



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 13th December 2023

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that the state and territory ministers will meet with the federal government today to potentially sign-off on a draft agreement that will see engineered stone banned nation-wide by July 2024. *Also reported by:* [The Age](#)
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that Melbourne research teams have confirmed the safety of two Victorian-made Covid vaccines following a successful human trial, and say they are ready to make it publicly available. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Courier Mail](#)
- **[Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) A Bendigo doctor who allegedly raped and sexually abused at least 10 female patients, has been released from prison and declared unfit for trial.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that the cost of building the eight satellite hospitals in Queensland has increased by \$100m, and is facing a three to eight month delay.
- **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Metro North Health will undertake a full review after a man who murdered his wife was released from the mental health unit at The Prince Charles Hospital days before the murder.

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports incoming Queensland Premier Steven Miles will reinstate the in-house co-ordination office that will deliver the 2032 Olympic infrastructure. *Also reported by: [Courier Mail](#)*
- **[Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 3) reports that the Tasmanian government has announced plans to establish a mother and baby unit in the public health system, with RACGP Tasmania Chair Dr Toby Gardner stating that Tasmania is the only state not to have a "community-based mother and baby service."
- **[The Age](#)** (page 6) reports that Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas has announced a new health regulator will be established with the purpose of centralising many of the Health Department's already existing watchdog functions in areas such as IVF, vaping and radiation safety.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 6) reports that Tasmanian Health Minister Guy Barnett has criticised the lack of involvement from the federal health department at the first roundtable meeting on the closure of the East Devonport Medical Centre. Federal health Minister Mark Butler has stated that the government has no control over the decisions of private GP's and that there is still reasonable access to GP's in the Devonport area

MINISTER BUTLER

Health Minister hits out at federal counterpart in medical centre stoush

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/12/2023, Simon Mcguire, Page 6

A federal government representative will be at the second roundtable meeting around the closure of the East Devonport Medical Centre. [...] "I wrote to federal Health Minister Mark Butler on 21 November 2023 requesting that the Australian government urgently work with the East Devonport Medical Centre and local community of East Devonport to ensure the continuation of GP services in the local area," Mr Barnett said.

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

Clinic roundtable today

Burnie Advocate, General News, 13/12/2023, Libby Bingham, Page 4

A second roundtable about the closure of the East Devonport Medical Centre (EDMC) will discuss "options and solutions, including transport support for the community". [...] It comes after Mayor Alison Jarman said she tried several times to contact federal Health Minister Mark Butler to help retain the GP service.

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South-West Victoria identified as prostate cancer hotspot

Portland Observer, General News, 12/12/2023, Louise Belfield, Page 5

According to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, South-West Victoria is one of 20 Australian hotspots recording a higher than national average of advanced prostate cancer cases. [...] "We are tremendously grateful to Health Minister Mark Butler for supporting men and families in our community with this new listing," Ms Savage said.

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Pain galore with more meds shortages

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 12/12/2023, Page 1

the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has warned of a looming health crisis for palliative care patients of all ages as well as those with chronic pain, cancer and other conditions requiring effective pain control with critical acute pain medications in dire shortage. Key health bodies including Palliative Care Australia (PCA), the Australian & New Zealand Society for Palliative Medicine, SHPA and Palliative Care Nurses Australia have written to the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler detailing their concerns around forecast medicine shortages and reduced access to necessary and vital pain relief.

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

Anger at medical funding

cairnslocalnews.com.au, Other, 12/12/2023

Federal Leichhardt MP Warren Entsch has lashed the Labor government, led by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler, to exclude James Cook University (JCU) Cairns from receiving any Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) for medicine students.

[Read More](#)

Campbelltown Medicare Urgent Care Clinic opens

Good Morning Macarthur, Other, 12/12/2023, Brian Laul

The Campbelltown Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (Medicare UCC) opened its doors to patients from today, 12 December 2023. [...] "The local community will be able to walk in, see a doctor or nurse and access imaging and pathology services," Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

Groups call for action from the government on shortages of medicines for pain relief

HealthDispatch, Other, 12/12/2023

A group of stakeholders has written to Health Minister Mark Butler detailing their concerns around forecast medicine shortages and reduced access to pain relief. The letter has been signed by Palliative Care Australia (PCA), the Australian and New Zealand Society for Palliative Medicine (ANZSPM), the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) and Palliative Care Nurses Australia (PCNA).

[Read More](#)

Dear Minister, shortage crisis looms

Pharma In Focus, Other, 12/12/2023

Key health bodies have written to the Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler warning of a looming health crisis as a result of critical, acute pain medications being "in dire shortage". The concerns relate to palliative care patients of all ages as well as those with chronic pain, cancer and other conditions requiring effective pain control.

[Read More](#)

A COVID Christmas is coming – are we resilient enough to ride the wave?

PS News, Other, 12/12/2023, John Blackburn & Anne Borzycki

Is the current media reporting about the increasing COVID cases leading into the festive season something to cause the average Australian any concern? [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler, as recently as 21 November, acknowledged one of the big challenges facing our healthcare system the very real workforce shortage.

[Read More](#)

Call for more investment in long COVID treatment

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/12/2023

Concern over long COVID clinic closures prompts push for more funding to boost care for patients with the condition. [...] After the report was published, Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler announced \$50 million for long COVID research via the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).

[Read More](#)

Killarney Memorial Aged Care receives \$1.4m to trial renewed holistic healthcare approach

Warwick Daily News, Other, 12/12/2023, Jessica Klein

Access to mental and physical healthcare services is about to become a whole lot easier for the rural communities of the Southern Downs. Find out why here. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark

Butler made the announcement on Wednesday, noting the funding will work to expand the Killarney Medical Centre to provide more access to mental and physical health services for locals.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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ABC South East SA, 07:30 News, 12/12/2023

Federal Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston says the introduction of 60-day scripts at pharmacies could cause them to cut the hours they open as they become less profitable. In a statement, Health Minister Mark Butler says every single dollar the Federal Government saves with 60-day prescriptions is being reinvested back into community pharmacies. This can amount to more than \$400,000 over the next four years for pharmacies in large regional towns like Mt Gambier.

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ABC South East SA, Breakfast , 12/12/2023, Becc Chave

Pre-recorded interview with Anne Ruston, Federal Shadow Health Minister, regarding Mount Gambier's Urgent Care Clinic which is only open between 9am and 5pm. Ruston says she went to that urgent care clinic and it was disappointing because the clinic was originally going to be open from 8am until 10pm. In a statement, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Mt Gambier Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is already making a big difference to the community. He adds Medicare UCCs will be open for reduced hours as an initial arrangement but as the clinic continues to operate, hours will be extended where possible to meet demand based on local need.

Interview continues on: [ABC South East SA \(Mt Gambier\)](#).

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MINISTER WELLS

Hodgson's career supported

Monaro Post, General News, 13/12/2023, Trista Heath, Page 39

Australian para alpine assistant coach Amelia Hodgson is among the latest individual grant recipients who will share in more than \$234,000 to attend courses or training programs in areas such as leadership, governance and career coaching. [...] Minister for Sport Anika Wells said the program had helped more than 27,000 women change Australia's sporting eco-system.

Also reported by: [Summit Sun \(Jindabyne\) \(Cooma\)](#), [Monaro Post \(Online\)](#).

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Appetite for user pays in aged care, says government

Australian Financial Review, Other, 12/12/2023, Lois Maskiell

Next chief of welfare giant Services Australia is a digital expert MYEFO finds \$10b in savings to ease pressure on inflation.

[Read More](#)

The green shoots of change are here, says aged care minister

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 12/12/2023

Aged care is "back from the brink," Anika Wells told an industry event in Adelaide. 2,000 delegates from around the country came together in Adelaide to discuss aged care issues and solutions

[Read More](#)

Year-end interviews with aged care leaders: Sandra Hills OAM – Benetas

Inside Ageing, Other, 12/12/2023, Sean Mckeown

As part of our end-of-year reporting, Inside Ageing is currently asking CEOs and other leaders from

across the aged care and retirement living space for their views on the year that just was and expectations for 2024. [...] An important moment occurred when Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells acknowledged that providers did not receive enough support for the care and services provided.

[Read More](#)

Interim commissioner to work for better aged care for First Nations' elders

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

Respected First Nations leader Andrea Kelly has been appointed as the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner beginning in January 2024. [...] "Improving aged care for First Nations people and making sure they have access to culturally safe and tailored aged care services is a key reform priority for the Albanese Government, said Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

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

Interview with Paul Sadler, former CEO, Aged and Community Services Australia, regarding the Federal Government looking to change how people pay for aged care with a new user pay policy set to be unveiled before the May Budget. Sadler says an aged care task force was set up by Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells back in the middle of the year and it's to consider and report in December. He adds that people mistakenly believe they pay around half of aged care costs, but the government pays 75% of residential aged care and 95% of home care costs.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 12/12/2023, Scott Levi

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, regarding the Central Coast now having two urgent care clinics following the opening of a second facility in Lake Haven. The federally funded clinics have been rolled out in a bid to reduce the pressure on the region's public hospital emergency departments. The first urgent care clinic on the Central Coast opened its doors in Umina three weeks ago. McBride says it is important that people across the Central Coast can get urgent care close to home and affordably.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Vow Foods: Lab-grown meat moves closer to approval in Australia

Weekly Times Now, Other, 12/12/2023, Tallis Miles

An Australian company's cultivated meat is one step closer to getting the green light after the authorities declared it safe to eat. [...] FSANZ approval could come as soon as next year, before notifying the Food Ministers' Meeting membership, a body headed up by the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

DEPARTMENT

Supporting suicide prevention: community group funding available

Tumut & Adelong Times, General News, 12/12/2023, Page 4

Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN) has announced the availability of funding dedicated to community groups focusing on suicide prevention. The funding, provided by the Department of Health and Aged Care under the Targeted Regional Initiatives for Suicide Prevention initiative, aims to enhance the suicide prevention capability and capacity of community groups within the Murrumbidgee region.

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Specialist colleges should continue to judge IMG qualifications — for now: review

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/12/2023, Heather Saxena

The interim report on IMG bureaucracy had recommended that the responsibility be passed to the AMC instead. [...] She added that the college was already working on streamlining its IMG processes and working with the Medical Board of Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care to determine which countries could be added to the Competent Authority Pathway.

[Read More](#)

GP sanctioned for breaking ADHD prescribing rules defends actions

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

WA GP and politician Dr Brian Walker had conditions imposed on his registration in June. [...] The federal Department of Health and Aged Care has estimated that ADHD affects 6-10% of Australian children and adolescents and 2-6% of adults.

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AusBiotech appoints Ex-TGA head and CEO of Argenica Therapeutics to its board

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 12/12/2023

AusBiotech has announced Professor Skerritt's appointment to its board.[...] He was a deputy secretary in the Department of Health and Aged Care, where he led the TGA for ten years.

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List of critical medications in short supply this holidays

Pharmacy ITK, Other, 12/12/2023

After a year of nationwide drug shortages, Aussies will still have to go without a range of critical medications this holiday season. 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.

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Professor Michael Kidd AO takes up new role

The Medical Republic, Other, 12/12/2023

The leading public health expert and former deputy chief medical officer has been appointed to the Telstra Health Board. Medical leader Professor Michael Kidd AO has been appointed to the Telstra Health Board.

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'Congregate' living: an optimistic innovation for retirement villages

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/12/2023, Chris Baynes

Imagine retirement village residents being able to pool home care funds to employ a 24/7 village nurse. Under the dreary label 'congregate' living or services, this is one of the innovations being considered by the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care.

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CORONAVIRUS

Vaccines pass test

Herald Sun, General News, 13/12/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 1

The first human trial of two Victorian-made Covid vaccines has confirmed they are safe and ready for commercial partnerships to get them to market. In a world first, two Melbourne research teams worked together to evaluate the new vaccines, which use a new way to attack the virus.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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New COVID vaccine here

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 13/12/2023, Kate Mcilwain, Page 7

Illawarra residents are being asked to check if they need to get an extra COVID vaccine, as a new vaccine becomes available in the region. The Medical Director of the South Eastern Primary Health Network Dr Katherine Michelmoresaid the new shot was a good reminder about vaccination amid rising COVID cases and the Christmas season.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Estia gets some competition for BlueCross

The Australian, Business News, 13/12/2023, Bridget Carter, Page 14

The Bain Capital-backed Estia appears to be getting a run for its money in its efforts to buy BlueCross Aged Care, with suggestions in the market that industry rival Opal HealthCare is also in talks. Opal manages 100 residential aged care communities in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia.

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Going hi-tech to support older people

Ballarat Courier, General News, 13/12/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 4

Robotics, sensors, artificial intelligence and other digital technologies will help support an ageing population into the future and a new research centre aims to find out just how these new technologies fit into the ageing process. Federation University is a partner in the new Australian Research Council Industrial Transformation Training Centre in Optimal Ageing which will focus on research and training around the main themes of enhancing cognition, promoting independence, and sustaining connectedness by developing and implementing digital, robotics and sensor-based technologies to enrich the lives of older Australians.

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Respite services increased

Monaro Post, General News, 13/12/2023, Luke Treadwell, Page 1

Respite services in the Snowy Monaro have been improved with the long awaited opening of Cooma

Challenge's Mittagang Cottage respite house. Mittagang Cottage opened its doors last week and is ready to start supporting carers who need overnight or short-term support for their loved ones.

Also reported by: [Summit Sun \(Jindabyne\)](#), [Cooma](#), [Monaro Post \(Online\)](#)

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2022 Aged Care Workforce Report

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 12/12/2023

The 2022 Aged Care Workforce Report is independent of all interest groups and captures the direct experience of aged care workers and decision makers across Australia.

[Read More](#)

CILCA360 predicts Aged Care Quality Standard failures

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 12/12/2023

Is a valid and reliable leadership assessment tool correlated to the Australian Aged Care Leadership Capability Framework. Incorporated identifying gaps in the Quality Standards.

[Read More](#)

Adecco targets nursing and aged care agencies as it looks to become a key player in health and aged care recruitment

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

Australia's largest recruitment agency has announced a strategic expansion into the healthcare sector as health and aged care providers continue to struggle with ongoing workforce shortages, particularly for Registered Nurses. The Swiss French owned group which is the world's second-largest human resources provider says it will focus on bringing overseas talent to Australia to address the expected shortage of 123,000 nurses in Australia by 2030.

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Why Rashid and Syam believe care revolution could be next door in Wagga

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

Aged care in the regions has been a wicked problem for successive governments. Successive inquiries into the aged care system have found a lack of qualified staff has driven worsening health and wellbeing for the aged and ageing.

[Read More](#)

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

Only 88% of aged care homes across the country have met the Federal Government's requirement for round-the-clock nursing care. The figures have been published by the Australian National Audit Office and date back to September. The Albanese government committed to 24 over seven nursing care in aged care facilities during last year's election, bringing in the requirement from 1 July 2023.

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POPULATION HEALTH

It felt like I was being stabbed. I was told it was just 'regular period pains'

ABC Online, Other, 12/12/2023

It was midnight when the searing pain woke me up. It felt like a metal spike was being pushed into my abdomen and lower back, sending fire through the nerves around my body.

Also reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Mamamia \(Online\)](#)

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Updated toolkit to guide healthcare professionals in managing menopause

Medicine Today, Other, 12/12/2023, Melanie Hinze

The incredibly popular '2014 Practitioner's Toolkit for Managing Menopause' has been completely revised to provide a concise, desktop aid for healthcare professionals caring for women undergoing the menopause transition, an Australian expert told Medicine Today. Professor Rodney Baber, Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Sydney, and Head of the Menopause and Menstrual Disorders Clinic at Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney, said the new toolkit had been updated to include advice from national and international menopause guidelines, position statements and consensus statements published since 2014.

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New study finds night shift workers need support to manage metabolic health conditions

Nursing Review, Other, 12/12/2023, Arshmah Jamal

A study by Monash University found that work policies must be designed to target barriers night shift workers face when managing weight and metabolic health conditions. Published in Obesity Reviews, researchers investigated the barriers that night shift workers face when making healthier lifestyle choices.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

'Revolutionary' bionic implant

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 13/12/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 7

A Melbourne dad is the first patient in the world to test a new bionic device after a historic operation at Austin Hospital. Scientists hope the implant, invented by Victoria's Bionics Institute, The Florey and Melbourne University, and controlled via remote, can stop Crohn's disease returning after surgery to cut damaged bowel.

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

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Cancer screening 'perfect' for AI

Ballarat Courier, General News, 13/12/2023, Nyk Carnsew, Page 4

From cancer screening to detecting scams, artificial intelligence technology is being deployed in ways Australians probably don't expect or realise. The far-reaching application of the emerging technology has been explored at a meeting of business leaders representing major companies, including Telstra, the Commonwealth Bank and Amazon in Sydney.

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Heart disease burden

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/12/2023, Page 7

Almost 20 million people died around the world as a result of heart disease in 2022, according to a report on the disease's global burden. Researchers from Australia's Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, the University of Western Australia and University of Sydney were involved in the study that attributed 19.8 million deaths worldwide to heart disease.

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Cat's warning to play safe in sun

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/12/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 7

Cats star Aishling Moloney received a shock when she moved from Ireland to play AFLW and discovered the harsh UV (ultraviolet) rays from the sun in Australia. With very fair skin and red hair,

Road trauma's toll on survivors

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

The Hunter's top trauma surgeon has warned about the long-term consequences of major injury, amid data that shows almost 2000 people were seriously injured in road crashes in five years. NSW Centre for Road Safety figures show Lake Macquarie [572], Newcastle [449] and Cessnock [270] had the highest number of serious injuries in the region in road crashes from 2018 to 2022.

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Shane Warne's family launch legacy charity at MCG Boxing Day Test

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/12/2023, Peter Rolfe

Shane Warne's beloved Boxing Day Test is set to provide the perfect platform to launch a lifesaving legacy the spin king will leave Australians. The Herald Sun can reveal Cricket Australia has partnered with Shane Warne Legacy to set up 23 heart testing stations in and around the MCG for the Test.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Activity levels linked to lower breast cancer risk

Canberra Times, Other, 12/12/2023, Storm Newton

Being more active could reduce the risk of women developing breast cancer before menopause, a study has suggested. Researchers analysed data based on the amount of exercise women reported doing during leisure time - such as walking, cycling or sports - finding "solid evidence" of a lower breast cancer risk.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

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Medical scientists hopeful for better neuroblastoma treatments

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 12/12/2023

A Melbourne father who overcame an aggressive cancer before his son died from the same disease wants to use his family's tragedy to keep others together. Cells from their tumours are proving a game-changer for research and medical scientists are confident they could lead to better treatments for neuroblastoma.

[Read More](#)

Tai Chi may improve symptoms of Parkinson's disease

Medicine Today, Other, 12/12/2023, Melanie Hinze

Tai Chi could provide long-term benefits in managing Parkinson's disease, according to research published in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry. Researchers recruited two cohorts of patients from the Movement Disorders Clinic at Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai, China.

[Read More](#)

Stroke survivors denied best chance of recovery by rehab design

The Senior, Other, 12/12/2023

Victorian stroke survivors are being denied the best chance of recovery because most of the state's rehabilitation centres are not "purpose built" to aid rehabilitation. That's the view of Julie Bernhardt from brain research institute The Florey, who said research suggests people with potential to recover from stroke could do much better in the right environment.

[Read More](#)

Trial offers hope to people with progressive multiple sclerosis

The Senior, Other, 12/12/2023

The effects of progressive multiple sclerosis (MS) can be devastating, but could a common diabetes treatment and a health supplement offer new hope? [...] MS Australia contributed \$1 million to the study.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, The Project, 12/12/2023, Sarah Harris, Waleed Aly and Sam Taunton

Monash University researchers have discovered diabetes drugs like Ozempic may have more unexpected benefits than just weight loss. A new study has found the medications reduce inflammation, protecting diabetics against the effects of kidney and heart disease.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 12/12/2023, Mike Smithson

Popular diabetes drugs used for rapid weight loss have surprising extra health benefits. Australian researchers have discovered drugs like Ozempic can also protect the heart and kidneys.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 12/12/2023, David Campbell, Jayne Azzopardi, Lara Vella

Diabetes drugs, including Ozempic, may carry more benefits than just weight loss. A Monash University study showed that the drugs could reduce deadly heart and kidney disease caused by inflammation.

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PRIMARY CARE

\$100m hospital blowout

Courier Mail, General News, 13/12/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 1

The cost of building Queensland's eight satellite hospitals has blown out by more than \$100m and taken months longer than expected. Report P15 Health bungle costs millions Audit finds a long list of major issues

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Medical centre car crash chaos

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/12/2023, Katie Hall, Page 1

The driver of a car which travelled more than 20m before crashing into a parked car and forcing it through the glass doors of a busy medical centre will assist police with their investigations. A woman had to be painstakingly extracted from underneath a vehicle (above) after the crash at Kingborough Medical Centre in Kingston, which happened about 1.40pm on Tuesday.

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Opening date revealed for new \$36m ED

Border Mail, General News, 13/12/2023, Anthony Bunn, Page 6

The new emergency department at Albury hospital will open on February 14, Albury Wodonga Health's chief executive says. Bill Appleby flagged the date as he gave his official address to AWH's annual meeting yesterday.

Have your emergencies in these hours

Burnie Advocate, General News, 13/12/2023, Sandy Powell, Page 11

The healthcare sector in this state is not special. Just like every other industry in Tasmania, it is difficult to attract and retain specialists to fill a variety of roles and those roles often remain vacant for long periods of time.

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All change but nurse service to remain

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 13/12/2023, Madeleine Clark, Page 3

In a move to better align with its core role as a home and community care provider, Silver chain has announced the transition of its regional nursing posts back to the WA Country Health Service. The move will hand 11 remote area nursing posts back to the responsibility of WACHS in 2024, after Silver chain had the responsibility for many years.

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New Richmond Road SA Ambulance HQ designs unveiled

The Mercury, Other, 12/12/2023, Agnes Gichuhi

Artist's impressions of the \$120m facility planned for a site just 10 minutes from the CBD will set up SA's ambos for the long haul, the minister says. Designs have been unveiled for the state's new multimillion-dollar SA Ambulance headquarters set to be built 10 minutes from Adelaide's CBD.

[Read More](#)

HCF and Flying Doctor sign new national partnership

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

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and Hospitals Contribution Fund (HCF), Australia's largest not-for-profit health fund, have announced a new multi-million-dollar major national partnership to support the health and wellbeing of rural and remote Australians.

[Read More](#)

Rozalia Spadafora inquest: Systemic issues in emergency care revealed

Nursing Review, Other, 12/12/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The coronial inquest into the death of Rozalia Spadafora continued last Monday. The five-year-old is believed to have died of myocarditis brought on by influenza A in July last year a day after her fifth birthday.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Killer was 'released'

Courier Mail, General News, 13/12/2023, Shaylah Bulloch, Page 1

A man who murdered his wife in a horrific stabbing attack north of Brisbane was allowed to walk out of a mental health unit just days earlier. Anaru Ormond, 32, killed his long term partner and mother of his four children, Siva Auvae, 31, on Saturday afternoon at their Kallangur home.

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Schizophrenia blood test a breakthrough for earlier treatment

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

A Newcastle-based precision medicine team has made a major discovery in the treatment of schizophrenia that will lead to better diagnosis and treatment. The team, led by Professor Murray

Cairns at Hunter Medical Research Institute, discovered a unique biomarker in the blood of people with schizophrenia.

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Beyond Blue: Counting the mental cost of end of year financial struggles

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

The latest Beyond Blue data suggests that one in five people's mental health is being "extremely" impacted by the rising cost of living, with a new community survey commissioned by the organisation showing that financial pressures are the number one stressor for people as we head towards the end of the year.

[Read More](#)

'Men's shed with no commitment': how livestock sales bolster mental health in the bush

The Guardian, Other, 13/12/2023, Aston Brown

The crackly drone of an auctioneer barking through a megaphone cuts through the mooing and commotion of the cattle. Dung and dust hangs heavy in the air, baking under a harsh mid-morning sun. It's sale day.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Service vital for those crying out for help

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/12/2023, Tia Ewen, Page 3

Enduring countless sleepless nights, Hobart mum Rebekah McWhirter found herself hitting a wall when her second son couldn't sleep. "In between the ages of four months and 11 months, Oscar (now five years old) wouldn't sleep for longer than 45 minutes at a time and that kind of sleep deprivation is quite intense," she said.

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What is PUPPP? Common pregnancy rash explained

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/12/2023, Sam Hay

As your body goes through the incredible journey of pregnancy, you may encounter a few bumps along the way. One such bump, quite literally, is Pruritic Urticarial Papules and Plaques of Pregnancy (PUPPP). While common, it is one of the most misunderstood symptoms experienced when pregnant.

[Read More](#)

Women give tearful accounts of birth trauma as NSW inquiry holds hearing in Wagga Wagga

ABC Online, Other, 12/12/2023, Conor Burke, Penny Burfitt & Monty Jacka

Mothers have given tearful accounts of being ignored and mistreated by hospital staff at the fourth hearing of a New South Wales inquiry into birth trauma. The hearing in Wagga Wagga, in the state's south, today saw eight women give personal accounts of their negative childbirth experiences.

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

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Not so smooth operators

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/12/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 1

Barwon Health's capacity to train cardiothoracic surgeons could be in jeopardy, with a review identifying concerns about issues including overtime. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has placed the Geelong hospital training post accreditation on probation for a year.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#)

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NSW paramedics: HSU calls for crisis talks with NSW Premier, Treasurer and Health Minister to broker wage deal

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 12/12/2023, Jessica Wang

The NSW Health Minister has shared an update in tense wage talks for paramedics amid a looming crisis that could cripple triple-0 from January 1. The New South Wales Health Union has rejected an eleventh hour offer from the state Government to boost paramedic wages.

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

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College-led training proves successful

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/12/2023

It has been less than one year since the RACGP resumed responsibility of GP training, but students are already reporting improvements in learning. Almost 2800 GPs in training took part of the annual survey, designed to track medical teachings.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 12/12/2023, Jo Laverty

The NT's first-ever cohort of locally trained paramedicine students is set to graduate this afternoon. Four students from Flinders University will be among 33 health students to receive their degrees at a ceremony at the Darwin Convention Centre. Flinders University Deputy Dean of NT Rural and Remote Health Professor James Smith says training paramedics locally is critical.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Fund managers bullish on Chemist Warehouse

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 13/12/2023, Tom Richardson, Page 29

Growth trajectory Investors are bullish about the potential backdoor listing of Chemist Warehouse via a merger with Sigma Healthcare and say its overseas store rollout strategy could deliver growth comparable to the blockbuster returns of Bunnings or Domi...

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Australia\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#)

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Call for 24/7 pharmacy

Border Watch, Other, 12/12/2023, Charlotte Varcoe

Staffing issues remain the biggest issue to install a 24/7 pharmacy in Mount Gambier/Berrin, according to local pharmacist Tony Tu. Recently the state government announced three 24/7 pharmacies in the metropolitan area which is expected to have a catchment of almost half a million people.

[Read More](#)

WA expands access to NIP vaccines

The West Australian Govt has moved to expand the schedule of pharmacist-administered vaccines following the expansion of National Immunisation Program (NIP) funding. From 01 Jan 2024, the updated Administration of Vaccines by Pharmacists SASA will allow pharmacists to administer an expanded schedule of funded NIP vaccines to West Australians aged five years and over.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor evil

Herald Sun, General News, 13/12/2023, Nina Funnell & Laura Placella, Page 1

A Bendigo GP who raped and sexually abused at least 10 female patients, and another victim aged five, has been unmasked and freed back into the community, sparking outrage. A Herald Sun investigation has revealed David Frederick Miller, 80, left behind a trail of "human wreckage".

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New standards for cosmetic surgery

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/12/2023, Page 5

Australians choosing to have cosmetic surgery will be better protected by new standards introduced on Tuesday. The National Safety and Quality Cosmetic Surgery Standards are part of urgent reforms to mitigate safety and quality risks specific to the industry and reduce patient harm.

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

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

Four-year ban for GP who said doctors in COVID-19 vaccine rollout were 'war criminals'

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

Dr Stephen Hindley has been banned for four years after telling a patient she would "get cancer and die" after she admitted having a COVID-19 vaccination. He also claimed doctors involved in the vaccine rollout were war criminals.

[Read More](#)

Qld doctors who faced penalties in 2023

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 12/12/2023, Judith Kerr

Doctors, nurses and health workers have been publicly named after their registrations were either suspended, disqualified, cancelled or hit with strict conditions. Check the table for medical practitioners in your area.

[Read More](#)

"Off her f—ing tree": Drug-addicted aged care nurse mismanaged patients' meds

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

An aged care nurse has been banned from practising for at least two years after she was found to have stolen and swapped residents' prescribed pain medications with over-the-counter substitutes to fuel her own drug habit. Last month, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal found Vivian Mallows had

mismanaged patients' medications, stole medications from the drug safe and worked under the influence of drugs while caring for residents at Yarrowonga Health's aged care unit in Victoria from November 2019 June 2020.

[Read More](#)

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

New 'super-team' of health regulators

Age, General News, 13/12/2023, Aisha Dow, Page 6

A new health regulator will be established to rapidly respond to crises in areas such as IVF, pest control, vaping and radiation safety as the Victorian government increases its capacity to tackle emerging medical and safety issues. Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas told The Age yesterday that many of the Health Department's watchdog functions would be centralised in a new "super-team of regulators" called the Health Regulator within the year to better direct resources to where they were needed.

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SPORT

Let the Games begin: Miles about-face

The Australian, General News, 13/12/2023, Jamie Walker, Page 2

Incoming Queensland Premier Steven Miles will reinstate an axed agency to independently deliver 2032 Olympics infrastructure, distancing the revamped Labor government from Annastacia Palaszczuk's Games model. In his first major act, Mr Miles said the in-house co-ordination office established under Ms Palaszczuk would give way to a standalone authority first proposed when Brisbane secured the event two years ago.

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

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Netball Australia boss Kelly Ryan resigns

Age, General News, 13/12/2023, Carla Jaeger, Page 1

Netball Australia boss Kelly Ryan has resigned, effective immediately, after a tumultuous two-year tenure in the role that included the loss of \$17 million in federal funding, a nasty pay war with players, and the Hancock Prospecting logo saga. The governing body denied it had any discussions with Ryan before she tendered her resignation yesterday, despite the mounting calls for a change in leadership.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

AFL boss can't bury his head

Herald Sun, General News, 13/12/2023, Wendy Carlisle, Page 23

Andrew Dillon was barely in his role as CEO-elect when outgoing AFL boss Gillon McLachlan punted responsibility for the biggest crisis facing the game his way. For more than a decade McLachlan had reassured fans, players and their parents the link between CTE chronic traumatic encephalopathy and the head knocks players were exposed to involved "speculation", despite mounting evidence to the contrary.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [6PR \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#).

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Time for a fresh sporting chance

West Australian, General News, 13/12/2023, Rebecca Le May, Page 16

The WA Institute of Sport will become the first in Australia to sign up to a set of national integrity rules and has finalised its new board line-up after an exodus that followed a stalled restorative justice process for abused gymnasts. The mass departure of board members came after an 18-month hold-up in efforts to make amends to gymnasts who were verbally, physically and psychologically abused by coaches between 1987 and 2016.

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

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\$30k sports grants boost for schools

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 13/12/2023, Page 6

Three Mildura schools have received grants to help encourage and foster the talents of future sports stars. Mildura Primary School, Mildura South Primary School and Mildura Specialist School have each received a \$30,000 grant as a part of the latest round of the Victorian Government's Active Schools initiative.

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Former England captain Yapp named Australia women's head coach

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/12/2023

Former England captain Jo Yapp was named head coach of the Wallaroos on Tuesday, becoming the first female to take charge of a senior Australian national team in a major football code, governing body Rugby Australia (RA) said. The former scrumhalf, who played 70 matches for England and captained them to the 2006 Rugby World Cup final, had signed a two-year deal, RA added in a statement.

[Read More](#)

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

The AFL is being urged by the Victorian State Coroner to radically overhaul its concussion rules with calls for players to be warned about the risk of developing CTE from head knocks. It comes after an inquest examined the death of former Richmond player Shane Tuck, who was diagnosed with severe CTE in a post-mortem after he took his own life following a long battle with mental illness.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Is stopping metformin therapy linked with dementia risk?

Medicine Today, Other, 12/12/2023, Melanie Hinze

New research suggests that stopping metformin therapy might be linked with dementia incidence, largely independent of changes in glucose control or insulin use. Published in JAMA Network Open, the cohort study looked at metformin users born before 1955 and who had no history of kidney disease at metformin initiation from a large integrated healthcare delivery system in Northern California.

[Read More](#)

Scientists to worm out disease from burrowing parasite

The Senior, Other, 12/12/2023, Rudi Maxwell

A new research project is aiming to eliminate a potentially-fatal disease caused by a parasitic roundworm that burrows through the skin into the lungs and gut. Strongyloidiasis is a tropical disease, endemic in remote Indigenous communities across northern Australia, caused by the parasitic worm strongyloides stercoralis, which thrives in environments with poor sanitation.

[Read More](#)

Childhood Cat Exposure Once Against Linked to Schizophrenia

Living with cats as a child has once again been linked to mental health disorders, because our furry friends apparently can't catch a break. In a new meta-analysis published in the journal *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, Australian researchers identified 17 studies between 1980 and 2023 that seemed to associate cat ownership in childhood with schizophrenia-related disorders a sample size narrowed down from a whopping 1,915 studies that dealt with cats during that 43-year time period.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/12/2023, Kate Freebairn

Clinical trials are currently underway involving patients with type two diabetes and kidney disease. The results are expected next year and will help researchers better understand the drug's effectiveness.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Timeline on table to cease stone use

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/12/2023, Angus Thompson, Page 1

Engineered stone will be banned nationwide by next July if state and territory ministers sign off on a draft agreement in a high-stakes meeting today as the Commonwealth faces renewed calls to ban imports of the product. The agreement, circulated among ministers ahead of the meeting, says they accept the findings of a major report on the substance, which is linked to lung disease in tradies, and agree to prohibit its use under work health and safety laws by the second half of next year.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

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Mozzies are taking over

Shepparton News Online, Other, 12/12/2023, Deniliquin Pastoral

Locals are being encouraged to protect themselves accordingly after a surge in mosquito numbers. Prompted by the recent rain events, the insect is prolific in most open areas but particularly around water.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 12/12/2023, Stacey Lee and Nikolai Beilharz

SA is in the grips of a surging sexually transmitted disease as authorities scramble to thwart a serious outbreak of one infection. Official data shows almost 500 syphilis cases so far this year, especially a spike in infectious patients in multiple populations. The number of infectious syphilis patients in 2023 is more than the past two years' total and double that recorded the year before the COVID-19 pandemic.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

TGA issues safety alert over imported weight loss drug

9News, Other, 12/12/2023, Allannah Sciberras

Australia's medical watchdog has issued a warning over an imported weight loss drug that could pose serious health risks if consumed. Li Da Daidaihua has been found to contain the undeclared substance sibutramine, which is prescription-only in Australia. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said sibutramine became a prescription-only in 2010 due to increased risk of cardiac events and stroke.

[Read More](#)

Watchdog investigates influencers for misleading consumers, with no penalties imposed

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

More than 100 online content creators have been reviewed in a social media crackdown by the Australian Consumer Commission (ACCC), with more than 80 per cent of those found to have posted "something that raised concerns". [...] With a number of industries under the microscope the ACCC said it would continue to work with other regulators such as the Australian Securities and Investment Commission and the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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Popular prenatal product has been recalled after leakages were reported

The Australian, Other, 12/12/2023, Fergus Ellis

A popular pregnancy product has been pulled off the shelves following claims there are leakages and seepage coming out of packaging. [...] Consumers are encouraged to report any issues with medicines or vaccines to the Therapeutic Goods Administration so they affected products can be monitored.

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

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New COVID vax available

Shepparton News Online, Other, 12/12/2023

A new Covid-19 vaccine to target the current Omicron variant of the virus is now available in community pharmacies throughout Australia. It comes as an apparent mild spike in positive COVID-19 cases makes its way through the Deniliquin area. The category of vaccines known as XBB 1.5 was approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in October and can be used as a primary vaccination dosage as well as booster dosages.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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