



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 23rd October 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 1) reports a mental health expert is calling for mandatory psychological testing for young people seeking cosmetic surgery following new figures showing a surge in uptake among women aged 18 to 29.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports train testing operations in Melbourne's new Metro tunnel will halt at certain times of the day over concerns they may be causing electromagnetic interference to MRI's and similar equipment in the Parkville health precinct.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 1) reports the number of Queenslanders admitted to hospital with eating disorders has more than quadrupled since the turn of the century, while figures show a corresponding spike in years that saw the release of new social media platforms.
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 1) reports a "significant number" of Tasmanian Health Service staff will be investigated following revelations they accessed patients' health records "not in connection with performance of their duties".
- [The Age](#) (page 2) reports children's genetics, excessive use of screens and not enough time outdoors may be causing a myopia epidemic, doctors have warned, as the number of young

people presenting to some clinics has more than doubled since 2021. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#)

- **The Australian** (page 5) reports doctors are calling for the suspension of the federal Diabetes in Schools program, saying it is failing to deliver when training staff, placing children and schools at risk.
- The **Herald Sun** (page 7) reports access to the gene therapy Zolgensma will be expanded through the PBS, potentially saving families up to \$2.5 million for treatment, Health Minister Mark Butler has announced. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#).
- **9News** (online) reports a petition with over 10,000 signatures calling for doctors to receive more education on perimenopause and menopause has been delivered to Health Minister Mark Butler, while Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said the government is committed to finding "a fresh approach" to how menopause is treated.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Spinal therapy to help babies

Herald Sun, General News, 23/10/2023, Clare Armstrong, Page 7

Babies suffering from a rare spinal condition that is the leading genetic cause of death for Australian children aged under two will get lifesaving access to a new treatment that would otherwise cost a family \$2.5m. The federal government will expand access on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for a gene therapy called Zolgensma that can stop the progression of spinal muscular atrophy in babies aged up to nine months. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said Zolgensma was a one-off, "transformative treatment" that addressed the underlying cause of spinal muscular atrophy.

*Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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### Medicare changes revealed

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 23/10/2023, Eleanor Campbell, Page 5

Cheaper visits to GPs and increased access to telehealth is on the cards under major changes to Medicare. A free service called "MyMedicare", which launched earlier this month, will allow patients to formally register their preferred doctor's clinic and GP, and to receive rebates on the cost of a telehealth appointment with that doctor. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the changes would provide more tailored care and "better serve the needs of patients that fall through the cracks."

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### \$100 to see a GP: Aussies hit with fee increase

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 23/10/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 17

Australians will next month be charged more than \$100 for a standard non-bulk billed GP appointment, as doctors' fees rise for the third time this year. The hip-pocket hit comes after the Australian Medical Association (AMA) recommended doctors raise their fees to cope with galloping practice costs. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler pointed the finger at the previous governments.

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

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### Aussies to pay more than \$100 to visit a doctor for a standard non bulk-billed appointment

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/10/2023, Peter Vincent

Australians will be forced to pay more than \$100 just to see a doctor in a further blow to residents already doing it tough during the cost-of-living crisis. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the changes would provide more tailored care and 'better serve the needs of patients that fall through the cracks.

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## 'Not just hot flushes': Call for action over condition half of Aussies will face

9News, Other, 22/10/2023, Sarah Swain

Erin Morton might be an associate professor who works for a university setting up clinical trials but when she first experienced brain fog and other symptoms a few years ago aged 42, she said she was "horrified" at the lack of help or information. [...] "Menopause can wreak havoc on people's lives, careers, relationships, and mental health," Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said.

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## Cardiovascular groups campaign to save Heart Health Checks

The Limbic, Other, 22/10/2023, Siobhan Calafiore

Cardiovascular groups are urging the Federal Government to commit to permanently funding MBS Heart Health Checks amid concerns the items are under threat ahead of the next Federal budget. Introduced in April 2019, MBS items 699 and 177 fund GPs and other medical practitioners to provide heart health assessments lasting at least 20 minutes. [...] In a statement to the limbic, a spokesperson for the Minister for Health Mark Butler confirmed the government was still consulting with stakeholders.

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## 'Next big health issue after COVID': NHMRC hardline stance on e-cigs

The Limbic, Other, 22/10/2023, Geir O'Rourke

There is no convincing evidence that electronic cigarettes assist patients to quit and vaping may lead non-smokers to take up tobacco smoking, the NHMRC has warned. The agency released its updated national advice on Thursday, warning that younger people were using e-cigarettes or vapes more frequently, with one-in five people aged 18-24 who had never smoked having tried vaping.

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## MINISTER WELLS

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### 'Not just hot flushes': Call for action over condition half of Aussies will face

9News, Other, 22/10/2023, Sarah Swain

Erin Morton might be an associate professor who works for a university setting up clinical trials but when she first experienced brain fog and other symptoms a few years ago aged 42, she said she was "horrified" at the lack of help or information. [...] "Menopause can wreak havoc on people's lives, careers, relationships, and mental health," Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Shire standing alone on aged care

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 23/10/2023, Jonathon Magrath, Page 2

The Mount Alexander Shire is the only local government in the Bendigo federal electorate to offer in-home aged care services, after councillors voted to continue and expand its offerings. Shire mayor Cr Rosie Annear said the service had been under review following federal government reforms of the aged care sector. "During our review, current clients and their families overwhelmingly told us how much they value the aged care services that we offer," she said.

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### Medical practice to stay

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 23/10/2023, Ben Silvester, Page 1

Lyndoch Living says its provision of GP services for its residents will be unchanged by the attempted sale of its \$25 million primary healthcare centre building. Acting chief executive officer Jill Davidson said while the building would hopefully be sold, Lyndoch's medical practice was definitely not being sold. "It will be business as usual for Lyndoch Living," Ms Davidson said.

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### Shifting focus of legal matters

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 22/10/2023, Linda Starr

As I was preparing for this last legal issues editorial that I will be writing for the journal, I was conscious of the shift in focus of legal matters concerning health professionals over the years. With few landmark civil cases in recent years, the main arena for scrutiny of professional practice and conduct has been through the Coroner's Court and the Tribunals, with a slight increase in criminal matters involving health professionals or those pretending to be.

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### Twist at nursing home where great-grandmother Clare Nowland was allegedly Tasered by cop

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/10/2023, Jesse Hyland and Sarah Liversidge

The nursing home where grandmother Clare Nowland was Tasered by police has been deemed to be non-complaint by the regulator over a separate matter. Yallambee Lodge, an aged care home in the town of Cooma in southern NSW, had its risk management systems and practices ruled non-compliant by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission last month.

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Screen time blamed for kids' record bad eyesight

Age, General News, 23/10/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 2

Optometrists are warning of a myopia epidemic as the proportion of children presenting with shortsightedness almost doubles at some clinics. The eye specialists believe children's worsening eyesight is linked to genetics, excessive use of screens and not enough time outdoors. Zeinab Fakhri, the Australian College of Optometry's manager of paediatrics and rehabilitative service, said the average age of diagnosis had dropped from about 12 to eight.

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

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### Infection or inflammation - the central question to treating snake bites

Cairns Post, Other, 22/10/2023

Antibiotics should not be used to treat snake bites, as the latest data shows the Far North topping the state for the most reported attacks this year, a new study has found. The key research was unveiled at the Cairns Hospital's annual research and innovation symposium on Friday.

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### Why do I bruise so easily? Could it be something serious?

ABC Online, Other, 22/10/2023, Rayn Pasricha

After a bump, we can expect a bruise. But what if we find ourselves bruising without any noticeable cause? What might be behind it? Should we worry? Around 18 per cent of adults report easy bruising. As haematologists (blood doctors), we are often asked for advice when people are worried they might bruise too easily. Here is how we think about the problem.

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

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### Three steps to supporting the quality of life for people with dry eyes

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/10/2023

As dry eye disease can be progressive and chronic, early intervention to break the cycle of eye dryness and inflammation is important for patients' quality of life and mental wellbeing. Health-related quality of life (HR-QOL) is a multifactorial approach to measuring the physical, mental, social and emotional impact of disease state.

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### Dermatology dilemma: rethinking psoriasis and its comorbidities

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/10/2023

Doctors caring for patients with psoriasis should consider exploring early screening and treatment for comorbidities, while the impact of early intervention cannot be underestimated. Psoriasis is associated with musculoskeletal, metabolic, cardiovascular and psychological morbidities.

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### The impact of paternal smoking on breastfeeding

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/10/2023

A recent study shows that mothers with partners who smoke are less likely to breastfeed their babies, suggesting that breastfeeding promotion efforts should target smoking families, and particularly include those with smoking fathers/partners. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) routinely collects and publishes data on the smoking status of pregnant mothers, but does not publish data on the smoking status of fathers with pregnant partners.

## Liver disease mortality rates reveal Australia's drinking habits

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/10/2023

Understanding trends in alcohol consumption via liver disease mortality rates is crucial for targeting resources to reduce alcohol-related harm, writes Associate Professor Michael Livingston. Alcohol consumption is a key driver of death and ill health in Australia, responsible for an estimated 4. [...] We examined trends in alcohol-related liver disease mortality rates provided by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare between 1968 and 2020 by age and sex.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Diabetes program 'a risk to students'

The Australian, General News, 23/10/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 5

A prominent paediatrician and patient groups are calling for the suspension of a federal government program that trains school staff to manage type 1 diabetes in students, claiming it is not delivering an accredited training course and is placing children at risk. [...] However, Diabetes Australia (DA) hails the program as having set up a consistent process to ensure the safe and legal administration of insulin at schools.

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

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### A loss like this will change everything

Northern Territory News, General News, 23/10/2023, Lisa Mayoh, Page 22

It's been four years since James Tobin lost his mum Christa a loss so significant that the Channel 7 personality is only now able to talk about it. Just. His mum who earned her name because she was born on Christmas Eve died at the age of 68 of breast cancer, the insidious disease she'd beaten just 10 years earlier.

Similar coverage reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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### Death sentence was really a beginning for survivor

Border Mail, General News, 23/10/2023, Page 4

In 1979 doctors told a distraught Michael Grayling he had just six weeks to live. But he wasn't going to let that grave declaration deter him from getting on with what he loved to do - living. [...] The retiree's first laps for the Cancer Council started in 1999 - the first time the event was staged in Australia.

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### Harrowing face of alcohol abuse

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/10/2023, Natalie Croxon, Page 3

A grieving Wollongong mother wants people to see the devastating potential health impacts of drinking, backing calls to introduce warning labels on alcohol bottles. Rachel Allen's son Dylan died in 2022 from alcoholic hepatitis, or inflammation of the liver.

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### Celebration of hope after Norma outruns cancer

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/10/2023, Grace Crivellaro, Page 6

It was only three months ago that Norma Saba got the tick of approval from her oncologist to be able to leave her home and travel again after years of radiation. "Prior to that I had to stay home at all times and try not to catch viruses that were going around ... [...] She said it "meant the world" to have been

given the all clear just a few months ago, so she could join carers and survivors at the Cancer Council's Relay for Life on Saturday.

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## Help family stay afloat

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 23/10/2023, Natasha Emeck, Page 7

A brave single mum, who was diagnosed with a rare cancer and forced into homelessness while searching for affordable rentals in Townsville, says she had no other option but to relocate. Katie Peacock-Fisher was homeless and desperately searching for an affordable place to live with her two daughters when she was diagnosed with a rare type of NonHodgkin lymphoma in June.

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## Alice Springs oncology and cardio seeks to improve heart health in rural Australia

Northern Territory News, Other, 22/10/2023, Zayda Dollie

The Alice Springs Hospital is marking five years of operations for its oncology and cardio service in Central Australia. Established in 2018, the service was designed to meet a dire need in the community. The rate of heart-related hospital admissions in Alice Springs is more than twice the national rate 98.6 per 10,000 compared with 42.3 per 10,000.

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## Rare Care Centre, funded by donors including Telethon, making difference for kids with rare diseases

West Australian, Other, 22/10/2023, Katherine Fleming

Katie Berry remembers vividly the day she was told her eldest daughter Ava, then seven, had a rare disease. She remembers the phone call. The appointment with a geneticist. The diagnosis of a mutation on the GNAS gene, one of only about two cases of its kind in Australia. She remembers the relief of finally having an answer, mixed with confusion, and fear for her child's future.

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## Albany man gives stem cells to honour lost daughter amid critical shortage of donors

ABC Online, Other, 22/10/2023, Piper Duffy

Losing his infant daughter to a spinal disorder when she was 13 months old motivated Kriss Logan to become a stem cell donor and he hopes more Australians will follow suit. Amid a growing need for more diverse donors, the Albany man wants to dispel misconceptions about the pain and effort associated with donation, which could one day save someone's life.

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## 'Does drinking diet drinks cause cancer?'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 22/10/2023, Zac Turner

Most diet soft drinks contain an ingredient that has been linked to an increased cancer risk but it's not as scary as it seems, says Dr Zac Turner. Welcome to Ask Doctor Zac, a weekly column from news.com.au.

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## South Australian teenager's back pain leads to leukaemia diagnosis

7news.com.au, Other, 22/10/2023, Sowaibah Hanifie

It got to the point where she couldn't sit still, she was in that much pain.' Alyssa Hann, 16, is still coming to terms with the fact she won't be able to leave hospital let alone play football for the next few weeks as doctors begin urgent treatment for leukaemia and a rare blood disease.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Women are getting lung cancer at a higher rate than men their age and researchers are baffled

7news.com.au, Other, 22/10/2023, Jen Christensen

Despite the decline in smoking, the cancer rate among women is increasing and scientists are struggling to understand why. More young and middle-aged women are being diagnosed with lung cancer at a higher rate than men, and scientists are struggling to understand why, new research shows.

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## Hepatocellular carcinoma surveillance in Australia: current and future perspectives

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/10/2023

Hepatocellular carcinoma (hcc) is a leading cause of cancer-related death worldwide, and is increasing in incidence in Australia. For most people with cirrhosis and chronic hepatitis B, HCC screening and surveillance is recommended with 6-monthly ultrasound. However, most patients with HCC are still diagnosed outside of surveillance with incurable disease.

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## Warning on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease with early detection 'vital'

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/10/2023

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease can cause severe morbidity and affects around 5 million Australians, but is typically asymptomatic until the late stages of the disease. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is rising in Australia, with a disease burden that is likely to affect 7 million people by 2030.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Carlisle buys rival radiologist; monitors for sale symptoms

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 23/10/2023, Page 18

Carlisle Health is scanning for more radiologists. Street Talk understands the healthcare roll-up has agreed terms to add a sizeable bolt-on acquisition to its fast-growing portfolio of radiologist clinics, just five months after it snapped up Exact Radio...

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

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### Operation rail fail

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 23/10/2023, Matt Johnston, Page 1

Trains will be stopped in their tracks during testing on the \$14bn Metro Tunnel if nearby hospital patients need urgent access to lifesaving equipment. Concerns about electromagnetic fields interfering with sensitive medical instruments have led to the critical care protocol, struck between the Parkville medical precinct and the tunnel operators.

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### Private ambo cut

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/10/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 12

A private ambulance company transferring up to 700 patients a month in the northern suburbs will have its contract ended on Friday, despite ongoing chronic ramping. Absolute Medical Response had installed infrastructure including a depot and new vehicles after winning a contract for a pilot program last year with the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network.

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

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## Health on the line

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 23/10/2023, Page 12

Some positive news for accessing healthcare in the NT should be warmly welcomed. It's not very often the Territory gets to celebrate good news when it comes to health. In fact just last week it was revealed that the Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospitals called its seventh Code Yellow of the year.

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## 'Gloves off' in hospital project to reduce waste, save money

Newcastle Herald, General News, 23/10/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 13

The overuse of gloves will be tackled at John Hunter Hospital in a pilot project to cut waste and save money, the NSW government says. The project aimed to reduce "unnecessary non-sterile glove use and improve hand hygiene in clinical areas". NSW Health Minister Ryan Park said the project, titled "Gloves Off, Clean Hands, Safe for All", would "reduce the overuse of gloves and decrease the amount of avoidable waste being sent to landfill".

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Certain noises enrage me, but I hear it's a thing

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/10/2023, Antoinette Lattouf, Page 22

Don't you know how to chew with your mouth closed?" I hissed at a ' stranger sitting behind me on the bus as he munched on chips with the civility of a giraffe. [...] Misophonia disorder triggers emotional or physiological responses that some might perceive as over the top. The term, coined in 2001, is derived from the Greek and literally means "hatred of sound".

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

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### The strength of vulnerability in mental illness workforce

Canberra Times, General News, 23/10/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

When Corey Lamb was a patient in an ACT residential mental health facility at age 18, he never imagined they would one day hire him because of that experience. A 2022 Prime Minister and Cabinet survey estimated 4 million Australians had faced stigma or discrimination because of mental illness in the year before.

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### Saving face

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/10/2023, Mikaela Wilkes and Angira Bharadwaj, Page 1

Australian women as young as 18 are turning to cosmetic surgery in droves with doctors blaming social media for normalising invasive procedures for self-conscious teenagers struggling with low confidence and anxiety. The alarming trend has prompted one of the nation's most in-demand cosmetic doctors to tell young women to spend their money elsewhere, while a renowned psychologist has called for young cosmetic surgery-seekers to get mandatory psychological testing.

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### Documentary shines light on mental health

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/10/2023, Page 29

Mental health and suicide prevention will be in the spotlight at the Capri Theatre tonight with a special screening of Australian documentary The Promise. The Green Frog Productions film presents a journey of hope intertwined with narratives from some of the nation's prominent mental health experts and sporting icons.

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## TikTok role in teens' illness

Courier Mail, General News, 23/10/2023, Taylah Fellows, Page 1

Queensland has seen a disturbing 400 per cent increase in eating disorder hospital admissions since the introduction of social media more than 20 years ago, new data shows. But the largest increase comes after the release of TikTok in 2016, when admissions jumped from 3000 to more than 5000 in just two years. Griffith University psychology professor Dr Veya Seekis said TikTok's algorithm targeted the young.

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

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## We need to pay closer attention if adults diagnosed with ADHD are to receive appropriate treatment

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/10/2023, Anne Mitchell and Sam Mitchell, Page 16

You may have noticed an explosion in the media particularly social media coverage of ADHD in the past few years. This has led to a degree of negative feedback, because there are still people who find it hard to accept that ADHD is a real thing, especially in adults. But how would you feel if you suffered from a lifelong disability, recognised under the 1992 Disability Discrimination Act, that affected every aspect of your life, and statistically limited your chances of reaching your full potential and then every day you had to apologise for your symptoms to the many people, including some health professionals, who deny that your condition actually exists?

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## AI used to boost access to mental health support

Border Mail, General News, 23/10/2023, Ted Howes, Page 2

Strong demand from Albury employees seeking help with mental health issues has spurred a move to launch an artificial intelligence therapy program. The Digital Mental Health Program is aimed at small to medium businesses in the Albury area in a joint state government, Albury Business Connect initiative.

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## 'Mental health epidemic' is focus

Launceston Examiner, General News, 23/10/2023, Duncan Bailey, Page 5

A mental health and wellbeing conference from City Mission will address ways to reduce stigma and support others experiencing poor mental health in November. The two day conference called Alongside is a first from City Mission, and will feature expert guest speakers in their field, including a keynote speaker psychiatrist Angelo Diedricks.

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## Mental health support coming to Campaspe

Shepparton News Online, Other, 22/10/2023, Josh Huntly

A new Mental Health and Wellbeing Local is set to open in the Greater Bendigo-Loddon-Campaspe area, administered by Mind Australia in partnership with Echuca Regional Health, Salvation Army, Thorne Harbour Health, Bendigo Health and Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative. Support will be free and can be accessed without a doctor's referral.

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## Trivialising symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder can discourage people from seeking help and treatment, specialist says

ABC Online, Other, 22/10/2023, Adelaide Miller

Penny Moodie often felt confused and like she was "going insane" a lot of the time. For more than two decades, she kept up a facade of being fine, but she was suffering inside. She didn't realise until her early 30s that she had obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). "I thought it was just me," she said.

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## Worrying trends in young people's mental health prompts call for action

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/10/2023

The Australian Government is undertaking a raft of measures to improve the wellbeing of young people, but new research shows that a lot more needs to be done to turn around the worrying trends. When we think of today's younger generations Gen Z or the newly coined Alphas it's easy to picture confident, tech-savvy, digital natives, ready to take on the world ( [here](#) ).

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## Psychiatric workforce in 'crisis', unable to meet complex patient needs

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/10/2023

The Australian Government's new mental health workforce strategy must be implemented urgently according to the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, with health professionals interviewed for InSight+ saying our country's psychiatric workforce is in "crisis" and cannot meet the needs of Australians.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Medicos sue Barwon Health

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 23/10/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 1

Junior doctors have launched a class action against Barwon Health over alleged excessive hours and unpaid, unrostered overtime. It is expected to cover about 1500-plus junior doctors who have worked at Geelong hospital over the last six years. Lawyer Hayden Stephens claimed Barwon Health was yet another health service where there had been blatant disregard for the welfare of young physicians.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### PMs lead tributes to architect of Medicare

Kalbarrie Miner, General News, 23/10/2023, Page 6

Former Federal Labor leader and governor-general Bill Hayden is being remembered as a great Australian after his death aged 90. Mr Hayden led Labor in opposition from 1977 to 1983 before serving as foreign minister in Bob Hawke's government.

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### Cost of doctors appointment to rise for third time this year

9News, Other, 22/10/2023, Serena Seyfort

Aussies are set to be charged more than \$100 for a standard non-bulk billed GP appointment from next month, following a third price increase this year. The Australian Medical Association has recommended doctors raise their fees for a standard GP consultation to \$102 to cope with the rapidly increasing costs

of running a practice. This change marks the third time that recommended fee has gone up in 2023, after it went up to \$90 in March and then \$98 in July.

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## **“The reality is, the Medicare rebate is not enough” – why your trip to GP is getting more expensive**

4BC, Other, 22/10/2023, Spencer Howson

With the price of your average GP trip set to skyrocket from November 1, Dr Maria Boulton – President of the Australian Medical Association Queensland – joined the show to explain the move, and what needs to change to prevent it.

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## **Cardiologists bulk-billing half of all initial consults: Medical Costs Finder site**

The Limbic, Other, 22/10/2023

Cardiologists are more likely than many other specialists to bulk-bill an initial appointment while also charging some of the lowest fees, patients are being told. The figures come from the federal government's Medical Costs Finder website, which is currently recruiting specialists ahead of a \$17 million relaunch later this year.

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## **Channel 9, Nine News Late, 22/10/2023, Peter Overton**

Eleven million Australians are set to benefit from more free GP appointments. The Government increasing bulk billing incentives for doctors, which is expected to make more appointments available for pensioners and young children. But for everyone else, the cost of seeing a doctor is set to rise. The Australian Medical Association has recommended that doctors start charging over \$100 for a standard consultation from November 1st.

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## **Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend), 22/10/2023, Chris Bath**

From 1 November, the Australian Medical Association is lifting its cost recommendation for GP. The AMA recommends doctors charge \$102 while the Medicare rebate will increase by just \$0.20, leaving it out of pocket gap of \$60.60

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## **Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend), 22/10/2023, Chris Bath**

The Government is trying to make bulk billing more accessible to 11 million Australians who are either a child under the age of 16 or benefit from a government payment. That was after the number of practises offering the service dropped by almost 10% in 12 months. From November, the Government is offering a higher subsidy to doctors, seeing those patients and practises will also be able to bulk bill all appointments the run over an hour.

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## **3AW, Weekend Mornings, 22/10/2023, Darren James**

Interview with Dr Danielle McMullen, Vice President, AMA on Australians will be charged more than \$100 for a standard non-bulk billed GP appointment. from 1 November. MacMullen says the Medicare rebate really hasn't kept pace with inflation or the cost of providing care.

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## **4BC, Weekends, 22/10/2023, Spencer Howson**

Interview with Maria Boulton, President, AMA Queensland. Boulton says AMA has recommended doctors to raise their fees to cope with galloping practise costs because the Medicare rebates that the government gives to the patient to access their doctor services has not kept up with the cost of providing the services. She calls for clear cut exemption of GPs on payroll tax.

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### GenesisCare breaches cause deep divisions in cancer service sector

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 23/10/2023, Carrie LaFrenz and Jemima Whyte, Page 19

The national cancer services industry body has collapsed over a disagreement about whether GenesisCare's self-reported breaches are an industrywide problem, as the latter's negotiations with the health department about its bungled billings drag on. The cr...

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

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### Unhealthy interest

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/10/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 1

An audit of Department of Health staff identified a "significant number" of employees had accessed patient records "not in connection with performance of their duties," information obtained under Right to Information laws shows. The Mercury has obtained three notices from between April 13 and June 2 this year posted to an internal message board warning staff of the consequences of a breach.

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### Integrity Commission to consider emails in Dhulwa privacy breach investigation

Canberra Times, Other, 22/10/2023, Lucy Bladen

The ACT Integrity Commission is considering more than 365,000 emails in its investigation into alleged privacy breaches from staff at Dhulwa Mental Health Unit. It only took three weeks for the commission to decide to investigate the matter after receiving a report, the commission's annual report revealed.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### A pandemic-like intervention is needed to address gambling

Canberra Times, General News, 23/10/2023, Devin Bowles, Page 19

The non-profit community sector plays an essential role in helping people and families affected by gambling harms to rebuild their lives. Harms from gambling add to the workload of a wide range of services provided by the community sector.

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## SPORT

### Jets set on finding a new owner

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/10/2023, Zoe Samios, Page 12

The owners of the Newcastle Jets have put the financially strained A-League club up for sale in an attempt to find a business or person that can provide long-term funding and support young soccer talent.

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## England sets total of \$50m for Ashes series

Australian Financial Review, Marketing & Media, 23/10/2023, Zoe Samios, Page 29

English cricket executives want more than \$50 million for broadcast rights to its next two Ashes series, an amount that is likely to end Seven's attempts to bring the biennial contest on to a single television network.

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## Council blasts Games failure

Herald Sun, General News, 23/10/2023, Mitch Clarke, Page 9

A regional council has blasted the Victorian government's handling of the Commonwealth Games fiasco, warning that municipal monitors would be appointed if councils had overseen the same cost blowouts. In a submission to the Victorian parliament's inquiry into the cancellation of the sporting extravaganza, Moyne Shire Council chief executive Brett Davis also sounded the alarm on a lack of information provided in the lead-up to the Games.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Cavallo scores role in sports course

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/10/2023, Dasha Havrilenko, Page 15

Adelaide United's Josh Cavallo is the face of an updated Flinders University Diploma in Sport Management giving students to have the opportunity of industry experience with the Reds. The partnership between the university and the football club will aim to give students a pathway into a sports business career.

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## Greyhound track plans are up in the air

Central Western Daily, General News, 23/10/2023, William Davis, Page 5

Plans for a new Orange greyhound track remain in the air following an unexpected development. Friday's meeting to decide terms for construction at the abandoned Highland's Paceway resulted in a deferral for unclear reasons, the Central Western Daily understands. Negotiations between Orange City Council CEO David Waddell and the Greyhound Breeders Owners and Trainers Association (GBOTA) are due to recommence in a fortnight.

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## Most concussions don't happen on the sports field. Brain injury is a risk for everyone, and its effects can last months or years

ABC Online, Other, 22/10/2023, Anna Salleh

One day, seven-year-old Ettie was chasing her friends around at school, playing a game they called "Monster Monster". But then the little girl tripped and fell face down, and her eye socket took the brunt of the fall. When Ettie's mum Deidre went to pick her up, she was not prepared for what she saw.

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## Pushy parents: research shows one in three children in community sports face abuse

SBS, Other, 22/10/2023, Peggy Giakoumelos

It's a considered a quintessential part of many Australian childhoods with a range of benefits. But participation in community sport also has a dark side with preliminary research revealing abuse often perpetrated by parents remains an under reported reality.

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## Volunteers infected with Zika

Canberra Times, International News, 23/10/2023, Jennifer Rigby, Page 13

Researchers in the United States have shown for the first time they can safely and effectively infect human volunteers with Zika virus, a step towards learning more about the disease and developing vaccines and treatments. The study - known as a "controlled human infection model" - has previously been controversial for Zika because of the risks to participants and lack of treatments.

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

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Run for his life

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 23/10/2023, Jake Garland, Page 32

A Tweed Heads born and bred Indigenous runner has turned his life around after facing some of his darkest moments. Five years ago, Brendan Larcombe was struggling with an ice addiction, alcoholism and homelessness. Now he is raising money and awareness and preparing for another tough battle - but this time, it's the physical kind.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Professor Robert Booy (newly funded Shingles vaccine)

2GB, Other, 22/10/2023

Rev Bill Crews talks to University of Sydney Infectious Disease Expert, Professor Robert Booy about Shingles which can be a painful and potentially debilitating condition, but there is some good news, from November individuals 65 years of age and older are eligible for the vaccine under the National Immunisation Program.

Also reported by: [4BC \(Online\)](#).

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### The Block on blast over controversial stone products

NEWS.com.au, Other, 22/10/2023, Jack Evans

The Block has been slammed by lawyers, the building industry and health experts over one segment. A chorus of lawyers, industry representatives and health experts have accused The Block of using products they believe could be linked to a devastating health epidemic. Silicosis, an incurable workplace-related disease caused by inhaling silica dust, has become prevalent in recent years.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

## How will drug laws play out in practice?

Canberra Times, Editorials, 23/10/2023, Page 16

There are plenty of quips to be had regarding the ACT's decriminalisation of drugs, which takes effect today. Wags may wax lyrical about our "cocaine capital" or a "cruise ship drug charter", but Canberra will be leading the way in a new approach to the problem of illicit drug use. The move, to radically lower the penalties for possessing heavy-duty drugs like heroin, as well as LSD (0.001 grams) and methamphetamine, cocaine, magic mushrooms, MDMA and meth (all 1.5 grams), is the first in Australia, and is based on sound theory demonstrated in practice in other countries.

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