



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 2nd December 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a national investigation into the impacts of diabetes has revealed that a third of hospital patients in urban centres are affected by the condition, pushing the system to the brink of collapse. “The emergence of type 2 diabetes in children in Central Australia is a catastrophe,” NT Health’s Dr James Dowler, acting director of pediatrics at Alice Springs Hospital, said.
- **[The Weekend Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Queensland Deputy Premier and State Development Minister Steven Miles has ordered his department to explore alternative sites for the showcase Brisbane Arena due to concerns that the 2032 Olympics project can’t be built over a busy CBD railway hub with the federal government’s \$2.5 billion pledge. The proposed location change comes as Australian Olympics Committee former president John Coates has warned that the games would be jeopardised by the federal government’s plan to reduce cost-sharing with states on infrastructure projects from 80 to 50 per cent.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the NSW government has warned that 2000 paramedics are withholding their registrations following failed pay negotiations, risking a “collapse” of the triple-zero system on New Year’s Eve. The union is asking for a 20 per cent

pay rise for paramedics to bring them into line with their Queensland counterparts, demands which Premier Chris Minns has conceded the state cannot afford.

- **[The Saturday Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that data released by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority has revealed 13 straight quarters of growth in private health funds, as Australians poor perceptions of the public health system drive them to take out private insurance. "It [membership growth] is down to increased surgery waiting lists, but also the stories about ambulance ramping, and as a result of that, poor care in emergency departments," Rachel David, the chief executive of industry body Private Healthcare Australia, said.
- **[The Canberra Times \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Rugby Australia has announced historic changes to all levels of the sport below Super Rugby introducing a new rule reducing tackle height, in an effort to reduce the likelihood of head-to-head contact and concussions.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner has accused the Queensland state government of attempting to "extort" council after they demanded key stakeholders share the cost burden of a new \$137 million boutique Brisbane stadium. "While we may consider a small contribution, what's currently proposed is a blatant attempt to rip off ratepayers to help cover their Gabba blowout," Mayor Schrinner said.
- **[The West Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that WA Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson has raised concerns regarding the landmark Federal Court decision making it illegal for doctors to communicate with patients via telehealth regarding accessing euthanasia. Ms Sanderson said "The inability to use telehealth for VAD places an unnecessary burden on patients, families and practitioners, and has the potential to cause delays in patients being able to access VAD services in a timely way".
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 4\)](#)** reports that Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has announced that the government will invest \$14 million in a new mental health crisis centre to run alongside The Prince Charles Hospital's emergency department. "Supporting Queenslanders in mental health crisis is a top priority for the Palaszczuk government," Ms Fentiman said.

MINISTER BUTLER

Dental records

The Saturday Paper, General News, 02/12/2023, Martin McKenzie-Murray, Page 3

Despite a national shortage of dentists, the process for migrants to have their qualifications recognised here is slow and expensive and affects a significant number of refugees. [...] In response to questions about the process, the minister's office referred The Saturday Paper to the Health Department, which responded: "Overseas Trained Dentists (OTDs) who wish to practise in Australia must meet the same standards of safety and quality as Australian trained dentists .

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

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Australia vows to stop HIV by 2030

Canberra Times, General News, 02/12/2023, Page 6

Australia has vowed to end HIV transmission by the end of the decade as World AIDS Day honours the lives affected by the epidemic. A report from the nation's HIV Taskforce charts a path to ending the spread of the virus by 2030. Taskforce chair, Health Minister Mark Butler, said Australia's HIV response had been "exceptional and world leading" but significant challenges still needed to be addressed to end transmission entirely.

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

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New Funding for Cancer Nurses

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Post, General News, 01/12/2023, Claudia Butjerevic, Page 35

The Albanese Government has announced a huge investment for Tcancer nurses across Australia. [...] 'Cancer nurses are invaluable to patients who are confronting some of their toughest days,' says Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care.

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Healius cops it over withheld patient data

Aged Care Housing News, Other, 01/12/2023

Health Minister Mark Butler has slammed pathology giant Healius for withholding patient data from...

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Even the college is worried about the damage possible by uncrated results!

Australian Health Information Technology, Other, 01/12/2023, Laura Woodrow

The college is worried that providing real-time results to patients on My Health Record will prompt a barrage of concerned calls to GPs and lead to misinterpretation. [...] "If a patient gets a diagnostic scan or pathology test, then those results should be uploaded. At the moment, this happens by exception. It is not the rule. I intend to make it the rule," said Health Minister Mark Butler in May.

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Pharmacist-prescribed oral PrEP could roll out nationwide

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/12/2023, Megan Haggan

Health minister Mark Butler has announced the release of the HIV Taskforce report, which he said will inform the 9th national HIV strategy.

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Full steam ahead

australian.physio, Other, 01/12/2023, Scott Willis

As the year comes to an end, we reflect, as always, on what we have and have not achieved and look for the opportunities that may well be on the horizon in 2024. The federal government's scope of practice review, Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce, is well underway and the APA has been very active in developing our vision of our scope of practice and ensuring that the government and funders are fully aware of the difference between physiotherapy and other professions. We pushed for this review late last year in a meeting with Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler.

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World AIDS Day: HIV Taskforce charts path to ending HIV transmission by 2030

CosBeauty Magazine, Other, 01/12/2023

As we mark World AIDS Day, a report from Australia's HIV Taskforce charts a realistic path to ending HIV transmission by the end of the decade. [...] The Taskforce was led by the Health Minister, the Hon Mark Butler and the Assistant Health Minister, the Hon Ged Kearney.

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Trinite Williams: Western Australian man, 49, could be jailed and fined after cops found a vape in his car

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/12/2023, Antoinette Milienos

A man has been charged with possessing liquid nicotine despite Health Minister Mark Butler claiming smokers will not be personally targeted in the vape crackdown. Trinite Williams, 49, faced the Magistrate's Court of Western Australia on Friday and pleaded not guilty to possessing liquid nicotine, which is a controlled substance, after police found it during a search of his car on October 8. [...]

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Federal Health Minister's nine-month-old promise to blood cancer 'burnt up'

Boosting Australia's bone marrow donor registry is rather simple, as proven by Katter's Australian Party MP Bob Katter on a limited budget and a few recent initiatives he undertook. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler in response acknowledged that it was an "area of healthcare that had moved too slowly in this country."

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Here's what you need to know about Australia's vaping ban

Men's Health AU, Other, 01/12/2023, Cayle Reid

The federal government has announced the world's tightest restrictions on vapes, with a ban on their import coming into effect from January 1st, 2024. [...] It was not sold as a recreational product especially not one targeted to our kids but that is what it has become," said Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler in a statement.

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Labor's healthcare approach 'could not be more different' than Peter Dutton's approach

MSN Australia, Other, 01/12/2023

Health Minister Mark Butler says Labor's approach to health and Medicare "could not be more different" than the approach of Opposition Leader Peter Dutton. Mr Butler criticised Mr Dutton's time as minister for health.

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Equitable health care access discussed at regional roundtables

News Of The Area, Other, 01/12/2023

Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health Dr Anne Webster took a three-day tour of the Mid North Coast last week, attending round table forums and visiting local health and aged care providers and educators. [...] "The levers we have to spread doctors and health workers around the country are from a very different time, before the COVID pandemic and the global health workforce crunch," Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said.

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Calls for removal of laws that criminalise HIV on World AIDS Day

OUTinPerth, Other, 01/12/2023, Graeme Watson

Perth's World AIDS Day breakfast hosted by WAAC has heard calls to end the criminalisation of HIV, make treatments more accessible to everyone, and a renewed effort to combat stigma and discrimination. [...] Senator Pratt said the federal government's new strategy for ensuring the elimination of community transmission of HIV that was launched yesterday by Health Minister Mark Butler calls on the states to undertake the required law reform.

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Healius under pressure over share slump, My Health Record upload refusal

Pulse+IT, Other, 01/12/2023, Kate McDonald

ASX-listed pathology and diagnostic imaging provider Healius has been accused by Health Minister Mark Butler of refusing to upload reports to the My Health Record system in what is understood to be a long-standing wrangle over subsidies for IT work and the ongoing freeze on Medicare indexation for pathology.

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NSW signs pledge to end HIV epidemic by 2030

Q News, Other, 01/12/2023, Jordan Hirst

NSW has signed on to a global pledge to end the HIV epidemic by 2030, following other Aussie states including Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia as well as hundreds of cities

worldwide. [...] ACON has welcomed a new report by the federal government's HIV Taskforce that federal Health Minister Mark Butler released this week for World AIDS Day.

[Read More](#)

Renewing Australia's efforts to end the HIV epidemic

Sydney Star Observer, Other, 01/12/2023, Mark Butler

It's hard to put into words the sense of terror in the early years of the HIV epidemic. There was awful stigma, and the loss of life was devastating – with almost 10,000 Australian lives cut short over the past four decades.

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What are the new rules for vapes?

thedailyaus.com.au, Other, 01/12/2023

Earlier in the year, Health Minister Mark Butler announced sweeping measures to crack down on the use of vapes in Australia. Several of these measures centred around vaping and school students, with growing concern around what's been described as a new generation of nicotine addicts'.

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Sky News Live, Newsday, 01/12/2023, Tom Connell and Ashleigh Gillon

Interview with Tim Fitzgerald, Deputy Commissioner of National Operations, ABF. Fitzgerald discusses the news that all single-use vapes will be banned from being imported into Australia beginning January 2024, with Health Minister Mark Butler labelling the devices as public health menace.

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MINISTER WELLS

Troubled outlook for aged care reforms

Aged Health, Other, 01/12/2023

Ideagen has revealed a significant level of doubt among aged care providers when it comes to implementation of the federal government's aged care reforms. [...] Earlier this year, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells conceded the government would fail to meet its policy commitments.

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Aged care providers granted billions to help support worker wage increase

HelloCare, Other, 01/12/2023, Bianca Iovino

The Federal Government is increasing the Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) price from today to support residential aged care providers to fund the Fair Work Commission's (FWC) Annual Wage Review decision, which increases the award wage for aged care staff by 5.75%. [...] "This money is in addition to the \$11.3 billion to fund the biggest ever wage increase for aged care workers of 15%," said Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

[Read More](#)

Govt allocates \$2B to boost aged care wages and support providers

Inside Ageing, Other, 01/12/2023, Sean McKeown

In a significant move to prioritise the welfare of aged care staff, the Albanese Government has announced a substantial investment, allocating \$2.194 billion to raise the Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) price to \$253.82, effective from today, December 1, 2023. [...] In a statement, Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, expressed the government's unwavering commitment to the aged care sector, emphasising the \$2 billion investment as a testament to prioritising the welfare of the care workforce.

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Netball Faces \$18 Million Funding Blow Amid Pay Dispute

ministryofsport.com, Other, 01/12/2023, Hayden Campbell

Netball Australia has been dealt a significant setback once again, as the federal government withdraws nearly \$18 million in funding following the rejection of a crucial proposal by the Australian Sports Commission. [...] Sport Minister Anika Wells confirmed that the allocated funds for netball would no longer be earmarked for the sport but redirected to a general pool for women's sports.

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Early Christmas present for residential aged care providers: increase in AN-ACC price to deliver an additional \$2B in funding from today

The Weekly Source, Other, 01/12/2023, Lauren Broomham

Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells has made her second surprise announcement in less than a week, revealing the Government will increase the Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) price to \$253.82 from 1 December 2023 – a 4.4% increase on the previous AN-ACC price of \$243.10. The move follows the Minister's announcement on Wednesday that the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) will not join the new Support at Home Program until mid-2027.

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Sylvia Jeffrey's 'desperate' plea for Australia's professional netballers: 'What hope do they have?'

WEB HoneyNine, Other, 01/12/2023, Sylvia Jeffreys

Australia's professional netball players had a great deal to celebrate on the weekend after a hugely successful year on the domestic and international stage. [...] The funds are available through a competitive tender process and according to a statement from the office of Sports Minister, Anika Wells, the business position put forward by NA was not "sufficiently robust", nor did it convince her that the investment would produce "positive outcomes".

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Netball Australia stripped of \$18million in funding amid ugly pay dispute

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/12/2023, Ben Talintyre

The federal government have cut funding for the sport after a key proposal was deemed unsatisfactory. [...] Minister for Sport Anika Wells confirmed the funds would no longer go exclusively to netball and instead would be put into a pool for women's sport in general.

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4BC, Drive, 01/12/2023, Peter Gleeson

Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has confirmed a boost to the Australian National Aged Care Classification. It's a \$2.194 billion plan to allow residential aged care providers to give staff pay rises of 5.75% paid back to July 1st. The Federal Government has also confirmed \$21.5m to be allocated to having registered nurses on site at facilities.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

World AIDS Day: HIV Taskforce charts path to ending HIV transmission by 2030

CosBeauty Magazine, Other, 01/12/2023

As we mark World AIDS Day, a report from Australia's HIV Taskforce charts a realistic path to ending HIV transmission by the end of the decade. [...] The Taskforce was led by the Health Minister, the Hon Mark Butler and the Assistant Health Minister, the Hon Ged Kearney.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Dental records

The Saturday Paper, General News, 02/12/2023, Martin McKenzie-Murray, Page 3

Despite a national shortage of dentists, the process for migrants to have their qualifications recognised here is slow and expensive and affects a significant number of refugees. [...] In response to questions about the process, the minister's office referred The Saturday Paper to the Health Department, which responded: "Overseas Trained Dentists (OTDs) who wish to practise in Australia must meet the same standards of safety and quality as Australian trained dentists .

Also reported by: [The Saturday Paper \(Online\)](#)

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Accused banned from pharmacy, airport

Weekend Australian, Business News, 02/12/2023, Cameron England, Page 29

The Instagram account of Supercars Club Australia which helped document the high life of pharmacist Ben Huynh, who has been accused of fraud, and his wife has been turned off, as Mr Huynh's bail conditions come to light. [...] The Health Department is refusing to say how much Mr Huynh is accused of defrauding the Commonwealth of.

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

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Is there a link between hearing loss and dementia?

Hills District Independent, General News, 01/12/2023, Sandra Razzaghipour, Page 23

According to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care about 3.6 million Australians have some level of hearing loss. As with other areas of the human body, we also experience wear and tear in our inner ear, the cochlea, which may cause an age-related hearing loss.

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Aged care inspector opens up

Local Ipswich News, General News, 30/11/2023, Page 21

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

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Eliminating HIV transmission is close, but we're not there yet

360info, Other, 01/12/2023, Chris Bartlett

Australia is getting close to eliminating HIV transmission, but inequities in the delivery and uptake of prevention and treatment strategies remain. [...] The Kirby Institute receives funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Even the college is worried about the damage possible by uncrated results!

Australian Health Information Technology, Other, 01/12/2023, Laura Woodrow

The college is worried that providing real-time results to patients on My Health Record will prompt a barrage of concerned calls to GPs and lead to misinterpretation. [...] "If a patient gets a diagnostic scan or pathology test, then those results should be uploaded. At the moment, this happens by exception. It is not the rule. I intend to make it the rule," said Health Minister Mark Butler in May.

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Aged care funding: a year in review

australian.physio, Other, 01/12/2023

The Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) (Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care 2023a) was introduced by the federal government in October 2022 as part of a plan to reform and improve aged care services for older Australians.

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System in decay: inquiry seeks action on dental care

HealthTimes, Other, 01/12/2023

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

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Federal Health Minister's nine-month-old promise to blood cancer 'burnt up'

kap.org.au, Other, 01/12/2023

Boosting Australia's bone marrow donor registry is rather simple, as proven by Katter's Australian Party MP Bob Katter on a limited budget and a few recent initiatives he undertook. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler in response acknowledged that it was an "area of healthcare that had moved too slowly in this country."

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'Please just stop': Dr Norman Swan accused of 'scaremongering' with Covid Christmas advice

NEWS.com.au, Other, 01/12/2023, Frank Chung

Dr Norman Swan has been told to "just please stop", after the ABC's health expert advised Aussies to mask up at Christmas amid a new Covid wave. [...] Federal Health Department figures indicate a sharp rise in vaccinations in recent weeks, suggesting Australians are concerned about Covid in the lead-up to Christmas.

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

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Govt to release digital health blueprint to outline vision for connected health

Pulse+IT, Other, 01/12/2023, Kate McDonald

The Australian government will shortly release a digital health blueprint that will outline the Commonwealth's vision for more personalised and connected healthcare, along with an action plan tied to the investments it has made in modernising the health system, including the billion dollar funding in the May budget. Department of Health and Aged Care digital...

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A Kid Called Troy at 30: this beautiful Aussie film was one of the most important HIV/AIDS documentaries ever produced

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/12/2023

Since 1988, World AIDS Day has been held each year on December 1. This World AIDS Day, we're reflecting on one of the most important HIV/AIDS documentaries ever produced: A Kid Called Troy, released in Australia 30 years ago. [...] Amy Mullens consults for Queensland Positive People and Mind Evolution Centre. Amy Mullens has received external funding to conduct HIV-related research from Australian Government Department of Health: Activities to Support the National Response to Blood Borne Viruses (BBV) and Sexually Transmissible Infections (STI); Gilead Sciences, Inc; HIV Foundation Queensland; and the Sexual Health Research Fund (an initiative of the Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee, funded by Queensland Health; administered by ASHM).

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CORONAVIRUS

Masks return to NSW hospitals

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/12/2023, Linda Silmalis, Page 26

Rising cases of Covid in the community has prompted some hospitals in NSW to request visitors to wear masks in wards. The latest NSW Health report for the first two weeks of November declared Covid-19 was at "moderate to high" levels and continuing to increase.

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

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New report shows COVID on the rise in our region again

Daily Liberal, General News, 02/12/2023, Orlander Ruming, Page 3

Covid-19 is on the rise in our region. The latest NSW Respiratory Surveillance Report shows there's been a 20 per cent increase in the number of people known to have COVID in NSW.

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Face masks required again at hospitals

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 02/12/2023, Nadine Morton, Page 3

Face masks are now required if you're visiting hospitals and health facilities in the Illawarra as COVID-19 cases surge. COVID-19 activity increased across all indicators in the past fortnight, with case numbers, hospital figures and sewerage monitoring results rising, data from NSW Health shows.

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

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Has Australia's eighth COVID-19 wave peaked? Here's the latest from each state and territory

ABC Online, Other, 01/12/2023, Dannielle Maguire

Have you been hearing a lot about COVID-19 in recent weeks but haven't had time to catch up? In a nutshell, Australia has been experiencing an eighth wave of the virus as case numbers increased.

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Another COVID summer for Victoria and Australia looms. Here's what it might look like

For the third summer in a row, Australia is facing a wave of COVID-19 which is seeing more people contracting the virus in the lead-up to Christmas. After years of lockdowns and medical advancements, most people are now living the "COVID-normal" life afforded by high vaccination coverage and an endemic virus.

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Vic's alarming long Covid cases, as fears rise over global spread of child 'walking pneumonia'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 01/12/2023, Mandy Squires

Victorians have reason to worry about China's child "walking pneumonia" outbreak, that has sparked warnings in nations like India, Thailand and the Philippines. There are also growing cases in Europe.

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

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COVID is on the rise in our area. Here's what to do if you catch it

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 01/12/2023, Orlander Ruming

The latest NSW Respiratory Surveillance Report shows there's been a 20 per cent increase in the number of people known to have COVID in NSW. It's also increasing across the Western NSW Local Health District "in line with trends observed across the state", a spokesperson said.

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COVID-19 is spreading in the Northern Territory. Aboriginal health services say the Top End is unprepared

SBS, Other, 01/12/2023, Dan Butler

As the country experiences another wave of infections, the collaboration between health services which marked the disease's first years is now absent. The Top End's peak Aboriginal health body has warned that the region is dangerously under-prepared for the wave of COVID-19 infections currently sweeping the continent.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Mystery white knight helps Creswick Health reach goal

Ballarat Courier, General News, 02/12/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 12

A campaign to raise \$150,000 to upgrade Creswick Health's sub-acute and aged care has reached its goal after an anonymous donor chipped in \$20,000. The community appeal had raised just over \$130,000 at its close on October 31, but a white knight appeared in recent weeks with \$20,000 that will ensure a cost blowout in the much-needed upgrade to the historic health service is fully covered.

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New aged care facility

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 02/12/2023, Page 1

A new \$23.5 million residential aged care facility in Mildura is expected to be open by the middle of 2026. Princes Court Limited said the centre, to be built at the end of Princes Street adjacent to existing buildings, would increase its capacity to deliver residential aged care.

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Foreign Investment Review Board approves Bain Capital's takeover of Estia Health

One of the world's largest private investment firms, with approximately \$180 billion of assets under management, has been given approval to take over one of only two ASX-listed residential aged care operators. Bain Capital first launched its takeover bid for Estia Health in March this year, offering \$3 per share.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Helping to make organ donations a living reality

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 02/12/2023, Sue White, Page 6

8am: The job starts after DonateLife receives a notification from an ICU about a patient who is unfortunately at end-of-life care. At that point, we check the organ donor registry to see if they are registered. It's the only time we can check; when someone has asked us to. We are also the only people allowed to check that register.

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

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Charlie's gift helps dad with one month to live

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/12/2023, Emily Olle, Page 5

Charlie Stevens' kidney is helping to save the life of a South Australian father who had been given just one month to live. The Advertiser understands the 42-year-old man who received Charlie's kidney was on dialysis and facing a grim prognosis but now has a new kidney and another chance at life.

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Spring into surf safety

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/12/2023, Tia Ewen, Page 1

With scorching temperatures, heatwaves and bushfires expected across Tasmania this summer, authorities have issued an urgent health warning to the public. The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council and the Bureau of Meteorology's summer outlook show Tasmania is forecast to have an increased risk of extreme heat, heatwaves and bushfires this summer.

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To be, or not to be

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2023, Cathy O'Leary, Page 24

While genetic carrier tests for couples planning a family can be reassuring, they can present unexpected moral and ethical dilemmas for them and their doctors. With one in 20 Australians believed to be carriers of the three most common genetic conditions, a recent move to offer Medicare-funded screening is expected to be taken up by many would-be parents.

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A new initiative to prevent childhood bone disease in WA

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2023, Prof Richard, Page 43

Arthritis Osteoporosis WA is working with Edith Cowan University to develop immersive digital educational resources for teachers and students to increase their understanding of bone and joint disease, to strengthen knowledge about the musculoskeletal system and support learning and behavior change to optimise bone health and prevent disease.

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Age-Related fertility decline: counselling & management

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2023, Dr Rose McDonnell, Page 49

Clinical update By Dr Rose McDonnell, Fertility Specialist and Gynaecologist, Claremont

Holistic Pelvic Care provides pain relief for some women, but doctors say it's not for everyone

ABC Online, Other, 01/12/2023

Kristy Urquhart is starting to discover "what normal feels like" after more than two decades of debilitating pelvic pain. In the 22 years since her first laparoscopy at 18, doctors have been looking for the cause of her pain.

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Western Public Health Unit finds vape stores surround suburban schools in Melbourne's west

ABC Online, Other, 01/12/2023, Rosa Ritchie and Rafael Epstein

A new study examining how easily children can illegally access vapes in Melbourne's west has found vape stores less than 200 metres from schools and retailers selling e-cigarettes for as little as \$10. The field report from Western Public Health Unit (WPHU) focuses on Brimbank, one of Victoria's most culturally diverse municipalities.

[Read More](#)

'Say no to gas': WA doctors rally at Parliament House

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 01/12/2023, Aaron Bunch

More than 50 doctors and other health professionals have rallied outside West Australia's parliament, urging the Cook government to do more to combat climate change. General practitioners, emergency doctors and surgeons were among those calling for fossil fuels to be phased out to protect the community from the negative effects of global warming. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report identified 267 hospitalisations from extreme heat and 42 due to bushfires in WA in the two years to June 2022.

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

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Improving the lives of PCOS sufferers

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 01/12/2023

Polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) is a common hormonal condition that affects one in 10 women of reproductive age 1, and up to 13 per cent of all women 2, yet it's also considered a "neglected condition". 2 Being a hormonal condition, PCOS affects many parts of the reproductive system and can cause disruption to a woman's "menstrual cycle, skin and hair, as well as causing cysts to develop on the ovaries".

[Read More](#)

Perth heatwave leaves hospitals overwhelmed with injuries

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 01/12/2023

Doctors in Western Australia are calling on the government to take urgent climate action, as hospital admissions increase during extreme weather events. A hospital in Perth saw a 60 per cent rise in emergency patients during last week's heatwave.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 01/12/2023, Laura Jayes

Report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has found there were more than 7000 hospital admissions and 293 deaths related to extreme heat in the last ten years.

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The diabetes disaster

Weekend Australian, General News, 02/12/2023, Natasha Robinson and Liam Mendes, Page 1

The national diabetes epidemic is pushing hospitals to the brink of collapse, with up to a third of patients in urban centres affected by the condition and kidney dialysis clinics at absolute capacity in Central Australia, where four out of 10 Aboriginal people have the chronic disease. [...] "Unless we take urgent action, the impacts of type 2 diabetes, including debilitating and costly complications, will overwhelm our health system, said Diabetes Australia Group CEO Justine Cain.

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

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

Human catastrophe in slow motion

Weekend Australian, General News, 02/12/2023, Natasha Robinson and Liam Mendes, Page 1

The click and whirr of almost 40 white machines ranged in rows, filtering and cleansing toxic blood, is the only sound that punctuates the silence within the sterile Flynn Drive renal dialysis unit in Alice Springs. Most of the patients here lie dozing in chairs under white sheets, large needles inserted into fistulas in their forearms, a surgically created connection between a vein and an artery that pumps blood through a dialysis machine.

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

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

We are funding a sick care system, not a health care system

Weekend Australian, General News, 02/12/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 6

The diabetes epidemic is a national disaster in plain sight. As the frontline medics who abandoned their ordinary tendency for clinical detachment told us in Alice Springs, Penrith, Campbelltown and Heidelberg, the extraordinary prevalence and high rate of complications wrought by the type 2 diabetes epidemic is pushing hospitals to the brink.

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

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

Diabetes surge needs major public health initiatives

Weekend Australian, Editorials, 02/12/2023, Page 14

The statistics and the suffering they represent are alarming. Lifestyle-related type 2 diabetes is harming increasing numbers of Australians, especially but far from exclusively Indigenous people and young people. [...] In practice, Diabetes Australia says up to four million people 15 per cent of the population are living with or at risk of the disease.

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

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

Ravages of silent epidemic

Weekend Australian, General News, 02/12/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 19

It has been three years since Eric Fanene, 47, lost his right leg, but still he turns up every day to World Gym in Penrith, on Sydney's outer western fringe. Even when diabetes was ravaging his body, the disability worker battled on, ignoring the signs, still lifting weights. [...] "Unless we take urgent action, the impacts of type 2 diabetes, including debilitating and costly complications, will overwhelm our health system," Diabetes Australia chief executive Justine Cain says.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Even dentists are joining the RBA rates pile-on

There seems to be a pile-on developing against the Reserve Bank of Australia over interest rates and inflation. An outrage industry has emerged in a society where everyone wants to take offence.

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

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

NDIS overhaul must include autism rethink

Weekend Australian, General News, 02/12/2023, Angela Shanahan, Page 15

Here is a statistic that should make anyone sit up and take notice. Twelve per cent of all boys aged five to seven across Australia are now on the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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

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

Private health insurance membership on the rise

The Saturday Age, General News, 02/12/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos and Colin Kruger, Page 1

Australians' poor perceptions of the public health system and surgery waiting lists are driving them to take out private health insurance in growing numbers despite cost-of-living pressures. Private health funds say they have been surprised by the latest data, which reveals 13 straight quarters of membership growth, even as rising interest rates strain household budgets.

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

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

'Yvonne's dream' on way to being achieved

Canberra Times, General News, 02/12/2023, Megan Doherty, Page 23

It's been a long time in the making but a respite care facility for Queanbeyan is one step closer to reality, helping to realise the dream of a passionate community campaigner, the late Yvonne Cuschieri. The first sod was turned yesterday on the facility, named Yvonne Cuschieri House, with construction due to start early next year and the building opened by late 2024 or early 2025.

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

Son is not safe without carers

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes - 3rd Edition, 02/12/2023, Lauren Novak, Page 6

A desperate mother is preparing to "camp out" in the emergency department with her son after his National Disability Insurance Scheme funding ran out and she fears it is not safe to stay home if she cannot pay his around-the-clock carers. Riverland teenager Chad has severe and complex health conditions, including autism and mental illness, and suffers daily hallucinations and violent outbursts.

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

VAD laws confusion

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 02/12/2023, Josh Zimmerman, Page 1

Serious questions hang over the legality of aspects of WA's voluntary assisted dying regime after a landmark Federal Court decision that made it clear doctors can be charged for communicating with patients via telehealth or over the phone about the euthanasia process. Commonwealth laws enacted in the 1990s forbid using a carriage service to "counsel or incite" suicide or to "promote" suicide methods.

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

Urgent care clinic at risk

Launceston Examiner, General News, 02/12/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 1

The Launceston clinic is currently funded to see 40 patients a day from 2pm until 8pm but exceeds that cap every day. Australian Medical Association Northern chairman Glenn Richardson said the clinic could become financially unviable.

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

Appeal has laser focus to heal burns

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 02/12/2023, Natasha Emeck, Page 3

This holiday season, Brighter Lives is on a mission to bring hope and healing to North Queensland kids who have suffered serious burns. The charity is raising funds for a cutting-edge dual-wavelength laser, valued at \$173,000, to be stationed at the Townsville University Hospital.

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

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

Yes, we can make mistakes but this was not one of them

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 02/12/2023, Ron Calvert, Page 81

Gold Coast Health staff providing emergency services at our public hospitals are doing a tremendous job, despite significant pressure. With Covid cases on the rise and a rapidly growing Gold Coast population, this pressure is not going to ease any time soon.

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

GPs - more patients than ever

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 4

General practice remains the cost-effective engine of the health system, but more needs to be done to improve sustainability, the recent 2023 Health of the Nation report found. The seventh edition of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioner's report focused on attraction and retention of the general practice workforce, drawing on reflections and experiences of GPs and GPs-in-training via the nationwide RACGP Health of the Nation survey.

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

Growing pains

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 4

St John of God Subiaco Hospital is expanding its pain management service to meet growing patient demand, with a doubling of the number of interventional pain procedures currently performed. The expansion has been helped by a capital upgrade of an operating theatre in the hospital's short stay unit, which was recently re-opened following a period of works.

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

Family ties tackle ADHD shortfall

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2023, Cathy O'Leary, Page 14

A psychologist and a general practitioner who happen to be mother and daughter have teamed up to find a new way to help children with ADHD who face long waiting times for specialist care. [...]

Madalena works with the RACGP's specific interests ADHD, autism spectrum disorder and neurodiversity group, and has been involved in upskilling GP colleagues.

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

GPs backed for a greater ADHD role

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2023, Eric Martin, Page 18

The Senate inquiry into the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD has again put the spotlight on the role of GPs in helping people access care. The Senate inquiry into attention deficit hyperactivity disorder has found what many GPs and patients have discovered the hard way that there is a stark lack of services, and those that are available are invariably costly. The RACGP has welcomed recommendations in the inquiry's report for GPs to have a greater role in the diagnosis and management of ADHD, which affects over one million Australians.

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

A NeuroHub for WA a step closer

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2023, Eric Martin, Page 30

People with a range of neurological conditions can start looking forward to an online community that

will have information and services at their fingertips. More than 15 neurological organisations have united to help improve the health and research landscape for multiple conditions.

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

Calls to ensure voluntary assisted dying access for rural and regional Australians after Federal Court ruling

ABC Online, Other, 01/12/2023, Elise Kinsella

State leaders are calling for the federal government to amend Commonwealth laws and allow telehealth consultations for patients seeking access to voluntary assisted dying services, saying it is essential for rural and regional Australians. [...] The AMA has renewed its calls for the federal government to amend the Commonwealth Crimes Act to allow for these telehealth services.

[Read More](#)

Midwives could prescribe medical abortion pills to Queensland patients if new laws are adopted

ABC Online, Other, 01/12/2023, Janelle Miles

Nurses and midwives will be able to prescribe and dispense medical abortion drugs to women in Queensland, if a bill introduced to state parliament is passed. [...] Wendy Burton, former chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' antenatal/postnatal specific interest group, welcomed steps to improve women's access to termination services, "regardless of where they live and their socio-economic status".

[Read More](#)

Autistic Australians struggle to access routine healthcare. Medical workers' lack of training could be to blame

ABC Online, Other, 01/12/2023, Sam Nichols

Chantel Le Cross remembers the first time they felt heard in an emergency room. It was only two months ago. [...] Queensland GP Melita Cullen is a member of the RACGP's specific interests group on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and neurodiversity.

[Read More](#)

'The loop of lunacy keeps playing in my mind': Hospice interview with a dying general (practitioner)

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/12/2023, Pam Rachootin

The following story is based on an interview with a dying "General", admitted to hospice. [...] Other words that were deemed off-limits included accreditation, authority scripts, bulk-billing, care plans, changes to telehealth bulk-billing requirements, item numbers, pharmacist diagnosis/prescribing, templates, vexatious and/or anonymous complaints, and certain acronyms, including AHPRA, AMA, CPD, MBS, PSR and RACGP.

[Read More](#)

Euthanasia doctors forced to charge terminally ill patients fees for access to VAD

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/12/2023, Carmel Sparke

Some doctors have begun charging fees for voluntary assisted dying care, raising concerns the cost could become prohibitive for "vulnerable" patients. It is taking at least eight hours to complete the consultations and the paperwork needed to help deliver an assisted death in the state, says the Voluntary Assisted Dying Board of WA.

[Read More](#)

Change Criminal Code: hospital pharmacists

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/12/2023

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is backing a proposed bill that would enable VAD-credentialed pharmacists to support patients and other care providers using telehealth services.

[Read More](#)

Revitalising rural healthcare

Barrier Truth, Other, 01/12/2023, Stuart Kavanagh

The State Government has been urged to adopt a new approach to health service delivery in remote New South Wales. This call for change comes from Richard Weston, Chief Executive Officer of Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation, who addressed the Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding in NSW this week.

[Read More](#)

Regional NSW residents struggle to access voluntary assisted dying

Canberra Times, Other, 01/12/2023, Dan Holmes and Anna Houlahan

Voluntary assisted dying has become available in NSW but some residents may struggle to access the service. The new laws, which came into force on November 28, mean patients expected to die within six months could ask for medical assistance to end their lives.

Widely syndicated across regional publications

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'Deeply concerning': Alarm over court's voluntary assisted dying ruling

In Daily, Other, 01/12/2023, Thomas Kelsall

The state government says a Federal Court ruling that effectively criminalises doctors' telehealth consultations about voluntary assisted dying must be urgently addressed amid concerns about its impact on terminally ill patients seeking VAD services in regional South Australia. [...] "The law really hampers VAD at the moment and all of the states and certainly the AMA would like this legislation changed to fall in line with what the states have done in putting in place VAD," he said.

[Read More](#)

Qld's new ownership bill

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/12/2023

The Queensland Government has introduced a Bill for a contemporary Pharmacy Business Ownership Act in Parliament (PD Breaking News yesterday). The Pharmacy Guild of Australia branch President Chris Owen (pictured) said the legislation has been the culmination of many years of legislative consultation with its members and stakeholders.

[Read More](#)

'You fool!' Fiery Qld parliament row erupts over claims Gold Coast Hospital patients forced to urinate in bottles

The Courier Mail, Other, 01/12/2023, Blake Antrobus

Queensland's state parliament descended into farcical scenes after claims were aired that patients at a major hospital were forced to urinate in bottles due to staffing issues. Queensland Health has announced a five-point initial plan to ease ambulance ramping across the state.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 01/12/2023, Peter Mitchell

Independent MP Kate Chaney will introduce a private member's bill to help doctors. PM Anthony Albanese has expressed his view on telehealth consultations for euthanasia patients, admitting it is not something he supports.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Sorry you feel that way

We deplore it in others but love to indulge ourselves passive aggression is a defining symptom of the modern world...

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The case against mandatory detention

The Saturday Paper, General News, 02/12/2023, Madeline Gleeson, Page 7

In November, the High Court ruled the government could not indefinitely detain a non-citizen if there was no real prospect of removal from Australia becoming practicable in the reasonably foreseeable future. The court's full reasons, delivered this week, are grounded in what should be relatively uncontroversial propositions.

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

Hunt for answers on tragic deaths

The Saturday Age, General News, 02/12/2023, Bianca Hall, Page 19

In the three years since her sister Bridget Flack died, one thought has haunted Angela Pucci Love: What if Bridget could have been found earlier? Flack, 28, had been missing for 11 days when her body was found by community members in bushland at Willsmere-Chandler Park, in East Kew.

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

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

Saving lives is Logan's legacy

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/12/2023, Travis Meyn, Page 1

Devastated NRL star Kieran Foran and wife Karina have made a heartfelt plea to tackle Australia's suicide crisis following the tragic death of aspiring professional surfer Logan Steinwede. The Forans have been left shattered following the sudden death of Logan Karina's son and Kieran's stepson last month, aged 20.

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We need to talk

Daily Telegraph, Weekend, 02/12/2023, Michael Mcguire and Matt Deighton, Page 12

Life can feel overwhelming to middle-aged men. Death and suicide rates are higher than for other age groups.

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

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

Women's care in focus

Herald Sun, General News, 02/12/2023, Page 9

Australia's first dedicated women's mental health service has opened in Victoria. The \$100m Women's Recovery Network will provide care for about 750 Victorian women each year who are battling a range of mental health difficulties, including eating disorders, perinatal mental health concerns, mood disorders and psychotic disorders, as well as for women who have experienced trauma and sexual abuse.

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

Filling crisis care gaps

Courier Mail, General News, 02/12/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 4

The Queensland government is investing \$14m in a new mental health crisis centre to run side by side with The Prince Charles Hospital's emergency department. As rising numbers of Queenslanders seek help for problems related to mental health at the state's EDs, Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has announced that the new hub in Brisbane's north will help fill potential gaps in emergency mental health care.

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

Two sons both lost to autism

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 02/12/2023, Bethany Hiatt, Page 1

A mother is enduring the heartache of losing two autistic sons to suicide in the space of seven months. But in the depths of her devastation, Michelle wants to help others.

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

More must be done to solve autism mental health crisis

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Editorials, 02/12/2023, Page 148

Losing a child is a grief no parent should have to endure. Losing two in the space of seven months is an agony that is unimaginable to comprehend. That's the reality for Bunbury mum Michelle. Her eldest son Xavier was 21 when he died by suicide in October.

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

Money woes hit men hard

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 02/12/2023, Page 20

Mental health Rates of suicide among men rise when countries face economic woes, according to UK researchers who say governments need to fund health services to support people during recessions and economic crises.

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

There are better ways for boys to become men

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 02/12/2023, Káti Gapailard, Page 37

As a woman observing the evolving landscape of gender roles, I'm increasingly aware of the complex challenges faced by men in today's society. There is no doubt that men hold a disproportionate representation in media, politics, leadership roles and other influential positions within our society and we need more gender balance, however, they also account for a staggering 75 per cent of all suicides in Australia, with the rate of male suicide rising by 13 per cent over the past decade.

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

A new approach to mental health principles

Law Institute Journal, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 28

Mental health principles failed to be embedded into clinical practice and use of compulsory treatment was not reduced under the Mental Health Act 2014. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022 adopts a new approach for the promotion of human rights in mental health decision making.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Anti-vax nurse slams health act

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 01/12/2023, Chloe Grimshaw, Page 14

A Sunshine Coast nurse who lost her job due to her outspoken views on the Covid-19 vaccination had a win in court, with a tribunal recommending she be re-employed as soon as possible. [...] However, The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia found Ms Trakosas was "unsatisfactory" in her job due to her beliefs about the government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and she was stood down in November 2021.

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Pay spat to silence triple 0 on NYE

Sydney Morning Herald, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 02/12/2023, Laura Banks, Page 1

NSW's triple-zero system will "collapse" on New Year's Eve, the state government has warned, with almost 2000 paramedics withholding their registrations after failed pay negotiations, and Premier Chris Minns conceding the state does not have the money to fund the demands. The Health Services Union met Health Minister Ryan Park and Industrial Relations Minister Sophie Cotsis yesterday morning in a bid to stop the industrial action that has resulted in 1959 paramedics refusing to re-register with the professional regulator.

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

Pressure to act on ambo shortage

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/12/2023, Simon McGuire, Page 6

The Opposition says the state government "urgently needs to address the paramedic shortage across the North-West Coast" after shifts were left unfilled. Labor health spokeswoman Anita Dow said that on Wednesday, 14 paramedic shifts were vacant in the North-West.

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NSW Premier Chris Minns, Health Minister Ryan Park says paramedic action will "cripple triple-0"

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

The NSW government has issued a dire warning as more than 2000 paramedics have pledged to not renew their registration, leaving them unable to perform several medical procedures from January 1. Tense and protracted wage negotiations between the Health Services Union (HSU) failed to reach an agreement on Friday, less than a month before the December 31 deadline.

Similar coverage reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

More people to get cancer drug

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/12/2023, Andrew Koubaridis, Page 11

Cancer wonder drug Keytruda will be made available to a wider group of patients under a world-leading agreement giving hope to thousands of Australian's with rare cancers. [...] Keytruda is on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for 12 cancer types.

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

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PBAC backs early supply rule change

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/12/2023, Heidi Merrin

Changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Safety Net early supply rule come into effect today (1 December) for repeat supplies of 60-day prescriptions. A new 50-day rule has been implemented following a recommendation by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC).

[Read More](#)

Call for free meds

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/12/2023

On World Aids Day, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia is urging all govts to do what they can to end the

transmission of HIV by 2030. Pharmacy Guild National President Trent Twomey said barriers must be reduced to accessing and paying for medicines which will lead to the elimination of HIV.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Channel 9, Today, 01/12/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen and Brooke Boney

New October data has revealed patients are paying the highest gap fees for medical services since the inception of Medicare.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Hospital horror

Northern Territory News, General News, 02/12/2023, Jason Walls, Page 1

A prominent NT barrister says he was sent home from Royal Darwin Hospital with painkillers and a prescription for gastritis, but on gut instinct flew to Sydney for a second opinion where he was rushed into emergency surgery. He says if he had not taken matters into his own hands he would probably be dead.

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Life or death

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 02/12/2023, Page 62

In a week in which we have observed parliament descend into chaos over a Bundaberg Rum versus Veuve Clicquot debate and photos are emerging of our beloved Territory crocs standing on two legs, you would think it would be hard for anything to shock us further. But today's front page story about prominent Darwin barrister Mark Thomas, who would likely be dead if he did not make the snap decision to board a plane to Sydney for medical care, should raise a few eyebrows among the general population and in government offices.

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Anti-vax nurse slams health act

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 01/12/2023, Chloe Grimshaw, Page 14

A Sunshine Coast nurse who lost her job due to her outspoken views on the Covid-19 vaccination had a win in court, with a tribunal recommending she be re-employed as soon as possible. [...] However, The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia found Ms Trakosas was "unsatisfactory" in her job due to her beliefs about the government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and she was stood down in November 2021.

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Nurse sues health service for horror injuries after surgery

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/12/2023, Vanessa Marsh

A career nurse says she has been left with irreparable lifelong injuries including the loss of most of her bowel after she suffered a perforation during surgery that was not diagnosed for days. Jill Foale, who worked for Queensland Health for almost 40 years, is suing the Metro North Hospital and Health Service over allegations it breached its duty of care after she underwent hernia repair surgery at the Caboolture Hospital on Boxing Day 2020.

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

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Fake psychologist fined \$8500 after treating patients

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/12/2023

A woman posing as a psychologist who "treated" vulnerable patients and children at a clinic in Queensland has been fined \$8500. [...] She was charged by AHPRA with three counts of claiming to be registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.

[Read More](#)

Poll: Readers slam rego fee increase

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/12/2023, Megan Haggan

A significant number of pharmacists say the increase to their registration fees isn't justified...here's what AHPRA says in response... Recently, a pharmacist who preferred to remain anonymous wrote to the AJP, concerned about the newly-announced increase in registration fees, which are rising 3% for the next year.

[Read More](#)

How female prison psychologist caught having sex with a violent criminal she treated behind bars in Melbourne then got PROMOTED by her boss - as her love affair is exposed

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/12/2023, Wayne Flower

A tattooed female prison psychologist who admitted to being in a sexual relationship with a former jailbird patient was promoted by her boss while under investigation by the medical watchdog. Prison psychologist Caroline Gorman admitted to hooking-up with a violent inmate she treated in jail after he contacted her upon his release.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 01/12/2023, James Valentine

Interview with Chris Brown, Health Services Union. Brown comments on the NSW paramedics threatening to boycott renewing their national registration unless the Government brings their pay in line with Queensland. He notes the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency or AHPRA has given them a month's grace to work despite no longer being registered.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

High price of Games' site unseen

Weekend Australian, General News, 02/12/2023, Jamie Walker, Page 1

The Queensland government is exploring alternative sites for the showcase Brisbane Arena amid mounting concern the 2032 Olympics project can't be built over a busy CBD railway hub with the \$2.5bn pledged by Anthony Albanese. Deputy Premier and State Development Minister Steven Miles has ordered his department to run the ruler over three other inner-city locations in recognition that the state will be on the hook for any cost blowout.

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

Flemming's first hurdle: vice of devices

Sydney Morning Herald, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 02/12/2023, Michael Gleeson, Page 22

Screens are a bigger threat to females taking up athletics than the impact of the enormous success of the Matildas at the World Cup and the growing popularity of AFLW, according to incoming Athletics Australia president Jane Flemming. Flemming, an Olympian and twotime Commonwealth champion, also said she felt enormous empathy for Peter Bol and remained outraged at his treatment by doping authorities in which he was banned for a positive drug test for EPO, only for the suspension to be lifted and the positive result overturned from a second test.

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Rugby draws a line

Canberra Times, General News, 02/12/2023, Cameron Mee, Page 1

Australian rugby is confident it will pave the way to reinvigorate contact sports after announcing a historic change to eliminate head contact and reduce the risks of concussion. Community competitions across Australia will adopt a "below the sternum" tackle rule next year, with officials agreeing to reduce the tackle height to make rugby safer.

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

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Premier at war

Courier Mail, General News, 02/12/2023, James Hall and Hayden Johnson, Page 1

The bungling of the state government's bombshell demand for key stakeholders to share the cost burden for a new \$137m boutique Brisbane stadium has placed Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk on a war footing with council and two revered sporting bodies. Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner on Friday sensationally accused the government of attempting to "extort" council as he categorically refused to contribute funds to redevelop the RNA stadium as a temporary replacement while the Gabba is being rebuilt.

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

Government must hit reset button

Courier Mail, Editorials, 02/12/2023, Page 64

In what appears to be a case study in bungling, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's latest attempt to make progress towards the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games has erupted in war. Yesterday's announcement that a boutique stadium was to be built at the RNA Showgrounds to allow sporting events to continue while the Gabba is being redeveloped provided a handy blueprint for governments of all persuasions on how not to make major announcements.

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Games fallout lingers

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/12/2023, Madeleine Achenza, Page 27

Athletics Australia has slammed former Victorian premier Dan Andrews for pulling out of the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Victoria will pay \$380m in compensation after cancelling the event in July after the cost blew out from \$2bn to \$7bn.

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

Stop body shaming kids out of sport

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/12/2023, Julie Cross, Page 13

Coaches and parents are being told to stop using phrases such as "you're big for your age", and provide a variety of uniform sizes, so children of all body shapes feel comfortable playing sport. The Embrace Collective, campaigning to reduce stigma, judgment and discrimination on the basis of appearance, has today released a free guide for those running community sports groups about what to say and what not to say to kids in sports clubs.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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\$60m Devonport stadium needs state cash to progress

Burnie Advocate, General News, 02/12/2023, Libby Bingham, Page 5

Devonport's proposed new \$60 million high-ball stadium still hinges on securing state funding, or it could become a "missed opportunity" for the city. That's according to Devonport City Council general manager Matthew Atkins.

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Tackling serious issue with new rule

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 02/12/2023, Sophia McCaughan, Page 4

Rugby Australia have announced a lower tackle height trial as they look to minimise the risk of concussions and encourage more players to take up the sport. The two-year trial, starting in February, will see the legal tackle height in community rugby lowered from below the shoulders to below the sternum, aiming to improve player safety by reducing the risk of head-on-head or head-on-shoulder contact.

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'Absolute madness'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 02/12/2023, Nic Darveniza, Page 72

One of Queensland Country rugby union's most powerful figures has slammed talk of temporary stadiums around Brisbane for the 2032 Olympic Games as "absolute madness" in a presentation to a Senate committee. Townsville's director of rugby, Dan Withers, called on organisers to ensure the legacy of the Games would be felt beyond Brisbane amid discussion of stadium investment in the state capital including temporary grounds.

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Athletics in 'survival mode' after Commonwealth Games cancellation

7news.com.au, Other, 01/12/2023, Rachael Ward

Athletics Australia has hit out at the way former Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews scrapped the 2026 Commonwealth Games, saying the sport is now in survival mode and the decision created "immeasurable" upheaval. The cancellation had a devastating impact on athletes and the sport, according to the governing body's submission to a parliamentary inquiry into the 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid.

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The Matildas' Kyah Simon, Australia's women's water polo team, give their support to Super Netballers over pay dispute

ABC Online, Other, 01/12/2023

Australia's top netballers have received some high-profile support in their bitter pay dispute, with Kyah Simon from the Matildas saying the nation's female soccer stars can empathise. The Australian women's water polo team that fought for inclusion at the 2000 Olympics and went on to win the gold medal also backed the netballers.

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Women's sport trailblazers back netballers in dispute

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/12/2023

Australia's top netballers have received some high-profile support in their bitter pay dispute, with Kyah Simon from the Matildas saying the nation's female soccer stars can empathise. The Australian women's water polo team that fought for inclusion at the 2000 Olympics and went on to win the gold medal also backed the netballers.

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Mum warns of 'astounding' summer mistake claiming Aussie kids' lives

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/12/2023, Carly Bass

Aussie mum Deb Herde remembers vividly the tragic moment a neighbour's baby lost its life after

drowning in the backyard pool of their family home. Although she was just a child, "it's something that's always stuck with me for a long time," the mum of one told Yahoo News Australia.

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Netball Australia: Pay dispute taking toll on players says former Diamonds captain

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/12/2023, Jess Anderson

Players in Australia's domestic netball league have "slept in their cars" as a pay dispute continues, former Diamonds captain Kathryn Harby-Williams says. Governing body Netball Australia (NA) have not paid players since September, when their last contract expired.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Digital camera and AI algorithm can now detect facial palsy

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 01/12/2023

Computer scientists have developed a new diagnostic tool using artificial intelligence (AI) and a digital camera to detect facial palsy, with 98% accuracy, including the patient's gender and age. Researchers from Iraq and Australia say the tool can reduce diagnostic errors that often occur with the common and treatable neurological disorder, caused by an impairment of the facial nerve, which results in temporary muscle weakness or paralysis on one side of the face, and affects about one in 60 people worldwide during their lifetime.

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SILK sale done

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/12/2023

Wesfarmers' wholly-owned subsidiary, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries, on Wed announced the completed acquisition of SILK Lasers, which will be folded into the Wesfarmers Health division (PD 20 Apr). Shareholders of SILK were paid \$3.35 per share (\$3.25 under the scheme consideration, plus a 10c per share special dividend), a rise from the \$3.15 per share offer Wesfarmers made in Apr, The Australian has reported.

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Independent ARC Board now responsible for national competitive grants program

The Mandarin, Other, 01/12/2023, Melissa Coade

Legislation implementing the recommendations of the ARC review of the Australian Research Council Act 2001 to consider the role and purpose of the ARC within the Australian research system was introduced in parliament on Wednesday. In a statement, education minister Jason Clare said the ARC had been "bedevilled by political interference" over the past decade .

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

More than skin-deep

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2023, Asha Bowen, Page 38

New healthy skin guidelines will help improve overall health in remote and urban Australia, says TKI researcher Associate Professor Asha Bowen. Skin health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is a priority for researchers at Telethon Kids Institute as skin conditions can lead to more deadly and entirely preventable health issues such as sepsis and rheumatic heart disease.

Indigenous doctor of the year Benjamin Armstrong makes plea for more competition in future years

National Indigenous Times, Other, 01/12/2023, Jarred Cross

For Melukerdee and Pinterrairer, Lia Pootah pathologist Dr Benjamin Armstrong, having First Nations people working in medicine and health isn't just about representation. Earlier this month, Dr Armstrong was named Indigenous doctor of the year at the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association's annual conference in Hobart.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Kids' cough epidemic turns 'evil' for adults

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/12/2023, Madeline Crittenden, Page 9

It's a virus that usually affects children but, this year, record numbers of adults are catching RSV and some say their symptoms are even worse than Covid. Natassia Soper and her daughter Kora have contracted respiratory syncytial virus, known as RSV, twice, suffering coughs, chills and fatigue.

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Antibiotic overuse could lead to future where cuts can be fatal

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 02/12/2023, Maud Eijkenboom, Page 150

Imagine taking your sick child to the doctor with a normally treatable, common childhood infection, only to find that the antibiotics generally prescribed to treat it, are no longer effective, and your child is at risk of becoming gravely ill, or at worst dying. That's the reality for parents in many countries, according to recent research by the University of Sydney, which has found that due to high rates of antibiotic resistance, antibiotics used to treat children and babies for common infections are no longer effective in many parts of the world.

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Tick for pertussis vax

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 4

A Telethon Kids Institute and Curtin University-led study has found the maternal whooping cough vaccine given to pregnant mothers in the second or third trimester significantly reduces babies' risk of infection. Published in the journal Pediatrics, the results showed maternal vaccines were beneficial to babies, protecting them up to six months of age - the most susceptible period for infection, with whooping cough accounting for 70-90% of hospitalisations and deaths in babies.

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Sore throat diagnostics and Rheumatic Heart Disease

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2023, Janessa Pickering, Page 50

Strep a (also known as Streptococcus pyogenes, GAS) is a bacterial pathogen that infects the tonsils causing pharyngitis (sore throat) and impetigo (school sores). In the past 12-24 months, there has been a marked increase globally in invasive Strep A infections including scarlet fever and sepsis.

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Swabbing an ulcer for HSV? It could be syphilis

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2023, Grace Phua, Page 53

While it is true that syphilis plagued people of centuries past, the unfortunate truth is that it is still affecting current-day Australia. Infection rates have been rising for at least a decade. Infection rates are highest in remote Indigenous populations and among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in urban areas.

Treatment is 'easy', but advocates say stigma remains a big challenge for people living with HIV in 2023

ABC Online, Other, 01/12/2023, Annika Burgess

When Beau Newham told his friend Emily Nannes he was HIV positive, the first thing she jokingly thought was, "dammit, you've ruined all my plans". On that same day over coffee in 2019, Emily had planned to ask her friend of 22 years to be her sperm donor.

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What do we know about China's respiratory illness surge?

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/12/2023

A request by the World Health Organization for more information on a surge in respiratory illnesses and clusters of pneumonia in children in China has attracted global attention. Health authorities have not detected any unusual or novel pathogens, the WHO later said, and doctors and public health researchers say there is no evidence for international alarm.

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

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Streamline vaccine access

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/12/2023

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is again calling for vaccines to be made accessible to more Australians by fully utilising pharmacists as part of the immunisation workforce, following a new report from the Australian think tank Grattan Institute. The Grattan Institute's report A fair shot: How to close the vaccination gap specifically recommends action on a National Vaccines Partnership Agreement and harmonisation of the state-based regulations that determine pharmacists' authority to deliver certain vaccines.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 01/12/2023, Stephanie Ferrier and Bridget Brennan

Interview with Mark Mendoza, person living with HIV. Mendoza discusses World AIDS Day and its importance in raising awareness. He recalls being engaged with Victorian Aids Council and Dawn Harbour prior to being diagnosed with HIV.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

'Be wary' of prescribing tirzepatide amid another diabetes drug shortage

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/12/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

The shortage was sparked by off-label prescribing for weight loss, the TGA said. Doctors should exercise caution when prescribing tirzepatide, a leading GP says, after a surge in demand sparked a supply shortage within two months of entering the Australian private market.

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The bacteriophage renaissance: Could 'hungry' viruses save us from antibiotic resistance?

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/12/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

Phage therapy has a tumultuous history, but Professor Jon Iredell thinks it will go mainstream within five years. [...] Phage therapy is already used to treat patients with infections that fail to respond to conventional treatments, but requires clinicians to go through the TGA's Special Access Scheme.

Oral morphine arrangements

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/12/2023, Megan Haggan

Two new temporarily PBS listings for morphine sulfate will be effective from 1 December 2023. The Therapeutic Goods Administration says that these new products are being listed to address the deletion from the Australian market of morphine hydrochloride trihydrate oral liquids (Ordine).

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Bittersweet time for Geoff, who fears dying with dignity here will be difficult

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 01/12/2023, Dan Holmes

Voluntary assisted dying became legal in NSW this week, but residents in Wagga may struggle to access the service. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) responded to these findings, in an attempt to improve access in areas like Wagga.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Legalise Cannabis MP's high hopes for Christmas

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 02/12/2023, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 9

Legalise Cannabis MP Brian Walker has sent controversial Christmas cards emphasising the potential financial contribution the plant could deliver to the WA Budget. Wishing all West Aussies "hempy holidays", the front of the card features a festive cartoon where Dr Walker is superimposed on a cheerful-looking Santa.

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

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Puffin pollies: which leaders have admitted to smoking cannabis?

Canberra Times, Other, 01/12/2023, Anna Houlahan

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has pleaded "the fifth" when he was asked by broadcaster Neil Mitchell on December 1 if he had used cannabis. This comes as New South Wales parliament debated cannabis use after a drug reform bill was introduced. Up to six cannabis plants would be grown for personal use under the proposed law and it would be legal to carry 50 grams of the drug.

Widely syndicated across regional publications

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FOOD STANDARDS

Taco kit recalled over allergy risk

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 02/12/2023, Page 31

A popular taco kit has been recalled from supermarkets after it was found to be missing a crucial safety warning. The 350g Old El Paso Hard 'N Soft Taco Kit was recalled on Thursday after it was found some of the kits contained a sachet that did not declare it contained milk, a known allergen.

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

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Food industry's 'bogus health claims' grooming toddlers

Newcastle Herald, General News, 02/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 16

Aggressive marketing of unhealthy supermarket food to babies and toddlers fuels "pester power" and exposes companies grooming youngsters for brand loyalty, University of Newcastle Laureate Professor in Nutrition and Dietetics Clare Collins says. "Make no mistake, they are trying to get brand loyalty from babyhood and cementing that in toddlerhood to get people for life," Professor Collins said.

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Kenmore Park community aims to re-establish APY Lands orchard to improve fresh produce access

ABC Online, Other, 01/12/2023, Victoria Ellis

Indigenous Australians have significantly poorer health than non-Indigenous Australians, but a central Australian Aboriginal community is hoping to improve the health of residents and increase food security by re-establishing its orchard. Kenmore Park, or Yunyarinyi, is an Anangu community in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in South Australia, about 460 kilometres south of Alice Springs.

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'It's not right': Babies and toddlers targeted by food marketing

The New Daily, Other, 01/12/2023, Sezen Bakan

Australian children are subjected to savvy marketing in supermarkets before they can even read, new research has found. Research by Monash and Deakin universities' experts published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health found tots and parents are subjected by aggressive' marketing on food packaging in the baby and toddler aisle at supermarkets.

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NSW Food Authority, DPI respond to Wallis Lake oyster harvest closures in lead up to busy Christmas period

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 30/11/2023, Janine Watson

Authorities are investigating links between a "gastro-like illness" and oysters from the Wallis Lake system, which is renowned as one of the most significant producers of Sydney rock oysters in Australia. As investigations continue, authorities have shut down the harvest and sale of oysters from the lake for human consumption.

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