



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 16th December 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Hobart Mercury \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the University of Tasmania has secured \$14.8 million in federal government funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council's Ideas Grant Scheme, which will be allocated to seven innovative research projects within the university.
- **[The West Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that new sampling from WA Health has shown a sharp fall in the concentration of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the state, while hospital data revealed the current wave of COVID infections in WA is beginning to recede.
- **[The AFR Weekend \(page 4\)](#)** reports that the National Health Survey has revealed that almost 7 million Australians suffer from a chronic mental health condition, the highest level since records began, while the prevalence of other chronic illnesses like asthma, back problems, arthritis and osteoporosis has fallen.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 3\)](#)** reports that new data from the 2022 National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance has revealed a decline in the number of children being vaccinated against deadly diseases, with some parts of Queensland registering the lowest rates in the country.

- [The West Australian \(page 4\)](#) reports that new data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics National Health Survey has revealed 65.8 per cent of adults are now considered overweight or obese, putting increased demand on the nation's healthcare system and economy.
- [The Guardian](#) reports that state premiers have been accused of a "painful lack of collaboration" by the Australian Medical Association during the COVID vaccine rollout, in its submission to the federal Covid inquiry, with AMA president Professor Steve Robson saying chief health officers were "actively undermined" in public.

MINISTER BUTLER

Helplines receive \$450m more for distress calls

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/12/2023, Olivia Ireland, Page 15

National helplines responding to mental health crises have been granted almost half a billion dollars in new federal funding to deal with a rising number of distress calls, in what Health Minister Mark Butler acknowledges needs to be the first step of many. The funding for Lifeline, Beyond Blue, Kids Helpline and Indigenous service 13Yarn comes in addition to a previously announced \$43.9 million boost through to June 2025.

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

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Tidal wave of illegal cigs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/12/2023, Stephen Drill, Page 3

Ten million illegal cigarettes are being seized every week as the Australian Border Force puts its "foot on the throat" of organised crime. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler made no apologies for taxing cigarettes, saying it was "one of the most effective and efficient ways that governments can reduce tobacco consumption".

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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

Labcoat legends

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/12/2023, Blair Richards, Page 1

Revolutionary treatments could be around the corner for some of humankind's most devastating conditions thanks to a massive research grant won by the University of Tasmania. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the seven projects in Tasmania were world-leading.

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

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Funding snub reversal call

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/12/2023, Caitlan Charles, Page 4

Health industry leaders are calling for the federal government to reconsider the allocation of new commonwealth supported places in medicine due to a shortage of doctors in the North. Earlier this month, federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced an extra 160 medical students each year would begin end-to-end training at six new programs in rural communities.

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Shingles - Rash, risk, rumour and remedy

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Samantha Crawford, Page 39

Community pharmacy plays a significant role in the Cmanagement of shingles, particularly through administering the shingles vaccine. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said: "Without vaccination, almost one in three Australians will get shingles in their lifetime."

Menzies researchers receive more than \$12m from NHMRC to research malaria, TB in Top End

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/12/2023

Seven Top End researchers from Menzies School of Health Research have received more than \$12 million in funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council to improve First Nations healthcare and research infectious diseases including malaria and tuberculosis. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the grants supported "groundbreaking, world-class research that addresses some of the nation's greatest health challenges."

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

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Generation Vape: Australia's new public health crisis

Law Society Journal, Other, 15/12/2023, Danielle Kutchel

The number of young Australians using vapes regularly is now at a level that warrants federal government intervention. [...] Earlier this year, the Federal health minister, Mark Butler, announced action to "stamp out vaping particularly among young Australians", with the Federal Budget including funding to address illegal vaping.

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Darryl O'Donnell steps down as CEO of Health Equity Matters

Sydney Star Observer, Other, 15/12/2023

Darryl O'Donnell has stepped down as CEO of Health Equity Matters (formerly the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations), after leading the organisation for around eight years. [...] "Among his many achievements, Darryl has most recently helped shape the work of the HIV Task Force chaired by the Hon Mark Butler MP, and the LGBTIQ+ Health Ten Year Action Plan chaired by Assistant Minister the Hon Ged Kearney MP.

[Read More](#)

The bad habit being increasingly embraced by Australia's youth

The Ararat Advertiser, Other, 15/12/2023, Adrian Rollins

The rate of e-cigarette and vape use among teens and young adults has soared, highlighting the urgency of efforts to crackdown on the way they are formulated, marketed and sold. Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show vaping among 15- to 17-year-olds more than doubled between 2020-21 and 2022, from 7. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the changes were needed because vapes posed a range of known and unknown health risks and had become "a very serious public health menace".

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Burning CEO, Burning board ... Burning GP?

The Medical Republic, Other, 15/12/2023

Is this the worst or (the beginning of) the best of time for GPs? [...] Here's a taste of what is on the program and some of the people coming: [...] Peta Bryant (Mark Butler's office policy)

[Read More](#)

Killarney trials major rural health program

Warwick Today, Other, 15/12/2023, Jin Hui

A comprehensive healthcare initiative aimed at transforming how rural communities access health services is set to be trialled in Killarney following a major funding boost. In a statement to media, Australian Health Minister Mark Butler announced approximately \$1.4 million in federal funding would be allocated to the Killarney Memorial Aged Care to deliver the four year pilot program.

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MINISTER WELLS

‘Once in a generation’ reforms to put the rights of older Australians front and centre

Starts at 60, Other, 15/12/2023, Matthew Hart

The Albanese government is championing a transformative overhaul for the rights of older Australians through groundbreaking reforms, deemed a "once in a generation" initiative. [...] Other key features of the reforms include: Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the proposed reforms mean "we are now at the threshold of a once-in-a-generation change".

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Seven new members appointed to Aged Care Council of Elders – including aged care resident

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/12/2023, Lauren Broomham

The Federal Government has revealed a number of new faces will join the Aged Care Council of Elders as it embarks on its second term. [...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells said she particularly looked forward to the insights the Government will gain from having a Council member who lives in an aged care home.

[Read More](#)

2SM, Afternoons, 15/12/2023, Brent Bultitude

A new report has revealed Aged care home residents received on average six minutes less care than mandated. On average, 194 minutes of care was provided per resident per day in April to June of 2023, compared to estimates of 180 minutes in 2018 to 2019. Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says they were certainly near reaching their target.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Breakfast , 15/12/2023, Laurel Edwards, Gary Clare and Mark Hine

The Queensland Government has not yet contacted their federal counterpart over a decision to pause the review of a \$7.1b infrastructure pipeline for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the creation of an independent oversight authority. Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells said her Government welcomed the decision to have what she labels a fresh look at the package of projects and bringing in the independent authority affirming the feedback from stakeholders.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Rural health leaders at the heart of #RuralPositive

Partyline Magazine, Other, 12/12/2023, Jeremy Mitchell

Those working in the rural health sector have become all too familiar with the term crisis', which has been widely used to describe the state of play of rural health in the media. [...] The night brought together finalists, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health The Hon Emma McBride MP, National Rural Health Commissioner Adjunct Professor Ruth Stewart, the Shadow Minister for Health Senator Anne Ruston?

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Darryl O'Donnell steps down as CEO of Health Equity Matters

Sydney Star Observer, Other, 15/12/2023

Darryl O'Donnell has stepped down as CEO of Health Equity Matters (formerly the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations), after leading the organisation for around eight years. [...] "Among his many achievements, Darryl has most recently helped shape the work of the HIV Task Force chaired by the Hon Mark Butler MP, and the LGBTIQ+ Health Ten Year Action Plan chaired by Assistant Minister the Hon Ged Kearney MP.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

Major govt investment to boost regional connectivity

Critical Comms, Other, 15/12/2023

More than 100 communities and locations across rural and regional Australia are set to benefit from significant communications upgrades made possible by \$170.2 million in Commonwealth investment through the Australian Government's Regional Connectivity Program (RCP) and Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP), both of which aim to narrow the digital divide in rural and regional communities. [...] "Inadequate phone services in regional and bush communities doesn't just mean a day without scrolling on social media; it means you can't call the local health clinic and police in an emergency or even buy food with your EFTPOS card," added Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC News Afternoons, 15/12/2023, Miriam Corowa

The life and the life of former Northern Land Council chairman Doctor Bushlands has been mourned and celebrated in a state funeral in Darwin today. [...] Territory Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said it was too often that Aboriginal leaders like Doctor Bush Blanas, who died aged 61, passed away before their time.

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DEPARTMENT

Fears for state's toddlers with decline in vaccines

Weekend Post, General News, 16/12/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 24

Only three quarters of toddlers in parts of Queensland are vaccinated against potentially deadly diseases the lowest rate in the country. Western Queensland, with towns like Mount Isa, Winton and Charleville, has horror levels of immunisation for children aged 21 months with only 77.8 per cent up to date with their scheduled jabs. [...] Based on Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care data, there were no cases of measles in Australia in 2021, while there have been seven in 2022 and 24 confirmed cases in 2023 related to large overseas outbreaks and increasing international travel.

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PBS lists new option in plaque psoriasis treatment

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 12

Australia's first once-daily oral therapy with a new mechanism of action for adult patients living with severe chronic plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy^{1,2} is now listed on the PBS (since 1 October 2023). [...] 6. Ministers Department of Health and Aged Care. 'PBS listings bring greater hope in fight against multiple myeloma and severe psoriasis'.

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Rule 136 application lodged - what next?

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Sarah Stoddart, Page 32

You've lodged your application under Rule 136 of the Pharmacy Location Rules, governing the requirements for approval of a new PBS pharmacy in a large medical centre. What happens next? [...] If the application is recommended for approval, the applicant or their authorised representative will then need to liaise with the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care regarding the anticipated date for trading to begin.

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Shingles - Rash, risk, rumour and remedy

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Samantha Crawford, Page 39

Community pharmacy plays a significant role in the Cmanagement of shingles, particularly through administering the shingles vaccine. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said: "Without vaccination, almost one in three Australians will get shingles in their lifetime."

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A remarkable year

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Bronwyn Clark, Page 44

It's been a remarkable year for the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC). We've initiated many projects that enhance and advance capabilities of the pharmacy profession. [...] As requested by the Pharmacy Board of Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care, we've been developing accreditation standards for 'Pharmacist Prescriber', 'Aged Care On-Site Pharmacist', and 'Medication Management Review' education programs.

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Fresh call to be aware of Australia's 'secret killer' ahead of sweltering summer

NEWS.com.au, Other, 16/12/2023, Courtney Gould

Aussies are being warned of a "secret killer" over the sweltering summer break, following confirmation 2023 was the warmest year on record. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care also raised awareness about heatwave mitigation planning.

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

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Reflections on our 30th year

Partyline Magazine, Other, 15/12/2023, Susi Tegen

As 2023 comes to a close, I feel privileged to be leading such a vital and important organisation as the National Rural Health Alliance. [...] In this edition we feature articles ranging from one by the National Rural Health Commissioner, Adjunct Professor Ruth Stewart to an article by the Grampians Public Health Unit about the paws-itive effects on health of their working dog events.

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Rabies warning issued to WA travellers after surge in locals contracting disease from overseas trips

Perth Now, Other, 15/12/2023, Hannah Cross

WA travellers have been warned to protect themselves against rabies after a surge in the number of locals needing treatment for the disease after overseas trips. [...] For more information on health while travelling, visit the federal Department of Health and Aged Care.

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

[Read More](#)

Australian Medical Association accuses premiers of 'actively undermining' health officials' response to Covid pandemic

The Guardian, Other, 16/12/2023, Josh Butler

The Australian Medical Association has accused some premiers of "actively undermining" public health officials at points during the pandemic and said governments were now seeking to avoid criticism of their actions throughout the Covid period. An interim CDC will be set up inside the Department of Health from 1 January 2024 but the government is still designing the standalone centre and undertaking preparatory work on how its systems would work.

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Vaccination coverage in children continues to decline since COVID-19

The Lismore App, Other, 15/12/2023

A new report from NCIRS shows vaccination coverage in children has continued to decrease since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the need for further targeted strategies to increase vaccine uptake and protect more Australians from vaccine preventable diseases. [...] Based on Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care data, there were no cases of measles in Australia in 2021, while there have been 7 and 24 confirmed cases in 2022 and 2023, respectively, related to large overseas outbreaks and increasing international travel.

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CORONAVIRUS

COVID Xmas miracle

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 16/12/2023, John Flint, Page 1

In good news for everyone wanting to celebrate with their family this Christmas, the State's latest wave of COVID has finally receded. The latest health data from WA confirmed the concerning wave of infections that kicked off in October was finally past its peak, with authorities reporting a "sharp fall" in cases this week.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

A family Christmas is still on the cards

AFR Weekend, Smart Money, 16/12/2023, Bina Brown, Page 32

Families getting together over the festive season might offer one of the rare opportunities in a busy year to observe properly how an elderly loved one is...

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

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Long career looking after aged celebrated

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 16/12/2023, Sarah Buchecker, Page 10

For 25 years, Oasis Aged Care has looked after Sunraysia's elderly, and one staff member has been there each step of the way. The aged care centre celebrated the milestone on Monday, while making special acknowledgement of staff member Carole Smith.

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Aged care home residents fed 'hot dogs, party pies'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/12/2023, Chris Burns, Page 14

An outback aged care facility is accused of frequently serving its residents party pies, hot dogs and sausage rolls, and being dominating over the visitation hours of families, some of whom travel

thousands of kilometres. Mount Isa identity Kathleen Swift always wanted her final breath to be in the North West mining community, but instead of being able to fulfil her final wish, she moved closer to her family for her welfare.

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Feros Village residents claim victory in fight to stay in Byron Bay aged care facility

ABC Online, Other, 15/12/2023, Bruce Mackenzie

Residents at the Feros Village in Byron Bay are today claiming victory in their battle to stay put. Its operator, Feros Care, announced plans to close the facility in late February this year.

[Read More](#)

Hall & Prior: Woodside Hospital in East Fremantle approved for aged care residence and wellness centre

West Australian, Other, 15/12/2023, Gabrielle Becerra Mellet

A \$90 million aged care residence and wellness centre set for a historic corner of Perth's south has been approved despite heated objections from locals and heritage experts. Plans by aged care provider Hall & Prior were approved on Thursday for the facility, which is expected to inject 160 beds at the former Woodside Maternity Hospital site.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Sobering news on health trends

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/12/2023, Eleanor Campbell, Page 35

More than a quarter of Australian adults exceed daily recommended limits of alcohol, while obesity rates have nearly doubled in Australia in two decades, according to a snapshot of the nation's health. The latest national health survey from the Australian Bureau of Statistics found 27 per cent of the adult population consumed more than 10 alcoholic drinks a week.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#) and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Rural life a health hazard: new data

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/12/2023, Simon McGuire, Page 19

People living in rural and remote areas of Australia are twice as likely to die from preventable causes, new data reveals. That is one of the key statistics from the Rural Health in Australia Snapshot 2023 report.

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

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Obesity now at record levels

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 16/12/2023, Page 4

More Australians are living with obesity than ever before, putting an immense strain on the nation's healthcare system and economy. The Australian Bureau of Statistics National Health Survey released on Friday revealed two in three adults (65.8 per cent) were overweight or obese.

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Better beer for health?

Owner Driver, General News, 01/12/2023, Kate Battocchio, Page 53

Summer has arrived and for many this means time off work, extended holidays, travel and spending quality time with family and friends. It is also often a time of celebrating, unwinding and relaxing at parties, or at home in front of the cricket.

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Major health benefits of incidental activity

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 10

Short bouts of the kind of incidental activity that are part of daily living could reduce risk of heart attack, stroke and even premature death, but the length of activity and intensity are key factors, a new wearables study tracking more than 25,000 people over eight years has found. "From walking up the stairs to speedily mopping the floors, in recent years we've come to understand that it's not just structured exercise that's good for our health, but we know very little about how these short bouts of incidental activity translate to health benefits," said the study's senior author, Professor Emmanuel Stamatakis from the University of Sydney's Charles Perkins Centre.

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Bigger fines for dirty mines won't protect communities from pollution: NSW inquiry chair

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/12/2023, Laura Chung

The independent environmental watchdog should be given greater powers to issue fines to mines that breach regulations, and be resourced with more experts to ensure health and safety concerns are met, a NSW upper house inquiry has recommended. However, two members of the inquiry, including its chair, said the final report did not go far enough to protect the health of local communities after evidence and expert medical witnesses were ignored.

[Read More](#)

Air-quality monitoring recommended for state's mines

Canberra Times, Other, 15/12/2023, Duncan Murray

The public should have access to air-quality data from all NSW mine sites amid concerns about the facilities' impacts on health and the environment, an inquiry has found. The recommendation was one of a series from a state upper-house inquiry into the impacts of heavy-metal mining.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Australian Bureau of Statistics' National Health Survey reveals number of Australians smoking daily on steady decline

ABC Online, Other, 15/12/2023, Brianna Morris-Grant and Claudia Williams

The number of Australians smoking daily has dropped, more adults than ever have a mental health condition, and less than ten per cent of us are eating the recommended amount of fruit and veggies. That's according to the latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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Opioid treatment up 33%

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/12/2023

The use of medicine for opioid dependence has increased by 33% over the last 10 years, especially in very remote areas, researchers from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) at UNSW Sydney have revealed. The Trends in use of medicines for opioid agonist treatment in Australia, 2013-2022 research paper also found that buprenorphine now replaces methadone as the most common medicine for opioid dependence.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Nearly half of Australians chronically sick

AFR Weekend, General News, 16/12/2023, Euan Black, Page 4

Almost 7 million Australians suffer from a long-term mental health condition, according to research that shows the country's prevalence of chronic health conditions has reached the highest level since records began.

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

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National alarm at rise in mental health issues

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/12/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

The number of people experiencing a mental health condition has increased dramatically in the past five years, with one in four people now affected, but rates of obesity are holding steady and smoking rates continue to plummet. The Australian Bureau of Statistics on Friday released its five yearly National Health Survey, which showed an enormous 81 per cent of people had at least one long-term health condition, while half had at least one chronic condition.

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

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Weight-loss replica

Courier Mail, General News, 16/12/2023, Page 9

An Australian start-up company will soon rival Ozempic, selling its own replica of the controversial weight-loss drug. Eucalyptus, a telehealth start-up that sells weightloss medications, has announced it will soon produce a version of the drug at two Australian pharmacies.

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

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Little fighter

Northern Territory News, General News, 16/12/2023, Tonya Turner, Page 31

Mia Rose was only two months old when her parents noticed something was wrong with her eye. Thanks to an innovative new cancer treatment, the two-year-old is now thriving. Rose Steffe was a happy, gurgling two month-old baby when her parents noticed something unusual about her eye.

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

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Cell therapy hits diabetes

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/12/2023, Page 28

Researchers at the Royal Adelaide Hospital are developing a new cell therapy they hope could prevent or delay the onset of type 1 diabetes. The work involves reprogramming a person's own special cells to fight the trigger for the disease.

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Radio star Dye on health struggle

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 16/12/2023, Amaani Siddeek, Page 14

Former Gold Coast radio star Bianca Dye says she felt the pressure to "take a Panadol and toughen up" behind the microphone while struggling with a debilitating health condition. Ms Dye told the Bulletin she has spent thousands of dollars on IVF treatments that were doomed to fail after doctors and reproductive health specialists did not test her for endometriosis.

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Improving the lives of PCOS sufferers

Polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) is a common hormonal condition that affects one in 10 women of reproductive age¹, and up to 13 per cent of all women², yet it's also considered a "neglected condition". 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".

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Dementia or just forgetfulness?

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Rebecca Miltiadou, Page 40

Dementia is a complex neurodegenerative disorder characterised by cognitive decline, impaired memory and disturbances in daily functioning. It involves a range of conditions, with Alzheimer's disease being the most common form, followed by vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, and frontotemporal dementia.

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Several doctors dismissed Rory's developmental delay. He was later diagnosed with childhood dementia

ABC Online, Other, 15/12/2023

It began when Jill O'Grady's son Rory was three years old. She noticed he had trouble forming sentences and pronouncing words. By the time he started primary school he was lagging behind the other kids.

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Meet the siblings, aged 7 and 10, who have dementia - as their mum reveals the giveaway signs something wasn't right

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/12/2023, Ashley Nickel

A family have opened up about the heartache of their two young children being diagnosed with dementia - while revealing the symptoms many doctors brushed off. Brisbane siblings Rory and Anna O'Grady, aged ten and seven, began showing signs of dementia at an early age but went undiagnosed due to the belief the condition is only found in the elderly.

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Breaking barriers: challenges in CALD community access to cancer clinical trials in Australia

SBS, Other, 15/12/2023, Shahan Alam

Cancer patients from Australia's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities, representing racial and ethnic minorities, are underrepresented in clinical trials, according to a recent study led by Dr. Abhijit Pal. As a PhD Candidate and Medical Oncology Staff Specialist, Dr. Pal, who also serves as the Director of Advanced Training at Sydney's Liverpool Hospital, discusses his findings with SBS Bangla.

[Read More](#)

New hope for women with deadly endometrial cancer

The Senior, Other, 15/12/2023

Women with a deadly form of cancer could soon have new hope thanks to a promising new therapy. Endometrial cancer has a poor prognosis if the cancer spreads or returns after initial treatment.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 15/12/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Matthew Vickers, Clinical Director, Eucalyptus. Vickers discusses their new drug which is similar to weight loss drug Ozempic.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 14/12/2023, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

Doctors are warning about copycat Ozempic drugs soon to be sold in Australia. The diabetes medication is booming in the weight loss world, but it's in short supply. First, it went viral online.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 15/12/2023, David Campbell, Sylvia Jeffreys and Lara Vella

The world's first cancer vaccine is giving melanoma patients a new hope. News Corp reports the mRNA vaccine by Moderna is now moving to phase three studies.

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PRIMARY CARE

Our assisted dying wishes ignored in bill

Canberra Times, General News, 16/12/2023, Roy Harvey, Page 27

The ACT Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 31. The joint ministerial media release said the bill is "about people, and choice, autonomy and dignity at the end of their lives" and "our evidence-based model ... responds to the known issues in other jurisdictions and reflects the ACT's unique circumstances, together with the Canberra community's views".

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National cabinet's zero-sum game

Canberra Times, General News, 16/12/2023, Simon Cowan and Robert Carling, Page 28

While the name has changed over the decades from Premiers Conference to COAG to national cabinet, the game remains the same. [...] The other concessions included increased Commonwealth funding of public hospitals from 2025-26, increased Medicare funding of urgent care clinics to take pressure off hospital emergency departments, and 50-50 sharing of the cost of a son-of-NDIS scheme - an important concession further explored below.

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

Wake-up call for Mali in blast from his own past

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/12/2023, Paul Starick, Page 34

Premier Peter Malinauskas is facing a challenge to avoid becoming trapped by social issues particularly his hitherto failed vow to fix the ramping crisis and haul his government's focus back to the economy and working families. As the midpoint of a four-year term approaches, the government's agenda is being consumed by desperately defending the blowout to record high levels of ambulance ramping outside hospitals, plus eventually caving in to calls for a royal commission into domestic violence.

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

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Euthanasia response

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Supplements, 16/12/2023, Page 7

Australia's Catholic bishops have released a document to guide priests, chaplains and pastoral workers who are asked to provide pastoral support to Catholics who are considering euthanasia. Called To Witness and to Accompany with Christian Hope, the document follows the legalisation of euthanasia in all states.

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

Driving holiday turns into jail time for ambulance chaser

A visiting driver who caused chaos on Devonport's roads, going through red lights and chasing an in-service ambulance has been given jail time. Robert Nathan Allen pleaded guilty to one count of dangerous driving in relation to the two-hour episode.

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

Jet ambulances join lifesaving mission

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/12/2023, Nyk Carnsew, Page 5

Jet aircraft will be part of the NSW ambulance fleet for the first time, providing a much-needed boost to health services in rural and remote areas. A pair of Pilatus PC-24 jets are due to enter the state's service by mid-next year, giving emergency responders the opportunity to fly further and faster, NSW Health Minister Ryan Park announced on Friday.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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

Training pilot supports Victorian pharmacists

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 6

The Australasian College of Pharmacy has launched a new course on oral contraceptives for Victorian-based community pharmacists. "The 'Oral contraceptives' course is CPD accredited and gives pharmacists the knowledge to provide and manage the continuation of oral hormonal contraception for eligible women."

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

Make room for full scope

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Sara Kemp, Page 13

As we recap on a busy year across the healthcare sector, community pharmacies have continued to play a key role in keeping the community healthy. In recent years, this role has grown bigger and community pharmacies have become integral primary healthcare providers.

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

Increased engagement amid 60DD

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Lyndon Dyson, Page 30

The reason we get into pharmacy is to help people. We recognise that everyone has different needs and health concerns, and we take pleasure in helping people to find the right solution.

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

A year of change

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Professor Trent Twomey, Page 43

If there's a word that sums up 2023, it's 'change'. Change in the way we work, change in how we dispense medicines to our patients, change in the price of medicines, and change in what we can do in our own community pharmacies.

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

Pharmacists' growing input to sustainable health systems

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Dr Catherine Duggan, Page 46

The contributions of pharmacy to healthcare have continued to expand this year in areas such as vaccination, testing, disease prevention, education, and the management of non-communicable diseases. Just one example is the announcement in September of the expansion of the scope of practice of pharmacists to treat common ailments across Queensland.

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

World-class flight training facilities

Barrier Truth, Other, 15/12/2023

There is one image everyone thinks of when you say the RFDS it's the red, white and blue of the aircraft coming into land, rushing to the aid of critically ill and injured people. While it's not all they do it is a highly specialised component of the essential life-saving service provided to people in regional, rural and remote Australia for the last 95 years.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

You don't need to be perfect at work

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/12/2023, Ania G Wieckowski, Page 36

Manisha Thakor was an overachiever. From an early age she sought the validation of her teachers, and as she entered the working world she strove for the approval of bosses. An Ivy League-educated financial analyst, she worked more hours than anyone else in her office, competed for the highest bonus and often chose work over relationships.

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

No pay rises, but we're here to help

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/12/2023, Page 37

Mortgage pressures and stagnant wages are sapping worker satisfaction but more companies are offering discounted goods and services to keep staff on side, with an estimated 30 per cent increase in perks in the past year. According to Reward Gateway managing director, APAC Kylie Green, recent research by the company has found more than 50 per cent of employees say stress is affecting their personal financial wellbeing, engagement and productivity, and psychological health.

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Helping others find the light

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Supplements, 16/12/2023, Lindy McNamara, Page 12

Addicted to drugs and alcohol, suffering stress, anxiety and depression, Craig says he was in a very dark place and without hope -until two words helped turn his life around. Desperate to change but not knowing how, it was nearly a decade ago when Craig went along to a Narcotics Anonymous meeting in Adelaide.

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

Ruby's gender journey brings joy

Launceston Examiner, General News, 16/12/2023, Jess Flint, Page 51

Gender affirmation, the journey Ruby Rubock embarked on in her 80s, but to which her whole life had been leading, is a process which she says can be often misunderstood. "It's just a matter of being treated as the gender you were given at birth, which doesn't necessarily match your physical attributes," she says.

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

Mental health help

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 16/12/2023, Page 18

People now have greater access to mental health and wellbeing support, without the need for a GP referral, thanks to a local service offering telehealth advice. Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes said the recently established "Mental Health and Wellbeing Local" in Mildura would now provide free access to support by telehealth for anyone aged 26 years and over including people with co-occurring alcohol and other drug concerns.

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Volunteers honoured at Lifeline Awards

Barrier Truth, Other, 15/12/2023, Melanie Gates

Lifeline Broken Hill Country to Coast held their annual Volunteer Awards ceremony on Saturday (December 9) to celebrate the organisation's hardworking volunteers with a special luncheon and to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of nine volunteers. Each year Lifeline Broken Hill Country to Coast (LLBHC2C) hold Volunteer Awards in recognition of the tireless work of all volunteers across a wide range of activities to achieve Lifeline Australia's vision an Australia free of suicide.

[Read More](#)

Mental health support a call away

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 15/12/2023, Jack Evans

People now have greater access to mental health and wellbeing support, without the need for a GP referral, thanks to a local service offering "telehealth" advice. Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes said the recently established "Mental Health and Wellbeing Local" in Mildura would now provide free access to support via telehealth for anyone aged 26 years and over - including people with co-occurring alcohol and other drug concerns.

[Read More](#)

Karratha step-up, step-down facility still in limbo after five years of planning

West Australian, Other, 15/12/2023, Sam Jones

The City of Karratha is intensifying its appeal to the State Government to advance the establishment of a crucial Step Up Step Down facility within the city. Originally proposed by the Mental Health Commission in 2013, initial funding for the project was earmarked in the 2015/16 State Budget.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Deadly night that horrified a state

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/12/2023, Andrew Hough, Page 18

The death of a much-admired doctor in an alleged home invasion has left SA in shock. Here's how the crime unfolded On Monday, South Australia was sent into a state of shock as news broke that top Adelaide pediatrician Michael Yung was fighting for his life after allegedly being brutally attacked in a violent break-in at his Gilberton home.

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

Uni graduates take to streets

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/12/2023, Tia Ewen, Page 18

From researching cancer cures to delivering babies, working with patients as a general practitioner to performing surgeries, the possibilities are endless for the dozens of medical graduates who paraded their achievements in the annual Town and Gown parade. The medical minds of the future were among more than 5160 students graduating from the University of Tasmania in the 2023 summer graduations.

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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Paramedics in plea for assault free holidays

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 16/12/2023, Page 23

Ambulance Victoria is urging people to do the right thing this festive season after 26 incidents of assault or attempted assault were reported by Loddon and Mallee paramedics between July and November. According to Ambulance Victoria, the festive period is one of the busiest and toughest times for paramedics, who need to work in safe environments that are free from aggression or abuse.

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

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

Guild appoints new executive director

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 6

Pharmacy Guild Queensland Branch director since 2019, Gerard Benedet has been appointed as the Guild's Executive Director, leading its national secretariat. Mr Benedet has worked closely with the Queensland Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the state government to develop and implement nation leading reforms to primary healthcare, including the North Queensland community scope of practice pilot.

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

Pharmacists supporting pharmacists

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/12/2023, Kay Dunkley, Page 45

At the recent FIP 2023 conference in Brisbane, the Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) reported on an analysis of 1183 calls received between 1 July 2020 and 1 July 2023. As PSS provides an anonymous and confidential service and callers are not identified or asked demographic questions, these statistics are based on general discussion.

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

“A bit of a kick in the teeth”

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/12/2023, Chris Brooker

Concerns have been raised over an impending vote that will see the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's national council reduced in size by one, and potentially two members over the next few years.

[Read More](#)

‘Patients can sense’ when staff care about their safety: award-winning pharmacist

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/12/2023, Megan Haggan

Sydney's St George Hospital had been operating medication safety walkarounds (MSWs) "on and off" for years, says Kate Callaghan – "but they had always struggled to gain momentum and buy-in...

[Read More](#)

College to run intern training program

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/12/2023

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced that the Australasian College of Pharmacy will manage and deliver the Guild Intern Training Program from this month onwards, which will also be known as the College Intern Training Program. Guild National President Trent Twomey confirmed that this was a united outcome between the Guild and the College.

[Read More](#)

'Not a target': Sydney healthcare workers hold vigil calling for Gaza ceasefire

SBS, Other, 15/12/2023

A pro-Palestinian vigil by healthcare workers and community leaders in Sydney has called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. The vigil saw nearly 200 medical professionals and civilians gathered at the Sydney Eye Hospital, calling for a permanent ceasefire.

[Read More](#)

Goldfields region set to welcome 13 new nurses and midwives across

variety of clinical settings

West Australian, Other, 15/12/2023, Madeleine Clark

Newly qualified nurses and midwives are set to fill out the WA Country Health Service stocks across the State in 2024, with 13 of the 200 graduates — a record number — to start in the Goldfields. WACHS chief executive Jeff Moffet said the record intake was part of the organisation's ongoing work to attract and retain healthcare professionals in the bush.

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

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 15/12/2023, Michael Thompson

Government negotiators have a new offer to the Australian Nurses Federation. It is 3% pay rise and professional development allowance, which ranges from \$700 per year for junior nurses to \$1,400 for the most senior nurses.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Height drug lifts hopes of kids with dwarfism

Courier Mail, General News, 16/12/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 18

Queensland children with dwarfism are accessing lifechanging treatment that can help them grow an extra 20cm over their lifetime. [...] Vosoritide is listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for treatment of patients with achondroplasia whose growth plates are not yet closed.

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

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Listings expanded

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/12/2023

Australians with small cell lung cancer (SCLC), biliary tract cancer (BTC), juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) and Crohn's disease will now have access to new treatment options through the PBS. Keytruda (pembrolizumab) will be expanded on the PBS to treat early-stage triple-negative breast cancer.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Australian health insurers earn \$1.3bn more surplus than two years ago, report shows

The Guardian, Other, 15/12/2023, Natasha May and Jonathan Barrett

Australian private health insurers earned \$1.3bn more surplus from hospital premiums this year compared with two years prior, while returning less money to customers, a new report shows. The Australian Medical Association on Friday released its 2023 private health insurance report card, which also showed differences between insurers of more than \$500 in benefits paid for identical procedures.

[Read More](#)

Private health insurers called out for record \$1.3 billion profits amid cost of living crisis

NEWS.com.au, Other, 15/12/2023, Alex Turner-Cohen

Australia's private health insurers are the latest to be called out after raking in \$1.3 billion more in

profits compared to two years ago in the middle of a cost of living crisis. On Friday, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) released its 2023 Private Health Insurance Report Card , which found that private health care patients are getting less value for their money while making their insurer richer in the process.

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

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Retiring surgeon's designs on progress

Border Mail, General News, 16/12/2023, Layton Holley, Page 4

From the infiltration of government bureaucracy to a technological revolution, David Kirwan has seen a lot of change in his 29 years of practice in Albury - for better and for worse. The 65-year-old orthopaedic surgeon yesterday reflected on his career and revealed his innovative plans for the future.

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Appeal lifts ban on GP facing sex charges

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 16/12/2023, Allan Murphy, Page 3

A Mildura GP accused of serious sex offences has won the right to continue to practise, after an order to suspend his registration was overturned this week. Dr Amil Jockoo appealed a decision of the Medical Board of Australia in August this year to suspend his registration after police charged him with four counts of sexual assault and two charges of assault with intent to take part in a sexual act.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

'So cruel': disturbing rise in ACL tears

Weekend Australian, Sport, 16/12/2023, Erin Smith, Page 43

A leading knee surgeon says the ACL injury epidemic plaguing Australian athletes from the grassroots to elite level is preventable if the proper steps are taken. In the A-League women's season, six players have so far suffered season-ending ACL injuries.

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

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A 'tortured death'

The Saturday Paper, Sport, 16/12/2023, Martin McKenzie-Murray, Page 31

Shane Tuck was born on Christmas Eve 1981, into VFL/AFL lineage. His father, Michael, had played 426 games for Hawthorn until 2016, the highest number of games by an individual. His mother, Fay, was the sister of Geelong's Gary Ablett Sr. His father won seven premierships with Hawthorn; his famous uncle secured near-mythic status as one of the game's best.

Khawaja lets armband do talking, but words are never just words

The Saturday Age, Sport, 16/12/2023, Malcolm Knox, Page 51

Like most of Usman Khawaja's actions, the black armband was both eloquent and economical. Having been stopped from wearing shoes inscribed with the statements 'All lives are equal' and 'Freedom is a human right' in the first Test match in Perth, Khawaja instead followed a rule that the French impressionist Renoir took a lifetime to discover: "The queen of all colours is black."

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Super Netball confirms 2024 fixture after pay row ends

Canberra Times, Other, 15/12/2023, Joanna Guelas

Super Netball will return in April, confirmation coming just two days after the long-running dispute between the sport's elite players and its national governing body came to an end. The 2024 campaign gets under way on Saturday, April 13 with the Giants taking on West Coast Fever, before reigning premiers the Adelaide Thunderbirds begin their title defence against the Queensland Firebirds.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#) and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Swimming-Australia name slimmed down team for Qatar world championships

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/12/2023

Swimming Australia has named a slimmed down team of 24 to compete at February's world championships in Qatar with a slew of big names skipping the meet as they continue preparations for the Paris Olympics. A team of 38, including six open water swimmers, won 30 medals at this year's world championships in Fukuoka but only 18 Australians will compete in the pool at the Feb.

[Read More](#)

Khawaja message would have set precedent, says CA boss

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/12/2023

Chief executive Nick Hockley believes permitting Usman Khawaja to wear a humanitarian message on his shoes would have set a "difficult" precedent for Cricket Australia to manage. But claiming to support Khawaja's desire to express himself, Hockley indicated CA would review the situation between the first and second Tests of Australia's series against Pakistan.

[Read More](#)

Half the kids I know can't ride bikes. What should we do?

The Senior, Other, 15/12/2023, Peta Bianchi-Howden

Bikes were once trending; now they're not. Kids are quickly becoming less and less active, while screen time rates are soaring. Traffic jams are now life in front of schools as many parents drive their children to school.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Keep research cash flowing

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 16/12/2023, Page 34

Behind the walls of private homes across the state, Tasmanians are facing their own personal battles with some of humankind's most challenging conditions, from Alzheimer's to Parkinson's, and multiple sclerosis to pulmonary fibrosis. At the same time, a small, dedicated team of utter professionals is

feverishly working behind the walls of government-funded laboratories in the determined and dogged hunt for a cure to those and other conditions plaguing Australians.

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Davidson appointed to nation's top research body

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 16/12/2023, Page 21

University of Wollongong vice-chancellor Patricia Davidson has been appointed to the board of Research Australia, the alliance representing health and medical research across the nation. Professor Davidson's work before taking up the top job at UOW had focused on improving cardiovascular health outcomes for women and vulnerable populations.

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Research keeps eye on autism

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/12/2023, Page 7

Photographs of children's retinas can be used to test for autism, and possibly even for the severity of the disease, with a little help from artificial intelligence, according to Korean scientists. The Yonsei University College of Medicine team tested AI on images of the retinas of 958 children with an average age of 7.8 years, including 1890 images of individual eyes.

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Check Up: Introducing the largest map of the human brain. And recent ASX biotech winners

The Australian, Other, 15/12/2023, Eddy Sunarto

Researchers are making rapid progress towards understanding the 170 billion cells in the brain that enable us to walk, talk, and think. A new Brain Atlas published by the Allen Institute for Brain Science examines in detail the location, structure and, in some cases, function of more than 3000 types of brain cells.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Indigenous lung factors revealed

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/12/2023, Page 35

Almost 40 per cent of adult Indigenous Australians have abnormal lung function, according to Australian research. The team, including researchers from the Menzies School of Health Research, used data from 686 Indigenous Australians involved in a study from birth.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#)

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

WA Country Health Services East Kimberley Palliative Care Team honoured at 2023 Palliative Care Awards

West Australian, Other, 15/12/2023

An East Kimberley palliative care team that strongly focuses on delivering holistic and culturally appropriate end-of-life care has been recognised at the 2023 Palliative Care Awards. WA Country Health Services East Kimberley Palliative Care Team was named Western Australia's Outstanding Team Delivering Holistic Palliative Care at the awards ceremony in East Perth last month.

[Read More](#)

Step up to care

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/12/2023

Indigenous leader Andrea Kelly has been appointed as the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner, starting in Jan 2024, with the Commissioner's appointment to be made in 2025. Kelly's role is a first step to ensure culturally safe, tailored and flexible aged care services for First Nations people.

[Read More](#)

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Builders flag costly kitchens after ban

AFR Weekend, General News, 16/12/2023, Michael Bleby, Page 11

Home-building projects across the country have been plunged into uncertainty by the announced ban on the use, supply and manufacture of engineered stone benchtops, leaving builders scrambling to find alternative...

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

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

Jab rate falls for younger children

Courier Mail, General News, 16/12/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 3

Only three quarters of toddlers in parts of Queensland are vaccinated against potentially deadly diseases the lowest rate in the country. In Western Queensland, with towns like Mt Isa, Winton and Charleville, immunisation rates for children aged 21 months show only 77.8 per cent up to date with scheduled jabs.

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

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

Disease leaves woman critical

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/12/2023, Philip Young, Page 3

A young woman is in a critical condition in hospital with invasive meningococcal disease. Close contacts of the woman, from the state's north, have been contacted by relatives of the patient and clinicians to be warned about symptoms.

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

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

Mosquito warning highlights need for caution

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/12/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 3

Holiday travellers from Ballarat are urged to beware the bite, with predictions for a dangerous mosquito season ahead - but it is not completely safe on the home front either. Grampians Health public health expert Rob Grenfell says the rains of the past fortnight leading into fine and warming weather ahead create a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes and debilitating mosquito-borne diseases.

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

Tasmania to join world-leading ban on engineered stone products

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/12/2023, David Killick

Engineered stone will be banned in Tasmania "as soon as practical", Minister for Workplace Safety and Consumer Affairs Madeleine Ogilvie says. Australia will become the first country in the world to ban engineered stone after a decision made at a meeting on Wednesday of ministers from every state responsible for workplace health and safety.

[Read More](#)

All you need to know about engineered stone and the coming ban

Canberra Times, Other, 15/12/2023, Steve Evans

The use of engineered stone is to be banned throughout Australia from the beginning of July. Federal, state and territory governments agreed that an outright ban was better than tougher safety regulations for processing the material, which is commonly used to make kitchen and bathroom benchtops.

[Read More](#)

'Concerning downward trend': Childhood vaccination rates fall, measles rise

Newcastle Herald, Other, 15/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw

The Hunter New England district's rate has fallen for the second consecutive year, reflecting a nationwide trend that immunisation experts are about. NSW Health data shows the percentage of fully vaccinated children in the district fell from 96.1 per cent in 2020 to 95.2 per cent in 2022.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Retiring surgeon's designs on progress

Border Mail, General News, 16/12/2023, Layton Holley, Page 4

From the infiltration of government bureaucracy to a technological revolution, David Kirwan has seen a lot of change in his 29 years of practice in Albury - for better and for worse. The 65-year-old orthopaedic surgeon yesterday reflected on his career and revealed his innovative plans for the future.

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'Serious risk': Warning on dodgy pills

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/12/2023, Page 59

Health Australia's top medicines watchdog has raised the alarm over a sweep of dodgy imported tablets from China, warning consumers the products contain serious health hazards and have not been tested to Australian standards. [...] The BAIWEI Maximum Powerful tablets, the Bigger Longer More Time More Sperms and Ying Da Wang tablets all contain the undeclared substance sildenafil, which poses a "serious risk" to health and should not be taken, the TGA said this week.

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

Will the Government's proposed double ban on vaping work?

C&I, General News, 01/01/2024, Page 44

New laws banning all vaping products are set to be introduced in 2024 but will these laws stifle or fuel the thriving black market. [...] In these announcements, he has also confirmed that additional funding will be allocated to the Australian Border Force and Therapeutic Goods Administration to try and address the illegal importation under the new regulations.

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

With Ozempic stocks low, here is what you need know about Eucalyptus' replica drug

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/12/2023, Adella Beaini

An Australian start-up company will soon rival Ozempic, selling its own replica of the controversial weight loss drug in a move set to flip the local market. Here is everything you need to know. [...] Australia's medicines regulator, Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), has said Novo Nordisk was the only pharmaceutical company authorised to supply approved products containing semaglutide.

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

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Suffering from chronic back-pain? Medical cannabis may be the solution

SBS, Other, 15/12/2023, Niko Plaskasovitis

Lamberts' initiative at the Brain and Mind Centre, University of Sydney, is conducting a world-first research to investigate the potential therapeutic uses of medical cannabis. During the last few years, the use of cannabis has gained significant popularity with many countries legalising its use.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Fairy floss and bubblegum: North East brewery accused of marketing to kids

The Border Mail, Other, 15/12/2023, Layton Holley

The Cancer Council has slammed an alcohol advertising regulator for being too soft on Billson's Brewery's alleged advertising to children.

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