



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 13th November 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[NEWS.com.au](#)** reports experts are warning of an eighth COVID-19 wave in Australia this summer as new variants spread in the community. The Department of Health and Aged Care said there is no evidence that the latest variant of interest 'Pirola' is more severe, but urged the public to take precautions to protect the vulnerable. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [ABC News](#), [Newcastle Herald](#)
- The **[West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports a survey of Perth GPs found only one in 20 offering COVID-19 vaccination shots to children under 12. AMA WA said uptake is so low that clinics are forced to throw most doses away.
- The **[Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports ANU doctoral research has identified a positive link between high rates of autism diagnosis in Australia and the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [The Age](#)
- **[The Age](#)** (page 2) reports that a national shortage of pathologists is causing three-week delays in test results to diagnose cancer, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, according to the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#)

- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 7) reports that delays to a planned eye hospital in Adelaide's CBD have blown out wait times for elective eye surgeries in SA to over five years, with some patients going blind in the meantime. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Now](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia](#), [The Courier Mail](#), [Northern Territory News](#)
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 14) reports Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has confirmed that federal and state health and police ministers will meet next week to formulate a multi-jurisdictional taskforce to crack down on illegal vapes. *Also reported by:* [Gold Coast Bulletin](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

COVID crisis: Authorities accused of dropping the ball on COVID and creating future chronic illness burden

West Australian, Other, 12/11/2023, John Flint and Claire Sadler

The success story of COVID suppression in Australia and in particular WA – lauded for saving tens of thousands of lives in 2020 and 2021 – has strikingly been replaced with a let-it-rip strategy that's seen life expectancy slide for the first time in more than 30 years. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler did not respond to questions on when Australia will get the vaccine.

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Youth mental health front of mind for MPs

The Bunyip, Other, 13/11/2023, Aidan Curtis

A pair of politicians are calling on Barossa communities to lend their voices to a campaign to boost youth mental health facilities in the region. The Federal Government plans to expand the headspace network to 170 services nationally by 2025-26, but has not yet announced where those new services will be located. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler responded to the proposal and said the mental wellbeing of all Australians, especially young Australians, was a top priority.

[Read More](#)

New cancer plans focus on Aboriginal health and priority populations

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 13/11/2023, Sam Hunt

Although cancer care has improved dramatically in Australia over the past few decades, two new cancer plans have been unveiled focusing on improving outcomes for priority population groups and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. [...] The plan was commissioned by former Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, in November 2020, and was announced by Minister for Health, the Hon Mark Butler MP on Thursday 2 November.

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Labour pains: gap in midwifery insurance causing stress

HealthTimes, Other, 12/11/2023

Giving birth can be one of the most vulnerable, exciting, magical, painful and frightening times - or combination of - in a woman's life, depending on her personal experience. [...] Commonwealth Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was working with midwives and the sector on a solution and was close to announcing a way forward. [...] Claire Clack, acting director, First Nations Health Division at the Department of Health and Aged Care, was one of the speakers at a webinar on the issue this week.

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4BC, Weekends, 12/11/2023, Spencer Howson

The amount of nicotine allowed in vapes is going to be slashed under tough new rules that will ban the import of e-cigarettes except pharmaceutical products used to quit smoking. The new regime will be phased in from January, with support being developed to help thousands of teens expected to be in distress when they're unable to maintain their nicotine habit. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says

the new regulations to ban importation of disposable vapes will be introduced within weeks, along with a boost to the number of Border Force personnel to detect illegal imports.

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MINISTER WELLS

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DEPARTMENT

Warning as Aussies face Covid Christmas

Herald Sun, General News, 13/11/2023, Aisling Brennan, Page 4

Aussies are being warned to keep taking Covid seriously, as cases sparked by variants rise across the country, with experts predicting an eighth wave before summer. New data shows there are a number of Covid strains floating around communities, including the current Omicron sub-variants EG.5 (Eris) and BA 2.86 (Pirola). [...] The federal health department will change its reporting of Covid-19 trends from weekly to monthly on November 10, with October 27 being the final weekly update.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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With COVID-19 cases rising so close to Christmas, we spoke to experts about how to beat it quickly and get back to normal

ABC Online, Other, 13/11/2023, Hanan Dervisevic

With the government scaling back COVID-19 case number updates, it may seem the virus has disappeared from the public consciousness. But experts say Australia is now in its eighth COVID-19 wave. All states and territories have seen a rise in confirmed cases and the number of hospitalisations over the last two and a half months, federal health department data shows.

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Rates of these STIs are rising in Australia. Here are the symptoms to watch out for

SBS, Other, 12/11/2023, Jessica Bahr

Chlamydia and gonorrhoea infections have surged in Australia, leading experts to call for improvements in education and public awareness. According to a new analysis of data from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS), there was a 24 per cent increase in confirmed chlamydia cases between 2021 and 2023. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, chlamydia is asymptomatic in at least 70 per cent of women.

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Labour pains: gap in midwifery insurance causing stress

HealthTimes, Other, 12/11/2023

Giving birth can be one of the most vulnerable, exciting, magical, painful and frightening times - or combination of - in a woman's life, depending on her personal experience. [...] Commonwealth Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was working with midwives and the sector on a solution and was close to announcing a way forward. [...] Claire Clack, acting director, First Nations Health Division at the Department of Health and Aged Care, was one of the speakers at a webinar on the issue this week.

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CORONAVIRUS

Children stranded without COVID vax

West Australian, General News, 13/11/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 1

Just one in 20 GP clinics in WA are offering the COVID vaccine to children under the age of 12, leaving parents at a loss as to how they can protect their kids in the middle of Australia's eighth wave of the potentially deadly virus. The first two doses of the vaccine are recommended for children aged five and older but there are few GPs in WA who vaccinate children of that age.

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Riding the next wave: COVID-19 cases on the rise again

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/11/2023, Dr David Durrheim, Page 14

COVID-19 is on the rise again and it's clear we're entering another wave. We don't know the exact number of cases - it is no longer required that people register their positive RATs and fewer people are having a COVID-19 PCR test when they get symptoms, so the numbers appearing in testing statistics represent only a small proportion of the real number of infections in our communities.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

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POPULATION HEALTH

States, feds join on vapes

Courier Mail, General News, 13/11/2023, Jessica Paul, Page 14

Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has revealed a meeting between the nation's health

and police ministers will take place next week to work on a joint taskforce to tackle the vaping scourge. Ms Fentiman said further cooperation with federal and state counterparts had already been discussed.

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

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Vape-sick youth share stories of addiction

Canberra Times, General News, 13/11/2023, Sarah Lansdown, Page 6

Croz tried his first e-cigarette at the age of 14. His friends were vaping and it seemed harmless. But a few months later he noticed he couldn't go a day without an e-cigarette. Then he needed one every hour or two.

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Vapes are a real threat for our young Aussies

Northern Territory News, General News, 13/11/2023, Michelle Jongenelis, Page 13

Vaping in Australia is on the rise. The number of adolescents and young adults that report having used an e-cigarette in the past month has increased about fivefold since 2018. Five years ago, just 0.8 per cent of adolescents reported vaping. That figure is now up to 15 per cent.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Council could vaporise vaping, e-cigarettes

Daily Advertiser, General News, 13/11/2023, Cai Holroyd, Page 2

Griffith City Council will consider a ban on vaping and e-cigarettes in Griffith at its next meeting. In 2018, NSW amended non-smoking legislation to include vapes and e-cigarettes, banning them from indoor areas and some outdoor spaces under the 2000 Smoke-Free Environment Act and 2016 Smokefree Environment Regulation.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Misunderstandings about bowel cancer screening programs 'dangerous'

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 13/11/2023, Mark Jenkins, Belinda Goodwin and Nancy Baxter

Recent research may lead to a misunderstanding about the importance of bowel cancer screening, a vital program which saves 50 Australian lives each week. We write to defend the importance of the Australian Government's National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP), following the publication of a recent review shedding doubt on such programs.

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New Australian guidelines for diabetes-related foot disease

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 13/11/2023, Annika Howells

New Australian-based guidelines for diabetes-related foot disease have been summarised in an article published in the Medical Journal of Australia (MJA), coinciding with World Diabetes Day on 14 November 2023. The guidelines, developed and published by Diabetes Feet Australia, are the first new Australian guidelines since 2011 and have been endorsed by ten national peak bodies.

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PRIMARY CARE

Alarm as lack of staff causes delays in pathology

Age, General News, 13/11/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 2

Results from some medical tests, including cancer diagnoses, are being delayed by up to three weeks because of a nationwide shortage of pathologists. The test delays could also be holding up diagnoses for other serious conditions such Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia has warned.

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

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Cells unlocked

Herald Sun, General News, 13/11/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 8

It is a miracle of modern medicine that has been life-changing for thousands of Victorians. Called genomic medicine, it untangles the secrets of human cells to diagnose rare conditions, predict outcomes and guide treatment. Victoria is a global leader in this discipline thanks to a collaboration of hospitals and research and academic institutions called the Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance.

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No end to eye pain

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/11/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 7

People are going "legally blind" waiting for elective eye surgery while a proposed Adelaide eye hospital remains lost in bureaucratic limbo. After almost a decade of false starts there is still no vision for a city eye hospital, while public hospital outpatient waiting lists stretch out to almost five years - before people are put on an elective surgery waiting list.

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

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A long journey to bring back the smiles

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/11/2023, Antimo Iannella, Page 7

As a beautiful smile breaks out on little Dalia's face, it's hard to believe what she and her parents, Armin and Selma Amidzic have been through since her arrival in January. Diagnosed with a rare birth defect in March, Dalia - along with her parents - has travelled almost 15,000km from Bosnia for life-saving surgery in Adelaide's world-renowned craniofacial unit.

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Hospital goes into lockdown

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/11/2023, Will Keech, Page 3

Geelong hospital went into lockdown on Saturday after a man went on an alleged rampage inside the complex. Police allege a 40-year-old man damaged around 10 windows and doors at the hospital, just after 9.30am. "The hospital was placed in lockdown as a precaution," a police spokeswoman said.

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Tasmania has 'worst health outcomes in Australia', doctor says

Launceston Examiner, General News, 13/11/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 2

The president of the Rural Doctors Association of Tasmania (RDAT) has told the parliamentary inquiry into ambulance ramping that Tasmania has some of the worst health outcomes in Australia. RDAT president Dr Ben Dodds spoke at the House of Assembly Select Committee inquiry on transfer of care delays (ambulance ramping) on Wednesday, November 8, in Launceston.

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Critical targets

Shepparton News, General News, 13/11/2023, Djembe Archibald, Page 1

New Ambulance Victoria data shows paramedics are getting to the most critically ill patients faster in the Hume Region compared to last year. Hume regional and clinical operations director Steve Doyle

said performance improved thanks to more paramedics and people in the community accessing alternative and 'virtual' care services.

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Experts say it will take courage to include dementia in NT's voluntary assisted dying laws

ABC Online, Other, 12/11/2023, Oliver Chaseling

Nearly a year after a 25-year ban on euthanasia laws in the Northern Territory was overturned, Territorians are now debating the issue in their communities before Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) could once again become law. In 1995 the Northern Territory passed world-first euthanasia legislation, which was soon overturned by the federal government when it stripped both territories of their power to make VAD laws.

Broadcast report: [ABC News Breakfast](#)

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Spiralling health care costs hit patients and GPs

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 13/11/2023, Becca Whitehead

Medical practitioners and health economists are sounding the alarm bell on Australia's primary care system, saying the rising cost of health care is resulting in some Australians to forego essential and preventive medical treatment. Rising practice fees in general practice is also leading to more GPs being forced to charge gap fees, said one GP, who spoke to InSight+ on the condition of anonymity.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Alarm at gender dysphoria treatment

The Australian, General News, 13/11/2023, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 5

A growing number of doctors have expressed "serious professional concerns" about a NSW government framework for the treatment of gender dysphoria in children, and say it ignores the "cautious" models adopted by the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Finland and France. In an open letter to NSW MPs, more than 35 psychiatrists, psychologists and doctors also criticised the government's decision to appoint the Sax Institute to undertake a review which formed the basis of the NSW framework, questioning the "validity and reliability" of the evidence they used to support the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for children and young people.

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

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Disability scheme 'driving increase in autism diagnoses'

The Australian, General News, 13/11/2023, Stephen Lunn, Page 7

Autism rates across Australia have risen faster in regions where the National Disability Insurance Scheme has been rolled out, suggesting the \$34bn a year scheme has itself influenced the number of people both seeking and receiving a diagnosis, a new report finds. Australia now has the highest prevalence rate of autism among children in the world, and is on a trajectory steeper than for countries with comparable economic and health systems, according to research to be presented to the Actuaries Institute disability seminar on Monday.

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

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Record autism rate has 'plausible' link to NDIS

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/11/2023, Tom Burton, Page 1

Australia's prevalence of autism in children is among the highest in the world, and a leading researcher argues it is "plausible" this is due to the financial incentives created by the National Disability Insurance

Scheme. The ANU doctoral research found ...

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

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Expert flags possible NDIS link to high autism rates

Age, General News, 13/11/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 5

Autism rates in Australian children are among the highest in the world, leading a senior researcher to suggest the National Disability Insurance Scheme could be driving steeper than average growth in diagnoses. A paper by Australian National University scholar Maathu Ranjan – who is on study leave from her role as a senior actuary at the National Disability Insurance Agency that oversees the scheme – shows autism rates have risen notably in developed nations over the past 10 years.

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It is possible to put a muzzle on the black dog

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/11/2023, Greg Barns, Page 20

For those of us who live with depression and anxiety, it's a crooked path. There is no "cure". Treatment and strategies that work for one person may not work for others. But remaining open to possibilities, ignoring scare campaigns about medications, speaking with others and reading about this often debilitating illness are key.

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Mental health reports delay

Burnie Advocate, General News, 13/11/2023, Sandy Powell, Page 7

An accused man will have to wait another two months in jail before learning of his actual punishment due to delays in the state's forensic mental health office, the Supreme Court heard this week. The man appeared in the Supreme Court in Burnie last week before Justice Tamara Jago, who said at the outset of proceedings that the court had been contacted by the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist.

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Finding the 'right match'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 13/11/2023, Jonathan Hawes, Page 1

Rural Australia is teetering on the edge of a mental health crisis, with demand for services far outpacing the expansion of what is provided. Rural Aid, for example, says Australian farmers are seeking mental health support at almost twice the rate they were seeking assistance last year.

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Anxious parents call

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/11/2023, Page 4

Anxious Aussie parents struggling to deal with financial pressures and feelings of isolation are flocking to a national support helpline, with over 150 calls logged per day and a rise in the length of conversations. Shock new data from Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Australia has revealed that of the 55,236 calls made to the organisation's national helpline in the twelve months to June 2023, one in four of the calls lasted more than an hour.

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Nilu's health suffered post-birth, but she thought seeking help was a 'weakness'

SBS, Other, 12/11/2023, Jessica Bahr

After Nilu Karunaratne's twins were born, her mental health deteriorated, but stigma stopped her from speaking out. Key Points An estimated one in five new mothers and one in five new fathers experience perinatal depression or anxiety.

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One in four Australians suffering from eating disorders are male, yet

research on muscle dysmorphia remains scarce

ABC Online, Other, 12/11/2023, Liana Walker

Sculpted men with bulging muscles, sweating it out at the gym or walking around in their tank tops is not commonly an image one would associate with eating disorders. However, with more than 1 million Australians suffering from an eating disorder, the reality is that 25 per cent of them are males, according to national eating disorders charity the Butterfly Foundation.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Junior doctors don't feel safe

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/11/2023, Bethany Westwood, Page 2

A survey of 37 hospitals and 723 interns, house officers and junior doctors across Queensland has revealed more than 30 per cent feel their safety has been compromised due to verbal or physical intimidation and threats from patients or staff. According to the annual Resident Hospital Health Check of public hospitals around the state, Townsville Hospital has ranked a C for bullying, wellbeing and workplace culture.

Editorial: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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Job insecurity for medical trainees causing 'stress and uncertainty'

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 13/11/2023

With the guarantee of a training position and a pathway to consultancy, Australian medical trainees might have greater capacity to focus on clinical excellence and patient care, rather than competing in a qualifications arms race. I read with interest Dr Witter and Dr Hodge's essay on the need for reform in vocational training and agree with their well argued contention that structural change is necessary to improve trainee wellbeing.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Complaints to Health Commissioner over 2022-23 revealed

Burnie Advocate, General News, 13/11/2023, Matt Maloney, Page 3

Patient bans from treatment facilities, distressing verbal treatment from a general practitioner and an alleged sexual assault during a massage were some of the complaints heard by the state's Health Complaints Commissioner over 2022-23. In all, the commissioner received 1178 complaints over the year, which was an 11-per-cent decrease from the unprecedented 1310 complaints received over 2021-22.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Calls for more education and national database to deal with concussions in sport

ABC Online, Other, 12/11/2023, Shari Hams

A mother who was forced to say goodbye to her 20-year-old son after a fatal on-field collision during a football game is calling for better education around concussion. Antonio Loiacono died after sustaining a head injury playing round one of football in the Adelaide Hills earlier this year.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Boxer fights to end punch

Herald Sun, General News, 13/11/2023, Samantha Landy, Page 15

Seven in 10 coward punch survivors have suffered ongoing reduced quality of life, including being burdened by seizures, depression, social withdrawal and loss of ability to drive. A quarter of victims sustained permanent brain injuries, while one in 10 experienced post-traumatic amnesia, according to an alarming analysis of coward punch assaults that occurred across Australia between 1990-2020.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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More image issues likely for narcissists

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/11/2023, Page 4

People with narcissistic traits could be more likely to have body image concerns, and by extension be at risk of an eating disorder, according to researchers. A research team from The University of Sydney and Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Poland say excluding leadership/authority from their study, all other narcissistic traits they measured were associated with a drive to be thin and muscular and associated with more eating disorder symptoms.

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How insect wings could help fight drug-resistant bacteria

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 13/11/2023, Elena Ivanova, Denver Linklater, Vladimir Baulin and Saulius Joudkazis

A new study suggests rough surfaces inspired by the bacteria-killing spikes on insect wings may effectively combat drug-resistant superbugs, including fungi, particularly in people with implants.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Healthy Living, 12/11/2023, Dr Ross Walker and Ned Green

A discovery by the QIMR Berghofer team of international scientists has potentially unlocked an entirely new approach to targeting acute myeloid leukaemia, bringing hope to patients who are no longer responding to existing treatments. The findings, published in the journal Nature Cancer, are highly significant not only for advancing the treatment of blood cancers, but potentially other types of cancers as well. And to tell us more about this it's good evening to the study's senior author, Professor Stephen Lane.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Welfare leaders' insight on what to say and do after suicide

Ballarat Courier, General News, 13/11/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 3

April Burgoyne is not a counsellor but knows she has a key role to play in helping tackle the city's high suicide rate. Ms Burgoyne is the Cultural Care Connect network coordinator for Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative. The program, which went live mid-year, is a holistic prevention program and while focused on the region's First Nations peoples, is a key piece of the bigger picture.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Cruise liner bound for Adelaide suffers dual outbreaks of COVID and gastro

ABC Online, Other, 12/11/2023, Shari Hams

SA Health says a cruise liner bound for Adelaide from Queensland is dealing with outbreaks of both COVID-19 and gastroenteritis. The Grand Princess operated by Princess Cruises is expected to arrive in Port Adelaide on Monday.

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ACT government prepared to 'go it alone' in banning engineered stone if national agreement isn't reached

ABC Online, Other, 12/11/2023, Rosie King

The ACT government has thrown its full support behind the push for a national ban on the use of engineered stone, and says it will implement its own prohibition if the federal government doesn't take action. State, territory and federal workplace ministers will meet in December to discuss the issue, with the implementation of a national ban to be a key focus.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Jury is out on diet supplements

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/11/2023, Alice Callahan, Page 17

According to the CSIRO, consumer demand for vitamins and supplements in Australia is expected to reach \$5.2 billion by 2030. These capsules, powders, gummies and tinctures are often labelled with big – if vague – claims like "supports immune health" or "improves brain performance". But most supplements have not been rigorously tested for safety or effectiveness, says Dr JoAnn Manson, a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

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

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Veteran Liberal MP loses Monash preselection battle to Mary Aldred

ABC Online, Other, 12/11/2023, Millicent Spencer

Long-serving MP for the federal seat of Monash Russell Broadbent has lost his preselection battle to Mary Aldred, a government relations executive at Fujitsu. [...] In the COVID-19 pandemic, the MP refused to be vaccinated and promoted the use of ivermectin. The drug was restricted by The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in 2021 after it grew in popularity among COVID-19 conspiracy campaigners.

[Read More](#)

Global Ozempic shortage leaves diabetics with uncertain future in managing their condition

ABC Online, Other, 12/11/2023, Mya Kordic

Perth woman Leonie, 60, is facing a life-changing diagnosis. "My life will be shortened ... my quality of life will not be the same," she said. Leonie has been told she has peripheral neuropathy, a type of nerve damage, in her feet. It is believed to have been caused by her inability to access the diabetes drug semaglutide, better known by its branded name Ozempic. [...] A Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) spokesperson said Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk advised its Ozempic supplies for Australia in 2023 had been higher than the previous year.

Broadcast report: [ABC News Breakfast](#)

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Australia is in a new COVID wave. What can we expect this time?

Canberra Times, Other, 12/11/2023, James Wood, Katie Louise Flanagan and Stuart Turville

Australia is now into its next COVID wave. We've seen hints of this for a while. Case numbers and indicators of severe disease began rising in Victoria in August. [...] But we can expect newer monovalent XBB.1.5 vaccines soon, now the Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved them.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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