



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 28th November 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has criticised pathology provider Healius for failing to put patient data on the My Health Record digital platform since September 12.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that former US health official Dr Kadlec has warned that the lessons from Covid-19 have not been learnt, with many high-risk experiments in virus research still being conducted globally.
- **[Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that a new Shane Warne Legacy foundation will provide 23,000 free four-minute heart health tests to Australians in an effort to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#)*
- **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that saline solution tainted with *ralstonia pickettii* bacteria has been linked to a multistate outbreak affecting at least 38 people, and one suspected death in Queensland.
- **[Northern Territory News](#)** (page 1) reports that the state government will introduce new legislation that will put more people on the banned drinking register, and introduce a seven-day

banned drinking order for people drinking in a prohibited public place, or within 2km of a licensed venue. *Also reported by: [ABC Online](#)*

- **[West Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that West Australian Liberal leader Libby Mettam has criticised the Cook government for its response to Perth Children's Hospital, with 13 reports of violence against young patients occurring in the last 12 months.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 5) Health Minister Mark Butler will announce a new disposable vape ban that will come into effect from New Year's Day, and expanded access to vaping prescriptions as part of a new reforms aimed at reducing the rates of young people using vapes. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- **[ABC News](#)** reports that the Covid-19 vaccination rate for aged cared residents has dropped below 40 per cent since September. A government spokesperson stated that "The Department of Health and Aged Care is continuing outreach to homes with the lowest COVID-19 vaccine uptake."

MINISTER BUTLER

Healius shuffles board as Butler weighs in

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/11/2023, Tom McIlroy, Page 1

Jenny Macdonald will step down as chairwoman of ailing pathology group Healius after failing to win the support of investors following the share price plunging to a 24-year low last week.

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

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Vape import ban to start in January

Age, General News, 28/11/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 5

Disposable vapes won't be allowed into Australia from New Year's Day under the federal government's bold plans to stop a new generation becoming addicted to nicotine. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler's crackdown aims to stop a thriving black market that imports millions of flavoured disposable vapes from China and sells them to young Australians on social media or under the counter in convenience stores.

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

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Urgent care clinic opens in Umina

Peninsula News, General News, 27/11/2023, Page 3

The Peninsula's Medicare Urgent Care Clinic opened on Monday, November 20, at 297 West St, Umina. [...] In a statement, Federal Health Minister Mr Mark Butler said: "This clinic will ease pressure on the Gosford Hospital, allowing them to concentrate on higher priority emergencies.

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

Two new Covid vaccines approved as alarming figure reveals majority of Aussies choosing not to get a booster shot

Aged Care Insite, Other, 27/11/2023, Arshmah Jamal

Two new covid vaccines will become available in Australia soon with proven success at fighting off new strains of the virus. [...]

"With our healthcare system facing escalating challenges, now is not the time for [Health Minister Mark Butler] to be dragging his feet on signing a brief to protect the Australian people," she said.

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Bulk-billing already rising thanks to tripled incentives, says major corporate

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/11/2023, Rachel Carter

The government claims that GPs 'in every state and territory' are bulk-billing more because of the policy. [...] "Doctors have been telling me, and now the data show the reality: even in these early days, only three weeks into the new incentives, clinics everywhere are making the shift back to bulk-billing," said Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler.

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Federal government backs the development of treatment for childhood brain cancer

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 27/11/2023

Health Minister Mark Butler has announced that the federal government will invest over \$700,000 to support the development of a potential new treatment that targets a type of childhood brain cancer with no known cure or treatment options. ...

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More diseases added to newborn screening tests to save lives

Cairns Post, Other, 27/11/2023, Brad Crouch

Brotherly love runs deep in this Adelaide family, where aged just 3, big brother Blake saved the life of his baby brother, Max. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the move would deliver a nationally consistent approach to newborn bloodspot screening.

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Why the Illawarra has become a hot spot for advanced prostate cancer

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 27/11/2023, Kate Mcilwain

Men in the Illawarra are being diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer at more than double the national rate, with the region identified as one of 20 prostate cancer hot spots across Australia. [...] Ms Savage said her charity was talking to Health Minister Mark Butler about the need for a population wide awareness campaign similar to the campaigns for bowel and breast cancer.

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Australia to ban disposable, single-use vape imports from January to help cut addiction in children

The Guardian, Other, 28/11/2023, Melissa Davey

Importing disposable, single-use vapes will be banned from January, the health minister, Mark Butler, will announce on Tuesday, in a bid to prevent more children from becoming addicted to nicotine. Butler will also announce that from January 2024 medical practitioners and nurse practitioners will be able to prescribe vapes, with patients able to fill their script at pharmacies.

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Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 27/11/2023, Angela Cox

The next steps in a national vaping crackdown have just been revealed Tomorrow the Health Minister will announce a ban on the importation of disposable single use vapes from the 1st of January. From March 1st, it will be illegal to bring them into the country for personal use. [...] Mark Butler says the habit is, quote, creating a new generation of nicotine dependency.

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Channel 9, Nine News Late, 27/11/2023, Michael Genovese

The federal government is tightening its crackdown on vapes as of January 1st. Next year, it'll be illegal to import disposable vapes into Australia. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler will outline more details on the plan tomorrow.

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'Bureaucracy gone mad': Workforce crisis forcing aged care homes to close

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 27/11/2023, Julie Cross

Seven out of 10 Aussie aged care homes are struggling to recruit and retain staff to meet ambitious nursing staff targets, while one in five say the plan is "impossible to achieve". [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said there was a registered nurse on-site in aged care homes 98 per cent of the time, or 23.5 hours a day.

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Seek sees wages growth slow, but still won't please RBA

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 27/11/2023, Matt Bell

Australians working in aged care and in consultancy roles have seen the biggest annual jump in salaries as overall wage growth shows signs of slowing. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the workforce is the "foundation of the ambitious change" for her sector.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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4BC, Drive, 27/11/2023, Peter Gleeson

Interview with Tom Symondson, Chief Executive Officer, Aged and Community Care Providers Association, regarding a fresh report saying almost 20% of aged care providers now believe it's impossible to meet requirements to have registered nurses on duty and on-site 24/7 and to provide a mandatory 200 care minutes per resident per day, including 40 minutes with a registered nurse. Anika Wells was voted in and named Aged Care Minister on the back of a promise to bring in round-the-clock nurses at every aged care facility across the country but Wells already conceded that the Albanese Government will fail to keep that promise.

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DEPARTMENT

Future chefs

Dandenong Star Journal, General News, 28/11/2023, Page 2

Keysborough College, in collaboration with the Maggie Beer Foundation, had provided its food tech

facilities to support the foundation's chef training program. Earlier in October the Maggie Beer Foundation (MBF) launched free national education and training programs for cooks and chefs in aged care homes.

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Australians most vulnerable to COVID-19 are the least vaccinated. Here's how the government's responding

ABC Online, Other, 27/11/2023, Georgia Roberts

Australia is currently riding its next big COVID-19 wave into the holiday season. And our ability to measure that wave has changed since the pandemic began. [...] "The Department of Health and Aged Care is continuing outreach to homes with the lowest COVID-19 vaccine uptake," a government spokesperson said in a statement.

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

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Tackling bushfire threats: lessons from the HEAL 2023 conference

Croakey, Other, 27/11/2023, Ruth Armstrong

Even as the HEAL 2023 conference was taking place in mid-November, the Guardian was reporting that a land area greater than that of Spain has burned in Australia's north this year. [...] A "guidance" on the health impacts of bushfire smoke from the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care is fairly dismissive of the long-term impacts, but acknowledges that there is limited information about the long-term implications of prolonged exposures.

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PBS audit digs deeper into cost

Pharma In Focus, Other, 27/11/2023

The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) has expanded its review of the effectiveness of the administration of the PBS to include the juicier subject of cost. Announcing new audit criteria late Friday afternoon, the ANAO will now determine whether the Department of Health and Aged Care has "established appropriate arrangements to manage the cost of the PBS?"

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Medicine reforms save patients \$250 million: Health Minister

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/11/2023

The past 12 months have brought a raft of changes to 60-day dispensing, the PBS, and bulk billing, but the sector is still crying out for funding. [...] New analysis from the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoH) has revealed Australians are on track to save \$250 million on their medicines in 2023, thanks to the culmination of two key reforms.

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ABC Central West NSW, 07:30 News, 27/11/2023

The Australian Dental Association is urging the Federal Government to create dental schemes for vulnerable people in a bid to reduce oral health deficiencies. According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, 30% of people delay or avoid seeing a dentist because of cost. There's currently only one subsidy scheme funded by the Federal Government, which helps children access dental services.

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CORONAVIRUS

Lab leak lessons not learned: Covid conspirator

The Australian, General News, 28/11/2023, Sharri Markson, Page 1

The US health official who conspired with Anthony Fauci to downplay suggestions that Covid-19 leaked

from a Wuhan laboratory says another pandemic could emerge from high-risk experiments in laboratories globally, saying the lessons from Covid-19 have not been learnt. The former assistant secretary for preparedness and response at the US Department of Health, Robert Kadlec, has also revealed to Sky News that he lies awake at night agonising at the chain of events he and Dr Fauci had set in motion.

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CSL had secret plan to cut pay, sack staff

The Australian, General News, 28/11/2023, Ewin Hannan, Page 1

Australia's third-biggest company, vaccine and blood products supplier CSL, devised a secret plan to shift workers on to lower pay and conditions and make them redundant if they refused to relocate to the biotech giant's new \$800m hi-tech plant in Melbourne, confidential company documents reveal. A nine-page internal strategy document, obtained by The Australian, discloses how CSL's vaccines arm, Seqirus, canvassed how to "reset the industrial landscape" by negotiating an enterprise agreement on "reduced terms" with a small group of new employees before applying the deal to workers transferring from the company's existing Parkville site to the new Banksia facility in Tullamarine.

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Low vaccination rates prompt job 'surge' plea

Canberra Times, Other, 27/11/2023, Rachael Ward

The number of Australians getting vaccinated against COVID-19, shingles and other serious diseases has dropped, prompting a plea to reset national immunisation strategies to target more high-risk groups. A Grattan Institute report exposed big gaps in vaccination rates, leading to too many people needlessly dying and suffering.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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Former Hughes MP, UAP leader Craig Kelly defends alleged Covid breach

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/11/2023, Ashleigh Tullis

Former United Australia Party leader Craig Kelly has appeared in court to defend allegations he breached Covid rules after he was vocal in opposing mandates and vaccines. Former Hughes MP and United Australia Party leader Craig Kelly will defend allegations he breached Covid rules during the height of the pandemic following his outspoken campaign against government mandates and vaccines.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Blue Cross still in Estia's sights despite buyout

The Australian, Business News, 28/11/2023, Bridget Carter, Page 16

Buying aged-care provider Blue Cross is understood to remain on Estia's to-do list despite being in the process of being privatised by Bain Capital. Blue Cross has been available for sale since 2021, but more recently the Australian-listed aged-care provider Estia is believed to be closing in on the business.

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

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Scholarships bid to close gaps in end-of-life care services

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/11/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 6

With an aging and growing population, it is projected that the demand for palliative care and end-of-life

care in Tasmania will rise substantially. To combat this, the state government is partnering with Flinders University to offer \$540,000 in scholarships to upskill Tasmanian health workers.

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Ageing population key health care challenge for NSW

Daily Liberal, Other, 27/11/2023, Maeve Bannister & Luke Costin

An ageing population, workforce pressures and increasing costs have been identified as major challenges facing the NSW health system. But despite pressures, the state's public health system has demonstrated its resilience and performance compared to interstate and international counterparts, an inquiry has been told.

[Read More](#)

Government urges FWC against further aged care wage rises for now

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/11/2023, Caroline Egan

The Government has cautioned the Fair Work Commission (FWC) against further wage rises for aged care workers, warning further rises could have a "broader impact" on wages in other sectors. The Government submission to the FWC, by Australian Government Solicitor Paul Vermeesch, states the FWC "should not award" additional wage increases sought since the original Work Value applications were submitted in August 2022, but that it "does not express a position" in relation to the increases sought in the original application.

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About one in six older Australians experiences elder abuse. Here's why they don't get help

Your Life Choices, Other, 28/11/2023

Each year, many older Australians experience abuse, neglect or financial exploitation, usually at the hands of their adult children or other close relatives. A recent national prevalence study revealed one in six older Australians living at home experiences elder abuse.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 27/11/2023, Peter Hitchener

There are calls for more aged care facilities to take advantage of a Federal Government agreement as the industry struggles to find employees. Despite an urgent need, only a handful of providers have applied to access overseas workers.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 27/11/2023, Rebecca Levingston

Interview with Tom Symondson, Chief Executive Officer, Aged and Community Care Providers Association, on aged care facilities finding it near impossible to have staff to fill their rosters. Around 70% of aged care homes say they're struggling to employ enough registered nurses to meet the Federal Government's targets for aged care. Symondson says there are not enough registered nurses to meet the demands of aged care.

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

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POPULATION HEALTH

HIV link to party drugs

Herald Sun, General News, 28/11/2023, Page 13

Frequent use of party drugs is still an indicator of HIV transmission risk among gay men in Australia, according to a decade of survey data. University of NSW researchers surveyed gay and bisexual men

periodically from 2012 to 2021, asking them about their drug use and participation in behaviours that come with HIV transmission risk, such as unprotected anal sex and large numbers of sexual partners.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Plea for older blood donors

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/11/2023, Page 3

University of Queensland researchers are working with Australian Red Cross Lifeblood to increase the number of people aged over 50 who start donating blood. Project lead Barbara Masser from UQ's School of Psychology said the focus was to recruit and retain older blood and plasma donors.

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Scientists say it is important to be heart fit at every stage of our lives

The Australian, Other, 27/11/2023, Peta Bee

If you think you're too young to worry about your heart health, think again. Millions of are living with cardiovascular heart disease an umbrella term for a range of conditions affecting the heart muscle, arteries and valves that could result in a heart attack, abnormal heart rhythms or a stroke and half of us will suffer from the condition in our lifetime.

[Read More](#)

Teenage smoking rates 'incredibly worrying': experts

Canberra Times, Other, 27/11/2023, Kat Wong

Teenagers' ardent refusal to smoke nearly killed the tobacco industry a decade ago, but experts warn young Australians may be returning to cigarettes. Smoking has become increasingly less popular since at least the 1990s, with Australia recording one of the lowest smoking rates among OECD nations.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Tobacco experts urge senators pass historic Public Health Bill

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 27/11/2023

Three of Australia's leading tobacco experts from the Public Health Association, Australian National University and Cancer Council have today urged the Senate to pass one of the most significant pieces of public health legislation in decades. The government will this week introduce the Public Health (Tobacco and other Products) Bill 2023 to the Senate.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Warnie's ultimate test

Herald Sun, General News, 28/11/2023, Peter Rolfe, Page 1

Spin king Shane Warne will leave a lifesaving legacy in the wake of his shock death from a suspected heart attack. Those closest to the cricket legend will today launch a new organisation celebrating a legendary life, ensuring his name lives on in the most meaningful way.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Agony of wait for surgery

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/11/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 14

Alex MacKenzie, 72, was diagnosed with prostate cancer in October 2022 and still does not have an

appointment for surgery to remove the cancer. And he says he faces at least another six-month wait.

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

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'Absolutely not' enough clinics in skin cancer hot spot as summer looms

Daily Liberal, Other, 27/11/2023, Sarah Falson

The Western NSW Local Health District (LHD) is among the top-five melanoma hotspots in NSW, however the places available to get your skin checked are few. [...] Cancer Council NSW says two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer by the age of 70.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 27/11/2023, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

A northern suburbs prostate cancer patient is stuck on the waiting list and doctors are confirming he'll wait twice as long as he should for surgery. SA Health admits the system is under immense pressure, revealing some appointments are even being cancelled.

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PRIMARY CARE

Jeopardy for crims

Courier Mail, General News, 28/11/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 1

Rapists, pedophiles and other sex offenders set free due to catastrophic failings at Queensland's DNA lab could be brought to justice under changes to double jeopardy laws set to be introduced in parliament this week. The legislation would bring Queensland into line with other jurisdictions.

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Saline link to deaths

Courier Mail, General News, 28/11/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 1

A bacteria-tainted saline solution widely used by hospitals nationwide has been linked to a deadly multistate outbreak affecting at least 38 people, with one death suspected in Queensland. Queensland Health has issued an urgent quarantine notice for two saline solutions produced by InterPharma.

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

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Violence on the rise at horror PCH ward

West Australian, General News, 28/11/2023, Josh Zimmerman, Page 3

There were 13 reports of violence against young patients at Perth Children's Hospital's notorious Ward 5A in the past 12 months nearly treble the previous year. That was despite a concerted focus on improving safety after the horrifying alleged rape of a 13-year-old girl in the specialist mental health unit January 2022.

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Hospital scan logjam remains

Courier Mail, General News, 28/11/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 13

Tens of thousands of scans remain unreported at one of the state's biggest hospitals despite Queensland Health committing to clearing the backlog by October. [...] Australian Medical Association Queensland president Maria Boulton called for an urgent investigation into the delays and said a focus on radiology funding and recruitment was needed.

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

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Assisted suicide means death to justice and dignity

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/11/2023, Anthony Fisher, Page 13

Today is a dark day for NSW, as the law allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide comes into effect. No doubt some will celebrate it and others bemoan it.

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

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'Cooked books' review to stay secret

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/11/2023, Gabriel Fowler, Page 3

A review into the management of surgical waitlists in the Hunter after doctors said they were being directed to fudge the figures is complete, but will not be made public. [...] The president of the NSW Australian Medical Association, Michael Bonning, said his organisation was concerned about access to non-urgent surgery both in the Hunter and across the state.

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Taxpayers slugged as ambos skip meals

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 28/11/2023, Matty Holdsworth, Page 3

Queensland paramedics are being so run off their feet they're skipping meals on shift, with taxpayers forking out nearly \$60m in meal allowances. More than 1.2 million hours in meal penalty hours were accrued in the 2022-23 financial year to June 23 at a total cost of \$58m, Health Minister Shannon Fentiman confirmed.

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Prayer tactics having way too much influence on secular state

Western Advocate, General News, 28/11/2023, Michael Dove, Page 16

Earlier this year, Australians were shocked to learn that some publicly funded Catholic hospitals were using religion as a justification to refuse services such as birth control or abortion - even to victims of rape. The revelation that a government-funded health provider could opt out of providing essential services on the basis of faith clashed with the image held by many of Australia as a broadly secular nation, where matters of religion generally play little role in public life.

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Dozens of experts demand better accessibility for lifesaving genetic testing

The Australian, Other, 27/11/2023, Joanna Panagopoulos

Australia's leading genomics experts will look at localising a UK blueprint for genetic testing to improve the country's dire access issues which have resulted from a "piecemeal" funding system, long wait lists and a limited workforce. Dozens of representatives from medicine, academia, government and advocacy will meet in Canberra on Monday to design a way forward for Australia's flawed genomic healthcare system ?

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More than 8000 WA patients to receive elective surgery

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/11/2023, Neve Brissenden

More than 8000 patients will undergo long-awaited elective surgery as the Western Australian government injects \$40 million to help clear the backlog. An extra 6000 procedures will be performed in the next six months, with the extra cash to be announced in the December mid-year financial review.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate](#)

[\(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Tasmanians with ADHD are facing costly healthcare barriers, according to Senate Inquiry report

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/11/2023, Tia Ewen

Tasmanians living with ADHD are facing significant and costly barriers when it comes to seeking access to healthcare for the condition, a recent report has found. [...] Australian Medical Association Tasmania active member and retired general practitioner, Dr Clare Smith, said there was a lot of barriers within the health system that hindered children with ADHD from accessing services.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Review underway at hospital after baby girl dies

Canberra Times, Other, 27/11/2023, Laine Clark

A clinical review is underway into the death of a newborn baby at a Queensland hospital after concerns were raised by the parents. The baby girl died just hours after being born at Redcliffe hospital north of Brisbane in September.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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Lives have been lost because of delays funding new medical tests

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 27/11/2023, Sue Dunlevy

Australia is decades behind other countries in funding new medical tests that deliver almost instant diagnoses and it's costing the health system a fortune. Tiny babies, pregnant women and cancer patients are missing out on new medical tests that could speed up their diagnosis and save the health system and economy more than \$7 billion.

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

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Scope expansion key to boosting access to care

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/11/2023

Extending pharmacists' scope of practice to include the treatment of certain skin conditions will improve access to care, Ryan Park the NSW Health Minister says. Announcing the expansion of the state's pharmacy prescribing trials to include the treatment of impetigo, shingles,

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ABC, ABC News, 27/11/2023, Jeremy Fernandez

NSW will tomorrow become the last state to allow voluntary assisted dying. Those eligible will have a shorter wait than the rest of the country and more choice over how they take life-ending drugs.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 27/11/2023, Kate Freebairn

Hospitals in Adelaide's northern suburbs are still struggling to work through a COVID-related backlog of elective surgeries. It's announced more cancellations tomorrow as the Opposition raises the case of a cancer patient who is among those whose treatment is overdue.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 27/11/2023, Natalie Forrest

The WA Government will inject millions extra into the health system to catch up on elective surgery wait

times. However, the opposition is questioning if new methods to reduce patient lists are actually working.

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Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 27/11/2023, Angela Cox

Terminally ill patients in New South Wales can apply to end their lives under new voluntary assisted dying laws.

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Channel 9, Nine News Late, 27/11/2023, Michael Genovese

here's an urgent health alert tonight with a saline product being linked to a bacteria outbreak sparking concern in hospitals nationwide. There have been 38 cases so far nationwide, some of them even linked to the deaths of patients in hospitals, including one suspected at Buderim Private Hospital here in Queensland on the Sunshine Coast.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 27/11/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

A ralstonia bacteria outbreak in hospitals has been linked to the death of an elderly woman at Buderim Private Hospital. Around 38 cases have been recorded across the country and some have been linked to deaths of patients in hospitals. It has now been sourced back to two saline products commonly used in health facilities.

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2GB, Breakfast, 27/11/2023, Ben Fordham

Interview with Alex Greenwich, Sydney MP, on voluntary assisted dying becoming legal in NSW. The person must be at least 18 years old and have lived in New South Wales for at least 12 months. Crucially, it's only for people with a medical condition or illness that is expected to cause death within 6 to 12 months. Greenwich says he is proud that NSW embraced a compassionate end-of-life care choice for people with terminal illnesses.

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6PR, Mornings, 27/11/2023, Gary Adshead

Interview with Amber-Jade Sanderson, WA Health Minister, regarding a \$40m investment to finance 6000 surgeries with the aim of further diminishing wait lists for elective surgery. Sanderson says it is not just funding to provide a sustained elective surgery surge because it is also about working as a system efficiently to make sure we're managing those lists across the system.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 27/11/2023, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Pre-recorded interview with Amber-Jade Sanderson, WA Health Minister, regarding a \$40m investment to fund 6000 surgeries in a bid to further reduce elective surgery wait lists. Sanderson says they're working to create a sustainable system to get more elective surgeries done post-COVID.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 27/11/2023, James Valentine

Voluntary assisted dying laws come into effect in NSW this week. Under the legislation, applicants must meet a strict list of requirements, including being over the age of 18. Safeguards have also been built in, including the patient being able to stop or pause the process at any moment. Voluntary assisted dying is legal in all Australian states, with NSW the latest to make the option available in limited circumstances.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Military watchdog to safeguard welfare

Courier Mail, General News, 28/11/2023, Charles Miranda, Page 11

Military chiefs and defence agencies will be held to account for the wellbeing of personnel and veterans under a proposed new "oversight body" to be created next year. The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has recommended a new agency be created after it releases its final report in June next year.

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

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Eating not always joyous

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/11/2023, Page 13

For those living with an eating disorder, food-centric holidays such as Christmas can be extremely challenging. Butterfly, the national charity dedicated to supporting Australians living with eating disorders and body image concerns, is anticipating a significant surge in contacts to its national helpline and other services.

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Mental health and wellbeing program announced to bolster disaster resilience in regions youth

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/11/2023, Catherine Piltz

A \$10 million mental health and wellbeing program including counselling and a host of activities has been launched to bolster disaster resilience for Northern Rivers youth. Play therapist Lisa Wilson, Jack the Flood Puppet, and Federal Minister for Emergency Management, Murray Watt at the launch of the government's \$10 million Resilient Kids program.

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Doctors Call for Urgent Changes to Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Laws

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 27/11/2023

A group of medical and health practitioners who support the use of Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy (PAT) in clinical practice in Australia are now urgently calling for a comprehensive review of the current rules, regulations and guidelines for the use of psychedelic medicines, which they say are not fit for purpose and are causing more problems than they solve.

[Read More](#)

Shocking PTSD rates causing mass police exodus: union

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/11/2023, Rebecca Peppiatt

The prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder in the WA police force is contributing to record numbers of officers quitting, the WA Police Union said on day one of its annual conference on Monday. President Paul Gale opened the two-day event by saying the emotional and mental toll on officers was bigger than ever before, which had led to the union partnering with the PTSD Research Foundation of WA to develop a research study which seeks to establish the prevalence of the condition in this state.

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 27/11/2023, Janice Petersen

An inquest has begun into the suicide deaths of five trans and gender-diverse young Victorians. The Coroner's Court is examining the impact of gender-affirming care, access and a lack of mental health support.

Report continues on: [SBS \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 27/11/2023, Leon Compton

Interview with Dale Webster, Deputy Secretary of Hospitals and Primary Care, Department of Health, on a new two-year trial of a mental health emergency response service in the northwest of Tasmania. Two mental health clinicians are going to work out of Burnie as part of the police, ambulance, and clinical early response team with another two clinicians located in Devonport from next year. Webster says in addition to the teams, they are also creating a mental health educator role that will be educating ambulance paramedics and police frontline in mental health response. He adds it's about keeping people in the community rather than in hospitals.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Rural health bonus creating angst

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/11/2023, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 2

An incentive scheme designed to attract more health workers to rural NSW is causing animosity among staff as nurses push for an investigation into worsening bullying and harassment. The NSW government's rural health workforce incentive scheme offers bonuses and rewards to people working in areas affected by critical staff shortages.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Quicker assessment for overseas trained nurses and midwives

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 27/11/2023, Anmj Staff

The assessment of clinical skills for overseas trained nurses and midwives aiming to join the Australian health workforce will now be speedier following the establishment of a second facility dedicated to carrying out examinations. Until now, internationally trained overseas nurses and midwives assessed as holding relevant but not equivalent qualifications had to travel to South Australia to take the Objective Structured Clinical Examinations test before they could gain registration.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 27/11/2023, Ryk Goddard

The Tas Government and Flinders University are offering \$540,000 in scholarships for Tasmanian health workers to study for a certificate in palliative care. The courses for nurses, nursing aides, personal carers, support workers and paramedics are aimed at improving palliative care across the state. Palliative Care Tasmania Chief Executive Venéy Hiller says the state needs more workers with the right skills.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Over 6,000 seen in trial

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/11/2023

Women are bypassing their GPs and going straight to pharmacists when it comes to treatment for urinary tract infections or resupply of the pill, according to the latest figures that reveal this was the case for over 6,000 women thanks to the NSW Pharmacy Trial. The number of participating pharmacists has also surged from 100 when the trial began to 900 in Sep and again to more than 1,100, representing 60% of pharmacies across the state.

[Read More](#)

GPs can now approve glucose monitors for DVA card holders

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/11/2023

Access to the technology should significantly improve quality of life for veterans with diabetes, but patients without DVA cards still face barriers. DVA card holders can now access continuous glucose monitors through their GP.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Pharmacists leading the way with stewardship tool

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/11/2023, Megan Haggan

The tool, Antimicrobial Pathways (AMPs), will be evaluated by a collaboration between the Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre (DHCRC), WA Country Health Service (WACHS), University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and health technology company Kraken Coding.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Convicted fraudster Morgan Reanna Ainsworth in court for obtaining prescription drugs

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 27/11/2023, Jorina Maureschat

A former nurse has returned to a Sunshine Coast court for her dodgy scheme to obtain prescription drugs to fuel her addiction, more than five months after being sentenced for similar offences. An ex-nurse previously convicted of fraud for impersonating doctors to get her hands on prescription drugs has returned to court six months later for similar lies.

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Mental health nurse Ronald Charles Combe banned for two years after grabbing patient's hair

The Mercury, Other, 27/11/2023, Jordanna Schriever

A mental health nurse has been banned from working for two years after grabbing a patient's hair and threatening to put her in seclusion. A mental health nurse has been banned from working for two years after grabbing a vulnerable patient by the hair and threatening to put her in seclusion.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Booze crews

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/11/2023, Fia Walsh, Page 1

Private security guards at takeaway alcohol shops will be allowed to carry capsicum spray and police

will be given more power to put people on the BDR under new measures being introduced in parliament this week. Police Minister Brent Potter said the government had worked with the hospitality sector to introduce legislation "with the right protections in place".

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

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SPORT

Time is running out for Gabba stand-in

Courier Mail, Editorials, 28/11/2023, Page 20

It is just rude that the Palaszczuk government has still not figured out a solution for both the Brisbane Lions AFL club and Queensland Cricket for the years that their home stadium of the Gabba will literally be demolished before being rebuilt as the main stadium for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics. The announcement on Friday at The Courier-Mail's Future Brisbane summit that state cabinet had signed off on the \$2.7bn project was a welcome one.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Hands up for clinical trials

Herald Sun, General News, 28/11/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 13

Victorians diagnosed with cancer are being encouraged to join clinical trials, as new research shows patients who do often have better outcomes. The new study by Cancer Council Victoria also highlights that while Victoria is a world leader in medical research, with hundreds of leading trials available, many patients are either unaware of what is available or unsure about how to access them.

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Menopausal risks to the brain

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/11/2023, Alisha Haridasani Gupta, Page 16

The 'change of life' for women now has a link to dementia, writes Alisha Haridasani Gupta. In Australia, up to 10 per cent of people over 65 are affected by Alzheimer's.

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Let them eat cake/no-brainer: A new cake improves cognitive decline

Aged Care Insite, Other, 27/11/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The University of New South Wales (UNSW), in collaboration with Meals on Wheels NSW, has developed a brain-friendly cake to help seniors with cognitive decline. Food and health expert at UNSW, Professor Johannes le Coutre, and senior principal research scientist at NeuRa, Professor Kaarin Anstey, have made a cake using ingredients that are beneficial to the brain while highlighting the issue of cognitive decline among senior Australians.

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Dr Boreham's Crucible: Can the magic acronyms 'AI' and 'FDA' see Optiscan probe new heights?

The Mercury, Other, 27/11/2023, Tim Boreham

New, non-intrusive technology is helping surgeons human and robot to sharpen their focus. Tim Boreham examines the tech, and company behind it.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 27/11/2023, Sandra Sully

Australian researchers from the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and the University of Adelaide have developed a drug that could improve the chances of survival for people with a deadly form of blood cancer. The new treatment which could delay or even prevent relapse by blocking an enzyme that fuels the growth of the cancer cells in bone marrow plasma has now passed the crucial stages of clinical trials.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

NSW inquiry hears reports of more racism, little improvement in regional and rural health care

ABC Online, Other, 27/11/2023, Hamish Cole

The New South Wales government has been accused of failing to improve health services in regional and remote areas, amid reports of increased racism against First Nations practitioners. A second inquiry is investigating the effectiveness of the state government in implementing the recommendations of a parliamentary committee from more than a year ago.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Keeping a new whooping cough outbreak at bay

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 27/11/2023, Chloe Hava

With experts expecting a whooping cough outbreak next month, pharmacists can help to protect those most at risk through promoting testing and vaccination. Australia is currently awash with respiratory symptoms.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Clean air pioneer seeks cash to expand

The Australian, Business News, 28/11/2023, Giuseppe Tauriello, Page 19

Medical device company PlasmaShield has launched a \$2.5m capital raising as it looks to take its air purification technology to the world. [...] PlasmaShield has secured a listing with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and is exploring US Food and Drug Administration approval for future commercialisation opportunities in the US.

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

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Painkiller safety alert

Courier Mail, General News, 28/11/2023, Page 11

A safety alert has been issued for a popular brand of pain relief tablets after it was discovered they were never meant to be put on pharmacy shelves. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration says the tablets were not meant to be sold directly to consumers, with the bottle free of any child-resistant packaging.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Mandatory country of origin labelling: Big change to Australian fish and chip shops

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/11/2023, Chloe Whelan

New rules are set to roll out for fish and chip shops across Australia, and you might not even notice the change. Aussies will soon know exactly where their seafood came from while dining out, after the government passed a major change to food labelling rules.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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