials to appear, otherwise it would be "obsolete."
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that doctors are reporting an increase in type 2 diabetes in children and are calling for a national database that will accurately reflect the growing rates of the condition in children under 18.

- [Courier Mail](#) (page 7) reports that Health Minister Shannon Fentiman announced that the Paxman scalp-cooling machine at Gold Coast University Hospital will be fixed, with the machine one of only two in the state. *Also reported by: [Courier Mail](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

COVID inquiry hits opposition

Australian Financial Review, General News, 19/09/2023, Phillip Coorey, Page 3

Labor's long-promised inquiry into Australia's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic will not be a royal commission, sparking concerns that it may not have the powers to adequately scrutinise the role played by the states.

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

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Fast-acting insulin added to PBS

Australian Seniors News, Other, 18/09/2023

The Government has approved a new form of fast-acting insulin to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from October 1st. [...] "Australians with type 1 diabetes can breathe a sigh of relief knowing they will continue to have affordable access to fast-acting insulin," said Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

Who's CAR T is about to be funded?

Pharma In Focus, Other, 18/09/2023

Australians may finally get subsidised access to Gilead's CAR T therapy Tecartus for mantle cell lymphoma if the states agree to a recent proposal. Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, revealed in Parliament last week that the Federal Government had reached an agreement with Gilead over the price of Tecartus.

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Coffers over coughers: Government 'laughs all the way to the bank' with massive \$4.3 billion cigarette tax hike over five years

Sky News Australia, Other, 18/09/2023, Caleb Bond

The federal government keeps taking smokers for a ride as it jacks up the tobacco excise under the guise of discouraging an evil, writes Caleb Bond. [...] Announcing all this during the week, Health Minister Mark Butler also trumpeted that \$1.5 billion dollars of illegal tobacco had been intercepted since 2018-19.

[Read More](#)

Butler promises to 'reset' mental health commission as CEO resigns

WA Today, Other, 18/09/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos

The National Mental Health Commission's chief executive has resigned after a review found the organisation had a poor workplace culture and was operating at a \$6 million loss this year, prompting Health Minister Mark Butler to promise he would strengthen the agency as he embarks on broader reform of the system.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Paul Murray Live, 18/09/2023, Paul Murray

Murray says PM Anthony Albanese is running away from COVID Royal Commission promise. He states according to the Australian Financial Review, Health Minister Mark Butler is expected to announce soon a deep inquiry into the pandemic response.

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2CC, 12:00 News, 18/09/2023

The Government has now reached a deal with the drug maker to list an alternative with the same chemical makeup. Health Minister Mark Butler says it will help about 15,000 people better manage their blood sugar levels.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Drive, 18/09/2023, Chris O'Keefe

Interview with Dr Nick Coatsworth about illegal cigarettes and illegal vapes. O'Keefe says Health Minister Mark Butler recently announced a massive tax hike on people that purchase cigarettes to the point where it's now more than \$1 per stick, \$1 per cigarette in tax is what people pay. Coatsworth states the policy is a clear driver if it gets too expensive for people to go and get chop to manage their nicotine habit or to go and get illegal vapes. He believes one of the mistakes from a public health policy perspective, though, is that to assume that there's some sort of linear relationship between increasing tobacco excise and levying that tax and people quitting smoking.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Breakfast, 18/09/2023, Ben Fordham

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister, about availability of Fiasp, a fast-acting insulin used by diabetics. Butler says they found a permanent solution with a new Fiasp product. Butler says the Fiasp Penfill works in the same way to minimise spikes in blood sugar levels and will be listed on the PBS from the 1 October.

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6PR, 10:00 News, 18/09/2023

A new ultra-fast acting insulin will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme helping the 15,000 types one diabetics who rely on it. Manufacturer Novo Nordisk planned to pull Fiasp a flex touch from the PBS, saying it was no longer commercially viable but has struck a deal to list an alternative. Health Minister Mark Butler says the Fiasp Penfill works in the same way to minimise spikes in blood sugar levels.

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MINISTER WELLS

Trailblazing carers from Kiribati boost aged care ranks in Port

Port Macquarie News, Other, 18/09/2023, Lisa Tisdell

A group of workers from the Pacific country of Kiribati has made history in Port Macquarie as the first graduates of an aged care program that helps to fill workforce shortages. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the professionalism and commitment that the PALM scheme workers bring to their workplace is enriching the lives of the older Australians in their care.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Little Wings is a lifeline

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 18/09/2023, Page 4

A special medical retrieval plane will join the Little Wings fleet dedicated to transporting seriously ill children in regional, rural and remote locations. [...] Pharmacist and Assistant Minister Emma McBride commented, "all Australians deserve to have access to quality primary care, not just those who live in major cities".

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Don't forget your booster

Dandenong Star Journal, General News, 19/09/2023, Sahar Foladi, Page 4

The South East's Hazara community is being targeted in an innovative promotion to lift Covid-19 vaccine booster rates. Data shows that linguistically and culturally diverse individuals make up 58 per cent of Australia's population that's unvaccinated with a booster dose, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care website.

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Who really benefits from private health insurance rebates? Not people who need cover the most

ABC Online, Other, 18/09/2023, Yuting Zhang, Judith Liu & Nathan Kettlewell

The Australian government spends \$6.7 billion a year on private health insurance rebates. These rebates are the government's contribution towards the costs of individuals' premiums. [...] A recent consultation report commissioned by the federal health department reviewed a range of health insurance incentives.

Also reported by: [OverSixty \(Online\)](#), [UTS News Room \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Dementia care revolution: Tamar Krebs' rementia approach

Aged Care Insite, Other, 18/09/2023, Arshmah Jamal

Tamar Krebs has been revolutionising how people view dementia through her work at Group Homes Australia (GHA) by reviving the idea of rementia'. [...] In early September, the Department of Health and Aged Care released its final draft report on the design principles and guidelines for renovating or building aged care facilities.

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Taskforce created to set public service guardrails for AI

InnovationAus, Other, 18/09/2023, Justin Hendry

A new government taskforce has been tasked with forging a set of guardrails for the use of artificial intelligence in the Australian Public Service, as the Albanese government seeks to prevent a repeat of a robodebt-style automation delivery fiasco. [...] Technical and policy experts from the Australian Taxation Office, Department of Finance, Department of Health and Aged Care, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Department of Home Affairs will contribute to the multi-disciplinary team.

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Health professionals to be reviewed

PS News, Other, 18/09/2023

The Department of Health and Aged Care has launched a new review to see how health professionals work across their primary health care system and whether they can operate more effectively. The 'Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce Review' is now on the way with the review team wanting to hear from anyone with an interest in the practice of Australia's health professionals working in primary care.

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How many practices have opened and closed in your area?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 18/09/2023

This month, newsGP asked every PHN about new general practices and those that shut their doors over the past year. Here is what we were told. [...] Several PHNs deferred to the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoH).

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Have your say in Scope of Practice survey

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 18/09/2023

The RACGP is asking members to contribute to its submission into a Federal Government review of Australia's health workforce and its future. [...] The 'Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce Review', commissioned by the Department of Health and Aged Care, was announced last month, and is aimed at ensuring Australia is optimising the skills and training of its medical professionals.

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CORONAVIRUS

'Superjab' coming

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/09/2023

Australians will be eligible for a 'superjab' to protect them from both COVID and the flu by 2026 thanks to Moderna, The Weekend Australian has reported. The US biotech company has slated its anticipated launch date for the product, which will combine vaccines for the flu and COVID-19 into a single shot for the first time.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Elderly are 'sitting ducks' and live in fear

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 19/09/2023, Charlton Hart, Page 7

A quiet Palm Beach retirement village has been "violated" by young criminals with elderly residents "living in fear". Cars, jewellery, cash and sentimental items have been stolen during repeated break-ins at the upmarket community, with private security called in to patrol the estate at night.

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Dementia terrifying

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 19/09/2023, Page 6

Almost a third of Australians find people living with dementia frightening. Dementia Australia chief executive Maree McCabe AM said she was alarmed by the results of successive surveys showing 32% of Australians found people living with dementia frightening, an increase from 23% a decade ago.

Also reported by: [6PR \(Online\)](#), [Australian Ageing Agenda \(Online\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

Tasered woman's family call police actions 'disturbing'

Canberra Times, Other, 18/09/2023, Maeve Bannister

The family of a woman who died after being tasered say they want justice for their mother, claiming they begged for her to receive medical help during a nine-hour stand-off with police. Krista Kach, 47, died in hospital last week following an incident in which she barricaded herself inside her Newcastle unit.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Australian-first dementia respite program for Victoria

Australian Seniors News, Other, 18/09/2023

Funding of \$1.7m from the Federal Government has been received for an Australian-first program set to use escapes in nature to improve the quality of life for people living with early-stage dementia (PLWD) and their carers in Victoria's Loddon-Mallee region. The innovative three-year GreenCare Respite project aims to boost relief and wellbeing for people living with early stage dementia (PLWD) and their carers.

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Aged care support worker pay rise plea submitted

HelloCare, Other, 18/09/2023, Bianca Iovino

United Workers Union (UWU) have now lodged a submission with the Fair Work Commission (FWC) pushing for aged care support workers to receive the same 15% pay correction awarded to other aged care workers nationally earlier this year. "Support workers are often the first worker on the scene when aged care residents are in distress or have had a fall," Carolyn Smith, UWU Aged Care Director said at a press conference on Friday in Perth, Western Australia.

[Read More](#)

Untreated high blood pressure linked to dementia

Your Life Choices, Other, 19/09/2023, Andrew Gigacz

If you are on the older side of 60, controlling your blood pressure might be more important than you think. Aside from stroke, heart disease and kidney disease, there is also a known link between hypertension and dementia.

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5AA, Mornings, 18/09/2023, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Maree McCabe, CEO, Dementia Australia about a new survey that shows around a third of Australians believe living with dementia is frightening, sparking calls for greater awareness and understanding. McCabe says it's concerning to think that 30% of people who took the survey find people living with dementia frightening and that 80% of families and carers with a loved one living with dementia feel that they're treated differently in cafe, public spaces, restaurants, those sorts of places. She estimates around 400,000 Australians living with dementia and by 2058, without a breakthrough of some sort, there'll be close to a million.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 18/09/2023, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Dementia Australia has renewed calls for government and business leaders to make the community more dementia friendly. Research by the peak body found 80% of people with a family member living with the condition felt those diagnosed were treated differently at shops and cafes. Dementia Australia's Maree McCabe says a recent survey suggests a third of Australians find people with dementia frightening.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Mid West, Esperance and Kimberley see drop in unintentional drug-induced deaths while other regions rise

West Australian, Other, 19/09/2023, Jessica Moroney & Madeleine Clark

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

[Read More](#)

Heads of Cadia Newcrest gold mine front inquiry, apologise over 'breakdown' in community relations

ABC Online, Other, 18/09/2023, Joanna Woodburn & Xanthe Gregory

The head of a New South Wales mine facing criminal charges has used a public inquiry to apologise to residents near Australia's biggest gold operation after they raised health concerns about dust coming from its site. Alleged dust pollution from Cadia Mine near Orange prompted the parliamentary inquiry

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Fears for future of young diabetes patients

The Australian, General News, 19/09/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

New evidence has emerged that the growing incidence of type 2 diabetes in children is a nationwide trend, with paediatric endocrinologists in western Sydney revealing they are also treating children with the disease and speaking of their fears of the devastating complications that lie ahead for their patients. Doctors in northern Australia this week 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 endstage renal failure by the age of 30.

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

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Chemo hair loss saviour

Courier Mail, General News, 19/09/2023, Kylie Lang & Madura McCormack, Page 7

Queensland is drastically lagging behind other states in the use of a world-leading machine that reduces hair loss during chemotherapy. Only two public hospitals have the Paxman scalp-cooling machine despite there being 47 in public hospitals nationally.

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

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Could your daily probiotic actually be bad for you?

The Courier Mail, Other, 18/09/2023, Peta Bee

A probiotic a day may not keep the doctor away It's a market worth \$91 billion, but is our love affair with popping a daily probiotic based on bad science? Here's what the experts say.

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

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New hope for people diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis

About half a million Aussies suffer from it with pain so intense they struggle with everyday tasks but finally there's new hope drugs can stop a life-changing condition. Almost half a million Australians suffer from rheumatoid arthritis but Associate Professor Mihir Wechalekar hopes to stop it in its tracks.

[Read More](#)

The 'old person' disease killing as many kids as cancer

West Australian, Other, 19/09/2023, Jacob Shteyman

Most people think dementia is only something to worry about in old age but the disease is surprisingly common in children, placing a devastating burden on kids and their families. Childhood dementia, like its geriatric equivalent, is a general term for a group of genetic disorders that rob kids of their memory and their ability to walk, talk and recognise loved ones.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Thunderstorm asthma conditions similar to fatal 2016 season

Australian Doctor, Other, 18/09/2023

The peak season is expected to begin next month. Allergy sufferers have been put on alert for thunderstorm asthma, with an ambulance leader warning conditions are akin to those before Melbourne's deadly event seven years ago.

[Read More](#)

The deadly heart condition you might not know you have

SBS, Other, 18/09/2023, Biwa Kwan

As many as 30 per cent of Australians are living with an undiagnosed heart condition known as atrial fibrillation, or a-fib, increasing their risk of a potentially fatal stroke or heart failure. [...] And that's something we're working with the government and other bodies; like the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance and Heart Foundation to try and expand and recalibrate these tests for the betterment of all Australian heart health."

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Model of good health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/09/2023, Sue Bailey, Page 7

A state-of-the-art pharmacy on Hobart's eastern shore, which has nurse practitioners, is hoping to relieve the pressure on GPs and hospital emergency departments, its owners say. Kristina Fox and Julie Sorrentino started work on the new community pharmacy model 18 months ago, working in collaboration with other healthcare professionals.

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Ward revamp made possible by locals

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 19/09/2023, Page 17

The smile on Kayla Henley's face at the official opening of the \$4.3 million revamp of Wollongong Hospital children's ward says it all. The teen receives treatment at the hospital every third month for IV chemo and has been in the hospital countless times over the past years battling leukaemia.

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'My 18mo's diagnosis was terminal, we need more hospices for kids like my son'

“What they did there for my son and my family was amazing. They made us feel like a family again,” Melbourne dad Ryan told Kidspot.

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

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NSW Health Minister on COVID, health funding into the next 12 months

4BC, Other, 18/09/2023, Clinton Maynard

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park joined Clinton Maynard to preview the looming state budget, discussing the current state of COVID, funding for staff and the mistake that saw him almost booted from a hospital.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 18/09/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Queensland has just identified its best and worst emergency departments in around half of all cases in many hospitals right across the Greater Brisbane region and in regional Queensland. Some of the worst locations include Redcliffe Hospital as well as Ipswich Hospital. Other locations include Bundaberg, Rockhampton and the Princess Alexandra Hospital. On top of that, other locations like Ipswich, Caboolture and Logan have been identified as really bad for hospital ramping.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Postcard check-in to stamp out loneliness

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/09/2023, Page 5

Australia Post and Beyond Blue have again joined forces to distribute four million prepaid Connection Postcards to households across the country during September, encouraging people to check in with friends and loved ones. Research indicates nearly half of all Australians will face mental health challenges during their lifetime.

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

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Call to bridge care gap

Border Watch, General News, 19/09/2023, Page 5

South Australian psychiatrists are seeking State Government support to address a lack of mental health care services in regional and rural areas. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) called on the State Government to urgently invest in the rural psychiatric workforce.

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How men can show suicidal distress

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 19/09/2023, Natalie Croxon, Page 4

For Mark Ellis, talking about suicide is a regular part of life. Mr Ellis, 56, first experienced suicidal thoughts at about the age of eight and now works in suicide prevention for Roses in the Ocean, the national organisation for lived experience of suicide.

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Teachers say poor mental health, excessive screen time, the biggest problems facing young people

ABC Online, Other, 18/09/2023, Conor Duffy & Leonie Thorne

Poor mental health and excessive screen time are the biggest problems facing young people,

according to a new survey of more than 2,000 Australian teachers. Teachers have told a national survey that poor mental wellbeing is the biggest problem facing young people

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 18/09/2023, Joe O'Brien

New mental health lessons will be taught in schools as part of English, Humanity and Arts. The move from National Curriculum Authority comes as national survey of teachers by Beyond Blue reveals almost 85% said mental health was the biggest challenge facing their young people and that things had worsened in the last year.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 18/09/2023, Sammy J

For the first time, mental health lessons will be offered in English, the humanities and the arts. As schools struggle with a growing mental health challenge in young people. Education ministers from around Australia tasked the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority with designing lessons to help students struggling after natural disasters and the pandemic. The new mental health lessons aim to teach students about wellbeing and accessing support across a broader range of subjects. Sharon Foster from ACARA says the curriculum Connections Lessons will launch today to support teachers so that they can do this well and do it consistently. National surveys have shown increasing concern from teachers about students mental health.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 18/09/2023, Sarah MacDonald

Interview with Rose Jackson, New South Wales Mental Health Minister. MacDonald says police officers and the union who covers the police officers want the government to be not continuing with the policy that they are the first point of call. Jackson says expanding the remit of first responder to include mental health clinician is a sensible and important conversation to have. She agrees often police response escalates a situation when the intention is to de-escalate. She believes there are certain situations where a specialist mental health first response is appropriate. She notes NSW Health has mental health crisis response team, but they don't have a standalone first responder mental health crisis response.

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Radio National, Life Matters, 18/09/2023, Hilary Harper and Michael Mackenzie

Interview with Jill Newby, Associate Professor, Clinical Psychologist, Black Dog institute and UNSW Sydney. Newby discusses their randomized trial of a programme designed to help curb negative thinking.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Birthing services inquiry bid

Launceston Examiner, General News, 19/09/2023, Matt Maloney, Page 5

Labor is set move a motion to establish a parliamentary inquiry into reproductive and maternal health care following calls from the community for a proper investigation into birth trauma in Tasmania. It is planned that the motion for an inquiry be moved when state parliament resumes towards the end of the month.

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

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

'It's not enough'

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 19/09/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 1

NSW budget handouts worth thousands of dollars each to health students if they join the public system have been dismissed as too little with many seeking out higher paying roles in the private sector or interstate. President of the Wollongong University Medical Students Society Eleanor West (pictured) said an \$8000 lump sum for existing students worked out to be \$4.30 a day which would be wiped out by the 7 per cent indexing of HECS debts.

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Govt hopeful of UK recruitment drive but union says the key is better pay for our nurses

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/09/2023, Sue Bailey

With industrial action looming by Tasmanian nurses over pay and workloads, unions want the government to offer 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.

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

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6PR, Perth Live, 18/09/2023, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Dr Emil Djakic, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Djakic discusses call by RACGP for the removal of red tape when it comes to criminal history checks for health practitioners.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Major breakthrough for diabetics across Australia

2GB, Other, 18/09/2023, Mark Levy

The Federal Government is listing a new form of fast-acting insulin, Fiasp Penfill, on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 1 October. This will serve as a replacement for the original Fiasp medication that is being taken off the Scheme.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacists to complete two hours of training to diagnose UTIs: Vic Govt

Australian Doctor, Other, 18/09/2023, Antony Scholefield

Pharmacists wanting to offer UTI and contraceptive consults under the Victorian Government's controversial pharmacy prescribing pilot will start their training next month. [...] Premier Daniel Andrews, who announced the pilot program as part of his re-election campaign, said the out-of-pocket medicines cost would be capped at the maximum PBS co-payment price.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacists key to stronger primary care

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 18/09/2023

As the first phase of consultation opens for the Federal Government's Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce Review (previously known as the "Scope of Practice Review), the Pharmaceutical

Society of Australia (PSA) is reaffirming its commitment to supporting pharmacists' roles across the health system.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 18/09/2023, Max Fatcher and Sharyn Ghidella

There's relief tonight for Australians living with diabetes, with a key drug Fiasp is set to return to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme by 1 October. The Federal Government has negotiated with the supplier who withdrew the drug earlier this year.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Pharmacist prosecuted

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/09/2023

The Health Care Complaints Commission has prosecuted a complaint against pharmacist Sabina Grewal before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal. It was alleged that between Nov 2014 and Mar 2021 while registered as a pharmacist, Grewal failed to disclose to the National Board relevant changes to her criminal history in her application for renewal of her registration.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

'I was planning my funeral': How an organ donor pulled Marianne back from the brink

Age, General News, 19/09/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 6

Marianne Thrush had just weeks to live when she received an unexpected phone call. It was a transplant nurse, urgently telling the then 32-year-old that an organ donor had been found.

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SPORT

Foxtel slams proposal to put women's sport on free TV list

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 19/09/2023, Sam Buckingham-Jones, Page 17

Putting women's sports on a government list designed to keep key games freely accessible for Australians would be a mistake, entrenching a "grass ceiling" on the players and sporting codes, Foxtel says.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#)

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The Anna-Harvey texts behind a \$2.5b Olympic boondoggle

If you live outside the sunshine state, you might be unaware things are looking dire for Annastacia Palaszczuk. If polling is to be believed, Palaszczuk is heading for a crushing loss in next year's state election.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Study aims to unravel dementia riddles

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 19/09/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 13

Mostly, Charlotte Colley is just like any other two-year-old. She goes to daycare, loves splashing in the pool or at the beach, and has no problems letting her parents Brett Colley and Sarah Matthews know exactly what she wants.

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

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Adelaide's pain killer contraceptive ready for human trials.

The Mercury, Other, 18/09/2023, Brad Crouch

A revolutionary Adelaide-made contraceptive that could calm pain from pelvic problems to headaches is ready for its first tests on women. A revolutionary Adelaide-made contraceptive device that also prevents pain is ready for its first tests on women.

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Australian research leads the way towards dementia prevention

HelloCare, Other, 18/09/2023, Alex Jacobs

Australian research is investigating potential links between gut health and cognitive decline, opening doors to new dementia prevention tools. Over 400,000 Australians are currently living with dementia , a number that's set to double within the next 30 years.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

New health precinct to be built in Watson

Canberra Times, General News, 19/09/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 2

A residential rehabilitation facility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders will be built in Watson, with the ACT government lodging its plans for the development with the territory's planning authority. The facility will be part of a broader health precinct which will also include a youth mental health service, run by Marymead CatholicCare, and a youth rehabilitation service run by the Ted Noffs Foundation.

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

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The Voice will help close the gap, public health expert says

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 19/09/2023, Natalie Croxon, Page 6

An indigenous public health expert says the Voice to Parliament offers the opportunity to address the health inequality that leads to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people dying up to nine years younger than other Australians. Dr Summer May Finlay is a senior lecturer in Indigenous health at the University of Wollongong and a Yorta Yorta woman who lives on Dharawal country in Wollongong, with a history working for a range of organisations, including those in the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector.

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

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Dr Stephen Hagan files defamation claim against TAIHS

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 19/09/2023, Caitlan Charles

Indigenous activist Stephen Hagan has launched legal action against the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service, claiming the organisation defamed him and took "revenge" on him for speaking out. In December 2021, Dr Hagan was sacked as health service's chief executive officer, with the organisation saying he had mismanaged its finances.

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

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JCU will start free monthly shuttle buses from Yarrabah to offer basic dental care

The Courier Mail, Other, 18/09/2023, Kristina Puljak

Monthly shuttle buses from Yarrabah to the JCU Dental Clinic started this week as part of a new initiative bringing free dental care to the community after claims that only 100 of the 4000 residents have seen a dentist all year. JCU's initiative Restoring the Smiles of Yarrabah Shire' will provide free basic treatments for all Queensland Government issued concession card holders in Yarrabah, running monthly shuttle buses until May 2024.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Demand to axe 'killer' Bunnings product

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/09/2023, Courtney Gould, Page 3

Bunnings has been urged to immediately pull a range of trendy kitchen benchtops that have been linked to an incurable disease that's killing tradies. The national construction union have taken its demands directly to the hardware giant's chief executive Michael Schneider, warning it was "unconscionable" to keep engineered stone benchtops on Bunnings' product line up.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Australia's perpetual nuclear waste problem

ABC Online, Other, 18/09/2023, Phillip Adams

More than \$100 million was spent on the now abandoned plan to build a nuclear waste facility near Kimba in regional South Australia. It's welcome news for the Traditional Owners, but it by no means marks the end of the wider debate over the storage of Australia's nuclear waste.

[Read More](#)

New tech to protect Aussies during forecast extreme summer conditions

9News, Other, 18/09/2023, Savannah Meacham

New technology is acting as a weather detective to track dangerous conditions and hopefully prevent negative health consequences, as Australia braces for extreme heat this summer. A climate chamber

lab at Sydney University replicates heat waves of the past, including Melbourne in 2014, Adelaide in 2009 and Chicago in 1995, and humans are then exposed to the extreme conditions.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 18/09/2023, Peter Mitchell

Victoria is a step closer to having its own supply of mRNA vaccines with construction of the Moderna manufacturing facility ahead of schedule. The Clayton plant will begin production in the latter half of next year capable of generating up to 100 million mRNA respiratory vaccines annually. When finished, the facility will be the biggest of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Hindsight 20/20 vision after magpie attack

Border Mail, General News, 19/09/2023, Page 11

A man is urging cyclists to wear protective glasses after he almost lost his sight in one eye in a frenzied magpie attack at Yarrawonga. [...] We had to get approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration," Dr Ojaimi said.

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

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ASX cannabis stocks making almighty push for approval with clinical trials

The Australian, Other, 18/09/2023, Nadine Mcgrath

In theory, cannabinoid products can be sold over the counter at pharmacies, but more than two years after Australian rules changed, no company has managed to clear tough regulatory hurdles. [...] In light of the increasing global recognition of medicinal cannabinoids, Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) reclassified low-dose cannabidiol (CBD) from a prescription medication (Schedule 4) to a pharmacist-only medicine (Schedule 3).

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [2GB \(Online\)](#).

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2GB, Breakfast, 18/09/2023, Ben Fordham

Interview with Jeremy Buckingham, New South Wales Legalise Cannabis Party. Levy says the market for medical cannabis is booming and the Therapeutic Goods Administration is worried it's being driven by the recreational market and use. He adds the TGA is concerned the medicinal market is pushing the boundaries and says the prolonged therapeutic use of unapproved medicinal cannabis products calls into question the appropriateness. Buckingham, states overwhelmingly Australians are choosing medicinal cannabis because of its therapeutic benefits. He notes they welcome a regulated medicinal cannabis market but points out that ultimately there's a need to move to a legalised cannabis market so there'll be no crossover that they're beginning to see.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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Crook from the chook

Courier Mail, General News, 19/09/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 1

A listeria-tainted chicken product could be in commercial kitchens in hospitals, nursing homes and cafes, chief health officer John Gerrard has revealed, as experts hone in on the source of one of three outbreaks. Dr Gerrard confirmed Queensland Health's network of food detectives had worked out M&J Chickens easy serve breast fillet 2kg packs (batch no. A5497) was the source of nine listeria cases across three states so far.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 7, Seven News, 18/09/2023, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella

Health investigators have tracked down the source of a mysterious listeria outbreak at Queensland hospitals. Dr John Gerrard, Chief Health Officer says the disease likely spawned from meat produced in a Sydney factory. Samples of the chicken was matched with the four cases here at the Mater Hospital and one at the Redcliffe Hospital.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 18/09/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with GP. Dr Jenny Mansberg to discuss the listeria outbreak in Queensland, NSW and Victoria.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 18/09/2023, Peter Overton

An urgent health warning has been issued after a popular brand of chicken was identified as the likely source of a listeria outbreak in three states, including New South Wales. The product chicken's easy serve breast fillets.

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