



TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 28th December 2023

A more automated version of *Today's News* will be provided on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. It will still capture the main media stories, but will not include an Executive Summary. The report will be emailed to subscribers at the later time of 7:30 am.

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports aged care providers are using more contract workers to fulfill government staffing requirements, but a spokesperson for Minister Anika Wells has rejected criticisms of sector reforms. *Also reported by: [West Australian](#)*
- The **[West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports a 26-year-old woman who died of sepsis at Royal Perth Hospital was "fundamentally let down by the system", a coroner's report has found. *Also reported by: [West Australian](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports a range of environmental and lifestyle factors can increase the risk of early onset dementia a large-scale study conducted in the UK and the Netherlands has found. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#)*
- The **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 3) reports NSW Health Minister Mark Ryan has written to his federal counterpart Mark Butler asking him to request the PBAC committee to reconsider making the Meningococcal B vaccine free.

- [The Australian](#) (page 4) reports one in four parents of preterm babies are unable to access necessary support due to inconsistent government funding of services, Miracle Babies chief operating officer Danielle Hodgson says.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 12) reports self-injectible medications Ozempic, Trulicity and Mounjaro will likely be in short supply until 2025, the Therapeutic Goods Administration has warned. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Northern Territory News](#)
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 12) reports the government has fulfilled its commitment to open 58 urgent care clinics by the end of 2023 following the opening of two new centres in Morphett Vale and Broome. *Also reported by:* [West Australian](#)
- [ABC Online](#) reports climate change will likely drive more acute asthma symptoms and see the number of Australians suffering hay fever rise more than 70 per cent by 2050, scientists say. *Also reported by:* [ABC News](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Family's plea for free vaccine

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/12/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 3

Brayden Chater had just turned 23 when he contracted meningococcal B. His parents are pushing NSW to make a vaccine free so another family does not face the same tragedy. [...] In response to questions, a NSW government spokesman said Health Minister Ryan Park had written to his federal counterpart Mark Butler asking him to request the committee reconsider extending the eligibility for free meningococcal B vaccines.

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

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Wong tops list of popular pollies

Age, General News, 28/12/2023, David Crowe, Page 1

Australians have rated Foreign Minister Penny Wong the nation's most impressive leader despite a recent fall in support for the federal government, giving her a net likeability of 14 per cent. Many other leaders have negative results. [...] Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek has a net likeability of 3 per cent, Education Minister Jason Clare has a rating of 2 per cent and Health Minister Mark Butler is on 1 per cent.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Joy as Wong set to wed long-term partner

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/12/2023, Samantha Maiden, Page 3

Foreign Minister Penny Wong is to wed her long-term partner Sophie Allouache after years of hard-fought reforms to legalise gay marriage. The high-profile and intensely private Labor frontbencher shares two daughters with Ms Allouache, who she met nearly 18 years ago in 2006. The celebration of their partnership has thrilled friends and supporters, with the wedding expected to be attended by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Health Minister Mark Butler and former SA premier Jay Weatherill.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Bulk-billing health centre open

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/12/2023, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 12

South Australia's final Medicare Urgent Care Clinic officially opens at Morphett Vale on Thursday, fulfilling the federal government's election promise to open 58 centres by the end of 2023. The centre is one of two to open on Thursday, the other in Broome, Western Australia. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Bulter said the opening of all 58 centres means "people ... who need urgent but not acute care, can get it quickly".

Federal government meets promised deadline as urgent care clinic in Broome opens its doors

West Australian, Other, 27/12/2023, Dan Jervis-Bardy

A long-awaited urgent care clinic in Broome will be opening to patients this Thursday, just in time for the end-of-year deadline promised by the Albanese Government. The Broome clinic is the seventh to open in WA, with centres in Beeliar, Bunbury, Clarkson, Midland, Perth and Rockingham already taking patients earlier this year. [...] "When your kid falls off their new Christmas bike, or you get a deep cut on a rock down the beach, instead of spending hours at the emergency department you'll be able to come to a Medicare UCC," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong set to marry Sophie Allouache after 18-year relationship

West Australian, Other, 28/12/2023, Rachel Fenner

Wedding bells are set to ring for Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong. Wong has been in an 18-year relationship with public servant Sophie Allouache, but the wedding details remain a "closely-guarded secret" according to The Australian. While the invitations have been sent, according to guests, Wong's office isn't confirming or denying the nuptials. [...] The wedding is expected to be attended by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Health Minister Mark Butler and former SA Premier Jay Weatherill.

[Read More](#)

Penny Wong is finally 'set to tie the knot with her girlfriend' of nearly two decades - six years after winning the fight to legalise same-sex marriage

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/12/2023, David Southwell

Penny Wong is set to wed long-term partner Sophie Allouache although the details of the ceremony are being kept under wraps. The Foreign Minister, 55, and Ms Allouache have been together for almost 18 years having met in 2006 and the couple share two daughters. Several people have confirmed they have been invited to the wedding, but haven't revealed anything further, according to the Daily Telegraph. Potential guests include Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Health Minister Mark Butler and Jay Weatherill, the former Labor premier of Senator Wong's home state of South Australia.

[Read More](#)

How healthy has Australia been in 2023? SBS looks back at the headlines this year

SBS, Other, 27/12/2023, Deborah Groarke

The health of Australians has repeatedly come into the spotlight during 2023. SBS looks back on how the nation has responded to health challenges over the last 12 months.

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Curtin FM, 07:00 News, 27/12/2023

Orkambi, a vital drug used to treat cystic fibrosis will become much cheaper once it's listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme next year. Health Minister Mark Butler says the drug will become available for children as young as one.

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4LM 666, 06:30 News, 27/12/2023

Potentially life-saving drugs will become affordable when they're added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme next year. One of the drugs, Orkambi used to treat cystic fibrosis, will cost less, and children as young as one will be able to access it. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says often medications without the PBS would cost thousands of dollars a year.

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6PR, 06:30 News, 27/12/2023

A potentially life-saving drug will soon become more affordable. Orkambi, which is used to treat cystic fibrosis and usually costs \$200,000 a year, will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, slashing the costs. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says many families around the country will benefit.

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MINISTER WELLS

Short-term aged care staff 'farce'

The Australian, Your Customised Content, 28/12/2023, Jess Malcolm, Page 1

The residential aged care sector has greatly increased its use of short-term contract workers in a bid to fulfil Anthony Albanese's stringent staffing reforms, rapidly escalating the cost burden on aged care providers and threatening their viability. [...] A spokeswoman for Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the government's figures showed 88 per cent of facilities had a registered nurse on site at all times and that the UTS report was based only on a sample of providers rather than data from 97 per cent of aged care facilities.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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DEPARTMENT

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CORONAVIRUS

Infectious new wave of subvariants sparks fear of New Year hangover

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/12/2023, Hannah Wootton, Page 2

New Year's Eve partygoers should consider wearing face masks, testing for COVID-19 if they have symptoms and stay away from large crowds if they want to avoid a wave of virus infections sweeping the country, experts warn.

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Angry Victorians calmed

Shepparton News, General News, 28/12/2023, Murray Silby, Page 3

An "angry" political party with its registered base at Tatura has been deregistered by the Victorian Electoral Commission. The Angry Victorians Party was affiliated with the national Australian Values Party and its platform was largely based on opposing COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

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Long COVID will take your health, your wealth — then it will come for your marriage

ABC Online, Other, 27/12/2023, Hayley Gleeson

Sarah* fully expected that catching COVID would be a disaster for her health. As a health researcher, she'd followed the science of SARS-CoV-2 more closely than many people — she understood how serious the pandemic was.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged-care reforms backfire

West Australian, General News, 28/12/2023, Page 5

Aged-care providers' reliance on expensive short-term staff has quadrupled in a bid to fill Anthony Albanese's staffing reforms. Externally contracted staff are now delivering 7.5 per cent of total care hours compared with 1.8 per cent in 2019, according to The Australian.

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'Extraordinary achievement': centre amid 12 aged care homes in state to get five stars

Sunshine Coast News, Other, 27/12/2023, Meta Time

A Sunshine Coast residential aged care home has received a top rating by the Australian Government. Sundale's Bowder Lodge Care Centre last week reclaimed its title as the region's only five-star residential aged care home, when the Department of Health and Aged Care released the Star Ratings.

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POPULATION HEALTH

The big sleep and how to get it

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/12/2023, Emma Connors, Page 46

We all know the drill. If you are not getting at least seven hours sleep a night, you are increasing your risk of dementia, mental illness, and generally failing at life.

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When it comes to periods, there's no such thing as normal

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/12/2023, Trisha Pasricha, Page 19

What it means for a period to be "normal" varies so much that it's no surprise many people remain unsure. Let's take the average Dutch woman: she may experience about 450 periods in her life (that

can add up to more than eight whole years spent menstruating). But in populations with more pregnancies, such as the Dogon people in Mali, women may experience a small fraction of that an estimated 100 periods over the course of their lives.

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

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The wisdom of drinking in moderation

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/12/2023, George Razay, Page 21

I became interested in the impact of alcohol consumption on health in the early nineties when we started to hear reports that moderate alcohol consumption reduced the risk of ischaemic heart disease (IHD), but the mechanism was not clear. At that time, I had just started participating in an epidemiological study of 1896 men and women looking at risk factors of IHD.

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Health insurance: Millions of Aussies eligible for \$1,300 - but you have to be quick

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/12/2023, Pranav Harish

Australians are being urged to make the most of their health insurance claims or risk missing out on up to \$1300 in benefits just days out from the new year. Major health insurers - including Bupa, Medibank and HBF - will reset extras benefits on January 1, meaning thousands of dollars worth of unused claims could go to waste once the policies are renewed.

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2CC, Breakfast, 27/12/2023, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Dr Caroline Beaumont, general practitioner, on the Anti-vaping lobby managing to turn one of the best ways for smokers to give up smoking into an illegal drug. Some new vaping laws will come in from January, and the changes will effectively disappear the vape shops. Meanwhile, those who are doing the right thing under the previous rules. The plan is apparently to have those who managed to get a prescription purchase their vape material from a pharmacy. Beaumont says some pharmacies are not on board with the idea because they're not aware of the products.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Pig parts mending hearts

Courier Mail, General News, 28/12/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 18

The majority of Queenslanders who have heart valve replacement surgery in the public system are fitted with prostheses from a cow or pig amid a significant increase in the number of structural heart disease interventions. [...] Heart Foundation Board Member and Brisbane-based Cardiologist Professor David Colquhoun said Queensland had made great progress in cardiac care over the past few decades.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Cancer patients skip tests

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 28/12/2023, Page 3

Cancer patients are delaying important tests and foregoing essentials to cover the cost of their illness. New Cancer Council Victoria figures show calls to their free helpline, 13 11 20, skyrocketed in 2023, jumping by more than 50 per cent compared to the same period, January to November, last year.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#), [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).

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As the climate changes, researchers say our allergies will only get worse

ABC Online, Other, 27/12/2023, Steven Schubert

Whether Caitlin Ross will go outside on any given day depends on weather and pollen forecasts. If they're too bad, her severe allergies and asthma mean it can be too uncomfortable or dangerous. [...] According to the most recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 19.3 per cent of Australians have hay fever, also known as allergic rhinitis.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Multiple myeloma patient Geoff Nyssen begins CART T cell treatment in the US

7news.com.au, Other, 27/12/2023, Molly Magennis

The immunotherapy treatment has only been approved for some cancers. A Melbourne father told he may not make it to Christmas is undergoing a potentially life-changing new cancer therapy in the US — thanks to \$1 million of Australian government funding.

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A short history of sunscreen, from basting like a chook to preventing skin cancer

In Daily, Other, 27/12/2023, Jim Plouffe

It wasn't until 1999 that research proved that using sunscreen prevents skin cancer, here's how we got there. Australians have used commercial creams, lotions or gels to manage our skin's sun exposure for nearly a century.

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PRIMARY CARE

Mental health now a priority

Cairns Post, General News, 28/12/2023, Samuel Davis, Page 6

Health services will be flown in to support at least three stranded remote communities in Far North Queensland as authorities seek to reopen key roads across the region. Ayton, Bloomfield and Degarra, south of Cooktown, remain inaccessible via the Bloomfield Track, and there is no clear timeline set for it to reopen. Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service chief executive Dean Davidson said a helicopter flew into Ayton on Christmas Eve.

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

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Armstrong Creek tops locked car ambo calls

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/12/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 3

Armstrong Creek is the region's worst suburb for paramedics being called out to people locked in cars, amid warnings leaving kids in vehicles can be deadly. Ambulance Victoria data from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023, showed Armstrong Creek had nine callouts.

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

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6PR, Perth Live, 27/12/2023, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Dr Michael Page, President, AMA WA, on the Federal Government denying claims of delays in its \$800m free shingles vaccine rollout. Page says the announcement that the new shingles vaccine would be available to all adults over 65 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over 50 and all other people with immune-compromised was very welcome. He adds however, he doesn't think

they've got the allocation quite right and there have been issues with general practices not being able to get enough supply.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hard times test resilience

Herald Sun, General News, 28/12/2023, Lily Mccaffrey and Josephine Quattrocchi, Page 18

Young people have demonstrated an incredible capacity for resilience despite a challenging 2023, with concerns about the cost-of-living crisis, climate change and war, new research has revealed. The Headspace National Youth Mental Health Survey found more than two thirds of young Australians between the ages of 12 and 25 had normal or high levels of resilience, with three in five young people saying they felt they could bounce back quickly after hard times.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#)

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It's class conflict on autism

West Australian, General News, 28/12/2023, Jake Dietsch, Page 14

The Education Department is concerned about a rise in "false positive" autism diagnoses, with director general Lisa Rodgers telling a parliamentary hearing that doctors could feel pressured to give a diagnosis so a child could access National Disability Insurance Scheme funding. Ms Rodgers' comments - which have prompted outrage from parents' lobby group Accountability for Children in Education WA - were made during an inquiry into supports for autistic children in schools last month.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 27/12/2023, Simon Marnie

Interview with Lesley Watt, Ambassador, SANE Australia, regarding the holiday period which can bring up difficult emotions, especially for those already coping with mental illness. It's hard enough to access services to help with mental health throughout the year, and then the holidays make it harder, even though you might need that help the most. Watt says SANE Australia's program was a recognition that a diagnosis of complex mental health is not a life sentence and that people can still be happy, functional and live a full life as long as they take the time to get the help and connect,

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Helpless and terrified: why parents of premature babies need more support

The Australian, General News, 28/12/2023, Tileah Dobson, Page 4

Almost 50,000 babies are today lying in the neonatal intensive care units of hospitals nationwide, receiving the expert treatment they desperately need - but the wellbeing of the parents is often left unattended. That's the warning from a foundation that is working to support families with premature or seriously ill babies, which has called for more funding to help look after the parents involved.

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More women are freezing their eggs for future pregnancies. But what if they aren't used?

ABC Online, Other, 27/12/2023, Sacha Payne

Claire was 34 and single when she decided to freeze her eggs. "I guess there was just lots in the media around declining fertility as women age and I thought, that's something I want to try and

preserve as best I could at the time," she said.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

McKellar assault charges

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/12/2023, Tamara Mcdonald, Page 7

A man has been charged after allegedly attacking a Barwon Health staff member. The man allegedly assaulted the woman, believed to be a nurse at the McKellar Centre, in North Geelong, as she left work on November 28. "It's alleged a man assaulted a woman and damaged her car in Ballarat Rd about 5.15pm," police spokeswoman Darcie Sword said. "The woman suffered minor injuries.

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

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Holiday medico shortages in rural and remote Australia

ABC Online, Other, 27/12/2023, Nick Grimm

The scarcity of doctors and other health professionals in rural and regional Australia worsens at this time of year, as many go on holidays.

Similar coverage reported by: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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Graduate paramedics at Yarrawonga

Shepparton News Online, Other, 27/12/2023, Robert Muir

New graduate paramedics on the job at Yarrawonga Ambulance Branch, Riane Dickins and Brandon Nation. Two well regarded graduate paramedics have settled in well to their new environment at the Yarrawonga Ambulance Branch.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Exploiting' the vulnerable

Herald Sun, General News, 28/12/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 5

An "exploitative" Melbourne pharmacist accepted more than \$65,000 in gifts including a car and free accommodation from two elderly and vulnerable patients she befriended for personal gain, a tribunal has heard. Carolyn Lam has been banned from pharmacy for at least three years after a series of inappropriate patient relationships, including a "lonely" man with prostate cancer who gave her a \$52,000 car and a woman in her 70s whose home she lived in for nine months.

Coroner blames RPH for sepsis tragedy

West Australian, General News, 28/12/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 1

The State Coroner has launched a scathing broadside at Royal Perth Hospital, finding that a young woman with a sepsis infection who died a painful death in its emergency room was let down by the system. Ashleigh Hunter, 26, was suffering a meningococcal infection when she was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance exactly four years ago.

Similar coverage reported by: [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Dark side of health work

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/12/2023, Tamara Mcdonald, Page 1

Health watchdogs received hundreds of complaints from Geelong residents last financial year. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency confirmed that as of June 30, nine practitioners were suspended in Greater Geelong. "The practitioners suspended were across the professions of medicine, nursing, occupational therapy and physiotherapy," a spokesman said.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

State of despair over spate of drownings

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 28/12/2023, Lachlan Leeming, Page 7

Five drownings since Christmas have prompted experts to plead for weak swimmers including children and those of migrant backgrounds who may have less swimming experience to be careful or just stay out of the water. The tragedies include two deaths on the Central Coast on Christmas Day; one drowning at Penrith Beach on Boxing Day; a death at Anna Bay near Newcastle yesterday, and an ongoing search for a man last seen in surf on Boxing Day on the south coast.

Similar coverage reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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Just not cricket

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/12/2023, Paul Starick, Page 1

Premier Peter Malinauskas has branded as "disgraceful" the scheduling of an Adelaide Test against cricket minnow West Indies starting on a Wednesday in mid-January. In a blistering attack on Cricket Australia, Mr Malinauskas said the scheduling was "madness" and a "complete slap in the face to the cricket-loving public of South Australia". "We love our sport, but fair's fair," Mr Malinauskas said.

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Showcase top Tests at world's best cricket oval

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 28/12/2023, Page 24

If an audacious bid for Adelaide to seize the New Year cricket Test match from Sydney had succeeded,

fans would have been readying for a fixture in a drawcard timeslot within days. Instead, South Australia has been discarded in the dustbin, hosting the West Indies for a second consecutive season.

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Jewish star queries Uzzie stance

Courier Mail, Sport, 28/12/2023, Daniel Cherny, Page 58

A Jewish former international cricketer says he supports Usman Khawaja's push to wear a dove symbol on his bat but has questioned whether the Australian opener has only been moved by the plight of one group of victims in the Middle East conflict. Mandy Yachad, an opener who played in South Africa's first one-day international series after readmission in 1991, is one of only a handful of known Jewish cricketers to have reached international level.

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Wounded warriors

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/12/2023, James Bresnehan, Page 1

Wounded warriors Andoo Comanche and LawConnect were fighting a battle of attrition off Tasmania's SouthEast Coast on Wednesday night in a thrilling duel for line honours in the 78th Rolex Sydney to Hobart classic. The race leaders survived the thumping that the fleet copped from a thunderstorm in the early hours of day two, which tore sails, injured crew, damaged rigs and caused widespread electrical damage, taking the list of retirements to 11 from a starting fleet of 103.

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Thousands of lives in her hands

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 28/12/2023, Nadine Morton, Page 18

Lydia Bruce was there for all the heart-stopping action of the FIFA Women's World Cup, but she wasn't on the sidelines, in the stands or even in front of the largescreen television. The Woonona woman was venue access manager during the WWC, and before games even began, she had to get to know "every square inch" of Sydney Football Stadium and Stadium Australia, people's lives depended on it.

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CA to look at increasing marquee women's Tests to three

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/12/2023

Cricket Australia will look at increasing "marquee" women's Test series to three matches. It comes after Alyssa Healy felt a sense of unfinished business following Australia's historic defeat to India in Mumbai last week. Playing their first Test in India since 1984, Australia were beaten by eight wickets in the one-off contest at the Wankhede Stadium.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Research raises hope for dementia

The Australian, General News, 28/12/2023, Billy Kenber, Page 3

Health and lifestyle factors including vitamin D deficiency, depression and suffering a stroke increase the risk of early onset dementia, a study suggests. Researchers found a wide range of risk factors for those suffering the symptoms of dementia before the age of 65, raising the prospect that prevention strategies can reduce the number of sufferers.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Radiopharm expands lung cancer trials sites to Perth

West Australian, Other, 27/12/2023, Doug Bright

Radiopharm Theranostics is poised to open a second site for conducting human trials of its RAD 204 treatment for advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) having received the green light from Perth's Hollywood Private Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee.

[Read More](#)

University of Wollongong denies job losses to come in AIIM restructure

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 27/12/2023, Ben Langford

The University of Wollongong has denied jobs will be lost in the restructure of the Australian Institute for Innovative Materials (AIIM), which has been approved to dismantle the research institute. Staff have been concerned about the impact of UOW dissolving AIIM, with administration employees to be moved into one university-wide research "platform" with the institute gone.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Location identified for long-awaited Aboriginal health service for Bathurst

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 28/12/2023, Rachel Chamberlain

Bathurst has taken a big step towards having its own Aboriginal Medical Service. week for the first 4 weeks (min cost \$ Login or signup to continue reading Bathurst Regional Council has given in-principle approval to the Bathurst Aboriginal Health Service Advisory Group (BAHSAG) to lease the Kelso Community Hub, where it would establish the new medical service.

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Indigenous Marathon Project Squad applications open

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/12/2023, Rhiannon Clarke

The Indigenous Marathon Project Squad are on the hunt for people who want to reach their full potential. The Indigenous Marathon Project (IMP) is a highly regarded program that has gained recognition within both the running and Indigenous communities across Australia

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Construction costs stabilising, but a rocky road lies ahead

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/12/2023, Carolyn Cummins

Australia's largest brickmaker says the extra expense of making homes more sustainable and a ban on engineered stone have sent shock waves through construction at a time when the growth in costs was easing. Lengthy times for planning approvals and a lack of skilled labour are also weighing on the building industry, which is under intense pressure to increase much-needed supply.

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'We are young men with young families': legal gap for stone victims

Newcastle Herald, Other, 27/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw

A gap in the law must be closed for victims of silica-induced health conditions caused by , a Newcastle lawyer says. Liam Kelly, of Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, said many victims of the suffer from autoimmune conditions. Silicosis, an incurable lung disease, is the most common condition linked to the silica dust produced when engineered stone is cut and drilled.

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Ozempic among drugs to be scarce in '24

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/12/2023, Amanda Sheppard, Page 12

The arrival of 2024 is not expected to bring much relief for Australia's serious shortages of antibiotics, self-injectables approved for type 2 diabetes, but widely used off-label for weight loss, and popular drugs used to treat ADHD. In fact, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has warned self-injectables Ozempic (semaglutide), Trulicity (dulaglutide) and Mounjaro (tirzepatide) will be in limited supply until the end of next year.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Four biotechs with catalysts that could make them pop in 2024

The Australian, Other, 27/12/2023, Nadine Mcgrath

By Nadine McGrath Stockhead 9:26AM December 27, 2023 There have been some glowing ASX biotech success stories this year and impending key catalysts suggest more triumph ahead. [...] Executive director Dr Thomas Duthy said 2024 would be a significant year of trial delivery for the company, which also intends to map a pathway with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) regarding the potential registration of NTI164.

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Scientists slam pain report funded by group linked to makers of spinal cord stimulators

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/12/2023, Liam Mannix

A leading pain physician has resigned from the board of Australia's peak pain body after it published a report on the benefits of spinal cord stimulators – paid for by a group with links to manufacturers of the devices. That group also supplied nearly all the patients surveyed for the study. [...] But an investigation by The Age last year revealed 520 serious complications had been reported to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, leaving some people incontinent or unable to walk.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Jump in opium imports suggests the ancient drug's possible comeback in Australia

The Guardian, Other, 28/12/2023, Nino Bucci

One of Australia's emerging niche drugs in 2023 happens to be one of the country's oldest. About 180 years after opium was first imported into the country, the Australian federal police seized more than double the amount of the drug this year than in 2022. It is also almost six times the amount seized in 2021. And the AFP is unable to rule out whether users are frequenting modern opium dens to buy and consume it.

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Cocaine packages totalling 124kg found washed up on beaches between Sydney and Newcastle

The Guardian, Other, 27/12/2023, Benita Kolovos

A fisherman on Sydney's northern beaches is one of several members of the public to discover

packages containing 124kg of cocaine that have washed up on the New South Wales coast, sparking a police investigation. NSW police on Wednesday confirmed its state crime command were investigating after the packages were discovered on beaches between Sydney and Newcastle from Friday. The initial barnacle-encrusted discoveries sparked a warning against removing or opening any more that were discovered.

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

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The 'outrageous' reason the NT's road toll is three times the national average

9News, Other, 27/12/2023, Serena Seyfort

The number of people killed on Northern Territory roads per capita is three times higher than in the rest of Australia. But the territory could have some of the lowest rates of deaths on its roads if one factor was removed from the equation - drugs and alcohol. "Almost our entire road toll is due to alcohol and other drugs," Northern Territory Detective Senior Sergeant Brendan Linder told 9news.com.au.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Is zero alcohol a 'gateway' to booze

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 28/12/2023, Anna Vlach, Page 7

So-called healthy zero-alcohol drinks could be a dangerous "gateway" to the real thing for children and teens, according to Australian researchers. In the first study of its kind in Australia, the \$40,000 Flinders University project, funded by Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation, will determine if the rapidly-growing market requires tighter regulation.

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

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AICIS

Paying to get forever chemicals out of drinking water

The Australian, Business News, 28/12/2023, John Keilman and Kris Maher, Page 17

Forever chemicals have shown up in drinking water across the US. Now they are appearing in homeowners' soaring utility bills. Water systems are spending millions of dollars to filter out PFAS, the long-lasting compounds commonly known as forever chemicals, which have been linked to cancer and other health problems.

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