



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 6th December 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports that the states are asking the federal government for a new hospital funding agreement in exchange for the states funding early developmental issues instead of the NDIS.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that a discussion paper released by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) has called for an overhaul of the nation's health funding system, in which it pushes for a model that would incentivise the prevention of acute health issues in the elderly and those with chronic diseases rather than direct the bulk of funding to hospital treatment. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [The Age](#)*
- **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports an elderly man from Hervey Bay has died after the ambulance was delayed, putting more pressure on Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman to address the states ambulance ramping issues.
- **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Cricket Australia has criticised the Queensland government's request for up to \$90m to upgrade the RNA Showgrounds for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.
- **[Northern Territory News](#)** (page 1) reports that data released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has found that the Northern Territory has the highest rates of emergency

presentations in the country.

- **The Age** (page 3) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has responded to revelations that podiatric surgeons can lawfully perform invasive surgeries despite not having medical degrees, stating that the Podiatry Board of Australia will undergo a review. *Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald*
- **Northern Territory News** (page 3) reports that CDU vice-chancellor Professor Scott Bowman has written to Health Minister Mark Butler in regards to the CDU's failure to secure 40 medical commonwealth supported places for its newly formed CDU Menzies School of Medicine.
- **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 5) reports that Health Minister Ryan Park has promised to establish a taskforce to address emergency room pressures across the state by diverting patients away from hospitals. *Also reported by: Canberra Times*

MINISTER BUTLER

Podiatry seeks Medicare cash as doubts rise

Age, General News, 06/12/2023, Charlotte Grieve, Page 3

The controversial training college for podiatric surgeons is lobbying for millions of dollars in taxpayer-funded subsidies, even as Health Minister Mark Butler branded revelations about the industry's standards "deeply concerning". Podiatric surgeon services are not covered by Medicare or most private health funds, so patients are often left out-of-pocket, with invoices seen by The Age ranging from \$2000 to \$8000 for procedures that can be completed for free in the public system.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney).

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

Rules shift sinks CDU medic plans

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/12/2023, Camden Smith, Page 3

A revised application process and poor advice from federal agencies contributed to Charles Darwin University's failed bid for commonwealth funding to train 40 medical school students in the Northern Territory. [...] The NT News has seen a copy of a letter written to Health Minister Mark Butler by CDU vice-chancellor Professor Scott Bowman in which the academic said it would be "disingenuous" to not directly express his concerns about the Health Department's processes.

Also reported by: The Mercury (Online), Cairns Post (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), Herald Sun (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online).

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Vape warning after extreme reaction

Mornington News, General News, 05/12/2023, Liz Bell, Page 3

A former Mornington Secondary College student has blamed vaping for an extreme allergic reaction that led to medical treatment. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has said that some vapes were deliberately targeting young people, with cute pictures on them and bubblegum flavouring.

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Fight for PBS approval at Gawler East Pharmacy

Bunyip, General News, 06/12/2023, Jem Nash, Page 3

A local pharmacy owner believes the community is not getting timely and convenient access to medication, as it is currently without Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) approval. [...] He has applied to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler for Ministerial Discretion on two occasions and has been denied.

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New bulk-billed urgent care clinic opens in Alice Springs

The Courier Mail, Other, 05/12/2023, Talara McHugh

A new Medicare urgent care clinic open seven days a week will offer walk-ins and bulk-billing for Alice Springs residents. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the new clinic would make it easier for residents to access health care.

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

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New SA medical training program aims to boost rural healthcare

Glam Adelaide, Other, 05/12/2023, Katelin Rice

In a significant development for South Australia's healthcare landscape, the Government has announced a new program aimed at increasing rural medical student places through Flinders University. [...] "I thank the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, Education Minister Jason Clare, and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride, for this important announcement for training more doctors in country SA," Minister for Health & Wellbeing Chris Picton says.

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Just what the doctor ordered

Ipswich Tribune, Other, 06/12/2023, Rob Mellett

A federal Government announcement into a review of chronic doctor shortages facing particular areas of Australia is a big win for a Walloon GP struggling to staff his practice (page 5). [...] The Tribune story, together with the advocacy of Mr Neumann and the tales of other doctors slogging it out to recruit GPs, led to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler intervening to address the increasing problem.

[Read More](#)

Walloon GP's plight spurs Federal review

Ipswich Tribune, Other, 06/12/2023, Rob Mellett

An Ipswich Tribune story into a rural GP's struggles with bureaucracy is key to triggering a far-reaching federal review into chronic doctor shortages. [...] Federal Member for Blair Mr Neumann went to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler about the Walloon doctor's problem.

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Members Health welcomes federal government's stricter vaping laws

HealthDispatch, Other, 05/12/2023

Members Health has welcomed the Albanese Government's stricter enforcement of e-cigarette laws, which will see imports of disposable single-use vapes banned from 1 January. [...] "Vaping is a major health issue and it is pleasing to see Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler showing decisive national leadership."

[Read More](#)

Headspace Newcastle Celebrates 10th Birthday

Hunter Headline, Other, 06/12/2023, Byron Williams

Earlier this year, on 31 May, headspace Newcastle marked 10 years since they first opened their doors to support young people and their families. To mark the occasion, headspace Newcastle hosted an afternoon tea to launch their new First Nations design created in collaboration with Speaking in Colour on Thursday 30 November. headspace Newcastle was opened in 2013 by the Hon Mark Butler and Federal Member Sharon Claydon.

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UOW to open 30 new medical student spots to help fix long wait for the GP

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 05/12/2023, Kate Mcilwain

Half of the patients who live in regional and remote areas have to wait more than 24 hours for an urgent appointment with their GP, as country Australia continues to face a long-running doctors shortage. [...] As part of a \$90 million investment to support rural medical students nationally, announced by Health Minister Mark Butler this week, the government is providing an additional 15 spots to UOW each year.

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Government allocates \$74.5m for the “biggest investment in cancer nurses”

Nursing Review, Other, 05/12/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The Albanese Government is committing a further \$166m for an Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program, with \$74.5m allocated to cancer nurses. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said cancer nurses were invaluable to patients, so the Albanese Government made the "biggest investment in cancer nurses on record".

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Australia to ban import of single-use vapes in major crackdown on 'critical public health issue'

Pharmacy ITK, Other, 05/12/2023

The habit poses a range of known and unknown risks to young Australians and the federal government has had enough. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says the proliferation of vapes poses a major threat to Australia's successful tobacco control regulations.

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Healius restarts pathology report uploads to My Health Record

Pulse+IT, Other, 05/12/2023, Kate McDonald

Pathology and diagnostic imaging provider Healius has recommenced uploading pathology reports to the My Health Record system a week after the company received a tongue-lashing from Health Minister Mark Butler when it ceased uploads in September. A Healius spokesperson did not respond to questions about why the company took the decision to stop uploading.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Late Breakfast, 05/12/2023, Adam Steer/ Jo Laverty

Interview with Dr John Paterson, Chief Executive, Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance of the Northern Territory, on Charles Darwin University's failed bid to have a fully-fledged medical training school in the NT. Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has contributed \$2.8m to help the CDU try and put forward a case for next year. Paterson says it would make a difference and they are disappointed with the decision by the Federal Government to reject their application.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Late Breakfast, 05/12/2023, Adam Steer/ Jo Laverty

Interview with Professor Scott Bowman, Vice-Chancellor, Charles Darwin University, on CDU again missing out on enough funding for 40 places and its fully-fledged medical university. Bowman says the bid ultimately failed due to requirement changes but they are still committed to making it happen. He adds the only thing they have heard from Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's department regarding the matter is that their bid was non-compliant.

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MINISTER WELLS

Nursing homes losing an average \$14 per bed per day

The Australian, Other, 05/12/2023, Stephen Lunn

More nursing home providers are making a profit, but it remains fewer than half the sector, and the number of operators leaving the sector far outweighs those entering, new data reveals. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the new numbers confirmed a more "positive outlook" as her government's reforms , including increased care minutes and a new government funding model, took hold.

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\$2 billion funding signals sweeping changes in aged care

Healthcare Channel, Other, 05/12/2023, Ritchelle Drilon

In a major funding intervention, the federal government has committed over \$2 billion to enable Australia's aged care sector to meet revised wage obligations resulting from the Fair Work Commission awarding a 5.75% pay bump to direct care staff. [...] The move comes as Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells reaffirmed the Labour government's commitment to restoring value and stability to an aged care workforce still recovering from profound uncertainty.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

New SA medical training program aims to boost rural healthcare

Glam Adelaide, Other, 05/12/2023, Katelin Rice

In a significant development for South Australia's healthcare landscape, the Government has announced a new program aimed at increasing rural medical student places through Flinders University. [...] "I thank the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, Education Minister Jason Clare, and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride, for this important announcement for training more doctors in country SA," Minister for Health & Wellbeing Chris Picton says.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Doctors criticise strategy's fossil fuel omission

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 05/12/2023

The Government released the Australia's first National Health and Climate Strategy this week but some GPs believe it does not go far enough. [...] ' Launching the strategy, Federal Health and Aged Care Assistant Minister Ged Kearney said it will guide the development of a plan to decarbonise the Australian health system.

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'No added sugar' claims under scrutiny in food labelling crackdown

Smart Company Australia, Other, 05/12/2023, Liv Casben

A shake-up on how packaged foods and beverages are labelled will mean products high in sugars can no longer carry 'no added sugar' claims, although consumers won't see the changes for some time. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney welcomed the changes to the code.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 05/12/2023, Kieran Gilbert

Interview with Kirsten Pilatti, Chief Executive, Breast Cancer Network Australia. Tributes continue to come in for the Federal Labor MP Peta Murphy, who has lost her battle with breast cancer. Pilatti says Murphy went to Canberra last week to hand down a report on metastatic cancer and host an event with BCNA. She adds Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney and Senator Anne Ruston took that report and promised to make it work and make sure that everyone is counted with cancer across Australia.

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DEPARTMENT

Why the big silence around the departure of the RACGP's CEO, Paul Wappett?

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/12/2023, Paul Smith

While the college has been coy over its reasons for the break-up, the membership is waiting for closure. [...] It is likely the Department of Health and Aged Care has taken a keen interest in recent events given the taxpayer cash the college holds in its hands to run GP training.

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Familiar face joins MA Board

Pharma In Focus, Other, 05/12/2023

Freshly retired former TGA boss Professor John Skerritt is back in the game, joining the Medicines Australia Board as an Independent Selected Director. Skerritt retired in April after more than 10 years as Deputy Secretary Health Products Regulation Group at the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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RACGP hails 60-day dispensing meeting

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 05/12/2023

Representatives from both sides of the contentious reform met last week to hash out differences and ensure patients are put first. More than 600,000 scripts issued since 60-day dispensing was introduced on 1 September. [...] ' As part of the meeting, the RACGP was invited to take part in a video for the Department of Health and Aged Care, answering patients' questions about 60-day dispensing on Friday.

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CORONAVIRUS

Territorians urged to vaccinate for Christmas

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/12/2023, Talara McHugh, Page 7

NT Health is urging Territorians to vaccinate early and check they are up to date with their 2023 booster dose ahead of the holidays as Covid cases continue to soar across the country. Early vaccination is especially important for those planning on travelling interstate or overseas this Christmas as it takes two weeks to develop immunity.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#)

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How the “lucky country” became the locked-up country: The regulatory state and its pathologies

ABC Online, Other, 05/12/2023, Shahar Hameiri & Tom Chodor

You can hear Professor Hameiri discuss the nature of government and the relationship of the state to citizens with Waleed Aly and Scott Stephens this week on The Minefield. In his 1964 book of the same name, Donald Horne famously called Australia "the lucky country". To Horne's annoyance, his words have often been taken literally — effectively becoming Australia's unofficial tagline.

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Annuities to help counter 'longevity risk' in superannuation

The Courier Mail, Other, 05/12/2023, Paulina Duran

The Albanese government is encouraging superannuation funds to create more annuity-style products that are better suited to an ageing population. A survey from Bloomberg reveals "just one" out of 27 economists are expecting the Reserve Bank to raise the cash rate in December, says Sky News Business Reporter Edward Boyd.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Care workers wanted for workforce study

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 05/12/2023

Researchers from Deakin University are conducting a first-ever study into aged care workforce retention. Supported by consultancy firm Anchor Excellence which specialises in residential aged care, home care, retirement living, and disability support the study will examine why personal care workers are choosing to either stay or leave Australia's aged care sector.

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POPULATION HEALTH

6pm closure 'healthy'

Herald Sun, General News, 06/12/2023, Page 7

For much of the early 20th century, pubs in some Australian states were only allowed to stay open until 6pm, a move that Australian researchers now say had positive impacts on alcohol-related harms, especially before WWII. University of Melbourne and La Trobe University researchers compared statistics on alcohol-related harms with early closing laws, which were introduced in 1916 and remained for 21 to 51 years depending on the state.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Cheers, but keep an eye on health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/12/2023, Alison Lai, Page 19

As we get closer to the end of the year, I know that many Tasmanians are looking forward to Christmas. I love Christmas because it's one of the rare moments where we prioritise time with our loved ones and take pride in showcasing our traditions from how we cook the roast, wrap the presents and decorate our homes.

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Hold the crisps! Snacks make you more stressed

The Australian, Other, 05/12/2023, Peta Bee

A new study has shown that high-fat foods have a detrimental effect on our blood vessels. The researchers behind it explain their findings to Peta Bee When your stress levels escalate, your natural response might be to reach for something comforting to eat, but as much as you may fancy a mince pie, a chocolate bar or a bag of crisps, hold fire.

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Who believes more health misinformation – men or women?

My partner is a fiercely sceptical health and science journalist. A couple of weeks ago, she was invited on a promotional tour of a wellbeing resort.

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Analysis Science Your nose is the window to your brain — and some potentially deadly infections

ABC Online, Other, 05/12/2023, Lynn Nazareth

"Don't pick your nose!" you may have been told as a kid. As an adult you wonder, is digging snot out with your finger really that bad?

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Cancer pill offers hope

Herald Sun, General News, 06/12/2023, Page 15

A new tablet treatment has shown it is very effective in treating a challenging type of bowel cancer. Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre research shows remarkable results, with 62 per cent of people with KRAS G12C mutated bowel cancer achieving a positive response when given the tablet called divarasib in combination with another cancer treatment called cetuximab.

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Skin cancer horror story

Courier Mail, General News, 06/12/2023, Page 18

Queensland is working to strip itself of the unwanted title of world skin cancer capital. Responding to the 3600 melanoma diagnoses and 350,000 non-melanoma skin cancer treatments in the state each year, Queensland Health has launched a new campaign.

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Prostate cancer taboo topic for blokes

Daily Liberal, General News, 06/12/2023, Sarah Falson, Page 6

Country men don't like talking about their 'bits' not working, and this could be why advanced prostate cancer diagnoses in Dubbo and the Central West are higher than the national average. [...] The Cancer Council recommends men who decide to have a prostate cancer test, should have a PSA blood test every two years from age 50 to age 69.

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

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Metastatic breast cancer survivors 'felt seen' from Peta Murphy's story

The Australian, Other, 05/12/2023

Breast Cancer Network Australia Chief Executive Kirsten Pilatti says many metastatic breast cancer survivors "felt seen" because of Labor MP Peta Murphy's advocacy on the disease. The 50-year-old passed away in her home on Monday morning after a 12-year battle with the disease.

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

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Nestle's Optifast shakes being touted as a treatment for type two diabetes

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/12/2023

Nestle's Optifast meal replacement shakes are being touted as a treatment for type two diabetes, according to a study part authored by the University of Sydney. Diabetes Australia has welcomed the

finding, despite one of the authors previously being part of Nestle Health Science's advisory board.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [3AW \(Online\)](#).

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Cancer Council NT places oncology nurse in Alice Springs Hospital team

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/12/2023

Alice Springs cancer patients will soon be able to access nurse counselling without leaving home for the first time. The Cancer Council NT has embedded an oncology nurse in the Alice Springs Hospital, the first time the role has been available in Central Australia.

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

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Researchers highlight another type of breast cancer

ABC Online, Other, 05/12/2023, Mary Lloyd

Breast cancer researchers are calling for increased focus on a type of breast cancer few women know about. Lobular carcinoma forms as a thread rather than a lump, and is the sixth most common cancer in Australian women.

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

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'Silence can be incredibly hurtful': How to talk to someone about their chronic illness

The Guardian, Other, 06/12/2023, Grace Jennings-Edquist

When you have a chronic illness, people say puzzling, vaguely inappropriate things all the time. Since developing an autoinflammatory disease two years ago, I've learned there are endless suggestions of natural "remedies" for my incurable condition: "My neighbour's cousin went vegan, and she's never been better!

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Melanoma experts discuss groundbreaking cancer treatment

2GB, Other, 05/12/2023

Co-Medical Directors of the Melanoma Institute Australia, Professor Richard Scolyer, and Professor Georgina Long have joined Ray Hadley to discuss their research on melanoma and Scolyer's cancer. Professor Scolyer, who is facing an incurable brain tumour, gave an update on his world-first combination immunotherapy.

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PRIMARY CARE

Health, GST caught in NDIS wrangling

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/12/2023, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

A temporary extension to GST top-up payments and a more generous hospital funding deal could be the price for NDIS reform.

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Doctors' plea for funding overhaul

The Australian, General News, 06/12/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Australia's health funding system is ill-equipped to meet the challenge of an ageing population and rising chronic disease, and should be reformed into a single-payer funding system for certain

populations, says the Australian Medical Association. It has issued a discussion paper calling for the new model to incentivise healthcare providers to focus on prevention rather than the bulk of funds going to acute treatment in hospitals.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Ambos, emergency face rising pressure

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/12/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 5

Paramedics and emergency departments are under more pressure than ever as the NSW government pledges to divert patients away from hospitals and improve conditions for frontline healthcare workers. Patients spent longer in the state's emergency departments between July and September than any other three-month period on record, hospital data released today reveals, with the median time between arriving and leaving now three hours and 36 minutes.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

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Trainee doctor heart concerns 'shut down', court told

Canberra Times, General News, 06/12/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 6

A trainee doctor said she was "shut down" when she raised suspicions a five-year-old had a heart issue with her superiors. Dr Jade Stewart gave evidence at the coronial inquest of five-year-old Rozalia Spadafora on Tuesday via audio-visual link.

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Still big wait for surgery

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/12/2023, Page 4

Elective surgery patients in Australia are still facing long wait times, according to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Elective surgery (non-emergency) waiting times were at the highest level in 20 years during 202223, as public hospitals worked to catch up following pandemic-related delays that arose due to disruptions in the health system.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Died waiting for help

Courier Mail, General News, 06/12/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 1

An elderly man who suffered a catastrophic fall in his home has died after an ambulance failed to show up in time to help him despite numerous frantic calls, according to his distraught family. The death is the third linked to Queensland's strained ambulance and health system in less than a month.

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Emergency pain point

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/12/2023, Bethany Griffiths, Page 1

The Northern Territory has the highest rate of emergency presentations in the country, and the number of people visiting the department and length of time they are waiting is at a 10-year high. Data released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed there were more than 181,000 presentations in the 2022-23 financial year, up from 171,000 the previous year.

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

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Tassie tops list for limb amputations

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/12/2023, David Killick, Page 10

Tasmania is the nation's capital for limb amputations, new figures show. Data released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveals almost 10 per cent of the 723 amputations carried out

nationwide last year happened in Tasmania.

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Doctors hit with multimillion dollar payroll tax bills as stoush heats up

The Australian, Other, 05/12/2023, Natasha Robinson & Tileah Dobson

Doctors are pushing national cabinet to scrap a tax that represents "one of the biggest threats to general practice in Australia" as individual surgeries fear being hit with multimillion dollar bills for backdated payroll tax. [...] "There's an urgent need for consistency in how payroll tax is applied to independent practitioners across Australia," said RACGP president Nicole Higgins.

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Why Albanese needs to go full Robin Hood to fix our healthcare system

Canberra Times, Other, 05/12/2023, Crispin Hull

Media has been alive with comments about the Albanese government losing steam and even the possibility of Peter Dutton becoming prime minister. Then there are the contradictory tea leaves of history.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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GPs allowed to approve continuous glucose monitors — but only for veterans

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/12/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Dr Gary Deed says it is important GPs are confident about prescribing the devices. [...] Dr Gary Deed, chair of the RACGP's Diabetes Specific Interests group, said it was a "sensible" change that showed GPs could safely prescribe CGMs.

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MP Kate Chaney seeks to overturn 'inequitable' right-to-die law

West Australian, Other, 05/12/2023, Katie Hampson

Teal MP Kate Chaney is launching a bid to overturn Federal laws that disadvantage WA's sickest patients. Passed after a marathon sitting of Parliament in December 2019, WA became the second State after Victoria to legalise voluntary assisted dying for people with life-limiting conditions.

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

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Channel 7, Seven News, 05/12/2023, Mark Ferguson

As Sydney's public hospitals burst at the seams, a small number of public and private facilities have already opened in Sydney's west and Health Minister Ryan Park says he wants to see many more. The NSW Government is currently setting up 25 public urgent care clinics across NSW while nationally, the Prime Minister has promised 58 clinics by the end of the year. But doctors are flagging more pain could be on the horizon, with the NSW Government currently looking at charging general practitioners payroll tax.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, A Current Affair, 05/12/2023, Deborah Knight

Report regarding Robina Hospital that is currently under the microscope after three preventable deaths in just over a year which includes Stewart Kelly who died from starvation and dehydration during a 33-day admission. A Gold Coast Health spokesperson admitted there were significant failures in the care provided to Kelly and that his death was preventable. Robina Hospital's internal review identified 11 failures in Stewart Kelly's care and five lessons learned by staff which would be addressed with future training.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 05/12/2023, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

Stressed doctors have called in safety inspectors at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Ambulances were rammed outside as 115 patients waited an average of three hours inside to be seen and a further 54 were admitted but waited for a bed. All of the other metropolitan emergency departments were also beyond capacity this afternoon. The Doctors' Union says in addition to low bed numbers, workforce shortages are crippling the system.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Preventing suicide: support is out there

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 06/12/2023, Natalie Croxon, Page 10

The causes of a suicidal crisis are complex and individual, but advocates want members of the Illawarra community to know there is always support available. The Illawarra Shoalhaven Suicide Prevention Collaborative and the Mercury have recently partnered to raise awareness of suicide and encourage people to learn about how they can support those in crisis, by spotlighting the stories of people with lived experience.

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Elevated distress over cost of living

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 06/12/2023, Page 6

The gap in cost-of-living and personal debt distress between "middle-age, middlewage" workers and retirees in the same income bracket has tripled in the past 12 months. Suicidal behaviours were six-times higher among middle-age, middle-wage workers (27 per cent) than their middleincome retiree (5 per cent) counterparts, the Suicide Prevention Australia Community Tracker found.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 05/12/2023, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Suicide Prevention Australia says the rising cost of living is affecting the risk of people taking their own lives. The organisation says it's concerned about middle-aged and middle-income earners this holiday season. The group says the cost of living, coupled with the emotionally triggering holiday season, is a tough combination.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Birth trauma to be aired

Daily Advertiser, General News, 06/12/2023, Dan Holmes, Page 1

Wagga Base Hospital will come under scrutiny in coming days as the NSW birth trauma inquiry heads to where it all started. The Wagga RSL is set to host a local hearing of the state's maternity care inquiry on Tuesday to hear from members of the community who have experienced birth trauma in the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD).

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New QLD bill permits nurses and midwives access to terminate pregnancies

Nursing Review, Other, 05/12/2023, Arshmah Jamal

Queensland nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives will be allowed to prescribe, administer or supply terminations-of-pregnancy drugs to a person in their early stages of pregnancy under proposed changes to legislation. Additionally, registered nurses and midwives will be able to administer and supply the termination of pregnancy drugs MS-2 Step in the early stages of pregnancy.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

More places for rural doctors

Burnie Advocate, General News, 06/12/2023, Sandy Powell, Page 4

Aspiring Tasmanian doctors may find it easier to study closer to home as the federal government invests in rural medical training. On Monday Tasmanian Labor Senator Anne Urquhart announced that the government and the University of Tasmania (UTAS) would make places available for 20 extra students each year to study medicine in the North-West.

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

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Funding snub a 'bloody disgrace'

Cairns Post, General News, 06/12/2023, Catherine Duffy, Page 5

The Far North has missed out on a share of \$90m in federal funding and coveted regional medical student placements in what a federal MP has labelled "a bloody disgrace" that undermined efforts to establish a university hospital in Cairns. The federal government on Monday announced an extra 160 medical student places in regional communities in Victoria, WA, Tasmania and New South Wales, and in Rockhampton.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#)

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Queensland Royal Flying Doctor Service nurses take industrial action over pay dispute

ABC Online, Other, 05/12/2023, Lydia Burton

If you get picked up by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in Queensland, the chances are it will be a nurse making sure you get the care you need, not a doctor. But the union representing them says despite operating autonomously in remote areas, those nurses are likely to get paid less than their colleagues in Queensland's public hospitals.

[Read More](#)

'Super huge': Extra medical degree places locked in with millions

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 05/12/2023, Ben Silvester

A \$90 million federal government investment will help deliver 30 new medical degree places to Warrnambool and Ararat in a "huge" boost to the region's healthcare system. The federal plan includes \$26 million to fund 80 Commonwealth-supported medical degree places across Australia over the next three years, including 15 in Warrnambool and Ararat.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 05/12/2023, James Valentine

Data obtained by the Herald looking into the state of mental health of NSW health workers suggests that more than 33,500 workers have claimed their burnt out while nearly 2000 have lodged compensation claims for psychological injuries. Eight nurses have also taken their lives, according to the data. Experts say mental health issues in the industry were already on the up before COVID, which has just exacerbated the problem.

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2GB, Afternoons, 05/12/2023, Deborah Knight

Interview with Gerard Hayes, Secretary, Health Services Union, on recent data showing that 2000 workers have lodged worker's compensation claims for psychological injuries, 33,000 say they're suffering burnout and 20,000 have witnessed bullying. Hayes says they haven't seen a lot being done about it but they are very fortunate at the moment because that post-COVID life isn't quite back to normal yet. He adds, however, that anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol, and normal anxieties that happen in hospitals are expected to come back fast in summer.

Interview continues on: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

SA's first 24-hour National pharmacy

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/12/2023

National Pharmacies will open its first 24/7 pharmacy in Adelaide as part of a State Govt initiative to provide South Australians with around-the-clock access to pharmacy services and medicines. The National Pharmacies Norwood store will service the central Adelaide region and is one of three pharmacies selected through a competitive tender process to provide 24/

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doc's female ban stays

Herald Sun, General News, 06/12/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 13

A high-profile Richmond doctor awarded an Order of Australia medal for his response to the 2002 Bali bombings has been banned from treating women after sexting a patient. [...] After Dr Marsh began withdrawing from the relationship, the woman repeatedly threatened to report him before complaining to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency last year and launching legal action, which was ongoing as of last month.

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

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Qld mother demands answers after son starved to death in hospital

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 05/12/2023, Dan Nolan

A Gold Coast woman is calling for a coroner's inquest into failings at a major Queensland hospital, where her autistic son starved to death. [...] It was understood that no single person was considered sufficiently blameworthy to warrant referral to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, the authority responsible for regulating the conduct of medical staff.

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Police push for widespread alcohol bans across regional Western Australia

National Indigenous Times, Other, 05/12/2023, Giovanni Torre

Wa Police are pursuing liquor sale restrictions across regional Western Australia in response to a spike in alcohol-related violence. The ABC reports that Deputy Police Commissioner Allan Adams has urged Liquor Licensing director Lanie Chopping to consider liquor restrictions across the Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest-Gascoyne and Goldfields-Esperance regions.

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SPORT

EY 'blindfolded' by secrecy over Games

The Australian, General News, 06/12/2023, Tricia Rivera, Page 8

The Commonwealth Games business case that was described by former Victorian premier Daniel Andrews as "hardly the greatest piece of work" was subject to a six-week deadline, strict confidentiality and relied on "desktop research". Ernst & Young partners Dean Yates and Leigh Walker appeared before the inquiry into the axed 2026 sporting event on Tuesday with Dale Wood from DHW Ludus and Michelle Morris and Tom Sloane from MI Associates.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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Cricket calls funding out

Courier Mail, General News, 06/12/2023, Hayden Johnson, Page 1

Cricket Australia has slammed the state government's lack of consultation in demanding up to \$90m to upgrade the RNA Showgrounds, declaring the proposal "makes no sense". The stinging comments from CA and Queensland Cricket could send the government back to the drawing board, with the sport the second to pull out from contributing to the \$137m showgrounds stadium build.

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Fears realised in sport TV deal

Courier Mail, General News, 06/12/2023, Page 2

Australia's peak industry body for commercial TV has slammed the deal to put major cricket tournaments, including Australia's World Cup defence, behind paywalls. On Monday, the International Cricket Council announced that all its tournaments, including Australia's World Test Championship and ODI World Cup defences, would be screened exclusively on streaming service Amazon Prime.

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

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CA fills sponsor hole for a year

Courier Mail, General News, 06/12/2023, Page 7

Cricket Australia has found a taker for what had been a vacant sponsor's spot on the front of the men's playing kits, with Toyota replacing Alinta Energy, which ended its five-year partnership in June. That partnership ended in the wake of comments from Test skipper Pat Cummins, who declared CA should make the climate a "priority" when considering "who we want to invite into being part of cricket".

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Counting the cost of poor training for the Games

Courier Mail, General News, 06/12/2023, Mike O'Connor, Page 37

We should ask the Americans if they'd mind holding the Olympic Games in 2032 as well as 2028

because it is becoming increasingly obvious that Queensland is incapable of hosting them. The latest episode in the comedy that has become and was always going to be the preparations for the Games must worry even the staunchest supporter of the Palaszczuk government.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

An old remedy renewed

Herald Sun, General News, 06/12/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 6

Scientists have taken a step back in time to understand how nature makes antibiotics, and discovered old can be made new again to treat deadly superbugs. In research co-led by Monash University's Biomedicine Discovery Institute (BDI) and the University of Tubingen in Germany, the team has unravelled the origins of ancient antibiotics created by nature.

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'Miracle' mum Tina Lee becomes first Australian cystic fibrosis patient to receive rheumatoid arthritis drug in experimental treatment

ABC Online, Other, 05/12/2023, Emma Pollard & Janelle Miles

Tina Lee cradles her tiny baby boy, wetting his face with tears that will not stop. Struggling for breath, she fears this will be the last time she will hold her son the child she's desperately wanted for 17 years despite being repeatedly told, "you'll never be a mum".

[Read More](#)

Liver cancer survival rate: Cancer Council Vic funds origin cell research as deaths rise

Northern Territory News, Other, 05/12/2023, Sarah Booth

Groundbreaking, world-first research to identify a mystery cell for the most common liver cancer is underway as mortality rates skyrocket. A world-first Melbourne project is on the hunt for liver cancer's mystery "cell of origin", as new data reveals the disease's mortality rate has skyrocketed.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

End Indigenous controls, bureaucrats told

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/12/2023, Tom Burton, Page 6

Giving Indigenous communities budgets and control over their employment, health and housing services would tackle disadvantage better than Canberra bureaucrats dictating programs, federal public service boss Glyn Davis told sector leaders yesterday.

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Ambulance forum in Townsville shines a spotlight on Indigenous health

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/12/2023, Natasha Emeck

For the first time, Queensland Ambulance Service is hosting a groundbreaking forum in Townsville aiming to bridge the health gaps in Indigenous communities. Here's what it's all about.

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

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Silica dust safety blitz

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/12/2023, Page 9

The NSW government has launched a six-month campaign targeting silica dust exposure in the construction and tunnelling industry. While manufactured stone is the leading cause of silicosis, workers can also be exposed to silica dust during tunnelling, demolition and excavation work or from uncontrolled cutting, grinding and drilling of common building materials, including bricks, concrete, sandstone and tiles.

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

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Heatwave to scorch one-third of Australia

The Courier Mail, Other, 05/12/2023, Chloe Whelan

A heatwave that engulfed parts of WA over the weekend is spreading across Australia, expected to scorch one third of the country. Doctors in Western Australia are calling on the government to take urgent climate action, as hospital admissions increase during extreme weather events.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#)

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SA faces climate change 'permacrisis', Prof Nicola Spurrier warns

The Mercury, Other, 05/12/2023, Brad Crouch

South Australia needs to prepare for a state of "permacrisis", Chief Public Health Officer Professor Nicola Spurrier says. South Australia faces a state of "permacrisis" as climate change fuels back-to-back natural disasters, the emergence of new diseases and exacerbation of chronic conditions leading to ramping, Chief Public Health Officer Professor Nicola Spurrier warns.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 05/12/2023, Joe O'Brien

There's a growing awareness that cutting engineered stone releases dangerous silica dust, which has been dubbed as modern-day asbestos. Now, new research shows silica-free alternatives and non-engineered stones aren't safe either.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 05/12/2023, Natalie Forrest

WA Health authorities are urging travellers to make sure they're vaccinated after a case of measles. The virus was eliminated in Australia 25 years ago, but numerous countries are experiencing outbreaks posing a risk to travellers. Free measles jabs are available for anyone born after 1965.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 05/12/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Professor Robert Booy, infectious diseases expert, on health experts warning a Christmas cough outbreak could be on the way with Australia well overdue for another whooping cough epidemic. Case numbers are already rising with a peak expected in the new year and because most of the country hasn't been exposed to the highly contagious disease in eight years, there are fears people could experience severe illness. Booy says they are extremely worried about newborns and very young infants who don't have much immunity at all.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Growth in one-stop medicinal cannabis clinics raises concerns about accessibility

ABC Online, Other, 05/12/2023, Gemma Sapwell

The emergence of upmarket medicinal cannabis clinics has some health professionals concerned that the growing trend of one-stop shops could be targeting the vulnerable while operators say they are improving patient access. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) figures show that more than a million Australians have accessed medicinal cannabis since 2016 when the drug was legalised, with the vast majority of the uptake in the past 18 months.

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TGA takes cannabis company to court over alleged gonorrhoea and autism claims

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/12/2023, Heather Saxena

The TGA is taking a cannabis company to court for allegedly advertising CBD oils directly to patients as possible treatments for gonorrhoea, autism and stress. The watchdog alleges that 21 blog posts and links on the website of CDA Clinics Qld, called CDA Express, breached its advertising rules between April and July 2021.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

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