



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 17th November 2023

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)
| [Coronavirus](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |
[First Nations Health](#) | [Office of Health Protection and Emergency Management](#)
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| [AICIS](#)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that child deaths from suicide have doubled in Queensland since last year, with experts raising concerns about a shortage of available children psychologists and rising levels of anxiety at a younger age.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a directive issued by Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman will ensure victims of sexual assault who present to hospital are seen by a medical professional within ten minutes of their arrival.
- **[The Australian \(page 3\)](#)** reports that scientists from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne are on the verge of developing a blood test that can reliably screen for the early stages of pancreatic cancer.
- **[The Australian \(page 8\)](#)** reports that Health Minister Mark Butler is set to announce a \$166 million package aimed at providing cancer patients with access to more than 100 additional nurses who will be recruited through the McGrath Foundation.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 7\)](#)** reports that Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney has launched the \$48m National Strategy for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer which aims to eliminate the disease by 2028.

MINISTER BUTLER

Boost for cancer victims with \$166m for more nurses

The Australian, General News, 17/11/2023, Tileah Dobson, Page 8

Cancer patients will have significantly greater access to specialist nurses after the Albanese government announced a \$166m package of support that represents the biggest of its kind on record. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler will make the announcement on Friday alongside organisations the Cancer Council, Canteen, Camp Quality, Redkite, Prostate Cancer Foundation, Melanoma Institute of Australia, and the Lung Foundation.

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

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High rise in dual smokers

Herald Sun, General News, 17/11/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 21

New figures reveal a staggering 600 per cent increase in young Australians both smoking tobacco and using e-cigarettes in just four years. It comes as Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced this week he will bring forward the introduction of the toughest vape laws in the world.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Walk-in services

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 20

Adelaide's next Medicare Urgent Care Clinic will be established at Doctors Rd, Morphett Vale, and is expected to start seeing patients in December. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the latest clinic delivered on Labor's commitment to make it easier for South Australians to get urgent treatment from highly qualified doctors and nurses.

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Better urgent care

Border Watch, General News, 17/11/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Mount Gambier/Berrin residents will have better access to urgent health care as of Monday 20 November with the Urgent Care Clinic officially opening its doors. [...] According to the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler, more than 50 per cent of presentations to the local hospital are for non-urgent or semi-urgent care.

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Ooh, aah, McGrath to make \$166m cancer cash vow

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2023, Page 5

Legendary cricketer Glenn McGrath will help announce a \$166m commitment from the federal government to help patients recovering from cancer. [...] The McGrath Foundation president will join Health Minister Mark Butler at the SCG on Friday for the announcement.

Widely syndicated across regional and minor online publications

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Butler justifies 60-Day scripts' impact

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 16/11/2023, Page 1

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler told a packed audience that 60-Day prescriptions is not the first time the Guild and a Labor Govt have disagreed on the way forward and won't be the last time. Speaking at the Pharmacy Guild's Annual Parliamentary Dinner 2023 held in the Great Hall of

Parliament House in Canberra on Tue night, Butler said, "you've been mad over the past 12 months, and the past four months, the Federal Govt and the Pharmacy Guild have had something blue".

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"Misled the room": CAPS

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 16/11/2023, Page 3

The Community and Pharmacy Support Group (CAPS), representing the independent pharmacy sector against the 60-Day Double Dispensing policy (60DD), has challenged Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's recent speech to the Pharmacy Guild in Canberra. CAPS asserts that the minister "downplayed the detrimental effects of 60DD on both the industry and its patients and misled the room about the policy impact".

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Legendary cricketer Glenn McGrath to announce government's \$166m cancer funding boost

NEWS.com.au, Other, 16/11/2023, Jessica Wang

Legendary cricketer Glenn McGrath will help announce a massive \$166m commitment from the Commonwealth government to help patients recovering from cancer. [...] Mr McGrath, who is the president of the McGrath Foundation, will join Health Minister Mark Butler at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday to announce the landmark investment.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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How GPs overcame a flooded practice and \$1 million bill

Australian Doctor, Other, 16/11/2023, Rachel Carter

"In 70-odd years, the clinic had never seen water inside. The flood reached 1.8m inside the building just underneath our air conditioning." [...] When the doctors spoke at the conference, there was "no word" on whether they would be considered for any more funding through the grant scheme despite "months of further campaigning, with the AMA eventually taking the issue to Mark Butler".

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Minister misleading on 60-day impacts: CAPS

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/11/2023

Double dispensing is failing to deliver cost-of-living savings trumpeted by the government, the Community and Pharmacy Support Group (CAPS) says. Responding to comments made by Mark Butler, the Minister for Health and Aged Care, at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's...

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Past due date: no solution to midwifery insurance gap

Canberra Times, Other, 17/11/2023, Rudi Maxwell

A month after the Australian College of Midwives identified a gap in professional indemnity insurance for privately practising midwives, the loophole has still not been closed. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told AAP on November 9 that they were "close to a solution", but more than a week later there has been no change.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Cancer nurses to get a \$166 million boost in a bid to improve outcomes for Australians

West Australian, Other, 16/11/2023, Claire Sadler

The Federal Government will announce its biggest ever investment in cancer nurses on Friday as it introduces a \$166 million budget for a new nursing program. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler

said the program would support the recently announced Australian Cancer Plan.

Also reported by: [Manjimup-Bridgetown Times \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Newcastle researchers receive funding for blood pressure medication project

Newcastle Herald, Other, 16/11/2023

Newcastle researchers are hoping to end the often lengthy "trial and error" approach to finding the right blood pressure treatment by using genetics to match the right medicine to the right person. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the ground breaking research was more proof that Australian researchers were the best in the world.

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Early PBS Christmas gift for Bayer

Pharma In Focus, Other, 16/11/2023

Health Minister Mark Butler has announced the first December PBS listing, 15 days early and in time for Christmas with the expansion of Bayer's Nubeqa for men with prostate cancer. It's the first and only medicine specifically registered by the TGA for use in triple therapy to fight cancer in a number of different and complementary ways as soon as it has escaped the prostate.

[Read More](#)

Breakthrough prostate cancer treatment to be subsidised

Canberra Times, Other, 16/11/2023, Alex Mitchell

Diagnosed with incurable prostate cancer late last year, Russell Edwards knew his days were numbered. [...] "We are tremendously grateful to Health Minister Mark Butler for supporting men and families in our communities with this new listing."

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 16/11/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

Interview with Mariam Veiszadeh, Asian-Australian Leadership Awards overall winner and Rhea Werner, Under 25 Rising Star winner, on winning the awards and their achievements. Veiszadeh says accepting the awards was an incredible honour. Werner says she founded the Embrace Collective, an initiative that enabled her to work with Health Minister Mark Butler and launch the National Eating Disorder Strategy, which is the first kind in the world, and get \$6.2m in funding to benefit one million Australian children by 2024.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 16/11/2023, Peter Mitchell

There is good news for men battling advanced prostate cancer with a cutting-edge treatment called Nubeqa set to be listed on the PBS next month. Health Minister Mark Butler says up until now, that drug has cost as much as \$40,000 a year but with its listing on the PBS, it will just be \$30 a script.

[Play Now](#)

5AA, Mornings, 16/11/2023, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Anne Savage, CEO, Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, regarding a new Federal Government PBS subsidy that will allow thousands of men battling an advanced form of prostate cancer to launch a three-pronged attack against their disease and save around \$42,000 on this medication every year. Savage says they expect up to 5000 Australian men and their families will

benefit from receiving this life-extending drug. She adds it is a very good news day and they commend Health Minister Mark Butler for listing the drug.

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ABC Kimberley, 07:30 News , 16/11/2023

The Opposition says the WA Government has abandoned its promise to build urgent care clinics across the regions. Shadow Regional Health Minister Martin Aldridge asked the Government in Parliament for updates on clinics in Geraldton, the Pilbara, Albany, the Kimberley and Kalgoorlie, but wasn't given details in its response. Ulrich says the situation reflects a lack of concern for regional areas. Meanwhile, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said last month Broome's Commonwealth-funded urgent care clinic is set to open in the coming weeks.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Grants available for providers of services to First Nations elders

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 16/11/2023

Specialist aged care providers operating in rural and remote areas of the country are to receive \$135 million in infrastructure grants, the federal government has announced. [...] The investment will "help maintain or improve access to quality aged care services where they are needed most," said Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells in a statement.

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Grants prompt infrastructure upgrades in rural and remote aged care facilities

HelloCare, Other, 16/11/2023, Bianca Iovino

The Federal Government is investing \$135 million in infrastructure grants to support aged care providers operating in rural and remote areas. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said these grants will help organisations to provide culturally safe care "Importantly these grants will further support First Nations communities to receive quality, culturally safe aged care services," she said.

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Does Regis Healthcare's latest acquisition herald the next wave of consolidation for the residential aged care sector?

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/11/2023, Lauren Broomham

With the ASX-listed provider announcing its first acquisition in four years, it appears that consolidation is accelerating as the ongoing reform agenda and continuing financial and workforce pressures sees some providers wave the white flag. [...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, has openly acknowledged the need for aged care providers to make a return on their investment and the need to drive capital into the sector.

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Aged Care Minister launches grants for staff accommodation

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/11/2023, Caroline Egan

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has announced infrastructure grants worth more than \$600 million over four years to help aged care providers improve services for people living with dementia, who are living in regional, rural, and remote areas, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and members of First Nations communities.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Cruel killer's end in sight

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/11/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 7

Australia will be the first country in the world to eliminate cervical cancer and it could happen as early as 2028, seven years earlier than expected. [...] The measures are part of a \$48m National Strategy for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer launched by Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Advocates decry a lack of improvement in Australian brain cancer survival rates as patients share devastating stories

ABC Online, Other, 16/11/2023, Jade Toomey

Peter Wynn has survived three brain tumours over three decades with the 64-year-old recently learning a fourth brain tumour was slowly growing. [...] The federal government has previously set a 10-year target of doubling the brain cancer survival rate, but Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said the long term goal was finding a cure.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

High rise in dual smokers

Herald Sun, General News, 17/11/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 21

New figures reveal a staggering 600 per cent increase in young Australians both smoking tobacco and using e-cigarettes in just four years. It comes as Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced this week he will bring forward the introduction of the toughest vape laws in the world.

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Another COVID-19 wave is coming boosters recommended

Narrandera Argus, General News, 16/11/2023, Page 2

The era of lockdowns, mandatory mask wearing and daily case number updates seems long gone, but COVID has not yet left our shores. [...] New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria COVID updates are reported monthly via the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care website.

Red tape hurdles for doctors

South Western Times, General News, 16/11/2023, Warren Hatley, Page 7

The South West medical sector is getting strangled by red tape and inefficiency, a senior regional doctor has warned. Federal Health Department procedures for recruiting doctors are rigid and slow and expensive and failing to meet the industry's growing needs, according to Brecken Health senior GP Brenda Murrison.

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Past due date: no solution to midwifery insurance gap

Canberra Times, Other, 17/11/2023, Rudi Maxwell

A month after the Australian College of Midwives identified a gap in professional indemnity insurance for privately practising midwives, the loophole has still not been closed. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told AAP on November 9 that they were "close to a solution", but more than a week later there has been no change.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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NSW Health deems Covid-19 risk “moderate to high” as cases spike

The Courier Mail, Other, 16/11/2023, Angie Raphael

Queenslanders are being asked by doctors to mask up once again at public gatherings, hospitals and on flights. [...] It comes after national chief medical officer Paul Kelly declared earlier this month that the country was experiencing its eighth wave, but indicated it was past the emergency phase.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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College advice to GP Incentives Review– call for member feedback

acrrm.org.au, Other, 16/11/2023

The Department of Health and Aged Care has engaged KPMG to undertake a Review of General Practice Incentives across Australia. ACRRM will provide a submission to the Review and welcomes member feedback to guide our response.

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Register for private health reform webinar

Australian Medical Association, Other, 16/11/2023

There's still time to register for the AMA's private health reform webinar and submit your own questions. [...] Department of Health and Aged Care representatives will present at the webinar and will be on hand to answer questions.

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Biotech headed to the Hill for AusBiotech's Policy Forum

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 16/11/2023

Parliament House Canberra hosted biotech leaders for a day of discussions and presentations with the government as AusBiotech's annual Policy Forum headed to the Hill. [...] Ed Husic (MP), Minister for Industry and Science, along with representatives from the Department of Health and Aged Care, the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, and the Treasury, joined industry leaders to work collaboratively to enhance our sector and to learn how it is supporting the bioeconomy.

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Top medical experts shoot down calls for hated mask mandates to be

reintroduced before Christmas as as eighth Covid wave hits Australia

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/11/2023, Pdraig Collins and Olivia Day

Calls to reintroduce the widely-disliked mask mandates because of the recently increasing number of cases have been rejected by leading medical experts. [...] There were 6,550 reported cases across Australia last week, with the Department of Health and Aged Care confirming an average of 936 new cases per day.

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Funding for the future: the aged care conundrum

Healthcare Channel, Other, 16/11/2023, Darrell Price

The aged care sector is undergoing significant changes due to regulatory reform, market shifts and competition for the labour and capital required to sustain it. [...] According to data from the Department of Health and Aged Care, job vacancies in the sector remain the highest of any industry, while also facing a future shortfall of 16,000 nurses and 25,000 allied health workers by 2033 according to research by academics from the University of Melbourne, University of the Sunshine Coast and Monash University.

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COVID-19 accounts for 4.4% of aged care resident deaths

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/11/2023, Caroline Egan

Data showing that COVID-19 accounted for 4.4% of all deaths in residential aged care between 15 December 2021 (the beginning of the Omicron outbreak) and 4 November 2023, indicate the sector has done well in protecting residents, one of the most vulnerable cohorts to the virus. [...] However, Department of Health and Aged Care data shows only 39% of aged care residents have received a booster dose in the last six months.

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From COVID to gastro, why are cruise ships such hotbeds of infection?

Your Life Choices, Other, 16/11/2023

Dual outbreaks of gastro and COVID on the Grand Princess cruise ship that docked in Adelaide on Monday have now been declared over by the doctor on board. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care recommends cruise companies encourage crew and passengers to be up to date with flu and COVID vaccinations, and encourage anyone who becomes ill to stay in their cabin, or at least avoid crowded spaces and wear a mask in public.

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[Back to Top](#)

CORONAVIRUS

Qantas guilty of unlawful stand-down

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/11/2023, Amelia McGuire, Page 18

Qantas has been found guilty of unlawfully standing down a safety representative at the onset of COVID-19 after he told workers to stop cleaning aircraft that had arrived from China if they felt unsafe doing so. Former ground crew employee and health and safety representative Theo Seremetidis was vindicated yesterday after the NSW District Court found Qantas had breached part six of the Work, Health and Safety Act and had discriminated against him when he was stood down in February 2020.

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

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We must continue to watch Covid outbreaks

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/11/2023, Gary Grohmann and Robert Booy, Page 32

Covid cases are rising yet again. They're expected to peak around Christmas for the third year in a row, largely due to low uptake of boosters and waning immunity.

Health bosses suffer relevance deprivation syndrome

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2023, Caleb Bond, Page 15

There was a brief moment this week where I wondered if I had discovered time travel. I looked up at the telly and there was chief public health officer Nicola Spurrier talking about Covid.

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Masks back amid new wave

Border Watch, General News, 17/11/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 6

Masks have been reintroduced at medical services across the Limestone Coast Local Health Network following a state-wide Covid-19 wave. Recent figures have reported a 50 per cent jump in cases within a week.

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COVID-19 spike coincides with large summer events, increasing infection risk

Canberra Times, Other, 16/11/2023, Charmaine Manuel

With Australians expected to spend more time shoulder-to-shoulder at summer fixtures such as festivals, concerts and sporting events, organisers are leaving mask use as a precaution against COVID-19 to personal choice. Event director Chantelle Beaunom said it was fair "to let individuals and organisations determine what's best for them in terms of mask use".

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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NSW COVID-19 cases now 'moderate to high', health bosses say

9News, Other, 16/11/2023, Sarah Swain

The numbers were up 11 per cent - to a total of 4733 cases - according to the most recent figures for the fortnight ending November 4. The amount of people going to ?emergency departments for COVID-19 is also on the up.

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'No point': Backlash over push to bring back masks

NEWS.com.au, Other, 16/11/2023, Brielle Burns

Fresh calls to reintroduce mask mandates amid an eighth Covid wave have been rejected by some of the country's leading experts. Professor Peter Collignon, an Infectious Diseases physician and microbiologist at the Canberra Hospital has opposed a return of the rule, after Queensland doctors called on the state government to mandate masks in hospitals and on public transport.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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COVID third biggest killer

Medical Forum, Other, 16/11/2023

Covid was the third leading cause of death in Australia last year, Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows. Nearly 10,000 Australians died from COVID last year, the first time in more than 50 years that an infectious disease has been in the top five killers.

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 16/11/2023, Laura Jayes

Interview with Anne Ruston, Shadow Health Minister, regarding an eighth wave of COVID-19 underway and some doctors in Qld calling for a return of the mask mandate. Ruston says her major concern

going forward is older Australians, particularly those who are living in residential aged care and making sure that we keep the pressure on the government so that they are protected. She adds it's concerning that only around less than half of older Australians in residential care have gotten the appropriate vaccination protections against COVID-19.

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2GB, Drive, 16/11/2023, Chris O'Keefe

Covid cases are on the rise in New South Wales, with health officials saying transmission rates are now moderate to high.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Throw your arms around this most important conversation

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/11/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 21

Singer Mark Seymour can't recall how long his mother, Paula, was living with dementia in the end. But he remembers the point at which everything changed.

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

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Cranbrook Care opens new Sydney site

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 16/11/2023

Aged care provider Cranbrook Care has opened a new luxury facility in the heart of Sydney. With views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Lansdowne Gardens on Wycombe in Neutral Bay on the lower north shore of the city combines an architecturally designed building with a restored heritage property.

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Annual QI data shows slight decrease in incidents by year's end

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 16/11/2023

Every quality indicator percentage dipped in a more positive direction by the end of the 2022-23 financial year, a new report shows. Released on 14 November by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Residential Aged Care Quality Indicators Annual Report 2022-23 which collates four quarters of data found that 6.

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Apollo Care acquires two more homes

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 16/11/2023, Natasha Egan

New South Wales country provider Tenterfield Care Centre has this week voted in favour of joining specialist regional aged care provider Apollo Care, the latter has announced. The decision secured at a special general meeting on Monday 13 November with 87 per cent support and in response financial and operational pressures adds another two homes to Apollo Care growing portfolio of 9 existing communities.

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Aged care resident not given CPR, dies due to staff's fatal mistake

HelloCare, Other, 16/11/2023, Bianca Iovino

A coroner has found an aged care resident who died from a heart attack in his room at a Tasmanian residential aged care facility was not given CPR because staff mistakenly believed he had an active "do not resuscitate" order. Wayne Victor Rouse, 68, lived at Tandara Lodge at Sheffield where he began feeling the impacts of cardiac failure the morning of June 14.

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Regis Healthcare splashes \$74M on five aged care homes in SE QLD – net price of \$115K per bed

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/11/2023, Lauren Broomham

The soon-to-be remaining ASX-listed aged care provider has entered into a binding agreement to acquire privately-owned residential aged care provider CPSM Pty Ltd. The transaction which will increase Regis Healthcare's portfolio by 9% to 68 aged care homes and 7,604 aged care beds marks the first acquisition for the provider in four years.

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Aged care regulator launches home care pricing audits

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/11/2023, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) has launched a program to audit "selected" home care providers to ensure they are meeting the new legislative requirements which came into effect at the beginning of the year. Home care providers may be selected to be audited if they are new, if a pricing complaint has been made about them, or if the ACQSC is concerned about how the provider manages Home Care Packages or charges.

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NSW's religious aged care providers opt out of voluntary assisted dying

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/11/2023, Caroline Egan

Three of NSW's largest religious aged care providers will not provide voluntary assisted dying services to residents when the state's VAD laws become effective on 28 November 2023. Calvary Calvary Health Care , which has 16 aged care homes NSW, will not offer voluntary assisted dying (VAD) to NSW consumers when the state becomes the last in Australia to allow terminally ill people to choose the timing of their death.

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Audits by contracted aged care assessors had to be rewritten after initially failing to meet regulator's standards

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/11/2023, Caroline Egan

Audits of aged care homes conducted by contracted staff did not initially meet the regulator's standards and had to be rewritten, Senate Estimates has heard. Janet Anderson PSM, Commissioner, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission , told Senate Estimates that a backlog of audits in the wake of the pandemic meant they were unable to recruit enough assessment staff, so they "approached the market", eventually contracting four workforce suppliers RSM, HDAA, SAI Global and KPMG to provide the manpower.

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Consultations on Taskforce funding principles show support for Plan B

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/11/2023, Caroline Egan

Government consultations with aged care stakeholders have revealed support for increasing consumer contributions towards the costs of aged care, acknowledging that the Government should continue to be the major funder of aged care and there must be a sufficient safety net.

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QLD Govt will spend \$200M to free up hospital beds by purchasing private aged care beds

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/11/2023, Caroline Egan

The Queensland Government is investing \$200 million to reduce the number of long-stay patients in public hospitals, through a raft of measures including purchasing private aged care beds and supporting private sector aged care providers.

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First sod turned on Government aged care home in regional Victoria

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/11/2023, Caroline Egan

The first sod has been turned on the Victorian Government's \$39.6 million, 36-bed aged care facility located on Robinson Street, Camperdown, 190km west of Melbourne. The project is part of the Rural and Regional Sector Residential Aged Care Services Revitalisation Strategy aimed at replacing dated public sector aged care facilities with new, purpose-built homes.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Say nuts to good health

Herald Sun, General News, 17/11/2023, Page 10

Swapping animal-based foods for plant-based could reduce your risk of health conditions such as heart disease, according to international researchers. The German Diabetes Centre team found swapping processed meat with nuts or legumes reduced the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and death, while swapping an egg a day with nuts was associated with reduced risk of heart disease and diabetes.

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Head injury every 4 mins

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/11/2023, Page 14

One Australian was hospitalised for a head injury every four minutes in 2020-21, a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare says. The report also says head injuries led to 406,000 emergency department visits and 2400 deaths in the same year.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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'Can we as doctors, ignore the evidence?'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 17/11/2023, Page 49

Ongoing education is essential to medicine. I recently attended a conference exploring the links between human health, climate change and biodiversity loss. The mounting evidence of harms to human health, no longer just stark futuristic predictions, conveyed an urgency to me impossible to ignore.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Theory why autism rising

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 17/11/2023, Sofia Dmitrieva, Page 14

A new report has found a "plausible link" between the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and a rise in autism diagnoses in children across Australia. The number of autism diagnoses in children has significantly increased over the past 10 years, at a much faster rate when compared to other countries like Canada, the US and the UK, according to a study by academics from the Crawford School of Public Policy.

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Fruit's remarkable health benefit

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 17/11/2023, Tracy Swartz, Page 18

Eating strawberries daily may reduce the risk of developing dementia, a new study has found. There are currently more than 400,000 Australians currently living with the condition, which describes a collection of symptoms caused by disorders affecting the brain.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Toilet vape breaks 'intimidating' students, panel hears

Canberra Times, Other, 16/11/2023, Samantha Lock

Vapers have taken over school toilets, are intimidating other students and disrupting the school day, a panel of experts has heard. "They take over the toilets," 13-year-old Angelina Sidhu told reporters after

speaking to health officials on Thursday.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

[Read More](#)

Drug addiction experts say naloxone could save more Victorian lives — but they can't get their hands on it

ABC Online, Other, 16/11/2023, Bridget McArthur

By the time she turned 18, Aaneke Fitzgerald had already lost multiple family members to overdose including her dad and grandad. She learned to cope with loss early on.

[Read More](#)

Boy, 14, hospitalised and unconscious for 15 hours after smoking vape laced with illicit drugs

ABC Online, Other, 16/11/2023, Amelia Costigan and Emma Pedler

A South Australian teenager has suffered seizures and heart irregularities and was unconscious for 15 hours after inhaling a drugged vape. The vape was laced with the hallucinogen DMT and THC, the major psychoactive component in cannabis, which caused a severe response in the 14-year-old boy.

[Read More](#)

'It should be a very precious time': Parents call for longer leave after premature births

ABC Online, Other, 16/11/2023, Alison Xiao

Before falling pregnant, Kat Averill had always dreamed of being a mother. At 28 weeks, she gave birth to her son Archie, who was almost three months premature. [...] One in 10 babies is born prematurely in Australia, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

[Read More](#)

Analysis Health Social media offers new mothers support when society doesn't. But is it always helpful?

ABC Online, Other, 16/11/2023, Sophie Walker and Jodi Wilson

It's considered the most vulnerable time in a woman's life. In the 'fourth trimester' the 12 weeks after birth many perinatal specialists believe that new mothers need more support than during pregnancy.

[Read More](#)

Family who saved dad's life with CPR urges Australians to get first aid training

ABC Online, Other, 16/11/2023, William Howard

Darryl Martin was digging trenches to direct rainwater away from his Gippsland home during a storm when he suffered a cardiac arrest and collapsed. Thankfully for the Drouin resident, his loved ones knew what to do and immediately sprang into action.

[Read More](#)

At risk: 10 ways the changing climate is creating a health emergency

The Guardian, Other, 16/11/2023, Joan van Dyk

The lives of billions of people are being threatened by the climate crisis, experts from around the world warned in the annual Lancet Countdown report this week. No one will escape the consequences of climate change, but people living in poorer countries are particularly vulnerable.

[Read More](#)

Don't go to work on an egg - have a handful of nuts instead! Scientists say simple breakfast swap could slash your risk of a heart attack

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/11/2023, Victoria Allen

Replacing a daily egg with 25 to 28 grams of nuts can lower the risk of developing or dying from cardiovascular disease by 17 per cent, researchers have concluded. Some experts believe the cholesterol in eggs is bad for the heart, although others say more evidence is needed to be sure of this.

[Read More](#)

New report reveals shocking state of prisoner health. Here's what needs to be done

Medicine Today, Other, 16/11/2023, James Ogloff

A new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report on the health of people in Australian prisons makes for sobering reading. It reveals that compared to the general population, people in prison have higher rates of mental health conditions, chronic disease, communicable disease, and acquired brain injury.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 16/11/2023, Laura Jayes

The NSW Government is hosting a roundtable today in a bid to reduce vaping in schools. Vaping experts, students, principals and a number of health officials, including NSW Chief Health Officer Kerry Chant are gathering in Sydney for the panel. The findings will be used to implement policies to deter young people from vaping.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 16/11/2023, Sammy J

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare says over 140,000 people were admitted to hospital for head-related injuries between 2020 and 2021. Their report found children had the highest rates of emergency department representation, with children under the age of four most represented. It also found a quarter of all concussive hospitalisations occurred during sports or physical activities.

Also reported by: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 16/11/2023, Sarah MacDonald

School principals, students and health experts will attend a vaping roundtable being hosted by the Minns Government in Sydney today. The NSW Government says the meeting will hear evidence on how vaping is affecting young people in schools and discuss effective school-based vaping interventions.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 16/11/2023, Patricia Karvelas and Hamish Macdonald

School students and principals from across NSW primary and secondary schools will be invited to speak at a vaping roundtable hosted by the NSW Government in Sydney. Health Minister Ryan Park says the number of young people vaping is growing and it's important to find ways to tackle what is a serious health issue.

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[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Blood test near for pancreatic cancer

The Australian, General News, 17/11/2023, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 3

Australian researchers are close to developing the first blood test for the "silent killer" pancreatic cancer. Scientists from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne believe a

simple blood test could improve survival rates and quality of life for patients diagnosed with the hard-to-detect and lethal disease, which will kill 3600 Australians this year.

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

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Sons bid to cure brain cancer in honour of their mum

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2023, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 10

Joanne Scanlon's sons have always protected their mum but when she was diagnosed with an inoperable, incurable brain cancer, heartbreakingly there was little they could do. After a 16-month battle with the devastating illness, Joanne died on August 11, aged 59. Now her three boys and husband Justin are doing everything to ensure no family has to go through what they did by raising funds for Cure Brain Cancer Australia.

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Snapshot of proton powered future

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 19

South Australia will get the nation's most advanced combined MRI-PET scan imaging machine thanks to a \$4m grant for the almost-completed proton therapy centre next to the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). Children with brain cancers will benefit the most as the Adelaide BioMed City precinct moves into a new phase, with the first proton therapy treatment centre in the southern hemisphere.

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Landmark blood test

Northern Territory News, General News, 17/11/2023, Page 9

Research that could lead to the first early detection blood test for pancreatic cancer has received critical funding from PanKind, The Australian Pancreatic Cancer Foundation. Pancreatic cancer is one of Australia's biggest killers, with poor survival rates marred by a lack of distinct symptoms and screening tools needed to detect the disease in its initial stages.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Painful truth behind FNQ osteo rates

Cairns Post, General News, 17/11/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 6

One in five Australians over the age of 45 face chronic pain and disability due to osteoarthritis, with rates nearly doubling over the past decade in Cairns, data released by Medibank says. According to 2021 Census statistics, eight per cent of Cairns residents have arthritis.

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

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

'Every week I go to my daughter's grave and tell her I'm sorry'

The Courier Mail, Other, 16/11/2023, Josephine Agostino

A Victorian mother was told her daughter had asthma - but it took four years for the right diagnosis to come, and tragically, it was then all too late. New research from Lymphoma Australia has exposed the public misunderstanding surrounding the disease with it often not being recognised as cancer at all.

[Read More](#)

New Aussie guidelines for diabetes foot disease

Medical Forum, Other, 16/11/2023

Diabetes Feet Australia, a division of the Australian Diabetes Society, has developed new evidence-based guidelines for the prevention and management of diabetes-related foot disease. The changes the first update since 2011 include more specific self-monitoring, footwear prescription, surgical treatments, and activity management practices for those at increased risk of the condition.

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Long waiting lists for urology patients

Canberra Times, General News, 17/11/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

Two-in-five Canberra patients waiting for urology surgeries are overdue, the Health Minister says. Rachel Stephen-Smith said the long waiting list for urology operations was caused by a fire at North Canberra Hospital, then known as Calvary Public, in December 2022.

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

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Fast care for rape victims

Courier Mail, General News, 17/11/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 1

Queensland rape and sexual assault victims would be required to be seen within 10 minutes at hospitals after an extraordinary intervention into the state's health system by Shannon Fentiman. The Health Minister issued Queensland's first ever "ministerial directive" - a power afforded to her under law since 2011 - after she was informed in recent days of multiple hospitals failing to provide timely care to a woman who had been allegedly sexually assaulted.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Soaring cost of hospital's spend on staff

Border Mail, General News, 17/11/2023, Anthony Bunn, Page 3

Albury Wodonga Health's new annual report shows the service had a \$206,000 shortfall in the last financial year with a huge increase in spending with employment agencies. The figures are revealed in the 2022-23 annual report which was tabled in the Victorian parliament yesterday.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Helipad closure fury

Daily Mercury, General News, 17/11/2023, Zoe Devenport, Page 7

Mackay Base Hospital's chief medical officer has responded to public fury after the revelation its emergency helipad could be closed for three years during expansion works. It comes after RACQ CQ Rescue CEO Tim Healee raised the alarm on Monday, concerned Queensland Health had not made provisions for a temporary helipad two months out from a \$250m upgrade.

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Coast's health check

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 17/11/2023, Amaani Siddeek and Andrew Potts, Page 1

A construction date is set for a new \$1.5 billion Gold Coast private hospital (above) as talks look at services at a new Coomera public facility expanding to ease pressure on Gold Coast University Hospital. The service talks aim to meet the Gold Coast's booming population as Gold Coast Health CEO Ron Calvert reveals a key focus is staffing: "Like other health systems globally, we're facing a workforce shortage."

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Health pressure move

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 17/11/2023, Amaani Siddeek, Page 5

Talks are underway to expand critically overburdened services at Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) to a new \$1.3bn hospital set to open in the city's north. Gold Coast Health CEO Ron Calvert in an exclusive interview with The Bulletin revealed that plans are underway to "relocate" a number of under-pressure services offered at the tertiary hospital to the new Coomera Hospital once it opens in 2027.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Healthy outlook for Coast services

In looking to the future of healthcare in our city, I must acknowledge how much has been achieved by the dedicated staff of Gold Coast Health. We recently passed a key milestone at Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH), marking 10 years since we opened our doors.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Ailing GP clinic to shut down

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 17/11/2023, Kathleen Skene, Page 9

Patients of a popular beachside medical centre will be forced to find another clinic as rising costs push the small business to close its doors. Oasis Medical Centre in Broadbeach informed patients via text message that it would "be made insolvent" from December 22.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

GPs blame underfunded healthcare system for Australians paying more to see doctors

7news.com.au, Other, 16/11/2023, Sarah Keszler

The cost of seeing a GP in Australia has increased by \$10 over the past 12 months as doctors claim they are expected to "prop up" an underfunded health care system. [...] The RACGP report said doctors are not to blame for rising costs yet "GPs are being expected to prop up a systemically underfunded health system" "The complexity and expectations of patients are wildly out of kilter with the amount of time we are remunerated to spend with them via Medicare," it said.

[Read More](#)

Some Canberrans soon won't have to see a doctor to get the contraceptive pill, but the pharmacy scheme doesn't cover everyone

ABC Online, Other, 16/11/2023, Jade Toomey

Canberra pharmacists can now give out the contraceptive pill to women, but not everyone can take part. [...] The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners NSW-ACT branch has welcomed the tighter restrictions of the oral contraceptive trial as a way to roll out a "better" model in the ACT.

[Read More](#)

OCP change in the ACT

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/11/2023

Five pharmacies in the country's capital are now offering some patients a re-supply of the oral contraceptive pill under a scope of practice trial.

[Read More](#)

Nurse Practitioner opens transgender and gender diverse clinic to provide 'inclusive healthcare'

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 16/11/2023, Robert Fedele

In February, South Australian nurse practitioner and academic Toni Slotnes-O'Brien discovered that a person close to her was transgender and, sadly, the challenges they faced accessing basic healthcare. "They went away from GP consults feeling suicidal due to the way they were being treated," Toni reveals.

[Read More](#)

Which Canberra pharmacies can prescribe contraceptive pills

Canberra Times, Other, 16/11/2023, Lanie Tindale

Five pharmacists in the ACT will be able to prescribe oral contraceptive pills to some Canberrans in an "exciting" new trial. [...] Following news of a NSW trial allowing pharmacists to prescribe the contraceptive pill, medication for UTIs and antibiotics, RACGP president, Adjunct Professor Karen Price, said "this is a recipe for disaster, plain and simple."

[Read More](#)

Western Victoria Primary Health Network CEO Rowena Clift resigns

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/11/2023, Tamara McDonald

Western Victoria Primary Health Network (WVPHN) chief executive Rowena Clift has accepted a new role and will leave the organisation. She will become dual chief executive of Western District Health Service and Casterton Memorial Hospital and will be based in Hamilton

[Read More](#)

APC approval

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 16/11/2023

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) Board has approved the Accreditation Standards for Pharmacist Prescriber education programs. APC was engaged by the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PharmBA) to develop these Accreditation Standards to complement PharmBA's previous work on pharmacist-led prescribing.

[Read More](#)

Western Victoria Primary Health Network CEO Rowena Clift resigns

The Courier Mail, Other, 16/11/2023, Tamara McDonald

The chief executive of the Western Victoria Primary Health Network will leave the organisation to take on a new role. Western Victoria Primary Health Network (WVPHN) chief executive Rowena Clift has accepted a new role and will leave the organisation.

[Read More](#)

NSW's religious aged care providers opt out of voluntary assisted dying

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/11/2023, Caroline Egan

Three of NSW's largest religious aged care providers will not provide voluntary assisted dying services to residents when the state's VAD laws become effective on 28 November 2023. Calvary Calvary Health Care , which has 16 aged care homes NSW, will not offer voluntary assisted dying (VAD) to NSW consumers when the state becomes the last in Australia to allow terminally ill people to choose the timing of their death.

[Read More](#)

Sean Rooney appointed to lead North QLD Primary Health Network

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/11/2023, Caroline Egan

The former head of the peak body for private aged care operators, Leading Aged Services Australia (LASA), Sean Rooney, has been appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN). "Sean has a demonstrated track record of achievement as a CEO, designing and successfully executing strategy, effectively managing stakeholder engagement in complex and contested environments, and leading people and organisations through times of change," said NQPHN Board Chair, Terry Mehan.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 16/11/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

The South East's new satellite hospitals are causing confusion with new data revealing hundreds of patients are showing up in need of emergency care. It's added to calls for them to be renamed after a senior health official was caught on tape declaring they are not hospitals. The centres do not have emergency beds nor can they provide emergency life-saving surgeries unlike hospitals, and there are no 24-hour care or overnight stays instead, they offer minor care, things such as stitches, broken bones and minor burns. Qld Health Minister Shannon Fentiman says they provide free and accessible health care in their communities.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 16/11/2023, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

Lyell McEwin Hospital, one of SA's major hospitals has been forced to delay dozens of surgeries due to

record levels of overcrowding. The hospital says it was a difficult decision in response to what it calls unprecedented demand. It's in the process of rescheduling appointments and some procedures will be moved to Modbury Hospital instead. Staff have been raising concerns about ambulance ramping, long emergency department wait times and overcrowding in hospital wards.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 16/11/2023, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Dr Michael Gannon, former WA president, AMA, on Saint John of God, set to no longer offer obstetric services at its Mount Lawley Hospital. Executives have been holding meetings all morning to tell staff that from 20 December, babies will no longer be delivered there. Gannon says it makes a big difference to the way services are delivered at Subiaco Hospital and Murdoch Hospital. He adds there's quite a sophisticated process of communicating with those patients, especially those who are due in and around this time when services are slated to cease.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Ukraine's mental health need

The Australian, General News, 17/11/2023, Elise Kaine, Page 6

Australia's mental health system is inspiring a group of visiting Ukrainian mental health experts who are picking up tactics to take back to their war-torn country. "This is about restoring the potential of our people," Kyivbased psychiatrist Viktoriia Kolokolova said.

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

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Surge in public service 'stress' claims

The Australian, General News, 17/11/2023, Paul Garvey, Page 7

Public service employees account for more than half of all mental health workplace claims in Western Australia despite making up less than 10 per cent of the state's workforce. The rising number of claims from the public service is putting pressure on insurance premiums, which have lifted sharply in recent years and have prompted the state government to launch an investigation into how select government departments are managing their workplace injuries.

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

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What can we do to save our kids

Courier Mail, General News, 17/11/2023, Andreas Nicola and Toby Crockford, Page 1

A child aged 10-14 years dies from suicide every 4? weeks in Queensland, doubling the number of similar deaths recorded last year. Preliminary data from the Queensland Family and Child Commission shows 11 children in that age bracket died from suicide in the 2022-23 financial year compared to five in 2021-22 and six in each of in 2020-21 and 2019-20.

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

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Help came too late for teen who lost hope

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 17/11/2023, Andreas Nicola, Page 13

The devastated family of a teen who took his own life are calling for action to ensure young people have quicker access to mental health care. The family of Onyx Rose, 13, who died by suicide on July 16, said they tried to get him help for two years, before finally getting an appointment two days before he died, but he was unable to attend that appointment as he had been given another appointment.

Soldier critical in range shooting

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/11/2023, Jami Roberts and Harry Brill, Page 3

A soldier is fighting for life after an incident at an Army Recruit Training Centre shooting range in southern NSW. The male recruit was critically injured on Tuesday after attempting to take his own life during a marksmanship training exercise.

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

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Blamey Barracks Kapooka: Australian army is rocked as soldier tries to end his life during a training exercise at a shooting range

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/11/2023, David Southwell

A new army recruit is in a critical condition after trying to take his own life during firearms training. The incident happened on Tuesday at the Blamey Barracks in Kapooka, south-west of Wagga Wagga in the Riverina district.

[Read More](#)

Boost for eating disorders help

Medical Forum, Other, 16/11/2023

The State Government will develop a new eating disorders approach that will address prevention, early intervention, treatment and support services across WA. The framework builds on the Government's commitment to implement new community-based treatment services including \$31.7 million to expand State-wide eating disorder treatment programs through the expansion of the Western Australian Eating Disorder Treatment Specialist Services (WAEDSSs), including the delivery of two specialist multidisciplinary services.

[Read More](#)

New parents feel 'disconnected' from support

SBS, Other, 16/11/2023

New parents are revealing that they need more support to deal with the challenges of having children - according to a survey by perinatal support service, the Gidget Foundation. The gap in care has led to 56 perinatal, parenting and mental health organisations coming together to help make getting help easier for new parents.

[Read More](#)

WHO declares loneliness a 'global public health concern'

The Guardian, Other, 16/11/2023, Sarah Johnson

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared loneliness to be a pressing global health threat, with the US surgeon general saying that its mortality effects are equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

[Read More](#)

More than half of all Australian prisoners report mental health diagnosis

The Mandarin, Other, 16/11/2023, Melissa Coade

A research survey funded by the federal government has reported that more than half (51%) of people locked up in Australian prisons were previously diagnosed with a mental health condition, including alcohol and other drug-use disorders. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) national prisoner health data collection survey also found that 73% of prison entrants said they had used illicit drugs at least once in the past 12 months.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Lunch cooks up \$15k for charity

Daily Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2023, Abhranil Hazra, Page 3

Wagga midwives have raised \$15,000 for Torie Finnane Foundation to support nurses and maternity wards across regional Australia. A lunch was the latest fundraiser held for the foundation, which started two years ago following the death of midwife Torie Finnane from a case of bacterial meningitis three days after giving birth.

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Psych tests considered by a health service

Launceston Examiner, General News, 17/11/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 6

A coroner's call for mandatory psychological testing of paramedics to monitor mental health and prevent suicide is still being considered by Ambulance Tasmania. The 2016 suicide death of Damian Crump was considered at a coronial inquest in 2021, where the coroner examined mental health supports and welfare policy in the ambulance service.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Best in the West

Medical Forum, Other, 16/11/2023

Forty finalists have been announced in the WA Health Excellence Awards, competing across nine areas. The categories are preventive health, mental health, person-centred care, Aboriginal health, rural and remote health care, research and innovation, workplace wellbeing and culture, sustainability, and safety and quality.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 16/11/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, on Australia is forecast to face a severe shortage of general practitioners in the coming years, according to a new report. A top doctor's body has revealed nearly a third of GPs intend to retire or leave the profession within the next five years. GPs say they are now seeing patients with more complex issues, meaning they are spending more time per consultation addressing their needs. Higgins says it is deeply concerning and they also heard that one in four primary care nurses are looking at leaving general practice within the next two to four years as well.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Sharri, 16/11/2023, Sharri Markson

Interview with Jenna Clarke, Associate Editor, The Australian, regarding a new report from the Royal Australian College of GPs that has found almost a third of all general practitioners in Australia intend to retire in the next five years. It comes as not enough medical students are interested in becoming GPs and they're going off to specialities instead because there's more money to be made there. Bulk billing is in decline while Medicare is in trouble and other doctors are saying that their workloads are intensifying. Clarke says the Government definitely has to act on it, maybe not at a federal level, but definitely at a state level.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

New tack for prostate cancer treatment

Newcastle Herald, General News, 17/11/2023, Lucinda Garbutt-Young, Page 20

A drug due to hit the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme next month may prove particularly useful for Hunter prostate cancer patients, a Newcastle oncologist says. Darolutamide will be subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from December 1.

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Are privacy threats to the healthcare industry increasing?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 16/11/2023, Vijay Sundaram

Digital transformation has revolutionised the aged care sector, allowing institutions to enhance their quality of care, efficiency, and patient experience. It enables often overworked and under-staffed facilities to streamline records and medication management, respond quicker to medical needs, improve resource allocation, personalise care, and boost communication among staff, residents and families.

[Read More](#)

There is a way to restore Bill Hayden's vision of universal healthcare in Australia

Crikey, Other, 16/11/2023, Tom Keating

Resetting the Medicare rebate level and indexing it will breathe new life into Australia's first truly universal healthcare program. The recent death of Bill Hayden is cause for contemplation of his most significant legacy to this country.

[Read More](#)

Big warning for Aussies on cruises this summer over 'little-known rule'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 16/11/2023, Chantelle Francis

Cruising is back this summer in Australia, with travellers warned they need to be aware of a "little-known rule" or risk hefty out-of-pocket costs. Cruising is back this summer in Australia but it comes with a warning.

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor's surgery ban lifted

Courier Mail, General News, 17/11/2023, Page 11

A former clinical director of obstetrics at Mackay Base Hospital has been allowed to return to work after successfully overturning the Queensland Health Ombudsman's ban on him performing surgery. Dr George Campbell du Toit appealed the heavy restrictions placed on his licence in June last year and on Wednesday the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) overturned the ban, stating that the doctor did not pose a risk to patients. While the QCAT ruling was on November 15, restrictions on Dr du Toit's licence have not yet been removed from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) website to reflect the judgment.

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A violation of boundaries

Daily Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2023, Daisy Huntly, Page 1

Guilty of misconduct 'Narcissist' psychiatrist's registration cancelled by health watchdog A WAGGA psychiatrist who had been sleeping with a loaded gun beside his bed has lost his registration after engaging in a relationship with a patient half his age.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

QCAT overturns heavy restrictions on obstetrician's licence

Adelaide Now, Other, 16/11/2023, Jackie Sinnerton

A former clinical director of obstetrics at Mackay Base Hospital has received the green light to return to work after successfully overturning the Queensland Health Ombudsmans ban on him performing surgery. Former clinical director of obstetrics at Mackay Base Hospital Dr George Campbell Du Toit. [...] While the QCAT ruling was on November 15, restrictions on Dr du Toit's licence have not yet been removed from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) website to reflect the judgment.

[Read More](#)

Aged care resident not given CPR, dies due to staff's fatal mistake

HelloCare, Other, 16/11/2023, Bianca Iovino

A coroner has found an aged care resident who died from a heart attack in his room at a Tasmanian residential aged care facility was not given CPR because staff mistakenly believed he had an active "do not resuscitate" order. Wayne Victor Rouse, 68, lived at Tandara Lodge at Sheffield where he began feeling the impacts of cardiac failure the morning of June 14.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Olympic public transport cloud risks 'global embarrassment'

The Australian, General News, 17/11/2023, Lydia Lynch, Page 4

Critical public transport promised for Brisbane's 2032 Olympics is under threat after the commonwealth gutted and delayed funding for a series of projects in an overhaul of its \$120bn infrastructure pipeline. Federal funding has been axed for eight Queensland projects and doubt cast over another five, including the Sunshine Coast rail extension, which will be key in linking planned regional Olympic venues to Brisbane, and other transport infrastructure the booming region is crying out for.

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We must invest in athletes: AOC boss

The Australian, Sport, 17/11/2023, Nathaniel Chambers, Page 28

The Australian Olympic Committee president has pleaded for extra funding to help elite athletes compete during the cost-of-living crisis. Ian Chesterman, speaking in Katherine during an Olympics Unleashed visit, said \$20 million worth of federal government funding had paid dividends in qualifications for the 2024 Paris Games.

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Ex-player calls on clubs to use their head

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2023, Eva Blandis, Page 18

A young ex-footballer is supporting a new government concussion program and called for greater education for players and club officials. The initiative will see \$300,000 contributed to the South Australian Sports Medicine Association (SASMA) to assist in the delivery of the new Community Concussion Program.

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The grand prix's revenue is racing but costs accelerate faster

Age, General News, 17/11/2023, Chip Le Grand, Page 2

Victorian taxpayers have been left with a record bill from this year's Formula 1 grand prix, with runaway costs outpacing the revenue generated by record attendances across the four-day event. The annual report of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, tabled yesterday in state parliament, reveals the government-controlled body spent \$198 million to stage this year's race at Albert Park.

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Aunty Pam sets pace to stay ahead in health race

Shepparton News, General News, 17/11/2023, Jesse Robertson-Torres, Page 62

A revered Shepparton athlete has been recognised with a top gong at an Aboriginal and Torres Strait sports award ceremony. Aunty Pam Pedersen, a Yorta Yorta elder who has remained ever-present as a distance runner at the age of 80, was crowned National Senior Sports person of the Year at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sports Awards ceremony last week.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Stream Matt's song and help to save lives

Herald Sun, General News, 17/11/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 10

The musician behind the popular Covid dance track Get On The Beers is donating the streaming royalties from his new release to myeloma research. Matt James, founder of electronic music act Mashd N Kutcher, shocked fans in August when he revealed he had been diagnosed with the rare blood cancer.

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Snapshot of proton powered future

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 19

South Australia will get the nation's most advanced combined MRI-PET scan imaging machine thanks to a \$4m grant for the almost-completed proton therapy centre next to the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). Children with brain cancers will benefit the most as the Adelaide BioMed City precinct moves into a new phase, with the first proton therapy treatment centre in the southern hemisphere.

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Tackling antibiotic misuse

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2023, Page 19

A Deakin University scientist is developing a new GP-pharmacist collaborative model to combat inappropriate prescribing and use of antibiotics and the associated risk of spreading antibiotic-resistant bugs. Dr Sajal Saha, a research fellow with Deakin's School of Medicine, said many people assumed they needed antibiotics when they had lingering cold and flu-like symptoms. "The reality is, bacterial infections which require treatment with antibiotics are not nearly as common as viral infections like the common cold," Dr Saha said.

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Researchers working to stop premature births

Newcastle Herald, General News, 17/11/2023, Lucinda Garbutt-Young, Page 7

Ashleigh Fordham's first baby was a mother's dream; healthy, growing well, and ready to be welcomed by loving parents. But at just 19 weeks, her water broke.

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Top researcher returns to Melbourne to lead Walter & Eliza Hall Institute

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/11/2023, Robyn Riley

Professor Ken Smith is the new director of the legendary Melbourne-based research institute WEHI. A world leader in immunology research, he will return to Melbourne in May to take up the position after more than 13 years as head of the Department of Medicine at Cambridge University in the UK.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Iron supplements every other day 'trigger fewer GI side effects' than daily dosing

Australian Doctor, Other, 16/11/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

Alternate-day dosing is 'the right way to go' to ensure long-term adherence in women with mild iron deficiency, says Professor Sant-Rayn Pasricha. Taking oral iron supplements every second day leads to fewer gastrointestinal side effects and is equally effective in reducing iron deficiency as daily dosing, Swiss researchers report.

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Artificial Intelligence to help Hunter Medical Research Institute combat illness

Newcastle Herald, Other, 16/11/2023, Alanna Tomazin

Assisting in recognising patterns in human DNA and data, artificial intelligence (AI) is set to help Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) combat debilitating and incurable illnesses. Made possible through a \$98,700 grant from Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, HMRI will be able to explore new therapies for inflammatory bowel disease and ulcerative colitis.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Australia is overusing antibiotics: report

Canberra Times, General News, 17/11/2023, Page 20

Patients have been warned to stop stockpiling antibiotics and think twice about prescriptions for minor illnesses with concerns one of the most serious health challenges is getting worse. Dangerous bacteria that cause golden staph infections, gastro and gonorrhoea are becoming increasingly resistant to common drugs, according to a new report from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care released on Thursday.

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

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Ben never thought going to work would kill him. Then his mates started

getting sick

7news.com.au, Other, 16/11/2023, Dominique Tassell

Ben's wife is urging the government to step up and prevent this from happening to other families. Last year, Ben Harrison battled five or so rounds of pneumonia .

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Carpark construction focus in fungal infection cluster at Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane

7news.com.au, Other, 16/11/2023, fraser barton

Health authorities will investigate whether a fungal cluster at a Brisbane hospital that left five people with infections was caused by construction of a nearby carpark. Queensland Chief Health Officer John Gerrard said building work could stir up fungal spores and the Prince Charles Hospital's carpark was part of early investigations.

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Is whooping cough contagious? Here are the symptoms to look out for as experts warn an epidemic looms

ABC Online, Other, 16/11/2023, Hanan Dervisevic

Health experts have sounded the alarm for a whooping cough outbreak, with data suggesting a resurgence of the disease may appear as early as this summer. Here's a look at the symptoms to watch out for, who's at risk of catching it and what treatment is available.

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\$31m fines, 25 years jail for nuclear submarine safety breaches

Australian Financial Review, Other, 16/11/2023, Andrew Tillett

Organisations that breach nuclear safety regulations will be hit with fines of up to \$31 million while individuals face up to 25 years jail under AUKUS-related laws to be introduced into parliament on Thursday.

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Hospitals urged to enable pharmacist-led antimicrobial stewardship

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/11/2023, Megan Haggan

Antimicrobial use in Australian hospitals is among the highest rates in the world, a new report has found and compliance with prescribing guidelines in private hospitals is low .

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High levels of antimicrobial use puts Australians at risk of harm

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 16/11/2023

Australians are unwittingly being exposed to increased risk of harm from taking antibiotics, used to treat common infections which have no or little benefit, research shows. Australia ranks among the highest in the developed world for antimicrobial use, according to a state-of-the-nation report on antibiotic use and resistance released by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission).

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Don't use it, or lose it - doctors warn against antibiotic over-use

SBS, Other, 16/11/2023, Sunil Awasthi

There are concerns about an increase in the amount of antibiotics being consumed in Australia. Doctors are warning the effectiveness - and supply - of antibiotics is not unlimited, and there are dire consequences potentially if new health problems emerge.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 16/11/2023, Peter Hitchener

IKEA has joined Bunnings by announcing it will stop selling engineered stone. The homewares retailer

says it will begin to phase out the products ahead of a potential national ban over links to the lung disease silicosis.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Urgent recall of chemist product

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 17/11/2023, Page 18

An Australian healthcare company has issued an urgent recall for one of its supplements, warning it could lead to toxic overdoses. BioCeuticals' oral zinc drops from batches 004766 or 004807 pose serious health risks to consumers, the Therapeutic Goods Administration announced, and could potentially trigger nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhoea or headache.

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Covid expert advises those at risk to wear a face mask in public but most healthy people 'should not get too worried'

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 16/11/2023, Brad Crouch

As Covid numbers soar, an expert says the vulnerable should get booster shots and wear good quality face masks. [...] Prof Esterman noted the Therapeutic Goods Administration had approved a new vaccine but it was not yet available in Australia.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Magistrate rules on medicinal cannabis

Launceston Examiner, General News, 17/11/2023, Nick Clark, Page 7

A magistrate has ruled on medicinal cannabis acquired over the internet for people on drug treatment orders. Magistrate Simon Brown made the ruling over the long running issue when contemplating sentence for Sheridan Keisha Weavell, 23, for a vast array of crimes.

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Solo booze backlash forces name change

The Australian, General News, 17/11/2023, Eli Greenblat, Page 9

Carlton and United Breweries will rename the alcoholic version of its popular lemonade brand Solo after a backlash from parents, responsible drinking groups and the wider community, with its Hard Solo brand deemed to have breached alcoholic advertising standards. The brewing giant, owned by Japanese conglomerate Asahi, on Thursday announced that its ready-to-drink alcoholic lemon beverage Hard Solo would be renamed Hard Rated, with the original name and its presentation seen as similar to the lemonade Solo popular among children.

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

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Name change for Hard Solo after alcohol code breach

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/11/2023, Jessica Yun, Page 16

The parent company of Hard Solo will change the name of the controversial alcoholic drink to Hard Rated after an industry body found the product breached the industry code by appealing to minors. The alcoholic version of the popular soft drink has been under review for months after Hard Solo sparked complaints it would be alluring to minors by using similar branding elements as the soft drink.

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Hard Solo fizzles, regulator orders rebranding for drink

Canberra Times, General News, 17/11/2023, Page 20

The alcoholic version of the carbonated lemon-flavoured soft drink Solo will be rebranded after the beverage's design fizzed out with the regulator over concerns the design strongly appealed to minors. The Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code (ABAC) adjudication panel determined Hard Solo breached the panel's responsible alcohol marketing code following 10 complaints from the public over the brand's name and can design.

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

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Solo man takes a hard call

Herald Sun, General News, 17/11/2023, Rebekah Scanlan, Page 12

An alcoholic version of the popular soft drink Solo is being renamed after it was found to appeal to children. The Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code Scheme (ABAC) has backflipped following a series of complaints after it previously ruling Hard Solo was appropriate and complied with its code.

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

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A Hard no to Solo alcopop

West Australian, General News, 17/11/2023, Bethany Hiatt, Page 18

An alcoholic version of popular soft drink Solo will be renamed after an industry body found it breached advertising codes because of its "strong appeal" to children. Carlton and United Breweries, which started marketing Hard Solo about three months ago, will change the drink's name to Hard Rated after the Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code Scheme on Wednesday released a decision in response to multiple complaints.

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ECU researchers to conduct community forums in Goldfields-Esperance region about food security

West Australian, Other, 16/11/2023, Madeleine Clark

Community discussions about food security in the Goldfields will be facilitated by Edith Cowan University's Food Action Group project next week. The community forums intended to address food security in the region and help implement new strategies soon will take place at Esperance Lotteries House on November 21 at 9.30am, and Kalgoorlie-Boulder Lotteries House on November 23 at 11.30am.

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Hard Solo to be renamed Hard Rated after regulator finds alcoholic drink had 'evident appeal to minors'

The Guardian, Other, 16/11/2023, Emily Wind

The alcoholic drink Hard Solo will change its name to Hard Rated after Australia's beverages advertising code regulator found the brand would have a "strong or evident appeal to minors". The drink itself will not change just the name and packaging, with the word Solo removed.

Similar coverage reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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