



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 8th December 2023

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has struck a deal with the states, with the federal government providing \$10.5bn extra GST funding for healthcare in return for the states support for NDIS reforms.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that Victoria's Mental Health Complaints Commissioner has been criticised for failing to act on the 16,733 complaints it has received over the last decade regarding the quality of mental health services in state.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that an Australian IVF research team, led by Monash University's Professor Beverley Vollenhoven, will look to "personalise" fertility treatments for women through a combination of artificial intelligence and genetic testing.
- **[Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that South Australian Health Minister Chris Picton has ordered an inquiry into ambulance ramping after claims were made that patients in hospital waiting rooms were neglected in favour of patients in ambulances in an effort to keep ambulance ramping numbers down.
- **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 4) reports that Canberra Hospital emergency department director Dr Sam Scanlan has admitted at the coronial inquest into the death of Rozalia Spadafora that she

should have been seen four-and-a-half hours sooner.

- **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 5) reports that a world first trial testing the use of ketamine in a tablet form to treat depression will be conducted at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports that a global shortage of a third diabetic treatment, Mounjaro (tirzepatide), following Ozempic and Trulicity, has been acknowledged by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, owing to it being over-prescribed to manage weight loss.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Graphic tobacco warning in a year

Northern Territory News, General News, 08/12/2023, Eleanor Campbell, Page 24

Australia's tobacco industry will have one year to roll out "repulsive" new health warnings on cigarette and vape packets after the federal government's historic anti-smoking laws officially passed on Thursday. Health Minister Mark Butler unveiled a suite of new graphic warning labels, saying Australians had become desensitised to the warning labels and images that have adorned smoking packets since 2011.

*Also reported by:* [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### Warnings on every smoke

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 08/12/2023, Page 8

Individual warnings will soon be printed on cigarettes in a bid to get more smokers to kick the habit. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the laws were needed to ensure a generation of new smokers did not start.

*Also reported by:* [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Port Macquarie News \(Online\)](#), [Busseton Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cessnock Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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### Snub 'won't hurt hospital'

Cairns Post, General News, 08/12/2023, Catherine Duffy, Page 3

There will be future opportunities to secure more government-funded medical student placements in the Far North according to Senator Nita Green, as she hosed down concerns that plans for the Cairns University Hospital had been put at risk by the Commonwealth's recent funding snub.

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### Just what the doctor ordered

Ipswich Tribune, General News, 06/12/2023, Rob Mellett, Page 12

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. [...] 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.

*Also reported by:* [Ipswich Tribune \(Ipswich\)](#).

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### Urgent care clinic to open Monday

Echo, General News, 08/12/2023, Page 6

A bulk-billed urgent care clinic is set to open at North Street Medical Centre, located on the corner of Great Northern Highway and North Street in Midland. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said those with non-urgent medical issues can present to the urgent care centre and receive bulk-billed care just by showing their Medicare card.

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## Labor's Bulk Billing Failure

North West Express, General News, 07/12/2023, Page 8

The Albanese Labor Government's tripling of the Bulk Billing Incentive Payments is a signature Labor policy with a good headline, but no positive impact for the majority [...] "These incentives, while a good headline, do not make a difference for many in regional Australia who cannot access a GP thanks in no small part to Health Minister Mark Butler's Distribution Priority Area changes, which bled the regions of doctors at a stroke of the pen," Dr Webster said.

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## Federal Government finally announces Broome Urgent Care Clinic opening date

West Australian, Other, 07/12/2023, Cain Andrews

A provider for the Broome Urgent Care Clinic has been finalised with the facility to open in late December, easing pressure on the town's strained health services. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the UCC would make a big difference to patients in the greater Broome area.

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## New laws compel graphic health warnings on vapes

Perth Now, Other, 07/12/2023, Andrew Brown

Topics New graphic warnings will be placed on vapes to stop younger generations from taking up smoking. Laws cracking down on smoking passed federal parliament on Thursday, which would also ban the use of appealing names for vaping products. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the changes to smoking laws would save lives.

Also reported by: [Jimboomba Times \(Online\)](#), [Merimbula News \(Online\)](#).

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## Killarney Memorial Aged Care given \$1.4m for a holistic healthcare approach

Aged Care Insite, Other, 07/12/2023, Arshmah Jamal

Killarney Memorial Aged Care has been given \$1.4m to trial a holistic team-based healthcare approach for the rural and remote communities of the Southern Downs region in Queensland. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, said rural and regional communities in Australia struggled with access to healthcare.

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## The National Health and Climate Strategy could be transformational, if these concerns are addressed

Croakey, Other, 07/12/2023, Melissa Sweet

More than six years after a framework for a national strategy on health and climate change was put forward by health and medical organisations, the Australian Government has launched the country's first National Health and Climate Strategy. [...] The foreword by Ministers Mark Butler and Kearney stresses the need "to elevate the leadership, wisdom and knowledge of First Nations people in the response to the health impacts of climate change", and to look "to First Nations people's holistic understanding of health and ongoing custodianship of the land and seas as we work toward building a healthy and sustainable future for all".

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## What more could be done to protect aged care residents from COVID? Plenty, it turns out...

Croakey, Other, 07/12/2023, Melissa Sweet

The safety of people in residential aged care remains at grave risk, with evidence of wide-ranging failures to protect them from COVID-19, reports Jennifer Doggett in a special Croakey investigation. [...] But according to a recent statement from Minister for Health, Mark Butler, they are not likely to be available in Australia until mid-December.

[Read More](#)

## **Cancer warnings to be printed on vapes and individual cigarettes in major bid to stub out smoking**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/12/2023, David Southwell

Smokers and vapers are set to be confronted with even more disturbing images in a new push to get them to quit. [...] Albanese government Health Minister Mark Butler said the new measures were necessary because smokers had grown desensitised to the warnings and images that have been printed on packets since 2011.

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## **Vapes could be made prescription-only under Labour: Radical plan could stop kids getting hooked on 'gateway drug'**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/12/2023, John Ely

Vapes could be made prescription-only under radical plans being contemplated by Labour. [...] 'I'm looking very carefully at what Mark Butler and the Australian Labor government have announced.

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## **Individual cigarettes to contain warnings under new law**

HealthTimes, Other, 07/12/2023

Laws cracking down on smoking passed federal parliament on Thursday, which will also see new graphic health warnings placed on cigarette and vape packages. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the laws were needed to ensure a generation of new smokers did not start.

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## **Heart Foundation welcomes passing of new tobacco laws**

Local Government FOCUS, Other, 07/12/2023

The Heart Foundation welcomes the passing of the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2023 in Parliament today as a critical action to prevent and further reduce the heart health harm caused to people by tobacco products and nicotine addiction. [...] The Heart Foundation commends the Parliament for its positive action today and congratulates Health Minister Mark Butler and the Australian Government for their commitment to the health and wellbeing of all people living in Australia.

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## **Pharmacists welcome Climate and Health strategy**

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Other, 07/12/2023

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) lauds the Federal Government's first National Health and Climate Strategy released this week, recognising the urgent need to build climate-resilient health systems and limit the emissions created by the health care network. In welcoming the Strategy, PSA National President Dr Fei Sim FPS thanked Federal Health Minister Mark Butler MP and Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney MP for their leadership in recognising the impact of climate change on health.

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

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## **New Tobacco Laws Pass**

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 07/12/2023

The Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2023 has passed parliament. [...] It poses a major threat to Australia's success in tobacco control and the Albanese Government is not going to stand by and let this happen," said Health Minister Mark Butler.

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## **Rural GP shortage 'matter of urgency' for Health Minister**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 07/12/2023

he lack of healthcare outside Australia's city limits was a chief concern at the most recent meeting between the RACGP and Mark Butler. The RACGP says generalism should be the basis of medical

school training, in a bid to attract more doctors to rural areas.

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## Vapes 'easily accessible' to children

Star Weekly, Other, 07/12/2023

In Brimbank vapes are being sold in close proximity to schools and are easily accessible to children and young people, a new study reveals. [...] On November 28, federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced that the government will implement a ban on the importation of disposable single use vapes from January 1, 2024.

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## Rockhampton Medicare Urgent Care Clinic opens

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 07/12/2023, Geordi Offord

The federal government has honoured its promise to throw a lifeline to the region after thousands were impacted by Mandalay Medical Centre's sudden closure. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Rockhampton clinic would make a "big difference" to patients in the greater Rockhampton area.

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## Channel 9, Today, 07/12/2023, David Campbell, Sylvia Jeffreys and Lara Vella

Interview with Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care, regarding the National Cabinet meeting where a \$1.2b Medicare package was announced. Butler says what they saw yesterday was governments working together for Australia. He adds out of that deal yesterday are more investments in strengthening Medicare, urgent care clinics, and also a very significantly increased investment from the Commonwealth to support states in their efforts to combat ramping and to deal with the elective surgery wait list that built up throughout COVID.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, 13:00 News, 07/12/2023

Health warnings on individual cigarettes and new graphic images on cigarette packets will start rolling out in 2024 after legislation to crack down on smoking passed Federal Parliament. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says existing warnings have lost their impact.

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

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, 10:00 News, 07/12/2023

The Federal Government is vowing to set up more urgent care clinics next year, but won't say how many. The walk-in clinics offer bulk billing, aiming to lower the number of people going to hospital emergency departments. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler states the Government is aiming to expand the number of places where people can get that care.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, AM, 07/12/2023, Sabra Lane

Pre-recorded interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister, on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese striking a deal with states and territories to provide tens of billions of dollars in extra funding for health care and GST top-ups. Butler says it's about making sure that people are getting the right care at the right place at the right time, and that won't always be in the hospital system. He adds additional investments include the PM announcing the strengthening Medicare agenda that will expand urgent care clinics, and additional support from the Commonwealth to state governments in their efforts to combat ramping and clear some of the elective surgery wait lists that built up over COVID.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Financial dip for sector, says report

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/12/2023, Christopher Kelly

The financial performance of residential aged care providers has slumped slightly, according to the latest government report. [...] "When the Albanese Government came into office, the aged care sector was hurting from a lack of investment and innovation, but in just 12 months there is now an optimistic outlook for the financial future of the sector," Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said in an upbeat statement.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### The National Health and Climate Strategy could be transformational, if these concerns are addressed

Croakey, Other, 07/12/2023, Melissa Sweet

More than six years after a framework for a national strategy on health and climate change was put forward by health and medical organisations, the Australian Government has launched the country's first National Health and Climate Strategy. [...] The foreword by Ministers Mark Butler and Kearney stresses the need "to elevate the leadership, wisdom and knowledge of First Nations people in the response to the health impacts of climate change", and to look "to First Nations people's holistic understanding of health and ongoing custodianship of the land and seas as we work toward building a healthy and sustainable future for all".

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### Pharmacists welcome Climate and Health strategy

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Other, 07/12/2023

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

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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## Ex-TGA boss joins Medicines Aus Board

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 07/12/2023, Page 2

Former TGA boss Professor John Skerritt has been appointed to the Medicines Australia Board to provide strategic leadership as an Independent Selected Director. Board Chair Dr Anna Lavelle said the announcement comes at "a pivotal time for the pharmaceutical industry", adding that Skerritt's "knowledge of the Australian therapeutics regulatory environment is unmatched". In addition to heading up the TGA as Deputy Secretary Health Products Regulation Group before retiring earlier this year (PD 06 Feb), Skerritt was also previously the Deputy Secretary of the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care.

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## The Importance of Enrolled Nurses in Aged Care: Results of a National Aged Care Survey

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 07/12/2023, Jarrod Clarke

According to the latest workforce census, there were around 17,000 Enrolled nurses (ENs) working across Australia's aged care sector in 2020. [...] The National Aged Care Survey 2023 Enrolled Nurses in Aged Care Report can be found here [References Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#).

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## In Practice: General practice incentives survey

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 07/12/2023

GPs are being asked to contribute to a new review focused on the effectiveness and impact of the existing incentives program. The Department of Health and Aged Care is undertaking an Effectiveness review of General Practice Incentives across Australia.

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## Aged care providers warned to calculate their own care minutes after Department published incorrect targets

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/12/2023, Lauren Broomham

Residential aged care providers have been advised to look closely at their care minute targets after an "administrative error" saw the wrong minutes published for some services. Last Friday, 1 December, the Department of Health and Aged Care issued an alert advising that a "data transmission issue between Services Australia and the Department meant that the care minute targets published on My Aged Care for some aged care services were "out by a small margin".

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## PD for Thu 07 Dec 2023

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/12/2023

Sigma to reverse list CW, APC unveils new committee, latest ED stats show full scope need, ex-TGA boss joins Medicine Aus Board, and more [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care and the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) have announced that the National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program will commence on 01 Jan 2024, with registration and claiming available on the PPA Portal from this date.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 07/12/2023, Lisa Millar and Bridget Brennan

Interview with Paul Kelly, Chief Medical Officer, on Australians facing the prospect of another Christmas COVID wave with case numbers appearing to be creeping higher as the festivities ramp up. Kelly says Australia is certainly in another COVID wave, the third one for 2023 and each of the waves has been less severe in terms of hospitalisations, outbreaks in aged care, ICU and so on. He adds he thinks that cases have probably already peaked and will start to decrease but with all the festivities that are set to happen, the possibility of transmission is certainly there.

*Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).*

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 07/12/2023, Stacey Lee and Nikolai Beilharz

Australian Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly says while the number of hospitalisations from COVID is low compared to this time last year, the festive season brings the risk of more infections. Kelly says Australia is going through its sixth wave of the Omicron strain of COVID and its third for 2023.

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, 08:00 News, 07/12/2023

According to Australia's Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly, the festive season brings a risk of more COVID-19 infection despite the low number of hospitalisations this year.

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# CORONAVIRUS

## New Covid vaccine available

Courier Mail, General News, 08/12/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

The new, improved Covid-19 vaccine will be available on Monday and infectious disease experts warn the vulnerable to book a booster if they want to save Christmas. The new XBB. 1.5-specific Covid booster was approved by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) last month and is strongly recommended for people with elevated risk factors, such as the elderly and immunocompromised.

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## Eighth COVID wave sparks rural aged-care booster blitz

Central Western Daily, General News, 08/12/2023, Allison Hore, Page 6

Local pharmacists are hitting the road this Christmas, but not to visit family or friends. They're travelling to rural and remote areas in the region to make sure aged care residents are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations.

*Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).*

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## Covid-19 hits hospital

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 08/12/2023, Cameron Bates, Page 1

Townsville Hospital and Health Service has been forced to cut elective surgeries after Covid hit more than 100 staff. THHS Chief Executive L Kieran Keyes said 106 staff had tested positive for Covid-19, and there were 19 inpatients with Covid.

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## Could antivirals cut long COVID risk? What research says on



## prevention and treatment

The New Daily, Other, 06/12/2023, Suman Majumdar, Brendan Crabb, Emma Pakula, Michelle Scoullar & Ziyad Al-Aly

More research is needed, but this data indicates antiviral medications may be a key approach to lessening the risk of long COVID. The population most at risk of long COVID (often working-age adults) differs from those most at risk of severe disease from a COVID infection (older adults or those with chronic medical conditions).

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## COVID-19: Reminder to rest and test for COVID over festive season

Perth Now, Other, 07/12/2023, Tara Cosoleto

Another Covid-19 wave is making its way through the community. Now, Australians are being advised to test and rest at home if they feel unwell this festive season.

Also reported by: [Merimbula News \(Online\)](#), [The Rural \(Online\)](#), [CityNews \(Online\)](#), [Hawkesbury Gazette \(Online\)](#), [The Scone Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Blayney Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Bega District News \(Online\)](#), [HealthTimes \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Gloucester Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Free low-GI menu guide for aged care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/12/2023

Nestl Professional and the Glycemic Index Foundation have launched a free and practical guide of menus for aged care using low-GI foods. The downloadable guide THRIVE provides easy-to-understand information about low-GI foods, 15 breakfast, drink and dessert recipes and expert advice for low-GI meal planning with a focus on protein and calcium.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### A shift sleep

West Australian, General News, 08/12/2023, Page 16

Working regular night shifts is associated with a higher rate of sleep disorders such as insomnia and sleep apnoea, according to Dutch research. GGZ Drenthe's Mental Health Institute researchers surveyed more than 37,000 shift workers.

Also reported by: [Aged Care Insite \(Online\)](#)

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### Thirsty work

Daily Liberal, General News, 08/12/2023, Allison Hore, Page 1

Outdoor workers are among those being warned to protect themselves during the region's heatwave. With the Bureau of Meteorology tipping more temperatures above 40 degrees, the Western NSW Local Health District is advising at-risk cohorts to be vigilant about staying cool and keeping hydrated.

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### Booze bans and WA's drunk deliveries

Medical Forum, Other, 07/12/2023

As police call for a wider restriction on alcohol sales in WA, particularly in regional and northern towns, new research has emerged tracking the online purchasing behaviour of high-risk drinking West Australians. With alcohol-fuelled crime soaring in more than 25 towns, Deputy Police Commissioner

Allan Adams wrote to the State Licensee with recommendations for daily restrictions, reduced operating hours for retailers, increasing the minimum price of wine and replacing glass with plastic where possible.

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## 'My period pain is always a 10 out of 10'

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 07/12/2023, Cindy Lever

"i felt crazy. I went into quite a depression. You don't know what to do. You get completely gaslit and made to feel like you are crazy."

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### 'Remarkable' new approach for breast cancer patients

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/12/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 10

A groundbreaking new Australian study paves the way for a major shift in the way early-stage breast cancer is treated, identifying women who can safely avoid radiotherapy and its often debilitating side effects. By using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to screen women's breasts for additional cancers or pre-cancers, researchers from Australia's largest independent clinical trials group Breast Cancer Trials were able to pinpoint patients suitable for radiotherapy-free treatment.

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

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### Fungus-fighting find

Herald Sun, General News, 08/12/2023, Page 6

A protein in the immune system programmed to protect the body from fungal infections is also responsible for exacerbating the severity of auto-immune diseases such as irritable bowel disease, type 1 diabetes, eczema and other chronic disorders, new research reveals. The Australian National University discovery could pave the way for new and more effective drugs without the nasty side-effects of existing treatments.

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

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### Mareeba mum 'over the moon' as long wait ends

Cairns Post, General News, 08/12/2023, Kylie Lang, Page 9

Breast cancer survivor Sharyn Washington, who shared her unacceptable delay for reconstructive surgery with News Corp readers back in July, has been told her operation will finally take place on December 20. Mrs Washington, a mother of three from Mareeba, has been waiting 765 days to "feel whole again" after her right breast was removed on November 2, 2021.

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### Peabody puts cancer awareness in mine

Daily Mercury, General News, 08/12/2023, Page 29

A new, colourful, heavyweight initiative to drive early detection of breast and prostate cancer is being rolled out at Peabody's Coppabella Moorvale JV Mine. The company has taken delivery of two new Komatsu 930 E-5 haul trucks with trays painted pink and blue in the colours of the National Breast Cancer Foundation and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

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## More than 6000 cancer cases 'missing' in Victoria

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 07/12/2023, Aisha Dow

A growing number of Victorians could be living with undiagnosed cancer, new analysis shows, as pandemic disruptions and worrying bowel cancer screening rates hamper earlier detection of the deadly disease. Cancer cases were expected to rise in 2022 due to Victoria's ageing and growing population .

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Townsville's Skin Repair Skin Cancer Clinic calling on locals to get checked

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 06/12/2023, Bethany Westwood

When Townsville mum Natalie found a mysterious new mark on her skin, she had no idea it was a melanoma. See what her message is to other Aussies this summer.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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## Channel 9, Today, 07/12/2023, David Campbell, Sylvia Jeffreys and Lara Vella

Thousands of Victorians could be living with cancer and not know it. With fewer people undergoing screenings or assessments amid health care disruptions and costs, the state's cancer registry has estimated at least 6660 Victorians could have the disease and are walking around untreated. It is possible that some of the missing cancer detections included people who died of COVID-19.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Gains wiped in PM's budget 'fix'

The Australian, General News, 08/12/2023, Patrick Commins, Jess Malcolm & Stephen Lunn, Page 1

Anthony Albanese's plan to repair the nation's finances has been derailed, with the GST and health deal the Prime Minister struck with the states set to virtually erase \$30bn in NDIS savings promised in the May budget. As a leading independent economist accused the government of lacking courage to follow through on its flagship fiscal repair measure, NDIS Minister Bill Shorten suggested any savings from curbing growth in the scheme would need to be reinvested in other disability services for it to remain sustainable over the long term.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Mandarin \(Online\)](#).

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### In health, the revolution begins with a whisper

The Australian, General News, 08/12/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 5

It's a truism to say politics often generates more heat than light, but it certainly was the case this week when it came to the washup for health funding of national cabinet. While the political debate revolves around the GST carveup between the commonwealth and the states, the germ of a seismic reform with the power to transform the nation's health system was quietly uploaded online in the form of the midterm review of the National Health Reform Agreement.

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

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## Ramping fudge leads to 'deaths'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/12/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 1

An independent review will investigate bombshell claims patients "are dying" in hospital waiting rooms after being leapfrogged by less sick ambulance arrivals to cut ramping statistics. Health Minister Chris Picton ordered the inquiry after The Advertiser revealed doctors' concerns the triage system of giving priority to the most sick was being abused by administrators keen to get ambulances off the ramp.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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## CHS execs grilled over death of child

Canberra Times, General News, 08/12/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 4

An emergency department director has conceded a child who died at Canberra Hospital should have been seen four-and-a-half hours sooner. The ACT has struggled to care for critically ill children for many years, but the five year-old's death was a "catalyst" for change, Canberra Health Services chief executive Dave Peffer said.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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

## Hospital views 'tied to roadworks goal'

Border Mail, General News, 08/12/2023, Anthony Bunn, Page 3

Former mayor Kevin Mack has accused Albury Council of wanting a redevelopment at Albury hospital, rather than a greenfields development, because it will enable an upgrade to Borella Road. The past Albury civic leader said staff at the council were keen for the hospital expansion as it would allow the site's northern boundary road, also known as the Riverina Highway, to be improved.

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

## Kidney dialysis services by 2025

Daily Mercury, General News, 08/12/2023, Estelle Sanchez, Page 14

The Health Minister has announced a deadline for a long-awaited project of delivering kidney dialysis services to Proserpine. Four of the 33 renal dialysis treatment spaces promised by the Queensland government across regional Queensland will be delivered at Proserpine Hospital by early 2025.

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

## Emergency department taskforce plan

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 08/12/2023, Natalie Croxon & Kate Mcilwain, Page 7

The NSW government has announced it will establish a taskforce to bring down emergency department wait times after new data revealed patients at Wollongong Hospital are waiting longer than ever. The ED taskforce will identify and implement improvement strategies, including tackling bed block and patient flow problems, safely discharging patients quicker, improving the experience of both patients and staff, and moving patients to other parts of the system where appropriate.

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

## Unkindest cut: hospital's appendicitis treatment 'appalling'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

Matthew Earl describes the treatment he received at Maitland Hospital for appendicitis as an "appalling debacle". Mr Earl, 36, was taken to the hospital at lunchtime on Thursday last week suffering abdominal pain, which a CT scan confirmed to be appendicitis.

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

## Concerns over wait times

Shepparton News, General News, 08/12/2023, Djembe Archibald, Page 22

State Member for Shepparton Kim O'Keeffe raised concerns about the ambulance crisis and wait times in Victorian Parliament this week. "There has been constant incidents raised regarding ambulance delays," Ms O'Keeffe said.

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

## Stuck on a stretcher

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 08/12/2023, Iwan Jones & Elizabeth Neil, Page 6

Sunshine Coast patients are spending more than four hours on stretchers in ambulances waiting for hospital care, new data shows. Figures released in response to a question on notice to Health Minister Shannon Fentiman on October 11 revealed the five longest wait times, as well as median wait times, for patients at public hospitals across Queensland between May to September.

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

## PM's thalidomide apology gracefully accepted by Bai

Torres News, General News, 07/12/2023, Alf Wilson, Page 8

Emotions were running high for Wareed 'Bai' Tapau when Prime Minister Anthony Albanese formally apologised to thalidomide survivors at a touching ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra late last month. Bai travelled to the national capital with her sisters Dawn Bin-Doraho, who lives on Hammond Island, Ellen Tapau from Mer and her Townsville-based brother, Tagie Tapau.

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

## The future of Australian healthcare: improving outcomes for patients and workforce

AHHA (Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association), Other, 07/12/2023, Sonj Hall

(AHR), pivots to focus on the future of the Australian health system. We explore existing measures and the yet-to-be-taken strides aimed at enhancing health outcomes across our communities, whilst nurturing and supporting our strained workforce.

[Read More](#)

## Concerns over euthanasia pressure on elderly in NSW

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/12/2023

There have been growing concerns over the elderly in New South Wales facing pressure to consider voluntary assisted dying. Former Liberal MP Nicolle Flint sat with Sky News host Peta Credlin to discuss the concern over euthanasia being legalised in New South Wales.

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

[Read More](#)

## 'Sad more than preventable': Elderly man dies after four emergency calls to paramedics

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 06/12/2023, Angie Raphael

An elderly man has died in his home while waiting for paramedics to arrive, prompting authorities to launch a review. New figures show some Queensland patients are forced to wait up to ten hours on a stretcher before receiving hospital admission.

[Read More](#)

## Australians are waiting longer than ever for elective surgery, research finds

The Mercury, Other, 06/12/2023, Mia Erickson

Need a new hip? Don't hold your breath If you find yourself in need of an elective surgical procedure, strap yourself in for a long game of waiting.

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

[Read More](#)

## **No hospital bed for Esperance grandmother with respiratory illness flown by Royal Flying Doctor to Perth**

West Australian, Other, 07/12/2023, Josh Zimmerman

A grandmother in her late 70s with a serious respiratory condition was flown from Esperance to Perth by the Royal Flying Doctor Service — only to be knocked back by Fiona Stanley Hospital when she arrived because there was no bed for her. Trevor Furniss said he was left "dumbfounded" when he was told his wife Dianne would instead be moved to Bunbury Regional Hospital — requiring a second RFDS flight on the same day.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 7, Sunrise, 07/12/2023, Monique Wright and Matt Shirvington**

South Australia's ambulance ramping crisis has deepened this morning with claims from the doctors' union that the State Government is fudging the numbers. Dr David Pope says emergency doctors are being intimidated to see patients arriving by ambulances who are less sick than those in waiting rooms to cut ramping figures. It comes after numbers were released showing ambulances spent almost 4300 hours stuck outside hospitals in November 1000 more than the previous month.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 9, National Nine News, 07/12/2023, Mia Glover**

Elective surgeries are being cancelled and wait times in the emergency department are blowing out at the Townsville University Hospital following a COVID-19 outbreak. Around 106 staff members and 19 inpatients across the Townsville Hospital and Health Service have tested positive for the virus.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 9, National Nine News, 07/12/2023, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins**

Explosive claims tonight sick patients have died inside emergency department waiting rooms because staff are being ordered to prioritise patients in ambulances. A senior doctor says it's all about reducing ramping statistics. The SA Health Minister is ordering an urgent investigation.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 9, Today, 07/12/2023, David Campbell, Sylvia Jeffreys and Lara Vella**

Adelaide's ambulance ramping crisis has seen its worst month on record. The collective time people are waiting inside and outside hospitals rose well over 4000 hours in November alone. Elective surgeries also continued to be postponed. Adelaide's Health Minister says they need the Federal Government to help by giving the state more money.

[Play Now](#)

## **5AA, Mornings, 07/12/2023, Matthew Pantelis**

Interview with Dr David Pope, President, SA Salaried Medical Officers, regarding ambulance ramping in SA and the issue of queue jumping to make ramping figures better. Pope says they are all experiencing the same thing where they are not able to see patients in order of clinical priority. He adds instead, the hospital managers are demanding that certain patients be seen ahead of others and that sort of neglects the care of the patients overall and it's not ethical.

[Play Now](#)

## **ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 07/12/2023, Stacey Lee and Nikolai Beilharz**

Interview with Peter Malinauskas, SA Premier, on the issue of ramping in SA. Malinauskas says he was incredibly disappointed with the numbers that were released yesterday and it just demonstrates that they have got a lot of work to do. He adds there is no lack of effort on behalf of the government because they are investing unimaginable sums into the system over and above what was the case

previously, principally around employing more doctors and nurses to open up more hospital beds, which they have done. He adds there is a lot more to come, particularly throughout next year.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).*

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### **Mental health watchdog has never bared teeth**

Age, General News, 08/12/2023, Kieran Rooney, Page 1

Victoria's watchdog for mental health complaints has not issued any compliance notices out of 16,000 complaints it has received about services over the past decade, prompting calls for an investigation of the current system. The Mental Health Complaints Commissioner was first set up in 2014 to separate complaints handling about mental health services and clinics from those related to the broader health system.

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

### **Pain pill trial for treating sadness**

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/12/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 5

A controversial painkiller and sedative drug will be used in a world-first trial at the Royal Adelaide Hospital as an alternative option to treat depression. In a study led by the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) and University of Adelaide, researchers are seeking participants to trial a new product using ketamine in a tablet form which releases the drug gradually into the body to treat depression that has not responded to other forms of treatment.

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

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### **Mental health court changing lives**

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 08/12/2023, Jenny Denton, Page 4

A new mental health court that opened in Bendigo in July has been "tracking well" and facilitating potentially profound life changes, according to the magistrates involved. The Assessment and Referral Court (ARC), which caters for criminal offenders with mental illness or serious cognitive issues such as autism or intellectual disability, aims to address the underlying causes of their offending.

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### **Signing up to offer support**

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/12/2023, Page 10

A Deakin University PhD researcher is investigating the relationship between childhood access to sign language and the mental health outcomes of deaf adults. Around 97 per cent of deaf children are born to hearing parents, but fewer than one in four hearing parents learn sign language to communicate with their children.

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### **Fitness reducing stress in Michael's life**

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 08/12/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 15

When Michael Dolingo was diagnosed with depression in high school, the strategies he was given - like positive thinking, mindfulness or even medication didn't help. Instead, the Warilla man - now 21 - found purpose and strength at his local boxing gym.

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### **GPs need more support managing eating disorders: Poll**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 07/12/2023

One expert believes general practice can make a huge impact' by using available resources to help

patients and navigate referrals. We can make a huge impact on morbidity and mortality if we get this right,' says one GP with a special interest in eating disorders.

[Read More](#)

## Mental health app that cost Australian taxpayers \$33m did not result in 'clinical outcomes', study finds

The Guardian, Other, 08/12/2023, Melissa Davey & Henry Belot

A government-funded mental health platform, primarily owned by PwC and the University of Sydney, "does not seem to have demonstrated clinical outcomes of healthcare value," a study has found. Despite receiving \$33m from the government via a non-competitive grant, transparency and mental health advocates expressed concern about the closed grant process and argued an open and competitive tender for the \$33m investment would have ensured value for money.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 07/12/2023, Stan Shaw

The South West Autism Network's call for more investment in training mental health specialists in how to help people with autism after a WA woman lost two autistic sons to suicide. The Mental Health Commission says it's developing a new community care model for young people, including those with an intellectual disability, neurodevelopmental disorders and neuropsychiatric conditions.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Birth of a new era

Herald Sun, General News, 08/12/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 1

Victorian researchers using AI to 'personalise' fertility drugs and increase pregnancy chances In a world first Australian IVF researchers will trial the use of artificial intelligence with genetic sequencing to "personalise" fertility drugs for women to improve pregnancy outcomes. The team, led by Monash University's Professor Beverley Vollenhoven, will use a combination of AI and a woman's unique genes to tailor the drugs that stimulate the ovaries, improving a woman's egg production.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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

### Researchers criticise ethnicity guidelines behind early birth inductions in some Sydney hospitals

ABC Online, Other, 07/12/2023, Penny Burfitt

At least two local health districts in Sydney are recommending mothers from some ethnic backgrounds have their labour induced by up to two weeks earlier than others. The guidelines have been introduced to limit the known risk of stillbirth in certain ethnicities, but researchers and mothers have raised concerns the recommendation is not evidence-based.

[Read More](#)

### Public homebirth service to launch in Geelong

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/12/2023, Tamara Mcdonald

Barwon Health is launching the region's first publicly funded homebirth program. The new service will be offered to women who meet clinical criteria and live within 30 minutes of Geelong hospital, and will begin taking formal bookings from next year.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### A third of new mothers worldwide 'have lasting health issues after



## childbirth'

The Guardian, Other, 07/12/2023, Andrew Gregory

More than 40 million women a year experience lasting health issues after childbirth, a global review has found, prompting calls for greater recognition of common postnatal problems. The sweeping analysis of maternal health worldwide shows a very high burden of long-term conditions that last for months and even years after giving birth.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 07/12/2023, Adam Steer

Interview with Cath Hatcher, NT Branch Secretary, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, regarding a critical shortage of midwives in the Top End that is impacting maternity care. At a time when mums and their unborn bubs are at their most vulnerable, corners are being cut due to the current staffing levels. Hatcher says it's not just happening in the Top End or Central Australia, it's happening around all of Australia and probably New Zealand as well.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Nurses' plea for safer workplaces

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/12/2023, Laura Banks & Angus Thomson, Page 10

Violent incidents are leaving nurses and frontline hospital staff with enduring physical and psychological injuries, and at least eight nurses have died by suicide and hundreds more have been placed on workers' compensation in the past three years. Health Minister Ryan Park and Industrial Relations Minister Sophie Cotsis on Wednesday attended a SafeWork NSW presentation at parliament, where two nurses gave harrowing accounts of physical and psychological trauma they suffered while employed by NSW Health, rendering them unable to work.

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

### More regional medical staff

Border Watch, General News, 08/12/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 3

Regional medical trainee numbers are expected to double in the coming years following a \$19.7m funding injection by the federal government. It was announced Flinders University received the funding in an effort to push for more medical students to settle in the regions, including Mount Gambier/Berrin.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Pharmacy Guild blasts Chemist Warehouse deal

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 08/12/2023, Carrie Lafrenz, Page 15

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia argues the imminent reverse takeover of Sigma Healthcare by Chemist Warehouse poses "significant questions and risks" to patient care, community pharmacy ownership, and competition in the sector.

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

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### Pharmacist says he's here to stay

Burnie Advocate, General News, 08/12/2023, Libby Bingham, Page 1

Long-serving East Devonport pharmacist Terry Travers says his business is not going anywhere and is committed to working with other stakeholders in finding a solution to the East Devonport Medical Centre

closure. His comments following a meeting this week organised by Mayor Alison Jarman about the closure of the East Devonport Medical Centre (EDMC) in February.

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## **New pharmacy trial offers free consults for pill refills, UTI treatment**

Northern Territory News, Other, 07/12/2023, Tamara Mcdonald

Women can access consultations for contraceptive pill refills and antibiotics for urinary tract infections for free through a new program. Geelong patients can get antibiotics for urinary tract infections and refills of the contraceptive pill at the pharmacy without seeing their GP for a prescription as part of a statewide pilot program.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### **Older Australians missing out on \$60m in unpaid Medicare benefits**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 07/12/2023

Nearly one million Australians can claim millions of dollars in unclaimed Medicare benefits before Christmas. The federal government has announced that \$234m in unclaimed funds will be paid back to people without valid details updated on myGov.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### **Gold Coast Health CEO Ron Calvert speaks on the death of Stewart Kelly**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/12/2023, Amaani Siddeek

The Gold Coast's top health boss admits "significant failings" lead to the "preventable" death of an autistic man in hospital who died of starvation and dehydration. Gold Coast Health CEO Ron Calvert fronted media on Wednesday after explosive revelations on Nine's A Current Affair, admitting Mr Kelly's death could have been prevented.

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

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### **Australia 'lags internationally' in harm reduction as drug overdose deaths continue to rise**

ABC Online, Other, 07/12/2023, Neelima Choahan

Forty-six-year-old Lisa Peterson considers herself lucky she is not dead yet. The advocate for the homeless in Melbourne injected heroin for six years before taking a break from it in 2023.

[Read More](#)

### **How providing free HIV testing kits could eliminate the dreaded virus once and for all amid calls for Federal Government to put its money where its mouth is**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/12/2023, Wayne Flower

A push to eradicate the dreaded HIV virus once and for all could be as simple as providing home testing kits to any Australian who wants one. According to experts, new HIV testing technologies are 'potential game-changers', boosting testing rates for at-risk groups.

[Read More](#)

## Loo lockdown: Schools tackle vaping, skipping class

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 07/12/2023, Toby Crockford

A controversial policy in which schools lock their bathrooms during class time has been successful in reducing vaping, students skipping class and general behavioural issues. Toby Crockford Artificial Intelligence has been deployed at a school in Brisbane to catch students vaping on campus.

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## SPORT

### Rooke's 'distressing' hits part of compo bid

Age, Sport, 08/12/2023, Jon Pierik, Page 39

Former Geelong star Max Rooke has identified 23 instances when he allegedly was concussed, coming as two class actions against the AFL will be rolled into one multimillion-dollar bid which could tally more than 100 former players seeking compensation. Lawyer Michel Margalit, of Margalit Injury Lawyers, revealed yesterday that a concussion class action she was leading, with former Cats premiership player Rooke as the lead plaintiff, will be joined by the separate class action in the Victorian Supreme Court led by prominent South Australian-based lawyer Greg Griffin.

*Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Shepparton News \(Shepparton\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#)*

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### AIS tackles deadly skin cancer risk among top athletes

Canberra Times, Sport, 08/12/2023, Melanie Dinjaski, Page 86

Remember the iconic Slip, Slop, Slap campaign from the Cancer Council in 1981? The Australian Institute of Sport is out to take that initiative to a whole new level, with the launch of their new sun safety guidelines for the nation's best athletes, put together in collaboration with Paddle Australia, the Cancer Council, Melanoma Institute of Australia, and Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency.

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### Flemming supports track star

Courier Mail, General News, 08/12/2023, Page 17

Aussie track star Peter Bol has welcomed new Athletics Australia boss Jane Flemming's scathing condemnation of his nightmare drug scandal. Bol a green and gold hero of the Tokyo Olympics was in August cleared of doping allegations after a provisional suspension in a debacle Aussie sporting great Flemming last week labelled "horrendous".

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### 'If you bleed you have to clean it up': Inside the dynamic sport of vision impaired table tennis

ABC Online, Other, 07/12/2023, Henry Hanson

Hitting the ball over the net is generally a sound table tennis tactic. However, in swish, also known as vision impaired table tennis, that is definitely not the case.

[Read More](#)

## 'This could drag on the next 10 years': The Aussie leg spin debate still dividing cricket fans

ABC Online, Other, 06/12/2023, Brittany Carter

After six long weeks of match-play, it was Amanda-Jade Wellington once again that was given the tough task of bowling the last over of Saturday's Women's Big Bash Final. And boy, did she deliver.

[Read More](#)

## Aussie leaders saddened by 'disappointing' sight days before summer of Test cricket

7news.com.au, Other, 07/12/2023, Scott Bailey

'That's not really what you want to see.' Senior Australian players have admitted growing concerns over the future of Test cricket, ahead of a summer that includes South Africa sending a second-string side to New Zealand. Cricket Australia face a tough sell for this home summer, with three Tests against Pakistan to be followed by West Indies touring for a second straight season.

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

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### 4D Medical raising \$30m-plus

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 08/12/2023, Page 16

4d Medical, the four-dimensional lung imaging software company backed by Australia's Medical Research Future Fund, is in the market for fresh funds.

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

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Indigenous lives at the mercy of the 'sugar disease'

The Australian, General News, 08/12/2023, David Curl, Page 13

In the Yulara supermarket, near Uluru, full-sugar Coca-Cola is sometimes cheaper than water. Whatever the price, though, it's the drink of choice for many local, Indigenous people for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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### Patience on a long road

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/12/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 24

Two Indigenous men who took the long way to becoming doctors are grateful Flinders University is offering a special Indigenous Entry Stream (IES) for people lacking access, opportunity or confidence. Jordyn Tomba, 29, from Goodwood, will graduate as a doctor on December 14 and start as an intern at the Royal Adelaide Hospital next year.

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

### Teegan has a healthy respect for giving help

Northern Territory News, General News, 08/12/2023, Harry Brill, Page 11

For Larrakia woman Teegan Wattam, completing her degree is a way to give back to her community. The 24-year-old Charles Darwin University student is on the cusp of completing her Master's in Speech and Language Therapy through the NT Health Aboriginal Cadetship Program.

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

## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Health officials warn region to stay safe during heatwave

Western Advocate, General News, 08/12/2023, Bradley Jurd, Page 2

Bathurst is currently in the midst of a heatwave and it's a timely reminder to look after yourself. According to Weatherzone, Friday is headed for 36 degrees and Sunday 37.

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### Engineered stone ban closer after federal support

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 07/12/2023, Andrew Brown

The federal government will work with states and territories to implement a national ban on engineered stone products to protect workers from developing deadly lung diseases. Safe Work Australia released a report into engineered stone benchtops in October, which recommended a complete ban on the product to stop deaths from silicosis.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### Australia weather: Mainland braces for sweltering heatwave

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/12/2023, Chloe Whelan

The Bureau of Meteorology has urged Aussies to brace for a heatwave that is set to impact every mainland state and send temperatures soaring into the 40s for several days. Maps from the BOM show heatwave warnings that extend across much of New South Wales, parts of Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory and a small sliver of northern Victoria through to next week.

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

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### WA docs demand climate action

Medical Forum, Other, 07/12/2023

On December 1, just before COP28 Health Day, a group of WA doctors gathered at 8am on the steps of Parliament House, calling on the WA Government to take urgent action on climate change and protect the health of West Australians. The protest included representatives of the medical colleges for general practitioners, emergency doctors, rural and remote doctors, and surgeons, as well as other doctors and health professionals, reiterating calls from medical colleges earlier this year in support of ending fossil fuel expansion:

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Healthcare the new frontier for retail giants

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 08/12/2023, Sue Mitchell, Page 27

The \$200 billion health sector is shaping up as the next frontier for Australia's largest retailers, as Wesfarmers and Woolworths eye new avenues for long-term growth.

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## Weight loss demand reduces supply of third type 2 drug

The Australian, General News, 08/12/2023, Tileah Dobson, Page 7

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has announced another diabetic treatment is experiencing global shortages alongside Ozempic and Trulicity because it's being widely used for weight loss. Mounjaro (tirzepatide) is approved for use as a type 2 diabetes treatment, but is currently being prescribed off-label in large numbers to manage weight loss.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Medicinal pot idea growing

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 08/12/2023, Tom Gillespie, Page 7

A Toowoomba-grown medicinal cannabis company wants to help set up a dedicated one-stop-shop in the Garden City for cannabinoid-assisted therapies and treatments. Medibis, which raised nearly \$2m from hundreds of investors in 2021 to move ahead with its multi-year project, shelved plans in February for a \$180m cannabis growing facility in Toowoomba.

*Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).*

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Advocates band together in fight against food waste with focus on use-by, best-before dates

ABC Online, Other, 07/12/2023, Lucy Cooper

Two powerful advocacy groups have unified to convince regulators and supermarkets to end the use-by dates that cost Australian households thousands of dollars a year. [...] But Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) say they have no plans to change.

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## AICIS

No relevant coverage

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