



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 22nd November 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports men could improve their overall health and fertility by adding two handfuls of walnuts to their daily diet, new research by Monash University has found. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#)
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 5) reports new COVID vaccines targeting Omicron variants of the virus will be made available in Australia from next month, Health Minister Mark Butler has announced. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [ABC News](#), [Daily Mail](#)
- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports the Medical Services Advisory Committee will meet to consider an urgent request to publically fund CAR T-cell therapy for a lethal variant of blood cancer on Wednesday.
- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports mental health patients are waiting up to 30 hours in emergency departments for care due to a lack of inpatient beds, a new AMA report has found.
- [The Australian](#) (page 8) reports Australian shooting ranges maintain lower safety standards than may be necessary to prevent suicidal episodes, new analysis has found.

- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 8) reports philanthropist Terry Snow has committed to fund a world-leading immunology research centre at the Royal Melbourne Hospital to the tune of \$100 million over ten years through the Snow Medical Research Foundation. *Also reported by:* [Australian Financial Review](#).
- **The Age** (page 11) reports over 1.2 million Australians say they have delayed seeing a GP or getting prescription medication as they struggle to cope with the higher cost of living, new ABS data has shown. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [Newcastle Herald](#)
- **9News** reports Queensland Ambulance will review circumstances around the death of a 51-year-old woman left waiting more than 90 minutes for paramedics after calling triple zero. *Also reported by:* [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [7News](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Funding verdict looms on 'future of cancer therapy'

The Australian, General News, 22/11/2023, Natasha Robinson and Elise Kaine, Page 7

The chance of survival for hundreds of Australians living with a deadly type of blood cancer is in the hands of a government committee, which will decide whether to support public funding for a revolutionary therapy that could send their cancer into remission with a single infusion. [...] This can only happen after a positive recommendation from MSAC a committee and process that the federal Health Minister Mark Butler described as "clunky".

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

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Vaccines to target new COVID-19 variants

Canberra Times, General News, 22/11/2023, Page 5

The latest covid-19 vaccines targeting common variants of the virus will be made available to Australians from next month. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the government has approved the monovalent vaccines, which target Omicron variants, after taking advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [HealthTimes \(Online\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Shepparton News \(Shepparton\)](#).

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Wait is over for urgent care clinic

Burnie Advocate, General News, 22/11/2023, Libby Bingham, Page 1

Patients can soon access the region's first Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) located at the My Clinic Plus GP practice on Steele Street in Devonport. [...] "The Devonport Medicare UCC is going to make a big difference to patients," federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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East's GP practice closure hits 'hard'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 22/11/2023, Libby Bingham, Page 5

The closure of East Devonport's only GP practice has caused widespread community concern. That's according to Devonport Mayor Alison Jarman who says she supports holding a community rally to keep the East Devonport Medical Centre [EDMC] open. [...] Cr Jarman said she would write to federal Health Minister Mark Butler again about retaining GP services at East Devonport, which state Health Minister Guy Barnett said he supported.

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

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Urgent help on the way

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 22/11/2023, Caitlan Charles, Page 1

A Townsville medical centre will become the home of a bulk-billed alternative to hospital emergency departments for non-life-threatening issues. Eastbrooke Family Clinic will become the Townsville Medicare Urgent Care Clinic after an expressions of interest process and help take the pressure off Townsville University Hospital. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinic would mean doctors and nurses in emergency could focus on higher priority emergencies.

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Australians delaying doctor visits due to rising costs

Canberra Times, Other, 21/11/2023, Kat Wong

The number of Australians delaying a necessary visit to their doctor has doubled, as increasing costs weigh on their hip pockets. Analysis released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on Tuesday found seven per cent of Australians who needed to see a GP in 2022-23 delayed or did not make an appointment because of the price, up from 3. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has launched a review into the health workforce that will examine the way Australia recruits and places international doctors.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [HealthTimes \(Online\)](#).

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'Six deaths a day': Australian aged care Covid deaths explode

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/11/2023, Julie Cross

Covid is killing at least six people a day in Australian aged care homes, as new figures show two thirds of elderly residents have not had a booster in the last six months. Government data reveals 48 people died from the virus in aged care facilities in the week up to November 16, up from 18 the week before. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has announced new vaccines have been approved. The new XBB 1.5 vaccine will help protect people from the latest variants circulating in the community.

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'Matter of life or death for me': Melbourne man, 82, who could not get Covid booster considered flying to U.S. to be jabbed

Herald Sun, Other, 21/11/2023, Mandy Squires

New Covid vaccines will be rolled out next month, as vulnerable Victorians report having to doctor and chemist shop to get jabbed. One Melbourne man considered flying to the U.S just to get a booster. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Monday said the Australian Government had accepted the latest advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) on the use of new Covid XBB 1.5 vaccine as part of the National COVID-19 Vaccine Program.

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New Covid test that can detect virus before aged care staff become infectious

Herald Sun, Other, 21/11/2023, Mandy Squires

A new Covid test trialled in Melbourne that is claimed to be as accurate as PCR testing but with results almost as fast as a RAT could help prevent deadly Victorian nursing home outbreaks. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Monday said the Australian Government had accepted the latest advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) on the use of new Covid XBB 1.5 vaccine as part of the National COVID-19 Vaccine Program.

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Umina urgent care clinic officially opens

Coast Community News, Other, 21/11/2023

The Peninsula Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (Medicare UCC) at Umina Beach was officially opened on November 20. Located at 297 West St, the Medicare UCC will make it easier for people on the Central Coast to get the urgent treatment they need from highly qualified doctors and nurses while taking pressure off local hospitals. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was on hand for the Umina opening.

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New Omicron XBB.1.5 subvariant COVID vaccines to be rolled out across Australia from December

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023, Paige Cockburn

If you were hoping for an early Christmas present, you might just be in luck: the federal government has announced updated COVID-19 vaccines will be available from December 11. That means those who roll up their sleeves could have boosted protection against severe disease and hospitalisation by Christmas Day. [...] The new vaccines were approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in October but ATAGI also needed to assess them and provide advice to the Minister for Health, Mark Butler about their use.

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COVID cases surging but vaccinations down experts warn

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023, Samantha Donovan

Covid cases are surging in many parts of the country but epidemiologists say there's not enough data to tell us how many people are getting sick and in which areas. New vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna will be available in December but those health experts and the Opposition say much more needs to be done to encourage people to get their latest dose.

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Secrecy law reforms shield journalists

Crikey, Other, 21/11/2023, Emma Elsworthy

Under changes to federal secrecy laws, journalists cannot be prosecuted for some secrecy offences unless the attorney-general says so, and former NSW premier Gladys Berejiklian's name has been thrown up as a possible new CEO for Optus after the departure of Kelly Bayer Rosmarin. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said ATAGI has approved the XBB.1.5 vaccines (Pfizer's for people over five, Moderna's for those over 12).

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When the latest Covid wave will peak in Australia - as experts warn of millions of cases and new vaccines are rolled out

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/11/2023, Sarah Liversidge

Experts have warned Australia could be at risk of millions of Covid cases as a fresh wave hits the country and new vaccines are rolled out. Australia is experiencing its eighth wave of Covid infections, with subvariants EG. [...] The federal government on Monday announced updated Covid vaccines will be available from December 11 (stock image pictured) The new vaccines were approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in October but ATAGI also needs to assess them and provide advice to the Minister for Health, Mark Butler, about their use.

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Epidemiologist warns Aussies of long Covid risks after repeat infections

NEWS.com.au, Other, 21/11/2023

An epidemiologist has weighed in on the re-emerging Covid-19 wave in Australia, warning Aussies of the dire risks of being reinfected with the virus. An epidemiologist at the University of New South Wales has weighed in on the re-emerging Covid-19 wave, warning Aussies to be wary of the dangers of long Covid as cases continue to climb heading into another Christmas. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, announcing the \$50m funding allocation for the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), said long Covid is "an emerging health issue, both in Australia and internationally."

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New COVID-19 vaccines against Omicron variants are expected to be available in Australia in a month

24ssports News, Other, 21/11/2023, James Brien

The latest covid-19 vaccines against common variants of the virus will be made available to Australians

from next month. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government approved the monovalent vaccines targeting Omicron variants after seeking advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (ATAGI).

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Number of patients delaying or cancelling GP visits due to cost doubles: report

Australian Doctor, Other, 21/11/2023

Some 7% of Australians put off a medical visit, as the health minister announces a fresh review of workforce 'levers'. The number of Australians delaying a necessary visit to their doctor has doubled due to the rising cost of living, a new analysis shows. [...] The news comes as Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has launched a review into the health workforce including Distribution Priority Areas and the Modified Monash Model.

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COVID-19 vaccines targeting current variants to be rolled out from December

Australian Doctor, Other, 21/11/2023, Carmel Sparke

Professor Robert Booy urges healthcare workers to get any 'available' vaccine with cases rising and the new versions weeks away. Practices can order new monovalent COVID-19 vaccines that target circulating Omicron subvariants ahead of a mid-December rollout, the Federal Government has announced. Amid another surge in cases in recent weeks, federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said the latest Omicron-specific vaccines had been approved following advice from ATAGI.

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Federal government accepts technical advice on the use of new monovalent COVID-19 vaccines

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 21/11/2023

Health Minister Mark Butler says the federal government has accepted the latest advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation on the use of the new monovalent COVID-19 monovalent vaccines.

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

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Pfizer, Moderna in new Covid wave

Pharma In Focus, Other, 21/11/2023

The Australian government has started distributing Pfizer and Moderna's new vaccines targeting the Omicron subvariant XBB.1.5 as Australia battles a new Covid wave. Health Minister, Mark Butler, yesterday (Monday) accepted recommendations from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) on the updated vaccines.

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After hours clinic to ease pressure

The SE Voice, Other, 21/11/2023, Eb Garamond

The clinic, part of the Federal Government's election campaign, is being created to make it easier for residents to get the urgent treatment they need from highly qualified doctors and nurses while taking pressure off local hospitals. The Medicare UCC will be open for extended hours, 7 days a week, and offer walk-in care that is fully bulk billed. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Mount Gambier Medicare UCC was going to make a big difference to patients in the region.

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Call for SA inquiry into treatment of children with gender dysphoria

Vision Christian Media, Other, 21/11/2023, Tony Davenport

The Australian Christian Lobby is urging support for a South Australian parliamentary select committee inquiry into the medical treatment of children with gender dysphoria. [...] "Today, I call on our current

federal health minister, the Hon. Mark Butler MP, to follow through on that request. Our gender clinics have allowed ideology to overtake their duty of care and the guiding principle to "first, do no harm", and our children deserve better."

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SBS, World News Australia (Late), 21/11/2023

The federal government has approved two new Covid vaccines to fight the latest variants ahead of an expected Christmas surge. The latest data shows a rising trend in hospitalisations and outbreaks of Covid in aged care homes.

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ABC, ABC News, 21/11/2023, Tamara Oudyn

The Federal Government has approved the use of two new Covid 19 vaccines, which will become available in December. The incoming Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are targeted to a newer strain of the virus. Their approval has been welcomed by experts who warn Australia is currently experiencing a Covid wave and at the same time has a low take up of booster jabs.

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Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 21/11/2023, Alicia Loxley

Pre-recorded interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister, on the Federal Government stepping up its campaign against vaping with stronger regulation and enforcement, plus new controls on their importation contents and packaging. Butler says it is a product deliberately aimed at recruiting a new generation to nicotine addiction and is it's working. He adds the only cohort where smoking rates are actually increasing is the youngest Australians and that is why they are determined to stamp it out.

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ABC News, ABC News Afternoons, 21/11/2023, Ros Childs

The Federal Government is launching a review into the spread of doctors and health workers across the country amid serious concerns about shortages in rural and regional areas. Health Minister Mark Butler says some areas are crying out for more health professionals and policies trying to address workforce shortages aren't working. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President Dr Nicole Higgins says workforce shortages are affecting the entire medical sector.

Also reported by: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 21/11/2023, Emma Rebellato and Lisa Millar

New COVID vaccines targeting the latest virus variants will arrive in the country within weeks, with Australians being urged to access these latest jabs as the country deals with its eighth wave of infections. Just 27% of people aged 75 or over have received a booster in the past six months, and it drops to 20% of 65 to 74 year olds. Health Minister Mark Butler says the Government has accepted the latest advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation with those new vaccines to be made available from 11 December.

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Radio National, PM, 21/11/2023, Sarah Dingle

Health Minister Mark Butler says the TGA will batch test incoming COVID vaccines, with Australians able to access them from December.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 10:00 News, 21/11/2023

According to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, the potential closure of the clinics in Frankston and Somerville near Melbourne shows problems with the international medical graduates program. Butler says the Federal Government is reviewing how it addresses worker shortages.

ABC Radio Melbourne, 09:00 News, 21/11/2023

The Federal Government is reviewing how to address doctor and healthcare worker shortages. According to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, some regional and rural areas as well as outer suburbs have seen a lack of healthcare professionals. The only clinic in Pearcedale near Melbourne is at risk of closing due to staff shortages.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Mornings , 21/11/2023, Rafael Epstein

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister, regarding Australia's attempt to put a ban on recreational vaping and the Federal Government's review on how to address doctor and healthcare worker shortages. Butler says the first wave of the ban will be made before the end of the year. He adds over the next few weeks, they will be making a regulation to ban the import of certain vapes and it will close a loophole that's existed for some years. Butler says he agrees that they need to allow more foreign doctors to work in GP and in more rural communities like Pearcedale to address shortage issues.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#).

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ABC Riverina, Breakfast, 21/11/2023, Sam Robinson

Interview with Rachel Christmas, Vice President, Rural Doctors Association of NSW, on the Federal Government launching a review into the spread of doctors and health workers across the country. With serious concerns about shortages in rural and regional areas, Health Minister Mark Butler says that some areas are crying out for more health professionals and policies trying to address workforce shortages just aren't working. Christmas says she welcomes any review as long as there are good outcomes that come from it.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 21/11/2023, Sammy J

Interview with Dr Danielle McMullen, Vice President, Australian Medical Association, regarding new COVID-19 vaccines. Health Minister Mark Butler said that while Australia is no longer in the emergency phase of the pandemic, COVID-19 is still present and people should continue to follow the advice of the experts from ATAGI, including getting vaccines as required. McMullen says yesterday, the Government approved the Pfizer and the Moderna version of the XBB vaccine that provides a bit more protection against the current strain of COVID that's making its way at an increasing pace throughout the community.

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MINISTER WELLS

Govt's precinct pitch to save AIS

Canberra Times, Sport, 22/11/2023, Chris Dutton, Page 48

The ACT government wants to strike a three-way investment partnership to revitalise the AIS, revealing its vision for a "northside sport and health precinct" to ensure the facility remains in Canberra. [...] The review panel has met with Australian Sports Commission and ACT government staff in recent weeks, with a report to be presented to Infrastructure Minister Catherine King and Sport Minister Anika Wells by the end of the year.

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She Hoops backs young leaders

South Gippsland Sentinel Times, General News, 21/11/2023, Page 62

Young female basketballer will develop skills and gain professional development beyond the court through a new scholarship program as part of Basketball Australia's women and girls' strategy. [...] Launched with the support of Federal Minister for Sport the Hon Anika Wells MP, the fully-funded scholarship will have a holistic focus with resilience, mindset and confidence, and leadership sessions with EQ Minds as well as Level 0 and 1 coaching accreditations and an introductory official course.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Goldfields health hub officially launched

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 22/11/2023, Tegan Guthrie, Page 3

A Goldfields health hub designed to help students live, study and work in regional WA, and ensure communities get the care they need, was officially launched in Kalgoorlie-Boulder this week. [...]

Funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care, the hub was launched at Curtin's Kalgoorlie campus on Tuesday by Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride, who said it would play a critical role in improving health outcomes in the Goldfields region.

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ABC News, Drive, 21/11/2023

Interview with Rural Doctors Association of Australia president Dr Artie Lewandowski about a government review into doctors shortages. Dr Lewandowski says Minister McBride and members of the opposition have met with the RDAA several times seeking their feedback regarding the ongoing shortages.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

For planetary health, how does our use of medicines need to change?

Croakey, Other, 21/11/2023, Melissa Sweet

What will it take to reduce waste in healthcare? These and related pressing questions were addressed recently by a series of speakers at the National Medicines Symposium, hosted by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. [...] Ways forward Senator Malarndirri McCarthy Raising questions Professor Anne Duggan, CEO of ACSQHC Timeline Professor Paul Kelly, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Aged Care In a reminder of the tragic delays between evidence emerging about the imperatives for climate health action, and actual policy action.

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DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

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CORONAVIRUS

WA goes it alone, again

West Australian, General News, 22/11/2023, Josh Zimmerman, Page 13

Masks are required in public hospitals, COVID cases are climbing and the Premier is warning WA's "unique pathway" will place it at odds with the rest of Australia. You could be forgiven for thinking it was April 2020, when Mark McGowan slammed the border shut and announced the State would become "an island within an island" as it charted its own course through the pandemic.

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COVID spike at hospital

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 22/11/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 3

Rapid antigen testing, mandatory masks and COVID-19 screening protocols have been reintroduced at Mildura Base Public Hospital amid a sudden rise in local cases. Hospital chief executive Terry Welch said action was necessary in response to cases among patients and staff "seemingly rising by the minute".

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COVID-19 on the comeback — what to do if you get sick in WA's eighth COVID wave

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023, James Carmody

With an eight wave of coronavirus circulating in Western Australia in recent weeks many people are being infected with the virus again. Unlike in years gone by when WA was in "state of emergency" mode, the rules surrounding the virus are less hard and fast and more reliant on people doing the right thing and "considering others".

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COVID cases are surging again but there are lots of ways to protect yourself — starting with wearing a mask

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023, Raina MacIntyre

Covid is on the rise again , with a peak likely over the holiday season. Given this, health authorities in a number of Australian states have recommended people start wearing masks again .

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care attack charges

Newcastle Herald, General News, 22/11/2023, Anna Falkenmire, Page 1

A man has been charged after allegedly breaking into an aged-care home and sexually assaulting an elderly woman in an attack police described as "horrendous". The 90-year-old woman was treated for serious injuries in hospital after a man broke into the nursing home on the Central Coast just after midnight last Wednesday.

Similar coverage reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Australian Seniors News \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#).

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

Rural residents have lower risk of dementia: study

Canberra Times, Other, 22/11/2023, Stephanie Gardiner

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.

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

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Still stuck in hospital: Illawarra's 'older, sicker' population can't get discharged

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 21/11/2023, Kate McIlwain

With a population that is more likely to have chronic disease and which is ageing at a faster-than-average rate, the Illawarra's health system faces a long list of challenges. And one of the biggest, according to the region's health bureaucrats, remains the number of people stuck in hospital due to a lack of beds in aged care and challenges in disability or in-home community support.

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Aged care service in the Snowy Mountains set to close while another reopens

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023, Adriane Reardon

A community's success in opening an assisted living facility in the New South Wales Snowy Mountains after the forced closure of its aged care is being considered a potential model by another nearby town faced with a similar experience. The Currawarna Aged Care facility in Bombala was closed in April 2022 by Southern Cross Care due to severe staffing shortages, forcing residents to move more than 100 kilometres away for care to areas such as Pambula, Cooma, Canberra, and Goulburn.

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St Mary MacKillop College aged care volunteers bring joy to Logan Lodge residents

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023

One-hundred-year-old Nancy Mullarvey treasures the time she spends with a group of high school students who volunteer at her aged care home. The students, from St Mary MacKillop College in Swan Hill, are visiting the home as part of their Personal Development Skills VCE vocational subject, which includes a unit of study on community participation.

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Design competition challenges architects to transform aged care

Aged Care Housing News, Other, 21/11/2023

The Department of Health and Aged Care recently announced the Reimagining where we live.

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Dementia care: Why leadership is important at all levels

Aged Care Insite, Other, 21/11/2023

With the current shortage of aged care workers, it is crucial that we strengthen the current workforce's capability and develop meaningful learning pathways to help attract more people to the sector and increase quality of care. [...] "Strong leadership was recognised as a critical element of sustained practice improvements by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and in response, also by the Federal Government," says Dementia Australia CEO Maree McCabe AM.

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Residents' absences under appraised

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 21/11/2023

Aged care providers are significantly underassessing the impact of unexplained absences of residents, according to a regulatory report. Published by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, the report Unexplained absence from care finds that, in the 12 months to March 2023, providers recorded that 91 per cent of unexplained absences had no-to-minimal physical impact and 95 per cent had no-to-minimal psychological impact.

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RN minutes falling short

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 21/11/2023, Christopher Kelly

Aged care providers are continuing to fall short of the mandatory minutes of care residents should be receiving from registered nurses, new analysis shows. Published by aged care consultancy firm Mirus Australia and based on a data sample of 90,000 beds (or one-third of the entire residential aged care sector) the report shows, during October, providers reached an average of 34 minutes of RN time, six minutes less than the mandatory 40 minutes.

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Frank Weits has left ACH Group

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 21/11/2023, Natasha Egan

South Australian aged care and retirement living provider ACH Group has advised a new strategic direction is behind the departure of chief executive officer Frank Weits. Mr Weits began as chief executive officer of the organisation in January 2019 .

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Rockpool opens third facility

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 21/11/2023

Queensland aged care provider Rockpool Residential Aged Care has opened a new site on the Sunshine Coast. Located on Spitfire Banks Drive over 6,000 square metres, Rockpool Pelican Waters is a 150-bed facility comprised of 10 communities housing 15 residents each.

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New board directors for COTA Victoria

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 21/11/2023

Council on the Ageing Victoria and Senior Rights Victoria have appointed former aged care peak body Gerard Mansour and former barrister Ray Cummings to their boards of chief directors. Mr Mansour joins COTA Victoria and SRV a major program run and governed by the advocacy group following four terms as the Commissioner for Senior Victorians, a role in which he served as a conduit between the community and state government.

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AMA submission: draft aged care data and digital strategy

Australian Medical Association, Other, 21/11/2023

On 20 November the AMA provided a submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care consultation on the proposed Aged Care Data and Digital Strategy. The AMA submissions cautions against over-investment in digital solutions that excessively rely on individual digital and health literacy of older people to manage their health and navigate the aged care environment at the same time.

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Have your say on the aged care wage increase

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 21/11/2023, Anmj Staff

The Department of Health and Aged Care has launched a survey to examine the impact of the government's recent wage increase for aged care workers on the workforce and broader sector. The survey seeks to gather valuable insights into the real-world implications of the pay rises, bringing to light both the positive outcomes and potential challenges experienced by those working in aged care.

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Kindness Unwrapped: New partnership brings free gifts, experiences to aged care residents

HelloCare, Other, 21/11/2023, Sneha Krishnan

Launched just over a year ago, Connect the 40% is a first-of-its-kind digital platform that allows everyday Australians to purchase gifts and experiences for aged care residents who are lonely, low

mood or socially withdrawn. The name Connect the 40% stems from the sad estimate that 40% of Australian older people living in aged care don't receive regular visitors.

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Informal carers feel a lack of support now more than ever

HelloCare, Other, 21/11/2023, Bianca Iovino

Informal carers feel less satisfied with their access to carer support compared to professional carers and are reporting record lows in personal well-being and mental health, a survey has found. Australian Unity has released its latest Well-being Index survey report in partnership with Deakin University which found Australians remain extremely dissatisfied with their lives overall but informal carers are experiencing particularly high levels of mental distress, particularly those providing informal care for more than 20 hours per week.

[Read More](#)

DoHAC spruiking MyMedicare for general practice in aged care incentive

Pulse+IT, Other, 21/11/2023, Kate McDonald

The Department of Health and Aged Care is tasking primary health networks (PHNs) with getting aged care residents signed up to MyMedicare in advance of the introduction of the Practice in Aged Care Incentive (GPACI) next year.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Breakfast, 21/11/2023, Ben Fordham

Aged care homes are under fire once again with a new report showing residents and their families are not happy. Over 5000 complaints about aged care have been made this year and 65% of homes have received at least one complaint. The aged care watchdog has raised a number of issues, including inadequate medication management, personal and oral hygiene staffing levels, falling incidents and food and catering. Although most complaints were resolved, the National Seniors Australia says it's not good enough.

[Play Now](#)

5AA, Mornings, 21/11/2023, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Janet Anderson, commissioner, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, regarding the ACQSC report on complaints about aged care. Anderson says the report indicates that there is a sample of people receiving aged care right away across Australia who are dissatisfied with some aspect of their care. She adds despite that, providers are reacting and responding to the concerns that are raised in a really constructive, positive way. Anderson says a lot of the complaints were about pain, medication and food.

Interview continues on: [5AA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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POPULATION HEALTH

Go nuts on infertility

Herald Sun, General News, 22/11/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 1

Two handfuls of walnuts a day may be key to improving male fertility, a new study has found. In a world first, a Monash University team has found if men add the nut to their diet it may help not only their overall health, but also their sperm quality.

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

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

Computer risk to eyes

The world is experiencing a myopia (short-sightedness) epidemic and the main cause is computer screens rather than mobile phones or tablets, a new study from the University of Western Australia has revealed. Senior research fellow Samantha Sze-Yee Lee, from the Lions Eye Institute, found short-sightedness worsened faster in those who reported six or more hours a day of computer usage, compared with those with low computer use.

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

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

Vape overdose which occurred in 'matter of minutes' linked to potent opioids in black market vape refills, health authorities claim

The Australian, Other, 21/11/2023, Blake Antrobus and Eleanor Campbell

An urgent health alert has been issued after three overdoses one of which was fatal were linked to "potent opioids" discovered in black market vape juice used to refill vape pens. NSW Health issued the alert on Monday after discovering nitazenes, a powerful synthetic opioid, in illegal vape juice refill containers.

[Read More](#)

Megan Lee: Young people need to wise up to the dangers of excessive drinking

West Australian, Other, 21/11/2023, Megan Lee

Ten to 20 years ago the way we met and spent time together was very different. Back then we would go to the pub or a nightclub to hang out with our friends. [...] Recently released figures by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveal that in 2022-2023 Australia's youth drinking habits underwent considerable shifts.

[Read More](#)

'Ruthless': Illegal cigarettes and vapes fuelling violent gang wars, industry blames high taxes

NEWS.com.au, Other, 21/11/2023, Frank Chung

With Aussies paying among the highest prices anywhere in the world for this product, a surging black market is causing chaos. Illegal tobacconists selling black market cigarettes and vapes are raking in up to \$40,000 a week, fuelling an increasingly violent turf war and the industry says it has been warning the government about this exact outcome for years.

[Read More](#)

Survey finds boomers doing well as younger generations' wellbeing plummets

Your Life Choices, Other, 22/11/2023, Jan Fisher

A growing divide between the generations is becoming even bigger, according to the latest edition of a long-running survey that tracks Australians' wellbeing. And the evidence of income disparity and wellbeing across the generations should be regarded as "the canary in the coalmine", said a lead participant in the survey.

[Read More](#)

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Sneeze fears in bedroom

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 22/11/2023, Fergus Ellis, Page 17

Australians are increasingly complaining about the effect of seasonal allergies on their lives, with men even admitting to "sneez-iety" in the bedroom. As the threat of the pollen season looms large, more than half of Australians who suffer from seasonal allergies say a runny or blocked nose disrupts their life. [...] In light of extreme weather forecast for next month, National Asthma Council sensitive choice

program manager Adele Taylor said "Nosevember" was a good time to get proactive about respiratory health.

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

Mt Ousley woman's rare brain cancer

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 22/11/2023, Natalie Croxon, Page 6

A young woman has urged people to seek out answers if they think something is wrong after relatively innocuous symptoms led to a diagnosis of an aggressive brain cancer. Grace Kennedy, 20, was living a life typical of many young women - working, studying, spending time with loved ones, enjoying her hobbies - when one day she suddenly felt weak, something she assumed was just tiredness.

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

Tax rebate to help Radiopharm diagnose, treat cancers

West Australian, Other, 21/11/2023, Doug Bright

A research and development (R&D) tax rebate of nearly \$5 million from the Australian Government will boost Radiopharm Theranostics' mission to further develop its suite of diagnostic and therapeutic products aimed at beating the cancer scourge. The rebate recognises the company's R&D activity during the 2023 financial year and comes as it prepares to run clinical pancreatic cancer trials in New York.

[Read More](#)

Breast cancer survivor pushes for clinical trials

Cairns Post, Other, 21/11/2023

A Rockdale County breast cancer survivor and mother of three is on a mission. She's sharing her cancer journey to try and inspire more Black women to get involved in clinical trials.

[Read More](#)

Brisbane girl, Taleisha Chisholme, youngest in Australia with central giant cell granuloma cancer

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 21/11/2023

A Brisbane mother has shared her heartbreak as she grapples with the news her daughter is the youngest in Australia to be diagnosed with a very rare and aggressive cancer which all started with dental pain. GRAPHIC Taleisha Chisholme, 10, of Fitzgibbon, in Brisbane's north, was the youngest in the country to be diagnosed with central giant cell granuloma cancer located in her jaw.

[Read More](#)

Leo Dilnot, Peregrine Springs, fighting rare cancer, Pheochromocytoma tumour

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 21/11/2023, Madeline Grace

A Sunshine Coast mum has shared her family's fears after her young son was diagnosed with an extremely rare and aggressive tumour, affecting only one in five million people. The Peregrine Springs mother knew something wasn't quite right when her son Leo Dilnot, 12, started experiencing agonising pain, tortuous headaches, dizzy spells, and noticed his hands and arms were bright red with a racing pulse.

[Read More](#)

Cancer Council CEO urges Australians to be sun smart

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023

The ceo of Cancer Council Professor Tanya Buchanan has urged Australians to be sun smart, saying men over the age of 40 are more likely to die from melanoma than women.

[Read More](#)

My young cancer patient refused all treatment. After her death I found out why

The Guardian, Other, 22/11/2023, Ranjana Srivastava

The premature loss of a cancer patient is something that is anathema to an oncologist. Could I have done more to change her mind? "Every time I talk to you, I feel more distressed." Tears stream down the patient's face as she claps her palms over both ears to shut me out. I am stunned to my core by this completely unexpected office version of a devastating domestic diatribe from which you wonder how you will recover.

[Read More](#)

Chronic cough patients advised to get chest x-ray

9News, Other, 21/11/2023, Lucy Slade

Patients with a chronic cough are being advised to have a chest x-ray and a thorough investigation to check for underlying diseases, according to new recommendations. Coughing is the most common reason for Australians to see a doctor, with 8.8 per cent of the population estimated to have a chronic cough, prompting the new advice from the Medical Journal of Australia (MJA).

Similar coverage reported by: [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

At 30, Nikhil is cancer-free and dedicated to developing 'more affordable' medical devices

SBS, Other, 21/11/2023, Natasha Kaul

Having overcome serious health challenges, Nikhil Autar now leads an organisation that develops cost-effective products to help people with disabilities. Recently he was named the 2024 NSW Young Australian of the Year.

[Read More](#)

Neil Mitchell speaks to the driving force behind Very Special Kids

3AW, Other, 21/11/2023

Today, Very Special Kids is officially opening its new \$16 million hospice a one-of-a-kind facility which provides top level care for terminally ill kids and their families. And none of it would be possible without Sister Margaret Noone, who started it all!

[Read More](#)

When Bella Johnston had cancer, she spent years following Belle Gibson's advice.

Mamamia, Other, 21/11/2023, Elfy Scott

Bella Johnston was around 14 years old when she suddenly began to lose weight. She tells Mamamia that she lost about 25 kilos within a matter of months and, in addition to this dangerous and conspicuous change in her body, she experienced a number of other disturbing symptoms: fatigue, dizziness, a persistent, hacking cough that would cause her to lose her breath and pass out.

[Read More](#)

On-point skin messaging

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 21/11/2023

Global expert in sun protection, La Roche-Posay unveiled its new custom-built, mobile Skin Check Clinic at Bondi Beach this week, aiming to provide 1,000 complementary skin checks during National Skin Cancer Action Week (19-26 Nov), in collaboration with long-time partner Australian early skin cancer detection charity, Skin Check Champions.

[Read More](#)

Early blood test

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 21/11/2023

Australian researchers are working to develop the first early-detection blood test for pancreatic cancer. Pancreatic cancer is one of Australia's biggest killers, with poor survival rates marred by a lack of distinct symptoms and screening tools needed to detect the disease in its early stages, said researchers at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI).

Understanding damages in head injury compensation claims

The Senior, Other, 21/11/2023

According to a study conducted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), injuries to the head and neck were the most prevalent in cases requiring hospital treatment during the period of 2018-19. The findings from the AIHW emphasised that over 120,000 hospitalisations, which accounted for 22 per cent of all cases, were related to this area of the body.

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PRIMARY CARE

Medibank the front runner in Cura hospital contest

The Australian, Business News, 22/11/2023, Bridget Carter, Page 14

Medibank is set to be intensively questioned about acquisitions at its annual general meeting on Wednesday, with talk it is now the party to beat in the contest for Cura. The understanding is that the \$9.7bn Australian listed health insurer and its bidding partner, Macquarie, are looking to outlay close to \$600m to secure the business, putting them in pole position ahead of final bids due early next month.

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Jobs, GP visits go as war on inflation hits

Age, General News, 22/11/2023, Shane Wright, Natassia Chrysanthos and Rachel Clun, Page 11

A third of businesses are considering laying off workers before Christmas while more than 1.2 million people have delayed medical appointments or prescription refills because of their cost as the Reserve Bank's war on inflation intensifies financial pressure on companies and households. The growing cost pressures faced by Australians are fuelling an increasingly bitter political debate.

Similar coverage reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Shepparton News \(Shepparton\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Canberra is the most expensive place to visit the dentist, new data shows

Canberra Times, General News, 22/11/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 18

It costs more to see a dentist in the ACT than any other state or territory in the country, according to new data collected by health advocacy group Cleanbill. A standard ACT dental check-up and clean costs, on average, \$275. This is \$46 more than the national average. Visiting the dentist for the first time will set the average Canberran back \$364, while the average Australian only pays \$297.

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

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Surgery wait times reduced

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/11/2023, Ryan Park, Page 21

Our health system has been put through the wringer these past couple of years. Ask any of our health workers, or anyone who has visited a hospital recently, the impacts of the pandemic continue to be felt. One of the ways we observed this was in our planned surgery waitlist. During the pandemic, it was necessary for the health system to slow down planned surgery both to free up bed capacity as well as to slow the spread of covid.

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New operations HQ for health

A State health operations centre bringing together services from St John WA to the Royal Flying Doctor Service will be established after a \$47.2 million funding announcement. Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson announced the centre on Tuesday, calling it a "game changer" for emergency and medical care in WA that would oversee a patient's entire medical journey.

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

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

No opportunity wasted

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 22/11/2023, Page 17

Tonnes of food waste from the kitchen at Epworth Geelong is being converted to compost, with residue from the hospital expected to one day power local homes. Epworth said the Waurin Ponds hospital was the first in regional Australia to install a WasteMaster dehydrator, which removed 80 per cent of water from kitchen waste.

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

Fresh health plan seeks equity

Newcastle Herald, General News, 22/11/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 11

A five-year health plan for the Hunter New England and Central Coast sector aims to increase the number of GPs and improve equity of access to primary care services. The Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, released on Tuesday, aspired to "stabilise and boost the primary care workforce".

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

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

Hospital upgrades after granddad dies waiting for bed

Canberra Times, Other, 21/11/2023, Laine Clark

One of Queensland's busiest hospitals will be upgraded after a grandfather died following a three-hour wait in an ambulance. Ipswich hospital west of Brisbane will receive 12 extra beds at the emergency department's short stay unit, the Health Minister says.

Also reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Half of Devonport to be left without GP once East Devonport medical centre closes in February

The Mercury, Other, 21/11/2023, Simon Mcguire

The community of East Devonport is set to be left without a general practice following the closure of its main medical centre in February. The closure means there will be no general practice in Devonport west of the Mersey River. The East Devonport Medical Centre will merge with SmartClinics Devonport across the river.

[Read More](#)

Jake waited eight hours in a hallway before he was admitted to an emergency department bed. This is what ramping looks like in Queensland

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023, Victoria Pengilley

After 69-year-old Jake De Waal fainted at work last Thursday, he did what anyone in an emergency would do and called triple-0. The grandfather of six had recently suffered a heart attack and feared he was taking a turn for the worse. [...] In 2021 2022, ambulances spent 134,155 hours ramped outside the state's top 26 hospitals, according to the AMA's report card Only 58.7 per cent of patients were transferred from ambulances to emergency departments within half an hour of arrival.

[Read More](#)

St John of God Bendigo hospital says more patients needed to secure

private maternity, ICU services

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023, Emma D'Agostino

Maternity and intensive care services at a private hospital in one of regional Victoria's largest cities have been granted 12 months' reprieve from closure. But St John of God Bendigo hospital says more staff and "significantly increased levels of patient activity" are needed to secure the future of its two services.

[Read More](#)

'Unforeseen levels of ramping' across public hospitals

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023

And a new report from the Australian Medical Association has revealed the grim state of Australia's public hospital system, which is seeing "unforeseen levels of ramping".

[Read More](#)

New patient record storage system to be built for NSW

Nursing Review, Other, 21/11/2023, Erin Morley

NSW Health are building a single digital patient record (SDPR) system that will store all patient records in one place to streamline health services. The state's government said there are currently nine systems used for electronic medical records, 10 administration systems and five pathology information systems, some of which are not connected state-wide.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Long emergency wait for mental ill

The Australian, General News, 22/11/2023, Stephen Lunn, Page 7

Australians suffering acute mental health issues are being failed by the health system, with some patients forced to wait in emergency departments for as long as 30 hours, the Australian Medical Association says. In a new report card on the treatment of mental health patients in public hospitals, the AMA finds the average length of stay in emergency departments for those presenting with mental health-related conditions is at its highest since 2015-16, with more patients landing in hospital via ambulance and police services.

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

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Coroners warn on shooting range suicides

The Australian, General News, 22/11/2023, Sarah Elks, Page 8

Most of the nation's shooting ranges are not required to install bulletproof barriers or lifesaving tethers for guns used by unlicensed shooters, despite warnings from coroners after the suicide deaths of at least 11 people at the facilities. In May last year, NSW Deputy Coroner Carolyn Huntsman urged Police Commissioner Karen Webb to ban most people without licences from shooting at a firing range, unless a pistol was "securely tethered", preventing it from being turned on the shooter or others.

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A move in the right direction with \$70k

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 22/11/2023, Page 3

Ben Smith knows how well exercise can be for your mental health. He has been using the Bendigo Health's Exercise and Wellbeing Program for more than a year now. "The sessions get me out of the house and are good for me. I feel like I am getting fitter. It's patients from Dual Diagnosis Unit (DDU) and Community Care Unit (CCU) all coming together which is really good."

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

Bans a good call

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 22/11/2023, Page 14

Mobile phones will officially be banned in all Queensland state schools from 2024, which brings the Sunshine State into line with other jurisdictions. As we report on Page 4 today, the new policy aims to provide optimal learning and teaching environments, increase face-to-face social interactions between students, and reduce the potential for cyber bullying at school.

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

Urgent action needed to tackle military veteran crisis

Canberra Times, Other, 21/11/2023, Tess Ikonomou

The chair of the royal commission into veteran suicides has called for urgent action as new figures outline the shocking number of former military personnel taking their own lives. There were at least 1677 deaths by suicide between 1997 and 2021 among serving personnel, veterans and reservists, data released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on Tuesday revealed

Similar coverage reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News \(Shepparton\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Samantha Stewart opens up on post birth mental health struggles

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023

One in five women will experience anxiety or depression either during pregnancy or after the birth of a child. It's known as the perinatal period.

[Read More](#)

How can parents help a child recover from trauma?

SBS, Other, 21/11/2023, Chiara Pazzano

Whether a child has experienced trauma overseas or in Australia, whether it occurred recently or in the distant past, with the appropriate assistance, a child can recover. Parents and caregivers play a crucial role in helping children regain a sense of safety and well-being.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 21/11/2023, Craig Reucassel and Jennifer Byrne

A new report shows the rate of suicide among current and former members of the Australian Defence Force is not improving, despite extra attention from the Royal Commission into the issue. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report reveals male veterans are 26% more likely to die by suicide than men who have never served.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, AM, 21/11/2023, Sabra Lane

Report regarding new research suggests surfing is creating a \$1.5t wave for the global economy, simply by improving people's mental health. According to Griffith University's School of Environment and Science Professor Emeritus Ralf Buckley, the basis of this research is that anything that's good for people's mental health is worth money.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

My sonographer shared the sad, shocking responses she sees at gender scans

Cairns Post, Other, 21/11/2023, Anonymous Writer

I'm lying on the table having my 20-week pregnancy ultrasound and the sonographer asks whether we'd like to know the baby's gender? Although the suspense is killing us, my husband and I look at each other and smile. "No thanks, we'll wait and see," I say. We've always loved a surprise on the big day. There's nothing like having your partner or the doctor say those magic words "it's a girl" or "it's a boy" after nine long months of anticipation.

[Read More](#)

Love at first flight as nurses take their careers to the extreme

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023, Aaron Kelly

Being winched out of a helicopter to care for patients is a far cry from working on the nursing frontline at a hospital during a pandemic. But for Roxy Pena, it is the nursing career she has always dreamed of.

[Read More](#)

Delayed cord cutting in premature babies

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023

When a baby is born premature time is of the essence, and the idea of slowing things down in those first few moments seems counter-intuitive.

[Read More](#)

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Visionary surgeon at Westmead Hospital

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/11/2023, Page 34

Miles Little changed the landscape of medicine and medical ethics through the force of his ideas. He created lasting influence via the way he lived his own life and the way that treated others through his integrity, kindness, hospitality and wisdom.

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

Hunter New England Health blames workforce shortages for budget and performance woes

Newcastle Herald, Other, 21/11/2023, Gabriel Fowler

A heavy reliance on agency staff and locums across the Hunter New England health district has shaken the region's budget as well as performance, management says. It is blaming workforce shortages, with more than 330 medical staff vacancies as at the end of October.

[Read More](#)

Growing concerns of health worker shortage in rural and regional areas

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023

RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins says the review into the primary healthcare sector is an opportunity to address the health worker shortage in regional and rural communities.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacists need to know more about antimicrobial resistance; FIP

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 21/11/2023, David Rowley

Pharmacy curricula broadly require improvement to help pharmacists deal with the threat of increasing antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a new study from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) says. Launched to coincide with World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week.

[Read More](#)

RACGP slams SA decision

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 21/11/2023

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has spoken out against expanded pharmacy prescribing powers in South Australia. It comes following the Govt's announcement that from Mar next year, women aged 18 to 65 suffering from a urinary tract infection (UTI) will be able to access antibiotics from pharmacists.

[Read More](#)

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Cost remains a barrier to medicines

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 21/11/2023

Increasing numbers of patients are delaying getting medicines or skipping scripts completely due to cost, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data reveals Cost barriers to accessing healthcare remain firmly in place for Australians, with growing numbers of patients putting off visiting their GP or having prescriptions filled. Despite the government cutting the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme This content is restricted to registered users only.

[Read More](#)

ATAGI shifts Covid vaccine preference

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 21/11/2023

Monovalent Omicron xbb.1.5 Covid-19 vaccines are now the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation's (ATAGI's) preferred option for individuals aged five years and older ATAGI has updated its guidance regarding the use of Covid-19 vaccinations to boost protection against Omicron subvariants of the XBB.

[Read More](#)

Radio National, Life Matters, 21/11/2023, Hilary Harper and Michael Mackenzie

The Australian Medical Association has announced that new COVID vaccines will be available next month and they will provide better protection against the current strain of the virus. The Federal Government has given approval to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, as experts predict that hundreds of thousands of Australians have already been infected with a new strain, which is expected to peak around Christmas. AMA Vice President Dr Danielle McMullen advises people who are visiting high-risk areas like aged care homes to ensure that their boosters are up-to-date.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Supercars fan pharmacist faces jail time for alleged PBS fraud

The Australian, General News, 22/11/2023, Joanna Panagopoulos and Cameron England, Page 7

A Supercars enthusiast and pharmacist could spend up to 10 years in prison over an alleged Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme fraud. Australian Federal Police vaulted over fences of a trophy home at Dural, in Sydney's northwest, and carted away three Ferraris and a BMW owned by Ben Huynh earlier this month.

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

Nurse struck off for lying about Shellharbour Hospital shifts can practise again

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 22/11/2023, Natalie Croxon, Page 10

A nurse who was struck off after stealing more than \$12,000 in wages he did not earn while employed at Shellharbour Hospital will be allowed to practise again. Robert Deeley had his registration cancelled and was banned from reapplying for four years after he was found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct in December 2010.

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

Hospital upgrades after grandad dies waiting for bed

Canberra Times, Other, 21/11/2023, Laine Clark

A mother has been found dead on her birthday after paramedics failed to arrive, with Queensland Ambulance Service conceding it "should have done better". It happened a day after grandfather Wayne Irving, 67, died following a three hour wait in an ambulance outside an Ipswich hospital, west of Brisbane.

[Read More](#)

Mystery surrounds Qld chiropractor's health watchdog suspension

The Courier Mail, Other, 21/11/2023, Vanda Carson

A Beaudesert chiropractor has been suspended from practising by the state's healthcare watchdog, but the reason for the disciplinary action has not been revealed. A Queensland chiropractor has been suspended from practising by the state's healthcare watchdog. [...] According to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, Dr Botros was first registered in the profession in this country in February 2003.

[Read More](#)

Preventable: Queensland Mum tragically dies after ambulance fails to show up

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 21/11/2023, Alexandra Feiam

The single mum called triple zero after experiencing chest pains but cancelled the request after an ambulance failed to arrive. New data from Queensland Health has revealed the "disturbing extent" of the state's health crisis, says Sky News host Caleb Bond.

Similar coverage reported by: [7news.com.au](https://www.7news.com.au) (Online).

[Read More](#)

Townsville Hospital and Health Service's battle against inequality

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 21/11/2023, Daniel Shirkie

When Fred Chong received a diagnosis of prostate cancer, he knew exactly where to turn and what to do in order to get answers and receive treatment. But for others, especially those in remote indigenous communities, he's seen first-hand just how hard that can be. "I'm lucky I've had a lot of dealings with health, my son is a doctor, my daughter works at Logan Hospital, my sister has just retired as a registered nurse, and I have another sister who is the CEO of the Mareeba Mulungu Primary Health Care Service," Mr Chong said.

[Read More](#)

PSR appeals GP's court win over demand for 25 years of patient records

Australian Doctor, Other, 21/11/2023, Heather Saxena

The Professional Services Review will rely on the court's finding that it can legally demand records outside the review period if they are relevant. The Professional Services Review says it is appealing a court ruling that blocked its demand for a GP to provide up to 25 years' worth of patient records.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 21/11/2023, Joe O'Brien

The Qld Ambulance Service has promised to do better after a 51yo Brisbane woman died while waiting for help. The Australian Medical Association says ambulance ramping is reaching a crisis point, putting patients at significant risk.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, A Current Affair, 21/11/2023, Allison Langdon

Interview with Shannon Fentiman, Qld Health Minister and Craig Emery, Commissioner, Qld Ambulance, on the death of a Brisbane mother Cath Groom, who died after waiting more than 1.5 hours for an ambulance that never arrived. Emery says they should have done better in that set of circumstances adding that they have started a comprehensive review into the matter. Fentiman adds ambulance ramping is her number one priority and they are throwing everything at it. She adds in the last few months they have seen improvements when it comes to ramping, but there is so much more to do.

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

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Channel 9, Today, 21/11/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen and Brooke Boney

Interview with Dr Maria Boulton, President, AMA Queensland, on a 51yo mother dying after an ambulance failed to show up to her home in Brisbane. It comes just days after her grandfather, Wayne Irving, lost his life waiting on a ramp for a hospital bed at Ipswich Hospital. Boulton says the system is under such strain that we knew that it was only a matter of time before these tragedies happened. She adds they know that there are movements in place from the Qld Government to try and reduce ambulance ramping, but it has just come too late for those families.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Save a life for Charlie

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/11/2023, George Yankovich, Page 11

One of Australia's most prominent organ donation advocates, whose son's organs have kept three people alive to this day, has praised the Stevens family for encouraging discussion of the topic. Accompanying the heartbreaking public letter Police Commissioner Grant Stevens wrote about his son Charlie who was killed in an alleged hit-run near Schoolies on Friday night was a note posted on Facebook about organ donation.

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Multicultural health conference aims to inspire change

SBS, Other, 21/11/2023, Sam Dover and Madina Jaffari

A first of its kind national multicultural health and wellbeing conference has kicked off in Sydney. The conference is aiming to open dialogue and discuss ways of improving Australia's health system for multicultural communities.

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SPORT

Con Wealth Games

Herald Sun, General News, 22/11/2023, Shannon Deery and Alex White, Page 1

Taxpayers are shelling out millions of dollars for at least 50 Commonwealth Games staff almost five months after the event was scrapped. The Herald Sun can also reveal a sweetheart exit deal is being negotiated between the public sector union and Allan government under which former employees of the Office of the Commonwealth Games will be paid well into next year.

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Sports arena opens field for dreaming big

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/11/2023, Darren Beattie, Page 23

The planned introduction of a new Tasmania AFL team is certainly not without controversy but it brings with it the prospect of a state-of-the-art sports stadium with the very best of modern engineering, sustainability, and economic revitalisation at its heart. Done right, Tasmania would have a structure that would not only host sporting and cultural events but stand testament to modern engineering and architectural ingenuity.

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Bowls club left in dark

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 22/11/2023, Jason Gibbs and Tom Gillespie, Page 5

A state government proposal threatens to tear apart a Toowoomba sports club that has withstood the test of time for more than 120 years. Sitting in the shadows of the Toowoomba Sports Ground, the Toowoomba Bowls Club has questioned a "lack of transparency" surrounding planned upgrades to the stadium ahead of the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

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The sinister side of the beep test exposed

The Courier Mail, Other, 21/11/2023, Dominique Birouste

You knew you were in for a bad time when your PE teacher brought out the cones and the stereo. Not all kids have an interest in sports or traditional exercise. At school, PE was one of my favourite classes. Even going to an all-girls high school, with most bringing their best excuses to get out of it (fake injuries and forgotten uniforms), I loved being active for the period.

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Jurors who do their own research; prosecuting violence in sport

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023, Tim Symonds

If a juror conducts their own research in a trial, does that mean that any guilty verdict reached by the jury is dangerous and should be quashed? And a look at when violence in sport crosses the line and becomes a criminal law matter.

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Papua New Guinea's women's boxing team needs money to keep their Pacific Games dream alive

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023, Lisa Puni

Boxing has always been in Liranda Kidu's blood. The 20-year-old from Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea started the sport in 2018.

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‘FIFA goofed’ – anger over Australian tax on Women’s World Cup match fees

The Guardian, Other, 22/11/2023, Osasu Obayiuwana

Players from several teams at this year’s Women’s World Cup finals in Australia and New Zealand are receiving significantly less than they hoped, as a result of a significant level of tax imposed on their match earnings by the Australian Tax Office (ATO). All players whose teams were based in Australia for the duration of the tournament are receiving just over two-thirds of the match fees, with the ATO imposing a 32.5% withholding tax. The imposition of this tax was an integral part of the hosting agreement that Fifa agreed with the Australian government.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Melbourne takes pioneering path in research

Australian Financial Review, Features, 22/11/2023, Patrick Durkin, Page 5

The vice-chancellor's pedigree helps explain why Melbourne University has ranked top in research and reputation, writes Patrick Durkin. The changes under way at the University of Melbourne are plain to see.

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The curious case of age-reversing 'zombie hunter' drugs

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/11/2023, Angus Dalton, Page 10

Australian scientists say drugs they have successfully tested on labgrown brain tissue to kill senescent cells could reverse ageing in the human brain and treat cognitive damage caused by COVID-19. Senescent cells are cells that stop dividing, healing or operating properly but refuse to die.

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

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Snows' game-changing \$100m donation

Canberra Times, General News, 22/11/2023, Page 8

Canberra's Snow family is donating \$100 million over 10 years to establish a world-leading immunology research centre in Melbourne to find answers to autoimmune diseases such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis. Described as "one of the largest and longest running philanthropic partnerships in Australian history", the donation will be used to establish the Snow Centre for Immune Health.

Similar coverage reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#)

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Drug's growing admiration

Herald Sun, General News, 22/11/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 13

A Melbourne-led trial has paved the way for the world's first treatment for the most common form of dwarfism in a "watershed moment" that could more than halve children's risk of sudden infant death syndrome. The breakthrough drug vosoritide's lifesaving impact on complications of achondroplasia demonstrated in a study prompted several countries including Australia to offer the drug to children from birth.

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Bio blast

Courier Mail, Business News, 22/11/2023, Glen Norris, Page 43

Kudos to Brisbane biotech company Vaxxas, which has taken out the Life Sciences Queensland (LSQ) company of the year award. In their 15th year, the LSQ GENE Awards are the state's major life sciences awards that recognise excellence within the sector.

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Human Intelligent Movement Analysis Centre at Menzies Institute to focus on neurological disorders

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/11/2023, Rob Inglis

Camera technology used to transform actors into digital avatars in video games and movies will be employed to detect early signs of neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease at a state-of-the-art new research centre in Hobart. The Human Intelligent Movement Analysis Centre (HIMAC), located in the Medical Science Precinct at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research on Liverpool St, will enable scientists and clinicians to track precise human movements using hi-tech equipment including eye-tracking technology and a wireless motion capture system.

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Researchers say movie technology can pick up neurological diseases before they're noticeable to the human eye

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023

Dennis Crawford struggled with tremors for eight years before receiving a diagnosis for Parkinson's disease. "I knew nothing about Parkinson's. Absolutely nothing," Mr Crawford said. "The fact that I was diagnosed initially with functional tremor, but it was actually Parkinson's well the treatment could have been different."

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Support programs a welcome boost to access for all

Australian Financial Review, Features, 22/11/2023, Alexandra Cain, Page 10

Regional universities are aiming to break the cycle of disadvantage with help from food supplies to textbooks, writes Alexandra Cain. Ellah-Lee Hocking may not have attended university at all without the support and guidance she has rece...

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Racism called out in every corner and suburb

Canberra Times, Other, 21/11/2023, Rudi Maxwell

Racism and hate is experienced in every corner and every suburb of the nation, a groundbreaking new report has found. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been detailing experiences of racism - including against children - for the Call it Out project since it first launched in early 2022.

Also reported by: [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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'Elderly Indigenous woman pepper sprayed, knocked to the ground': Submissions to Australia's first racism register for First Nations

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023, Carly Williams

Wiradjuri man Shane Bell was hoping to further his music career when he started a tertiary course but was shocked by the racism he experienced from other adults in the classroom. "It started out with one racist, and at the end of semester, there were three," Mr Bell told the ABC.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

How Australia ranks in the fight against antimicrobial resistance

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023

Antimicrobial resistance has been described as an emerging public health emergency. A major cause is overuse of antibiotics and other drugs to combat microbes, like fungi.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

New Omicron XBB.1.5 subvariant COVID vaccines to be rolled out across Australia from December

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023, Paige Cockburn

If you were hoping for an early Christmas present, you might just be in luck: the federal government has announced updated COVID-19 vaccines will be available from December 11. That means those who roll up their sleeves could have boosted protection against severe disease and hospitalisation by Christmas Day. [...] The new vaccines were approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in October but ATAGI also needed to assess them and provide advice to the Minister for Health, Mark Butler about their use.

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More than 35 tonnes of illegal vapes seized at Australia's borders

9News, Other, 21/11/2023

More than 35 tonnes of illegal vapes have been seized at Australia's borders as authorities ramp up efforts to protect vulnerable youths from an escalating vaping epidemic. Police said many of the vapes were flavoured and in colourful packaging in a deliberate attempt to sway Australia's youth. [...] Under the new rules, importers of vaping products will need a permit from the TGA.

Similar coverage reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#).

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What are the new COVID-19 booster vaccines, when can I get one and do they work?

SBS, Other, 21/11/2023, Paul Griffin

The latest covid-19 vaccines targeting common subvariants of the virus will be made available to Australians from next month. As the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve, so does our vaccine response. [...] In Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved them in October.

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

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Federal government accepts technical advice on the use of new monovalent COVID-19 vaccines

HealthDispatch, Other, 21/11/2023

Health Minister Mark Butler says the federal government has accepted the latest advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation on using the new monovalent COVID-19 vaccines. The TGA recently approved the Pfizer and Moderna Omicron XBB.1.5 vaccines.

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Prostate cancer patients' hopes renewed thanks to PBS drug

The Senior, Other, 21/11/2023

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.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 21/11/2023, Peter Hitchener

The Federal government is set to introduce new laws to ban the import of disposable vapes. From next year, the only e-cigarettes allowed in Australia will be pharmaceutical products. Federal and state health ministers will meet with police later this week to discuss how enforcement will work. But under the new rules, importers of vaping products will need a permit from the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 21/11/2023, Alison Ariotti

Health Minister Mark Butler says imports of vapes will be banned without a permit from the TGA in coming weeks.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 21/11/2023, Greg Jennett and Matthew Doran

Health Minister Mark Butler says the TGA will set up protocols to begin ordering new COVID vaccines in coming days.

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Radio National, PM, 21/11/2023, Sarah Dingle

Health Minister Mark Butler says the TGA will batch test incoming COVID vaccines, with Australians able to access them from December.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Mornings , 21/11/2023, Rafael Epstein

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister, regarding Australia's attempt to put a ban on recreational vaping and the Federal Government's review on how to address doctor and healthcare worker shortages. Butler says the first wave of the ban will be made before the end of the year. He adds over the next few weeks, they will be making a regulation to ban the import of certain vapes and it will close a loophole that's existed for some years. Butler says he agrees that they need to allow more foreign doctors to work in GP and in more rural communities like Pearcedale to address shortage issues.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#).

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Divers warned against working in drug importation

Canberra Times, Other, 21/11/2023, Anna Houlahan

Professional divers have been warned against accepting work from criminal syndicates as police track a "rising trend" in illicit drugs allegedly smuggled inside cargo ship hulls to Australian ports. More than 350 kilograms of cocaine was found inside vessels docked at Melbourne's port since early August, Australian Federal Police said.

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The Greens want to legalise recreational cannabis—what are the health implications?

ABC Online, Other, 21/11/2023

In 2016 Australia legalised cannabis for medicinal use, and now the Greens party are advocating for its recreational use as well. They believe it would mean less people in the criminal justice system, and more tax revenue.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson in favour of ban on fast food

ads on public transport

West Australian, Other, 21/11/2023, Jake Dietsch

As the health system buckles under the weight of an obesity crisis, Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson says she supports banning fast food advertisements from public transport but that she is still locked in negotiations with other Government departments. The West revealed Tuesday that research found prohibiting unhealthy food and drink advertising on buses and trains could lead to an average weight loss in of nearly 1kg per person.

Similar coverage reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Paris Creek Farms bio-dynamic fresh butter unsalted recalled over contamination concerns

7news.com.au, Other, 21/11/2023, Dominique Tassell

The product may cause illness if consumed. A butter sold at several popular grocery chains has been recalled over contamination concerns. Paris Creek Farms' bio-dynamic fresh butter unsalted (200g) has been recalled by Food Standards Australia due to microbial contamination from *Yersinia enterocolitica*.

Similar coverage reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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AICIS

Take the time to think twice about asbestos this November

Border Mail, General News, 22/11/2023, Page 20

This year marks 20 years since asbestos was banned entirely in Australia, yet people must remain aware of what could be in their homes, with asbestos-containing materials hidden in one-third of Aussie residences. November is National Asbestos Awareness Month and focuses on creating better asbestos awareness and increasing education in communities about preventing asbestos-related diseases.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#).

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Dolphins in danger

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 22/11/2023, Page 7

Critically endangered dolphins in the waters off Melbourne and Gippsland in Victoria have been found with the highest concentrations of PFAS chemicals in dolphins reported anywhere in the world, according to new research. The joint study undertaken by scientists from the Marine Mammal Foundation, RMIT and Melbourne University found alarming concentrations of the chemicals - widely used in food packaging, firefighting foam and non-stick cookware and notoriously known as 'forever chemicals' for not breaking down - in Victoria's critically endangered Burrunan dolphins.

Similar coverage reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Conquering silicosis

Safe To Work, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 18

A greater level of awareness of silicosis means mine sites are beginning to implement, or consider ways to protect workers against the deadly disease. But the situation is a complicated one, with no silver bullet solution. A silent and persistent threat in the mining industry, silicosis is caused by the inhalation of respirable crystalline silica, microscopic particles 100 times smaller than a grain of sand, which is found in stone, concrete, sand, mortar and more.

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Australian farmers back EU decision to extend approval of controversial herbicide glyphosate

The Guardian, Other, 22/11/2023, Aston Brown

Australian farmers have welcomed the European Commission's decision to renew its approval of the use of the weed killer glyphosate for another 10 years, saying a ban may have damaged Australian grain exports. Glyphosate is the active ingredient in more than 500 herbicide products, including the popular weed killer Roundup. Its use extends from backyard gardens to large-scale commercial cropping.

[Read More](#)

Warning for DIY home renovators over deadly asbestos risk in pre-1990 homes

7news.com.au, Other, 21/11/2023, Tess Ikonomou

There is a concern that a growing number of DIY renovators are next in line for exposure and disease.' Renovators are being reminded of the hazard of a deadly material found in one in three houses About 4000 people die each year from cancer and other asbestos-related diseases - three times the national road toll.

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