



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 7th October 2023

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)  
| [Coronavirus](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)  
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)  
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)  
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)  
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)  
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |  
[First Nations Health](#) | [Office of Health Protection and Emergency Management](#)  
| [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office for Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)  
| [AICIS](#)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a leaked draft timeline of events leading up to the cancellation of the 2026 Commonwealth Games has revealed the new Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan publicly labeled the Games as making "tremendous progress" about an hour before the scrapping of the games was triggered by senior state bureaucrats warning then premier Dan Andrews against further bailouts.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald \(page 1\)](#)** reports it has been confirmed by Federal Environmental Minister Tanya Plibersek that three of the most notorious "forever chemicals" made by US manufacturer 3M will be banned in Australia by the end of the year. Minister Plibersek said "After a decade of stagnation and falling behind the rest of the world under the Liberals and Nationals, Labor is taking action on industrial chemicals, including PFAS".
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has vowed to address growing concerns that school bullying is driving more young people into mental health care, with experts fearing the rise in AI technology could exacerbate the problem. "Every young person should be able to focus on their schooling and social life, free from the scourge of bullying," Ms Fentiman said, adding that the government had funded a \$1.64 billion



Better Care Together plan which will endeavour to “support children and young people experiencing mental health issues”.

- **The West Australian (page 1)** reports a family has sent the Perth Children’s Hospital CCTV footage of their young son attempting to end his own life after he was denied access to mental health treatment. Once he was admitted to the 5A Ward, he was attacked by another patient. WA Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson said “The State Government is doing everything it can to recruit additional psychiatrists, and I am always open to further solutions”.
- **The Hobart Mercury (page 7)** reports that the state government has decided not to renew the licence for the fundraising arm of Tasmania’s Westpac Rescue Helicopter service, which it requires to obtain donations and sponsorships.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Cystic Fibrosis Centre open

Western Sydney Express, General News, 01/10/2023, Page 5

Adults living with cystic fibrosis can now access state-of-the-art care in Australia’s first dedicated Cystic Fibrosis Specialist Service ward at Westmead Hospital. [...] Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said the purpose-built ward in the Westmead Health Precinct would provide essential support and treatment for people living with this common genetic disorder, which impacts approximately 3,600 Australians.

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### Save with script changes

Bundaberg Today, General News, 06/10/2023, Page 26

From 1 September, millions of Australians living with an ongoing health condition have been able to get two months’ worth of medicine for the price of one. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said every single Australian would benefit from the freeing up of millions of much-needed GP visits, so doctors have more time to diagnose and treat conditions, instead of simply issuing routine, repeat scripts.

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### England plans to raise smoking age annually, following New Zealand's lead

Articles Listnr, Other, 06/10/2023, Caitlin Duan

In a move that follows New Zealand’s world-leading smoking crackdown, the age at which people can purchase cigarettes and tobacco in England is set to increase by one year each year, effectively introducing a legal ban on smoking for the next generation. [...] Australian Health Minister Mark Butler said the Albanese government will monitor the impact of smoking bans in New Zealand and the UK as pressure mounts for Australia to keep pace with them.

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### Govt ‘committed’ to fixing bulk-billing rules after telehealth paperwork backlash: AMA

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/10/2023, Sarah Simpkins

The Minister for Health and Aged Care will consider legal changes to remove the “frustrating” paperwork demands on GPs’ bulk-billed telehealth appointments, the AMA says. [...] AMA vice-president Dr Danielle McMullen said she had explained to health minister Mark Butler that GPs were frustrated with “unnecessary red tape”.

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### Paediatrician and Researcher: Why I am voting yes in the Voice Referendum

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/10/2023

In recent weeks both Noel Pearson and Health Minister Mark Butler have highlighted a condition



known as rheumatic heart disease as the exemplar of why we need an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Rheumatic heart disease is a major cause of suffering and early death in Australian First Nations people, yet for non-Indigenous Australians it is essentially a disease of yesteryear.

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## The rising tide of diabetes: Inquiry delves into alarming health trend

SBS, Other, 06/10/2023, Ruth McHugh-Dillon

The government is currently considering submissions to a federal inquiry into diabetes, a condition that's on the rise across Australia. [...] It's one of the many gaps in healthcare outcomes that Health Minister Mark Butler says his government wants to close.

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## MPs throw blame

Swan Hill Guardian, General News, 06/10/2023, Phoebe Doyle, Page 7

In what has now turned into a case of the blame game, Member for Mallee Anne Webster has hit back at claims made by the federal Health and Aged Care Minister about who is at fault for the closure of regional GP clinics. Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler told The Guardian last week that he believed it was the actions of the former government that had created a healthcare mess for Labor to clean up, claiming that the 2023-24 federal budget delivered a \$6.1 billion investment to strengthen Medicare, including \$3.5 million in bulk billing incentives.

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## Thorpe responds after neo-Nazi threat

The Saturday Paper, Other, 06/10/2023, Rick Morton

[...] Australian Health Minister Mark Butler said that as Australia progresses its own reforms, he would be monitoring the UK and a similar New Zealand scheme closely ( ABC "The UK and New Zealand have responded to the specific tactics of Big Tobacco' marketed to their populations, and we will monitor their implementation success with interest," he said.

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## Butler intervenes on bulk billing consent debacle

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/10/2023

Health Minister Mark Butler has moved to "streamline" consent requirements for telehealth bulk billing after an outpouring of GP anger. While the announcement hasn't officially been made at time of writing, the RACGP has been told by Mr Butler's office to share a statement with members.

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## MUCC rollout 'passes pub test'

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/10/2023

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has doubled down on his promise to have 34 more Medicare urgent care clinics up and running by the end of the year, despite the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine confirming a minimal impact on emergency department pressures. Speaking on the ABC's RN Drive program earlier this week, Mr Butler said he was "very confident" the remaining 36 of 58 promised MUCCs would be open by the end of the month, despite just 22 being opened in the 17 months since his government's election.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

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[Back to Top](#)



## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Bulk-billing Cessnock Medicare Urgent Care Clinic opens

Cessnock Advertiser, Other, 06/10/2023, Damon Cronshaw

A bulk-billing Medicare clinic was officially opened at Cessnock on Friday in a federal government move to ease pressure on emergency departments and people's hip pockets. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride said the clinics were an example of the Albanese government "strengthening Medicare and making it easier to see a doctor".

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Australia moves to ban three 'forever chemicals'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/10/2023, Carrie Fellner, Page 1

Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek has confirmed the federal government will now effectively ban three of the most notorious "forever chemicals" made by US manufacturer 3M by the end of this year. [...] Today they are expected to be found in the blood of all Australians, according to the Department of Health.

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

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### Health forum for mayors

Young Witness, General News, 06/10/2023, Page 9

Hilltops Council Mayor Margaret Roles recently joined with more than 70 Country Mayors Association members to attend a Health Forum in Wagga. [...] Professor Ruth Stewart outlined her role as National Rural Health Commissioner, and talked about the pathway of rural and remote communities in health.

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### MyMedicare program launches, offering new benefits to millions of Australians

7news.com.au, Other, 06/10/2023, Hayley Taylor

The new MyMedicare program launched on Sunday. [...] In the four calendar days since patient registration opened, about 2900 practices completed the MyMedicare registration process and 10,300 patients enrolled, a Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson told 7NEWS.com.au.

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### Mental health experts call for specialised training for emergency first responders on borderline personality disorder

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2023, Wing Kuang



Looking back on her early 20s, Carissa Wright describes her episodes of borderline personality disorder (BPD) at that time as "rough and isolating". [...] A spokesperson at the federal health department said it is state and territory governments' responsibility for training first responders, including the delivery of specialised training for mental health emergency first responders.

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## **Govt 'committed' to fixing bulk-billing rules after telehealth paperwork backlash: AMA**

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/10/2023, Sarah Simpkins

The Minister for Health and Aged Care will consider legal changes to remove the "frustrating" paperwork demands on GPs' bulk-billed telehealth appointments, the AMA says. [...] AMA vice-president Dr Danielle McMullen said she had explained to health minister Mark Butler that GPs were frustrated with "unnecessary red tape".

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## **Prominent 'mums and bubs' GP clinic faces liquidation with \$500,000 in debts**

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/10/2023, Sarah Simpkins

A mums and bubs GP practice and charity owes potentially \$500,000 to creditors, including the federal Department of Health and Aged Care, administrators say. The Possums for Mothers and Babies clinic, founded by GP Dr Pamela Douglas 12 years ago, also offered training courses for doctors before it entered voluntary administration in August.

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## **Nurse tampered with vaccines at CWH**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/10/2023, Megan Haggan

A pharmacist became suspicious of a patient's requests for privacy before receiving the Covid-19 jab and when she checked the store's CCTV, spotted professional misconduct in the consulting room.

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## **Covid-19 health initiative targets Pashto community**

Berwick Star News, Other, 06/10/2023, Jin-Hui

The Pashto-speaking community in Casey has been engaged with a tailored Covid-19 health initiative to boost immunity. [...] The strengthening immunity in community initiative was sponsored by the Department of Health and Aged Care, created in partnership with translation and multicultural communication agency LEXIGO.

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## **More than a third of young Australians experienced mental health disorder in past 12 months**

CathNews, Other, 06/10/2023, Natasha May

Almost two in five Australians aged between 16 and 24 have experienced a mental disorder within the past 12 months, according to new data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. [...] Ruth Vine, the deputy chief medical officer for mental health in the Department of Health and Aged Care, said the last time the survey was conducted in 2007 there was similar prevalence of anxiety and mood disorders among the general population.

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## **New strain of COVID-19 detected in Australia**

New Idea, Other, 06/10/2023

Speaking with news.com.au a spokesperson for WA's health department encouraged Aussies everywhere to remain "vigilant" in the coming weeks. [...] "According to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, an average of 724 Australians are testing positive for Coronavirus every day.

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## Bulk-billed telehealth requirements nothing new: DoHAC

Pulse+IT, Other, 06/10/2023, Kate McDonald

The Department of Health and Aged Care has not made any new laws requiring general practices to fill out forms for patients during telehealth consultations in order for them to be bulk billed. The clarification follows online complaints from several GPs saying the requirements were a "bureaucratic nightmare" that will discourage practices from bulk-billing telehealth []

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## Movers & Shakers: Ball rolling on Australia's CDC

The Mandarin, Other, 06/10/2023, The Mandarin

[...] Jason Lange, executive director at the Office of Impact Analysis (OIA) within PM&C, is moving to the Department of Health and Aged Care to help establish Australia's Centre for Disease Control (CDC). Lange's title at Health will be assistant secretary, implementation — Australian Centre Disease Control establishment branch.

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## LEXIGO partners on in-language COVID campaign

Third Sector, Other, 06/10/2023, Menchie Khairuddin

Lexigo has partnered with local communities to launch a co-created, in-language healthcare promotion initiative. [...] "We are proud to partner with the Department of Health and Aged Care on this vital initiative.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CORONAVIRUS

### Combined COVID-19 and flu vaccine getting closer to reality

9News, Other, 06/10/2023, Mikala Theocharous

Pharmaceutical company Moderna is making significant progress on a combined vaccine for both COVID-19 and influenza. The medical giant says phase two of its research into the combination jab has shown positive results.

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### New study reveals Australian Long COVID response lagging

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 06/10/2023

A new study from RMIT University and Northern Health has examined Australia's Long Covid services, guidelines and public health information compared with international standards. The researchers found Australia lacking in several categories, including early investigation, accessibility and availability of trustworthy public health information, and adequate multidisciplinary Long COVID services to meet demand.

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### 'Ruined lives': Tina Arena blasts McGowan, Andrews in wild Covid rant

NEWS.com.au, Other, 06/10/2023, Jack Evans

Renowned Australian pop icon Tina Arena has labelled two former Australian premiers a "piece of work" over some of Australia's harshest Covid-19 restrictions. The West Australian interviewed the star about an upcoming gig at the Perth Concert Hall when she unleashed on former premier Mark McGowan's Covid-19 response, which she claimed left Perth "pretty much locked away".

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

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[Back to Top](#)



## Call for a national public education campaign to fight ageism

Australian Seniors News, Other, 06/10/2023

Ageism Awareness Day has been designated for tomorrow, October 7th, to remind all Australians of the harmful and damaging effects of stereotyping, discrimination and mistreatment directed towards older Australians. The recognition of this day was pioneered by EveryAGE Counts which is Australia's national campaign against ageism.

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## New ownership on the horizon for determined Feros Village residents

HelloCare, Other, 06/10/2023, Alex Jacobs

There's good news and some bad for the last eight residents living at Feros Village Byron Bay after their steadfast refusal to leave the aged care home entered its seventh month. The New South Wales Government has announced an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for new ownership to keep the ageing facility going.

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## A voyage of maritime memories for people with dementia and their carers

HelloCare, Other, 06/10/2023, Bianca Iovino

The Australian National Maritime Museum has been trailing sessions aimed at people with dementia and their carers to promote story-sharing, social interaction and connection with huge success. Their Sydney-based session called Seaside Stories is an onsite reminiscence and story-sharing program where participants can touch and hold museum objects while sharing their stories and experiences in a safe and welcoming space.

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## Getting hip about early care

Medical Forum, Other, 06/10/2023

Every year, more than 19,000 Australians many of them elderly fracture their hip. Now revised guidelines are aimed at ensuring they get more timely treatment.

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## Victorian Aboriginal Elders Summit discusses First Nations Elders experiences around aged care

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/10/2023

The two-day Victorian Aboriginal Elders Summit was held this week on Bunurong/Boon Wurrung Country/Melbourne, showcasing several high-profile First Nations people and their experiences around aged care in Australia. The event featured panel discussions, poetry, musical and dance performances, as well as stories.

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## Hairdressers, carpenters, aged care workers among most in-demand jobs

The New Daily, Other, 06/10/2023, Matthew Elmas

Australia's most in-demand jobs have been revealed by the federal government with trades and white collar roles making the list, including carpenters and childcare workers. The latest Skills Priority List found 36 per cent of occupations are currently "in shortage" amid the tightest labour market conditions in decades, with unemployment at a low 3.7 per cent.

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[Back to Top](#)



## Doctors who study death to save the living

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/10/2023, Jackson Graham, Page 34

No one saw Tyson Manders fall. One minute, the 26-year-old father of two was off riding N motorbikes with his wife's nephews at their farm. The next, he was lying motionless on the ground.

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## Women are less likely to receive bystander CPR than men due to fears of 'inappropriate touching'

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2023, Paige Cockburn

We'd all like to assume if we went into cardiac arrest in the street, someone would come to our aid. But it turns out gender can affect your chances of being resuscitated and women are at a disadvantage.

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## Popular weight loss drugs linked to higher risk of stomach paralysis

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/10/2023

Drugs like Ozempic, which have become increasingly popular for losing weight, heighten the risk of certain severe gastrointestinal problems including stomach paralysis, according to a large study published Thursday. The paper, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), looked at a class of drugs called GLP-1 agonists that includes the brands Wegovy, Ozempic, Rybelsus and Saxenda.

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## Gestational diabetes is serious

Medical Forum, Other, 06/10/2023

A recent article in The Conversation has stirred the pot by questioning the value of diagnosing and treating gestational diabetes in pregnant women. Bond University Professor of Medicine Paul Glasziou and University of Queensland Clinical Professorial Research Fellow Jenny Doust cited one in six pregnant women now diagnosed with the condition a doubling of cases since new criteria was developed in 2010.

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## It's not just what you eat, it's the order you eat it for better health (so save the chips and bread until last)

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/10/2023, Anahad O'Connor

Scientists have found that it's not just the type of foods you eat that can influence your health and metabolism, but the order in which you eat them. A growing number of studies have found that eating fibre-rich vegetables, protein or fat at the start of a meal, and eating refined carbohydrates like rice, bread or pasta last, can improve blood sugar levels and stimulate higher levels of hormones that promote fullness and satiety.

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## 2GB, Drive, 06/10/2023, Chris O'Keefe

Interview with Professor Jason Kovacic, Director and CEO, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. Kovacic discusses the study revealing women are less likely to receive CPR from a random bystander than men are, due to inappropriate touching. He notes it is one of the two or three studies that have shown the same thing.

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## 5AA, Mornings, 06/10/2023, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Dr Ian Musgrave, University of Adelaide. Musgrave discusses concerns through international studies on the family of diabetes drugs that includes Ozempic, which is associated with increased risk of gastrointestinal issues.



## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Bowel cancer breakthrough

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/10/2023, Page 5

An important group of immune cells in the large bowel that play a role in helping to prevent bowel cancer have been identified. Researchers from the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute also identified a molecule that suppresses these gamma delta T cells and may reduce the immune system's natural ability to fight colon cancer.

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### Raising awareness of rare diseases

Launceston Examiner, General News, 07/10/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 71

Tasmania's first full-time geneticist is hoping to bring diagnosis and improved treatments for individuals suffering from rare diseases. Clinical geneticist Matthew Wallis moved to Tasmania five years ago, and soon after moving here, established a network of researchers to increase the focus on rare diseases.

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### Cancer-killing molecules to be tested in Newcastle-Ukraine project

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/10/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 26

A Ukrainian researcher will spend three months working in a Hunter Medical Research Institute lab on new molecules that could help treat cancer. University of Newcastle Professor of Biochemistry Hubert Hondermarck secured a \$30,000 grant to bring Dr Nataliya Finiuk to the Hunter for the project.

*Widely syndicated across regional publications*

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### 'He woke up sneezing ... but I had to take him to hospital three times to find out why'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/10/2023, Josephine Agostino

When Jess's son, Wyatt, woke up sneezing one day, she naturally assumed he had caught yet another cold from kinder. Those sniffles of the then three-year-old soon turned into a fever, and the Melbourne mum was told by her family doctor that it was a virus and to "keep an eye on it".

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

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### In-brief: October 2023

Medical Forum, Other, 06/10/2023, Perth Radiological

Leading blood cancer researcher Professor Chan Cheah has been named Cancer Council WA's 2023 Cancer Researcher of the Year. A clinical haematologist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, he founded Blood Cancer Research WA in 2016, and since then it has enrolled 800 people with lymphoma and other blood cancers into clinical trials.

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### Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 06/10/2023, Kieran Gilbert

Interview with Mike Climstein, Associate Professor, Southern Cross University. Climstein discusses the world first trial to understand how effective artificial intelligence technology is in diagnosing melanoma.

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### 3AW, Breakfast, 06/10/2023, Ross Stevenson and Russel Howcroft



Interview with Craig Sinclair, Head of Prevention at Cancer Council Victoria. Sinclair discusses Cancer Council Victoria's view on whether smoking should effectively be banned in Australia. He notes it is a bold move from the UK but they are in a different spot than Australia.

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[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Ramping falls but still a long way from fixed

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/10/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 28

Ambulance ramping fell by 11.6 per cent in September compared to August but 3290 hours were still lost. Acting Health Minister Susan Close said there were some pleasing trends but "there is no sense of complacency or mission accomplished".

*Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications*

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### Chopper funding fears

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/10/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 7

The chairman of Tasmania's Westpac Rescue Helicopter service says taxpayers will now be on the hook, potentially for millions, after a "crazy" state government decision to not renew the licence its fundraising arm requires to obtain donations and sponsorships. Tony Harrison said the Tasmanian Air Rescue Trust would no longer be able to donate money to the service from January 14 next year, when its sponsorship licence expires.

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### Twin city surgeries put on hold as hospitals are inundated

Border Mail, General News, 07/10/2023, Beau Greenway, Page 3

Albury Wodonga Health has been forced to reschedule a host of non-urgent surgeries due to a huge influx of emergency presentations. The health service told The Border Mail on Friday it had been required to postpone several elective procedures to prioritise urgent care.

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### Halt on rescue helicopter sponsorship

Burnie Advocate, General News, 07/10/2023, Matt Maloney, Page 2

The state government has come under fire over a decision to withdraw the sponsorship licence for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Trust from January. However, Premier Jeremy Rockliff has said the decision was based on achieving the best outcome for the state, adding that it would not affect aeromedical services in Tasmania.

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### A century in the sky

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/10/2023, Anna Falkenmire, Page 16

One hundred years of serving the community, thousands of hours in the sky and a handful of jobs that won't ever leave them. Graham Nickisson, Peter Cook and Glen Ramplin, better known as 'Nicko,' 'Cookie' and 'Rampo,' have between them helped keep the Westpac Rescue Helicopter in the air for a century.

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### Doctors call for private help in at-home rehab reforms

Canberra Times, Other, 06/10/2023, William Ton

A shake-up of the delivery of out-of-hospital care by utilising more of the private health system could result in better health outcomes for patients, doctors say. The Australian Medical Association believes it



will also save millions of dollars and free up tens of thousands of hospital beds, releasing a report on out-of-hospital care models in the private system.

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## Soaring GP costs clogging emergency rooms, experts say

9News, Other, 06/10/2023, Mikala Theocharous

Experts say Australia's public healthcare system is failing, with patients no longer able to afford treatment outside of the hospital. [...] The AMA also found that each patient spends \$6200 on average for post-surgery rehabilitation costs.

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## CAPS plans 'Dear Doctor' campaign

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/10/2023, Phillip Wade

Prescribers across the country are set to receive letters highlighting the unintended consequences the government's 60-day dispensing policy will have on patients from pharmacists.

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## Evolving world of trans medicine

Medical Forum, Other, 06/10/2023

The Australian Professional Association for Trans Health released standards guidelines earlier this year. WA dermatologist Dr Ahmed Kazmi has been working with trans patients and urges doctors to move beyond the headlines.

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## HIV co-pay waiver in Qld

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/10/2023

The co-payment for all patients living with HIV in Qld will be waived, allowing access to free HIV treatment, confirmed the Qld Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services, Shannon Fentiman, this week. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Qld Branch stated it welcomes the announcement which became effective from 03 Oct.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 06/10/2023, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan

Interview with Steve Robson, President, AMA. Robson comments on the AMA calling for Federal Government to consider greater use of the private health care system to ease pressure on the hard pressed public system. He says things like hip and knee replacements to chemotherapy, and stroke care can actually be done safely and effectively out of hospitals.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 06/10/2023, Sarah MacDonald

Interview with Steve Robson, President, Australian Medical Association. Robson comments on the AMA report that shows how many hospital beds could be freed up if people took up more of out-of-hospital care options. He says it is about keeping up with times, and notes around the world there are some great models where rehab can be managed in other settings, often at home.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Fake news, miracle cures harmful to science, sufferers

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/10/2023, Wendy Tuohy, Page 33



Non-science and "blatantly false explanations" about depression are causing harmful misinformation that may mean people fail to get the care they need, a leading expert has said. Global mental health authority Professor Ian Hickie says evidence about Australia's most common psychiatric disorder is widely distorted, and dangerous myths risk putting people with clinical depression off potentially successful treatments.

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## The little known binge eating disorder caused by extreme stress

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/10/2023, Madeline Crittenden, Page 33

Since she was a young teenager, Hanna would use food as a way to deal with her emotions. Through bouts of depression and stress, she would binge until she couldn't remember what she'd eaten.

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## Social media is really making people 'sick'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/10/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 29

Munchausen syndrome by internet, where people fake illnesses after learning about them on social media, is on the rise a major medical conference in Adelaide this weekend will be told. Dr Trushna Murgahayah, an Adelaide psychiatry registrar, says pain clinics are seeing a rise in Munchausen syndrome where patients present with "complaints of symptoms which they have extracted from the internet in hopes of obtaining certain treatment or getting a particular diagnosis."

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## Bullying surge amid AI fears

Courier Mail, General News, 07/10/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

School bullying has driven up the number of young people seeking mental health care by 50 per cent and experts fear AI technology and deepfakes will inflame the deadly scourge. The private Emotional Health Unit, based at the Mater Hospital's South Brisbane campus, is reporting the surge over the past year but the trend is likely only the tip of the iceberg as kids in the public system are waiting up to 18 months to see a psychiatrist.

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

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## Horror inside Ward 5A

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 07/10/2023, Josh Zimmerman, Page 1

A family sent Perth Children's Hospital CCTV vision of their young son's attempt to end his own life in a desperate bid to secure mental health treatment after their cries for help initially fell on deaf ears. And when he was finally admitted into the now infamous Ward 5A the location of a shocking alleged rape brought to light earlier this week he was attacked by another patient.

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## Little Stars getting in the swing

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 07/10/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 16

The 2023 Little Telethon Stars have teed off for mental health, helping to raise muchneeded funds for cutting-edge research. Connor Barrett, Emily Houston, Harrison Carthew and Sophia Marshall were joined by Fat Cat to prepare for the Perron Institute's holein-one competition.

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## Wear a vital message for tradies

Ballarat Courier, General News, 07/10/2023, Bryan Hoadley, Page 2

People in Ballarat may see an increase in white t-shirts on the street, as Haymes Paint Shop team up with This Is A Conversation Starter [TIACS] to raise awareness for tradies' mental health. During October, Haymes will be selling \$5 tops as part of 'T-shirt Thursday', where all money raised will go to not-for-profit TIACS to fund additional mental health services.

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## Blown over: plans afoot to replace Orange 'Blue Tree'

Central Western Daily, General News, 07/10/2023, William Davis, Page 2

Plans for a new "Blue Tree" in Orange - possibly made of steel - are already underway following this week's destruction. Less than a year after being erected, the symbol of suicide awareness at Pilcher Park was shattered by strong winds on Wednesday night or early Thursday.

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## New Maitland mental health centre, with Morisset move

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/10/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 26

A new mental health centre will be built at the Maitland Hospital campus with forensic services moved from Morisset Hospital, the NSW government said on Friday. Planning was underway for the Maitland centre at Metford, which will provide mental health support for adults.

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

## 2 in 5 Aussies with disorders

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 07/10/2023, Page 12

More than two in five Australians (42.9 per cent) aged 16-85 years have experienced a mental disorder in their lifetime, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. One in five Australians (21.5 per cent) have also experienced a mental disorder in the last 12 months, Findings from the National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing also showed that anxiety was the most common group of mental disorder.

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## Festival to strike a chord

Weekend Post, General News, 07/10/2023, Kate Stephenson, Page 1

Thousands of people from the Cairns community are expected to band together to raise awareness for mental health at the third annual All of Us Festival on Sunday in Fogarty Park. The festival, hosted by the Dr Edward Koch Foundation's FNQ Suicide Prevention Taskforce, will highlight mental health services available in the Far North alongside a mix of performances featuring Cairns artists and performers, children's activities, food trucks, and handicraft stalls.

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## Youth mental health hot spots and cold spots across Australia

Canberra Times, Other, 06/10/2023, Dean Marchiori and James Goldie

With young people reporting higher rates of anxiety than older people, researchers are trying to understand what drives differences in mental health. For the first time, the Australian Bureau of Statistics asked Australians in the 2021 Census whether they had been diagnosed with one or more mental health conditions.

*Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications*

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## Queensland health data: 'Eating disorder pacts' at Australian schools

NEWS.com.au, Other, 07/10/2023

A Queensland teacher has sounded the alarm over a disturbing rise in "eating disorder pacts" among Aussie schoolchildren, fuelled in part by viral social media trends. An investigation into the topic by the Courier Mail revealed an astoundingly high rate of eating disorders among Queensland children and young people.

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

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## UNSW Mental Health Prize Recipient Megan Krakouer discusses community issues and the voice



Since 2016, the University of New South Wales has formally recognised the contributions of persons involved in promoting mental health or the prevention and treatment of mental illness, honouring individual achievements through annual The Australian Mental Health Prize. The recipient of this year's award, Megan Krakouer, a proud Menang woman of the Noongar nation, is a proud mother and grandmother who has worked supporting communities, advocating, reducing the impact of suicide, and playing a key role in social movements.

[Read More](#)

## Headspace Karratha unveils new mural to promote Mental Health Awareness Month

West Australian, Other, 06/10/2023, Daniel Spence

Seven tips to aid mental wellbeing now adorn the Karratha City Shopping Centre as part of a new mural, unveiled by headspace in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. Revealed at a free community event to celebrate Headspace Day on October 5, the mural intends to empower young people in the Pilbara to practise self-care and encourage those struggling to reach out for help.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Pipeline for struggling allied health sector

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/10/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 24

The Hunter's struggling allied health sector will receive a boost from a new program to supervise students who treat patients, with a focus on health and development checks for preschool children. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park announced the Rural Allied Health Educator Program on Friday.

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

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### Speaking up against injustice and unfairness

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 06/10/2023, Justin Nixon

Speaking up against injustice and unfairness, even when others around me remain silent, is a value I hold close to my heart. My name is Justin Nixon, and I am a registered nurse and a whistleblower who raised concern over the unethical practices I witnessed firsthand while working in the cosmetic surgery industry.

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[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Padcev is listed

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/10/2023

Astellas Pharma Australia has announced that its Padcev (enfortumab vedotin) is now available on the PBS as a monotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer, who have previously received a platinum-containing chemotherapy, and a programmed death receptor-1 or programmed death-ligand 1 inhibitor.



## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Witness has business ties to Al Muderis

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/10/2023, David Estcourt, Page 20

An orthopaedic surgeon who provided six expert reports defending the medical practice of Dr Munjed Al Muderis failed to disclose he worked with the prominent surgeon and is co-owner of several businesses with him. Al Muderis concluded his evidence in the Federal Court yesterday in his case against the Herald, The Age and 60 Minutes over news reports published in 2022 that he says defamed him by suggesting he performed surgery negligently, and inadequately cared for patients after their surgery.

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

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

### Cook on the run from crisis at kids' hospital

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 07/10/2023, Page 5

Premier Roger Cook has defended his failure to front reporters for three days following allegations a 13-year-old girl was raped inside Perth Children's Hospital by insisting he was "out every day of last week". Mr Cook was in Adelaide on Friday for a meeting of State and Territory leaders, where he made his first media appearance since September 28 at a pro-Voice event.

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### Tattoo model joins surgery class action

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/10/2023, Julie Cross, Page 1

A tattoo model who claims she was left with a "weird lump" of fat on her back, dents in her thighs and nerve pain following cosmetic surgery at a controversial clinic, has joined more than 1000 former patients waging a class action. The number of people making a claim after surgery at Dr Daniel Lanzer's Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery Services, based in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Brisbane, has soared to 1030, with more than 30 joining in the past month.

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

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### Roger Cook breaks silence on alleged Perth Children's Hospital rape, claims hospital is safe

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2023

The WA Premier says the alleged rape of a 13-year-old girl at Perth Children's Hospital is "every parent's worst nightmare", but he is confident the facility is now safe. His comments came on the sidelines of a meeting between state and territory leaders in Adelaide, and is the first time he has publicly addressed the incident that was revealed by the ABC earlier this week.

[Read More](#)

### South Australian GP registrar Aidan Herbert sentenced for forging opioid prescriptions

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2023, Timu King



A South Australian general practitioner registrar has been convicted of forging more than 40 prescriptions for opioid medications for personal use. Aidan Herbert, 41, pleaded guilty in Berri Magistrates Court this week to forging or uttering prescriptions between September 2021 and November 2022.

[Read More](#)

## Brisbane mum and baby sent home from Brisbane's Queensland Children's Hospital with Panadol before near-deadly meningitis diagnosis

7news.com.au, Other, 06/10/2023, Warren Barnsley

She could have died that night.' Shiva Motlag-Elbakri vividly remembers having to hold her four-month-old daughter Mytilini throughout an entire night.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## SPORT

### Games timeline exposes Allan

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/10/2023, John Ferguson, Page 1

Victoria's new Premier Jacinta Allan effusively backed the 2026 Commonwealth Games bid about an hour before the state's senior bureaucrats warned then premier Dan Andrews against further bailouts, triggering its demise. A leaked draft timeline of events leading up to the cancellation of the Games shows for the first time that Mr Andrews was told on June 13 by his most senior bureaucrats that they would likely brief against a submission for further funding to run the event.

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

### Countdown to a scandal as Games test Allan leadership

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/10/2023, Damon Johnston, Page 2

It was a crowded and chaotic hour on June 13 as Victoria's 2026 Commonwealth Games went from making "tremendous progress" to falling apart. What unfolded between 10am and 11am that Tuesday is politically seismic and threatens to shake Premier Jacinta Allan two weeks into her reign.

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### Navratilova slams gymnastics' trans stance

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/10/2023, Jacquelin Magnay, Page 11

Tennis great Martina Navratilova has criticised Gymnastics Australia declaring "what is wrong with you guys" for allowing biological males who identify as female, and permitting them access to young girls and women's changing rooms and competitions. The 66-year-old hit out at the national organisation, which boasts more than 800,000 participants and is one of the highest participation sports for children under 12 for changing its rules to allow transgender people to selfidentify and compete in all community gymnastics events.

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### Competing on level playing field

Weekend Australian, Editorials, 07/10/2023, Page 14

Tennis great Martina Navratilova was talking sense in criticising Gymnastics Australia for allowing biological males who identified as female to access young girls' and women's competitions and



changing rooms. "To say this won't end well is an understatement," she tweeted.

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## MCC expels member at centre of Lord's fracas

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/10/2023, Rob Harris, Page 6

The Marylebone Cricket Club has expelled a member at the centre of the altercations with Australian players at Lord's during the second Ashes Test in July and suspended the membership of two others following a months-long investigation. The three members involved, who have not been named by the club, were found to have used abusive, offensive or inappropriate language or behaviour.

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

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## Sharps stop touch game

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/10/2023, Page 23

A northern NSW touch football game was cancelled for safety reasons after a "large quantity" of needles were found on a sports field. A Ballina Touch Association committee member found the needles on a Ballina oval on Wednesday night and a senior's football game had to be cancelled.

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## Effect of the mighty Matildas flows on

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 07/10/2023, Page 36

Few sporting events in Australia's rich history have captivated the nation quite like the recent FIFA Women's World Cup. The performance of our beloved Matildas had fans enthralled in packed stadiums.

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## Town's indoor pool to close for \$550k upgrade

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 07/10/2023, Page 5

Maryborough's indoor swimming pool will be closed for about 10 weeks next year to allow for a half-a-million-dollar upgrade. At its recent meeting, Central Goldfields Shire Council awarded a \$550,000 contract to On Time Development to upgrade the 25-metre indoor pool at the Maryborough Sports and Leisure Centre.

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## Matildas fever saw the nation fall in love with women's sport — but that's not a new concept in the nation's capital

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2023, Anthea Moodie

Australia has continued to ride the women's sporting wave that burgeoned with the FIFA Women's World Cup but supporting women in sport is nothing new in the nation's capital. In a sporting landscape unlike any other in the country, the three main summer sporting codes cricket, basketball and football are represented in elite national competitions by women, without an equivalent men's team.

[Read More](#)

## Major twist in Brownlow betting scandal as cops launch dramatic raid on associates of former AFL umpire connected with saga

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/10/2023, Andrew Prentice

Investigations are ongoing into the 2022 Brownlow Medal betting scandal after it emerged this week police executed raids on associates of the umpire at the centre of the saga in the lead up to this year's vote count. It is understood police attended the homes of several associates of Michael Pell, the ex-field umpire who was one of men arrested over allegations he leaked Brownlow Medal votes.

[Read More](#)

## Sports medicine spotlight on women

Medical Forum, Other, 06/10/2023



Most of the research in sport and exercise medicine has been geared towards men, but attention in women's sport is changing the game. Kathy Skantzos reports All eyes have been on women's elite sports this year, with the frenzy over the Matildas in the Women's World Cup and a string of women's world-league events in cycling, tennis, rugby, golf and cricket.

[Read More](#)

## **Indigenous Basketball Australia partner with University of Queensland to boost pathways for young Indigenous athletes**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/10/2023

Indigenous Basketball Australia has partnered with University of Queensland researchers to boost sporting, educational and cultural pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young peoples. Founded by NBA champion Patty Mills and his parents Uncle Benny and Aunty Yvonne Mills, Indigenous Basketball Australia (IBA) delivers grassroots basketball programs to inspire young Indigenous players on and off the court.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## **HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH**

### **Finding a data-driven cure**

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 07/10/2023, Page 47

Using data to better understand how to fight some of the human body's worst diseases is all in a day's work for Ulf Schmitz. The James Cook University Associate Professor of Bioinformatics has given hope to sufferers of different forms of cancer and chronic kidney disease thanks to projects such as his analysis of nucleic acids in the bloodstream and how they are expressed through genes in the body.

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### **NAPSA seeks to fill vacancy**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/10/2023, Phillip Wade

Less than eight weeks after announcing its chairs for the 2023/24 term, the National Australian Pharmacy Students Association (NAPSA) has reopened nominations for its research chair position.

[Read More](#)

### **The link between blood vessel breakdown and Alzheimer's disease**

HelloCare, Other, 06/10/2023, Bianca Iovino

Researchers at the Centenary Institute have discovered a connection between the health of blood vessels and the development of Alzheimer's disease. Doctor Ka Ka Ting, the lead author of the study and a researcher in the Centenary Institute's Healthy Ageing Centre said that specific blood vessel cells, called endothelial and perivascular cells, play a crucial role in forming the blood-brain barrier a shield guarding the brain against harmful substances.

[Read More](#)

### **Simple mouth rinse could spot early CVD risk**

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 06/10/2023

Scientists in Canada think they've found a way to identify the earliest warning signs of cardiovascular disease (CVD ) from a simple saliva sample. Gum inflammation leads to periodontitis, which is linked with CVD, and the team used a simple oral rinse to see if levels of white blood cells an indicator of gum inflammation in the saliva of healthy adults could be linked to warning signs for CVD.

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[Back to Top](#)

## **FIRST NATIONS HEALTH**



## 'Out here', early death the great divide

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/10/2023, Greg Bearup, Page 5

In the remote APY Lands, locals remain unsure on the voice. Out here, the houses are overflowing with kids and cousins. The cost of fuel and fresh food is eye-watering. Teachers out here use a device called a Soundfield to amplify their voices so kids can hear through the gunk in their infected ears.

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## 'Our turn to have a say'

The Saturday Age, General News, 07/10/2023, Chip Le Grand and Justin McManus, Page 1

Robyn Ebsworth is torn. She is convinced the Voice could be a good thing for her people but is fearful how it will end if the history of Wilcannia repeats and all that is promised comes to not much.

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

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## Risking many to help the few

Herald Sun, Editorials, 07/10/2023, Page 66

As many police officers have pointed out, public drunkenness is not just the bloke who partied too hard and fell asleep on a park bench. It can be, and often is, a person who is out of control, violent and a danger to themselves or others.

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## Voting Yes a practical way to close gap

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/10/2023, Mark Dreyfus, Page 45

Over the past few months, I've been fortunate enough to travel across Tasmania and speak with people from all walks of life about the Voice to Parliament. From Hobart to Launceston to Burnie, I heard from people ready to embrace the proposal to recognise and listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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[Back to Top](#)

# OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## Flu jab saves lives, cash

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/10/2023, Page 18

About 500 lives and at least \$500m could be saved in NSW each year if just 55 per cent of under-65s had an influenza vaccination, according to a new report. The Boosting NSW's Influenza Vaccination Rate report found that the state could maximise money and lives saved by vaccinating up to two million more people under 65 against the flu.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#) and widely syndicated across regional publications

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## Music festival pill testing will save lives

Daily Advertiser, General News, 07/10/2023, Page 17

Why has it taken an apparently preventable double tragedy at a Sydney music festival to reignite the pill-testing debate? It's now almost four years since a NSW coroner recommended the introduction of pill testing, the decriminalisation of personal drug use and the scrapping of sniffer dogs at music festivals.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#) and widely syndicated across regional publications

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## Why this UOW expert wants pill testing at music festivals

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 07/10/2023, Natalie Croxon, Page 4

Chemical toxicologist Dr Jody Moller agrees with Health Minister Ryan Park that pill testing is not a "silver bullet" that will stop drug-related harm and deaths. But the two differ in their opinions as to whether pill testing should be introduced at music festivals this spring and summer to mitigate the risks associated with illicit drug use.

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## Yours and Owls wants NSW festivals to be able to use pill testing

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 07/10/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 4

The organisers of Wollongong's long-running Yours and Owls festival say they are hopeful that they will one day be able to offer pill testing for patrons. In a "housekeeping" email to people planning to attend the October 14-15 event, organisers said they were keen for the NSW Labor Government to follow in the Queensland government's footsteps and allow pill testing.

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## Taking an antibiotic after sex might help prevent STIs, study finds

The Courier Mail, Other, 06/10/2023, Sera Bozza

Low cost and high safety profile: according to a new study, taking this antibiotic within 72 hours of unprotected sex could be a game-changer, slashing STI risks by up to two-thirds for those most vulnerable. In our quest for love, intimacy, and connection, we must also navigate the increasing wave of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

[Read More](#)

## SA mother warns parents about respiratory syncytial virus after baby hospitalised in Adelaide

7news.com.au, Other, 06/10/2023, Sowaibah Hanifie

He is just so little that his body can't fight the virus on its own.' A South Australian mother is warning parents of young children about the dangers of a common virus that's hospitalised her baby boy.

[Read More](#)

## Flu shot for the healthy could save hundreds of lives, over \$1 billion

9News, Other, 06/10/2023

Hundreds of lives and up to a billion dollars could be saved in New South Wales alone each year if more people got the flu shot, a new report has found. The report, released by the New South Wales Productivity Commissioner Peter Achterstraat, detailed the gains that could be made if two million more people under 65 were vaccinated against the flu.

[Read More](#)

## Mass flu jabs urged for NSW to save 500 lives annually

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 06/10/2023, Sam McKeith

It's estimated NSW could save about 500 lives and up to \$1.3 billion every year if authorities boosted influenza vaccination rates for people aged under 65. A NSW Productivity Commission report, released on Friday, found at least \$500 million could be saved statewide annually if 55 per cent of under 65s had a yearly flu shot.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Safety search

Farms and Farm Machinery, General News, 01/10/2023, Page 18



Up to 1,000 Australian landholders are being sought to test a comprehensive active farm safety research program, led by national digital safety solutions specialist AirAgri. [...] AirAgri co-founder James Diamond says the technology uses one of the world's first software medical devices, currently in the final stages of Food and Drug Administration and Therapeutic Goods Administration approval, designed to aid in diagnosing mental health issues in rural Australia.

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## Sleep supplements are everywhere — but do they actually work?

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2023, Zilla Gordon

Need help in getting a good night's sleep? You're not alone nearly 40 per cent of Australian adults aren't getting enough shut-eye. [...] "In terms of [the] Therapeutic Goods Administration, complementary medicines are not required to prove efficacy, as long as they don't contain any prescription drugs or unsafe substance," Dr Moses says.

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[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

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[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

### Need to widen chemical bans an urgent task

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 07/10/2023, Page 28

Like 20 other students at her high school in middle America, Amara Strada battled liver cancer. She died last April aged 20. [...] That Herald investigative journalist, Carrie Fellner, who has covered the impact of forever chemicals for nearly a decade, has revealed that in 2003 a 3M scientist secretly calculated the average Australian adult had levels of PFAS in their blood at 20 times the "safe level".

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

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### 2GB, Drive, 06/10/2023, Chris O'Keefe

Interview with Professor Stuart Khan, water expert at the University of New South Wales, discussing PFAS chemicals. [...] One of the problems is that we're learning more and more about these chemicals. Long after we started using them. So they may be worse for us than we currently know. The more research that is done, the more we realise that there are other types of health effects, things like cancer and thyroid problems and immune problems and high blood pressure, and low birth weights.

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[Back to Top](#)

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