



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 25th November 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that three pedestrian bridges, 880 new apartments and capacity for 80,000-seat live concerts will be added to the Gabba precinct under Labor's \$2.7 billion revamp.
- **[The Saturday Age \(page 9\)](#)** reports that Victorian Department of Health secretary Euan Wallace has confirmed more than 20 Victorians have died since 2020 while waiting for an ambulance, in an address to the state's public accounts and estimates committee on Friday.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 3\)](#)** reports that the New South Wales government has granted approval for pharmacists to dispense medications for shingles and impetigo, which previously required a doctor's prescription.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 3\)](#)** reports that the Victorian Ambulance Union has blamed an update to Ambulance Victoria's triage rules after ambulance crews attended 40 non-urgent calls labelled as life-threatening, prioritizing them over other urgent cases this week, warning of "potentially catastrophic consequences" for other patients waiting for assistance.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 5\)](#)** reports that Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has announced a five point initial plan to address ambulance ramping across the state, which will

include urgently hiring more triage nurses, appointing "medical commanders" to manage patient flow, and ensuring afterhours and weekend access to X-rays.

MINISTER BUTLER

Our 'reverse opium war'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/11/2023, Page 27

A leading Australian vape advocate has called for an urgent overhaul to the federal Government's approach to regulating vaping across the country, claiming the current approach is leading to China staging a "reverse opium war". Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has proposed some of the harshest vaping laws in the world.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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COVID rising ahead of festive season

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/11/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Recorded COVID cases rose by 25 per cent in a fortnight in Hunter New England but hospitalisations across the state were stable, NSW Health data shows. [...] "These new vaccines will help protect Australians against current strains of COVID-19," federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#)

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WA's North West has second-worst rate of advanced prostate cancer diagnoses in Australia

West Australian, Other, 24/11/2023, Cain Andrews

It has been revealed WA's North West has the second highest rate of advanced prostate cancer in the country second only to the Northern Territory. [...] "We are tremendously grateful to Health Minister Mark Butler for supporting men and families in our community with this new listing.

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

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Is the government's new \$300 aged care incentive a fair deal for GPs?

Australian Doctor, Other, 24/11/2023, Rachel Carter

A "kick in the guts", "disappointing" and "ludicrous" are how some GPs have described the Federal Government's proposed new aged care incentive. Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler announced on Wednesday that GPs would receive \$300 a year per aged care patient as part of the MyMedicare enrolment scheme.

[Read More](#)

Brace for another Covid Christmas as experts warn infections could spike again

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/11/2023, Ashley Nickel

The current wave is set to peak in December Published: | Updated: Fears of another 'Covid Christmas' are growing after an uptick in cases. [...] It's believed Mr Butler's announcement caused the uptick in vaccinations with it acting as a reminder for doctors and health-conscious Aussies to boost their immunity.

[Read More](#)

Australian College of Nursing calls for change

HealthTimes, Other, 24/11/2023, Nicole Madigan

Nurses face a glass ceiling, preventing them from utilising their skills and training, according to Health Minister Mark Butler. Mr Butler told ABC Radio it didn't make sense not to have every single

one of our health workers operating to what they describe as the top of their scope of practice, which is utilising all of their skills, all of their training, and all of their experience.

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Thalidomide survivors call on Labor to reopen lifetime support program to new applicants

The Guardian, Other, 24/11/2023, Josh Butler

Thalidomide survivors have asked the government to reopen a lifetime support program to new entrants ahead of next week's national apology. [...] The Health Minister, Mark Butler, said the program, set up under the former Coalition government, was a lifetime support package.

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Two to three year wait for treatment through the underfunded public dental system

The Senior, Other, 24/11/2023

Dentists are pleading with the federal government to set up dental schemes for our most vulnerable populations including seniors - or take responsibility for the oral health decline of millions of Australians. [...] The Health Minister Mark Butler has inferred he'd work with us on achieving this once the Senate Inquiry releases its findings early next year - so the ADA looks forward to working with him and the Department of Health putting those words into actions."

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MINISTER WELLS

'Just watch out'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 25/11/2023, Tom Decent, Page 25

Rugby Australia chair Hamish McLennan was taking things easy at the Pullman Hotel in the trendy Paris neighbour hood of Montparnasse late last month when he first realised that he might be in trouble. [...] McLennan sat in the stands behind Albert II, the Prince of Monaco, and Anika Wells, Australia's minister for sport.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Funding for veteran and family hub

Coast Community News, Other, 24/11/2023

Minister for Veterans Affairs Matt Keogh and Member for Dobell Emma McBride RSL LifeCare has received \$1.7 million in funding from the Federal Government's Veteran Wellbeing Grants One-Off Program to establish a veteran and family hub-like experience on the Central Coast region home to an estimated 7,993 veterans.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

First Nations cancer screening receives \$5 million funding boost with Kamilaroi researcher at the helm

SBS, Other, 24/11/2023, Madison Howarth

An Indigenous-led University of Queensland research team will receive \$5 million dollars in funding to achieve equity in cancer screening for First Nations people. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said the investment in a project led by a First Nations researcher would help find lasting solutions to health inequities.

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DEPARTMENT

Covid spike blackout

Centralian Today, General News, 23/11/2023, Shaun Hollis, Page 3

A warning has been issued about a huge increase in Covid-19 numbers in the Northern Territory a week after NT Health has stopped publishing the statistics. [...] The site directs all visitors to the federal government's health department website, which does not list any daily or weekly numbers for individual states and territories despite stating "an overview of the current coronavirus situation in Australia is available" there.

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Help available for CHSP providers

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/11/2023, Natasha Egan

Home support providers should seek out and get to know the well-informed support and development staff on hand in their region to assist, a sector support lead tells Australian Ageing Agenda Sector Support and Development is a sub-program of the Commonwealth Home Support Program. [...] At the same time, the Department of Health and Aged Care is unable to provide SSD officers with the contact details of CHSP service providers due to confidentiality.

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New relaxation and recreation space for aged care residents in Kyogle

Echo NetDaily, Other, 24/11/2023

A new lounge and living area is creating a more comfortable and home-like environment for aged care residents at Kyogle Multi-Purpose Service. [...] The building works were jointly funded by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Aged Care and NSW Health.

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School training grounds for chefs

Star Community, Other, 24/11/2023

Keysborough College, in collaboration with the Maggie Beer Foundation, had provided its food tech facilities to support the foundation's chef training program. [...] These new training opportunities have been assisted by \$5 million in funding from the Federal Government's department of health and aged care, in turn helping providers meet the new dedicated food and nutrition quality standard.

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Time to get your shots: New COVID-19 boosters approved for use

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 24/11/2023, Stephanie Dalton

As the festive season draws nearer, Tasmanians are being urged to get their latest booster shot following the approval of another round of COVID-19 vaccines. [...] More information can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care's website.

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Clinic opens

Fremantle Herald, General News, 25/11/2023, Page 7

The new Beeliar Medicare Urgent Care Clinic at the Lagoon Medical Centre opened on November 15, 2023. [...] The Chook wanted to know how patients could be assured of which stream they'd be in before being seen, and while we didn't get a call back from Lagoon, the federal Department of Health and Aged Care said they'd have to abide by nationally agreed triage protocols.

Also reported by: [WEB Fremantle Herald Interactive \(Online\)](#).

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CORONAVIRUS

Quarantine deaths set to be examined in inquest

Canberra Times, General News, 25/11/2023, Neve Brissenden, Page 20

An inquest into the deaths of three people during forced quarantine at Howard Springs will examine the legality of their detention and adequacy of their care. David Hardy, 77, Raylene Dick, 50, and Karen Bading, 56, were all classified as deaths in custody.

Also reported by: [Znews.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Quarantine death probe

Northern Territory News, General News, 25/11/2023, Jason Walls, Page 3

Territory Coroner Elisabeth Armitage will investigate whether the deaths of three people at the Howard Springs quarantine facility during the Covid-19 pandemic could have been prevented. Territorians Raylene Dick and Karen Bading and West Australian man David Hardy died while being detained at the Centre for National Resilience between November 2021 and January 2022.

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

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New COVID-19 boosters approved for use

Launceston Examiner, General News, 25/11/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 3

As the festive season draws nearer, Tasmanians are being urged to get their latest booster shot following the approval of another round of COVID-19 vaccines. The new monovalent COVID-19 Omicron XBB.1.5 vaccines have been approved for use in Australia after being given the all-clear by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

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

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NT coroner to investigate deaths of three people held at Howard Springs COVID facility

ABC Online, Other, 24/11/2023, Jack Hislop

The Northern Territory coroner is set to investigate whether it was legal to compulsorily detain people in Australia's "gold standard" quarantine facility during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centre for National Resilience (CNR) in Darwin's outskirts otherwise known as the Howard Springs quarantine facility was a former workers' camp, repurposed in the pandemic's early stages.

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One COVID death in Canberra and 488 cases

Canberra Times, Other, 24/11/2023, Steve Evans

One person has died from COVID in the past week, according to new figures from the ACT government. The health department reported there were 488 cases registered in the week to this Friday.

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Pfizer vax update

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 24/11/2023

Pfizer has come out in support of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation's (ATAGI) updated statement on the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, which notes the recent increase in COVID-19 cases across Australia. As the country experiences an eighth wave of the virus, Pfizer is working closely with the Govt to supply COVID-19 vaccines as quickly as possible.

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Bethanie Subiaco: Western suburbs aged care home responds to COVID-19 outbreak

West Australian, Other, 24/11/2023

A western suburbs aged care home is responding to a COVID-19 outbreak as the virus' eighth wave sweeps WA. COVID-19 cases among residents at Bethanie Subiaco spiked from just three on Sunday to 19 on Thursday, The Post newspaper reported.

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

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'It's not gone. It's changing. It's killing': The COVID variants WHO is watching closely

While the height of the pandemic may be over, the virus that causes COVID-19 continues to mutate with multiple variants circulating in every country. Yet despite this, testing and surveillance have decreased, with experts urging people to keep taking the threat of this disease seriously.

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Channel 9 Darwin, National Nine News, 24/11/2023, Paul Murphy

The Centre for National Resilience is under investigation following the deaths of three people while staying at the Howard Springs facility in 2021 and 2022. The Coroner has opened investigation into the deaths of Raylene Dick, David Hardy and Karen Bading.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 24/11/2023, Indira Naidoo

Interview with Paul Griffin, vaccine researcher and infectious diseases physician, University of Queensland. Griffin comments on COVID fatigue. He notes it is not just in Australia but also seen across the world.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Retirees enjoying luxe standards

The Saturday Age, Domain, 25/11/2023, Kate Jones, Page 8

You'd be forgiven for thinking retirement villages are places where people go to slow down. But, the booming industry for over-55s residences is gearing up for more social and wellness activity than ever before.

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How granny and grandpa can help solve the housing crisis

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/11/2023, Fiona Killman, Page 25

NSW's grey army has been billed as a "secret weapon" in the fight against the state's housing crisis amid calls to stop those selling the family home losing their pension. A new report from the Retirement Living Council, a subsidiary of The Property Council of Australia, has estimated more than 473,000 NSW retirees aged over 75 are living in oversized homes with at least one bedroom left empty.

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More housing from seniors

Courier Mail, General News, 25/11/2023, Sophie Foster, Page 20

More than 200,000 Queenslanders are living in large homes they can no longer maintain which could be put to better use by younger families, prompting calls for bonuses for seniors who downsize. Thousands of larger homes could be freed up for desperate househunters if seniors were better able to downsize into independent living options without impacting their pensions or finances, retirement industry experts say.

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

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Differences in community living and aged care

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2023, Daniel Gannon, Page 23

Choosing where we live is driven by many factors, including lifestyle, affordability, work or family. As we get older, our outlook can be informed by challenges associated with health and ageing, which might require a move into a retirement village or aged-care facility.

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How seniors can downsize us out of the housing crisis

Herald Sun, General News, 25/11/2023, Nathan Mawby, Page 28

Older Victorians need pension protection and tax breaks if they are to downsize and put more family homes into the market, industry experts say. A new report from the Retirement Living Council, a subsidiary of The Property Council of Australia, estimates 375,000 Victorian retirees aged over 75 are living in their longterm family homes with at least one bedroom left empty.

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TSO brings music magic to residents

Launceston Examiner, General News, 25/11/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 3

The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (TSO) is helping to spread healing, hope, and happiness by taking the joy of music to aged care residents. Uniting AgeWell Newnham residents were treated to a live performance on November 24, followed by a Q&A session, where they discussed everything from the music to their beloved instruments and past concerts.

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Karen Webb's cancelled day off after gran was Tasered

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/11/2023, James O'Doherty

Just 14 hours after 95-year-old great-grandmother Clare Nowland was Tasered, Police Commissioner Karen Webb's chief of staff told colleagues that the state's top cop intended on taking a day off because she had to work at the weekend at an international police conference.

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Malanda Lions Club building new units for pensioners to help ease rental stress

ABC Online, Other, 24/11/2023, Sharnie Kim

As the tight rental market puts the squeeze on Australians, one country town in Queensland is tackling the problem for pensioners a different way thanks to an unlikely landlord who provides new homes for \$200 per week. Recent state government figures showed that 3,600 Queenslanders over the age of 65 were waiting for public housing.

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Residential care complaints down; home care complaints up

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/11/2023, Christopher Kelly

Complaints about residential aged care services have dropped while complaints about home care services have risen, a first-of-its-kind report from the regulator shows. Published by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, the report, Complaints about aged care services Insights for providers , explores the complaints received by the regulatory body about aged care services.

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Community Vision expands operations

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/11/2023

Western Australia-based not-for-profit community services provider Community Vision has extended its footprint from the Perth metropolitan area into the southwest of the state. The provider which supports aged care customers and clients with a disability has been offering limited services in the south-west of WA since 2022.

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Allied health: 'it's only got worse,' says peak

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/11/2023, Christopher Kelly

The residential aged care sector's funding model is negatively impacting allied health provision, according to the profession's national peak. While the Australian National Aged Care Classification funding model is supposed to cover sufficient spending on allied health, Dr Chris Atmore manager, policy and advocacy at Allied Health Professionals Australia told Australian Ageing Agenda : "We know

that many providers either have little funds left after providing mandated nursing and personal care, or some may use any surplus to subsidise other non-allied health costs.

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POPULATION HEALTH

School fund fight looms over soaring autism costs

The Saturday Age, General News, 25/11/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

Bill Shorten's push for state governments to lift support for students with extra needs will lay the ground for a fresh school funding stoush, with principals warning they will need more money to help children with autism on school grounds so that families aren't forced to rely on the ballooning National Disability Insurance Scheme. Shorten, the federal minister responsible for the \$40 billion NDIS, this week said it could not be "a surrogate school system" as his government prepares to release a yearlong review that will call on states to step up disability services for most Australians through their own systems or risk the scheme buckling under pressure.

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

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'Vendors of death': health official blasts e-cigarettes

Canberra Times, General News, 25/11/2023, Page 26

A top health official has blasted e-cigarette makers as "vendors of death" as Victoria mulls introducing a tobacco licensing scheme. Victoria is the only Australian state without a scheme or formal plans to introduce one, with Queensland's to begin in September 2024.

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

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17,000 with hip fracture

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/11/2023, Page 30

As many as 17,100 Australians over 45 fracture their hip for the first time each year. An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report based on national hospital data reveals between 16,300 to 17,100 people over 45 experience their first hip fracture each year.

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The facts about asbestos in older builds

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Real Estate, 25/11/2023, Keren Bellos, Page 14

As we mark the 10th National Asbestos Awareness Month this November, a stark reality confronts us an estimated one-third of Australian homes contain potentially hazardous asbestos. The annual toll from asbestos-related diseases exceeds 4000 and is predicted to rise, underscoring the urgent need for awareness on this silent threat.

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Gym taking the weight off youngsters' cost of living

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 25/11/2023, Connor Pearce, Page 6

As young people cut back on spending as cost of living increases and lower wages hit this cohort the largest, health and recreation services are some of the items people are most likely to drop, even as the Illawarra faces a chronic health crisis. To counter this, a gym at the heart of the Illawarra's diabetes hot-spot is offering a free gym membership for summer for young people aged between 15 and 19.

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Over 90 per cent of Australians have fluoridated water, but the public

health policy has become a political headache in Queensland

ABC Online, Other, 24/11/2023, Emma Pollard and Janelle Miles

Politicians are always wary of stoking controversy when an election draws closer and in Queensland, one public health policy in particular is causing political headaches. While more than 90 per cent of Australians have access to fluoridated water, that figure is significantly lagging in the sunshine state, where local councils have ultimate authority over whether it is adopted.

Similar coverage reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Probiotics fill our supermarket shelves, but are they effective? Here's what the experts say

ABC Online, Other, 24/11/2023, Shelby Traynor

The probiotics that fill supermarket shelves come in all shapes and sizes. Most promise general digestive and immune support, but some claim more targeted treatments for people with an irritable bowel or low mood.

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'Body positivity movement' is making Aussie women FAT and leading to an increase in diabetes and fertility issues, claims doctor turned MP Michelle Ananda-Rajah

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/11/2023

A doctor turned politician has spoken out against the 'body positivity movement' for 'normalising weight gain' in young women. Melbourne Labor MP Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah called out the trend for downplaying the harmful effects of excessive weight gain - including diabetes and fertility issues.

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A dietitian shares 5 small changes for your gut health that aren't... kombucha.

Mamamia, Other, 24/11/2023, Nicole Madigan

Anyone who's experienced bloating, IBS or constipation probably knows a thing or two about the importance of gut health. But having a happy and healthy gut benefits more than just your bowel movements.

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Health Advice You Should Ignore (and What to Do Instead)

Prevention, Other, 24/11/2023, Kate Rockwood and Leslie Goldman

Some terrible tips keep getting repeated, even though they're silly, outdated, or even dangerous. Here's what to ignore and what you should really do for a healthy, happy life.

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Liquid fantasy: Sunshine Coast police officer warns against GHB use

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 24/11/2023, Letea Cavander

A party drug more popular than MDMA and ecstasy has been described by a top Sunshine Coast police officer as "really dangerous" with the risk of tragic consequences coming down to the millilitre. Liquid fantasy is a street term for a chemical called gamma-hydroxybutyrate, or GHB, which is derived from a commercial product with uses like polishing concrete or timber.

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

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'It kept me sane': How exercise helps battle with cancer treatment

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 25/11/2023, Sarah Berry, Page 41

Research shows links between physical activity and the wellbeing of people going through chemotherapy. It wasn't the heat of the night that awoke Karen Curnow over the summer of 2021 and 2022, but the extreme pain in her legs, a side effect of the chemotherapy drugs that she was taking to treat ovarian cancer.

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My cancer fight

Daily Telegraph, Weekend, 25/11/2023, Jackie Epstein, Page 1

It was in 2011 when he noticed something on his nose during a tournament in Louisiana. "At the time, I was given the all clear," he says. A "About three months later when I returned home to Australia I had it checked out again as I noticed it changed in its appearance a bit. Soon after, I was diagnosed with basal cell carcinoma.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Glaucoma prediction test to be rolled out

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/11/2023, Page 25

A genetic test for glaucoma to be rolled out in Australia holds the key to identifying and prioritising the treatment of those at a high risk of losing their sight due to the disease. Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness and can be difficult to predict and diagnose, but ophthalmologists at Flinders University and QIMR have devised a novel glaucoma polygenic risk score that identifies those at high risk. They have received \$2.9m from the federal government to roll out the test.

Also reported by: [The West Australian](#) and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Blokes urge each other to get checked

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2023, Lucy Williams, Page 8

It is a sobering fact that more than 1800 men in our region are living or have lived with prostate cancer. [...] According to the Cancer Council, early stages of the disease rarely cause symptoms - and even those with advanced forms of the disease may have no symptoms.

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ASX Health Stocks: Rhythm Bio says study shows new research in lung cancer tech warranted

The Australian, Other, 24/11/2023, Eddy Sunarto

Rhythm Biosciences (ASX:RHY) has provided an update on its cancer diagnostics technology platform in lung cancer. Late last year, Rhythm said it, together with the Baker Institute, had identified a five-biomarker combination that exhibited an effective correlation with various stages of lung cancer.

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

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Professor Jason Payne takes the reins at the Peter Mac

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/11/2023, Robyn Riley

With more than 28 years in healthcare, Professor Payne has helped to lead the expansion of multiple health services across Victoria. He began his career as a nurse at Austin Health and in 2010 became the divisional director of Cancer and Neurosciences at the Olivia Newton-John Cancer, Wellness & Research Centre.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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'High risk' of epidemic thunderstorm asthma for parts of Victoria

9News, Other, 24/11/2023, Allanah Sciberras

Hay fever and asthma sufferers have been urged to take adequate precautions and remain vigilant. Thunderstorm asthma events typically occur from October when pollen is drawn into the atmosphere and dispersed through a storm.

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Colon cancer resection type 'most important predictor' of anastomotic leak

Australian Doctor, Other, 24/11/2023, Heather Saxena

The findings suggest limited resections should be considered, especially in older and high-risk patients. Total colectomy is the most significant risk factor for anastomotic leak following colon cancer resections, putting patients at four times higher risk of the catastrophic complication, research shows.

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High case loads contribute to infant hearing loss misdiagnoses: report

Australian Doctor, Other, 24/11/2023, Carmel Sparke

An independent review of a Queensland public hospital audiology unit found errors in both cochlear implant mapping and infant testing. An audiology unit at a Queensland public hospital has misdiagnosed some profoundly deaf children as having no hearing loss and programmed cochlear implants incorrectly in others, a report has found.

[Read More](#)

Gaining weight increases cancer risk, study suggest - casting doubt on idea people can be 'fat but fit'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/11/2023, Victoria Allen

Being overweight or obese is known to raise the risk of at least 13 types of cancer. But experts have been less clear on whether it is people's weight that is the major problem, or their obesity-related illnesses including cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.

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Esperance women encouraged to book appointments ahead of BreastScreen WA's upcoming visit

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 24/11/2023

Bookings for free screening mammograms are open for BreastScreen WA's upcoming visit to Esperance, with residents encouraged to take advantage of the free service. Women aged 40 and over with no symptoms are eligible for a free screening mammograms (breast X-ray) and are encouraged to make an appointment for dates between December 11 and March 18.

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Victorians brace for 'high risk' of epidemic asthma

NEWS.com.au, Other, 24/11/2023, Elena Couper

Asthma sufferers have been warned to remain vigilant, as there's a "high risk" of epidemic thunderstorm asthma in Victoria on Friday and Saturday. The alert, issued by the Victorian Department of Health, indicated much of the state would be subject to moderate and high-risk forecasts on Friday and the entire state by moderate and high-risk forecasts on Saturday.

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

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Goulburn Valley to host experts at Parkinson's conference

Shepparton News Online, Other, 24/11/2023, Lauren Formica

The highly anticipated Shepparton Parkinson's Conference will make its return this month after a three-year hiatus. Shepparton will play host to world-renowned health professionals in the field of Parkinson's and movement disorders at the sold-out event on Tuesday, November 28.

Why a tree change might be your best weapon against dementia, Qld study shows

The New Daily, Other, 24/11/2023

People living in country Australia have a lower risk of dementia than their city peers, possibly because they have cleaner air and more green spaces, a study suggests. An analysis of the most recent national Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers found adults over 65 living in major cities were 1.12 times more likely to develop the brain disorder.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 24/11/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

New research from Sweden has revealed long-term use of ADHD medication can increase a patient's chances of developing cardiovascular disease. Clinical psychologist Professor Adam Guastella says the study raises some important issues around potential risks linked with taking stimulants.

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PRIMARY CARE

Unequal access to medical care hits Sydney hard

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 25/11/2023, Angus Thomson and Laura Banks, Page 30

Rooty Hill Village nursing home is a five-minute drive from Mt Druitt Hospital. So one can imagine the surprise of emergency staff at Nepean Hospital, a 20-minute drive away, every time a resident from Rooty Hill arrives in their department in an ambulance. Mt Druitt has a 24-hour emergency department - but it doesn't admit medical or surgical patients, who are instead transferred to Blacktown Hospital.

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

Tragic cost of ambulance delays laid bare

The Saturday Age, General News, 25/11/2023, Kieran Rooney, Page 9

At least 20 people have died since 2020 waiting for an ambulance, new figures provided to Victoria's budget estimates show. A parliamentary committee also heard that more than 9500 nurses left the state's health sector in 2022.

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

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

Why Melbourne is often a better place to fall sick

The Saturday Age, General News, 25/11/2023, Aisha Dow and Henrietta Cook, Page 18

It's a question that crops up regularly when Professor Grant McArthur meets cancer experts at international medical conferences. "They want to know why Victoria has one of the best cancer outcomes," the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance executive director says.

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

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

Script boost for chemists

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/11/2023, Linda Silimalis, Page 3

Pharmacists have been given Minns government approval to hand out medications for shingles and impetigo also known as "school sores" that previously required a doctor's prescription, under a significant expansion of the trial. [...] In July this year in the face of criticism from doctors groups such as the NSW AMA the Minns government declared women 18 or over would be able to be prescribed treatment from their pharmacist for uncomplicated UTIs without a GP appointment.

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

Let's think to good health

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 25/11/2023, Page 68

The expansion of the trial allowing pharmacies to hand out prescriptions for some common medical conditions does not come as a surprise. The fact that 6000 women used the service during the trial is a sign the proposal worked, at least in offering a more convenient supply of medications.

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Ambos' blood nose rage

Herald Sun, General News, 25/11/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 3

A blood nose, coughs and back pain were among the more than 40 non-urgent ambulance calls labelled as lifethreatening and prioritised over other urgent cases this week, a peak union says. Frustrated paramedics, including specialised Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance crews, have rushed with lights and sirens to multiple "priority 0 ineffective breathing" triple-zero cases since Wednesday, only to discover patients with non-urgent problems, the Victorian Ambulance Union reported.

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

ED triage nurses boost

Courier Mail, General News, 25/11/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 5

Urgently hiring more triage nurses, appointing "medical commanders" to manage patient flow, and ensuring afterhours and weekend access to X-rays will be part of an initial plan to ease ambulance ramping across the state. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman announced the fivepoint initial plan, backed in with \$20m, following a meeting of hospital emergency department heads in the wake of a spate of ramping-related tragedies in the South East.

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

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The buck stops with you Ms Fentiman

Courier Mail, General News, 25/11/2023, Des Houghton, Page 56

Patients dying waiting for an ambulance, a medical records outage and a DNA debacle head the list I do not think it was such a good week for the Labor government, especially for Shannon Fentiman, the Queensland Cabinet's shining light who is increasingly thrust before the television news cameras ahead of Anastacia Palaszczuk.

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

MP backs Murrumbidgee telehealth

Daily Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2023, Dan Holmes, Page 8

Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) is trialing a new telehealth program that could make it easier for remote patients to access healthcare. New virtual hubs have been set up in hospitals at Tumut and Deniliquin as well as at the Junee, Hillston, Lake Cargelligo and Hay multipurpose services (MPS).

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Fertility hub 'world class'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2023, Chelsea Bunting, Page 16

Geelong women and their families will be able to access a "world-class" public fertility service with a new clinic opening at Barwon Health. The new satellite will deliver services including specialist consultations, diagnostic tests and ultrasounds, allowing local women to access free fertility treatment without having to travel to Melbourne.

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Sore point: waitlists soar

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/11/2023, Gabriel Fowler, Page 1

The number of postponed surgeries across the Hunter has increased by an average of 76 per cent over the past four years, as the region grapples with waitlist blowouts. Data obtained via freedom of

information legislation reveals the number of surgeries postponed or cancelled at Hunter hospitals rose by up to 160 per cent in the four years to the end of 2022.

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Hunter doctors sign on to assist dying

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/11/2023, Gabriel Fowler, Page 12

Hunter-based clinicians are preparing for an influx of patients applying to access Voluntary Assisted Dying on Tuesday when the service first becomes available. It is understood at least five doctors in the region have been trained and registered as authorised voluntary assisted dying practitioners.

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

Holiday closure for private hospital ward

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 25/11/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 8

Mildura Health Private Hospital's Banksia inpatient ward will shut for two weeks over the Christmas period. The shutdown aligns with the annual closure of the perioperative services theatre unit, which is about to undergo a significant expansion.

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Plagued facility opens

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 25/11/2023, Natasha Emeck, Page 1

A multimillion-dollar facility built to house remote patients in Townsville has finally opened its doors after sitting empty for two years due to operational funding delays. Yumba-Meta's Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation Centre welcomed its first patients on November 6.

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

Hospital grows medical workforce by 200, adds services

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 25/11/2023, Ben Silvester, Page 6

South West Healthcare has grown its medical workforce by 200 people in the past year, hiring 70 new doctors as it greatly expands its services. Chief executive officer Craig Fraser said the growth was geared towards making Warrnambool a regional medical hub.

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Scope of practice review

Australian Pharmacist, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 8

Community pharmacies are 'unfunded urgent care clinics', PSA tells the federal government review. Despite consumers visiting community pharmacies every day with common ailments, excessive red tape and regulation still prevents pharmacists delivering care.

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Plan to ease ambulance ramping unveiled after deaths

Canberra Times, Other, 24/11/2023, Laine Clark

Crisis talks have led to Queensland Health adopting a five-point, \$20 million plan to address ambulance ramping after two people died in as many days. Emergency department bosses came together on Friday to discuss ways to support staff, with the latest ambulance data revealing patients had waited almost 10 hours for a hospital bed.

[Read More](#)

Tragic number of Victorians who have died waiting for an ambulance

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/11/2023, Brooke Grebert-Craig

The number of Victorians who have tragically died while waiting for an ambulance and for elective surgery over the last two years has been revealed, leading to a call for "urgent action". Twenty Victorians have died while waiting for an ambulance over the past two years.

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

Big V Interview: Symphony in life and death: Oncology doctor Mitchell Chipman's story

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/11/2023, Matt Johnston

Mitchell Chipman fell in love with medicine at a young age believing he could make a difference. Here he discusses caring for cancer patients, his passion for music and the truth about voluntary assisted dying.

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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Young dad left ramped at Ipswich Hospital for more than three hours despite collapsed lungs

The Mercury, Other, 24/11/2023, Isabella Holland

A 25-year-old Brisbane man who suffers from lupus was left fearing for his life as he was ramped for more than three hours at one of Queensland's worst performing hospitals. Father of two Joe Horvat who was left in the back of an ambulance in agony and struggling to breathe says his concerns that his lung had potentially collapsed fell on deaf ears at Ipswich Hospital.

[Read More](#)

Hospital ramping victim's family say system is 'failing us' as health minister calls emergency meeting

7news.com.au, Other, 24/11/2023, Laine Clark and Fraser Barton

Queensland's health minister will meet emergency department heads on Friday to address critical issues. A Queensland family has shared their heartbreak after their loved one became one of the state's most recent ambulance ramping victims.

[Read More](#)

Starting soon Health Minister Shannon Fentiman meets with emergency department heads to address ambulance ramping concerns

ABC Online, Other, 24/11/2023, Victoria Pengilley

A population boom and a lack of GPs is adding increased pressure on the state's emergency departments and health system, Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk says. The government has come under fire amid calls to address ambulance ramping following the death of a man who waited three hours on an ambulance stretcher at Ipswich Hospital last Thursday.

[Read More](#)

Calls for change as young dad prepares to travel 300km for rehab

ABC Online, Other, 24/11/2023, Jamie Thannoo and Piper Duffy

Sam Turnton, 28, is planning a trip that will hopefully change his life. He has struggled with drug addiction for nine years and is set to move into a residential rehabilitation facility.

[Read More](#)

Skincare next step in scope expansion

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 25/11/2023

Community pharmacists in NSW will be able to prescribe treatments for certain skin conditions from March 2024, under the next phase of the state's scope of practice pilot. Ryan Park, the state's Health Minister, announced the extension of the trial at the Pharmacy Guild of

[Read More](#)

Wait times at Hervey Bay Hospital's emergency department halved

Cairns Post, Other, 24/11/2023, Carlie Walker

Median waiting times in the emergency department at Hervey Bay Hospital have been halved in the past year, according to the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service. The results were revealed after the health service recently released July to September performance data.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Fraser Coast Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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'Life or death': rural health back under the spotlight

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 24/11/2023, Stephanie Gardiner

The doors of the \$60 million refurbished Inverell hospital were swung open with big promises: more staff, better treatment and care closer to home. But residents of the NSW northern tablelands farming town say the shine has worn off since the 2021 opening, as doctor shortages force locals to take a three-hour round trip to Armidale for treatment.

[Read More](#)

Sunshine Coast Health and Hospital Service to introduce publicly funded home births

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 24/11/2023, Elizabeth Neil

More expectant mothers will have the option of giving birth at home with the Sunshine Coast health service selected as Queensland's first region to introduce a publicly funded homebirth service. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman announced on Thursday, November 23, the new service will be introduced at the Sunshine Coast Health and Hospital Service, which includes the Gympie region, from mid-2024.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

A painful silence surrounds mental health and violence

Weekend Australian, General News, 25/11/2023, Virginia Tapscott, Page 18

I don't think for a second that the man who sexually abused me as a child was mentally well. I don't think the recent murders of Australian women were committed by men with healthy thought patterns and constructive coping strategies. People who are happy and thriving don't respond to uncomfortable situations with sexual or physical violence.

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

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Talking trans

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 25/11/2023, Michael Bachelard, Page 1

The number of young people changing gender has risen fast in the past decade. What's going on and should we be celebrating or concerned?

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

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

Kids in cell breakdown

Courier Mail, General News, 25/11/2023, Madura McCormack, Page 25

Children held in windowless police watch-house cells are experiencing "full breakdowns", with human rights commissioners revealing grim scenes of diets almost exclusively made up of fast food, while well-meaning police officers are receiving no training to deal with juveniles.

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

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Medicine safety in mental health care cannot be ignored

Australian Pharmacist, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 6

While 1 in 2 Australians will experience a mental health condition, and approximately 18% fill a prescription for mental health medicines each year, many pharmacists don't feel confident discussing mental health with their patients. Even when we do discuss mental health, there is often a mismatch between health professional goals and patient expectations for treatment.

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

Missing conversations

Australian Pharmacist, General News, 01/11/2023, Chloe Hava, Page 16

Patients are being harmed because we are not talking about the adverse effects of mental health medicines. Medicines prescribed for mental health can have disturbing adverse effects.

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

Pharmacists need MHFA training

Australian Pharmacist, General News, 01/11/2023, Ruth Cooper, Page 58

Just as cpr training can help save a life, mental health first aid (MHFA) is vital education for all pharmacy staff. One in two Australians will experience mental ill health during their lifetime. Medicine use for mental illness is common, with 18% of Australians filling a prescription for a mental health medication in 2021-22.

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

Tragic siege death raises mental health questions

Canberra Times, Other, 24/11/2023, Duncan Murray

The family of a man who died following a 12-hour police siege hopes their loss shines a light on the need for more rapid reform of how police deal with mental health incidents. The 51-year-old man, known by the initials SB, died from self-inflicted chest wounds following a stand-off with police at his mother's home in Bathurst in western NSW on March 13 and 14, 2022.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Truckies unite to take a stand against bullying

Big Rigs, General News, 24/11/2023, Graham Harsant, Page 16

When it comes to supporting charitable causes, no one does it better than the truck industry. Saturday, November 4 was no different when Andrew Lattin and his wife of two weeks, Sandy Davis, put out the call for truckies to come to the Bendigo Showgrounds and show support for their brainchild, Truckies Against Bullying.

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Step up to care

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 24/11/2023

Pharmacists can play a greater role in helping patients manage their mental health through the quality use of medicines, a new report from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has found. The sixth edition of PSA's flagship Medicine Safety series, Medicine Safety: Mental Health Care report highlights opportunities for pharmacists to better support Australians using medicines to treat mental health conditions, including improving access to care and investing in quality use of medicines services at critical points of care.

[Read More](#)

Is technology fuelling your anxiety? Here's how to tell

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 24/11/2023, Diane Young

The information overload is real. If you find yourself doom-scrolling for a solid three hours before bed and then can't fall sleep, it could be just one of many signs technology is negatively impacting your mental health. In our modern world, technology has become an integral part of our daily lives.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Demanding routine of a specialist clinical nurse

The Saturday Age, Business News, 25/11/2023, Sue White, Page 6

The organisation: Macquarie University Hospital. The title: Clinical Nurse Specialist, Theatre Management. The pay: Salaries for registered nurses in NSW start at about \$70,000 and range to about \$110,000 for the most experienced direct patient care staff.

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'Basic' health woes in West

Hobart Mercury, General News, 25/11/2023, Simon McGuire, Page 21

Problems in attracting doctors to work and live on the West Coast are contributing to a lack of healthcare services in the region. The West Coast Council is concerned about the limited health care options and the manager of several GP clinics in the area says trouble attracting doctors lies at the heart of the issue.

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This health service is setting the standard

Ballarat Courier, General News, 25/11/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 8

Meryn Pease is unsure she has heard of "anything like this" in her career: a small rural health service bucking national trends to set a golden standard in the Australian Training Awards. Almost five years ago, Beaufort and Skipton Health Service had "zero" pathways for non-clinical staff.

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\$7.5m health lure

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2023, Jenny Denton, Page 1

The Premier has announced a \$7.5 million incentive scheme to attract new specialist allied healthcare workers to the regions. The program will make grants of \$15,000 per person available to both domestic and international occupational therapy and speech pathology graduates to encourage them to relocate to regional or rural areas of Victoria. Jacinta Allan announced the initiative on Friday morning at Bendigo Health's refurbished Stewart Street "clinical services campus", which now houses allied health services, saying it was estimated more than 400 new health workers would take up the opportunity around the state.

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'High need' for GP boost

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 25/11/2023, Nick Moseley, Page 34

Long-term planning and "significant support" is needed to grow the local general-practice workforce, Murray Primary Health Network chief executive Matt Jones says. Murray PHN last week released its 2023 Murray Health Report, covering a region where 191 general-practice clinics and 47 public hospitals employ 533 GPs and 184 GP trainees.

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Ex-WA nurses' union boss sues for 'defamation' amid industrial relations row

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 24/11/2023, Jesinta Burton

The former boss of Western Australia's nursing union has launched defamation action against a council

member at the centre of a high-stakes industrial relations row contesting the eligibility of secretary Janet Reah to hold office. According to a writ lodged in the WA Supreme Court and obtained by this masthead, Mark Olson is suing Australian Nursing Federation council vice-president Romina Raschilla for defamation over comments allegedly made during the union's 2022 annual general meeting.

[Read More](#)

NSW paramedics take industrial action, threaten rego refusal over pay stoush

The Mercury, Other, 24/11/2023, Jessica Wang

NSW paramedics have taken industrial action from Thursday as ambos across the state gear up to wage war against the government over demands for better pay. From Thursday, members of a second paramedic union the Australian Paramedic Association NSW (APA) will begin industrial action for a week.

[Read More](#)

East Kimberley GP Stephanie Trust selected as WA Rural Health Excellence Awards finalist

West Australian, Other, 24/11/2023, Cain Andrews

An East Kimberley GP has been selected as a finalist for the 2024 Rural Health Awards alongside four other health professionals from across the Kimberley. Stephanie Trust from Wunan Health in Kununurra was selected as a finalist for the GP of the Year award alongside Margie O'Neil, Dominic Mallon, Jane Angliss and Michele Harvey.

[Read More](#)

Paediatrician's prestigious honour

Barrier Truth, Other, 24/11/2023, Jason Irvine

A local Broken Hill paediatrician, Dr Margaret Kummerow, has been announced as the regional winner of the Humpty Dumpty Foundation's Michelle Beets Award for Inspirational PaediatricCare for 2023. Dr Kummerow is the first doctor from the Far West Local Health District (FWLHD) to win the prestigious award that is presented to a regional and metropolitan healthcare worker who delivers outstanding neonatal and paediatric care across the full spectrum of clinical practice including medical, midwifery, nursing, and allied health.

[Read More](#)

Passionate home care worker wins Queensland's Caregiver of the Year

HelloCare, Other, 24/11/2023, Bianca Iovino

A Queensland carer motivated by the grief of losing her father and brother to jump into the profession has won Queensland's Caregiver of the Year. Having lost her father in 2019 after a heart breaking battle with bowel cancer and then her brother in 2022, Margate's Nicole Morton was determined to help others receive the care they deserve at home.

[Read More](#)

ANZCAP's building blocks

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 24/11/2023

The Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP) has launched its Independent Program, which offers Learning Experiences as building blocks for recognition portfolios that can be started by Australian pharmacists, regardless of their career stage or practice setting.

[Read More](#)

Premier's award for Murrumbidgee Model

Shepparton News Online, Other, 24/11/2023

Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) is celebrating success at the 2023 Premier's Awards. Its Murrumbidgee Rural Generalist Training Pathway, also known as the Murrumbidgee Model, was named as a winner in the Highest Quality Healthcare category at the annual awards ceremony.

[Read More](#)

'Dental desert': Warrnambool kids ending up in hospital with teeth problems

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 24/11/2023, Ben Silvester

A Western Victoria Greens MP says the state government needs to properly invest in regional dental services as south-west Victoria becomes a "dental desert". Sarah Mansfield said Warrnambool's public dental wait list had blown out to 33 months, with residents in smaller towns having to wait even longer.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Register of vital medicines to replace Excel spreadsheet

Australian Pharmacist, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 10

A new digital Life Saving Drugs Register will streamline finding the exact location of life-saving drugs in time-critical emergencies to specific New South Wales public hospital departments. Announced last month by the NSW Health Minister Ryan Park, the 'one-stop shop' for life-saving drugs on the register will include those used to treat overdoses of paracetamol, bites from snakes and spiders and poisoning from heavy metals, Mr Park said.

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Learning Medicare 'on the job' is putting GPs at medicolegal risk: Approved education is the solution

Australian Doctor, Other, 24/11/2023, Michael Wright

When it comes to Medicare compliance, the vast majority of doctors want to do the right thing, but sometimes the complexity of Medicare can make it difficult for doctors to be compliant. Two recent surveys undertaken by Avant have shown that education improves doctors' understanding of Medicare and can assist with Medicare compliance.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Ferrari-loving pharmacist bailed

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 24/11/2023, Michael Khalil

A Sydney-based pharmacy owner with a passion for supercars is no longer allowed to enter his pharmacy or be within 200m of the premises, after being charged with one count of defrauding the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

SPORT

Why the Hawks can't move on

The Saturday Age, Sport, 25/11/2023, Michael Gleeson, Page 56

The timing was as poor as it was inevitable. On the day Hawthorn should have been rejoicing at the selection of a plucky small forward with pick five in the national draft, and at bringing home the sons of two former stars, the Hawks were instead drawn back into the unresolved scandal of the recent past.

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

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Going for cold

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/11/2023, David Riccio, Page 7

Australia's Olympic team will rent their own airconditioning units and fans to counter the threat of a heatwave at next year's Paris Games. The unprecedented measure is because Games organisers refused to install airconditioning in the Athletes Village so as to reduce the carbon footprint of the Games.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Game on

Courier Mail, Qweekend, 25/11/2023, Jeremy Pierce, Page 1

It was an announcement that sent Brisbane hurtling towards a date with destiny. And like many young Aussie Olympians, Ariarne Titmus did some quick mental arithmetic when Brisbane was anointed as hosts of the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics, on the eve of the Tokyo Games two years ago.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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The new Gabba

Courier Mail, General News, 25/11/2023, James Hall, Page 1

The \$2.7bn total revamp of the Gabba precinct will have three pedestrian bridges, 880 new apartments and capacity for live concerts in front of more than 80,000 people, with stunning new details of the project revealed for the first time. The Palaszczuk government has declared the revamp is the "best bang-for-buck" option, as Deputy Premier Steven Miles chose The CourierMail and Sunday Mail's Future Brisbane summit to showcase a new report supporting the project.

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It's our turn to shine

Courier Mail, Qweekend, 25/11/2023, Jeremy Pierce, Page 7

What will Brisbane look like post-Olympics? Leading arts identities predict a changed cultural landscape. There used to be a joke that the only culture in Queensland was at the Caboolture fruit yoghurt factory and even that's gone.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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We're the Olympic city no one knows

Courier Mail, General News, 25/11/2023, Hayden Johnson and Stephanie Bennett, Page 10

Brisbane faces a colossal task selling itself to the world ahead of the 2032 Olympic Games, with global focus group research few people outside Australia are familiar with the city. Speaking at the Future Brisbane summit, 2032 Olympic Games Organising Committee chief executive Cindy Hook said research by her team in the US, UK, Singapore, China and Germany revealed just three out of 90 people could name Brisbane and point it out on a map.

Airtrain Games push

Courier Mail, General News, 25/11/2023, Page 11

Fixing the Airtrain monopoly is critical before southeast Queensland welcomes the world to the 2032 Olympic Games, Brisbane Airport Corporation has warned. Airport head of public affairs Stephen Beckett said the Airtrain contract, which offers the UK owners exclusive public transport access to the domestic and international terminals, must be fixed before the contract is due to expire in 2036.

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Gabba project key to Games legacy

Courier Mail, Editorials, 25/11/2023, Page 58

The monumental decision to push ahead with a \$2.7bn demolition and rebuild of the Gabba is a significant milestone in Brisbane's history with the chance to create a legacy on par with South Bank after Expo 88. Friday's announcement by Deputy Premier Steven Miles fires the official starter's gun for the 2032 Olympic Games, with a contractor selected within months and the wrecking ball moving in on the tired Gabba by late 2025.

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Levelled playing fields

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 1

Open space used by sporting clubs will make way for residential and commercial development as part of Adelaide's university merger. UniSA is transferring ownership of more than 40ha of land at Mawson S Lakes and Magill to Renewal SA.

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Knock on effect

Northern Territory News, General News, 25/11/2023, Nathaniel Chambers, Page 1

A Northern Territory AFL Chaney Medallist has bravely shared details on how his whole life has changed one year after knocking heads with a player on the field. He has now been out of the game for more than a year after suffering the long term effects of concussion.

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Go head first

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 25/11/2023, Page 52

When I was growing up, the importance of wearing a helmet was drilled into me every time I jumped on my pushbike. Which was pretty frequently given I was a competitive track and road cyclist from age five through to around age 20.

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BMX racing to boost Ballarat Cycle Classic's booming program

Ballarat Courier, General News, 25/11/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 2

BMX racing will be added to a packed Ballarat Cycle Classic in a bid to meet increasing demand for the popular discipline. The introduction comes in what is an Olympic year, with BMX a hotly contested cycling medal event, and amid the rising popularity in off-road cycling.

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Gabba to be knocked down and rebuilt

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 25/11/2023, Page 30

The Gabba will be demolished and rebuilt to become the centrepiece of the Brisbane 2032 Olympics as part of a \$2.7 billion project. Demolition work is set to start after the Gabba hosts an Ashes cricket Test in 2025 130 years after the Brisbane sporting venue was first established.

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Councillors in dark on Games 2026 revival bid

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 25/11/2023, Tayla Couacaud, Page 1

Gold Coast councillors opposed to a 2026 Commonwealth Games rescue say they are unaware Mayor Tom Tate cosigned a revived co-host bid with Perth - but he says it will be officially tabled in the new year. Billionaire mining magnate and sports benefactor Gina Rinehart, Mayors Tom Tate (Gold Coast) and Basil Zempilas (Perth) have written to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese seeking support for a coast-to-coast Commonwealth Games, after its sensational dumping earlier this year by Victoria.

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Joint bid revival

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 25/11/2023, Page 64

The roller coaster of the salvage bid from the Gold Coast - or more specifically it's ambitious Mayor Tom Tate - continues. In the most recent incarnation to step in where Victoria failed, and to save the nations' reputation, Mr Tate and his Perth based counterpart Basil Zempilas have both co-signed a letter to the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese pleading for backing to host a coast-to-coast Commonwealth Games in 2026.

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Australian Olympic Committee president reminds athletes of protest rules ahead of Paris 2024

ABC Online, Other, 24/11/2023, Myles Houlbrook

The Australian Olympic Committee president Ian Chesterman has warned athletes against protesting on the podium at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris amid mounting political tensions. His caution comes as tens of thousands of Australians gathered at protests in major cities against the Israel-Gaza War this week, including hundreds of students in Melbourne and Adelaide on Thursday.

[Read More](#)

He is an Australian Olympic legend with two gold medals under his belt, has set 11 world records, and is in the Sport Hall of Fame. Today he is a CEO. Who is he?

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/11/2023, Kinta Walsh-Cotton

Mark Beretta stunned his followers on Wednesday when he posted a photo of an Australian swimming legend who had an incredibly successful career in the pool from 1989 to 2000. Now 50-years-old, the sports hero boasts two Olympic gold medals after amassing 23 medals at international competitions.

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Game on as Gabba scores \$2.7b rebirth for Olympics

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/11/2023

A "tired" Gabba will be demolished and rebuilt as the centrepiece for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and beyond. Queensland Deputy Premier Steven Miles on Friday unveiled the bold \$2.7 billion plan, accepting a project validation report that will revamp the iconic stadium.

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

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New bombshell Commonwealth Games bid: Gina Rinehart backs campaign to bring event to TWO Australian cities

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/11/2023

Gina Rinehart has thrown her support behind an audacious campaign to rescue the Commonwealth Games and 'restore Australia's reputation' after Victoria ditched the event this year. The mayors of the Gold Coast and Perth are launching a 'coast-to-coast' bid for the 2026 Commonwealth Games after they were brought together by the mining magnate.

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Good medicine

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 25/11/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 6

Ten years ago a revolutionary building that became affectionately known as the Cheesegrater opened in Adelaide. But it's what's inside that really counts

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There's a lot to be proud of

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 25/11/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 9

In a decade, the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute has helped transform Adelaide, and its executive director Professor Maria Makrides says a bold new chapter is about to begin. SAHMRI celebrates its 10-year anniversary on November 29, as its neighbour the Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy is set to open in another landmark for healthcare and research.

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Uni fights bacteria threat

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 31

A \$12.5m national research training centre to better understand biofilms opens this week at Flinders University. Biofilms are complex cells that contain bacteria and other microorganisms, responsible for a wide variety of microbial infections in the body.

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Ozempic firm's \$3.5b factory

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 25/11/2023, Page 140

Novo Nordisk plans to invest \$US2.3 billion (\$3.5b) to expand production in France as it works to meet demand for its sought-after weight-loss medicines. The investment will increase capacity for the diet drug Wegovy and its sister product for diabetes, Ozempic which has been popularised by Hollywood celebrities.

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\$9.3 million for Newcastle research teams

Newcastle Herald, Other, 24/11/2023

Millions have been invested among five Hunter research projects through federal government health and medical funding. Two projects led by University of Newcastle and Hunter Medical Research Institute researchers received \$1.7m through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Indigenous Health Research scheme.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

RivMed now returning to core business of Indigenous health

Daily Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2023, Dan Holmes, Page 9

After more than a year of struggle, the Riverina's biggest Aboriginal health hub is getting back to its core business - serving the community. The Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed) was placed under special administration in last year after an investigation found structural and financial problems.

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Healthy move

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 25/11/2023, Page 28

Karingal's reopening shows governments must work together to help the vulnerable Yumba Meta's Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation Centre is back open . finally. Earlier this year the state government coughed up the cash to help open the disused facility, which had been sitting empty due to a lack of funding.

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'I'm really proud of my old man for saying he needed to get help'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 24/11/2023, Courtney Kruk

Nathan Appo understands the importance of knowing when to reach out for help. The Brisbane resident and prominent Voice campaigner has worked in Indigenous health for years and watched his father struggle with depression and anxiety.

[Read More](#)

More Cultural Rehabs, Less Jails founder Jeffrey Amatto on culture and lived experience

National Indigenous Times, Other, 24/11/2023, Jess Whaler

Award winning founder of Yindamara Mens Healing Group, More Cultural Rehabs, Less Jails and co-founder of Brothers 4 Recovery Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Proud Wiradjuri man Jeffery Amatto, is an example of how recognising the value of lived experience can create the change our country needs.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

China says 'no new pathogens' in respiratory illness surge

AFR Weekend, International News, 25/11/2023, Jamey Keaten and Maria Cheng, Page 15

Chinese officials say they did not detect any "unusual or novel diseases" in the country, the World Health Organisation said on Thursday (Friday AEDT), following the UN health agency's official request for information about a...

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China coughs up on children's respiratory ills

Weekend Australian, International News, 25/11/2023, Page 13

China provided the World Health Organisation with data on a pneumonia outbreak among children in the country after the agency made an unusual public request for information, a gesture that renewed questions about Beijing's transparency on public health. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the WHO said it asked Beijing for detailed information on reported "clusters of undiagnosed pneumonia in children in northern China", including "additional epidemiologic and clinical information, as well as laboratory results" related to the infections.

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Stone benchtop ad found its way into a major US lawsuit

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 25/11/2023, Angus Thompson, Page 2

The first major lawsuit over engineered stone in the United States is using ads run by global manufacturer Caesarstone in Australia as evidence of what lawyers say is the kitchen benchtop maker's misleading and "disgraceful" conduct. Caesarstone, one of two major manufacturers supplying stone for Australia's benchtops, ran newspaper, radio and social media ads last month warning that a total ban of engineered stone would not solve the silicosis crisis and could even place stonemasons at risk.

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

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Officials downplay threat as end of COVID bans unleashes illness

Sydney Morning Herald, International News, 25/11/2023, Page 45

Chinese officials say they did not detect any "unusual or novel diseases" in the country, the World Health Organisation said, following an official request by the UN health agency for information about a potentially worrying spike in respiratory illnesses and clusters of pneumonia in children.

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A sombre summer warning

Border Mail, General News, 25/11/2023, Page 1

A weekend camping trip in March would eventually see Dylan Meyer fighting for his life, with the 22-year-old on life support for four months. The Thurgoona man was diagnosed with Japanese encephalitis, Murray Valley encephalitis and auto immune encephalitis.

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Alternative to engineered stone to be rolled out in Australia

9News, Other, 24/11/2023

Federal and state governments will consider banning engineered stone linked to a deadly lung disease in just over three weeks. A new safer alternative is currently being rolled out across Australia with the silica-free stone giving hope to thousands of workers who want safer conditions.

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Pill testing will tomorrow be available on-site at an Australian music festival for the first time in four years

ABC Online, Other, 24/11/2023, Charlotte Gore

Pill testing will tomorrow be available on-site at an Australian music festival for the first time since 2019. Pill Testing Australia confirmed on social media that the free drug-checking service would be available at Canberra's Spilt Milk festival on Saturday.

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

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Leading scientists urge caution over new pandemic fears amid pneumonia clusters in China

ABC Online, Other, 24/11/2023

Chinese officials say they did not detect any "unusual or novel diseases" in the country following a spike in respiratory illnesses and clusters of pneumonia in children, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO had sought epidemiological and clinical information as well as laboratory results through the International Health Regulations mechanism.

Similar coverage reported by: [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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World AIDS Day: Legal lens

Barrier Truth, Other, 24/11/2023, Dylan Stone

The Far West Community Legal Centre (CLC) is hosting an information session on HIV discrimination and the law as part of World AIDS Day next Friday, December 1st, at their office, 304 Oxide Street. The public is invited to attend the event, which starts at 1pm, with afternoon tea provided.

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Drug resistance may make common infections like thrush untreatable

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 24/11/2023, Christine Carson

We've all heard about antibiotic resistance. This happens when bacteria develop strategies to avoid being destroyed by an antibiotic. The consequences of antibiotic resistance mean an antibiotic

previously used to cure bacterial infections no longer works effectively because the bacteria have become resistant to the drug.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Evening News, 24/11/2023, Casey Briggs

Interview with Professor Bruce Thompson, Melbourne School of Health Sciences. Thompson comments on news the World Health Organization has been seeking information from China after China reported an increase in respiratory illnesses and hospital admissions. He says they expect the number of respiratory illnesses rise up during winter.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 24/11/2023, Mark Burrows

Federal and State Governments are set to discuss banning Engineered Stone, which has been linked to deadly lung diseases. This comes as a new safer alternative has been distributed across Australia, with silica-free stone giving hope of preventing harm to workers.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 24/11/2023, Kenny Heatley

Interview with Professor Robert Booy, Infectious disease paediatrician. Booy comments on news the World Health Organization has been seeking information from China amidst concerns of a potential new virus. He says pneumonia is concerning if it is causing hundreds of children to be unwell, but suggests it is not a new pandemic virus.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

FAQ: Clozapine's close checks

Australian Pharmacist, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 65

Clozapine is indicated for the management of treatment resistant schizophrenia. [...] In April 2022, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) mandated a boxed warning in the product information for clozapine in relation to the potentially fatal risk of gastrointestinal hypomotility.

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'Too important not to get right': National plan for artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare launched

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 24/11/2023, Robert Fedele

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is too big to ignore and, for healthcare, too important not to get right, according to leading digital health expert Professor Enrico Coiera, who yesterday launched a national policy roadmap aimed at ensuring the safe, ethical, and effective use of AI in healthcare. [...] Tracey Duffy, First Assistant Secretary at the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), suggested that the new Roadmap would increase the spotlight on supporting the local healthcare AI industry's understanding of the regulatory process.

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Should we still be using RATs to test for COVID-19? Four key questions answered

SBS, Other, 24/11/2023

As we head toward the festive season amid an eighth wave of infections, testing for COVID-19 continues to be important. [...] Although RATs from different manufacturers have different accuracies, all RATs approved by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration must have a sensitivity of at least 80 per cent.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Child confusion over alcoholic drink prompts protection call

Launceston Examiner, General News, 25/11/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 11

Calls for stronger protections against marketing alcohol to children are being made in Tasmania after a seven-year old confused Hard Solo with the non-boozy version. Hard Solo was allowed to hit shelves after approval was granted by the industry-led regulator, which later found the drink could appeal to minors and that its name should be changed.

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AICIS

Aussie dolphins facing toxic issue

Canberra Times, General News, 25/11/2023, Chantel Foord, Page 41

As predators at the top of the food chain, dolphins tend to accumulate and magnify high levels of toxins and other chemicals in their bodies. [...] Commonly known by the acronym PFAS, these per- and polyfluorinated substances are globally recognised as an environmental hazard and a potential human health issue.

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