



TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 7th December 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the federal government will give the states and territories \$25 billion in GST for hospital funding in return for their support in reforming the NDIS.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 1\)](#)** reports that SA Salaried Medical Officers Association president Dr David Pope has accused the South Australian State Government of prioritising ambulance patients over sicker patients already in waiting rooms in an effort to “fudge” ramping statistics.
- **[The West Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a grandmother in her late 70s with a serious respiratory condition was turned away by Fiona Stanley Hospital despite having been flown from Esperance to Perth by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.
- **[The Australian \(page 3\)](#)** reports that Australian doctors and researchers have thrown their support behind a British push to address what they are calling are overly high rates of antidepressant prescribing that has seen one in seven Australians taking an antidepressant.
- **[The Australian \(page 6\)](#)** reports that concerns have been raised that NSW Police do not have protocols in place for dealing with incidents of vulnerable people, such as the elderly, being put

under pressure to request voluntary assisted dying.

- **The Age (page 2)** reports that a new analysis by the Victorian Cancer Registry (VCR) has found a significant shortfall in the number of cancer diagnoses in the state, as it estimates at least 6,600 Victorians could be unaware they have the disease. VCR director Professor Sue Evans said, "To see that the numbers in 2022 are actually worse than 2021, that's not something I had expected," while Associate Professor Joel Rhee from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners said people were delaying routine scans because they didn't want to be exposed to the post-Covid healthcare system.
- **The Herald Sun (page 3)** reports that a study by the St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research has found that an already existing arthritis drug can stop the advance of type 1 diabetes and potentially lead to the ending of daily insulin injections. SVI Professor Thomas Kay said, "It is tremendously exciting for us to be the first group anywhere in the world to test baricitinib," however, he said more studies are required before the drug is used in clinical practice.

MINISTER BUTLER

Weeks turn to months

Broome Advertiser, General News, 07/12/2023, Cain Andrews, Page 1

The Broome Urgent Care Clinic, promised by the Federal Government to open within "weeks" in October, remains shrouded in uncertainty with no opening date provided. [...] Speaking with the Broome Advertiser in October, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Broome Urgent Care Clinic would open within "the coming weeks".

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Vape warning after extreme reaction

Western Port News, General News, 06/12/2023, Page 4

A former Mornington Secondary College student has blamed vaping for an extreme allergic reaction that led to medical treatment. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has said that some vapes were deliberately targeting young people, with cute pictures on them and bubblegum flavouring.

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Shocking footage shows vapes piled up next to West Gate Freeway

Herald Sun, Other, 06/12/2023, Angus McIntyre

Shocking images reveal a "vape graveyard" which has developed on the side of the West Gate Freeway. [...] The growing number of young people using vapes is "disturbing", according to federal health minister Mark Butler.

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

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\$90m+ cash splash for training in bush and NT

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Other, 06/12/2023, Amanda Sheppard

More medical student places are on the way along with a \$2.8m grant to explore setting up a medical school in the Top End. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the move was expected to have long-term benefits for rural and remote communities. [...] Assistant Rural and Regional Health Minister Emma McBride said the new rural medical programs and additional Commonwealth Supported Places would make a difference in communities right across the country. [...] Northern Territory Senator and federal Assistant Indigenous Health Minister Malarndirri McCarthy described the opportunity as a potential gamechanger.

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UOW to open 30 new medical student spots to help fix long wait for the GP

Batemans Bay Post, Other, 06/12/2023, Kate McIlwain

Half of the patients who live in regional and remote areas have to wait more than 24 hours for an urgent appointment with their GP, as country Australia continues to face a long-running doctors shortage. [...] As part of a \$90 million investment to support rural medical students nationally, announced by Health Minister Mark Butler this week, the government is providing an additional 15 spots to UOW each year.

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More medical students for regions

CQ Today, Other, 06/12/2023

An extra 160 medical students are set to begin end-to-end rural medical training at six new medical school programs in rural communities each year, including 20 medical students at University of Queensland's Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit. [...] Assistant Rural and Regional Health Minister Emma McBride said the new rural medical programs and additional Commonwealth Supported Places will make a difference in communities right across the country.

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NIP vax fee starting soon

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/12/2023

The Department of Health and Aged Care and the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) have announced that the National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program will commence on 01 Jan 2024, with registration and claiming available on the PPA Portal from this date. [...] In May, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler had stated that the program would optimise the use of the health workforce across a stretched primary care sector and improve patient access, such as in rural and remote areas.

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Great news: Aged Care Taskforce's Final Report to be publicly released in December or January at latest

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/12/2023, Lauren Broomham

The Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells' office has confirmed that the Taskforce's Report – due to be presented to the Government by the end of the year – will be made publicly available in December or January at the latest – a positive sign for The SOURCE'S Plan B campaign. [...] Any recommendations that the Taskforce makes to Government need to be championed not only by Anika Wells but also the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler.

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ABC Kimberley, 07:30 News , 06/12/2023

The Federal Government has confirmed Broome's new urgent care clinic will be open this month. In a statement, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says it will ease pressure on Broome Hospital with 70% of current presentations for non-urgent or semi-urgent care.

[Play Now](#)

ABC North and West SA, Breakfast, 06/12/2023, Tom Mann

Interview with Chris Picton, SA Minister for Health and Wellbeing, regarding the SA and Federal Governments coming together for a new program to increase the number of medical students trained in the regions. From 2025, 40 extra students will complete their studies in locations from the Barossa, Murray Bridge, Mt Gambier and Renmark, to name a few through Flinders University. Picton says they thank the Federal Government and Health Minister Mark Butler for his work in seeing it through because they won big out of the program.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 06/12/2023, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Dr Colin Hughes, GP. Hughes says he just came back from Canberra talking with Mark Butler's department about a proposal that would fully endorse what the AMA is saying about prevention. He adds the proposal says that the minimum consultation should be ten minutes and

there's a requirement for the GP to involve some sort of preventive activity like a cholesterol or blood pressure check.

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MINISTER WELLS

AN-ACC boost funds July wage increase

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 06/12/2023

More than \$2 billion has been added to residential aged care funding to cover an award wage increase providers have been paying workers since July. [...] In a statement, Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the investment meant "every aged care home will have the funding to make this wage a reality for a deserving care workforce a workforce that has been undervalued for far too long."

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

\$90m+ cash splash for training in bush and NT

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Climate plan

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 06/12/2023, Page 2

The Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney has launched Australia's first National Health and Climate Strategy at the 28th United Nations Climate Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It sets out an ambitious plan aimed at addressing the health and wellbeing impacts of climate change and outlining priorities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the health system.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

Weeks turn to months

Broome Advertiser, General News, 07/12/2023, Cain Andrews, Page 1

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New father among an estimated 125,000 to benefit if gender affirming surgery is added to Medicare

ABC Online, Other, 06/12/2023, Daniel Miles

When Max Jahufer became a dad, his plans of undergoing gender affirming surgery took a back seat. Max and his partner Paris welcomed little Windsor into the world on a chilly winter's day in July. [...] A Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said the government was committed to supporting all Australians' access through Medicare.

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New role for former TGA boss

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/12/2023

Professor John Skerritt has been appointed to the Medicines Australia Board as an independent selected director. [...] "As a former Deputy Secretary of the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care and former head of the Therapeutic Goods Administration, John's knowledge of the Australian therapeutics regulatory environment is unmatched," she said.

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Decline in COVID-19 cases in residential aged care bodes well for Christmas

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/12/2023, Caroline Egan

Covid-19 cases in residential aged care have eased in the last week, which is good news for the rapidly approaching holiday season. [...] There were only two new outbreaks recorded during the week, with outbreaks recorded in 299 aged care homes, Department of Health ad Aged Care figures state.

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Accused Taser cop fronts loved ones

Canberra Times, General News, 07/12/2023, Kat Wong, Page 2

A NSW police officer accused of fatally Tasering a 95-year-old great-grandmother has come face-to-face with her supporters while fronting court on a manslaughter charge. Senior Constable Kristian White, 33, has been charged over the death of Clare Nowland at an aged care home in Cooma in May.

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

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Broken Hill aged care provider receives \$4.4m to address 'critical' registered nurse shortfall

ABC Online, Other, 06/12/2023, Oliver Brown

One of the only aged care providers in far west New South Wales says a multi-million-dollar cash injection from the federal government means a potential lifeline for its facilities. Southern Cross Care (SCC) Broken Hill had struggled to source registered nurses (RNs) to care for its elderly residents.

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Jacob steps into CEO role at ARIIA

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 06/12/2023

Reuben Jacob has transitioned from interim chief executive officer at Aged Care Research and Industry Innovation Australia to CEO and company secretary, the research translation centre has announced. He had been interim CEO and chief operating officer at ARIIA for the past 18 months.

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MMM "top-up" grants to help aged care sector

Barrier Truth, Other, 06/12/2023, Ryan O'Callaghan

Despite its isolation, there is set to be no change to Broken Hill's Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification until 2026. However, Council has been advised of a new temporary grant opportunity for one-off support in 2024/25.

Flood-affected HammondCare client moves back home

Community Care Review, Other, 06/12/2023

A Lismore-based HammondCare home care client has moved back into his home 18 months after floodwaters deluged the city. In the early hours of 28 February 2022, Roger Manby sought refuge on the roof of his home as water surged through the doors and windows.

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Collaboration secures workers for home care sector

Community Care Review, Other, 06/12/2023

An industry partnership aiming to plug the home care workforce gap has so far enabled more than 175 workers to enter the sector. Tasked with delivering the government-funded Home Care Workforce Support Program in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, community-based, not-for-profit organisation Settlement Services International teamed with national support worker platform Hireup in May to create the Home Care Staffing Support initiative.

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Bolton Clarke appoints new chair

Community Care Review, Other, 06/12/2023

National aged care and retirement living provider Bolton Clarke Group has appointed legal professional Tony Crawford as its new chair. Australia's largest independent not-for-profit aged care provider, Bolton Clarke supports more than 130,000 people in their homes and at their 88 residential homes and 38 retirement villages nationally.

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Amaroo is saved

Shepparton News Online, Other, 06/12/2023, Zoe McMaugh

After five months in receivership, Amaroo Aged Care in Berrigan has officially been saved from closure. Negotiations have resulted in Uniting NSW.ACT taking on the service.

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Mable expands into consumables with launch of e-commerce site

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/12/2023, Lauren Broomham

The innovative support worker platform founded by Peter Scutt and Tony Charara in 2014 continues to disrupt the home care space, launching Mable Direct to deliver consumable products such as personal protection equipment (PPE) direct to clients and support workers.

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InteliCare signs MoU with Bolton Clarke

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/12/2023, Lauren Broomham

The ASX-listed software company has seen its share price jump after executing a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with Australia's largest Not For Profit aged care provider Bolton Clarke as a precursor to a Strategic Partnership Agreement. Specialising in the aged care, health care and disability space, InteliCare's platform utilises AI-driven, smart sensors, wearable technology and alert devices to track activity levels, patterns of behaviour, health metrics, sleep and more, helping to detect changes and allowing care providers to deliver care proactively.

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POPULATION HEALTH

NSW put on heatwave alert as temperatures set to nudge 40

A severe heatwave is forecast for most of NSW, with temperatures set to soar into the 40s this weekend, bringing with it a heightened bushfire risk. In Sydney, temperatures will climb today with 29 degrees expected in the city and 35 in the west.

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Wood-fire heaters cause up to 63 ACT deaths annually

Canberra Times, General News, 07/12/2023, Jasper Lindell, Page 15

Smoke from wood fires across Canberra causes up to 63 premature deaths each year, and is comparable to the impact of the smoke haze during the Black Summer fires, researchers say. The researchers' paper said banning new wood heaters, phasing out existing units in suburban areas and supporting a "clean domestic energy transition" would have major health and environmental benefits.

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

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Tassie goes out on limb

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/12/2023, Page 7

Tasmania is the nation's capital for limb amputations, new figures show. Data released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveal almost 10 per cent of the 723 amputations carried out nationwide last year happened in Tasmania.

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

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Murray's work gets to heart of the matter

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/12/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 9

Murray Chenery thought the sensation in his chest during his morning walks was indigestion. But after seeking medical advice and "spectacularly" failing a stress test in May, further investigations indicated the Newtown man had blockages in his main artery.

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Senior Lib backs 'desperate' police in bush booze ban plea

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 07/12/2023, Rebecca Le May, Page 3

Shadow police minister Peter Collier has backed "desperate" police in their plea to massively expand liquor restrictions across much of regional WA, saying it needs to be paired with other responses to stop country towns from "bleeding with lawlessness". WA Police Deputy Commissioner Allan Adams wrote to Director of Liquor Licensing Lanie Chopping urging her to roll out Carnarvon-style bans across the Kimberley, Pilbara, Mid West/Gascoyne and Goldfields-Esperance regions, listing 25 towns that had higher rates of alcohol-related crime.

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Iron-clad concern: Aussies going without vital ingredient

Western Advocate, General News, 07/12/2023, Katelyn Catanzariti, Page 3

Being iron deficient might make you feel tired. Or it could make you dizzy. Or a bit short of breath. Or your libido could drop off a cliff. You may even have a desire to eat ice.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#).

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Campaign exposes 'rotten fruit' of vaping

Medical Forum, Other, 06/12/2023, Cathy O'Leary

The State Government has raised the possible extension of smoking bans to include vaping products on the back of a survey by CCWA that found 81% of WA adults thought vaping should not be allowed in places where smoking was banned. Last month, the council launched a new digital campaign, Clear the Air, in a bid to prevent people taking up vaping, following new data that shows the number of 14-to-24-year-olds who currently vape has skyrocketed since 2020.

Half of Australia to be sizzled in a heatwave this week – with some areas to hit temperatures around 45C

NEWS.com.au, Other, 06/12/2023, Georgina Noack

Half of Australia is set to be sweltering through scorching temperatures this week, as the Bureau of Meteorology issues a three-day heatwave warning from Wednesday onwards. The Bureau has warned Australians across the country — from Broome in Western Australia's northwest, to North Queensland and central NSW — to brace for severe heatwave conditions this week.

Similar coverage reported by: [SBS \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#)

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Thousands of cancer cases 'missing' in Victoria

Age, General News, 07/12/2023, Aisha Dow, Page 2

A growing number of Victorians could be living with undiagnosed cancer, new analysis shows, as pandemic disruptions and worrying bowel cancer screening rates hamper earlier detection of the disease. Cancer cases were expected to rise in 2022 due to Victoria's ageing and growing population.

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Common drug can 'turn off' diabetes

Herald Sun, General News, 07/12/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 3

A common drug can stop type 1 diabetes progressing - and could become the first approved treatment to do so after a groundbreaking Melbourne trial. The world-first discovery following more than two decades of local research and hailed as a "significant milestone" towards ending daily insulin injections - was published in a top journal, the New England Journal of Medicine.

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

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Alarm over early period

Herald Sun, General News, 07/12/2023, Page 10

Getting your period before you hit 13 has been linked to a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes during your midlife, US researchers say. Additionally, they say it is also associated with an increased risk of stroke before you hit 65.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#)

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Covid hit to cancer checks

Herald Sun, General News, 07/12/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 13

Victorians are continuing to miss having vital cancer screening with a new report showing the disease claims the lives of around one in three Victorians. [...] The annual report is prepared by the Victorian Cancer Registry for Cancer Council Victoria and gives an overview for future planning of cancer activity and trends in Victoria.

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Cancer time bomb

Herald Sun, Editorials, 07/12/2023, Page 22

The significant drop in cancer diagnoses in Victoria is not as one might otherwise think a good thing. Indeed, as a hangover from Covid shutdowns, where the routines of thousands of people getting

regular GP and specialist check-ups were disrupted, Cancer Council Victoria and other experts are warning of a ticking time bomb for cancer.

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Good news on cancer

Northern Territory News, General News, 07/12/2023, Page 7

Women with early-stage breast cancer may be able to skip radiotherapy if an MRI shows their cancer is localised to one area, according to Australian researchers. Researchers from The University of Melbourne, Monash University, The University of Sydney, and the University of NSW recruited 443 women with cT1N0 nontriple-negative breast cancer to undergo an MRI and used the results to identify 201 women with cancer localised enough to have surgery without radiotherapy.

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

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Natalie's life-saving message for summer

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 07/12/2023, Bethany Westwood, Page 3

Natalie Dukes had never had skin cancer when she noticed a mysterious new mark on her upper arm at the age of 36. She was trying on a sleeveless dress when she saw the mark on her upper arm, and thought 'oh, that's new'.

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

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Battler's festive wish

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 07/12/2023, Cameron Bates, Page 16

A brave North Queensland cancer battler who has returned to the job he loves while continuing to undergo treatment, is backing a campaign to help 100 people with disabilities find jobs before Christmas. Hinchinbrook Shire Council worker Russell Shaw, 63, received the devastating news he had stage-four melanoma just one month after the death of his beloved mother in 2019.

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ASX Health Stocks: Imugene wins 'intention to grant' cancer vaccine patent, Phase 2 trial in 2024

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/12/2023, Eddy Sunarto

Oncology biotech Imugene (ASX:IMU) rose 7 per cent on Wednesday morning after releasing a couple of announcements about its ongoing war on cancer. The company said the European Patent Office had issued a notification of "Intention to Grant" for Imugene's PD1-Vaxx cancer vaccine.

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

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Can certain foods really reduce your cancer risk?

West Australian, Other, 06/12/2023, Nikki Campo

On average, more than 1 in 3 people in the United States will develop cancer at some point in their lifetime, according to the American Cancer Society. And many of those cases, they say, can potentially be prevented, including by making changes to your diet.

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Over 30% increase in asthma deaths in one year

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 06/12/2023, Chloe Hava

Asthma deaths are again on the rise, revealed new Australian Bureau of Statistics data recently released by the National Asthma Council Australia. There were 467 asthma-related deaths in Australia in 2022, up from 355 deaths in 2021. Most (64%) were among women with 299 female deaths versus 168 male deaths.

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Promising results for bowel cancer drug

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/12/2023

A new tablet treatment called divarasib has shown it is very effective in treating a challenging type of bowel cancer associated with the KRAS G12C mutation. Research published in Nature Medicine yesterday has shown "remarkable results", with 62% of people with protein KRAS G12C mutated bowel cancer achieving a positive response to treatment when given divarasib in combination with another cancer treatment called cetuximab.

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PRIMARY CARE

PM's costly \$25b NDIS fix

Australian Financial Review, General News, 07/12/2023, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

The federal government will give the states \$25 billion in GST top-up payments and extra health and hospital funding by the end of the decade, in...

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GST gifts to win deal on NDIS funds

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 07/12/2023, Geoff Chambers and Sarah Ison, Page 1

Anthony Albanese has gifted premiers and chief ministers more than \$10.5bn in GST top-ups and tens of billions of dollars extra for healthcare in exchange for doubling the annual increase in state and territory funding for the NDIS from 2028. [...] The Australian Medical Association, which described the deal as a "welcome start" to addressing issues "crippling" the health system, had pushed for an additional \$20.5bn across four years under a 50-50 funding share and removal of the cap.

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Police 'in limbo' over new VAD law

The Australian, General News, 07/12/2023, Natasha Robinson, Grace Ellen and MacPherson, Page 6

Police in NSW lack protocols to deal with incidents of vulnerable people, such as the elderly, being put under pressure to request voluntary assisted dying. The Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022 No 17 came into effect in NSW last week, allowing individuals to legally request VAD from their doctor.

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\$3.5b GST boost secures NDIS deal

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/12/2023, David Crowe, Page 16

The federal government will give the states and territories another \$3.5 billion a year in GST payments in a national cabinet deal that also boosts funding for public hospitals and eases pressure on the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The agreement extends a costly federal pledge on GST until at least 2031 by loading more spending onto the federal budget in order to settle clashes with the premiers over cuts to state revenue.

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Families diverting to new scheme to rein in costs

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/12/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 16

Children with autism and developmental difficulties will receive support at school or in childcare centres under a new disability system that seeks to divert families from signing up to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese yesterday struck a deal with states to create a new system to deliver "foundational supports" to Australians with a disability outside the \$42 billion NDIS.

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GST revenue guarantee extends to 2030

Canberra Times, General News, 07/12/2023, Adrian Rollins, Page 10

The federal government has agreed to a three-year extension of its GST revenue guarantee with the states and territories as well as a package of health and disability reforms. Following a meeting with the nation's premiers and chief ministers, including ACT leader Andrew Barr, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced that the multi-billion dollar guarantee, which was due to expire in 2026-27, will be now be extended to the end of 2029-30.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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States split bill to shore up NDIS

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 07/12/2023, Clare Armstrong and Jade Gailberger, Page 4

The cost of foundational disability supports like those for children with mild autism or other developmental challenges will be evenly split between states and the Commonwealth outside of the NDIS in the future. Anthony Albanese has struck a deal with premiers and chief ministers to jointly fund a new scheme, which will be delivered through schools and childcare centres as occurred prior to the NDIS.

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'Horrorific' emotional toll as surgery delay drags on

Courier Mail, General News, 07/12/2023, Kylie Lang, Page 6

Breast cancer survivor Sharyn Washington, who shared her unacceptable delay for reconstructive surgery with Courier-Mail readers in July, has been told her operation will finally take place on December 20. Mrs Washington, a mother of three from Mareeba in Far North Queensland, has been waiting 766 days to "feel whole again" after her right breast was removed on November 2, 2021.

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

Health crisis death toll unacceptable

Courier Mail, Editorials, 07/12/2023, Page 28

It's unacceptable that Queenslanders are dying waiting for ambulances and hospital beds. It's not an easy fix the health portfolio is notoriously unforgiving but Health Minister Shannon Fentiman must act now.

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

Christmas spirit

Courier Mail, Business News, 07/12/2023, Glen Norris, Page 35

Hundreds of sick kids across Queensland will receive an early Christmas gift thanks to a \$1.5m donation to the Children's Hospital Foundation. The Lott by Golden Casket has announced a major boost for pediatric brain cancer at the start of a month of hopegiving support for families at the Queensland Children's Hospital this Christmas.

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Ramping up lies

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/12/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 1

The doctors' union president claims that the government is fudging the figures by having ambulance arrivals leapfrog sicker patients in the waiting room. SA Salaried Medical Officers Association president Dr David Pope made the astonishing claim as ramping hit a record 4285 hours last month. It had never topped 4000 hours in a month previously.

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Truth is stuck on the ramp in hospital crisis

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 07/12/2023, Page 24

As the second anniversary of the Malinauskas Labor government approaches, the flagship election promise to "fix the ramping crisis" looks more and more like a fairytale. Data released on Wednesday shows the worst ambulance ramping at South Australian hospitals in history.

Family 'traumatised' by time spent in ED

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/12/2023, Rob Inglis, Page 11

Six-year-old Leiho Coetsee has been left "absolutely traumatised" after waiting for almost 12 hours in the Royal Hobart Hospital emergency department, screaming in pain before he was finally admitted to the pediatrics clinic. Leiho's mother Kym Coetsee said she had taken her severely constipated son to the Royal on November 29 as he was extremely uncomfortable due to not having gone to the toilet for a week.

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

Granny's sick treatment

West Australian, General News, 07/12/2023, Josh Zimmerman, Page 1

An Esperance grandmother who was so unwell she had to be flown to Perth arrived at Fiona Stanley Hospital only to be told there was no bed for her. It meant the Royal Flying Doctor Service was called again, on the same day, so she could be flown to Bunbury instead in the latest debacle to rock the State's health system.

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

WA earns GST win in NDIS deal

West Australian, General News, 07/12/2023, Dan Jervis-Bardy, Page 9

WA's GST deal is locked in for three more years under a breakthrough agreement that clears the path for a reset of the troubled National Disability Insurance Scheme. After days of posturing from State and Federal ministers, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese secured support to overhaul the NDIS in exchange for billions in top-up GST payments and hospital funding.

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

RFDS: Beyond emergencies

Barrier Truth, General News, 06/12/2023, Page 8

At a high-level meeting in Orange, the availability of health services, jobs, and housing in rural areas was scrutinized, with a focus on how the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is evolving to better meet community needs in the NSW health system. Best known for aeromedical retrieval services, the RFDS now provides more medical services than emergency retrievals, a trend that continues to grow, with its familiar logo appearing in an increasing number of townships.

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Emergency wait times still among country's longest: data

Burnie Advocate, General News, 07/12/2023, Benjamin Seeder, Page 7

Only about half of emergency department patients are seen within recommended time limits in Tasmanian hospitals, well below the national median of 65 per cent seen within the time limit, according to new data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. [...] AMA Tasmania president Dr John Saul said the figures revealed both improvements and areas where the state government needed to do better.

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Works to begin on new healthcare facility

Central Western Daily, General News, 07/12/2023, Page 5

A new, multi-million dollar health facility for one of the biggest communities in Cabonne will begin to come to life in early 2024. Construction works will soon commence on the new Canowindra HealthOne facility, which is expected to improve the community's access to essential care.

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

Patients needing patience in the ED

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Several Hunter hospitals have recorded their worst quarterly result for the median time that patients

spend in the emergency department since modern records began in 2010. But the region's emergency departments did show slight improvements in the percentage of patients starting treatment on time, the latest Bureau of Health Information [BHI] data showed.

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Taskforce on the way in bid to tackle hospital wait times

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/12/2023, Maeve Bannister, Page 3

A taskforce will be established to tackle the record amount of time patients are waiting for care in NSW emergency departments. The latest NSW Bureau of Health Information (BHI) data shows just slightly more than half the patients who attended an emergency department left within four hours, the lowest share for any quarter since reporting began in 2010.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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

Why our health system needs its own emergency care

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/12/2023

The state of health of the health system has dominated the lives of Australians for four years, but it has never been in such need of urgent care. Indicative of how the working conditions for frontline healthcare workers have deteriorated, people now spend a median of three hours and 36 minutes in NSW hospital emergency departments, the longest wait ever.

[Read More](#)

Minns says NSW alone cannot fix swamped emergency departments

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/12/2023, Alexandra Smith

Premier Chris Minns says a record number of presentations at hospital emergency departments are not the sole responsibility of NSW, urging the Commonwealth to broker a fairer deal on health funding. The latest Bureau of Health Information data highlights the pressure on the state's emergency departments and coincides with a critical national cabinet meeting in Canberra, where premiers will push for a funding deal on health.

[Read More](#)

National cabinet reaches deals on health and disability

Canberra Times, Other, 06/12/2023, Paul Osborne

Key decisions out of National Cabinet: \$1.2 billion package of Strengthening Medicare measures to take pressure off hospitals, including a boost to urgent care clinics.

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

[Read More](#)

ACT ED wait times improve but still lower than national average

Canberra Times, Other, 06/12/2023, Lucy Bladen

Wait times in Canberra's emergency departments have improved but patients still wait longer in the territory than the national average. The median waiting time in the ACT's emergency departments for 2022-23 was 36 minutes, this was down from 47 minutes in the previous year

[Read More](#)

Ambulance ramping hits new record amid bombshell 'intimidation' claims by doctors

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/12/2023, Brad Crouch

Premier Peter Malinauskas' promise to "fix" ambulance ramping has come back to haunt him, with time lost at South Australian hospitals hitting a new record high in November. Ambulances were stuck in hospital car parks for a record 4285 hours last month waiting to transfer patients, the first time the figure has topped 4000 hours

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

Australians are waiting longer than ever for elective surgery, research finds

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/12/2023, Mia Erickson

If you find yourself in need of an elective surgical procedure, strap yourself in for a long game of waiting. As the newest data shows, Australia's public hospitals are in the midst of a surgical backlog crisis.

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

[Read More](#)

Patients are waiting in EDs more than 24 hours for a suitable bed

The Courier Mail, Other, 06/12/2023, Brad Crouch

Even on a normally quiet Wednesday morning there is a queue of patients warehoused in public hospital emergency departments waiting more than 24 hours for a suitable bed. Ambulances ramping at Lyell McEwin and Royal Adelaide Hospital on September 18.

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

[Read More](#)

Opposition Leader Shane Love fears nursing post will suffer when Silver Chain transfers to WACHS

West Australian, Other, 06/12/2023, Jessica Moroney

Opposition Leader Shane Love fears health services in regional communities could be cut after Silverchain announced it was moving away from its nursing post operations. WA Country Health Service will take responsibility of 11 remote area nursing posts (RANP) scattered in regional towns across WA, including Eneabba, Mingenew, Shark Bay and Leeman in the Mid West, after Silverchain, Australia's leading home care provider, announced it was handing over the services in 2024.

[Read More](#)

The four things you need to know about today's national cabinet meeting

ABC Online, Other, 06/12/2023, Georgia Roberts

Speaking after national cabinet on Wednesday, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he had just left a successful and significant meeting. The country's premiers and chief ministers held some great expectations going into the cabinet meeting, as did the federal government.

[Read More](#)

Ambulance ramping outside South Australian public hospitals hits record high

ABC Online, Other, 06/12/2023, Shari Hams

South Australian has recorded its worst month of ambulance ramping on record, with patients spending 4,285 hours waiting outside public hospitals. November's ramping hours is an increase of nearly 1,000 hours compared to the month before.

[Read More](#)

Public dental wait times blow out to more than 10 months for Gascoyne residents

ABC Online, Other, 06/12/2023, Charlie Mills and Rosemary Murphy

A trip to the dentist is something many people avoid, but if you live in some regional areas and want an appointment, you might have to wait years. Figures tabled in the WA parliament have shown the average waiting time to access public dental services in Western Australia's Gascoyne and Mid West regions is more than 10 months.

[Read More](#)

What does it take to walk 330km in 40C? For Allie Neville and Margaret Symes it's almonds, bananas and P!nk

ABC Online, Other, 05/12/2023, Coquohalla Connor and Andrew Schmidt

The start of summer in the New South Wales outback may not sound like the ideal time to embark on a 330-kilometre trek, but for Allie Neville and Margaret Symes, that is part of the challenge. Over a fortnight, the pair will be pounding the bitumen of the desolate stretch of highway between Tibooburra and Broken Hill to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

[Read More](#)

Her illness was torture but her death was lovely: Why we need more GPs to become VAD doctors

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/12/2023, Peter Stephenson

Having passed my preclinical training at St Mary's Hospital Medical School in Paddington, London, in 1970, I enthusiastically hit the wards of the hospital. However, I was shocked to see a patient with a fungating maxillary cancer that smelled so bad it permeated the whole ward.

[Read More](#)

ADA to work with government to implement Senate report recommendations

Bite Magazine, Other, 06/12/2023

The Australian Dental Association has said it is ready to work with the Albanese Government to put into practice some key recommendations from the Senate report into dental access. The Final Report into the Provision of and Access to Dental Services in Australia which was led by Greens Senator Jordan-Steele-John, included a number of key recommendations which the ADA has been calling on for a number of years.

[Read More](#)

SA hits new ambulance ramping record

In Daily, Other, 06/12/2023, Thomas Kelsall

Ambulances spent a record 4285 hours – equivalent to 178 days – ramped outside South Australian hospitals in November, with the Health Minister calling the figure "very disappointing". The state government this morning released November figures showing that ambulances spent 4285 hours outside hospital entrances waiting to admit patients, eclipsing the previous record of 3968 hours in March this year.

[Read More](#)

'Word salad': Demand for real action to tackle Adelaide hospital crisis

In Daily, Other, 06/12/2023, Thomas Kelsall

A medical union chief says South Australia's health system will be "cooked" in several years unless concrete funding and policy action is taken now, as hospital emergency departments overflowed this week with patients waiting more than 24 hours for a bed. Fifty-three people were waiting for a bed at the RAH at 9.

[Read More](#)

News & views: December 2023

Medical Forum, Other, 06/12/2023, Reza Feizerfan

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 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 nation-wide RACGP Health of the Nation survey.

[Read More](#)

GPs backed for a greater ADHD role

Medical Forum, Other, 06/12/2023, Eric Martin

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 More](#)

'Delays': Non-urgent elective surgeries fall at John Hunter Hospital

Newcastle Herald, Other, 06/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw

The number of performed at has fallen by 50 per cent in a decade, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data shows. [...] AMA NSW president Dr Michael Bonning said the organisation was "deeply concerned by cuts to hospital funding, which have an inordinate impact on hospitals like John Hunter which deal with a significant case load of trauma patients".

[Read More](#)

PSA on 24/7 care

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/12/2023

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) South Australia President Dr Manya Angley said the govt's support for around-the-clock access to pharmacist expertise will reduce pressure on emergency departments (PD 05 Dec). Three pharmacies have been selected to participate in the program covering Central, North and South Adelaide.

[Read More](#)

'Take immediate action' on ambulance delays

Shepparton News Online, Other, 06/12/2023

State Member for Shepparton Kim O'Keeffe raised concerns about the ambulance crisis and wait times in Victorian Parliament this week. "There has been constant incidents raised regarding ambulance delays," Ms O'Keeffe said.

[Read More](#)

Latest figures reveal hours wasted waiting for treatment at Sunshine Coast hospitals

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 06/12/2023, Iwan Jones and Elizabeth Neil

Emergency department patients are waiting hours before seeing a doctor and paramedic shift times are blowing out, new ambulance ramping data reveals. Sunshine Coast patients are spending more than four hours on stretchers in ambulances waiting for hospital care, new data shows.

[Read More](#)

Albanese strikes \$10.5bn deal with states to split cost of non-NDIS disability services in return for GST funding

The Guardian, Other, 06/12/2023, Sarah Basford

Anthony Albanese has struck a \$10.5bn deal with the states and territories to split the cost of disability services outside the NDIS in return for granting them a further three years of GST funding. The prime minister, alongside premiers and chief ministers, announced the governments had agreed at Wednesday's national cabinet meeting on a three-year extension of the GST "no worse off" guarantee from 2027-28, which ensures the jurisdictions receive their share of the tax's proceeds "fairly and equitably".

[Read More](#)

Warrnambool elective surgery wait times surge to near-record highs

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 06/12/2023, Ben Silvester

Wait times for elective surgery in Warrnambool have surged close to record highs as wait lists lengthen across the country. The average wait time for elective surgery at Warrnambool Base Hospital (WBH) has pushed out to 195 days in 2022-23, a full month longer than the previous year and close to the 218 day record average recorded at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 06/12/2023, Lisa Millar and Catherine Murphy

Patients are facing gridlock at hospitals around the country, with emergency departments and elective surgery waitlists under pressure in SA. The doctors' union says the Royal Adelaide Hospital was in crisis overnight with mental health patients waiting for up to 60 hours for beds. Meanwhile, new data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows patients are waiting longer than ever for elective surgery. Around 12,000 people have died while on those waiting lists over the past year.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 06/12/2023, Sandra Sully

The NSW Government is under pressure to take pressure off emergency departments with new data revealing patients are staying longer than ever. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has announced a new task force that aims to improve the way NSW discharges patients and will look at reallocating patients to other parts of the system.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 06/12/2023, Tiffany Warne

SA's hospitals have just experienced the worst ramping on record. Health Minister Chris Picton admits there is no way of spinning the November ramping results because they are the worst so far. SA Health blames an uptick in COVID-19 presentations, including among staff as well as ongoing issues with the trouble-plagued electronic patient record system.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 06/12/2023, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas' pledge to fix the ramping crisis is in serious doubt tonight, with November delivering the worst performance on record. Malinauskas went cap in hand to Canberra today, insisting there's still time to make good on his promise. In November, ambulances spent almost 4300 hours stuck outside hospitals, a thousand more than the previous month.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 06/12/2023, Monique Wright and Matt Shirvington

There's been another fatality as Queensland's ramping crisis deepens. An elderly man who suffered a fall in his Harvey Bay home has died after an ambulance failed to show up on time. The man's wife made multiple frantic calls to 000 after she was unable to help him up as he struggled to breathe.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 06/12/2023, Georgie Gardner

Mount Druitt Hospital is getting 30 new beds to help ease pressure on the health system in that area. The \$60m investment is part of the NSW Government's pledge to roll out 600 extra hospital beds in Western Sydney.

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6PR, Afternoons, 06/12/2023, Julie-Anne Sprague

Interview with Andrew Ngeow, WA Branch President, Pharmacy Guild of Australia. The PGA says new figures show 44% of Australians are waiting four hours or more in emergency departments. Ngeow says Australia is very close to an average of a five-day wait time to get in to see a GP. He adds there is a cohort that can be treated very easily and simply through pharmacists who are trained, and ready to go with the infrastructure in place at a low cost to the government.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 06/12/2023, Craig Zonca and Loretta

Ryan

Interview with Clara Jellie, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, regarding new data released today that has found patients are waiting longer than ever for elective surgeries in public hospitals. Jellie says in Qld, elective surgeries in the last period from 22 July 2022 to 23 June 2023, elective surgeries have increased by 10.5%. She adds that 50% of patients at the national level wait for 49 days for their surgery and in Qld, it is a bit lower with 40 days.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 06/12/2023, Leon Compton

New data reveals Tas has the longest waiting times in the country to be treated in its public hospital emergency departments. Figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show 44% of Australians who went to emergency departments spent more than four hours waiting to be treated.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Deprescribe push gathering strength

The Australian, General News, 07/12/2023, Natasha Robinson and Elise Kaine, Page 3

Australian doctors and researchers have added their support to a major push in Britain to reverse high rates of antidepressant prescribing, saying the problem of overprescription and unwarranted prescription is just as extensive in Australia. A letter in the British Medical Journal signed by peers, politicians and doctors in England called for a rethink of mass antidepressant prescribing.

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

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Worrying rise in kids' mental health issues

West Australian, General News, 07/12/2023, Page 4

The number of children admitted to mental health services with adult patients more than doubled after a review by the Chief Psychiatrist exposed "significant under reporting", with girls much more likely to be placed with adults than boys. There were 610 children under 18 admitted to mental health services in 2022-2023 where adults are also admitted including youth services that admit patients between 16 and 24 climbing 135 per cent from 259 in 2021-2022.

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Australians feeling mental toll of financial stressors

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 07/12/2023, Page 7

Financial pressures caused by the rising cost of living are having an extreme impact on the mental health of many Australians as the end of the year approaches. A survey of 1000 people conducted by mental health support service Beyond Blue revealed financial stress as the top concern heading into the Christmas season.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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

Ruby O'Neill running half marathon in honour of best mate Abraham Knox

The Mercury, Other, 06/12/2023, Chelsea Bunting

Belmont's Ruby O'Neill has experienced the heartbreak of losing a loved one to suicide first-hand. In 2020, when she was 14-years-old, she lost her best friend, Abraham Knox.

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

[Read More](#)

Blue Tree Project registers 1,100th tree to raise awareness of mental health, suicide prevention support

ABC Online, Other, 06/12/2023, Angus MacKintosh

Blue-painted trees are growing in popularity across Australia's east coast, four years after the mental health movement was founded in WA. West Victorian Tom Houlihan saw his first blue tree just six months ago.

[Read More](#)

Emergency Playdate helps kids overcome fear of fire crews after Black Summer trauma

ABC Online, Other, 06/12/2023, James Tugwell

At a unique playdate, kids grip fire hoses and shoot water onto the grass, learn how to drop and roll to avoid smoke, and even get a chance to switch on the sirens that left them anxious just a few years ago. All the activities are designed to allay the fears of kids who lived through the Black Summer bushfires in the Eurobodalla shire on the NSW south coast and ensure they are prepared for any future threats.

[Read More](#)

Hospital 'girdlock' leaves some patients waiting days for a bed, union says

ABC Online, Other, 06/12/2023, Stephanie Richards

Mental health patients at South Australia's biggest hospital have been left waiting for up to 60 hours in the emergency department, an urgent union safety inspection has found. Doctors at the Royal Adelaide Hospital on Tuesday asked the SA Salaried Medical Officers Association (SASMOA) to inspect the hospital's 69-bed emergency department (ED), warning it was in "gridlock".

[Read More](#)

Ukrainian mental health doctors visit Sydney to learn how to better help civilians during war

ABC Online, Other, 06/12/2023, Alexander Lewis

As the war in Ukraine enters a second winter, expressions of joy in the bombarded country are hard to imagine. But despite the daily threat of Russian attacks, citizens are carrying on their lives as normally as possible, according to a group of Ukrainian mental health doctors who have just spent months in Sydney.

[Read More](#)

Increasing cost-of-living turning seasonal stress to distress

SBS, Other, 06/12/2023, Angelica Waite

New research from Beyond Blue reveals one in five people are experiencing extreme effects on their mental health due to the rising cost of living. The data suggests financial pressures are the number one stressor as the end of the year approaches.

[Read More](#)

3AW, Mornings, 06/12/2023, Neil Mitchell

Mental health services are expecting a rise in those accessing support ahead of Christmas. Around 83% of people have told Beyond Blue the cost of living is harming their mental health.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 06/12/2023, Ryk Goddard

Beyond Blue is bracing for one of its busiest periods as cost of living pressures and the festive season take their toll on Australia's mental health. A new Beyond Blue survey of 1000 people found the cost of living is impacting the mental health of 83% of respondents, with 1 in 5 saying the impact is extreme.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Spreading the good word on a country practice

Daily Liberal, General News, 07/12/2023, Sarah Falson, Page 1

Dubbo Family Doctors GP Samantha Fitzpatrick came to town in 2013 as a medical student and liked it so much "stuck around ever since". Originally from Sydney, Dr Fitzpatrick says being able to make a contribution to the community is rewarding, and it's this kind of rich experience she and other local medicos and sector professionals are sharing as part of a movement to get more doctors to the region.

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'Super' boost to medical degree places

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 07/12/2023, Ben Silvester, Page 3

Warrnambool a \$90 million federal government investment will help deliver 30 new medical degree places to Warrnambool and Ararat in a "huge" boost to the region's healthcare system. The federal plan includes \$26 million to fund 80 Commonwealth-supported medical degree places across Australia over the next three years, including 15 in Warrnambool and Ararat.

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Life-changer the toast of town after Victorian award

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 07/12/2023, Madeleine McNeil, Page 3

Warrnambool lactation consultant and breastfeeding centre founder Barb Glare has been recognised with a prestigious Victorian award for her work in the field. Ms Glare was named community hero award recipient at the 2023 Victoria Community Achievement Awards.

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

Burnt out, bullied and threatened: Why our health workers are in crisis

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 05/12/2023, Laura Banks

Nearly 2000 NSW Health workers lodged compensation claims for psychological injuries over the past two years, new data reveals, while the union says at least six nurses or midwives had taken their own lives in the past 12 months. More than 33,500 NSW Health employees have also claimed they are burnt out, while 21,000 workers say they have witnessed bullying in the workplace.

[Read More](#)

'I've not had one doctor apply in four years': Fighting to survive a GP drought

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/12/2023, Rachel Carter

Practice manager Lorraine Parker says her Blue Mountains practice has not accepted new patients for a year. "I've had to close the practice three or four days over the last six months because I had no doctors.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Walk this way, with app in hand

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/12/2023, Sarah Berry, Page 23

Last week, it was announced that the free hiking app AllTrails had won the 2023 Apple app of the year. It may not be an obvious choice for several reasons not least that if you compare it with the sheer number of running apps on the market, a hiking app seems like the twitching cousin.

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

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

The Robin Hood fix for healthcare

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 07/12/2023, Crispin Hull, Page 34

Axing the private healthcare rebate and stage three tax cuts can help Medicare get back on the right track. Media has been alive with comments about the Albanese government losing steam and even the possibility of Peter Dutton becoming prime minister.

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

Stop talking about boosting bulk-billing rates and admit the truth: A call for political honesty

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/12/2023, Corinne Glenn

The changes to Medicare and general practice over the course of the year have sent the strongest signal ever that the public should not expect to be bulk-billed by their GP, particularly if they do not have a healthcare or pension card. Why would a doctor bulk-bill a patient without a concession card and earn considerably less than they would for bulk-billing a patient with a card?

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 06/12/2023, Tiffany Warne

PM Anthony Albanese is agreeing to another \$1.2b for Medicare, which could open more urgent care clinics and increase state hospital funding from an average of 40% to 45% over ten years from 2025.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Rozalia had 'very rare' and severe heart condition: experts

Canberra Times, General News, 07/12/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 6

A child who died of a "very rare" condition could have reasonably been diagnosed about four hours earlier, experts told a coronial inquest. Five-year-old Rozalia Spadafora is believed to have died from influenza-A induced myocarditis at Canberra Hospital on July 5, 2022.

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

'We failed Stewart'

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 07/12/2023, Amaani Siddeek, Page 1

Gold Coast Health bosses have admitted "significant failings" leading up to the "preventable" death of an autistic man in hospital from starvation and dehydration. Stewart Kelly passed away after a 33day admission at Robina Hospital in August last year.

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

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Hospital boss says two other deaths 'different'

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 07/12/2023, Page 7

Gold Coast Health CEO Ron Calvert says two other patient deaths under investigation by Queensland Police Service were not preventable. After admitting Stewart Kelly's death at Robina Hospital last year was "preventable" following numerous "significant failures" he said two other patient deaths being investigated by police "are different".

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Health crisis

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 07/12/2023, Page 34

Yesterday's shocking admission from Gold Coast Health bosses that the death of Stewart Kelly while at Robina Hospital was preventable is truly heartbreaking. The 45-year-old autistic man died of starvation and dehydration.

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

Queensland Ambulance Service launches review after man dies waiting for help

ABC Online, Other, 06/12/2023, Lucy Loram

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has launched a review after a Hervey Bay man died in his home while waiting for paramedics to arrive. The 84-year-old fell in his Point Vernon home on Saturday afternoon and his wife made the first of several calls to triple-0.

[Read More](#)

Gold Coast hospital left Austistic patient to 'starve to death'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 06/12/2023, Joshua Haigh

A mother is calling for an investigation into the failings at a major Queensland hospital after her autistic son died from starvation while under the care of its doctors. Stewart Kelly, 45, died at Robina Hospital in August last year from starvation and dehydration during a 33-day admission.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

How do we compare?

Shepparton News, General News, 05/12/2023, Jay Bryce, Page 4

When the contentious issue of the outdated Shepparton Sports Stadium is raised, fellow Victorian regional hub Bendigo is often mentioned. 'Look at what Bendigo has got compared to us.' So, let's do exactly that.

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'Cultural legend' to 'inadequate zone': Pool debate

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 07/12/2023, Katrina Lovell, Page 2

A new pool for Warrnambool is years away with the "eye-watering" budget for a new facility reliant on funding from cash-strapped state and federal governments. The council has released its aquatic

strategy and is looking to the community to direct its next step - redevelop on the current site or move to a new one.

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Events promoter Tony Cochrane says sporting codes cannot afford temporary Ekka stadium

ABC Online, Other, 06/12/2023, Jack McKay

Former Gold Coast Suns chairman Tony Cochrane has hit out at the Palaszczuk government's move to make sporting codes pay for a temporary stadium while the Gabba is being rebuilt for the 2032 Olympics. His comments come after the government announced plans to use the Brisbane Showgrounds as an interim venue for the AFL and cricket while the Gabba is being knocked down and redeveloped.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Chemist giant heads for ASX via Sigma deal

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 07/12/2023, Carrie Lafrenz, Page 19

Chemist Warehouse will take control of Sigma Healthcare in a reverse listing that will bring the pharmaceutical retailer controlled by the billionaire Gance and Verrocchi families to the ASX for the first time.

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Chemist Warehouse eyes \$8bn listing in merger with Sigma

The Australian, Business News, 07/12/2023, John Stensholt and Glen Norris, Page 13

Chemist Warehouse is set to emerge as a listed entity worth about \$8bn as part of a reverse takeover deal with commercial partner Sigma Healthcare. The blockbuster deal will see Chemist Warehouse billionaire co-founders Jack Gance and Mario Verrocchi join the board of the ASX-listed Sigma as part of a transaction that will see the duo's respective families emerge as large shareholders of the combined conglomerate.

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Pharma link likely to face scrutiny

The Australian, Business News, 07/12/2023, Bridget Carter, Page 14

Chemist Warehouse's backdoor listing into Sigma will have regulators crawling all over it because it will create a vertically integrated business model that will make it virtually impossible for its rivals to be competitive on price. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has been strongly opposed to supermarkets selling drugs and issuing prescriptions as they look to protect the industry, but if the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission really wants to break the power of the Sigma and Chemist Warehouse combo, it's one way this could happen.

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Test of ageing organs

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/12/2023, Page 7

A simple blood test could detect if one of your organs is ageing faster than the others, US researchers say. Stanford University researchers say that nearly one in five people may show strongly accelerated age in one organ and 1.7 per cent of the population show ageing in multiple organs.

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Metformin could protect against age-related macular degeneration: study

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/12/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

Taking metformin could protect older adults without diabetes from developing age-related macular degeneration, according to US doctors. Their case-control study found that use of the diabetes drug was associated with a 17% lower risk of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) versus no exposure at all.

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Pont is in top ten

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/12/2023

Hospital pharmacist Dr Lisa Pont is being recognised by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for her outstanding research into the systemic need for the better use of medicines in aged care settings. The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) congratulated Dr Pont for her research 'Driving Change in Aged Care pharmacy practices through data', which was announced last week as one of the ten best Australian health and medical research projects chosen from among the thousands of current NHMRC-funded projects.

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Pharma industry rapidly investing in new distribution capacity

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 06/12/2023

New analysis by global supply chain consultancy TMX Transform has found that in the last 12 months alone major healthcare and pharmaceutical client companies have invested in more than 150,000 sqm of new operational property sites, predominately along Australia's eastern seaboard.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Remote Indigenous communities pay the health price for low stock and high prices

Crikey, Other, 06/12/2023, Julia Bergin

The bottled water fridge is empty, the freezer is void and there is limited stock lining the shelves. Outback Stores Imanpa store manager John Prunty explains that it's day 13 of a 14-day delivery cycle and Sorry Business has exacerbated dwindling supplies: "A funeral wiped us out. We're running on empty at the moment."

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Staying Moving Staying Strong project delivers culturally appropriate health resources for mob

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/12/2023, Rhiannon Clarke

In an Australian first, culturally-suitable resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living with a variety of health conditions have been released by Arthritis Australia. The newly-released materials, developed through the Staying Moving Staying Strong (SMSS) project, have been designed to assist Indigenous peoples who suffer from chronic health conditions including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and gout.

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QIMR Berghofer researchers tackle deadly disease endemic to Australia

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/12/2023, Giovanni Torre

A funding grant will launch a QIMR Berghofer-led mission to eliminate one of the world's most neglected and dangerous tropical diseases, endemic in remote Indigenous communities across Australia. The multidisciplinary team has been awarded a \$5 million Synergy Grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to eliminate strongyloidiasis, a little-known and potentially fatal infection caused by the parasitic worm, *Strongyloides stercoralis* which thrives in communities with poor sanitation.

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Hearing improves

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/12/2023

The proportion of First Nations children aged 0-14 with an ear or hearing problem has declined from 11% in 2001 to 6.9% in 2018-19. The first annual report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Ear and hearing health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 2023, was launched by Worimi man and ear, nose and throat surgeon Kelvin Kong.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

'My partner lied to me about having HIV.'

Mamamia, Other, 06/12/2023

Earlier this year, I had an intimate encounter that lasted a couple of days. Before getting physical, we discussed our sexual health in depth and declared our statuses were 'clean' (that is, we did not have any sexually transmitted infections or viruses).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

TGA acts on alleged unlawful advertising

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/12/2023

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has launched proceedings against CDA Clinics and Dr Benjamin Jansen, over alleged breaches of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.

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Cannabis clinic boom causes concern

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/12/2023

To cater for the booming billion-dollar medicinal cannabis market, various clinics that offer both prescription and dispensing services under the one roof have been popping up, often resembling sleek day spas, positioned in tourist hotspots such as the Gold Coast. [...] The TGA has issued more than 100 infringement notices totalling nearly \$1.3m for alleged unlawful advertising of medicinal cannabis.

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New role for former TGA boss

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/12/2023

Professor John Skerritt has been appointed to the Medicines Australia Board as an independent selected director. [...] "As a former Deputy Secretary of the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care and former head of the Therapeutic Goods Administration, John's knowledge of the Australian therapeutics regulatory environment is unmatched," she said.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Deluge forces area's oysters off festive list

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/12/2023, Laura Chung, Page 20

Oyster farmers along the South Coast should be ramping up for the busiest time of the year, but heavy rain and flooding means there will be shortages this Christmas. [...] A spokesperson for the NSW Department of Primary Industries said: "Following the heavy rains and associated storm water and sewerage overflows last week along the south coast of NSW, 111 oyster farming business were required to automatically close for 21-days to ensure food safety.

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Food Safety Information Council tips to growing healthy veg and fruit

The Senior, Other, 05/12/2023, Eileen Wood

What could be healthier than pulling up a fresh lettuce from the veggie patch for a homemade salad or an egg and lettuce sandwich? Or cutting some fresh, fragrant homegrown herbs to sprinkle on your homegrown tomatoes or homemade pizza.

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