



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 5th 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](#)

LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan has being questioned over whether or not she had misled parliament in her June 13 evidence to the public accounts and estimates committee in regards to the 2026 Commonwealth Games.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that a Committee for Economic Development Australia (CEDA) review has found that a critical staffing shortage in aged-care homes has led to one in seven beds being left vacant, as it calls for increased federal government funding to help the sector.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 3) reports that the Royal Melbourne Hospital's new Advanced Interventions in Mood Disorders Clinic has opened and will provide low doses of ketamine via intravenous drips to patients with difficult-to-treat depression.
- **[West Australian](#)** (page 4) reports that a case against a teenage boy accused of raping a fellow 13-year-old female patient at Perth Children's Hospital has been dropped due to fears the victim may take her life if forced to testify.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 6) reports that dozens of GP clinics have closed across Australia due to financial pressures, with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

president Nicole Higgins warning that more will close due to the implementation of a new of payroll tax. *Also reported by:* [Australian Doctor](#)

- [ABC Online](#) reports that research by the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention has found that potentially life-saving recommendations from coroners to prevent Indigenous suicide has been ignored by the government.

MINISTER BUTLER

Urgent clinic to open at Gabba

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 05/10/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 11

Residents on Brisbane's southside will soon have access to an Albanese government urgent care clinic, bringing the state's total to three - all of which are in metropolitan areas. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said during the federal election the 50 promised clinics would be open by July 1, but he has since said it would be by the end of the year.

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Medicare on the mend

Courier Mail, General News, 05/10/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 17

Patients who enrol with a single GP practice will get access to new benefits under a major revolution in Medicare that starts this month. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said MyMedicare "is the foundation to deliver more tailored care to patients through a range of funding packages".

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Aged care crisis looms

Barrier Truth, General News, 04/10/2023, Stuart Kavanagh, Page 3

An aged care crisis is imminent without a reclassification of Broken Hill under the Modified Monash Model (MMM), residents and Council have declared. Both the public gallery and the Broken Hill City Council are concerned that unless the Silver City is moved from level three to level six on the MMM (a scale that measures a city's 'remoteness') our aged care system is under threat. Invitations are currently being dispatched to state and federal ministers, including Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler, to assess the issue firsthand.

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Red tape removal a step forward, but more needed

Border Times, General News, 04/10/2023, Page 8

While the scrapping of the Visas for GPs program may streamline the recruitment of international doctors, more needs to be done to address the Albanese Labor Government's regional healthcare failures. [...] However, unless Health Minister Mark Butler strikes out his expansion of the Distribution Priority Areas that he enacted last year, regional Australia will see no net gain in doctors from this latest decision.

Also reported by: [North West Express \(Quyen\)](#).

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Elizabeth announced as Urgent Care Clinic provider

Bunyip, General News, 04/10/2023, Page 9

In a move to improve healthcare accessibility for residents in the northern suburbs, the Albanese Government has unveiled the chosen provider of the Elizabeth Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC). [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler also said the clinic will allow families to access care from a doctor without having to fill hospital's emergency departments.

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No wonder GPs are jumping ship

Our Primary Health Network is always supportive. Unfortunately, the government regulations make it harder for us to find and employ doctors. [...] Dr George Al-Horani GP, Sydney, NSW Hey, Mark Butler, see that light at the end of the tunnel?

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EDs aren't clogged by 'GP-type' presentations

Oncology Republic, Other, 04/10/2023, Wendy John

The data used to justify urgent care clinics is flawed, say Australian researchers who have published a new study in the Medical Journal of Australia. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care had not responded to questions by the time of publication.

[Read More](#)

GPs close by the dozen as payroll tax plan sparks fears of more to follow

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/10/2023, Brad Crouch

Plans to slug GP clinics with payroll tax will push even more to pull the pin, experts have warned. Health Minister Mark Butler says the Medicare system had ten years of "cuts and neglect" under the Coalition government.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 03/10/2023, Joe O'Brien

Emergency physicians have raised concerns that the government hasn't provided enough urgent care clinics in regional areas to relieve pressure on the emergency room departments at hospitals. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has stated that 60% or more of the patients presenting at the urgent care clinic would otherwise have gone to a hospital emergency department.

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ABC North and West SA, Regional Late Afternoons, 04/10/2023, Emma Pedler

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister on forum in the Northern Eyre Peninsula region. Butler pays credit to city councils in the regions in their work around the intricacies of health policy and use of ratepayers funds often to help build and operate medical centres. He states the centrepiece of their health budget in May was to triple the bulk billing incentive.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Staff shortages curtailing aged care

The Australian, General News, 05/10/2023, Stephen Lunn, Page 3

One in seven nursing home beds sits empty across Australia, despite long waiting lists, because there are too few workers to service older people needing care, a new report warns. [...] The taskforce chair, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, has flagged it is considering a proposal from aged-care providers for older people to use superannuation to cover some of the costs of care.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Support for Indigenous initiative

Daily Advertiser, General News, 05/10/2023, Taylor Dodge, Page 1

A Wagga Indigenous health program designed to boost breastfeeding rates has been praised by a government MP. Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride threw her support behind the initiative during a visit to RivMed yesterday.

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

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Mental health winners recognised at awards

Koori Mail, Other, 04/10/2023

Two Aboriginal women were honoured for their outstanding contribution to their work in mental health at the 2023 Australian Mental Health Prize at the University of NSW (UNSW) in Sydney last week. Presented by the Hon. Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, four winners were announced in the categories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, professional leadership, lived experience, and community hero for their promotion of mental health and treatment of mental illness.

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MPs call for inquiry into harmful industry ads after rise in young people seeking help for gambling

The Guardian, Other, 04/10/2023, Melissa Davey & Natasha May

MPs have called for an urgent parliamentary inquiry into the impact of advertising on children and young people by harmful industries after revelations by Guardian Australia of a 16% rise in young people seeking help for gambling in the last financial year. [...] The assistant minister for mental health, Emma McBride, said the government is committed to protecting vulnerable Australians from gambling harms and is "carefully considering" the recommendations of a report which came out of the house of representatives' inquiry into online gambling.

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Seven Wagga Wagga, Seven Local News, 04/10/2023, Madelaine Collignon and Nick Hose

Calls for a national inquiry into birth related trauma are gaining traction. During a visit to Wagga today, the Federal Assistant Minister for Regional Health backed the idea.

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ABC Riverina, Breakfast, 04/10/2023, Sam Robinson

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Regional and Rural Health. McBride discusses birth trauma inquiry in NSW. She says she's hoping to see from this inquiry that women will be able to have the right sort of information to make informed decisions and the right wraparound support and care. On suicide rate reduction in regional Australia, McBride says the Government is working through Minister for Employment to boost the Stability and Security of Employment, working with the Minister for Education to make sure that there is quality education pathways for young people, and the Minister for Housing and Homelessness to make sure that we have more affordable and social housing. She says they're working to strengthen the network of Headspace around Australia, many of them in regional and remote communities

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Hard-of-hearing dogs can be much noisier because they aren't aware of the volume of their bark

Daily Liberal, Other, 04/10/2023, Dr Anne Quain

There is an established link between hearing loss and increased risk of dementia in people. Researchers have now found a similar association in dogs. [...] The Australian government Department of Health and Aged Care states hearing loss occurs in half of people aged 60-70; 70 per cent of people over 70, and 80 per cent of people over 80.

Also reported by: [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [Manning River Times \(Online\)](#), [Macleay Argus \(Online\)](#), [The North West Star \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Augusta Margaret River Mail \(Online\)](#).

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New research urges national system to ensure coroner findings inform Indigenous suicide prevention measures

National Indigenous Times, Other, 04/10/2023

An Australian-first research project released Wednesday has urged the establishment of a national system of accountability to ensure findings by coroners are used to inform suicide prevention measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. [...] CBPATISIP is based at the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia, and funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care.

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EDs aren't clogged by 'GP-type' presentations

Oncology Republic, Other, 04/10/2023, Wendy John

The data used to justify urgent care clinics is flawed, say Australian researchers who have published a new study in the Medical Journal of Australia. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care had not responded to questions by the time of publication.

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ACCC gives eRx go-ahead for data transition as MediSecure CEO departs

Pulse+IT, Other, 04/10/2023, Kate McDonald

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) plans to grant authorisation to Australia's two prescription exchange services to allow them to collaborate on transferring prescription data to now-sole provider eRx. The interim ruling, to be finalised this month, comes after protracted negotiations about the Department of Health and Aged Care's sole provider model for prescription.

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Grow&Go Toolbox gives food and nutrition information to ECEC professionals

The Sector, Other, 04/10/2023, Freya Lucas

A comprehensive kit of nutrition information and resources is now available to early childhood education and care (ECEC) professionals free of charge. The Grow&Go Toolbox is a free food and nutrition online library designed to support ECEC professionals which can also support children's healthy eating and be shared with a service's families and children. Completed at the University of Queensland, the project to develop the unique database was funded by the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care through a Public Health and Chronic Disease grant.

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Navigating the maze of aged-care

Courier Mail, Business News, 05/10/2023, Charles Green, Page 41

For years, our firm has been advising families about the financial options when the time is right for Mum or Dad to move into a nursing home. But in the past few weeks, it's become very personal for me, as we've wrestled as a family with the move of a close relative into full-time care.

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Bringing it all home for Indigenous elders with \$9m facility

West Australian, General News, 05/10/2023, Gabrielle Becerra Mellet, Page 6

A landmark aged-care facility for Aboriginal elders is on track in Beaconsfield. The \$9 million Walbirninny Mia Aboriginal elder care project will accommodate up to 50 people across 21 homes in what is being described as a move towards more culturally appropriate, independent living sites. [...] In 2018, the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety identified Aboriginal people having limited access to mainstream aged care and three years later the State Government pledged \$10 million towards a dedicated facility in Queens Park.

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Ageing and falls: stay safe

Barrier Truth, General News, 04/10/2023, Andy Vista, Page 11

An increased susceptibility to falling is one of the most serious problems associated with ageing. Research by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2023 found around one third of people aged 60 years and over, will fall at least once a year, with up to one fifth of these people suffering multiple falls.

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Homes crisis hits aged care

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 05/10/2023, Madeleine Clark, Page 1

Kalgoorlie-Boulder aged-care facilities are facing the worst of the nationwide worker shortage, with a new report revealing the average carer would have to spend 46 per cent of their income on rent in the city. The Committee for Economic Development of Australia's Duty of Care: Aged-Care Sector Running on Empty report highlighted beds are sitting empty, with some regional facilities only operating at 50 per cent capacity, despite long waiting lists across the country because aged-care workers cannot afford to live in regional areas.

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Rural cop accused of tasing Clare Nowland, 95, faces legal delay as post-mortem completed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/10/2023, Adelaide Lang

A rural police officer is facing legal delays after he was charged with recklessly discharging a taser at great-grandmother Clare Nowland, who sustained a fatal brain injury and later died. Senior constable Kristian James Samuel White had been called to Yallambee Lodge nursing home in Cooma on May 17 following reports the 95-year-old was holding a knife.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au](#)

[\(Online\)](#).

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Staff training needed to shift ageist attitudes

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/10/2023, Christopher Kelly

The aged care workforce should receive training to help them avoid using ageist language, an expert has told Australian Ageing Agenda. "That would be very good. We don't realise the power of language; the power of it to reinforce these attitudes," said Kate Burridge a professor of linguistics at Monash University.

[Read More](#)

No complaints on app to streamline family communication

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/10/2023, Natasha Egan

A codesigned app has successfully brought complaints about substandard communication to residents' family members to zero, an aged care chief executive tells Australian Ageing Agenda. Brenna a mobile app that streamlines communications about a resident's condition between registered nurses and multiple family members at once was codesigned over 10 months with the team at Greenhill Aged Care a Tulich Family Communities site in Wollongong in New South Wales.

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CHA appoints Jason Kara as CEO

Community Care Review, Other, 04/10/2023

Former Catholic Health Australia director of aged care Jason Kara has been announced as the peak advocacy body's new chief executive officer. CHA director John Watkins said he was "delighted" Mr Kara was stepping into the CEO role.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 04/10/2023, Peter Goers

Interview with Jane Pickering, CEO, Eldercare. Pickering says the Royal Commission has had a huge impact on aged care for the better and the Government's response has been good. She notes it has increased the workforce, increased the minutes of care per resident per day and had a nurse 24 over seven at every single nursing home. Pickering states the accountability has been improving.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Live well and still enjoy a drink

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/10/2023, Dani Blum, Page 23

Alcohol can be part of a healthy lifestyle, writes Dani Blum. Despite past claims to the contrary, the current evidence makes it pretty clear that even a little alcohol is bad for your health with links to certain types of cancer, cardiovascular conditions, liver disease and other concerns.

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

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Knowing your food is the key to good health

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/10/2023, Amal Wakim, Page 25

In Australia, two out of three adults and one in four children are currently overweight or obese. In a world where obesity rates continue to climb at an alarming rate, the urgent need to prioritise food literacy is clear.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Barrier Truth \(Broken Hill\)](#).

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Tissue donors help improve cancer therapy

Courier Mail, General News, 05/10/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 21

Women who have been diagnosed with gynaecological cancers are donating live tissue with cancer cells to science in a bid to improve treatments for aggressive cancers. Scientists at Mater Hospital Brisbane run the state's only biobank using live collections and they need more donated tissue to support their groundbreaking research.

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Nurses treating stroke victims tap into virtual-reality headset

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/10/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 4

Nsw emergency department nurses will be trained in stroke care with a virtual reality program developed at the University of Newcastle. The program replicates an emergency situation inside a VR headset.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

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GP set to travel to Kalgoorlie-Boulder once again offering skin checks for locals

West Australian, Other, 04/10/2023, Madeleine Clark

A GP who previously visited Kalgoorlie-Boulder on numerous occasions to perform skin checks on local patients is returning after taking some maternity leave. Dr Kathryn Eikenhorst will practice out of the Alpha Medical Centre on Egan St from October 7-28 and has appointments open now.

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

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Study reveals link between hair loss and skin cancer

9News, Other, 04/10/2023

A new study has revealed why hair loss is associated with increased rates of skin cancer. It turns out the simplest explanation is the right one - a lack of hair means one's scalp and neck are more exposed to direct sunlight.

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Australia's worst jobs for hearing loss

9News, Other, 04/10/2023

More than one million Australians are believed to be exposed to damaging noise levels in the workplace, prompting Hearing Australia to urge workers to be aware of the danger. Hearing Australia principal audiologist Karen Hirschausen has also called on workplaces to take more action to prevent damaging noise levels.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 04/10/2023, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella

Queensland researchers have confirmed why male hair loss is linked to higher rates of skin cancer. Turns out the simplest explanation is baldness means one scalp is more exposed. Scientists had to run multiple genetic tests to rule out a theory about testosterone.

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Health to benefit with data

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/10/2023, Daryush Ashjari, Page 25

The inescapable expanse of Australia's geography means you "get remote fast". So, while much of our country is fortunate when it comes to healthcare, there are still significant disparities around access to healthcare, particularly in regional areas.

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Blood test to detect concussion

Herald Sun, General News, 05/10/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 23

A blood test being developed by Victorian researchers may prove to be the world's first to diagnose concussion. The team of Monash University researchers in collaboration with clinicians from The Alfred's Emergency Department published the results of their study yesterday.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(National\)](#).

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Clinics are closing & that's before tax whack

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/10/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 6

As dozens of GP clinics close, a major suburban practice warns a new \$110,000 state government tax on it will be the death knell for bulk billing. [...] A survey of the nation's 31 primary health networks (PHNs) by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' news website, newsGP, found 184 GP practices had closed last financial year and while others had opened, there was a net loss of 55 clinics.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(National\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#).

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Family doctors in need of a little care to thrive

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 05/10/2023, Page 22

The term "the family doctor" conjures up images, mostly warm and comforting. But that does not pay the bills to run a small business.

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VAD case referred to coroner

Australian Doctor, General News, 06/10/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 10

An elderly man who died in Queensland earlier this year self-administered voluntary assisted dying medication prescribed for his terminally ill wife, it has been reported. Around 1400 patients have ended their lives through the various voluntary assisted dying (VAD) schemes across Australia, including 200 Queenslanders since the state legalised euthanasia this year.

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Despite slashing some specialist waiting lists by years, some wait times remain stubbornly high

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/10/2023, Brad Crouch

Waiting time to see a specialist doctor in public hospitals has fallen by years in some cases new SA Health data shows. Flinders Medical Centre and the Royal Adelaide Hospital lead the way with dramatic improvements in maximum waiting time for some outpatient appointments.

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

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'Excruciating pain': inquiry after girl's 12-hour hospital wait at Westmead Hospital

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/10/2023, Lachlan Leeming

An urgent inquiry into western Sydney hospitals will be held after a father's claims his daughter spent more than 12 hours waiting to see an emergency doctor despite being in excruciating pain' from suspected appendicitis. Health Minister Ryan Park will meet with the management of Westmead Hospital on Wednesday as Premier Chris Minns said a lack of staff was to blame for blow-outs in waiting times.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#)

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'We need to be more aware of the impact of disability'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/10/2023

The disability royal commission report has laid bare huge issues, but gaps remain in understanding how GPs would be supported in addressing them. Around one in five Australians lives with a disability, with equity of access to healthcare a significant challenge for many. The Chair of RACGP Specific Interests Disability has backed recommendations to improve training and development for the treatment of patients with a disability but said more is needed to help GPs provide the right support.

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ABC News, ABC National News, 03/10/2023, Joe O'Brien

Emergency physicians have raised concerns that the government hasn't provided enough urgent care clinics in regional areas to relieve pressure on the emergency room departments at hospitals. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has stated that 60% or more of the patients presenting at the urgent care clinic would otherwise have gone to a hospital emergency department.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 04/10/2023, Sandra Sully

The NSW Government has admitted it is battling to address staff shortages in hospitals right across Sydney. It comes after a father called the media after his daughter spent 12 hours in an emergency department. The State Government concedes there is a shortage of staff in hospitals across the state and that it's a problem still to be fixed. But the Premier and the Health Minister are both promising it's a top priority, with plans in place to address employment levels.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 04/10/2023, Mark Ferguson

Patients are being forced to wait more than 12 hours to see doctor in Western Sydney hospitals. She remains in hospital tonight with staff shortages being blamed. Data reveals wait times are at an all time high, with 43% of patients waiting more than four hours at an emergency department. Blacktown Hospital is one of the worst.

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Channel 9, Nine News Late, 04/10/2023, Michael Genovese

Western Sydney health officials are facing growing pressure to improve spiralling wait times in some of the city's busiest hospitals. The Government will tomorrow unveil a plan to crack down on false asylum claims amid concerns they're leaving genuine refugees trapped in a queue for years.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 04/10/2023, Peter Overton

NSW Premier Chris Minns has apologised after a father called the media after his daughter spent 12 hours in an emergency department. The Premier says a big part of the problem is staff shortages. He's made a deal with the nurses union to overhaul the way shifts are managed. The commitment one

nurse to every three patients in emergency departments and 1 to 4 on wards, But there's no timeframe for the rollout because it requires hundreds more staff

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ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 04/10/2023, Lucy Breden

An independent review of emergency service departments at all four Tasmanian hospitals has been welcomed as ramping and the bed block situation at Launceston Hospital, the Examiner says, is amongst the worst in the country.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

New ketamine clinic to treat depression

Age, General News, 05/10/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 3

Victoria's first public ketamine clinic has opened and is using the anaesthetic which is commonly taken as a party drug to help patients with difficult-to-treat depression. The Royal Melbourne Hospital's new Advanced Interventions in Mood Disorders Clinic will administer low doses of ketamine via intravenous drips to about 50 patients with severe depression every year, and hopes to secure more funding to expand its reach.

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Suicide student 'did not seek aid'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 05/10/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 7

An international student who died by suicide while living in Geelong struggled with her studies and did not engage with support services, a coroner has found. The Bangladesh-born student, 29, known by the pseudonym KCM, died in July 2020.

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'Seething' over failed crisis care

Australian Doctor, General News, 06/10/2023, Page 1

Rachel Carter "I SPENT 45 minutes on hold to the mental health team, and when I finally got through, the person I needed to speak to was on lunch." This is GP Dr Peter Tait, who has spent years caring for disadvantaged patients with mental illness.

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Insight GPs in psychiatrist lotto

Australian Doctor, General News, 06/10/2023, Page 16

Any of us have been following the debate resulting from the open Mletter to psychiatrists written by Dr Andrew Leech asking why so many of his referrals are being rejected. His dismay expressed on the RACGP website is one I share: referrals being rejected for patients at serious risk; those with unstable, brittle or difficult-to-treat disorders; those with unrelenting depression, unstable bipolar disorder, debilitating PTSD or personality disorders; those at serious risk for potential self-harm.

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Supporting and keeping construction workers safe

SBS, Other, 04/10/2023, Alex Anyfantis

The Sydney Gateway Project has been acknowledged for achieving the rare 'Mates in Construction' accreditation in a Sydney event. Mates in Construction is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting greater mental health and suicide prevention within the construction industry and other blue-collar sectors.

[Read More](#)

Backpacking and mental health: Tackling loneliness among working holiday makers

SBS, Other, 04/10/2023, Justin Sungil Park & Carl Dixon

For working holiday visa holders in Australia, living alone away from family and support networks for sustained periods of time may take its toll. But help is available.

[Read More](#)

Guy Sebastian to headline Ballarat Hand in Hand mental health event

Ballarat Courier, Other, 04/10/2023, Melanie Whelan

Watch: Despite being 14,000km away from Europe, Australia has had a long history of loving - and now performing - in the Eurovision Song Contest. POP star Guy Sebastian is set to share his Open Parachute story with families in a special Ballarat mental health awareness session.

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 04/10/2023, Catalina Florez

An initiative that's proving to be successful is aiming to knock back the troubling rates of suicide in Australia's construction industry. Not for profit group Mates in Construction has established training for more than 100,000 workers around the country on how to spot signs of suicide and how to support your struggling mates.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Breakfast , 04/10/2023, Laurel Edwards, Gary Clare and Mark Hine

Young adults are still feeling stigma about asking for help when dealing with mental health concerns. Headspace surveyed more than 3000 people between the age of 12 and 25. Finding 40% were likely to deal with personal and emotional problems on their own. Chief executive Jason Trethowan says fears about how they'll be perceived is preventing them from asking for help.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Pre-term birth world-first

Ballarat Courier, General News, 05/10/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Mums-to-be in Ballarat are part of a nation-wide project to help reduce premature births and improve birthing outcomes. Grampians Health Ballarat is one of 63 hospitals signed up to the Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance which is a world-first attempt to reduce pre-term births as a nation.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Are future GPs being heard?

Australian Doctor, General News, 06/10/2023, Sarah Bresnehan, Page 18

Sarah Bresnehan National chair of the General Practice Students Network. We know how to lure medical graduates to the specialty.

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Fellowship pass rates queried

Australian Doctor, General News, 06/10/2023, Paul Smith, Page 12

Fresh concerns have emerged about so-called 'pre-competent' psychiatry registrars being awarded fellowships after the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists ditched its OSCE

assessment. A new research paper says that the pass rates for the "gold-standard" clinical exam had ranged from 66% to 72% in the four years before the COVID-19 pandemic.

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CDU's first Bachelor of Paramedicine students to join St John NT

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/10/2023, Annabel Bowles

Charles Darwin University's first ever paramedics to learn lifesaving frontline skills are just about ready to join the workforce. The first cohort of CDU paramedicine students is set to finish their studies at the end of this year, with 10 on track to officially graduate in May.

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

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St John WA: It will take three years to deliver family and domestic violence training to first responders

West Australian, Other, 04/10/2023, Hannah Cross

St John WA says it will take three years to deliver crucial family and domestic violence response training to its first responders. The State Government awarded St John WA a \$2 million grant for the training in November last year, with training earmarked for rollout in mid-2023.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

GPs agree to train pharmacy prescribers

Australian Doctor, General News, 06/10/2023, Page 1

Almost 70 doctors, half of them GPs, have been recruited to supervise pharmacists while they train to prescribe S4 drugs and manage chronic conditions under Queensland's controversial pilot. [...] There is still no information on the specific S4 medications available for pharmacist prescribing, but none will be covered by the PBS, with pharmacists therefore writing private scripts.

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Is pharmacy training a shortcut to a doctor's life?

Australian Doctor, General News, 06/10/2023, Page 15

Ironically, I had to prove that my Masters of Psychiatry was equivalent to the short course required to provide GP mental health care plans. But now, a very short course is going to be equivalent to the years of supervised medical and clinical training required to make diagnoses and treat medical conditions?

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Questions persist around pharmacist prescribing education

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/10/2023

The RACGP has once again raised serious concerns about diagnosis and training, as a second round of consultation on the changes kicks off. The RACGP reiterated its long-held concerns about pharmacy prescribing, saying a lack of training could be putting patient safety at risk.

[Read More](#)

PBS lists once-a-day pill for chronic psoriasis

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/10/2023

While GPs cannot initiate treatment with the medication, they still have a clear role in identifying eligible patients. Chronic plaque psoriasis, which accounts for 90% of all psoriasis cases, commonly appears as red scaly lesions on the elbows and knees.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Doctors lodge bid for gender-affirming surgery Medicare items

Australian Doctor, Other, 04/10/2023, Heather Saxena

The Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons is seeking a series of new or amended MBS items. Plastic surgeons are seeking new Medicare items for gender-affirming interventions for transgender adults, including masculinising chest surgery for those assigned female at birth.

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Al Muderis denies leg surgery was hurried

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/10/2023, Georgina Mitchell, Page 19

Prominent orthopaedic surgeon Dr Munjed Al Muderis has denied that he rushed to perform surgery on a high-risk woman, telling a court his patients can back out at any time, including right before they are given anaesthetic. Al Muderis is giving evidence in the Federal Court defamation case he brought against The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald and 60 Minutes over reports published in 2022, which he says defamed him by suggesting he performed surgery negligently.

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

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Cruel fate denies justice

West Australian, Edition Changes, 05/10/2023, Josh Zimmerman, Page 4

The devastating reason case against alleged rapist was dropped at the final hour after charges were laid against 13-year-old. The boy allegedly responsible for raping a fellow 13-year-old patient inside Perth Children's Hospital was not prosecuted over fears that forcing the victim to testify might push her to take her own life.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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GP banned for punching patient

Australian Doctor, General News, 06/10/2023, Heather Saxena, Page 8

A GP who punched a regular patient in the face while accusing him of robbing the practice has been struck off. The assault occurred in the waiting room as the patient waited for an appointment in October 2020, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal heard.

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Cheap body shops will always exist

Australian Doctor, General News, 06/10/2023, Page 15

Every industry or profession from car sales up has its dodgy end of town, which regulations and laws can never entirely corral or outlaw. These areas of less satisfactory endeavour exist because they offer hope at cheaper prices and in more accessible ways than elsewhere.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Government backs return of festival pill testing

Canberra Times, General News, 05/10/2023, Steve Evans, Page 12

The ACT government has recommitted itself to pill testing at festivals if the insurance can be sorted out. It's also planning to increase the hours which the permanent pill testing centre in Civic operates during the Spilt Milk festival on November 25.

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

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NSW won't rule out pill-testing

Central Western Daily, General News, 05/10/2023, Peter Bodkin, Page 6

NSW could follow the lead of other states and territories by trialling free pill-testing sites, with Premier Chris Minns declining to rule it out. Two men died after leaving a dance music festival in Sydney on Saturday, spurring renewed calls for the rollout of an ACT-style drug-testing regime.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Allan denies Games deceit

Age, Wrap, 05/10/2023, Rachel Eddie, Page 1

Premier Jacinta Allan told the Victorian parliament the state was making "tremendous progress" on the 2026 Commonwealth Games, just one day before the government sought legal advice on how to axe the multi-city regional event. The revelations prompted fiery questions yesterday about whether she had misled parliament in her June 13 evidence to the public accounts and estimates committee when she was the minister responsible for delivering the Games.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

UTAS' Tony Cook hoping to better understand childhood dementia

Canberra Times, Other, 04/10/2023, Simon Mcguire

Even though it affects an estimated 2300 young people across Australia, childhood dementia is still a widely unknown condition. A Tasmanian researcher is at the forefront of research into understanding the genetic changes that cause childhood dementia.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Helping connect kids to country

Daily Liberal, General News, 05/10/2023, Allison Hore, Page 5

For 15 years, expectant mothers in Bourke have had to travel off-country to give birth. But an award-nominated initiative is helping young Indigenous families stay culturally connected to country.

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NT remote community of Laramba celebrates legal win in landmark Supreme Court decision

ABC Online, Other, 04/10/2023, Lee Robinson & Sarah Spina-Matthews

The NT Supreme Court has ruled the territory's housing department is responsible for supplying safe drinking water to its tenants, in a landmark decision that could help provide legal redress to Indigenous communities across Australia. The Supreme Court ruling overturns a previous decision by the NT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

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

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Australian coroners frustrated recommendations on Indigenous suicide are being ignored by government, new report shows

ABC Online, Other, 04/10/2023, Daryna Zadvirna

Coroners around Australia are frustrated their potentially life-saving recommendations to prevent Indigenous suicide are being routinely ignored by the government, a new national report has found. The report found coroners' recommendations were falling on deaf ears

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Heavy rain to buy time as air presents biggest health risk

Canberra Times, General News, 05/10/2023, Jasper Lindell, Page 3

Heavy rainfall in the ACT this week will buy time against the threat of grassfires and may allow firefighters to complete more hazard reduction burns before a run of hotter, drier days. Poor air quality caused by dust and smoke is also expected to be the biggest risk to public health this summer, surpassing the threat of COVID-19, the Chief Health Officer has said.

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Fresh TB cluster

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/10/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 8

South Australia may face a third cluster of tuberculosis (TB) as two new cases a young child and a woman in her 60s struggle with the disease. SA now has 20 active cases and 40 latent cases.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).

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Scientists take the bite out of dengue fever

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 05/10/2023, Page 3

Dengue fever could be a thing of the past in North Queensland, with scientists reporting their efforts to eradicate the plague are showing incredible results. James Cook University's Dr Samson Ogunlade, who is a mathematician at the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine said the release of mosquitoes around the city between 2014 and 2019 had been effective.

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Free JEV vaccines

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 05/10/2023, Page 3

Free Japanese Encephalitis vaccines will be available to Rochester residents in the next few weeks after the state government extended the eligibility program. Campaspe Shire is one of the municipalities considered at higher risk of Japanese Encephalitis virus infection. Public immunisation sessions will be held at the Rochester Service Centre on Thursday, October 26, from 4-5.30pm.

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Local Buruli ulcer detected in NSW

Australian Doctor, General News, 06/10/2023, Antony Scholefield, Page 11

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

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Silicosis case at Newmont's Boddington gold mine in Western Australia alarms unions, lung health expert

ABC Online, Other, 04/10/2023, Tom Robinson & Georgia Loney

A silicosis case at Australia's biggest gold mine has sparked calls by the Australian Workers Union (AWU) and a respiratory health expert for further action against the incurable dust disease. A worker at Newmont's Boddington mine was recently diagnosed with silicosis

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 04/10/2023, Kate Freebairn

South Australia is in the grips of its worst tuberculosis outbreak in decades as clusters in the Murraylands and APY Lands grow. The chief public health officer says they haven't had this many active tuberculosis cases in the past 20 years and possibly ever.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 04/10/2023, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

SA Health contact tracers are trying to establish the spread of an alarming tuberculosis outbreak after two more cases were confirmed. Professor Nicola Spurrier says we haven't seen infections this high in two decades and admits it could take years to eradicate.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 04/10/2023, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

South Australia is confronting its worst tuberculosis outbreak in decades. Authorities have confirmed two new cases, including one person who travelled hundreds of kilometres across the state, back and forth to Adelaide. SA Health reports two new infections in Aboriginal people. Health authorities have been unable to pinpoint why the illness is spreading so dramatically. It's weighing up if weakened immune systems caused by Covid 19 are a factor.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

TGA tightens Ozempic advice (again)

Australian Doctor, General News, 06/10/2023, Page 3

The TGA is once again urging doctors against initiating patients on semaglutide, less than three months after relaxing its prescribing advice, as limited supply struggles to keep up with surging demand. Two weeks ago, the regulator said supply constraints for all strengths of semaglutide (Ozempic) would persist for the rest of the year and throughout 2024.

New normal for SABA supply has begun

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 04/10/2023, Chloe Hava

Amendments to the Schedule 3 entry for salbutamol during COVID-19 were rolled back from 1 October 2023, coinciding with a new treatment guideline around asthma relievers. The Therapeutic Goods Administration announced the removal of restrictions made during the height of the pandemic, amid unprecedented stockpiling of short-acting beta agonists (SABAs).

[Read More](#)

Bimzelx on PBS

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 04/10/2023

Ucb Australia's Bimzelx (bimekizumab) is now listed on the PBS for the treatment of patients with severe chronic plaque psoriasis. The drug is approved by the TGA for the treatment of moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis in adult patients who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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