



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 15th December 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that Usman Khawaja wore a black arm band on the first day of the Perth Test match against Pakistan to protest the ICC's decision to ban the human rights slogans he had written on his shoes. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [The Courier Mail](#)
- **[Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports that Ambulance Tasmania chief executive Jordan Emery has banned ambulance staff from decorating their ambulances and wearing Santa hats, claiming it may make patients feel as though staff weren't taking their jobs seriously enough.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 2) reports that SunSmart head of skin cancer prevention programs Emma Glassenbury has warned Victorians to ensure they are fully protected against the risk of sunburn after it was revealed 274 people presented to the state's emergency departments during the 2022-23 financial year with severe skin damage.
- **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 2) reports that the Hyson Green unit at Calvary Bruce Private Hospital will receive a 14-bed expansion which will include day treatment rooms, communal spaces and a gym.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that the cancer vaccine mRNA-4157/V940 is moving to phase 3 studies after clinical trials found the vaccine could prevent cancer returning in melanoma

patients for as long as three years.

- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 5) reports that federal Sports Minister Anika Wells has welcomed the Queensland government's decision to pause and review the \$7.1bn infra structure pipeline for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- **[Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 6) reports that Caesarstone CEO David Cullen is calling on the government to exclude natural alternative products from its ban on engineered stone. *Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- **[Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 6) reports that Tasmanian Health Minister Guy Barnett has stated the government is working to fix ambulance ramping in the state, and that so far an extra "220 paramedics and dispatch officers" have been employed.

MINISTER BUTLER

Combatting "generation of nicotine dependency" Illegal vapes allegedly sold in Warwick and Stanthorpe

Town & Country Journal, General News, 14/12/2023, Aston Brown, Page 6

The importation of single-use vapes will be banned from January 1 in the first stage of a nationwide crackdown to heavily regulate vaping, including tighter controls on nicotine concentration levels, packaging and flavours. [...] The Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said vaping poses a "major threat" to tobacco control in Australia.

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How have Labor's aged care promises been tracking

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/12/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The aged care sector has been subject to "ambitious" reforms that have been achieved, broken, or are in progress. [...] In an interview with ABC in April 2022, the then Shadow Health Minister Mark Butler said an Albanese Government would have "all 50" clinics "up and running" in 2023.

[Read More](#)

Action needed to avert discontinuation pain crisis

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/12/2023, Megan Haggan

Discontinuation of pain medicines means "dire" shortages – and workarounds mean barriers for many palliative patients, hospital pharmacist warns. The Society of Hospital Pharmacist of Australia and several other stakeholders have written to health minister Mark Butler to warn of a threat to care for many vulnerable patients, including children.

[Read More](#)

National cosmetic surgery standards introduced

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 14/12/2023, Anmj Staff

Patients undergoing cosmetic surgery will be better protected from harm following the introduction of new national standards today. [...] The safety and quality standards, launched today by Health Minister Mark Butler, will become mandatory for every service where cosmetic surgery is performed, including small day procedure clinics through to large health organisations.

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WA health researchers share more than \$35 million in funding from Federal Government for new research

Busselton Dunsborough Times, Other, 14/12/2023, Kimberley Caines

WA health researchers will share more than \$35 million in funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council to undertake new research. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the funding was the Albanese Government's way of supporting "ground-breaking, world-class research" that addresses some of the nation's greatest health challenges.

Also reported by: [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#), [Kimberley Echo \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#).

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Long-COVID clinic crunch

Medical Forum, Other, 14/12/2023

The RACP has voiced concerns that patients with long-COVID in Australia are being left without the necessary support following the closure of specialist clinics across the country. [...] However, the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mr Mark Butler, while reiterating that "all 58 Urgent Care Clinics that we promised, will be operating seven days a week on a fully bulk billed basis," explained that recruitment issues were still impacting capacity.

[Read More](#)

Patient wins for cosmetic surgery

Medical Forum, Other, 14/12/2023

Australians having cosmetic surgery will be better protected by new National Safety and Quality Cosmetic Surgery Standards, as part of urgent reforms to mitigate safety and quality risks specific to the industry. [...] Launched by Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler, on behalf of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, the Cosmetic Surgery Standards will be mandated for every service where cosmetic surgery is performed, including small day procedure clinics through to large health organisations.

[Read More](#)

South Australian regional medical training program to provide more country doctors

PS News, Other, 14/12/2023, Andrew McLaughlin

A South Australian program to train more doctors in regional areas has received a boost from a new Commonwealth Government program. [...] South Australian Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton thanked his federal counterpart Mark Butler and federal Education Minister Jason Clare for their support.

[Read More](#)

As 2023 slips away, what will next year bring?

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/12/2023

It was a year of payroll tax, Medicare investments, reviews galore and more payroll tax. Here's what's to come in 2024. [...] Arguably the biggest news of the year came in May, when Health Minister Mark Butler announced new funding for Medicare.

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WIN Shepparton, WIN News, 14/12/2023, Bruce Roberts

The National Rural Health Alliance's latest Rural Health in Australia Snapshot reveals that rural men are two and a half times more likely to die from potentially avoidable causes than those in urban areas. The report also revealed people living in rural areas use Medicare 50% less than those in the city. According to a statement by Health Minister Mark Butler, the Federal Government wipes the help debt of doctors or nurse practitioners who live and work in the most rural or remote Australian areas and they also offer incentives of up to \$60,000 a year for doctors to work in these areas.

[Play Now](#)

5AA, Mornings, 14/12/2023, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Mark Butler, Health Minister, regarding the Federal Government introducing urgent care clinics to take some of the pressure off the emergency departments. Butler says the clinics worked even better than they had expected and hoped. He adds urgent care clinics are catered for those urgent but non-life threatening emergencies, they are open seven days a week on extended hours, and they're staffed with people with really good emergency management skills. He adds there is all the evidence that it's taking real pressure off the hospital emergency departments.

MINISTER WELLS

Games pipeline review welcome

Courier Mail, General News, 15/12/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 5

The state government has not yet contacted its federal counterpart over a decision to pause and review the \$7.1bn infrastructure pipeline for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the creation of an independent oversight authority. But federal Sports Minister Anika Wells said her government welcomed the decision to have a "fresh look" at the package of projects and bring in an independent authority, affirming the "feedback from stakeholders" was clear.

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Rights for older Australians at the centre of reform talks

Burnie Advocate, General News, 15/12/2023, Page 48

Rights for older Australians would be legislated under "once in a generation" reforms proposed by the Albanese government. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the government was seeking feedback on a draft for new legislation.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Camden Haven Courier \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Inverell Times \(Online\)](#), [Muswellbrook Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Eden Magnet \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Lithgow Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Rural \(Online\)](#), [The Area News \(Online\)](#), [Bega District News \(Online\)](#), [Hawkesbury Gazette \(Online\)](#).

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Revealed: The cricket political statements that got the green light - after Usman Khawaja was banned from wearing his pro-Palestine shoes

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/12/2023, James Cooney

Usman Khawaja has been banned by Cricket Australia from sharing what he calls a 'humanitarian message' of peace amid the war in Gaza - but political statements in cricket are not a new phenomena. [...] The Australian sports minister, Anika Wells, praised the side for the boycott in response to the Taliban's 'unacceptable' treatment of women and girls.

[Read More](#)

Govt seeks input on new Aged Care Act

Inside Ageing, Other, 14/12/2023, Sean Mckeown

The Albanese Government is seeking input on the exposure draft of the proposed Aged Care Act, a substantial reform aimed at prioritising the well-being and rights of older individuals within the aged care system. [...] "We want Australians to tell us what they think of the draft law. Does it clearly define the rights of older people? Will it empower older people to make decisions about their own care?" Aged Care Minister Anika Wells

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Why Usman Khawaja's shoes have started a cricketing controversy

SBS, Other, 14/12/2023

Forbidden from displaying perceived political slogans on his shoes, cricketer Usman Khawaja opened Australia's innings in the first Test against Pakistan in Perth wearing a black armband. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells publicly backed Khawaja's decision.

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Usman Khawaja expresses disappointment with ICC for allowing some religious messages but not his 'all lives matter' shoes

Usman Khawaja has revealed what he found the "most frustrating" part about the International Cricket Council's decision to prohibit him from wearing shoes with a message of support for Palestine. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells was full of support for Khawaja's shoes despite being in breach of the rules.

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Usman Khawaja won't be allowed to make political statements while playing for Australia

Sky News Australia, Other, 14/12/2023

Test opener Usman Khawaja has been banned from making a political statement over the war in Gaza on his shoes for the opening clash with Pakistan by Cricket Australia after his plan divided the nation. [...] However, federal Sports Minister Anika Wells, who was in Perth on Wednesday, backed Khawaja.

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Importance of Aged Care Taskforce recommendations clear in new Aged Care Act

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/12/2023, Ian Horswill

As the release of the Final Report of the Aged Care Taskforce nears, today's announcement of the exposure draft of the Bill for the new Aged Care Act spelt out its importance. [...] We will publish this report in December 2023," the Department of Health and Aged Care states, "The new Act includes a clear subsidy framework, including: the current home care subsidy 2 new types of subsidies.

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Braving the parapet: the aged care sector needs to be ready to sell Plan B in 2024

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/12/2023, Lauren Broomham

With the Aged Care Taskforce's Final Report due to be released any day now, executives across the sector should be rallying themselves for the New Year when convincing the community of the need for funding reform including Plan B will be the top priority. As we reported last week, Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells' office has confirmed that the Taskforce's Report will be made publicly available in December or January at the latest.

[Read More](#)

'My heart can't take it': Usman Khawaja vows to fight ICC shoe ban

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 14/12/2023

Australian opener Usman Khawaja has opened up in an emotional video about why he'll fight the ICC after they banned the message written on his shoes. [...] Australian Sports Minister Anika Wells said she believed Khawaja's shoes did not break the rules.

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Empowering the future

www.australia.basketball, Other, 14/12/2023, Megan Hustwaite

Basketball Australia and the Australian Sports Commission aim to empower women on and off the court to change the game. [...] Anika Wells MP is steadfast in her commitment to equalling the playing field for girls and women providing them with every opportunity to stay in all facets of the game and rise through the ranks from local level to the elite.

[Read More](#)

Curtin FM, 14:00 News, 14/12/2023

Rights for older Australians would be legislated under reforms proposed by the Albanese Government. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the proposed Aged Care Act would include a statement of rights for older people, and lift the standards for those in residential facilities.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Now we have a National Health and Climate Strategy, will it be properly implemented and funded?

Croakey, Other, 14/12/2023, Melissa Sweet

Serious concerns have been raised about the capacity of the new National Health and Climate Strategy to achieve its stated objectives, due to a lack of detail and commitment on implementation and funding. The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) yesterday released its analysis of the strategy, which was launched by Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Ged Kearney at the COP28 meeting in Dubai on 3 December.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

A3HN urges government action on homelessness as a health emergency through inclusive healthcare

Healthcare Channel, Other, 14/12/2023, Ritchelle Drilon

Addressing homelessness is not solely a housing concern but a pressing health issue, contends the Australian Health, Housing, and Homelessness Network (A3HN) in its latest position paper, "Ending Homelessness Through Inclusive Healthcare." [...] The paper puts forward two key recommendations to the Federal Government: Establish a dedicated ongoing funding stream to better address the urgent healthcare needs of people experiencing homelessness; Establish a Department of Health and Aged Care working group with PHNs, community health and homelessness sector representatives to consider how we can better meet the health needs of people experiencing homelessness within new and existing Commonwealth policy frameworks including the National Housing and Homelessness Plan.

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Budget update confirms the creation of Genomics Australia delayed until mid-2025

HealthDispatch, Other, 14/12/2023

The Albanese Government's Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook has confirmed its decision to defer the creation of Genomics Australia until mid-2025. [...] An Expert Advisory Group was established, co-chaired by Professor North and Department of Health and Aged Care deputy secretary Penny Shakespeare, to oversee the creation of Genomics Australia.

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Cosmetic surgery safeguards undergo major facelift

GPs will have a bigger role to play in protecting patients from cosmetic cowboys', as part of a crackdown on the troubled industry. [...] The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care was tasked with writing the standards by the Department of Health and Aged Care in 2022 following a litany of appalling stories of poor practises'.

[Read More](#)

Support for victim-survivors of family and domestic violence

SaxInstitute, Other, 14/12/2023

The Sax Institute has helped strengthen services for people experiencing family and domestic violence (FDV) with an evaluation of a Department of Health and Aged Care pilot initiative. The initiative provided support for GPs and primary care staff to identify and assist victim-survivors of FDV.

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Importance of Aged Care Taskforce recommendations clear in new Aged Care Act

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/12/2023, Ian Horswill

As the release of the Final Report of the Aged Care Taskforce nears, today's announcement of the exposure draft of the Bill for the new Aged Care Act spelt out its importance. [...] We will publish this report in December 2023," the Department of Health and Aged Care states, "The new Act includes a clear subsidy framework, including: the current home care subsidy 2 new types of subsidies.

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CORONAVIRUS

Channel 7, Seven News, 14/12/2023, Mark Ferguson

Sydney is staring down the barrel of another COVID Christmas, with the current wave tipped to flare again as family and friends start gathering next week. NSW Premier Chris Minns says the Chief Health Officer during the Christmas period will have regular updates in terms of transmission.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Mike Baird flags Hammond Care exit

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/12/2023, Page 29

If Peter Dutton was hoping to recruit Mike Baird to run for the Liberals in a teal-held NSW seat, he had better get started now.

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

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'Hot dogs, party pies': Why an elderly woman had to leave the outback

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/12/2023, Chris Burns

An outback aged care facility is accused of frequently serving its residents party pies, hot dogs and sausage rolls, and being dominating over the visitation hours of families, some of whom travel thousands of kilometres. Mount Isa identity Kathleen Swift always wanted her final breath to be in the North West mining community, but instead of being able to fulfil her final wish, she moved closer to her family for her welfare.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

Channel 7, Seven News, 14/12/2023, Mike Smithson

The bosses of an aged care company charged over the death of disabled woman Annie Smith, will stand trial. Sisters Amy Collins and Alison Virgo, who were directors of Integrity Care, today pleaded not guilty to criminal neglect.

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POPULATION HEALTH

'Cheap' coke fear

Herald Sun, General News, 15/12/2023, Andrew Koubaridis, Page 1

Authorities are warning of an alarming trend of cocaine being used more widely, with the white powder now cheaper than methylamphetamine. Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's Shane Neilson said a street deal of cocaine now cost less than a street deal of methylamphetamine, "even though far more methylamphetamine is consumed in Australia".

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Every one of us can give hope to others with the gift of life

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/12/2023, Mervin Reed, Page 34

Losing someone you love is hard, but being an organ donor is an easy choice to make, writes Mervin Reed. This story of the gift of life started in August this year, when my bride of 50 years, Susie, in essence died in my Tarms on a Monday morning.

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'Tis the season to keep food cold

Courier Mail, General News, 15/12/2023, Jill Poulsen, Page 22

Health authorities are bracing for an influx of gastro cases, with poor food handling at festive get-togethers ready to wreak havoc on stomachs. Mater infectious diseases director Dr Paul Griffin said food poisoning, which is often caused by poor food handling or storage, could lead to severe sickness and hospitalisation.

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Social cost of abolishing early closing

Ballarat Courier, General News, 15/12/2023, John Kidman, Page 6

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.

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Brewery in the firing line

Border Mail, General News, 15/12/2023, Layton Holley, Page 1

The Cancer Council has slammed an alcohol advertising regulator for being too soft on Billson's Brewery's alleged advertising to children. The Beechworth drinks manufacturer has been accused of marketing to children 30 times in the past 12 months.

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Kits fit for healthy eating

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/12/2023, Page 12

As the end of the school year and Christmas approach, meal kits are surging in popularity for consumers seeking convenient, healthy dinner options. However, new Deakin University research

suggests the health credentials of meal kits are varied.

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ADAWA reminds you to look after your teeth during the festive season and beyond

West Australian, Other, 14/12/2023

With the festive season upon us, the Australian Dental Association WA (ADAWA) recommends taking care of your teeth for a healthy mouth in 2024 and beyond. ADAWA President, Dr Gwen Chin, says there are some simple ways to take care of your teeth over the festive season.

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Aussie kids chunk up over the holidays

Medical Forum, Other, 14/12/2023

While Aussie kids are looking forward to some well-deserved time off, research has revealed that too much rest and relaxation could create health problems, with holidays the prime time for excessive weight gain. Conducted by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) in conjunction with the University of South Australia's Alliance for Research in Exercise, Nutrition and Activity, the Life on Holidays' study assessed changes to children's fitness and fatness during the holidays.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Veggies to the rescue in helping treat liver disease

The Australian, General News, 15/12/2023, Page 3

An epidemic of obesity and diabetes has caused a dramatic increase in the prevalence of fatty liver disease, causing researchers to wonder why only some patients develop an advanced form that can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer. Cruciferous vegetables such as broccoli and cauliflower could be the answer.

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Cancer vaccine one step nearer

The Australian, General News, 15/12/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

The world's first cancer vaccine has been found to prevent cancer returning in melanoma patients for as long as three years, new results from a major clinical trial show. The cancer vaccine that has been developed by Moderna is now moving to phase 3 studies after the second tranche of data from the phase 2 study showed the stunning results.

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

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Severe sunburn cases spark a red alert

Age, General News, 15/12/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 2

Hundreds of Victorians are presenting to hospital emergency departments with severe sunburn, with children and teenagers making up almost half the cases. The state's hospitals treated 274 people who had scorched their skin so badly they required medical treatment for extensive blistering, pain, headache, vomiting or fevers in the 2022-23 financial year.

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PRIMARY CARE

Fun bypass

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/12/2023, David Killick, Page 1

Ambos' Santa hats and decorations banned Ambulance officers have been banned from wearing Santa hats, putting tinsel on ambulances or displaying festive season symbols. Ambulance Tasmania chief executive Jordan Emery says Christmas decorations might make people feel as if paramedics weren't taking their jobs seriously enough.

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Ambos ramp up action

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/12/2023, David Killick & Blair Richards, Page 6

Tasmania's health minister says the government is working to solve pressures on the health system, as fed-up paramedics consider industrial action over the state's ramping crisis. The Health and Community Services Union says ambulance response times have surged to nearly double the recommended time for urgent calls.

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ED triage 'deaths' part of inquiry

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/12/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 19

The independent investigation into alleged interference in the hospital emergency department triage system to fudge ramping figures will include whether it led to several deaths. Health Minister Chris Picton has released the terms of reference which will guide the review by eminent retired doctor Bill Griggs and Commissioner for Excellence in Innovation and Health, Professor Keith McNeil.

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

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Logging in for life's last wish

Courier Mail, General News, 15/12/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 21

Almost 100 people a day are submitting their preferences on how they want to die with the state's health IT system. Queensland Health data revealed an average of 2773 end-of-life documents were being submitted to the Office of Advance Care Planning every month in a growing push for preferences to be respected.

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

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HCF and Flying Doctor sign new national partnership

Barrier Truth, General News, 13/12/2023, Melanie Gates, Page 4

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and Hospitals Contribution Fund (HCF), Australia's largest not-for-profit health fund, have announced a new multimillion-dollar major national partnership to support the health and wellbeing of rural and remote Australians. At the launch event hosted in Adelaide recently, HCF committed to a threeyear major national partnership that will deliver \$3 million over at least three years.

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LGH doctors still working under duct-taped surgery lights, Labor claims

Burnie Advocate, General News, 15/12/2023, Benjamin Seeder, Page 47

Surgical lights at the Launceston General Hospital have still not been replaced six months after the issue first emerged. Photos of surgery lights wrapped in duct tape emerged earlier this year, prompting criticism of the health system in the state.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Emergency room wait times still climbing

Daily Liberal, General News, 15/12/2023, Allison Hore, Page 2

Some Dubbo patients are waiting over half an hour to be seen in an emergency, the latest performance data reveals. Between July and September of 2023 visitors to Dubbo's emergency room waited a median of nine minutes to be treated during an emergency, but some waited for 32 minutes before they were seen by a doctor.

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Network looks to fly in, fly out podiatrists

Border Watch, General News, 15/12/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 5

An international shortage of podiatrists has hit home at the Mount Gambier and Districts Hospital with locum specialists in the works to travel to the region. A spokesperson for the Limestone Coast Local Health Network (LCLHN) said the network was working with the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network High Risk Foot Clinic's podiatry staff to secure "two podiatrists per fortnight" to fly in and out of Mount Gambier/ Berrin to "address high risk foot referrals".

Also reported by: [Border Watch \(Online\)](#)

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Hunter Valley hospital threatened as emergency bushfire rages nearby

The Australian, Other, 14/12/2023, Anthony Anderson

A hospital in the NSW Hunter Region is standing by in case it needs to be evacuated as out-of-control bushfires threaten communities nearby. The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) was on hand to defend Kurri Kurri Hospital, at Kurri Kurri, between Cessnock and Newcastle, after fast-moving scrub fires broke out about 3pm Thursday in Abermain.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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RFDS investigates after man reportedly in critical condition after airport transfer

The Australian, Other, 14/12/2023, Nathan Schmidt

An Aboriginal man is reportedly fighting for his life after he fell onto the tarmac during an airport transfer by the Royal Flying Doctor Service in remote Western Australia. The man, aged in his 40s, is believed to have been on a trolley being wheeled to a waiting plane in Onslow in WA's Pilbara region on December 6 when the fall occurred.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#)

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RFDS plane lands on Eyre Highway in Nullarbor rescue prompting calls for upgrade of Eucla airstrip

ABC Online, Other, 14/12/2023, Samantha Goerling, Jarrod Lucas & Andrew Collins

There are renewed calls to upgrade a remote airstrip after the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) performed a rare highway landing to evacuate a seriously injured patient on the Nullarbor Plain. A 75-year-old man was heading west in bad weather when his car and caravan rolled on Tuesday near the small town of Eucla, about 12 kilometres from Western Australia's border with South Australia.

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

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

Australian private health insurers earned \$1.3bn more in profits from hospital premiums this year compared with two years prior, while returning less money to customers, a new report shows. The

Australian Medical Association on Friday released its 2023 private health insurance report card, which also showed differences between insurers of more than \$500 in benefits paid for identical procedures.

[Read More](#)

MP to introduce private member's bill to remove ban on doctors discussing VAD via telehealth

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/12/2023, Heather Saxena

Independent Kate Chaney plans to introduce the bill in federal Parliament early next year. Legislation to remove a ban on doctors discussing voluntary assisted dying with patients during telehealth consultations will be introduced into federal Parliament.

[Read More](#)

New ambulance parking for care centre

Border Watch, Other, 14/12/2023, Melanie Riley

An ambulance only parking zone will soon be installed on the Eastern side of Crouch Street South, adjacent to the new Urgent Care Medical Centre. In a letter to council, Sandy Johnston from the Limestone Coast SA Ambulance Service proposed dedicated parking areas for both ambulance and disabled parking.

Also reported by: [Border Watch \(Mt Gambier\)](#).

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New urgent care centre to give Dapto residents bulk-billed GP appointments

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 14/12/2023, Kate Mcilwain

Residents of southern Wollongong will once again have access to extended-hours, bulk-billed medical care with the opening of the region's third urgent care centre. Located at Dapto Medical and Dental Centre in the town centre, which used to offer late-night walk-in GP appointments, the new NSW Government service is designed to take the pressure off Wollongong and Shellharbour emergency departments.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 14/12/2023, Adam Shirley

Interview with Rachel Stephen-Smith, Minister for Health, regarding the major expansion of the Canberra Hospital. Stephen-Smith says the critical services building is nearing completion in a physical sense and it's very exciting. She adds they are talking about a state-of-the-art building with 22 operating theatres and it will give them some additional flexibility.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Too much time reading online risks symptom of ADHD

The Australian, General News, 15/12/2023, Natasha Bitá, Page 5

Children who spend too much time online can exhibit a symptom of ADHD, a global study shows. The American Educational Research Association has published a review of 25 research studies of the reading habits of nearly 500,000 children in more than 35 countries.

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Mental health start-up strikes Microsoft deal

The Australian, Business News, 15/12/2023, Joseph Lam, Page 15

An Australian start-up has built a mental health chatbot which has impressed Microsoft, with the company landing a deal to integrate the chatbot into the US tech giant's platform - one of the largest corporate marketplaces in the world. Mesh AI has developed a product called Simpatico AI which

allows users to have "AI-driven" conversations to provide early support for stress or any other problems workers face.

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Extra beds for Hyson Green

Canberra Times, General News, 15/12/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 2

A Canberra mental health unit will be able to treat more patients following a 14-bed expansion of the Hyson Green unit. The new beds will open for patients from next Monday.

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

Magic mushroom treatment 'promising'

Herald Sun, General News, 15/12/2023, Lily Mccaffrey, Page 7

A substance found in magic mushrooms may have untapped potential for treating a range of psychiatric conditions, new research shows. Five months after Australia became the first place in the world to allow doctors to prescribe the psychoactive substance called psilocybin to patients with treatment-resistant depression, Victorian researchers say it holds promise, but more studies are needed.

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Funding for veterans' mental health

West Australian, General News, 15/12/2023, Page 7

Veterans living around Rockingham and HMAS Stirling won't have to travel far to find the support, health and respite housing services they need with a \$5.4 million hub being established in the region. RSL WA is leading a consortium of ex-service, first responder and health organisations to get the new Rockingham families and veterans hub up and running as quickly as possible.

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Beyond Blue: Counting the mental cost

Barrier Truth, General News, 13/12/2023, Melanie Gates, Page 4

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. The survey found that 77 per cent of people admitted to feeling stressed heading into the end of the year with almost a third feeling "quite a bit" or "extremely" stressed.

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A groodle named Haze helps heal the collective heart of a tiny rural school beset by trauma and loss

ABC Online, Other, 14/12/2023, Jodie Hamilton

When Haze the six-month-old groodle pads into the classroom, he brings with him a sense of calm as well as joy to children who have suffered a lot in a short space of time. It's been seven months since the tiny rural school of just 70 on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula was traumatised and grief-stricken by the tragic loss of their teacher Simon Baccanello.

[Read More](#)

'Remarkable': Major psychiatrist college releases statement on gender affirming care

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/12/2023

Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Dr Geroge Halasz says it is "remarkable" that the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists doesn't endorse gender affirming care as key intervention for transgender children.

The RANZCP have issued a major position statement acknowledging the plight of de-transitioners and an un-ambiguous statement defining sex as a biological characteristic.

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

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

WA mums let down

West Australian, General News, 15/12/2023, Rebecca H, Page 1

At least 500 mothers will have to find a new place for their pre and postnatal care after Perth's bulk-billed midwifery clinic abruptly collapsed. The hunt is now on for prospective buyers for Perth Pregnancy Centre but clients have been advised to seek alternative care as soon as possible.

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Service close to home as new genetic testing introduced

Border Mail, General News, 15/12/2023, Sophie Else, Page 4

Specialist genetic testing of embryos for the detection of pregnancy abnormalities has been introduced to the Border. That comes with the launch of a new Monash IVF Albury service that means patients will no longer have to travel to the NSW or Victorian capitals.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Roster less than half-filled

Burnie Advocate, General News, 15/12/2023, Matt Maloney, Page 13

Less than half of Ambulance Tasmania's roster was filled across the northern region last Saturday night, generally recognised as the busiest night of the week for paramedics, a parliamentary inquiry has heard. Additionally, Health and Community Services Union has told a select community on ambulance ramping and transfer of care delays that shifts in the North-West were only filled between 50 to 70 per cent on a daily basis.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#)

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

Not happy, Chris!

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/12/2023, Kate Mcilwain, Page 1

As paramedics yesterday celebrated their massive 25 per cent pay rise, courtesy of the Minns Labor government, the region's nurses were left stewing over their own wage increase of just 4.5 per cent amid worsening working conditions. KATE McILWAIN reports, P5

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#)

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

How your life could depend on these Illawarra emergency teams

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/12/2023, Nadine Morton, Page 20

Blood, broken bones, someone has been thrown out the windscreen, this could easily be the worst day of your life. It all happened on farmland at Rose Valley north-west of Gerringong, but thankfully it's all just a training exercise.

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

More nurses and midwives to flock to South West than ever before, according to WACHS

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 14/12/2023, Holly Prentice

The WA Country Health Service will welcome a record number of nearly 200 newly qualified nurses

and midwives in 2024. The South West will have 61 newly qualified nurse and midwives starting work in the region across a variety of clinical settings.

[Read More](#)

Health Services Union secures 29% pay rise for NSW senior paramedics

The Mandarin, Other, 14/12/2023, Julian Bajkowski

The press conference said it all. The New South Wales minister for health Ryan Park and treasurer Daniel Mookhey had the privilege of standing in an ambulance station bay to declare that the once sidelined Health Services Union (HSU) had finally won out in a nine-month dispute over pay and professional recognition.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 14/12/2023, Jeremy Fernandez

The NSW Government has set itself up for more wage fights with nurse and firefighter unions after awarding a record 25% pay rise to paramedics. Premier Chris Minns says paramedics were a special case because they were the lowest paid in the country of any jurisdiction in Australia.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 14/12/2023, Jennifer Keyte

Violence against paramedics has jumped 14% in the last 12 months, with an assault or attempted assault reported every 15 hours, but those numbers could be far higher, with many incidents going unreported.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 14/12/2023, Mike Amor and Rebecca Maddern

Victoria's paramedics are calling for tougher laws to protect them from spiralling violence. They've reported nearly 300 assaults in the past four months and say things are getting worse.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 14/12/2023, Alicia Loxley

Ambulance Victoria is pleading with the public not to treat paramedics as punching bags, as crews gear up for one of the busiest periods of the year. Assaults on emergency workers have increased by 14%, with 279 violent incidents recorded between July and November.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 14/12/2023, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, regarding a recent survey showed that GP registrars undertaking training have several concerns. Cenatiempo says 84% said they'd recommend their current training position to others which is up from last year. Higgins says it is good because it is a time when they are trying to get more GPs into the system. She adds there's a long way to go to catch up on Medicare funding and it is important to recognise that general practice and the Medicare rebate still don't cover the cost of providing care.

Interview continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

With Ozempic stocks low in Australia, some pharmacies are making unofficial replicas

ABC Online, Other, 15/12/2023, Elise Worthington

A styrofoam cool pack arrived at Louise's front door just hours after she placed an order with her pharmacist. Inside were four tiny, unlabelled syringes filled with compounded semaglutide — an unapproved replica of the diabetes drug Ozempic.

[Read More](#)

Beware growing corporatisation: Guild

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/12/2023, Megan Haggan

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch has issued a statement expressing major concerns about the proposal to reverse-list Chemist Warehouse on the Australian Securities Exchange via Sigma Healthcare Ltd.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Guild of Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Pleased to have been part of a healthcare reform success story

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 14/12/2023, Paul Toole

Thousands of NSW residents have been able to receive treatment for a range of conditions at their local pharmacy under landmark reforms by the former Liberal and Nationals Government.

[Read More](#)

SA pharmacies go 24/7 – plus more change in store

In Daily, Other, 14/12/2023

Get ready to say goodbye to those late-night pharmacy panics. Next year, three SA community pharmacies will be open 24/7, all year round.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Channel 9, Today, 14/12/2023, David Campbell, Jayne Azzopardi, Lara Vella

Interview with Jim Chalmers, Treasurer, on a new report that showed around 70% of Australians are either deferring their medical care or borrowing money to pay for it because they can't afford it. Chalmers says they found billions of extra dollars in the Budget to help alleviate some of those out-of-pocket health costs. He adds they are strengthening Medicare, making medicines cheaper, and they are making it easier to see a bulk-billing doctor. Chalmers says all of those things are very important because they recognise that part one of the pressures on family budgets is being able to get the health care that people need and deserve.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

GP free to consult despite sex assault rap

Herald Sun, General News, 15/12/2023, Stuart Kavanagh, Page 11

A Mildura GP is allowed to continue seeing patients after his suspension was overturned by VCAT despite being slapped with sexual assault charges. Dr Amil Jockoo originally had his registration suspended by the Medical Board of Australia after he was charged with four counts of sexual assault and two charges of assault with intent to commit a sexual offence.

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Queensland Health Ombudsman suspends Cong Bui

A Brisbane optometrist has been suspended from practising by a health watchdog. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency website states the suspension is countrywide.

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

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Thinking about cosmetic surgery? New standards are in place. This is what they mean for you

SBS, Other, 14/12/2023

Australians who want cosmetic surgery will have to undergo a mental health assessment under fresh national standards to be mandated across the sector. Australians wanting cosmetic surgery will need to undergo a health assessment.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 14/12/2023, Craig Zonca and Loretta Ryan

Any place offering cosmetic surgery from small clinics that carry out day procedures to hospitals will be required to follow the rules laid out today by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. They form part of a wider effort by the government to clean up cosmetic surgery practices, after reports of serious harm to patients.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

'Peer influence is no joke': Australian government to fund research into youth vaping prevention

The Guardian, Other, 15/12/2023, Melissa Davey

Researchers awarded grants to study pro-vaping content on social media and other pressures to help young people kick the habit. Samantha Odo's 18-year-old son has tried a range of strategies to quit vaping, but she says the process of finding what works to curb his nicotine addiction "hasn't been easy".

[Read More](#)

World Health Organization calls for all flavored vapes to be banned

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/12/2023, Emily Joshu

The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for all flavored vapes to be banned worldwide and treated similarly to cigarettes. The agency said on Thursday that 'urgent measures' were needed to control e-cigarettes as there is little evidence suggesting that vaping helps smokers quit and could drive nicotine addiction in non-smokers.

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

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SPORT

With bat and armband, Aussie opens protest loud and clear

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 15/12/2023, Peter Lalor, Page 1

Usman Khawaja wore a black arm band a statement of his sorrow and annoyance at having his human

rights gesture silenced by authorities but it was his childhood friend David Warner who staged a protest with his bat on the first day of the Perth Test match against Pakistan. Khawaja reluctantly taped over the offending messages on his shoes, but challenged cricket authorities by wearing a black arm band as a symbol of his concerns surrounding the conflict in Gaza.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Games bigger than a single politician

Courier Mail, Editorials, 15/12/2023, Page 26

Incoming Premier Steven Miles is doing the right thing in dropping the Olympics and Paralympics from his own direct portfolio responsibilities. What Anastacia Palaszczuk never seemed to understand was that organising the world's biggest event is hard yakka, and it requires focus that no premier can ever hope to give it.

Also reported by: [Daily Mercury \(Mackay\)](#), [Daily Mercury \(Mackay\)](#).

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Experts concerned Ozempic replicas are unsafe and the loophole being exploited

3AW, Other, 14/12/2023

Health experts are concerned by the potential introduction of Ozempic replicas in Australia and what it might mean for diabetics struggling to source the increasingly popular medication. Professor at Monash University and obesity expert, Michael Cowley, says while the drug is not on the market yet, it's never been tested and it's not clear if it's safe to take.

[Read More](#)

Having highly irregular sleep patterns could increase dementia risk, study shows

9News, Other, 14/12/2023, Emily McPherson

People with highly irregular sleep patterns could have a higher risk of developing dementia, a new Australian study has found. The study, led by researchers at Monash University and published in the peer-reviewed Neurology journal yesterday, didn't prove that irregular sleep causes dementia, but rather showed an association.

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

[Read More](#)

AI unlocks gene variants

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/12/2023

Research scientists at CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, have used artificial intelligence (AI) to further unlock the genetic secrets to Alzheimer's disease. Using CSIRO tools VariantSpark and BitEpi, scientists at the Australian e-Health Centre have identified two new genetic variants associated with Alzheimer's disease, as well as 95 new gene interactions that may modulate the effects of variants in Alzheimer's.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 14/12/2023, Mark Burrows

People with highly irregular sleep patterns have an increased risk of dementia, according to a new study from Monash University. Researchers looked at regular sleepers, though somewhere in the middle and irregular sleepers. They found the most irregular sleepers were 53% more likely to have developed dementia than those in the middle group.

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

DNA research could see personalised medicine for Indigenous Australians

ABC Online, Other, 14/12/2023

The highest level of DNA variation anywhere outside of Africa. That's just one of a number of remarkable insights identified by researchers looking at the genomes of Indigenous Australians.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Engineered stone firms push back

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/12/2023, Michael Bleby, Page 6

Australia's largest producer of engineered stone is pushing to exclude natural alternative products following this week's national ban on the potentially lethal material, saying the prohibition should be based on the proportion of silica content.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#).

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Child job rates fall for second year

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/12/2023, Aisha Dow & Angus Thomson, Page 20

Child vaccination rates have fallen for the second consecutive year, in a trend concerned public health experts believe is linked to shortages in bulk-billing GPs and increased distrust in vaccines. After several years of rising uptake, the proportion of Australian five-year-olds fully vaccinated with routine inoculations including for polio, measles and hepatitis B has fallen 1.4 per cent, from a peak of 94.8 per cent in 2020, to 93.4 per cent in 2022.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [3AW \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 14/12/2023, Emma Rebellato and Lisa Millar

A ban on engineered stone will start in most states and territories from July, after Australia became the first country in the world to make the move. It comes after hundreds of workers developed silicosis from working with the product.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 14/12/2023, Jennifer Keyte

Vaccination rates among Australian children continue to decline and researchers think there's a link between the worrying trend and the COVID pandemic. Experts describe the fall as concerning, and some areas are more problematic than others.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 14/12/2023, Mike Amor and Rebecca Maddern

Lingering COVID distrust and the cost of living crunch are being blamed for Victoria's declining immunisation rates. Health experts fear children aren't being protected from common diseases, with vaccine levels dropping for a second year in a row. Almost 95% of five-year-olds are fully immunised, down more than 1% from pre-COVID times.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 14/12/2023, David Campbell, Jayne Azzopardi, Lara Vella

Childhood vaccination rates have dropped for the second year in a row. Bulk billing, GP shortages and lingering mistrust post-pandemic are being blamed. According to The Age, the number of five-year-olds fully vaccinated with routine inoculations fell 1.4% from its peak in 2020 to 93.4%.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 14/12/2023, Jo Laverty

The NT Government says it will soon look to implement changes to regulations around the use of engineered stone. Australia's workplace ministers agreed to implement a national ban on engineered stone, which is commonly used in kitchen benches and bathroom vanities. It's a world-first decision and comes after hundreds of workers developed the incurable lung disease silicosis after working on the material.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Red flags on pills

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/12/2023, Duncan Evans, Page 7

Australia's medicines watchdog has raised the alarm over a sweep of dodgy imported tablets from China, warning they pose serious health hazards and have not been tested to Australian standards. Baiwei Maximum Powerful, Bigger Longer More Time More Sperms and Ying Da Wang pills all contain the undeclared substance sildenafil, a "serious risk" to health, the Therapeutic Goods Administration said.

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

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I got 'scared to life', not fat shamed

Daily Liberal, General News, 15/12/2023, Jenna Price, Page 8

Once proven safe, weight-loss drugs should be cheap and everywhere. [...] There are four drugs registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA): dulaglutide (sold as Trulicity), semaglutide (sold as Ozempic), liraglutide (sold as Saxenda) and tiezepatide (sold as Mounjaro).

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Concern over ADHD medication shortage

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 15/12/2023, Monique Patterson, Page 9

A south-west woman is concerned about a shortage of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medication. The woman, who asked not to be named, said her 10-year-old son relied on the medication, which was in short supply and it's uncertain when stocks will be replenished. [...] The Department of Health's Therapeutic Goods Administration has reported a shortage of the medication on its website.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 14/12/2023, Mark Ferguson

Doctors are concerned about a copycat version of the popular weight loss drug Ozempic. There's now a supply shortage and Sydney-based pharmaceutical company Eucalyptus wants to release its version. Last year, 175,000 Australians accessed Ozempic through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. This year, that figure has skyrocketed to 268,000, causing a supply shortage which the TGA says will continue next year.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

A popular syrup recalled due to an undeclared allergen

The Australian, Other, 14/12/2023, Jordan McCarthy

A popular syrup often used in milkshakes, smoothies and as an ice cream topping has been recalled over allergy fears. Hershey's Syrup Indulgent Caramel Flavour 623g has been recalled due to the presence of an undeclared milk allergen.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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