



Monday, 11th 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

Click here to view full print articles in this report

Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The <u>Adelaide Advertiser</u> (page 1) reports lawyers opposing a rapist's release warn that a
 doctor cannot prescribe libido-suppressing drugs to the parolee if he chooses to withhold his
 informed consent. The AMA concurs in principle and is seeking legal advice. Also reported by:
 <u>Daily Telegraph Australia</u>, <u>Courier Mail</u>, <u>Northern Territory News</u>
- The <u>Daily Telegraph</u> (page 3) reports NSW Health Minister Ryan Park will forgo his scheduled Christmas break if the deepening paramedics pay dispute is not resolved before Wednesday.
 Also reported by: <u>Daily Telegraph Australia</u>, <u>Courier Mail</u>, <u>Northern Territory News</u>, <u>The Mercury</u>
- The <u>Herald Sun</u> (page 3) reports a surgical implant being trialled by the Royal Melbourne
 Hospital promises to remove the risk of permanent sexual dysfunction from prostate cancer
 surgery. Also reported by: <u>Daily Telegraph</u>, <u>Adelaide Advertiser</u>, <u>Hobart Mercury</u>, <u>Northern
 Territory News</u>
- The <u>Herald Sun</u> (page 4) reports Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas has announced a combined \$35 million increase in funding for seven Aboriginal community health organisations.

- The Age (page 6) reports the AMA has raised transparency concerns with the Royal Australian
 and New Zealand College of Radiologists's controversial fee hikes for trainees, as practising
 radiologists warn soaring costs will drive students out of the field. Also reported by: <u>Sydney</u>
 <u>Morning Herald</u>
- The <u>Daily Telegraph</u> (page 7) reports 446 medications are currently affected by shortages and discontinuations in Australia, the TGA says, with 40 critical treatments expected to be in short supply until early next year. Also reported by: <u>The West Australian</u>, <u>NEWS.com.au</u>, <u>Sky News Australia</u>, <u>Yahoo! News Australia</u>, <u>The Australian</u>
- The <u>Sydney Morning Herald</u> (page 20) reports health insurance peak body Private Healthcare
 Australia has called for podiatric surgeons to be renamed "proceduralists" to reflect their lack of
 surgical qualification. Minister for Health Mark Butler has called recent investigations into the
 specialist discipline "deeply concerning". Also reported by: <u>The Age</u>
- The <u>Canberra Times</u> (page 32) reports the Australian Olympic Committee says that the
 Australian Institute of Sport should remain in Canberra. Minister for Sport Anika Wells and
 Minister for Infrastructure Catherine King will receive a report on future options for the AIS
 before the end of the year.

MINISTER BUTLER

Health insurers back call to rename podiatric surgeons

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/12/2023, Charlotte Grieve, Page 20

The health insurance industry has thrown its support behind a push to prevent a controversial group of podiatrists from describing themselves as surgeons. Private Healthcare Australia, which represents the country's largest private health insurers, has called for podiatric surgeons to be renamed "proceduralists" to avoid confusion over their qualifications. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Tuesday said that application for public funding was ongoing, despite calling the Herald's investigation "deeply concerning".

Also reported by: Age (Melbourne)

Read Plain Text Read More

Nothing Health boss won't taco about

Canberra Times, General News, 11/12/2023, Miriam Webber and Justine Landis-Hanley, Page 16

Have you ever wondered where the secretary of your department lands on the soft shell versus hard shell taco debate? Well, public servants in the Department of Health and Aged Care don't have to. In weekly video updates since he took the top job in June, Blair Comley has been wont to launch into long tangents about his passion for cooking. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler even made a guest appearance in one - released August 17 - as the duo prepared to jet off to a G20 meeting in India.

Read Plain Text Read More

Bulk-billing Western Medicare Urgent Care Clinic opens at Royal Park

Northern Territory News, Other, 10/12/2023, Brad Crouch

South Australia's fourth Medicare Urgent Care Clinic officially opens today at Royal Park, with the fifth and final one to open at Morphett Vale on December 28, fulfilling the federal government's election commitment. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler will open the Western Medicare Urgent Care Clinic at Old Port Road Medical & Dental Centre in Royal Park.

Also reported by: <u>Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)</u>, <u>Herald Sun (Online)</u>, <u>The Courier Mail (Online)</u>, <u>The Mercury (Online)</u>

Read More

AOC wants AIS to stay

Canberra Times, Sport, 11/12/2023, Melanie Dinjaski, Page 32

Infrastructure the Australian Olympic Committee has thrown its support behind keeping the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, as a review into its future is expected to be completed soon. An independent report commissioned by the federal government is due to to be delivered to Infrastructure Minister Catherine King and Sport Minister Anika Wells by the end of the year, examining existing AIS facilities, the funding desperately needed to improve the site, as well as a potential \$1 billion relocation to south-east Queensland.

Read Plain Text Read More

Back to Top

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

DEPARTMENT

Medicine shortage for Xmas

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/12/2023, Elizabeth Pike, Page 7

Australians have been warned they could be forced to go without crucial medications this holiday season, including antibiotics and antidepressants. According to the Department of Health and Aged Care Therapeutic Goods Administration there are currently 446 medicines impacted by shortages and discontinuations across the country.

Also reported by: West Australian (Perth), Cairns Post (Cairns), NEWS.com.au (Online), Sky News Australia (Online), Yahoo! News Australia (Online), The Australian (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), Herald Sun (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), The Mercury (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), West Australian (Online), Perth Now (Online)

Read Plain Text Read More

Nothing Health boss won't taco about

Canberra Times, General News, 11/12/2023, Miriam Webber and Justine Landis-Hanley, Page 16

Have you ever wondered where the secretary of your department lands on the soft shell versus hard shell taco debate? Well, public servants in the Department of Health and Aged Care don't have to. In weekly video updates since he took the top job in June, Blair Comley has been wont to launch into long tangents about his passion for cooking. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler even made a guest appearance in one - released August 17 - as the duo prepared to jet off to a G20 meeting in India.

Read Plain Text Read More

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

AGEING AND AGED CARE

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

POPULATION HEALTH

Leaving prison later in life: improving care of Australia's older inmates

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/12/2023, Jane Hwang

The relationship between justice system involvement and higher health needs is well established. A lesser known phenomenon, however, is the rapid rise people who find themselves in contact with the justice system at an older age in Australia, making "prisoner health as public health" a more pressing issue. [...] A report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) confirms that prisoners over 45 years "are a growing proportion of Australia's prison population; [and] the population of older prisoners is growing at a faster rate than the population of younger prisoners".

Read More

Back to Top

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

PRIMARY CARE

Holidays on hold for ambo standoff

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/12/2023, Lachlan Leeming, Page 3

The state's ambulance pay crisis which threatens to bring the triple-0 call service to its knees is becoming a Christmas nightmare for the government, with Health Minister Ryan Park promising to axe his scheduled leave if a last-ditch deal can't be reached by Wednesday. Mr Park was approved to take leave on Wednesday with his holidays lasting until after Christmas and Planning Minister Paul Scully and Fair Trading Minister Anoulack Chanthivong set to cover for him.

Also reported by: <u>Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)</u>, <u>The Courier Mail (Online)</u>, <u>Northern Territory News (Online)</u>, <u>The Mercury (Online)</u>

Read Plain Text Read More

TAFE is making way for hospital

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/12/2023, James O'Doherty, Page 11

Bankstown's TAFE campus will "temporarily" be moved while a \$1.3bn hospital is built for southwestern Sydney. Health Minister Ryan Park has confirmed the new Bankstown-Lidcombe hospital will be built at the local TAFE site, in a move that avoids locating the health facility on a toxic waste dump nearby.

Also reported by: <u>Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)</u>. <u>The Courier Mail (Online)</u>. <u>The Mercury (Online)</u>. <u>Northern Territory News (Online)</u>

Read Plain Text Read More

Hole lot of hope at last

Courier Mail, General News, 11/12/2023, Judith Kerr, Page 20

Hearts and minds have been brought together at a Brisbane hospital to help a woman battling a debilitating condition. Kerry Thomas, 53, from Wellington Point in Brisbane's bayside, has lived with a hole in her heart since childhood, and has just become the first of 20 patients to benefit from a new Heart-Brain Unit at the Mater Hospital Brisbane.

Read Plain Text Read More

Rape case exposes law flaw

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/12/2023, Sean Fewster, Page 1

Sexual predators ordered to take libido-suppressing drugs as part of their conditions of release could decide to go off their meds without any legal consequence, a court has been told. [...] Power says he only will take libido-suppressing drugs if ordered to by a judge. But prosecutors warn that if he decided not to take them, doctors would not prescribe them without the criminal's "informed consent". The Australian Medical Association has confirmed that is doctors' "overriding principle" and the state government says it is seeking legal advice over the case.

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

Read Plain Text Read More

Dreadful condition of our hospitals is just a sickening symptom of an unhealthy state of affairs in Tasmania

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/12/2023, Mervin Reed, Page 16

The deliberate running down of the Royal Hobart Hospital and the Launceston General Hospital has to stop. In looking at the constant reporting in the Mercury and Examiner, one could be forgiven for thinking that we lived in a Third World country.

Read Plain Text Read More

City elective surgery wait times surge

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 11/12/2023, Ben Silvester, Page 9

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

Read Plain Text Read More

King Island a 'victim of its own success' as it grapples with healthcare and population pressures

The Mercury, Other, 10/12/2023, Simon McGuire

"A wonderful way of life" is how Jill Munro describes residing on King Island. [...] However, Ms Munro said access to health care was a major issue for those living on the remote island.

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

Read More

It's time for Australian hospitals to be all-electric (and powered by 100% renewable energy)

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/12/2023, Ben Dunne, Michael Forrester and Eugenie Kayak

Over 7% of Australia's total greenhouse emissions are estimated to be from health care, with up to 3040% of an Australian hospital's emissions derived from the facility's energy consumption. Fossil gas can be almost half of a public hospital's energy supply, particularly in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

Read More

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

School funds showdown

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/12/2023, Tara Miko, Page 9

Extra money for teacher mental health support and a new overall funding agreement will be on the agenda as the state education minister meets his counterparts today amid crippling teacher shortages nationwide. State and territory ministers are also expected to push for greater teacher attraction and retention incentives.

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

Read Plain Text Read More

Living cost pain takes mental toll

West Australian, General News, 11/12/2023, Page 36

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

Read Plain Text Read More

Health hub hope

Launceston Examiner, General News, 11/12/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 1

A \$1.2 million clinic providing specialist, wraparound care for adults with eating disorders has been approved for Launceston. The approval follows the success of the pilot Multidisciplinary Community Clinic (MCC) in Hobart, which has been operating since June.

Read Plain Text Read More

Tertiary students face unique mental health challenges

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/12/2023, David Tuck

Tertiary education students experience higher levels of distress and mental disorder than both the general population and their age matched peers, requiring targeted mental health support.

Read More

Back to Top

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Cash grab adds to radiologists' future burden

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/12/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 18

Australia's peak body for doctors has issued a stern warning to medical colleges after hundreds of radiologists rebelled against their college's decision to hike fees for trainees, fearing rising training costs will drive talent away from the profession and worsen mounting backlogs. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) raised the cost of its final trainee exam from \$5718 in 2022 to \$10,200 in 2023, just months after introducing a mandatory \$6000 "admission to fellowship" fee for all new radiologists.

Also reported by: Age (Melbourne). Sydney Morning Herald (Online)

Read Plain Text Read More

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Veterans seek \$5 million+ in damages for gov department's alleged data bungle

Northern Territory News, Other, 10/12/2023, George Yankovich

Military veterans are suing the federal government for more than \$5m amid claims sensitive medical information was handed to a South Australian university without consent, with hundreds of thousands potentially affected. Veteran Advocacy Australia has launched legal action against the Veterans Affairs Department claiming it breached federal privacy laws in the design of the MATES program.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), The Courier Mail (Online)

Read More

Back to Top

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

How glass baby campaign hit home for mums-to-be

The Australian, General News, 11/12/2023, Kate Racovolis, Page 21

A study published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health has revealed new data on the efficacy of an advertising campaign designed to support alcohol-free pregnancies. The "One Drink" campaign aired in Western Australia between January 2021 and May 2022 and was developed by the WA Mental Health Commission in collaboration with Cancer Council WA.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

Read Plain Text Read More

Adelaide cardiologist launches African-Australian heart health initiative

ABC Online, Other, 10/12/2023, Gladys Serugga

When Jane Chimungeni-Brassington noticed a lingering pain in her chest earlier this year, she brushed it aside and put it down to her active lifestyle. "When it started, I just thought, you know, the way you have pains in your chest when you're walking or running or when I was exercising I just thought it was one of those, like having a stitch," Ms Chimungeni-Brassington said.

Read More

Back to Top

SPORT

Wake-up call on stadium

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 11/12/2023, Tom Gillespie, Page 7

Toowoomba mayor Geoff McDonald says the ongoing dispute between the state government and the Brisbane City Council that threatens to derail the 2032 Olympic Games has put his council "on notice" over infrastructure upgrades. As the council waits to find out the results of a government report into the slated upgrade of the Toowoomba Sports Ground (TSG), trouble has erupted between Brisbane mayor Adrian Schrinner and Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk over the planned \$2.7bn Gabba rebuild.

Read Plain Text Read More

Back to Top

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Pill breast cancer twist

Herald Sun, General News, 11/12/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 21

Women with BRCA1 gene abnormalities have an increased risk of breast cancer the longer they use hormonal contraceptives such as "the pill". That's the finding of a new study led by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Cancer Council Victoria.

Also reported by: <u>Daily Telegraph (Sydney)</u>, <u>Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide)</u>, <u>Hobart Mercury (Hobart)</u>, <u>Courier Mail (Brisbane)</u>, <u>Geelong Advertiser (Geelong)</u>, <u>Herald Sun (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)</u>, <u>The Courier Mail (Online)</u>, <u>The Mercury (Online)</u>, <u>Northern Territory News (Online)</u>

Read Plain Text Read More

Aussie professor shaking up the way cancer treated by volunteering for experimental treatment

NEWS.com.au, Other, 10/12/2023, Brielle Burns

When world-leading melanoma pathologist Professor Richard Scolyer was told he had a brain tumour in June, he knew it meant "certain death". Diagnosed with glioblastoma – an aggressive and terminal form of brain cancer – the 56-year-old was looking at a possible six months to live. Now, Professor Scolyer, celebrated for his pioneering melanoma research, is being the 'guinea pig' and undergoing experimental treatment that is "shaking up" the way cancer is treated.

Read More

Newcastle man Matt was researching childhood cancer when his own daughter was diagnosed

7news.com.au, Other, 10/12/2023, Rhiannon Lewin

Professor Matt Dun lost his daughter Josie to a "tragic" and aggressive form of cancer when she was just four years old. The loss of his child sparked a very personal and important mission for the biomedical scientist at the University of Newcastle to try to find treatments for the rare disease.

Read More

Study reveals social cost of abolishing early closing

Canberra Times, Other, 10/12/2023, John Kidman

As the minute hand on the wall clock raced towards the hour, thirsty men rows deep jostled for final refills before skolling their beers and stumbling into the street, the doors bolting shut behind them. Known as the six o'clock swill, it was a scenario that played out in pubs across Australia for much of the 20th century.

Also reported by: West Australian (Online), Daily Mail Australia (Online)

Read More

Women with polycystic ovary syndrome face higher pregnancy complication risks

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/12/2023, Fleur Cattrall

It is important to optimise the pre-conception health of women, as women with PCOS are more likely to have a higher risk of pregnancy complications.

Read More

Is Australia falling behind in tracking racial disparities in health?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/12/2023, Andre Renzaho

Collecting meaningful race and/or ethnicity data to improve public health outcomes is imperative and must be part of Australia's national agenda.

Read More

Back to Top

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Indigenous health boost

Herald Sun, General News, 11/12/2023, Page 4

The state government has announced a \$35m funding boost for state-based Indigenous health care. The money will be shared across seven Aboriginal community health organisations in Melbourne and regional Victoria with the aim of opening up 100,000 extra appointments.

Read Plain Text Read More

Indigenous mothers feel unsupported while breastfeeding, leaving many to give their babies formula

ABC Online, Other, 10/12/2023, Shauna Foley and Monty Jacka

Wiradjuri elder Aunty Donna Kirby is a "breastfeeding champion". Having breastfed more than 20 children, including six of her own, her sister's and those of struggling mums in her community, her knowledge is sought out by mothers looking to nurse their newborns.

Read More

Back to Top

OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hundreds of extra emergency calls, four music fans in hospital - and temps are set to rise again

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 10/12/2023, Perry Duffin

The extreme hot weather that cooked Sydney and NSW over the weekend triggered an estimated 600 additional emergency calls, fuelled dozens of bushfires, and may have contributed to four urgent hospitalisations at a Sydney music festival. The state's firefighters and emergency services are bracing for the temperatures to rise again through the week while thousands went without power after fierce thunderstorms.

Related coverage: ABC Online (Online)

Read More

Back to Top

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Prostate implant a winner

Herald Sun, General News, 11/12/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 3

Melbourne men are the first patients in the world to receive a new surgical implant that could "revolutionise" prostate cancer treatment and encourage thousands of men to stop avoiding potentially lifesaving screening. Royal Melbourne Hospital urological surgeon Philip Dundee said many males avoided check-ups for the deadly disease and in some cases, especially with young men, pursued different treatments because they did not want to be among the 70 per cent who lost sexual function after surgery.

Also reported by: <u>Daily Telegraph (Sydney)</u>, <u>Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide)</u>, <u>Hobart Mercury (Hobart)</u>, <u>Daily</u> <u>Telegraph Australia (Online)</u>, <u>The Courier Mail (Online)</u>, <u>The Mercury (Online)</u>, <u>Northern Territory News (Online)</u>

Read Plain Text Read More

Prostate breakthrough

Herald Sun, Editorials, 11/12/2023, Page 28

In another example of Melbourne leading the way with medical advances, a breakthrough treatment holds promise for much better outcomes from prostate cancer. As reported in today's Herald Sun, Melbourne patients are the first in the world to receive a new surgical implant that could revolutionise the treatment of prostate cancer.

Read Plain Text Read More

New COVID-19 vaccines hit pharmacy shelves

Canberra Times, Other, 11/12/2023

New COVID-19 vaccines targeting the current Omicron variant of the virus are available in community pharmacies throughout Australia. The XBB 1.5 shots were approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in October and can be used as a primary immunisation dosage as well a booster.

Also reported by: West Australia (Online), Yahoo! News Australia (Online), Daily Mail Australia (Online),

Read More

JAK inhibitor shows promise for type 1 diabetes in Aussie trial

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/12/2023

The rheumatoid arthritis drug baricitinib may be a potent foe against type 1 diabetes, according to results from a world-first clinical trial. Australian researchers report that daily baricitinib, a Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor, for 48 weeks can help preserve beta cell function and reduce the need for exogenous insulin in patients newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

Read More

Back to Top

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

2GB, Healthy Living, 10/12/2023, Dr Ross Walker and Ned Green

Interview with University of Sydney's Professor Jack Wilson regarding a study that finds little justification for the use of cannabis in managing opioid addiction.

Play Now

Back to Top

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

AICIS

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only. See <u>Copyright Terms of Use</u>

