



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 10th October 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that senior public servants have confirmed in an inquiry into the cancelled 2026 Commonwealth Games that Premier Jacinta Allan knew the Games were over budget four months before former Premier Daniel Andrewes cancelled the Games. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#)*
- **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that NSW Premier Chris Minns will expand the pre-court diversion schemes for cannabis to include all illicit drugs. *Also reported by: [The Guardian](#)*
- **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 3) reports that Cumberland Hospital has been fined by SafeWork NSW due to a toxic work environment that led to the resignation of five allied health staff.
- **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 3) reports that researchers from Monash University have found that getting adequate sunlight during the day, and limited light at night could lead to a reduction in mental health issues. *Also reported by: [The Age](#)*
- **[Northern Territory News](#)** (page 5) reports that a Northern Territory coroner will investigate the deaths of three people while quarantining at the Centre for National Resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MINISTER BUTLER

Red Tape Removal a Step Forward, but More Needed

Buloke Times, General News, 10/10/2023, Page 13

Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health Anne Webster says while the scrapping of the Visas for GPs program may streamline the recruitment of international doctors, more needs to be done to address the Federal 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."

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Refugee vax program cut

Dandenong Star Journal, General News, 10/10/2023, Sahar Foladi, Page 3

A "crucial" award-winning immunisation program for refugees and migrants is set to end due to a cessation of State Government funding. [...] He has written to the Minister of Health Mark Butler and Victorian Department of Health deputy secretary of public health Prof Zoe Wainer in a bid to have the decision reversed.

Also reported by: [Star Community \(Online\)](#), [Dandenong Star Journal \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Filling the commodity gap

Local Government Focus, General News, 01/10/2023, Rod Brown, Page 6

What happens when coal and LNG exports plummet? The Intergenerational Report (IGFI) released in August is valuable and uncommon, in that the federal Treasury has commented on policies well outside its own field. [...] And even Mark Butler. The federal Health Minister. has pointed to the Pharmacy Guild's own figures showing that the average gross profit of a pharmacy is 34 per cent, the highest of any sector in medical services industry.

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Mark Butler confident all 58 urgent care clinics will be open this year

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/10/2023, Carmel Sparke

The health minister denies he's 'running out of overs' to deliver the promised centres. [...] But Mark Butler took to radio to defend the government's record, saying the promise was that the clinics would be open over the course of the 2023/24 financial year, not by 1 July.

[Read More](#)

Shingrix to replace Zostavax with lower age cut-off in NIP shake-up

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/10/2023, Kemal Atlay

A two-dose schedule with an interval of 2-6 months is recommended for most patients. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said on Sunday that Zostavax would be dropped from the NIP in exchange for Shingrix, saving nearly five million patients up to \$560 each for a two-dose course.

[Read More](#)

Why GPs should expect more cash for 'frequent flyer' patients

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/10/2023, Paul Smith

Over the coming months GP practices in the ACT will crash-test a pilot to better support patients at high risk of hospital admission. [...] As part of a slow burn, staged rollout, practices will be enrolling frequent flyers as part of Mark Butler's voluntary registration scheme from sometime next year.

[Read More](#)

'Public health menace' addressed by NIP

Shingles vaccines are to be available through the National Immunisation Program, including through community pharmacies. Health minister Mark Butler has advised the public to ask their pharmacist or GP about the possibility of receiving the shingles vaccine free of charge.

[Read More](#)

Shingles Vaccine now free for older Australians

Good Morning Macarthur, Other, 09/10/2023, Brian Lau

From 1 November, older Australians will have free access to the best protection against shingles through one of the most comprehensive and widely available vaccination programs in the world. [...] "This investment will ensure nearly five million Australians can get free protection from shingles and the very painful nerve damage that it causes," Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

Older people granted free access to new, more effective shingles vaccine

HelloCare, Other, 09/10/2023, Bianca Iovino

The Federal Government has granted older and immunocompromised Australians free access to a new and more effective shingles vaccine from next month. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler announced the Federal Government's move to invest \$826.8 million to provide the vaccine under the NIP at a press conference in Adelaide on Sunday.

[Read More](#)

40pc of general practices sign on with MyMedicare: Butler

Pulse+IT, Other, 09/10/2023, Kate McDonald

Around 2600 general practices have registered with the government's new voluntary patient enrolment service MyMedicare, representing nearly 40 per cent of the 6500 practices in Australia, Health Minister Mark Butler said. Practices have been able to register for MyMedicare through Services Australia since July 1, with patient registration beginning on October 1.

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Qld Health Minister backs removal of gay blood donation ban

Q News, Other, 09/10/2023, Jordan Hirst

The Queensland health minister has called on her federal counterpart to prioritise the safe easing of restrictions currently banning most gay men from blood donation. [...] She recently wrote to her federal counterpart Mark Butler on the issue, The Guardian reported.

[Read More](#)

More paperwork would drive 94% to private billing: Poll

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 09/10/2023

The newsGP survey results follow a move by Services Australia to introduce extra bureaucracy for bulk billed telehealth. [...] 'The Department of Health and Aged Care (DoH) has also said it will be in touch with the college about consultation ahead of introducing legislative amendments.

[Read More](#)

Government rolls out free shingles vaccine

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 09/10/2023

Five million older and vulnerable Australians will have access to the new, and more effective, Shingrix vaccine from next month. [...] On Sunday, Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler announced a free recombinant zoster vaccine (RZV, sold as Shingrix) will be made available under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

[Read More](#)

Older Australians offered free access to the 'best protection' against

shingles

Starts at 60, Other, 09/10/2023, Matthew Hart

Older Australians will soon get top-notch protection against shingles through a world-class vaccination program, and it's all for free. [...] While announcing the vaccination program, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said "Older Australians will now have free access to the best protection against shingles through one of the most comprehensive and widely available vaccination programs in the world."

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Call to Follow QLD Lead in Lifting Gay Blood Donation Ban

Tasmanian Times, Other, 09/10/2023

Blood donation advocates have called on the Federal and state governments to follow Queensland's lead and support an end to Australia's gay blood ban. Queensland Health Minister, Shannon Fentiman, has written to her Federal counterpart, Mark Butler, asking him to support an end to the gay blood ban through the adoption of a new policy of assessing all donors for their individual risk regardless of sexuality or gender of partner.

[Read More](#)

Almost 5m Aussies to benefit from Shingrix listing

The Medical Republic, Other, 09/10/2023

The shingles vaccine is joining the National Immunisation Program from 1 November. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said about one in three unvaccinated Australians would get shingles in their lifetime.

[Read More](#)

98.9FM, 08:00 News, 09/10/2023

The Federal Government will spend more than \$826 million to provide the protection for those people most at risk from severe diseases. The free vaccines will be offered to those over the age of 65 and Indigenous Australians over 50, along with immunocompromised people 18 and older. Health Minister Mark Butler said the shots would provide ten years of protection from shingles.

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ABC Northern Tasmania, 06:30 News, 09/10/2023

The Australian Medical Association says a recent update to Medicare bulk billing could increase hospital presentations across Australia. The recent update requires GPs to get written consent from patients in a telehealth consultation. [...] In a statement, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the changes will be reviewed.

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MINISTER WELLS

Minister for Sport announces funding boost for winter sports

Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), Other, 09/10/2023

Australia's world beating winter sports athletes have received a timely boost, with extra funding committed to support their preparations for the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The announcement of an extra \$1.1 million to winter sports sector was made by the Minister for Sport, the Hon Anika Wells, at the Geoff Henke Olympic Winter Training Centre in Brisbane's Sleeman Sports Complex on Monday.

[Read More](#)

Australian snowsports \$1.1million funding boost for Italy Olympics

SnowsBest, Other, 09/10/2023

Australia's budding Winter Olympians received a timely boost today with the Minister for Sport, the Hon Anika Wells, announcing an extra \$1.1million for the winter sports sector. The extra funding will help winter athletes support their preparations for the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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DEPARTMENT

Sunshine Coast's fifth GP clinic to close in just over a year amid ongoing doctor shortage

ABC Online, Other, 09/10/2023, Jessica Ross

In small communities like Woombye, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, a GP clinic provides more than just health care. [...] Woombye, with a population of about 4,000 people, is not listed as a Distribution Priority Area (DPA) by the federal Department of Health and Aged Care.

[Read More](#)

Empty beds, staff shortages, homes closing: CEDA report paints grim aged care picture

Augusta Margaret River Mail, Other, 09/10/2023, Eileen Wood

Aged care beds are lying empty while elderly people languish in hospital unable to get a place, as the staffing and funding crises in aged care worsen. [...] Data from the Department of Health and Aged Care shows that 53 per cent of all aged-care facilities are operating at a loss and job vacancies in health care and social services remain the highest of any industry - showing the widespread demand for workers.

Also reported by: [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Singleton Argus \(Online\)](#), [Inverell Times \(Online\)](#), [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Braidwood Times \(Online\)](#).

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Mental health a major concern for young Australians

Ballarat Courier, Other, 09/10/2023, Suzannah Lyons

Professor Adam Guastella from the University of Sydney talks about what we need to do to address the needs of young people struggling with mental health problems in Australia. [...] The data revealed an increase in the number of young people seeking help for mental health conditions, said the Department of Health and Aged Care's Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Mental Health Dr Ruth Vine.

Also reported by: [Canowindra News \(Online\)](#), [Forbes Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Harden Express \(Online\)](#), [Eastern Riverina Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Bega District News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Quality Use of Medicines Alliance funded to promote health literacy

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Other, 09/10/2023

Two new grants to support consumer health literacy and improve the use of medicines will see peak health and consumer organisations working side-by-side. [...] "PSA is proud to be part of the Quality Use of Medicines Alliance, awarded health professional education and consumer health literacy grants by the Department of Health and Aged Care to improve health literacy and education," Dr Sim said.

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

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More paperwork would drive 94% to private billing: Poll

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 09/10/2023

The newsGP survey results follow a move by Services Australia to introduce extra bureaucracy for bulk billed telehealth. [...] ' The Department of Health and Aged Care (DoH) has also said it will be in touch with the college about consultation ahead of introducing legislative amendments.

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Star Community, Other, 09/10/2023, Sahar Foladi

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New push for GPs to certify glucose monitors

The Medical Republic, Other, 09/10/2023

The parliamentary inquiry into diabetes offers a fresh opportunity to draw attention to the rules governing continuous glucose monitoring devices. . [...] Previous president Adjunct Professor Karen Price even wrote to Department of Health and Aged Care deputy secretary Penny Shakespeare at the time, urging the government to recognise GPs as part of specialist teams managing diabetes.

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CORONAVIRUS

Coroner to probe three deaths in Howard Springs quarantine

Northern Territory News, General News, 10/10/2023, Zizi Averill, Page 5

The coroner has announced an investigation into the deaths of three people locked in Darwin's quarantine facility during the Covid pandemic. A NT Courts spokesman has confirmed a two-week hearing will investigate the deaths of Raylene Dick, David Hardy and Karen Bading.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

“Worrying” antimicrobial resistance in Adelaide aged care home

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/10/2023, Erin Morley

A small wastewater sample analysis of three Adelaide aged care homes revealed two have residents with concerning levels of bacterial resistance against antibiotics. The study of 300 residents published last Wednesday found one home had high antimicrobial resistance (AMR) against ceftazidime, cefepime and ciprofloxacin, and another had above-average levels of resistance to gentamicin.

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Aged care beds forced to sit empty due to workforce shortage

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/10/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The need for workforce reform is dire, as aged-care beds nationwide are empty despite long waiting lists, the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) reported. Last week, the research report was released, which found many homes were operating under capacity due to growing worker shortages with some as low as 50 per cent capacity.

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New program opens opportunity for Aussies with dementia

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/10/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The Australian National Maritime Museum has opened a story-telling program for people with dementia and their carers to foster connections. Seaside Stories is a themed, hands-on story-sharing program where participants can touch and hold museum objects while sharing their stories and experiences in a safe space.

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Big changes at Dementia Australia

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 09/10/2023

There's a changing of the guard at Dementia Australia. After almost 10 years as chair of the peak body, Professor Graeme Samuel will be finishing his tenure on 23 November the date of the organisation's annual general meeting.

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App-based protocol to help fill oral health knowledge gaps in aged care workforce

HelloCare, Other, 09/10/2023, Bianca Iovino

Health researchers have received crucial funding to develop a new app-based protocol to improve the oral health and well-being of residential aged care residents and address knowledge gaps among the aged care workforce about the importance of oral healthcare. Designed by dentists and oral health care experts, the app will deliver the right information to care staff but it will also be designed to be used by families to find out the needs for oral health care for their older loved ones.

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Do you just have a bad memory or could it be dementia?

Your Life Choices, Other, 09/10/2023, Lisa Salmon

In 2022, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) estimated that there were 401,300 Australians living with dementia. Based on those estimates, this is equivalent to 15 people with dementia per 1000 Australians, which increases to 84 people with dementia per 1000 Australians aged 65 and over.

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POPULATION HEALTH

The key to eating well? Avoid ultra-processed foods

Why some "healthy" foods are probably not as healthy as you thought they were. Chances are, if you're reading this article, you like to eat a healthy diet.

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Schooled on stink

Courier Mail, General News, 10/10/2023, Andreas Nicola, Page 17

The government has started distributing canisters to childhood education centres in Ipswich to collect air quality samples after years of residents complaining about a "stench" that's been making them sick. Since 2018, locals in the area have been complaining about the smell coming from Swanbank Industrial Area which hosts composting, landfill and recycling facilities.

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

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

New drug for seizures

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 10/10/2023, Page 11

A drug being trialled for people with epilepsy helps reduce the most common type of seizures even in people already using currently available antiseizure medications. The phase 2 trial compared a range of doses of the drug, XEN1101, with a placebo in about 300 people.

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More younger people are being diagnosed with glaucoma, prompting concern

ABC Online, Other, 09/10/2023, Lottie Twyford

People tend to think of glaucoma as an older person's disease, but new statistics show younger people are now starting to be diagnosed more often. That's of concern to Glaucoma Australia, which is urging everyone to go and get their eyes tested, even if they don't have a family history of the disease.

[Read More](#)

Push for better understanding of diabetes

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 09/10/2023, Tamara McDonald

The diabetic community is fighting for people to gain a better understanding of the condition. Linda Hobbs did not really understand diabetes until she found out she had the condition.

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Calls for action for Motor Neurone Disease as cases rise

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 09/10/2023, Madeleine Bower

Health experts and MND patients are calling on government action to classify the fatal disease as notifiable as cases rise. Health experts and motor neurone disease (MND) patients are calling on the NSW government to classify the fatal condition as a notifiable disease, with experts warning cases could increase, with more data needed to determine its causes.

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TWC puts 50s vision loss in its sights

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/10/2023

Terrywhite Chemmart and the Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA) have teamed up to raise awareness about the importance of monitoring changes in vision for early detection of macular disease. Age-related macular degeneration affects approximately 1.5 million Australians and is the leading cause of irreversible severe vision loss in the country.

PRIMARY CARE

Staff exodus at Sydney hospital

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 10/10/2023, Michael McGowan, Page 3

The largest mental health facility in NSW has again been rocked by allegations a toxic culture of bullying has taken hold, leading to a mass exodus of staff who say they were victims of "stifling, anxiety-provoking" management. The Herald has obtained documents that show Cumberland Hospital, managed by the Western Sydney Local Health District, has been hit with a series of penalty notices by the workplace safety regulator SafeWork NSW after five allied health staff resigned en masse last year.

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Dentists join fight over payroll tax shift

Age, General News, 10/10/2023, Broede Carmody, Page 15

Some dental practices will have to raise their fees and others will close unless Victoria carves out payroll tax exemptions for all medical clinics, the Australian Dental Association has warned. Practices that have independent dentists working in them fear they will receive backdated tax bills due to recent rulings from state revenue offices.

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

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Coroner bemoans AT 'failure'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 10/10/2023, Sandy Powell, Page 7

Paramedics did not arrive to assist a man suffering a heart attack for more than an hour and a half after the initial triple zero call, by which time he was already dead, a coroner has said. Anton Lukacevich, 64, was staying at his sister's home at Mangalore in southern Tasmania in January, 2022, when he became suddenly and severely unwell.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Hugh Connell says Patient Transfer Subsidy Scheme failing those who need care

Adelaide Now, Other, 09/10/2023, Daniel Shirkie

A 72-year-old pensioner who fears he may never be able to walk again has labelled a government scheme, designed to help patients who have to travel for care, a failing system as he prepares for spinal surgery. Townsville resident Hugh Connell is in urgent need of neurological spinal surgery to fix severe back pain caused by a degenerative illness and a lifetime of heavy labour.

[Read More](#)

When his NDIS funding was cut, palliative patient Jim Mills chose voluntary assisted dying over hospital

ABC Online, Other, 09/10/2023, Sophie Landau

James "Jim" Mills is remembered by his family as a larrikin. The regional railway worker loved the St Kilda Football Club, a cold beer, and said yes to any dare that would come his way.

[Read More](#)

Morisset Hospital staff to be offered jobs at new Maitland facility

Newcastle Herald, Other, 09/10/2023, Matthew Kelly

The future of the Morisset Hospital site remains unclear, despite confirmation that services and patients will be relocated to a new facility at Maitland. The government announced on Friday that This will

involve the relocation of the Morisset Kestrel medium secure forensic unit as well as the adult acute and older persons services unit.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 09/10/2023, Max Fatcher and Sharyn Ghidella

There are big incentives for GPs to bulk bill and offer patients more. And tonight, we can reveal some of the cheapest southeast suburbs to see a doctor. The Government is paying GPs more to bulk bill at regular appointments, home visits and some phone and video consults for children under 16 and concession card holders. AMA Qld's Maria Boulton says the issue is that the Medicare rebates have not kept up with the cost of providing the service.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Sunlight seems to protect us from depression, anxiety

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 10/10/2023, Liam Mannix, Page 3

People who get more light during the day and less at night are less likely to suffer from mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, psychosis and self-harm, researchers have found in one of the largest studies of its kind. Humans once lived by the sun's rise and fall; our nights were lit only by the moon.

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

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Stress takes its toll on cops

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/10/2023, David Barwell, Page 14

Stress is forcing hundreds of NSW police off the street as startling statistics reveal one in 15 officers are away from duties on mental health leave. The demands of the job are cited as key factors for figures revealing 1108 police officers were on mental health leave as of July 31 this year.

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Anxiety help in long run

Courier Mail, General News, 10/10/2023, Page 18

When it comes to beating depression and anxiety, are antidepressants or exercise the better option? According to Amsterdam University researchers, both running and antidepressants have about the same benefits for mental health - but a 16week course of running over the same period scores higher in terms of physical health improvement, whereas antidepressants led to a slightly worse physical condition.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).

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Mental health awareness program vital

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/10/2023, Kevin Shadbolt, Page 19

"Mental illness is nothing to be ashamed of, but stigma and bias shame us all" - a quote from former US president Bill Clinton - and a sentiment recognised by Australian Rotary Health. In 2014, I was pleased to accept a nomination to the board of ARH. ARH was formed in 1981 to fund medical research in Australia.

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Ptsd trial start

West Australian, Business News, 10/10/2023, Page 20

Emyria has dosed its first patient in its MDMA-assisted therapy trial for post-traumatic stress disorder in what the WA biotech says marks an Australian first. The company on Monday said the "significant

milestone" was "believed to be a first for a private specialist clinic operating distinctively from academic centres and both public and private hospitals."

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Head in right direction

Cairns Post, General News, 10/10/2023, Catherine Duffy, Page 9

The biggest issues facing high schoolers are anxiety and depression, according to a local mental health organisation. Awareness, belonging and connection are on the forefront of Queensland Mental Health Week at headspace Cairns.

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How to deal with suicidal distress

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 10/10/2023, Natalie Croxon, Page 8

Making someone feel as though they are not alone is one of the most powerful things a person can give. It's something Emma Miles, service leader and peer worker at Safe Haven in Wollongong, has heard from someone who's used the service, a non-clinical alternative to the emergency department for anyone experiencing emotional or suicidal distress.

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Headspace Day helps destigmatise mental health by putting a face to a name for service providers in Hedland

West Australian, Other, 09/10/2023, Xander Sapsworth-Collis

Headspace Day helps destigmatise mental health support by showcasing service providers to the Port Hedland community, industry professionals say. The annual Headspace Day was held on Wednesday, October 4 at the South Hedland Skatepark with Mission Australia, the West Coast Eagles, and headspace Hedland in attendance among others.

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How teen overcame anorexia and mental health issues; now experts want it accessible to all Aussies

Adelaide Now, Other, 09/10/2023, Julie Cross

An Aussie mum has revealed how her daughter overcame mental health issues and an eating disorder. Now experts want to see it become available to everyone with Medicare subsidies.

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

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New Australian data reveals youth mental health crisis

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 09/10/2023, James Goldieand & Dean Marchiori

New research from the Australian Bureau of Statistics has found that nearly two in five young Australians surveyed during 2020 to 2022 experienced symptoms of a long-term mental health condition. The survey found 38.8 percent of respondents aged 16 to 24 had symptoms of an anxiety disorder, an affective disorder (including depression and bipolar disorder) or a substance abuse disorder in the year before the survey, compared with 21.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

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Mental health awareness breaks the stigma for men's wellbeing

Shepparton News Online, Other, 09/10/2023, Faith Macale

Two in five young people say they prefer to deal with their mental health challenges alone. Men are at higher risk of dying by suicide than women, according to mental health practitioners.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 09/10/2023, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan

NSW Premier Chris Minns says that he believes that the phone ban in schools will help improve mental health for students, but also that the main driver for this policy is to reduce the distraction of mobile phones.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Dismissed pain, racism add to birth trauma

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 10/10/2023, Maeve Bannister & Samantha Lock, Page 14

Racism inside hospitals coupled with dismissed pain and a lack of informed consent is contributing to traumatic births for many women, an inquiry has been told. A NSW parliamentary inquiry into birth trauma heard the health of a baby is often prioritised over the mother's wellbeing and autonomy.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

UniSQ to build new allied health building in Ipswich

The Australian, Other, 09/10/2023, Tim Dodd

The University of Southern Queensland has announced a new \$38m building to be built on its Ipswich campus for its expanding range of allied health courses. This year UniSQ introduced new courses in speech pathology, occupational therapy, social work, and strength and conditioning, with a new course in physiotherapy to begin next year.

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Scrapping high pressure clinical exams for trainees makes it dangerously easy to become a specialist

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/10/2023, Andrew Amos

Pressure from the Australian Medical Council for medical colleges to eliminate high-stakes exams for trainees puts doctors and patients at risk. I write this because the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists says its decision to eliminate the only test of practical skills required to become a psychiatrist under exam conditions the gold standard' OSCE was driven by advice from the regulator back in 2021.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 09/10/2023, Leon Compton

Interview with Bruce Levett, CEO, Health Consumers on the closure of the Greenpoint Medical Centre at Bridgewater. Levett provides updates on conversations between the state and Federal Government's health recruitment organisation HR Plus and peak body Health Consumers Tasmania.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Mass mail-out will implore GPs to stop writing 60-day scripts

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/10/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

The letter will highlight patients who use Webster packs as one vulnerable group, pharmacists say. [...]

She added that concession card holders on six or more medicines would typically reach the PBS Safety Net halfway through the year, meaning they would pay nothing for scripts until the end of the year anyway.

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Guild issues S8 scam warning

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/10/2023

Pharmacists put on alert as fake drug rep scam targets stores Community pharmacists are being urged to be alert for a scammer attempting to gain access to Schedule 8 medications. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's NSW branch issued the warning over the weekend (8 October), noting that it had "been made aware of an attempted

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 09/10/2023, Sandra Sully

Australians living with a common skin condition can now access a new treatment that is hoped will bring more relief for sufferers. An estimated 19,000 Australians are living with the long term inflammatory skin disease, severe chronic plaque psoriasis. Eligible patients can now access a new pill, Sotyktu via the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

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Channel 9 Darwin, National Nine News, 09/10/2023, Paul Murphy

Psoriasis is not only debilitating physically, but mentally too. A new medicine, Sotyktu, is now available on the PBS.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Medicare shakeup to give patients greater access to their GPs

9News, Other, 09/10/2023, Miriah Davis

The rollout of a new government scheme is set to give patients greater access to their favourite GP. MyMedicare is a voluntary registration program aimed at encouraging an ongoing relationship between a patient and a general practitioner.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 09/10/2023, Peter Overton

Poor Australians can now unlock life changing medical benefits for free. A new government programme MyMedicare has just launched, giving you greater access to your favourite doctor. From next month, registered practises will have the option to fully bulk billed children, pensioners and concession card holders who are enrolled into MyMedicare next year. Those in aged care will receive more regular at home visits from their doctor, and chronic disease sufferers will have their care plans streamlined to their one registered GP, plus more comprehensive care for those who visit hospital frequently.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

GP banned from treating women

Courier Mail, General News, 10/10/2023, Page 15

A veteran Gold Coast doctor whose special interests include women's health including reproductive health, has been slapped with a ban on treating women by the health care watchdog, according to its

public register. David Richards, who has been practising on the Gold Coast for over 22 years, and currently works at the Medical Super Clinic Benowa, was the target of immediate registration action by the state's health watchdog effective from Thursday, October 5, an announcement published on Monday states.

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

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Parents of Aishwarya Aswath renew calls for royal commission following alleged rape at Perth Children's Hospital

ABC Online, Other, 09/10/2023

The parents of Aishwarya Aswath, a seven-year-old-girl whose death sparked a major overhaul of the state's hospital system, say a royal commission is needed to ensure transparency following damning allegations a child was raped in the same hospital where their little girl died.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Allan and key MP withheld warning of Games blowout

Age, General News, 10/10/2023, Rachel Eddie & Annika Smethurst Kieran Rooney, Page 1

Premier Jacinta Allan and a senior cabinet minister assured a parliamentary committee the Commonwealth Games were on track three months after they were warned the event was facing a multibilliondollar cost blowout. New details about the cancellation of the event emerged yesterday during an inquiry into the abandoned 2026 Games, with senior public servants confirming Allan knew four months before cancelling the event that it would cost \$2 billion more than Victoria had budgeted.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

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On track for glory

Herald Sun, General News, 10/10/2023, Peter Rolfe, Page 23

Some of the world's best track and field athletes will compete in Melbourne this summer in a major event tipped to draw the eyes of the world to Victoria. The state government will on Tuesday reveal the "Maurie Plant Meet" will return to Lakeside at Lakeside Stadium at Albert Park in February.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

'Punching above our weight' in RNA field

The Australian, General News, 10/10/2023, Noah Yim, Page 6

Regulators need to keep up with the latest developments in RNA technology before "extreme acceleration" in the field, says global pharmaceutical heavyweight Sanofi. Australia is "punching above its weight" in the field, industry players said, as the government consults major players in Australia about RNA.

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

Research takes whole new tech

Herald Sun, General News, 10/10/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 16

It will be the home of future research leaders, a place where problems are solved through collaboration, discoveries made by a uniquely skilled workforce, and partnerships established with business to fast-track healthcare solutions to market. The Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne's campus is set to be a global leader in an emerging field called medical technologies, or medtech.

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Superbug fears grow

Herald Sun, General News, 10/10/2023, Page 18

Disinfectants, also known as biocides, may reduce the ability of antibiotics to fight a superbug, Australian and British research has found. Researchers from Macquarie University, Monash University, the University of Newcastle, and University of Technology Sydney helped find that low levels of certain biocides, including chlorhexidine, which is often used for skin disinfection before surgery, could alter processes inside the cells of the bacteria *Acinetobacter baumannii* and promote antibiotic tolerance and resistance.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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Next Gardasil should be manufactured here, says vaccine inventor

Australian Financial Review, Other, 09/10/2023, Tess Bennett

The co-inventor of the technology behind the HPV cervical cancer vaccine says that if he were developing the drug today he would push to have it made in Australia, keeping the wealth, jobs and social benefits onshore.

[Read More](#)

Radiopharm green-lighted for radioactive lung cancer trial

West Australian, Other, 09/10/2023, Doug Bright

The Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has given Radiopharm Theranostics its stamp of approval to begin first-in-human phase-one dose escalation trials in Australia on patients living with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). The company says the vital approval will allow it to pursue greater hope for patients dealing with a devastating condition that currently has a "poor prognosis" in terms of life expectancy.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

JT says yes vote is so important

Courier Mail, General News, 10/10/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 14

Queenslanders would be compelled to support the proposed Voice to Parliament if they witnessed the housing, health and schooling conditions Indigenous children faced in remote communities, according to rugby league legend Johnathan Thurston. As the final week of campaigning for the referendum kicks off, Thurston said the "struggles and the pain" faced by young people in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities were significant.

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

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Shingles jab free for aged

Northern Territory News, General News, 10/10/2023, Page 5

Older Australians will have free access to the best protection against shingles from November 1 through one of the most comprehensive and widely available vaccination programs in the world. Shingrix provides about 10 years of protection and usually costs up to \$560, but it will now be free for everyone aged 65 and over, First Nations people 50 and over, and people 18 and over who are immunocompromised and at risk of herpes zoster infection.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#)

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SBS, World News Australia, 09/10/2023, Janice Petersen

Nearly 5 million Australians will receive free access to a new shingles vaccine from next month. The Shingrix vaccine provides ten years of protection and is more effective than the vaccine currently available on the national immunisation programme. People aged over 65, First Nations, and immunocompromised people aged 18 and over are among those eligible. The Federal Government is investing over \$826 million to deliver the programme.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 09/10/2023, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Dr Norman Swan, host RN Health Report. Swan discusses the new shingles vaccine. He says a study in Wales where there was a certain date where they introduced the Zostavax vaccine and resulted to reduction of the risk of dementia.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Celebrity Ozempic endorsements create real issues for people who need drug

Canberra Times, Other, 09/10/2023

Beware any drug that comes to be associated with celebrities. Even one, in the case of a drug developed to help manage type 2 diabetes, that is now being diverted to weight loss therapy for many thousands of non-celebrities in Australia, including hundreds in Canberra. Ozempic, which is listed under the Therapeutic Goods Administration to treat type 2 diabetes, is now being prescribed by doctors to help with weight loss, making a dent in supply that is alarming for those who already have prescriptions to manage diabetes.

[Read More](#)

WA biotech Emyria completes first dosing for MDMA-assisted therapy trial

West Australian, Other, 09/10/2023, Cheyanne Enciso

Emyria has dosed its first patient in its MDMA-assisted therapy trial for post-traumatic stress disorder in what the WA biotech says marks an Australian first. [...] It follows a decision by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in February allowing medicines containing psilocybin a psychedelic compound found in magic mushrooms and MDMA to be prescribed to patients by authorised psychiatrists from July 1.

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TGA makes \$2.1m vape busts

Regulator seizes more than 70,000 vaping products as part of Australian Border Force-supported clampdown . The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has confiscated vaping products with a value in excess of \$2.1 million during raids on two storage units in Sydney. The seizure was part of ongoing investigations into the alleged importation of unapproved nicotine vaping.

[Read More](#)

How should pharmacists report incidents?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 09/10/2023, Chloe Hava

As prescribers and dispensers of medicines, pharmacists have a vital role to play in ensuring the safe use of medicines. [...] Some examples of reporting incidents include reporting a patient's adverse reaction to a medicine to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, or reporting dispensing errors to management and your professional indemnity insurer,' she said.

[Read More](#)

Neurotech treatment looks to be making a difference in children with PANDAS/PANS in clinical trial

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 09/10/2023

Pediatric patients with orphan disorder PANDAS/PANS could have a new treatment available after a groundbreaking Neurotech trial indicated significant improvements. [...] The drug is currently undergoing a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 2/3 clinical trial in Australia for autism spectrum disorder following earlier successes and has secured HERC approval and Clinical Trial Notification (CTN) scheme clearance by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for investigations in treating female Rett syndrome patients .

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Labor to overhaul state's drug laws

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 10/10/2023, Michael McGowan & Max Maddison, Page 1

The Minns government will dramatically overhaul NSW drug laws by introducing a broad pre-court diversion scheme for people caught in possession of small amounts of illicit substances, potentially allowing thousands of recreational users to avoid criminal sanctions. The Herald has confirmed NSW Labor is poised to announce the most significant shake-up of drug laws in the state's recent history, expanding existing pre-court diversion schemes for cannabis to include all illicit drugs.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

Listeria fears in cheeses

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/10/2023, Page 14

Popular brands of Camembert cheese sold at Woolworths stores across the country have been recalled over potential listeria contamination. [...] "Listeria may cause illness in pregnant women and their unborn babies, the elderly and people with low immune systems," Food Standards Australia New Zealand said.

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

AICIS

Residents contacted over PFAS class action

Border Mail, General News, 10/10/2023, Beau Greenway, Page 1

Less than two months after compensation was approved for Wodonga and Bandiana landowners affected by PFAS chemicals used in firefighting foam, a class action on health grounds could follow. Some Wodonga residents have been contacted by Shine Lawyers, the firm responsible for reaching an agreement with the Australian Defence Force for a \$132.7 million payout in May 2023 for around 30,000 affected landholders near seven different military bases, including Bandiana and Wagga.

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