



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 4th December 2023

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)
| [Coronavirus](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |
[First Nations Health](#) | [Office of Health Protection and Emergency Management](#)
| [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office for Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)
| [AICIS](#)

LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that 15 per cent of babies born mothers who have type 2 diabetes are born with congenital defects including holes in hearts, malformed kidneys and open spines, sparking calls for diabetes screenings before planned pregnancies.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that a commitment by the Victorian government to build up to 10 community hospitals has been assessed by the state's health department as at risk of a 20 per cent cost blowout.
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports Queensland Minister for Sport Stirling Hinchliffe has ruled out government help to rehome Queensland Cricket and the Brisbane Lions during the four-year redevelopment of the Gabba after Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner quit the 2032 Games intergovernmental forum over the rebuild. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [ABC Online](#), [9News](#), [The New Daily](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#)
- The **[Gold Coast Bulletin](#)** (page 1) reports Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate has withdrawn the city's bid to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games citing a lack of state or federal support. Minister for Sport Anika Wells had expressed openness to a proposal backed by the Queensland

government. *Also reported by:* [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [Courier Mail](#), [ABC Online](#), [The New Daily](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#)

- The [Northern Territory News](#) (page 1) reports Minister for Health Mark Butler and Minister for Education Jason Clare have announced \$2.8 million to fund exploratory work by Charles Darwin University to establish an end-to-end medical school in the NT. *Editorial:* [Northern Territory News](#)
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 4) reports the federal government will co-fund 80 regional doctor training places each year in a \$90 million program to boost access to medical care outside the cities. "We know that doctors that train in rural and regional Australia are more likely to stay and set up shop in rural and regional Australia," said Minister for Health Mark Butler. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [West Australian](#)
- [The Australian](#) (page 6) reports that a 22 per cent reduction in GP registrars enrolling in rural training programs will create the worst shortfall of rural doctors in 45 years. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

\$90m bid to lure young doctors away from big smoke

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/12/2023, Clare Armstrong, Page 4

Hundreds of extra medical students will complete their training in rural and regional areas under a \$90 million federal government scheme in the hopes many will stay after they graduate. Every year an additional 80 regional doctor training places will be funded by the Commonwealth, matched by universities, with the remainder of the government funding to build medical classrooms, equipment and facilities in universities across the country. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the additional medical training places would hopefully lead to more doctors remaining in regional Australia to practice medicine.

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

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Broome to host 20 extra medical students each year as Federal Government launch rural doctor program

West Australian, Other, 03/12/2023, Kimberley Caines

An extra 20 medical students each year will begin training in Broome as the Federal Government launches a new program to put more doctors in rural communities. The Albanese Government will on Monday announce a \$90 million investment to build medical classrooms, equipment and facilities in six regional areas across the country. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said there was strong evidence that showed doctors who trained in rural and regional areas were more likely to stay and practise in those regions after they graduated.

[Read More](#)

Blow for medical school

Northern Territory News, General News, 04/12/2023, Camden Smith, Page 1

Charles Darwin University has missed out on the substantive funding required for doctor student places at its stand-alone medical school. Instead, the commonwealth has committed \$2.8m to fund exploratory work on the establishment of a new medical school in the NT. [...] A statement released by federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Education Minister Jason Clare said the \$2.8m would enable CDU to seek the accreditation required to establish an end-to-end medical school.

Editorial: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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Survey reveals APS' worst

Canberra Times, General News, 04/12/2023, Miriam Webber, Page 1

Just 11 per cent of staff at the National Mental Health Commission thought it was a good place to work when they filled out their annual staff surveys this year, giving it the lowest marks in the Australian Public Service. [...] The census took place shortly after Health Minister Mark Butler announced an investigation into the agency's culture in April, probing reports in The Saturday Paper which alleged bullying and internal dysfunction.

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Hope on horizon

Burnie Advocate, General News, 04/12/2023, Jess Flint, Page 1

Devonport mayor Alison Jarman says residents have a "ray of hope" after a doctor has expressed an interest in examining how to keep the East Devonport Medical Centre open. Hundreds rallied yesterday to show their support for the centre, which has been scheduled to close. [...] Cr Jarman she felt like walking out of an online meeting on Monday, November 27, with federal Health Minister Mark Butler after he failed to show up.

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

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ABC, ABC News (Sunday), 03/12/2023, Alexandra Alvaro

Tasmanians have rallied against the planned closure of a GP clinic in the north west. The East Devonport Medical Centre is set to shut its doors in February, leaving no GP access east of the Mersey River. [...] A spokesperson for Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the government will work with the provider, local and state governments to make sure people continue to have access to a GP.

[Play Now](#)

The National Health Reform Agreement has been under review. Why the secrecy?

Croakey, Other, 03/12/2023, Charles Maskell-Knight

The National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) is one of the most important documents in the Australian health sector, setting out the terms of the public hospital funding deal between the Commonwealth and the states and territories. [...] On 24 February this year Health Minister Mark Butler announced that a mid-term review of the NHRA would indeed be carried out and completed by the end of the year, with an interim report in August. Since then the Minister and his Department have said nothing about the conduct or progress of the review.

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The National Health and Climate Strategy commits to action on Health in All Policies

Croakey, Other, 03/12/2023, Melissa Sweet

The long-awaited National Health and Climate Strategy has been released. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney launched it at the 28th United Nations Climate Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, during the event's first Health Day, on 3 December. [...] In the strategy's foreword, Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler and Minister Kearney write that the Strategy adopts a Health in All Policies approach, recognising that collaboration across different policy areas is crucial to the development of just and equitable responses to address the impact of climate change on health.

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New genetic testing to help Riverland newborns

Murray Pioneer, Other, 03/12/2023

Helping Riverland newborns with two major conditions will now be made easier with the introduction of new neonatal screening equipment. The State Government has invested \$424,000 to acquire multiplex neonatal screening equipment that uses state-of-the-art DNA gene testing technology to identify babies who have spinal muscular atrophy or severe combined immunodeficiency. [...] "This historic approach to newborn screening with state and territory governments will deliver a nationally consistent approach to newborn bloodspot screening," Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Channel 9, National Nine News (Sunday), 03/12/2023, Georgie Gardner

There's a new weapon available to those who battle Crohn's disease with an oral medicine added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. The move will slash the drug's cost by thousands of dollars and could bring much needed relief to those who suffer from the painful condition. [interview: Minister Butler]

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Games over for GC

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 04/12/2023, Andrew Potts, Page 1

The Gold Coast is out of the race to salvage the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Mayor Tom Tate has sensationally pulled the pin on his ambitious bid for the city to host the event after it was abandoned by the Victorian government. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells opened the door to the bid saying she would be "willing to consider such a proposal" if support was "forthcoming from the Queensland government".

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), *no minister mention:* [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

The National Health and Climate Strategy commits to action on Health in All Policies

Croakey, Other, 03/12/2023, Melissa Sweet

The long-awaited National Health and Climate Strategy has been released. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney launched it at the 28th United Nations Climate Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, during the event's first Health Day, on 3 December. [...] In the strategy's foreword, Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler and Minister Kearney write that the Strategy adopts a Health in All Policies approach, recognising that collaboration across different policy areas is crucial to the development of just and equitable responses to address the impact of climate change on health.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

The National Health Reform Agreement has been under review. Why the secrecy?

Croakey, Other, 03/12/2023, Charles Maskell-Knight

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[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CORONAVIRUS

Deadly lockdowns the political legacy of Covid-era panic

The Australian, General News, 04/12/2023, Adam Creighton, Page 13

This time two years ago the daily news was dominated by the deaths of older people in nursing homes from or with Covid-19. But today far more people are dying than expected, with barely a murmur of mainstream interest.

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Cairns GP warns of Covid complacency as case numbers rise

Cairns Post, Other, 03/12/2023, Sandhya Ram

A Cairns GP is warning the community not to be complacent after more than five daycare workers in one childcare centre became infected with Covid-19 recently. Rajlakshmi Rajpal of Harmony Medical Centre said case numbers were on the rise but many had questioned whether the virus "was still a thing".

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

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COVID-19 vaccination of children with refugee backgrounds in Western Australia: a retrospective observational study

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 04/12/2023, Thomas Volkman, Roisin Clarke, Jack Anstey and Sarah Cherian

In Australia, the proportion of people born overseas who were vaccinated against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was smaller and the age-standardised COVID-19 death rate higher than for people born in Australia. Around the world, the impact of COVID-19 was particularly great for refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented migrants.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Toddlers targeted by 'sneaky' supermarket marketing

Canberra Times, Other, 03/12/2023, Aaron Bunch

Babies and toddlers are being bombarded with aggressive supermarket aisle marketing for processed food products and experts are calling for more regulations to protect them. Infant and toddler food packaging is saturated with colourful images and logos, popular children's characters, and deceptive health and nutrition claims, Monash University research found.

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Restraining order filed against Swanbank plant after Ipswich community complaints

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/12/2023, Jack Evans

A major garbage facility has been hit with civil legal action after fed-up locals in "Australia's smelliest city" claimed the unbearable odours were making them sick. Thousands of residents – many reduced to trapping themselves indoors – have for years tried to have the "stink" emitted from the Swanbank Industrial Area, in Queensland's Ipswich, brought under control.

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

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Tobacco shop named in cigarette flyers appears to shut doors day after investigation launched

ABC Online, Other, 03/12/2023, Rebecca Brice

An Adelaide tobacco shop under investigation over advertisements for cheap cigarettes appears to have shut its doors for good. The Royal Smokes Tobacconist on Unley Road was featured in flyers, distributed in the local area, advertising cigarettes for \$20 a packet less than half the normal price.

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'No sympathy': why are vape stores still opening across Australia six months before ban comes into force?

The Guardian, Other, 04/12/2023, Melissa Davey and Nino Bucci

Over the last four years, David has made complaints to his local council, police, the Australian Taxation Office and federal and state politicians about the illicit tobacco and vape store that opened across the road from his home. With a "cash only" sign, vapes visible on the shelves through the windows, and people frequently leaving the store carrying illicit tobacco packets in plain sight, David says even the local police have acknowledged that illegal trade is occurring.

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People like Mitchell are less likely to have a job. Could this change by 2030?

SBS, Other, 03/12/2023, Aleisha Orr

The employment rate of people without a disability is twice that of those with a disability in Australia but the UN's Sustainable Development Goals aim to change this. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, while 80 per cent of those who do not have a disability are in the workforce, just 40 per cent of those with a disability are employed.

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[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Babies the forgotten victims of epidemic

The Australian, General News, 04/12/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Babies of mothers who have type 2 diabetes in pregnancy are being born with congenital defects including holes in the heart and malformed kidneys, frontline clinicians reveal as the nationwide

diabetes battle extends into a new front. Endocrinologists at public hospitals have highlighted the trend as the numbers of pregnant women with youth-onset type 2 diabetes grows, with as many as 15 per cent of babies born to these mothers having some form of congenital malformation.

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

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It's more than just a few bad shakes

Age, General News, 04/12/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 14

At least 11,000 Australians learn they have Parkinson's every year, and they're not all aged over 65, writes Angus Thomson.

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Alzheimer's prevention: How hard and fast you need to exercise

The New Daily, Other, 03/12/2023, John Elder

When you read the literature about Alzheimer's disease, two things remain constant. Despite the hype of some recent breakthroughs, there are no drug treatments that significantly slow or reverse or prevent the damage done by this form of dementia. The other thing: Exercise appears to deliver the kind of results that drugs as yet cannot.

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New guidelines for chronic lung disease

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 04/12/2023, Annika Howells

The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand has updated its recommendations on the diagnosis and treatment of bronchiectasis, saying greater awareness is needed of this under-recognised disease. Bronchiectasis remains under-recognised and undertreated in Australia, despite being the third most common chronic respiratory disorder, according to a perspective published in the Medical Journal of Australia.

Position statement summary: [Medical Journal of Australia \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Why it's so hard to make money from blood tests

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 04/12/2023, Simon Evans, Page 21

A visit to the doctor regularly involves the GP needing a blood sample. The patient is sent to a collection centre where a kindly nurse extracts blood from a vein, packages up the test tubes for transportation to a pathology lab for examination, with ...

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

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Projects at risk of billions in blowouts

Age, General News, 04/12/2023, Kieran Rooney, Page 1

Signature government projects including the North East Link and a commitment to build 10 hospitals have been identified by their own departments as being in danger of billions of dollars in cost blowouts. The first stage of the Suburban Rail Loop has also been flagged as at moderate risk of exceeding its budget as it sits \$24 billion short of total funding needed.

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They were promised a new hospital but locals prefer derelict farmhouse

Age, General News, 04/12/2023, Adam Carey, Page 11

A rebooted plan to build a local hospital near Eltham is facing fierce opposition for the second time, with residents of the green wedge area warning the Allan government not to touch their cherished open

spaces. The promised community hospital, which was blocked from being built on council land in Greensborough two years ago, is now the subject of a petition rejecting its construction in nearby Diamond Creek.

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First stages of new WCH hospital set to start

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/12/2023, Andrew Hough, Page 6

Work is set to begin on Adelaide's new Women's and Children's Hospital this month, with \$306m worth of early works now finalised. Plans have been finalised for the first stages, including the eight-storey carpark and energy facility with construction to start next year.

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Hospital horrors must be stopped

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/12/2023, Andrew Hough, Page 6

More than 10,000 Mid North residents are demanding an overhaul of the way embattled Port Pirie Hospital is managed, amid calls for better healthcare for regional communities. An official inquiry into substandard health services on the Yorke Peninsula, Port Pirie and surrounding areas will now be triggered after one of the biggest petitions of its kind was tabled in state parliament this month.

Editorial: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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St John staff to receive vital training

West Australian, General News, 04/12/2023, Jake Dietsch, Page 11

Thousands of paramedics and triple-0 call takers will undergo mandatory training to help tackle the domestic violence crisis. Under a \$2.1 million package from the State Government, St John WA call-takers, paramedics and volunteers will receive intense mandatory training to help them better identify and respond to domestic violence.

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

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NW baby services public again

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/12/2023, Rob Inglis, Page 7

Maternity services on Tasmania's North-West Coast have been moved back into the public health system after the peak professional body for doctors deemed them unsafe. The state government had planned to transition maternity services from the North West Private Hospital to the Tasmanian Health Service from November 2024 but announced in May it would bring forward the deadline to December 4 this year.

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How to get medical help this summer

Launceston Examiner, General News, 04/12/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 8

As the temperature rises across the state, the Department of Health is calling on Tasmanians to "know their treatment options" to reduce demand on the state's emergency health services this summer. This follows revelations that the Launceston Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is facing unprecedented patient numbers just four months after opening its doors, often exceeding its daily cap on patients.

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

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Happy with prognosis

Shepparton News, General News, 04/12/2023, Murray Silby, Page 3

Gv Health has welcomed a Greater Shepparton City Council decision that could pave the way for the construction of vital health services and accommodation in the city. Council voted at its meeting on November 21 to initiate proceedings, which, if successful, would lead to the sale of two blocks of land totalling 13,746 sqm, or just over 1.3 ha, across an area it is referring to as 45 Parkside Dve in Shepparton North, to the Victorian Health Department.

Adelaide's new 24/7 pharmacy locations revealed

Northern Territory News, Other, 03/12/2023, Douglas Smith

South Australians living in Adelaide will soon have access to three 24/7, around-the-clock pharmacies the state government says will reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments. On Sunday, Premier Peter Malinauskas announced the three locations Chemist Warehouse at Saints Shopping Centre in Salisbury Plains, Chemist Warehouse in Clovelly Park and National Pharmacies in Norwood.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Darling Downs Health using drones to speed up patient treatment times in rural Queensland

ABC Online, Other, 03/12/2023, Tobi Loftus

After having his eyes on the sky as a drone hobbyist for a decade, healthcare worker Dave Pugsley is turning his passion into a "game changing" development that may one day close the gap in outcomes for regional patients. The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS) in southern Queensland is trialling a high-tech drone to transport blood tests between rural hospitals and larger facilities to speed up testing and analysis.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

AI character helping dementia patients feel understood

Canberra Times, Other, 03/12/2023, Maeve Bannister

Viv is learning to deal with the disorienting symptoms that come with a dementia diagnosis, such as memory impacts, hallucinations, overstimulation and personality changes. She is one of the 401,300 Australians living with dementia, as estimated by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2022.

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

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Australia has resisted treating paedophiles before they harm children. Now that view is changing

The Guardian, Other, 03/12/2023, Andrew Messenger

In her soundproofed cubicle in a small Melbourne office, Dee Nicholas answers another call from a paedophile who wants to get better. Nicholas will never know the caller's name. He tells her he's repeatedly thought about looking for help, even picking up the phone once or twice before hanging up. Tonight, the specially trained psychologist tries to help the man not watch child sexual abuse material again.

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1 in 6 Australian men reports sexual feelings towards children. Here's what experts say must happen.

Mamamia, Other, 03/12/2023, Elfy Scott

Australian research has found that around one in six Australian men reports sexual feelings towards children. This was the headline splashed across the country earlier this month reporting on a new study, one of the largest of its kind in the world, that looked at child sexual offending behaviours and attitudes among Australian men.

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Queensland cop Kym took her own life at work. Former officers say it exposes a deeper problem

A major push is underway to ensure Queensland police officers receive help from a psychologist or psychiatrist at least once a year. The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is considering introducing mandatory mental health intervention as latest research shows many suffer extreme anxiety and depression making them significant suicide risks.

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Understanding suicide in culturally and linguistically diverse communities

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 04/12/2023, Mandy Truong, Jeremy Dwyer, Jocelyn Chan and Lyndal Bugeja

With refugees, migrants and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds more at risk of death by suicide, more funding and better record keeping is needed for suicide registries. Sadly, studies show that new migrants, refugees, and people from some culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds are at higher risk of death by suicide in Australia than people in the general population.

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Not just a boys' disorder: barriers to diagnosing autism in girls

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 04/12/2023, Joanna Tsirgiotis

The importance of a timely diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is well known. However, increasing evidence shows that ASD is different in girls, and this poses real challenges for timely referral and accurate assessment. Indeed, robust sex differences have been found in every ASD diagnostic criterion, both in severity and in the manifestation of ASD characteristics.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

GP drought hits rural healthcare

The Australian, General News, 04/12/2023, Liam Mendes and Natasha Robinson, Page 6

People with diabetes are developing life-threatening complications and swamping hospitals amid a 22.67 per cent drop in the number of GP registrars enrolling in rural training programs across the nation in the last year. Doctors are warning the shortage in rural doctors is the worst in 45 years, with an investigation by The Weekend Australian revealing the national diabetes epidemic is pushing hospitals to the brink of collapse.

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

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'Huge workforce pressures': \$15k for students to fill staff gap

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 04/12/2023, Katrina Lovell, Page 6

A shortage of speech and occupational therapists has prompted Warrnambool's Mpower to come up with its own initiatives to help bring workers to the region. This year, for the first time, the not-for profit disability and community support services organisation provided scholarships to six university students studying allied health.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

What voluntary patient enrolment means for GPs and their patients

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 04/12/2023, Becca Whitehead

The Australian Government's new MyMedicare model, a form of voluntary patient enrolment (VPE), became available to Australian general practice clinics earlier this month. The government presents MyMedicare as a model that formalises the relationship between all Australian patients, their general practice, general practitioner (GP), and primary care teams.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Nurse who stole patients' pills sick of being disciplined

Newcastle Herald, General News, 04/12/2023, Madeline Link, Page 4

An aged care nurse who stole medications for serious health conditions like cardiac, kidney and hypertension problems from dementia patients because she'd "had enough of getting hauled into the office" has had her registration suspended for six months. Jane Elizabeth Massey, also known as Jane Elizabeth Goodbee, was working at Raymond Terrace Garden Care until she resigned on August 16, 2021.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Mayor not game for this 'foolish' Gabba rebuild

The Australian, General News, 04/12/2023, Sarah Elks, Page 9

Brisbane's lord mayor has yanked his support for the Palaszczuk government's plan to demolish and rebuild the Gabba for the Olympic Games in retaliation for the state's "extortionate" push for the council to help pay for a temporary stadium for the Brisbane Lions and Brisbane Heat. Liberal National Party mayor Adrian Schrinner – who will face voters in March at the local government elections – insisted the \$2.7bn Gabba overhaul should be independently re-evaluated to see if there was a better option and abruptly quit the Olympic and Paralympic Games Intergovernmental Leaders' Forum.

Also reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Gabba compo cop out

Upgrading the RNA Showgrounds to give the Brisbane Lions and Queensland Cricket a home during the Gabba rebuild isn't the state government's responsibility, Sport Minister Stirling Hinchliffe has sensationally declared. An all-out war has erupted between the State Government and Brisbane City Council over funding a \$137m RNA Showgrounds upgrade to host the two major sporting codes displaced by the four-year Gabba rebuild.

Editorial: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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AFL hits stoush

Herald Sun, General News, 04/12/2023, Wendy Carlisle, Page 1

Australia's top concussion scientist says a WorkSafe Victoria ruling that cleared the AFL of failing to protect players underplayed the impact of repeated minor head knocks and was based on reports from consultants with links to the league. After a "comprehensive" review, WorkSafe Victoria announced in late 2022 it had "no evidence" the AFL failed to provide a safe place of work and would take no further action.

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

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Clarence and Kingborough remain in the race to win the Tasmanian AFL team's High Performance Centre

The Mercury, Other, 03/12/2023, James Bresnehan

The battle to host the Tasmanian AFL team's High Performance Centre is now a two-horse race and the man leading the search says the council that wins the \$70m state-of-the-art facility is set to strike social and financial gold. The Clarence City Council and Kingborough Council are the last ones standing among the five councils that started the search as potential hosts of the never-been-seen-before Tasmanian sports facility.

[Read More](#)

Down syndrome athlete Hugo Taheny advocates for better inclusion for people with disability

ABC Online, Other, 03/12/2023, Dimitria Panagiotaros

Even when at work on his family's farm in rural South Australia, competition has been in Hugo Taheny's blood. Growing up in the country and being the youngest of five, Taheny did everything his siblings did, including playing weekend sports a ritual for most country kids. But as team sports became more difficult due to Taheny's vision and hearing impairments, he tried his luck in athletics, specifically shot-put and discus, and found he could throw things very far.

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How blind cricket's growth is making an impact across Australia

ABC Online, Other, 03/12/2023, Henry Hanson

Six years before Donald Bradman first walked out to bat for Australia, two blind Melbourne factory workers were playing cricket with a rock-filled tin can. Since the invention of blind cricket in 1922, that can has been replaced by a hard plastic ball containing audible ball bearings and it has developed into a fully codified, international sport. In Australia, the game has seen steady growth in recent years.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Don't be shy, get a hearing aid

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/12/2023, Sue Williams, Page 23

A new study says the risk of dementia rises for those who choose not to tackle their hearing loss,

writes Sue Williams.

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

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Renting is making Aussies age faster than smoking, obesity, alarming research shows

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/12/2023, Georgina Noack

No, renters, you are not imagining those grey hairs springing up on your head your living situation is actually making you older, faster. A landmark study out of the University of Adelaide and University of Essex has found that living in a private rental property accelerates the biological ageing process by more than two weeks every year.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Indigenous children experiencing fewer hearing problems

Canberra Times, Other, 04/12/2023, Neve Brissenden

Indigenous children are experiencing fewer ear and hearing problems, though rates are still excessive and preventable. New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has revealed the proportion of Indigenous children under 14 with an ear or hearing problem declined from 11 per cent in 2001 to 6.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Thalidomide: 'Darkest chapter' in Australia's medical history

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/12/2023, Carla Mascarenhas

[...] If there is anything good to have come from the scandal, it is that thalidomide changed the way medicines were tested and approved in Australia, eventually resulting in the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Dr Christopher Rudge from the University of Sydney's Law School told news.com.au the scandal was an "essential part in the narrative of the history of drug regulation in Australia".

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Pfizer's twice-daily weight loss pill joins a long list of obesity drug flops

West Australian, Other, 03/12/2023, Kim Constantino

Pfizer's twice-daily version of its experimental weight loss pill has now joined a long list of other scrapped drugs that aimed to treat obesity but came with unintended consequences. The drugmaker on Friday US time said it will stop developing the twice-daily treatment, danuglipron, after obese patients taking the drug lost significant weight but experienced high rates of adverse side effects in a midstage clinical trial.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

It would be criminal if Tasmania didn't consider the possibility of changing laws covering illicit drugs

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/12/2023, Jackie Hallam, Page 18

A longside many other senior leaders across the community, the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council is calling for a widespread rethink into our current approach to illicit drugs. Our current approach, whereby we treat illicit drug use as a criminal act, is one that Tasmania has held for decades. And it is costly, inequitable and in many ways, however unintentional, damaging to individuals and the community.

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