



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 1st November 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the ACT is expected to pass historic voluntary assisted dying laws allowing doctors, nurses, social workers and counsellors to be able to initiate discussions with terminally ill patients about VAD as an option. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#), [Canberra Times](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that Australian researchers are concerned that a decline in the effectiveness of antibiotics to treat sepsis, pneumonia and meningitis in children across the Asia-Pacific is now increasingly a problem in Australia.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports emergency service systems will take a "new business as usual" approach as Australia enters its eighth COVID wave, chief medical officer Paul Kelly says, with communities better protected thanks to millions of vaccines. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- **[Northern Territory News](#)** (page 1) reports that Aboriginal academic Marcia Langton has stated that alcohol bans need to be extended across the entire Northern Territory to prevent "open season in the towns."

- [Canberra Times](#) (page 3) reports that the coronial inquest of five-year-old Rozalia Spadafora has revealed that a confusing and unclear day sheet document led to two doctors assuming the other had responsibility for miss Spadafora.
- [The Australian Financial Review](#) (page 5) reports the Coalition has criticised a decision by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells' hand picked task force to not to release an interim reports on its investigations into the sustainability of the aged care sector.
- [The Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 5) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has announced a \$148.5 million investment in Medicare rebates for carrier screening designed to identify the risk of parents passing on rare genetic conditions to newborns. *Also reported by: [The Age](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

Free genetic tests can erase chance of family heartache

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 01/11/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 5

Six months and one day. That is all the time Elizabeth Tierney had to spend with her "cheeky and curious" son, Cooper, who was diagnosed with a rare and degenerative mitochondrial condition at three weeks old. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said many children with genetic conditions were born to families with no history of disease, and the \$148.5 million investment would "provide confidence to women and their partners as they plan a pregnancy and start a family".

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

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'I got it wrong': Nats leader backflips on vape ban

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/11/2023, James O'Doherty, Page 5

Federal National Party leader David Littleproud says laws around the use of vapes should be relaxed, admitting the Coalition "got it wrong" by pushing a "failed" prescription model when it was in power. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has vowed to push a vape ban through parliament this year but failed to say when a ban would come into effect.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Silence and salute to Zoe

Border Mail, General News, 01/11/2023, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

Six weeks after her death at the age of 25, Zoe Wilson has been remembered with a minute's silence at a council meeting. [...] Mrs Wilson has raised her concerns with Albury MP Justin Clancy and has also corresponded with federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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Diabetes Tasmania: A/Prof Gary Kilov, Laurie Dwyer call for CGM subsidy for people with type 2

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/10/2023, Alex Treacy

One of Tasmania's foremost diabetes experts has called for subsidies provided for continuous glucose monitoring systems to be extended to people with type 2 diabetes, which would benefit tens of thousands of Tasmanians with the condition. [...] The Mercury asked the office of federal Health Minister Mark Butler why the NDSS distinguished between the two classes of diabetes, and how much it would cost the budget annually to extend the subsidy to Australians living with type 2 diabetes, but did not receive a response.

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

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Bulk-billing boost for WA patients struggling to afford trip to the GP

Millions of vulnerable patients should have easier access to free GP appointments as major changes to Medicare come into effect. From Wednesday, the incentive paid to doctors to bulk bill children under 16, pensioners and Commonwealth concession card [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was hopeful the incentive would entice more GPs back to bulk billing.

Also reported by: [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [Busselton Dunsborough Times \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [Manjimup-Bridgetown Times \(Online\)](#).

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Canberra changes sabotage GP practice

Ipswich Tribune, Other, 01/11/2023, Rob Mellett

A Walloon GP says changes to medical boundaries and no longer being able to recruit overseas trainee doctors have had a crippling effect on his practice [...] Dr El Ashrey wrote to Federal Member for Blair Shayne Neumann, imploring him to broach the subject with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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MTAA Welcomes One Stop Shop Clinical Trials Announcement

MTAA.org.au, Other, 31/10/2023

The Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) has today welcomed the announcement by Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, of the appointment of a new Chair of the Inter-Governmental Policy Reform Group (IGPRG) for health and medical research, including clinical trials.

[Read More](#)

Review of BreastScreen Australia program welcomed by Breast Cancer Network Australia

News For Business, Other, 31/10/2023

Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) Australia's leading voice for people affected by breast cancer has welcomed last week's announcement by Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler of a review of Australia's BreastScreen program. BCNA was an active participant in the Roadmap to Optimising Screening in Australia (ROSA) project, which recommended the review.

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Questions remain over Purick's puff-up at Big Tobacco conference in South Korea

NT Independent, Other, 31/10/2023

Disgraced former speaker Kezia Purick has refused to explain the details of how she convinced Big Tobacco to allegedly pay for her trip to South Korea to speak at an international industry conference promoting smoking and vaping, which may have breached an international convention. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was contacted for comment but did not respond by deadline.

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Another shake-up on the table for specialist telehealth

The Limbic, Other, 31/10/2023, Geir O'Rourke

Telehealth items would be scrapped so initial specialist consultations only attract Medicare funding when provided face-to-face under the latest MBS revamp being considered by the federal government. [...] The changes have been recommended by the MBS Review Advisory Committee (MRAC), commissioned by Minister for Health Mark Butler to re-examine the full raft of telehealth funding offered under Medicare since the COVID-19 pandemic.

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New shingles vaccine free for older Aussies from tomorrow

Your Life Choices, Other, 31/10/2023, Brad Lockyer

From tomorrow, a new type of shingles vaccine will be added to the National Immunisation Program

(NIP) and older Australians are among those who will receive it for free. [...] "Thanks to the Albanese government, older Australians will now have free access to the best protection against shingles," health minister Mark Butler said earlier this month when the program was announced.

[Read More](#)

5AA, Breakfast, 31/10/2023, Will Goodings and David Penberthy

Comperes discuss new research which shows that the rate of vaping in Australia has almost doubled. It's up from 4% to 7.9% since just 202. It's still more than possible to get your hands on nicotine vaping products, which for the Health Minister Mark Butler, casts serious doubt on the success of the ban that was announced with much fanfare only a year ago.

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MINISTER WELLS

Aged care secrecy 'risks bipartisan approach'

Australian Financial Review, General News, 01/11/2023, Phillip Coorey, Page 5

The opposition says the government is risking political goodwill over aged care reform by refusing to release the interim report by the taskforce into keeping the sector sustainable.

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

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Day 1 Highlights: World Class to World Best

Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), Other, 31/10/2023

Welcome to our Day 1 summary of the nation's premier sport conference, World Class to World Best (WC2WB), where we will be providing highlights throughout the day from some of the leading experts in sport and innovation.[...] The Minister for Sport, The Hon Anika Wells MP delivered the opening address and spoke passionately about the vital role she sees sport playing in this country.

[Read More](#)

Minister for Sport Anika Wells addresses World Class to World Best

Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), Other, 31/10/2023

The Minister for Sport, The Hon Anika Wells MP delivers an opening address at the World Class to World Best conference at the AIS in Canberra, and spoke passionately about the vital role she sees sport playing in this country.

[Read More](#)

Townsville pensioner left fearful after home care crackdown

The Courier Mail, Other, 31/10/2023, Blair Jackson

Changes to aged home care left a Townsville man in the lurch with a garden he was scared could burn his house down. The election of the Albanese Labor government was a "watershed and uniting moment" for people who care about the state of Australia's aged care system, says Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

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

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DEPARTMENT

Eighth virus wave 'no emergency'

Age, General News, 01/11/2023, Aisha Dow, Page 1

Australia is experiencing an eighth COVID wave, but health officials remain confident in their decision to end the country's emergency response, arguing the nation will now take a "new business as usual" approach. [...] Professor Paul Kelly, the chief medical officer, said that when it recently became clear Australia was in another COVID-19 wave, he wondered whether it was the right time to end the classification of COVID as a communicable disease incident of national significance (CDINS).

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

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Quality Care and Respite: BaptistCare's Retreat for Dementia Caregivers

Mulgoa Valley Gazette, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 17

From November 21-23, BaptistCare will be holding its second, free retreat for people living with dementia and their carers in Mulgoa. [...] Fully funded by the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, the Refresh Retreat in November will be held at a local conference centre in Mulgoa and there is no charge to attend.

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Free online session on care for Forgotten Australians

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 31/10/2023, Natasha Egan

South Australian aged care provider Helping Hand is inviting aged care, health and allied health professionals to attend a free webinar to learn more about Forgotten Australians and Care Leavers. [...] Participants will hear from an Aged Care Finder who specialises in supporting Forgotten Australians and Care leavers, officers from the Department of Health and Aged Care and Helping Hand team members working on embedding the resources.

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Pharmacy remuneration tribunal roles up for grabs

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 31/10/2023, David Rowley

The Department of Health and Aged Care is seeking three recruits for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Remuneration Tribunal (PBRT), the body which determines how much pharmacists are paid for dispensing medicines. The roles the current recruitment drive aims to fill will start on May 2024.

[Read More](#)

Can you 'grow out of' a learning disability?

Disability Support Guide, Other, 31/10/2023

As more adults present with ADHD than ever, the question remains as to whether age plays a factor in underdiagnosis. [...] The delay comes as freedom of information documents were released by the Department of Health and Aged Care regarding the increase of patients presenting with the condition.

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AMA says urgent medicare clinics ignore GP wants

Nursing Review, Other, 31/10/2023, Erin Morley

Existing Canberra walk-in health clinics will be able to treat a wider range of conditions through merging with new Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (Medicare UCCs), a scheme that will bring an extra \$7.1m over three years to the sites from early 2024. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care's Operational Guidance for Urgent Care Clinics says 'UCCs will be GP led, with staffing mix based on availability, local need and context', which wasn't reflected in the UCC upgrade announcement.

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

The \$700,000 deposit that can save \$81,000 a year in costs and pension

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 01/11/2023, Louise Biti, Page 21

Any time you move to a new home unless someone lets you move in for free you need to find a lump sum of money to buy the right to live there or create cash flow to rent the home.

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No shower for a month: Horrific abuse of seniors

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/11/2023, Julie Cross, Page 16

More than 100 reports a day have been lodged by older Australians about their treatment in aged care homes, by providers and at the hands of their own family members. The 36,900 reports to the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) over the past 12 months give a heartbreaking insight into how our most vulnerable are being treated.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Aged-care murderer's 'thrill kill' fantasies

West Australian, General News, 01/11/2023, Tim Clarke, Page 16

Prosecutors believe the young aged-care worker who murdered an elderly woman at the Great Southern facility where he worked did so because he wanted to feel the thrill of a kill. Earlier this year, Jacob Hoysted admitted that he strangled Monica Stockdale inside Albany's Baptistcare Bethel aged-care home in November 2022.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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Care home tackles dementia

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/11/2023, Rob Inglis, Page 10

A groundbreaking dementia support unit has been unveiled at a major aged care facility in Tasmania's North-West to help residents cope with memory loss. The dementia memory support unit run by

Southern Cross Care, at Yaraandoo in Somerset, accommodates up to 13 people and has been designed with Montessori Consulting Australia.

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Yaraandoo opens dementia memory support unit

Burnie Advocate, General News, 01/11/2023, Simon Mcguire, Page 3

A unit dedicated to supporting those living with dementia has opened at Yaraandoo. The announcement come as the nursing home continues its quest to rebuild its reputation after years of complaints from residents, families and staff about the quality of care at the facility.

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Deep sleep a mindfield

Cairns Post, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 5

As little as 1 per cent reduction in deep sleep per year for people over 60 years of age translates into a 27 per cent increased risk of dementia, according to a new study. The Monash University findings suggest enhancing or maintaining deep sleep, also known as slow wave sleep, in older years could stave off dementia.

Also reported by: [3AW \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Meeting expectations key to success, ACCPA delegates told

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 31/10/2023, Christopher Kelly

Among the tough issues facing the aged care sector is "expectation management", the shadow minister for health and aged care told an industry event last week. Anne Ruston was speaking at the national conference of the Aged & Community Care Providers Association in Adelaide Kaurna Country.

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Sector under 'enormous amount of pressure'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 31/10/2023, Christopher Kelly

While acknowledging that the aged care sector had "come a long way" in the past 12 months, the quality regulator chief told an industry event last week: "there is much we have not yet done." Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner Janet Anderson was addressing delegates on the final day of the national conference of the Aged & Community Care Providers Association in Adelaide Kaurna Country.

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Building the leadership skills of dementia care workers

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 31/10/2023

Dementia Australia is expanding its education program to build the leadership skills of aged care workers. Dementia Australia CEO Maree McCabe said strong leadership in aged care is fundamental to the delivery of high-quality aged care.

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Dalton disappointed over facility's closure

Shepparton News Online, Other, 31/10/2023

Member for Murray Helen Dalton has voiced her disappointment after the announcement Southern Cross Care NSW & ACT's Moama aged care facility will shut its doors. Member for Murray Helen Dalton has voiced her disappointment after the announcement Southern Cross Care NSW & ACT's Moama aged care facility will shut its doors.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 31/10/2023, Max Futcher and Sharyn Ghidella

Australian researchers have uncovered a new link between poor sleep and an increased risk of

dementia. They're now encouraging anyone over the age of 60 to sleep in to fight back against the debilitating disease.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 31/10/2023, Peter Overton

A study has found an increase in deep sleep may actually help prevent dementia. A study by Monash University looked at 346 people over the age of 60 years old from 2003 until 2018.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Drink & drugs not in the mix

West Australian, General News, 01/11/2023, Kim Macdonald, Page 56

Plans for a revolutionary drop-in and dry-out centre in Perth have failed at the first hurdle with the local council refusing to support a new crisis centre for people under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The 24/7 centre on Stuart Street in Perth would operate under Cyrenian House in a new model aimed at providing immediate help to people who are intoxicated or in acute crisis related to their alcohol or drug use.

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TV host Andi Lew warns of breast implant risks after rupture almost killed her

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/10/2023, Mikaela Wilkes

Tv host and author Andi Lew is demanding the risks of breast implants be better explained to patients after she suffered a life-threatening medical problem with her cosmetic surgery. Breast implant illness is not a matter of luck, but a matter of time.

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

[Read More](#)

How international cosmetic gurus are driving girls towards surgery on TikTok

Northern Territory News, Other, 31/10/2023, Angira Bharadwaj , Elizabeth Pike & Zara Powell

Just 0.5mls of botox could change your whole face! These are the sorts of convincing messages inundating the phones of young women and driving them in droves to cosmetic surgery. Young women are being bombarded with ads for cosmetic surgery on social media platforms as experts call for an urgent intervention in marketing the procedures to impressionable young people.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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More Australians are dying than usual, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics 'excess death' data

The Mercury, Other, 31/10/2023, Andrew Hough

The rate at which Australians are dying is rising, official figures say. And the phenomenon is moving faster in some places.

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

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'Untreated fractures in youth could increase risk of Osteoporosis': Healthy Bones Australia CEO

SBS, Other, 31/10/2023, Itee Dewan

Untreated or unnoticed fractures at a young age can lead to Osteoporosis. CEO of Healthy Bones

Australia, Dr Greg Lyubomirsky, dives deep into bone health and recommends taking the free 'bone mineral density test' to know your bone health.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

New hope for Australians with brain cancer

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/10/2023

There is new hope for Australians living with the most common and deadliest form of brain cancer. Sky News can reveal that a life-changing clinical trial has opened in Melbourne.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Asthma sufferers urged to remain vigilant as they face triple whammy of conditions

3AW, Other, 31/10/2023, Neil Mitchell

Senior manager of research, information and evaluation at Asthma Australia, Anthony Flynn says the triple threat is the phenomena currently being experienced. "High pollen levels, especially in the south-eastern states, the risk of thunderstorm asthma and the threat, unfortunately that we've already seen, of bushfires," he told Neil Mitchell.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 31/10/2023, Hugh Riminton

Australian scientists had an eureka moment after accidentally discovering a new way to kill blood cancer cells with a drug called imetelstat.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 31/10/2023, Michael Thompson

Fresh hope tonight for leukaemia patients who no longer respond to existing treatments. Queensland researchers stumbling onto a groundbreaking discovery in 2019, finding a new drug able to help kill blood cancer cells. Phase two of their clinical trial is now underway.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 31/10/2023, Ricardo Goncalves

The Australian Capital Territory is the latest jurisdiction to introduce a voluntary assisted dying bill. If passed, the laws would be accessible to locals over the age of 18, with advanced and progressive conditions and those with strong connections to the act. They would also need to be acting voluntarily and have decision making capability in its current form.

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PRIMARY CARE

ACT's nurse-led euthanasia

The Australian, General News, 01/11/2023, Rhiannon Down & Rosie Lewis, Page 1

Nurses, social workers and counsellors will for the first time be able to initiate discussions about voluntary assisted dying as an option for terminally ill people in the ACT, under what will be the most liberal framework in the country if enshrined in law. The legislation, which the Labor-Greens government introduced to the ACT parliament on Tuesday, also elevates the position of nurses to play a role in conducting assessments of a patient's eligibility and administering the life-ending medication.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Intersex laws pushed family to find new city

The Australian, General News, 01/11/2023, Joe Kelly, Page 8

Matthew Higginson made the difficult decision to relocate his family from Canberra to rural NSW to ensure he would not face criminal offences for proceeding with a series of medically necessary surgeries to correct a genital defect affecting his young son. [...] The AMA's ACT president, Walter Abhayaratna, said it was important that patients were provided with greater choice over their treatments but acknowledged concern among health professionals about some of the technical issues raised by the new laws including the impact the legislation would have on pediatric care resourcing.

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Tax to make GP jobs critical

Herald Sun, General News, 01/11/2023, Mitch Clarke & Sarah Booth, Page 8

Applying a "draconian" payroll tax to GPs will accelerate the decline in medical graduates entering general practice and worsen workforce shortages, doctors say. The warning comes after the Herald Sun revealed Treasurer Tim Pallas's offer to waive fees for doctors if they faced the prospect of going under.

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

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Scanner a game changer

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/11/2023, Rob Inglis, Page 2

The head of the Royal Hobart Hospital's emergency department says the installation of a new "state of-the-art" CT scanner will improve outcomes for patients and reduce stress for clinicians working in a "highly stressful and time-poor environment". The SOMATOM X.ceed CT, engineered and manufactured by medical technology company Siemens Healthineers, is one of the fastest computed tomography (CT) scanners on the market and boasts the largest bore size of any diagnostic CT.

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Loved-ones praise VAD as 25 end lives

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/11/2023, David Killick, Page 4

There were 25 deaths under Tasmania's voluntary assisted dying laws in 2022-23, the VAD Commission's annual report reveals. There were 72 first requests made under the Act by people aged between 42 and 95, with 66 per cent related to cancer.

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Murdoch shift the right call

West Australian, General News, 01/11/2023, Neale Fong, Page 58

As former director-general of health I am very familiar with the Reid Review and oversaw its implementation between 2004 and 2008. In 2004 it set out a plan for the future of WA's hospitals to best serve our rapidly growing population.

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Clinic offers hope of faster diagnosis

Newcastle Herald, General News, 01/11/2023, Michael Parris, Page 7

A new clinic designed to speed up attention deficit disorder diagnoses and treatment will open in Wallsend. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park announced at John Hunter Hospital on Tuesday that the government would spend \$7.7 million over two years on the pilot service in the Hunter New England and Western NSW health districts.

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Kidney, maternity health boost for NQ

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 01/11/2023, Blair Jackson, Page 3

A Townsville hospital has \$25m on the table to improve maternity and dialysis services in North Queensland. Mater Private Hospital's Pimlico campus has been approved for funding worth \$25m through the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility.

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

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Doctors missed his brain tumour, now this 8yo has permanently lost his vision

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/10/2023, Alexandra Feiam

Hamza Ibrahim is just like any other eight-year-old boy. Obsessed with soccer and hanging out with friends, you could easily find the Adelaide boy watching Harry Potter or playing a game of basketball after school.

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

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Palliative care sector told funding won't increase in next 24 months

The Courier Mail, Other, 31/10/2023, Alex White

The palliative care sector says a state government funding freeze will make things "very challenging" and will add to the strain on the healthcare system. More dying Victorians will be forced into hospitals rather than being cared for at home putting huge strain on the state's health system, sector experts warn.

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

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NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says building hospitals not the way to solve emergency department crisis

Northern Territory News, Other, 31/10/2023, Joanne Vella

His government has pumped \$3bn into building and upgrading hospitals, but developing new facilities is not the way to solve the growing emergency department crisis in western Sydney, Ryan Park has claimed. The Health Minister has told a throng of leaders the crisis gripping western Sydney hospitals' emergency departments won't be solved by building more facilities despite vowing to deliver a new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital.

[Read More](#)

Queensland's opposition ramps up pledge on ambulances

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 31/10/2023, fraser barton

Ambulance ramping in Queensland will have set targets that reduce numbers to 15 per cent under a state opposition election pledge. Liberal National Party leader David Crisafulli said his party would prioritise reducing ramping across the state's hospitals if elected at the October 2024 poll.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 31/10/2023, SAMMY J

Interview with Dr Anita Munoz, Victorian Chair, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Munoz says Vic Treasurer Tim Pallas offer to waive that payroll tax for some GP's who would risk closure if they had to pay it circumvents what is the essential problem with payroll tax in general practise in the state. She states they'll continue to maintain a very strong position that GP's that are

providing medical services to patients are not employees of general practises. She warns about a third of general practices in Victoria could close.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 31/10/2023, Max Futcher and Sharyn Ghidella

A trip to the doctor should be cheaper from tomorrow for children, pensioners and concession card holders. The Federal Government is tripling the bulk billing incentive for those groups in metro areas. General practitioners will get back \$20.65 for a standard consult, up from just under \$7.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 31/10/2023, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

Getting access to a free doctor in Adelaide could become easier from tomorrow when a tripling to the Federal Government's bulk billing incentive kicks in. But there's concerns it doesn't go far enough, with the extra support only covering vulnerable groups. The Commonwealth will increase its support to GP's. Under the changes, doctors who bulk bill will be less out of pocket for a standard \$79 appointment. Medicare will continue to cover \$41. On top of that, the Government will now pay GP's \$20.60 \$5 instead of \$6.85.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Ban the airbrush to save our kids

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 16

Influencers should stop airbrushing their pictures online given the record rates of eating disorders and body distress affecting millions of young people, Australian of the Year Taryn Brumfitt says. The best-selling author, writer and body campaigner said rates of eating disorders among teenagers had doubled over the past two years and called for action in a speech to the National Press Club.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Surprise honour for BlackDog leaders

Daily Advertiser, General News, 01/11/2023, Andrew Mangelsdorf, Page 1

Riding for life Black Dog Ride stalwarts Bear and Nerolie Falconer have been honoured for theirwork to help combat suicide and depression. Bear, who says the awards came as a complete surprise, hopes it will further reduce the stigma surrounding both issues.

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Menopausal women should not be given HRT to treat depression, guidance says as prescriptions soar

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 31/10/2023, Xantha Leatham

Figures show the number of HRT prescriptions have soared in the last year Menopausal women should not be prescribed HRT for depression , according to landmark guidance. A growing number of women are turning to hormone replacement therapy (HRT) to alleviate distressing symptoms of the menopause

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Baby drought in WA worsens

West Australian, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 9

WA's baby drought is officially one of the worst in the nation, data has revealed. Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on Tuesday showed WA's birth rate had the second-biggest fall in 2022 compared with other States, with only Tasmania having a larger decrease.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Medical clinic can't meet demand due to GP shortage

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 01/11/2023, Monique Patterson, Page 5

A Warrnambool medical practice has to turn away potential new patients every day. King Street Medical Clinic practice manager Anita Singh said until now, efforts to recruit new doctors had proved fruitless.

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GPs, schools and TikTok: The search for 40,000 Qld health recruits

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 31/10/2023, Matt Dennien

The Queensland government will offer incentives for GPs to relocate to the state and pay a new cohort to upskill in obstetrics or anaesthetics as it grapples with national workforce shortages. A campaign focusing on social media will also try to convince 15-to-18-year-olds to take up a public health career to help fill the estimated 40,000 new public health roles needed over the next decade as the state's population grows.

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

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Obstetrician expected legal threat from 'nasty, bullying' colleague

The Courier Mail, Other, 31/10/2023, Vanda Carson

Text messages between a group of Brisbane obstetricians has been shared in court as a court case into their alleged cartel conduct continues. A turf war between midwives and regional doctors is allegedly to blame for a lack of recruitment for maternity services in Queensland.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Radio National, AM, 31/10/2023, Sabra Lane

In regional towns across Tasmania, it's becoming increasingly difficult to see a doctor - un-viable clinics are closing their doors, and GPs are leaving to work elsewhere. Some communities want to see nurse practitioners fill in those gaps, to ensure patients can still access care.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Supply issues mean Ozempic clients sent elsewhere at twice the price

Australian Financial Review, General News, 01/11/2023, Julie Hare, Page 3

Customers with prescriptions for the diabetes and weight-loss drug Ozempic from telehealth company Eucalyptus have been told to either use an alternative, Mounjaro for double the price halve their

dosage or go without until more becomes available amid a c...

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

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From no pharmacist to 'same level of care'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 31/10/2023, Megan Haggan

A virtual pharmacy service was able to offer rural and remote hospital patients the level of pharmacist care enjoyed by people in major cities, rural pharmacists say. The data, by Anna Packer and Brett Chambers from the Western NSW Local Health District, Dubbo, was presented at a poster session at the International Pharmaceutical Federation congress

[Read More](#)

Qld expands vax scope

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 31/10/2023

The vaccination scope has been expanded in Qld yesterday, with the new Extended Practice Authority (EPA) to allow pharmacists to vaccinate Queenslanders aged two years and older. It also authorises pharmacists to deliver vaccinations in more settings, including general practices, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander health services, and aged care facilities.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Mother's victory on genetic tests

The Australian, General News, 01/11/2023, James Dowling, Page 9

Genetic carrier screening tests for three of the most devastating birth defects will soon be provided free by Medicare thanks to a mother's determination to save other families from fatal birth defects. Genetic screening for cystic fibrosis, spinal muscular atrophy and fragile X syndrome will be available for the first time through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

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

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Bulk-billing incentives: Best Practice warns of problems with MyMedicare items

Australian Doctor, Other, 31/10/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Best Practice says it lacks access to Services Australia data on MyMedicare registration. Software maker Best Practice has warned GPs that bulk-billing incentives linked to MyMedicare will need to be added separately to MBS claims following tomorrow's Medicare overhaul.

[Read More](#)

GP repays \$455,000 in rebates and cops six-month ban on claiming MBS item 23

Australian Doctor, Other, 31/10/2023, Heather Saxena

A GP has agreed to repay almost half a million dollars to Medicare after admitting inappropriate claims for various skin procedures and consultation items, the Professional Services Review (PSR) says. The watchdog handed the GP a six-month ban on claiming MBS items 23, 36 and 91801 (telehealth consultations lasting at least 20 minutes) and a 12-month ban on MBS claims for removing subcutaneous foreign bodies.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9 Darwin, National Nine News, 31/10/2023, Paul Murphy

From tomorrow, couples planning to start a family will be able to test for some of the most common genetic disorders for free. But parents say there's still a way to go to prevent the heartbreak

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'I'm so sorry': ED doctor sobs at inquest

Canberra Times, General News, 01/11/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

A coroner has reassured an emergency doctor who sobbed and apologised during an inquest. A lawyer for the ACT government was stopped from asking Dr Kirsty Dunn questions on Tuesday as the doctor gave evidence at the coronial inquest of five-year-old Rozalia Spadafora.

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Suspended pharmacist linked to Bombers scandal makes extortion claim

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 31/10/2023, Cameron Houston

A compounding pharmacist who played a key role in the Essendon peptides scandal has been suspended by the medical industry watchdog following a raid of his South Yarra pharmacy business. Nima Alavi was suspended by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) last month and is unable to practise while he remains the subject of an investigation that also involves the Victorian Pharmacy Authority.

[Read More](#)

Adam Fitzpatrick coronial inquest finds doctors showed 'unsatisfactory professional conduct'

ABC Online, Other, 31/10/2023, Lucas Forbes

A coronial inquest has found four doctors involved in the care of a 20-year-old man who died following a serious car accident displayed "unsatisfactory professional conduct" in his treatment. An expert says Australia needs to standardise tracheostomy procedures

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Vic drunkenness law change will go ahead

Shepparton News, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 6

Victoria's premier has defended pushing ahead with changes to public drunkenness laws on Melbourne Cup Day, despite construction delays to a dedicated sobering up centre. The government had intended for a 20-bed facility in Collingwood to be part of the health response when being drunk in public is no longer a crime in Victoria from November 7.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Call to ban junk food advertisements in NSW

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/10/2023

The New South Wales health minister will be considering a London-style junk food ad ban for NSW public transport. More than half of Western Sydneysiders are overweight.

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

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Channel 9, Today, 31/10/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen, and Jayne Azzopardi

Interview with Brian Marlow, Executive Director of the Australian Taxpayers Alliance about new research that has found regulating and taxing nicotine vapes could inject \$6 billion into the federal budget bottom line over the next three years.

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SPORT

Rugby World Cup: review to scrutinise RA spending

Australian Financial Review, General News, 01/11/2023, Zoe Samios, Page 9

Rugby Australia will investigate whether it spent too much money on the World Cup, amid speculation that hundreds of thousands of dollars were used for executive accommodation and sponsorship events at a sporting event in which the Wallabies were eliminat...

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SBS scores exclusive rights to 2026 FIFA World Cup

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 01/11/2023, Calum Jaspan, Page 8

SBS has secured exclusive rights to broadcast the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup, to be played in the United States, Mexico and Canada. The hybrid public broadcaster, which relies on advertising revenue and public funding, is the incumbent rights-holder, having aired the 2022 World Cup in Qatar in November and December.

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

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Australia will not bid for 2034 World Cup, with Saudi Arabia set to win hosting rights

ABC Online, Other, 31/10/2023

Australia will not bid for 2034 World Cup, with Saudi Arabia set to win hosting rights Australia will not bid for the 2034 men's soccer World Cup, clearing the way for Saudi Arabia to host the tournament. Australia's hopes all but ended when the AFC backed Saudi Arabia's bid

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

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New fund launched to support women and girls in football

SBS, Other, 31/10/2023

After the success of the CommBank Matildas' at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, the Commonwealth Bank and Football Australia are launching a fund to support women and girls in football. It aims to attract and retain 50,000 female participants, providing grants of up to \$5000 for community clubs to support female participation in the sport.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Health crisis 'on doorstep'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 01/11/2023, Angus Dalton, Page 1

The declining potency of antibiotics to treat pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis in children across the

AsiaPacific is alarming researchers who fear the reversal of almost a century of medical progress. The problem is right on the nation's doorstep, said author of the research, University of Sydney infectious disease specialist and paediatrician Dr Phoebe Williams, as infections that withstand antibiotics become common in Australia.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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New hope for joint torture

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/11/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 16

Osteoarthritis may be reversible according to a new University of Adelaide study blaming a "gremlin" cell for the condition rather than wear and tear. Researchers have reversed the condition in mice and in more good news, human trials are already underway of a drug, based on hunches it may help with the condition without knowing exactly how and why.

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

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Breaking Ground. Changing Lives.

West Australian, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 14

At Western Australia's Perron Institute, dedicated and internationally recognised teams are breaking ground and changing lives. Through research and clinical trials, scientists and clinicians are working to unlock medical mysteries and create the future of personalised, precision therapies to revolutionise treatment for neurological disorders.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Sober thought

Northern Territory News, General News, 01/11/2023, Fia Walsh, Page 1

Eminent Aboriginal academic Marcia Langton has told the Coroner extending alcohol bans across the Northern Territory is an "absolutely necessary public health measure". "Herein lies the secret to the whole puzzle - you have to have alcohol restrictions in place at all times, no exceptions," she said.

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

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Vaccine rollout hits bump

Cairns Post, General News, 01/11/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

Doctors are warning that Queenslanders over 65 will have to wait for a free shingles jab as supplies are not yet available, despite the federal government announcing the new vaccine program would be rolled out from Wednesday. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Queensland chair Bruce Willett said there is a waitlist of patients wanting the vaccine but clinics cannot put in orders until the first day of the month.

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Plea to pull 'killer stone' Ikea product

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/11/2023, Courtney Gould, Page 7

Ikea has been accused of "hypocrisy" amid a call for the furniture giant to pull a range of kitchen benchtops due to its links to a fatal disease. A letter sent to Australian chief executive Mirja Viinanen detailed the national construction union's fury at Ikea for failing to remove engineered stone benchtops from its shelves in the wake of a damning Safe Work Australia report.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Bail for alleged importer

Northern Territory News, General News, 01/11/2023, Jason Walls, Page 5

A Palmerston driving instructor busted allegedly importing synthetic opioids into the Territory via the dark web will spend Christmas at home with his young family after being granted bail. [...] Therapeutic Goods Administration head Anthony Lawler said there were no approved medical uses for the nitazene class of synthetic opioids in Australia.

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

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Sunscreen warning

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 3

A warning has been issued over a popular Australian brand of facial sunscreen that could lead to irritation, "coughing and sneezing". The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised the instructions printed on the packaging of the Bondi Sands Everyday Protection Face SPF 50+ Sunscreen Mist are incorrect.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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TGA secures \$5m vaping win

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 31/10/2023, Kelly Lin

The Federal Court of Australia has ordered Vapor Kings Pty Ltd and its director, Amir Kandakji, to pay fines totalling \$5 million, over the unlawful advertising of nicotine vaping products.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 31/10/2023, Max Fitcher and Sharyn Ghidella

There's new hope for sufferers of debilitating osteoarthritis, with a repurposed drug delivering impressive results. It's helped hundreds of Aussies achieve pain relief and better mobility in just six weeks. [...] Sports stars are among those trialling Pentosan through the Therapeutic Goods Administration's special access scheme.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 31/10/2023, Mark Ferguson

A warning has been issued about a popular sunscreen. The Therapeutic Goods Administration says the instructions on Bondi Sands, SPF 50 plus sunscreen mist are incorrect.

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Cannabis rescue

Courier Mail, Business News, 01/11/2023, Glen Norris, Page 55

Queensland-based medicinal cannabis company Tikun Oceana has been saved from liquidation avoiding potential losses in excess of \$5m. A restructuring, overseen by Cor Cordis partners Stephen Earel and Barry Wight along with insolvency law practice Taylor David, has helped the company navigate financial distress through a unique voluntary administration and deed of company arrangement.

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Huge expansion plans for medicinal cannabis

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/11/2023, Rob Inglis, Page 3

Tasmania's leading medicinal cannabis company has unveiled a grand expansion plan on the back of a new greenhouse, which it says will enable the business to massively increase its output. While Tasmanian Botanics chief executive Dan Howard was tight-lipped on the exact location of the facility, which is near Hobart, he said it employed about 100 people and was set to increase its workforce by up to 25 per cent each year once the greenhouse was fully up and running.

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ABC, Late Night ABC News, 31/10/2023, Jade Barker

Tasmania's largest medicinal cannabis facility is set to triple production. Medicinal cannabis is legal in Tasmania, but you must have a script from your GP. The state's Health Department says since 2021 more than 1500 Tasmania have accessed medical cannabis products.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Health star rating fail

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 8

Only 36 per cent of products on supermarket shelves that should carry the health star rating (HSR) do, falling well short of the federal government's 50 per cent uptake target for 2023, a new report shows. The George Institute for Global Health report shows the overall uptake of HSR on intended products has remained static at 36 per cent for the past three years, dropping from 40 per cent since the targets were set in 2019 following a government review.

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