



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 1st December 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that there are 351 open claims for psychological injuries against NSW Health by ambulance staff sustained in the 24 months until the end of September 2023, while a further 160 have been finalised in the past two years, and according to the Australian Paramedics Association NSW Ambulance paramedics have the highest rate of WorkCover claims out of any services across Australia.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that federal Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus is expected to come under pressure from states and territories to exempt doctors from prosecution if they discuss euthanasia over telehealth with terminally ill patients, in the wake of a Federal Court ruling yesterday that determined voluntary assisted dying an act of suicide under the Commonwealth's criminal code.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that the Victorian state government's decision to not host the Commonwealth Games has had "a devastating impact on [their] sport and [their] athletes" according to Athletics Australia (AA), which was further compounded by the then-premier Daniel Andrews' unapologetic announcement cancelling the Games and announcing that money would be invested in regional Victoria instead.

- **[Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports that ambulance officers testified at the Tasmanian Select Committee on Transfer of Care Delays on Thursday, detailing the psychological impact that watching patients wait for hours to receive medical care has had on them.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that figures released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show that patients are paying the highest gap fees for medical services since Medicare's inception. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced the tripling of the bulk billing incentive, which will give doctors greater incentives to bulk bill pensioners and children.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 3) reports that Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells confirmed yesterday that Netball Australia lost \$17 million in federal funding after it had failed to convince the government it would make good use of the money.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports that new laws in Queensland allowing nurses and midwives to prescribe medical abortion pills has faced concern from the National Association of Specialist Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (NASOG) that these practitioners may not be able to handle potential complications, citing the fact that one in five women need surgery after a medical termination.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that West Australia is the only state to abandoned its planned residential recovery centre for people with eating disorders after the health department claimed that the \$4 million allocated by the previous government was not enough. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says discussions on the the reallocation of the funding is ongoing.

MINISTER BUTLER

Gap fees highest since Medicare was established

The Australian, General News, 01/12/2023, Natasha Robinson & Grace Ellen Macpherson, Page 3

Patients are paying the highest gap fees for medical services since Medicare's inception amid intensifying cost-of-living and mortgage pressures, with new data showing a drop in the bulk billing rate for GPs in a reversal of a 15year stable trend. [...] According to federal Health Minister Mark Butler, however, the true bulk billing figure is only around 64 per cent - the proportion of patients that have every doctor's visit bulk-billed - with Covid measures falsely inflating the figures.

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

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GP crisis hurts clinics

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/12/2023, Simon Mcguire, Page 19

Health Consumers Tasmania has expressed dismay over the impending closure of the East Devonport Medical Centre. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government remained "focused on ensuring patients continue to have access to a GP in the Devonport community and will work with the provider, the local government and state government to do this".

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

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Treatment study kicks off

Border Watch, General News, 01/12/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 7

The much anticipated feasibility study on radiation treatment facilities in Mount Gambier/Berrin will begin today with the Limestone Coast Local Health Network (LCLHN) expecting its completion in June next year. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler was contacted for comment.

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Crackdown on vape importers & suppliers

Geraldton Guardian, General News, 01/12/2023, Kat Wong, Page 20

Vape users will not be caught in the crossfire of the Federal Government's crackdown as bolstered regulations are set to take aim at suppliers and importers. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says the proliferation of vapes poses a major threat to Australia's successful tobacco control regulations.

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Shingrix shortage hits older Aussies

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/12/2023, Eileen Wood, Page 4

High demand and limited supply means many older people will not get their promised free shingles vaccines until next year. [...] Last month Health Minister Mark Butler described the new program as "one of the most comprehensive and widely available vaccination programs in the world".

Also reported by: [The Senior - NSW \(National\)](#), [The Senior - WA \(Perth\)](#), [The Senior - SA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Everything you need to know about the new ban on vaping

The Mercury, Other, 30/11/2023, Holly Berckelman

It's starting sooner than you might think As of next year, the importation of vapes will be banned in Australia, making it the harshest ruling around vaping of any country in the world. [...] In a statement about the changes, Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said "Vaping is creating a whole new generation of nicotine dependency in our community."

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Political blame game ends in plans for WA's first residential eating disorder centre being shelved

ABC Online, Other, 30/11/2023

Political blame game ends in plans for WA's first residential eating disorder centre being shelved Western Australia is now the only state with no plans for a dedicated residential recovery centre for people with eating disorders, ABC's can reveal. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler told 7.30 that discussions around how the money would be spent on eating disorder services was ongoing.

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New child-specific vaping cessation guidance for GPs ahead of govt crackdown

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/11/2023, Antony Scholefield

Professor Nick Zwar said GPs were already being asked by young patients and parents about vaping cessation. [...] While nicotine vapes are already prescription only, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has called it a "ridiculous distinction between nicotine and non-nicotine vapes".

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Butler failing rural communities: Coalition

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/11/2023, chris chris

The Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, is facing accusation of failing to look after regional communities with Nationals MP, Kevin Hogan, slamming the 60-day dispensing policy.

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Movember's fight to stop years shaved off men's lives

HealthTimes, Other, 30/11/2023

As Movember celebrates its 20th anniversary, men's health advocates have no illusions about the scale of the challenge that still lies ahead. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler will on Wednesday unveil the charity's new \$100 million institute, which aims to accelerate research into men's health issues such as mental health, prostate and testicular cancers and health literacy, and translate it into real world outcomes.

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Medicare messing with Movember

It's that time of year when some men are shaving off the mustaches and possibly beards they've grown during November to support research into prostate cancer and other serious male disorders; others like the look and decide to keep them, despite protests from their "better halves. [...] Early the following week, I visit my GP at a busy clinic that still doesn't bulk bill, despite platitudes and assurances from Prime Minister Albanese and his Health Minister Mark Butler that they were investing millions to ensure bulk billing services would be expanded from November.

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Australia has a path to ending HIV transmission by the end of the decade

OUTinPerth, Other, 30/11/2023, Graeme Watson

December 1st will mark World AIDS Day and a new report affirms that Australia has a realistic pathway to ending new transmissions of the virus by the end of the decade. [...] The Taskforce was led by the Health Minister, the Hon Mark Butler and the Assistant Health Minister, the Hon Ged Kearney.

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Australia To Ban Disposable Vape Imports From January

Purple Sneakers, Other, 30/11/2023, Jessie Lynch

Starting January 1, the ban on disposable vapes will be in effect, followed by additional measures in March covering all non-therapeutic vapes, including refillable devices. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is leading the charge against the rising popularity of these nicotine-filled devices, particularly among young Australians.

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'Disheartened': Patients disillusioned following medical centre meeting

The Advocate (Burnie), Other, 30/11/2023, Libby Bingham

A roundtable meeting about the closure of the East Devonport Medical Centre (EDMC) has left patients feeling disheartened and without answers. [...] She urged Mr Barnett and federal Health Minister Mark Butler to support the GP in taking over the lease.

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Thalidomide memorial offers 'recognition and respect'

The Senior, Other, 30/11/2023, Andrew Brown

Survivors of thalidomide have been recognised with a permanent memorial on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the site was unique and evocative.

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ABC, ABC News, 30/11/2023, James Glenday

A memorial to permanently recognise Australians affected by the drug thalidomide has been unveiled on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin. Made of glass bricks and covered with words reflecting the experiences of survivors, the memorial serves as a reminder of the devastation caused by the drug. Health Minister Mark Butler says PM Anthony Albanese yesterday issued a national apology to Australians affected by the drug and he also made a promise that their legacy and example will never be forgotten.

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MINISTER WELLS

Players speak out as netball crisis deepens

Age, General News, 01/12/2023, Carla Jaeger, Page 3

Netballers say they have been forced to sleep in their cars and move back home with their families

amid a dispute with Netball Australia that has left them without pay. [...] Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells confirmed yesterday that the government had revoked \$17 million set aside for the sport because it had failed to convince the government it would make good use of the money.

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

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Netball Australia warned \$18m will be stripped and reallocated to other sports in latest blow

The Australian, Other, 30/11/2023, Courtney Gould

Cash-strapped Netball Australia has been warned nearly \$18m in funding will soon be reallocated to other sports amid concerns it will not be appropriately spent. [...] Sports Minister Anika Wells said netball was "too important" for it to not be successful and noted the government already provided almost \$4m in annual support to the Diamonds.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Netball has a \$17 million federal government funding bonanza in limbo amid its bitter pay dispute

Northern Territory News, Other, 30/11/2023, Linda Pearce

Netball is yet to see the majority of a record federal government funding commitment, with its right to receive it being assessed amid the sport's ugly pay dispute. [...] Yet significantly, the \$17 million balance of a mix of operational and infrastructure capital is still undistributed, and the Australian Government remains in discussion with NA in relation to funding, according to the office of current Sports Minister Anika Wells.

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Single home care programs delayed again

Aged Care Insite, Other, 30/11/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The Federal Government announced that plans for an integrated home care program have been postponed until 2027. [...] However, in a statement released on Tuesday, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells revealed that CHSP won't be included until "no earlier than 1 July 2027".

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Sector voices broad support for CHSP changeover extension

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 30/11/2023, Christopher Kelly

Stakeholders have mostly reacted favourably to the announcement that plans for a single home care program have been delayed until 2027. [...] However, in a statement released on Tuesday evening by the office of the Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells, it has been revealed that CHSP by far the largest component of Support at Home won't be included in the program until "no earlier than 1 July 2027".

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More delays for Support at Home Program

HelloCare, Other, 30/11/2023, Bianca Iovino

The Aged Care Minister has confirmed the new Support at Home Program will be delivered in two stages with the second part being delayed further to 2027. [...] "We will continue to work with in-home aged care providers to deliver a Support at Home program that will simplify and improve access to services for older people," said Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

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Goldfields' health hub a game-changer

Medical Forum, Other, 30/11/2023

Curtin University's new Goldfields' health hub plans to work closely with healthcare providers such as WACHS and the Royal Flying Doctor Service to deliver education, placements, research and local careers for the regional health workforce. [...] It was launched at Curtin's Kalgoorlie campus last week by Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

RACGP welcomes opioid dependence medicine decision

Northern Rivers Times, General News, 30/11/2023, Page 43

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has warmly welcomed the Albanese Government acting to stop vulnerable patients who rely on opioid dependence treatment drugs falling between the cracks of our health system and called for the Government to pursue a long-term solution. [...] "I understand that the Department of Health and Aged Care will be working with the states and territories to make sure that GPs have continued access to long acting injectable buprenorphine and has encouraged those jurisdictions which restrict pharmacies from administering Schedule 8 drug injections to amend their regulations.

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Download a COVID-19 communication kit and service list

Australian Medical Association, Other, 30/11/2023

The Department of Health and Aged Care has shared a COVID-19 communication kit and service list to help providers find ongoing information about COVID-19. The Department of Health and Aged Care's Digital and Service Design team has offered AMA members a communication kit and a service list to help providers find COVID-19 information and advice for themselves and people in their care.

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System in decay: inquiry seeks action on dental care

Perth Now, Other, 30/11/2023, Paul Osborne

A challenge to chart a path to universal access to dental and oral health care has been laid at the feet of the federal government. [...] The overhaul should be led by a chief dental officer within the federal health department, the report said.

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

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Aged care inspector opens up

Local Ipswich News, Other, 30/11/2023

Australia's first independent Office of the Inspector-General of Aged Care has officially opened for business, with a mission to oversee and improve the national aged care system. [...] Legislation gives the new office full independence from the Department of Health and Aged Care and all other agencies.

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Michael Kidd rejoins Telstra Health board

Pulse+IT, Other, 30/11/2023, Kate McDonald

Former deputy chief medical officer and principal medical advisor to the Australian government Michael Kidd has rejoined Telstra Health's board. It is Professor Kidd's second term on the board following his resignation in 2020 to take on deputy CMO role during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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In Practice: Demystifying Medicare

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 30/11/2023

The RACGP has prepared responses to a broad range of questions around the MBS, which members can access via the college website. [...] The resource has also been reviewed by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

[Read More](#)

Four local GP clinics receive federal grants

The Greater Springfield Times, Other, 30/11/2023, Daniel Bouwmeester

Daniel Bouwmeester November 30, 2023 2 min read Four Springfield-based practices have received grants under a new program aimed at improving services and patient access. [...] For more information about the program, and other Department of Health and Aged Care schemes, visit health.gov.au Daniel Bouwmeester Daniel was born in a mining town in New South Wales to Dutch and Welsh immigrants, before relocating to Logan City, where he attended Canterbury College for twelve years.

[Read More](#)

PHNs should have matured: RACGP

The Medical Republic, Other, 30/11/2023

Eight years on from their naissance PHNs remain poorly managed and primary care is arguably increasingly disjointed, says an expert. The RACGP has recommended a suite of measures to better monitor PHN performance, amid criticism of shabby oversight, poor governance systems, badly managed conflicts of interest and the potential of wasted taxpayer money.

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CORONAVIRUS

'Reviving dud industries will make us all poorer'

Australian Financial Review, General News, 01/12/2023, Michael Read, Page 5

Government efforts to bring back high-cost manufacturing from overseas will make Australians poorer, Reserve Bank board member Ian Harper has warned.

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

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Why we are dropping the ball on vaccination

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/12/2023, Peter Breadon, Page 36

We're in yet another Covid wave but Australia is neglecting one our best defences. Cases have been rising and in early November nearly 100 NSW aged care facilities had a Covid outbreak, more than three times the number just a month earlier.

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Dr Norman Swan advises Australians to 'stay indoors; wear masks' to avoid Covid Christmas surge

The Mercury, Other, 30/11/2023, Benedict Brook

One of the leading voices during the pandemic has warned Christmas could be ruined and there could be deaths if Aussies don't mask up. One of the leading health commentators during the height of the Covid pandemic has said Australians should consider wearing masks and staying outdoors to avoid ruining Christmas as cases once again surge.

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New COVID data shows how Australia's pandemic strategy compares with other countries

ABC Online, Other, 30/11/2023, Leonie Thorne

New analysis from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) shows how much was spent on healthcare during the first three years of the pandemic. And while it's probably no surprise that governments spent billions of dollars fighting the virus, the numbers reveal individual Australians spent millions trying to protect themselves from the disease too.

[Read More](#)

What's the latest on COVID antiviral drugs, and who is eligible in Australia?

ABC Online, Other, 30/11/2023, Nial Wheate & Jessica Pace

Australia is experiencing a fresh wave of COVID, seeing increasing cases, more hospitalisations and a greater number of prescriptions for COVID antivirals dispensed over recent months. In the early days of the pandemic, the only medicines available were those that treated the symptoms of the virus.

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

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Covid cases climb with over 300 new cases in NT this month

Cairns Post, Other, 30/11/2023, Talara McHugh

Covid cases are on the rise with nearly 500 new cases reported across the Northern Territory over the past four weeks. Covid is on the rise in the Northern Territory with 496 confirmed cases recorded over the past four weeks compared to just 194 cases during the previous four week period.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Alleged rapist's record revealed

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/12/2023, Josh Hanrahan & James O'Doherty, Page 12

A man who allegedly broke into a nursing home and raped a 90-year-old woman had previously served a lengthy jail sentence for a similar sexual assault a decade ago, parliament has been told. Brett Anthony Crawford was charged last week over the attack on the elderly woman at the aged care facility in Bateau Bay on November 15. The woman died in hospital on Tuesday.

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

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Changes strike a balance

The Senior - TAS, General News, 01/12/2023, Therese Murray, Page 4

Retirement living legislative changes to Tasmania's Retirement Villages Act 2004 have been welcomed by the residents and the industry.

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Boost for rural providers

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 16

The federal government will provide \$135 million in infrastructure grants to support aged care providers in rural and remote areas. The grants will help specialist providers build and improve services for people who are, or at risk of being, homeless, and First Nations communities.

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RetireAustralia to roll out 1100 new dwellings in next five years

The Australian, Other, 30/11/2023, Chris Herde

Independent living retirement village operator RetireAustralia is planning to roll out 1100 new dwellings over the next five years as it ramps up its commitment to integrate its continuity of care strategy into its portfolio. [...] Dr Robinson said the retirement living sector was at a pivotal juncture since the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety revealed a fractured and broken system as more older Australians than ever want to live in a retirement community rather than an aged-care facility.

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

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NSW police officer charged with manslaughter over Cooma nursing home taser death

Aged Care Insite, Other, 30/11/2023, Arshmah Jamal

A police officer who allegedly recklessly tasered a 95-year-old woman in her aged care home has had his charge upgraded to manslaughter. Clare Nowland was suffering an episode when she was allegedly tasered in a Cooma nursing home by Senior Constable Kristian White on May 17.

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

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Valley View rolls out tech to reduce pressure injuries

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 30/11/2023, Natasha Egan

West Australian aged care provider Valley View Residence is rolling out a pressure injury solution to residents in need. The pressure injury and resident monitoring platform LenexaCARE has been developed in Australia by Lenexa Medical.

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POPULATION HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Heart patient praises team who saved him

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/12/2023, Grace Baldwin, Page 13

When Will Logan felt the first symptoms of a heart attack, he did not think anything of it. Writing off his discomfort to post-gym malaise, Mr Logan's pain kept gnawing away until his wife decided he needed help.

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Warnings over sunburn and cancer

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 32

As Australia prepares to officially mark the beginning of summer, parents and carers are being warned

about the importance of sun safety after a spike in sunburn hospital presentations. More than 800 attended NSW emergency departments for sunburn treatment in the last financial year, with the majority being children and young people.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Handy new treatment eases pain of arthritis

The Senior - SA, General News, 01/12/2023, Therese Murray, Page 30

In a new trial, University of South Australia researchers are working with Arthritis SA to explore the potential of blood flow restriction training to improve the strength and mobility of people with rheumatoid arthritis. The training is an exercise technique where people wear pressurised bands much like blood pressure cuffs - to slow blood flow to muscles while they train.

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Rising costs hit cancer patients

The Senior - SA, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 31

Blood cancer remains one of the most expensive cancers to treat and the Leukaemia Foundation is experiencing an unprecedented surge in requests for financial help. As a result, the foundation has launched a new fundraising program, The Giving Cell.

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New study reveals very bad news for bread lovers

Northern Territory News, Other, 30/11/2023, Jasmine Kazlauskas

A new study has revealed some very bad news for carbaholics and it might be enough to convince you to give up bread for good. [...] Bowel cancer was the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia in 2018, according to Cancer Australia.

[Read More](#)

Revenue leap for Optiscan as cancer fight continues

West Australian, Other, 30/11/2023, Doug Bright

A money trail is forming behind Optiscan Imaging's technology-based mission to tackle the scourge of cancer, with revenue starting to stream into the company's coffers from the lucrative Chinese health sector. Management, which is using new technology in a bid to enhance digital pathology and precision surgery, has revealed that it has already amassed 60 per cent of its past financial year's total revenue in the first five months of the new period.

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Amanda Power faces 62 new charges of fraud in court after allegedly fake cancer diagnosis

ABC Online, Other, 30/11/2023, Jason Katsaras

A former Cancer Council ambassador who police allege lied about a cancer diagnosis has had 62 new charges laid against her. Amanda Power, 33, appeared in the Townsville Magistrates Court on Thursday on 71 fraud charges including dishonestly gaining benefit, obtaining property and causing detriment to others.

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Meet Simra, the Sydney teen raising awareness of rare brain condition

SBS, Other, 30/11/2023, Rehan Alavi

Joubert syndrome is a rare genetic disorder characterised by balance, coordination and movement difficulties. Simra, 15, hopes to share her experiences of the condition with others.

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Asthma deaths up

New Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that asthma deaths are once again on the rise, with a jump of over 30% in one year, stated the National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) yesterday. The figures show that there were 467 asthma-related deaths recorded in Australia in 2022, made up of 299 females and 168 males, up from 355 deaths in 2021.

Also reported by: [The Senior - VIC \(Melbourne\)](#).

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'Completely preventable' asthma deaths skyrocket by 32%

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 30/11/2023

The concerning trend saw 467 Australians die last year, but experts say most could have been avoided with the right safeguards in place. [...] Currently, around one in nine Australians report living with asthma, but National Asthma Council Australia Director Professor Peter Wark said without significant changes to healthcare, death rates will continue to climb.

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PRIMARY CARE

Court blocks remote VAD aid

Australian Financial Review, General News, 01/12/2023, Michael Pelly, Page 8

The Federal Court has effectively outlawed telehealth consultations for euthanasia after citing a Commonwealth law that bans the use of the phone or internet to "counsel" suicide.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).

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Move to shield medics after 'suicide' ruling

Age, Wrap, 01/12/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

States will push Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus to write an exemption for voluntary assisted dying into the Commonwealth criminal code so doctors who consult terminally ill patients about euthanasia over telehealth do not risk prosecution. The Federal Court yesterday ruled voluntary assisted dying was considered suicide under the code, which means doctors could be charged under laws that prohibit using a carriage service such as telehealth or email to incite or provide information about suicide.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Death with no dignity

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/12/2023, David Killick, Page 1

Paramedics have detailed how an elderly man was told he was going to die in front of a crowded emergency area in a harrowing submission to a parliamentary committee into ambulance ramping. "This end-of-life care conversation was in the open, not even a curtain available to give any semblance of privacy.

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Urine or Berocca-gate row

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 01/12/2023, Amaani Siddeek & Paul Weston, Page 3

The State Health Minister and boss of Gold Coast Health are adamant claims of patients urinating in bottles in an emergency department were sparked by Berocca. But Opposition Health spokeswoman Ros Bates and a health service whistleblower are not backing down.

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

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Unhealthy wait almost over

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 01/12/2023, Odessa Blain, Page 15

The opening date for the new \$723m Tweed Valley Hospital at Cudgen has been revealed after a number of delays on the mammoth project. The new facility at Cudgen, just south of Tweed Heads, will open on May 14 - marking the biggest hospital move in regional NSW history, according to the local health district.

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This is an emergency

Launceston Examiner, General News, 01/12/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 1

Every day, Tasmanian emergency departments see about 200 patients with non-urgent or non-life-threatening health concerns, and the numbers are rising. Launceston General Hospital's emergency department (ED) saw an average 44 people with non-urgent issues every day in October, and these figures have not been as high since April.

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

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Palliative care support extends to weekend

Launceston Examiner, General News, 01/12/2023, Molly Appleton, Page 4

Specialist palliative care services will be accessible seven days a week in Northern Tasmania under a new pilot program. Previously clinical support and advice from a specialist palliative care nurse was only available to healthcare providers five days a week.

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New medical hub plans

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 01/12/2023, Jonathan Hawes, Page 1

A new medical hub is on the horizon for Tamworth. Two high-profile local developers have a plan to transform a mostly-empty lot in North Tamworth into a state-of-the-art medical clinic and childcare centre.

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Thanks to a terrific team

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/12/2023, Therese Murray, Page 32

Wyong Hospital Auxiliary has donated two Rapid Response Team emergency trolleys worth more than \$6000 to the hospital's intensive care unit. Acting clinical nurse consultant Lucy Trojkovic said the trolleys will support the team when responding to clinical emergencies.

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

Falls burden costs us all

The Senior - WA, General News, 01/12/2023, Therese Murray, Page 24

Falls continue to cause significant burden to the Western Australian community and healthcare system to the tune of \$311 million. It is the leading cause of injury fatalities for the past few years.

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

Ambulance code one response times still below target

Canberra Times, Other, 30/11/2023, Rachael Ward

Ambulance response times for serious emergencies are still below target while more than a third of patients were not happy with how long it took for help to arrive. Some 62.8 per cent of time-critical code one cases were reached within 15 minutes which is below the target of 85 per cent, according to Ambulance Victoria's 2022-23 annual report tabled in parliament on Thursday.

[Read More](#)

'Poisoned': Mum-of-four plans to end her own life after agonising diagnosis

The Courier Mail, Other, 30/11/2023, Alexandra Feiam

Voluntary assisted dying laws are now in effect in NSW after passing the state parliament last year. Dying with Dignity NSW President Penny Hackett spoke with Sky News Australia about the new laws

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

[Read More](#)

Qld government reveals \$2.3m business case for old Gympie Hospital site

Cairns Post, Other, 30/11/2023, Scott Kovacevic

Revelations the state government is spending millions on a new business case for the century-old Gympie Hospital muddied the waters around hope for a new health centre in the region. [...] A 2023 report by the Australian Medical Association revealed patients seeking emergency, urgent, or semi-urgent care were failing to be seen in the required time frames.

[Read More](#)

Health Minister Shannon Fentiman announces deadline on Proserpine Hospital upgrades

Cairns Post, Other, 30/11/2023, Estelle Sanchez

The Health Minister has announced a deadline for the long awaited project of delivering kidney dialysis services to a small Whitsundays town. The Health Minister has announced a deadline for a long-awaited project of delivering kidney dialysis services to Proserpine.

[Read More](#)

When you can't argue for the right to die

In Daily, Other, 30/11/2023, David Eccles

As the first anniversary of the state's Voluntary Assisted Dying program approaches, Morry Bailes examines the legislation, its impact and one significant, thorny issue. South Australia's assisted dying laws are closing in to their first anniversary, having been proclaimed in January of this year.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 30/11/2023, Max Futcher and Sharyn Ghidella

The Qld LNP's Ros Bates labelled Qld Health Minister Shannon Fentiman a fool over claims about whether hospital patients had access to toilets at the Gold Coast University Hospital last Monday. Fentiman is suggesting the said evidence was only a Berocca belonging to staff, referring to a photo taken there this morning.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 30/11/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Children's health records could soon be moved onto a digital database within 2024. Qld Health Minister Shannon Fentiman is revealing the changes are being looked at as GPs put forward their solutions to ambulance ramping.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 30/11/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen, and Brooke Boney

Interview with Shannon Fentiman, Qld Health Minister, regarding Qld's healthcare crisis and a \$20m funding pledge towards the system. Fentiman says they are seeing unprecedented pressure on their

system and they are doing everything they can to keep up with it. She adds they are putting on over 3000 more beds, they are hiring thousands more frontline staff and just in the last few months, they have put on 200 more paramedics and even though they are dealing with huge pressure with nearly 2.3m people coming to their emergency departments in the last year, the figures are getting slowly better.

Interview continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 30/11/2023, Stacey Lee and Nikolai Beilharz

Interview with David Speirs, SA Opposition Leader and Peter Malinauskas, SA Premier. Malinauskas says they will conduct a special purpose National Cabinet exclusively to deal with the issue of the hospital crisis around the nation, which in no small part is a function of people not being able to get access to a GP. He adds the failure in aged care and the failure of people to get access to GPs is jamming up hospitals around Australia.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 30/11/2023, Leon Compton

Interview with Bruce Levett, CEO, Health Consumers Tasmania, regarding the impending closure of the East Devonport Medical Centre. The EDMC announced earlier this month they're closing at the start of 2024. Locals, many of whom have been with the practice for decades, have to find a new GP on the other side of the Mersey River unless the practice can stay open with new owners and maybe some government help. Levett says for those big corporations who are operating it to announce the closure just before Christmas just shows a total lack of respect for a really vulnerable community.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Child mental health hubs delay

Herald Sun, General News, 01/12/2023, Mandy Squires, Page 11

Nearly a year and a half after the Victorian government promised new child mental health hubs will be opened in the state to help address surging rates of childhood mental illness, they do not exist. And, despite a target in its Victorian Suicide Prevention Framework 2016-25 to halve the number of annual suicides by 2025, there are now more.

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

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

Home truths on adult kids

Herald Sun, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 13

The rate of young adults who are living with their parents into their adulthood has increased by about 18 per cent in the past 20 years and this is associated with poorer mental health, according to Australian researchers. The University of Melbourne team used a large Australian housing, income and work database to look at the amount and types of young people staying with their parents.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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

PTSD brains are different

Cairns Post, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 17

The brains of people with PTSD process traumatic memories differently than sad, non-traumatic memories, according to US researchers. The Yale University School of Medicine team recruited 28 participants with PTSD, and scanned their brains with MRI machines while they listened to two-minute

narrative clips of their own memories - either traumatic memories, sad but non-traumatic memories, or calm memories.

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

Stigma and lack of awareness still shroud mental health support, says Greg Curtis-Hill

Northern Territory News, Other, 30/11/2023, Sandhya Ram

A Cairns man who has experienced suicidal ideation and depression is one of many voices from the community being consulted in the development of the region's newest mental health support service. A Cairns man with lived experience of suicidal ideation and depression is one of many voices from the community being consulted in the development of the region's newest mental health support service.

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

[Read More](#)

Australians turning to virtual therapy for mental health treatment

9News, Other, 30/11/2023, Jayne Azzopardi

Around 40 per cent of Australians have experienced a mental disorder at some time in their lives - but psychologists say some are going without treatment due to high costs and long waiting lists. Many patients are now turning to virtual appointments, to beat the queues and get the help they need.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 30/11/2023, Mark Ferguson

A new study from workplace mental health researcher SuperFriend has found many are feeling overworked, with 59% of employees calling their workloads inappropriate. Almost half complain they aren't getting recognition for their achievements and a third of workers say they are feeling burnt out.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 30/11/2023, Mark Burrows

Virtual sessions are taking some of the pressure off waiting lists, but psychologists say cost is still a major barrier, especially since the Federal Government halved the number of Medicare-funded appointments to ten a year. The Australian Association of Psychologists wants those to be reinstated, as well as an increase to the Medicare rebate. They say, 8000 provisional psychologists are ready to treat patients if they could, which would help reduce the backlog.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Workload relief for midwives in patient ratio reforms

Canberra Times, Other, 30/11/2023, Fraser Barton

A long-running campaign by midwives battling heavy workloads has led to legislation aimed at making maternity wards safer in Queensland. Minimum midwife-to-patient ratios of one to six, including babies, will be established in public maternity wards under reforms proposed by Health Minister Shannon Fentiman.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 30/11/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Qld Health Minister Shannon Fentiman said making maternity wards safer in Qld is one of her top priorities. Today in Queensland Parliament, new laws will be introduced around midwife ratios. It means

that in future there will be one midwife for every six patients. In Qld state hospitals, midwives are currently overworked and under pressure, sometimes treating up to 20 patients at once.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Ambos in crisis, racked by 'guilt'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 01/12/2023, Laura Banks, Page 1

One in 12 NSW Ambulance employees has, or has had, a WorkCover claim for a psychological injury in the past two years, with those on the road saying it is the "guilt of patients dying" due to "an overburdened health system" that is making them sick. Documents obtained by the Herald exclusively under freedom of information laws reveal there are 351 open claims for psychological injuries against NSW Health by ambulance staff sustained in the 24 months until the end of September 2023, while a further 160 have been finalised in the past two years.

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

\$20k lure for ambos

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 01/12/2023, Page 5

Queensland is offering cash incentives worth \$20,000 to lure NSW paramedics across the border, pouring more fuel on a bitter pay dispute that could spark a crippling ambulance shortage by New Year's Day. About 2000 Health Services Union paramedics in NSW have pledged to boycott their annual registration process, due on Friday, in the latest escalation in a long-running pay dispute.

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

More ambos abused or injured on the job

Herald Sun, General News, 01/12/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 9

Ambos were threatened and verbally and physically abused at a rate of almost two incidents a day last financial year, as calls continue to rise and paramedics put patient care above their own safety. Ambulance Victoria's annual report, tabled in parliament on Thursday, says there were 653 violence incidents reported between July 2022 and June 2023.

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

Clinicians feel 'burnt out'

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 1

More than 50 per cent of Bendigo Health clinicians feel burnt out and could leave the city in the next two years, according to an internal hospital survey obtained by the Bendigo Advertiser. Up to 40 per cent of the service's nurses and allied health professionals were reporting burn out, and 52 per cent of both groups said they were likely to leave within two years.

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

Going nuclear in GV

Shepparton News, General News, 01/12/2023, Murray Silby, Page 6

If you ask Julia Schiavon about the study she's undertaking it's like she's speaking an unknown language, but ask her about her time on work placement in Shepparton and it's like she's speaking the language of love. And that's music to the ears of those responsible for providing perfect matches for highly technical health roles in the Goulburn Valley.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#)

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Inside furious paramedics' letter to NSW Premier Chris Minns as 1900 ambos boycott registration renewal

The Australian, Other, 01/12/2023, Jessica Wang

"Used and let down" paramedics have written to NSW Premier Chris Minns, urging his government to honour an election promise to drastically improve pay and conditions. More than 1900 NSW paramedics have pledged to boycott renewing their medical registration, which would severely restrict their ability to administer clinical work from January 1.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Nurse attacked leaving McKellar Centre

Northern Territory News, Other, 30/11/2023, Tamara McDonald

A Barwon Health worker has been attacked by an armed man while leaving work in North Geelong. A Barwon Health employee was attacked by a man wielding a piece of metal as she left work in North Geelong.

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

[Read More](#)

Queensland Royal Flying Doctor Service backers urged to pressure charity as nurses take industrial action

The Guardian, Other, 01/12/2023, Andrew Messenger

The nurses union is asking donors to the Royal Flying Doctor Service to pressure the organisation as part of industrial action against the charity. It is the first time it has conducted industrial action against the charity in Queensland.

[Read More](#)

Breaking news: RACGP announces sudden departure of its CEO but refuses to explain why

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/11/2023, Rachel Carter & Paul Smith

Paul Wappett oversaw the handing back of the GP training. The RACGP revealed this morning that its CEO, Paul Wappett, had left the organisation.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Pharmacy rules get overhaul

Courier Mail, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 11

Pharmacies will be independently regulated and face stiff fines for breaching the rules under a major shake-up of ownership rules designed to protect Queenslanders' access to affordable medication. Proposed laws introduced by Health Minister Shannon Fentiman will retain strict ownership limits of five businesses per pharmacists or six for "friendly societies" such as the Mater, rules around who can own a pharmacy and that pharmacies cannot be co-located with a supermarket.

Also reported by: [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Guild of Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

'Stark look' at work that still needs doing on vaccination

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/11/2023, Megan Haggan

A recent report on vaccination in Australia echoes the pharmacy profession's call for nationally-consistent vaccination authorities, says one stakeholder. Pharmaceutical Society of Australia national president Dr Fei Sim has welcomed the Grattan Institute's A fair shot: How to close the vaccination gap report, which made a series of recommendations including making it easier for pharmacists

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Jail fail for psychologist

Herald Sun, General News, 01/12/2023, Laura Placella, Page 21

A prison psychologist has admitted to having a sexual relationship with a former inmate after his stint in the slammer, but has been given the green light to continue seeing patients. Caroline Gorman started treating the male prisoner in September 2018 after he was jailed over an aggravated burglary.

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

Top psychiatrist wins sex revelations suspension appeal

Burnie Advocate, General News, 01/12/2023, Benjamin Seeder, Page 4

Tasmania's former top psychiatrist has succeeded in a court appeal to restore his career, after medical regulators suspended his licence last year over revelations of a sexual relationship with a patient. Dr Aaron Groves' contract as chief psychiatrist with the Tasmanian Health Service was not renewed last November following the sex revelations and his licence suspension by the Medical Board of Australia.

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

Fake psychologist fined after treating patients

Canberra Times, Other, 30/11/2023, Laine Clark

For months, a Sunshine Coast woman treated clients including vulnerable patients and children at a Queensland psychology clinic. [...] The woman on Thursday copped a hefty fine for posing as a fake psychologist after being charged by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra).

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Wentworthville Medical Centre's Dr Raymond Morsingh inappropriately prescribed drugs to patients

Northern Territory News, Other, 30/11/2023, Ashleigh Tullis

A GP who established Wentworthville Medical Centre has been found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct after he prescribed highly-addictive drugs on five occasions without authority. Dr Raymond Morsingh whose registration was already cancelled has had further restrictions placed on him after he inappropriately prescribed the drugs to patients.

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

[Read More](#)

Family furious after grandmother is given 'seven times the recommended dosage' for powerful drug causing her insides to burn and leaving her in need of around the clock care

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/11/2023, Lisa Edser

An outraged family has accused a pharmacy of making a mistake that forced their grandmother into a care home after medication burned her from the inside out. [...] 'When dispensing medicines, pharmacists should be guided by professional practice standards, the Pharmacy Board of Australia's

code of conduct and guidelines for pharmacists,' an Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency spokesperson said.

[Read More](#)

Cosmetic dentistry targeted

Medical Forum, Other, 30/11/2023

Practitioners performing and advertising non-surgical cosmetic procedures, including increasingly popular aesthetic dental procedures, could face a crackdown. Consultation has opened on proposed guidelines in a bid to safeguard the wider non-surgical cosmetic procedures industry, ensuring that patients can ask important questions when considering procedures, so they are well informed and aware of the risks.

[Read More](#)

Former WA doc disqualified

Medical Forum, Other, 30/11/2023

A former WA doctor has been reprimanded and disqualified from applying for registration for four years, as well as ordered to pay \$4000 in costs, after having an inappropriate relationship with a patient. In January 2023, the Medical Board of Australia referred Dr Raymond Marchesi to the Western Australia State Administrative Tribunal, alleging that while employed as a medical officer at Joondalup Health Campus in 2008, he started an intimate personal relationship, including sexual activity, with a former inpatient of JHC identified as Patient A'.

[Read More](#)

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Tassie on track to end HIV epidemic

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/12/2023, Tia Ewen, Page 6

In a fight against a public health threat, Tasmania is making strides towards bringing an end to the HIV epidemic within this decade. Groundbreaking evidence reveals Australia could lead the world in achieving this milestone, ending the HIV epidemic by 2030.

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

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Why is the health of young Australians on the decline?

SBS, Other, 30/11/2023, Praba Maheswaran

A new national framework tracking the health and wellbeing of young people across Australia has been launched in hopes of encouraging significant improvements before 2030. The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation [[VicHealth]], the Murdoch Children's Research Institute [[M-C-R-I]], and the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth have joined forces, warning that the health and wellbeing of Australia's youth is on the decline.

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SPORT

Games imbroglio 'will hurt Olympics'

The Australian, General News, 01/12/2023, Damon Johnston, Page 8

Cancelling the 2026 Commonwealth Games delivered a "devastating impact" on Australia's athletes and the historic event's brand may "never recover", the nation's peak athletics body has warned. In a submission to a parliamentary inquiry into the event's axing by former Victorian premier Daniel

Andrews, Athletics Australia said the decision would undermine track and field competitors right through to the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

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

Andrews 'deepened Games hurt'

Age, General News, 01/12/2023, Michael Gleeson, Page 1

Then-premier Daniel Andrews' sudden and unapologetic announcement that the 2026 Commonwealth Games had been scrapped compounded the hurt and immeasurable damage the decision had on athletics, according to the sport's governing body. In its submission to the Victorian parliament's select committee inquiry into the 2026 bid, Athletics Australia said the state government's decision had damaged the sport, hurt athletes and jeopardised the concept of the Commonwealth Games.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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Sport is the nation's great unifier

Age, General News, 01/12/2023, Waleed Aly, Page 26

As a matter of public interest, it's the government's job to protect our sporting culture with anti-siphoning laws. What if the Matildas' World Cup run had taken place on Foxtel, or Optus Sport, or Amazon?

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

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Show time for RNA arena

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 01/12/2023, Stephanie Bennett, Page 6

A boutique 20,000-seat stadium will be constructed at Brisbane's inner-city RNA Showgrounds under a state government plan to host AFL and cricket fixtures while the Gabba is redeveloped to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Courier-Mail can reveal the government has offered almost \$50m towards the estimated \$150m build cost - but with Brisbane City Council, the RNA and the two affected sporting codes being asked to pay the remainder for the project.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#)

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Brisbane to host Olympic selection

Courier Mail, General News, 01/12/2023, Julian Linden, Page 7

For the first time in 40 years, Australian swimming's biggest and most pressurised event is returning to Queensland. It's an astonishing fact especially given how many swimmers from the Sunshine State have worn the green and gold with distinction but the Australian Olympic swimming trials have not been held in Queensland since 1984.

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

Australian swim team halved for next world titles ahead of Paris Olympics

ABC Online, Other, 30/11/2023

Australia's swim team for the looming world championships will be half the size of this year's record-breakers. Swimming Australia's head coach Rohan Taylor expects a Dolphins team of fewer than 20 at the world titles in Doha next February.

[Read More](#)

Brisbane Lions preparing for Gabba demolition ahead of 2032 Olympic Games

7news.com.au, Other, 30/11/2023, Harrison Reid

The Lions will be without a home from 2026-2030 while their home ground is "bowled over" and rebuilt into a 55,000-seat stadium as part of the Queensland government's plans for the Olympics Games in

Brisbane. Current plans have the famous ground being demolished after the 2025 AFL season before construction begins on the new \$2.6 billion stadium.

[Read More](#)

Scholarship program empowers First Nations coaches to inspire next generation of Indigenous Olympians

National Indigenous Times, Other, 30/11/2023, Andrew Mathieson

The Australian Olympic Committee has come around to adopt the well-worn adage of "you can't be what you can't see" by advancing opportunities and knowledge for First Nations sporting coaches to filter through to their mobs and the respective communities. A dozen of the country's best cultural mentors across athletics, hockey, and swimming were recently approved to join the intensive Australian Olympic Indigenous Coach Scholarship program and to ultimately deliver more homegrown medallists.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Antarctica helps mission to Mars

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/12/2023, Tia Ewen, Page 5

From isolation to extreme environments, dangerous work to confined populations, understanding the challenges of Antarctica's harshest conditions on expeditioners is critical for astronauts in space. It's why Antarctic doctors are trialling new medical technologies on expeditioners that will be used to understand and manage astronaut health in future space missions.

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

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Groundbreaking MS trial for WA

Medical Forum, Other, 30/11/2023

The first-ever adaptive clinical trial for Australians living with multiple sclerosis will be launched in WA, seeking to reverse neurological damage caused by progressive disease. With an initial \$4 million in funding, the trial, starting next month, will enable researchers to investigate the potential benefits of several medications simultaneously, expanding the limited range of treatment options available to people living with one of the most debilitating forms of MS.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 30/11/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Strenuous exercise that elevates people's heart rate is better at reducing Alzheimer's risk than doing more moderate activities. Researchers used data from a long-term health study in the US to measure whether moderate or vigorous forms of activity made a difference. They found that doing two hours and 20 minutes of vigorous exercise a week was best for lowering the risk of death.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

TAIHS board survives no-confidence vote, two directors replaced

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/11/2023, Natasha Emeck

The majority of TAIHS's board of directors have managed to hold onto their positions amid brewing discontent after members voted down a motion of no-confidence and re-elected all but two. Members

of the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service (TAIHS) met on Tuesday night to hold its long overdue 2022 AGM and elected a new board of directors.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

\$2.38m towards post suicide support for Far North First Nations families

Northern Territory News, Other, 30/11/2023, Sandhya Ram

A \$2.38 million trial to deliver post suicide support among Indigenous communities will be delivered in Coen and three First Nations communities in Far North Queensland. A \$2.38m initiative to help bereaved families and communities after a person dies by suicide will be trialed in select parts of Far North Queensland.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Antibiotic shortage sparks fears for Indigenous kids amid disease outbreak in remote community

ABC Online, Other, 30/11/2023, Meghan Dansie & Adam Stephen

Doctors dealing with outbreak of an infectious kidney disease in Far North Queensland are grappling with a shortage of the preferred medical treatment. [...] Australian policy requires a four to six-month stockpile of certain medications listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and orders are usually submitted six to 12 months in advance.

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

[Read More](#)

Former Alice Springs Hospital doctor says alcohol policy needs to be based on data

ABC Online, Other, 30/11/2023, Emma Haskin

A retired Alice Springs intensive care specialist is warning governments against politicising alcohol policy after three significant changes to reforms were implemented in the town in the past 18 months. Greg McNulty said he had been at the coal face of alcohol policy reforms while working at the Alice Springs hospital on and off over several decades.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

'My whole body could seize up'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 01/12/2023, Rachel Gray, Page 2

Tamworth man Michael Cullen has urged people to pull up a sleeve for the free Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccine being rolled out across Tamworth, Gunnedah, Liverpool Plains, Inverell, Gwydir, Tenterfield and the Upper Hunter. "No matter what, everybody should not take it [encephalitis] lightly," Mr Cullen, who contracted the infection from a mosquito bite in 2022, said.

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

Elevated fire danger in every Australian state this Summer, new map predicts

The Australian, Other, 30/11/2023, Madeleine Achenza

A hot and dry summer is predicted to persist into the new year, elevating the fire danger in every state and making it uncomfortable to go outside. Every state is in the firing line for bushfires this Summer

according to the latest forecast released on Thursday by the National Council for Fire & Emergency Services (AFAC).

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

[Read More](#)

China says there's been no detection of 'unusual pathogens' after a rise in respiratory cases, but the WHO is watching closely

ABC Online, Other, 30/11/2023, Lucia Stein & Kathleen Calderwood

A recent spike in respiratory illnesses in China and a request from the World Health Organization (WHO) for more information may give some people an uneasy sense of déjà vu. Almost four years ago, undiagnosed clusters of respiratory illness were one of the earliest signs of what would become an unprecedented global pandemic that shuttered economies and devastated health systems.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Nurses and midwives to prescribe abortion pills

The Australian, General News, 01/12/2023, Lydia Lynch, Page 5

Queensland will become the first jurisdiction to allow nurses and midwives to prescribe medical abortion pills under new laws aimed at improving termination access to women in regional parts of the state. The Therapeutic Goods Administration in July approved an application from the not-for-profit pharmaceutical company MS Health to relax restrictions on who can prescribe the pill MS-2 Step, which can be taken up to nine weeks from conception.

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

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Taking fight to prostate cancer

The Senior - QLD, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 4

Thousands of Australian men living with metastatic prostate cancer will be armed with a new weapon in the fight for life, thanks to a new drug on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Nubequa has been specifically registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and will be used as part of a three-pronged treatment approach.

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Over-the-counter cannabis pain relief on the horizon

Canberra Times, Other, 30/11/2023, Rachael Ward

Over-the-counter cannabis pain relief could be available in Australia by the end of 2024 if a phase three clinical trial is successful. Promethean BioPharma is currently testing the efficacy and safety of its new medicinal cannabis tablets for mild to moderate pain. [...] The medication has been designed to meet strict Therapeutic Goods Administration guidelines and trial participants are taking 150 mg daily in line with Schedule 3 pharmacist-only medication requirements.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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On the rise: Erectile dysfunction nasal spray inventor LTR Pharma firms for ASX, market disruption

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/11/2023, Rob Badman

Spontaneity can play a large part in intimacy. But when that spontaneity hinges on the timing and mechanism of a slow-acting oral pill, things can flop. [...] Those will occur in February and will have the aim of providing further data and confirming existing data to submit to regulatory bodies the US's FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and Australia's TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration) for approvals.

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

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Anthony Albanese delivers national apology for 'dark chapter' in Aussie history

The Courier Mail, Other, 30/11/2023, Courtney Gould

The survivors and families of Australia's thalidomide tragedy have received a formal apology from Anthony Albanese on behalf of the federal government. [...] The crisis led to the formation of the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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Diabetes drug Mounjaro already in short supply months after launching in Australia

ABC Online, Other, 30/11/2023, Elise Worthington

A new diabetes medication being prescribed off-label for weight loss is already experiencing shortages, just weeks after becoming available in Australia. Despite only being released into the Australian market a few months ago, Mounjaro is in short supply. It has been approved by the TGA as a diabetes treatment but is being prescribed "off-label" for weight loss.

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Months after the surprise approval of psychedelic drugs to treat mental illness in Australia, confusion is rife

ABC Online, Other, 30/11/2023, Sian Johnson

Months after Australia found itself at the global forefront of work to treat mental illness using psychedelic substances found in illicit drugs like ecstasy and magic mushrooms, those working in the field say confusion is rife. [...] Anthony Bloch chairs the Australian Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Practitioners (AMAPP), a 160-member organisation formed in the wake of the decision by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Leaders, treasurer admit they've tried cannabis

Age, General News, 01/12/2023, Rachel Eddie, Page 9

Victoria's premier, treasurer and opposition leader have all admitted to trying cannabis at various points, a day after the Labor government announced it was open to talks on decriminalising personal use of the drug. But Premier Jacinta Allan appeared to tone down suggestions of a significant shift in the state's approach to drugs yesterday after Mental Health Minister Ingrid Stitt said the government was "amenable" to engaging with experts, the community, and the Legalise Cannabis party about allowing personal use.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

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Cannabis pain relief tablet put on trial

Daily Advertiser, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 7

Over-the-counter cannabis pain relief could be available in Australia by the end of 2024 if a phase three clinical trial is successful. Promethean BioPharma is currently testing the efficacy and safety of its

Channel 7, Sunrise, 30/11/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

The Victorian Government has revealed it is open to discussing legalising cannabis for recreational purposes. Parliament has debated proposed legislation that would allow adults to legally possess small quantities of marijuana for personal use. But while the Government refused to support the Legalise Cannabis Party bill, Vic Premier Jacinta Allan says they are open to further discussions, which would include consulting with experts and the community.

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Channel 9, Today, 30/11/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen, and Brooke Boney

The Victorian Government isn't saying no to legalising cannabis for recreational use. The Legalise Cannabis Party proposed to Parliament yesterday that adults should be allowed to possess small quantities of marijuana for personal use. Although initially shooting down the idea, the State Premier and Health Minister revealed they're open to discussing it further.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Half of pre-mixed alcohol features nutritional claims as industry targets young Australians, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 01/12/2023, Natasha May

The alcohol industry is targeting health-conscious younger Australians with nutritional claims such as "low calorie", "low sugar" and "gluten free" appearing on half of pre-mixed alcoholic drinks, according to new research. [...] Food Standards Australia New Zealand is now reviewing sugar claims on alcohol labels.

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AICIS

'Organic' vs synthetic tampons: what do they contain, and is one safer than the other?

ABC Online, Other, 30/11/2023, Paige Cockburn

If you're someone who has periods, on average you will use around 10,000 to 12,000 menstrual products over the course of your lifetime. [...] Earlier this year US underwear brand Thinx settled a \$US5 million (\$7 million) class action over harmful chemical substances known as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) found in their period underwear.

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