



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 13th January 2024

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

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian \(page 4\)](#)** reports that disability advocate Bruce Bonyady claims an additional 120,000 disability and 100,000 aged care workers are needed to fill workplace shortages, suggesting more flexibility to switch between sectors and increased credential building capacity are among the solutions.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a team of three mental health clinicians have been sent to Nowra to support the officers who shot a man dead after a siege at a medical center where a doctor was threatened with a pistol. The clinicians are part of the NSW government's plan to increase mental health support for officers statewide.
- **[The Northern Territory News \(page 3\)](#)** reports that NT Health is yet to make a decision on whether its new electronic health records system, containing medical history, treatment for patients and results, will be suspended in two emergency departments after emails were revealed suggesting this to be the case.

- **The Adelaide Advertiser (page 9)** reports that the South Australian government has asked for a review of the Health Department's vaccine policy among staff shortages and record ambulance ramping, with a reported 230 SA Health staff fired for refusing the vaccine since October 2021.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser (page 15)** reports that new data shows wait times have fallen to five years for 11 specialties across various hospitals, with general surgery consultation at Queen Elizabeth Hospital down to 68 months compared to wait times of up to 16 years in 2016.

MINISTER BUTLER

MPs unite for funding fight to tame monster

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/01/2024, Cydnone Mardon, Page 23

Labor MP and pediatrician Mike Freeland says Australian researchers are "on the cusp" of major advances in battling the "monster" brain cancer that kills 20 to 25 Aussie kids each year, and is confident the federal health minister will find the funds to help them give parents hope. [...] While refusing to comment specifically on the submission or \$21m plea put forward by researchers, including Professor Matt Dun and Professor David Ziegler, Dr Freeland said he was sure Federal Health Minister Mark Butler would "do everything he can" to find funding while balancing the needs of all cancer research.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Local doctors call for rule changes

Bendigo Times, General News, 12/01/2024, Sophie Foune, Page 9

A local head of several medical clinics in Bendigo wants changes made by the Federal Government's Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency to make it easier to recruit more doctors to regional areas. [...] Mr Hall said he has sent letters to the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, during the past couple of years.

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Power 50: South Australia's most influential people of 2023 ranked by Advertiser readers

Herald Sun, Other, 12/01/2024, Zayda Dollie

The readers have spoken and they have up-ended the annual list ranking SA's most powerful people. [...] Mark Butler: Hospitals across the country are under severe pressure in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

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Grieving Horsley mother frustrated by inaction on vaccine change

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 12/01/2024, Natalie Croxon

[...] An online petition has garnered over 11,000 signatures and Mrs Chater has met with dozens of MPs - including NSW Health Minister Ryan Park and federal Health Minister Mark Butler - but lawmakers seemingly haven't progressed the matter. [...] Mr Butler did not comment but the federal Health Department provided information in response to questions to the minister's office.

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Patients speak out about Urgent Care Clinics

In Daily, Other, 12/01/2024, Isabella Kelly

Patients have spoken about their experiences at Adelaide's Urgent Care Clinics, which are being forced to turn people away as they hit capacity hours before closing. [...] When asked yesterday on FIVEaa about a patient with a possible ankle fracture being turned away from an Urgent Care Clinic, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said walk-ins should never be turned away.

Cancer and chronic pain patients hit by new opioid discontinuations

Pharmacy ITK, Other, 12/01/2024

There are growing concerns about a significant shortage of opioid pain medicines given to some of the sickest Australians. [...] Palliative Care Australia is one of four health bodies that have written to Health Minister Mark Butler to raise concerns about what they say are vital pain relief medicines.

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Medicare Urgent Care Clinics showing early positive results

PS News, Other, 12/01/2024, Andrew McLaughlin

The Albanese Government's pre-election promise to establish more than 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (UCC) across Australia is slowly starting to take shape. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said the UCCs were starting to deliver on the government's commitment to make it easier to see a doctor or nurse for urgent care while diverting patients from hospital emergency departments, especially after hours.

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

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How to make GP digital health gravy

The Medical Republic, Other, 12/01/2024, Jeremy Knibbs

On 21 December last year DoHAC published what should rank as one of our most important health planning summary documents for decades: the Digital Health Blueprint 2023-2033. [...] That'd be my get best attempt at a "get out line" if Mark Butler sent a WTF email though to my boss on the timing of the plan's release – which if he didn't, he probably should have.

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Government investing into mental health services

Warwick Today, Other, 12/01/2024, Jin Hui

[...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the mental health system was facing the same deep structural issues as the broader health system. [...] The Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride said ensuring support is just a few clicks, a text or a phone call away is crucial to supporting those in distress.

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MINISTER WELLS

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Government investing into mental health services

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

COVID is surging in Australia

Canberra Times, General News, 13/01/2024, Adrian Esterman, Page 52

Only one in five older adults are up to date with their coronavirus boosters, and that's not good enough. [...] Meanwhile, Northern Territory Health simply tell you to go to the Australian government's Department of Health website for COVID data. This houses the only national COVID data collection.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Aged-care in COVID outbreak

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 13/01/2024, Carwyn Monck, Page 1

A Kalgoorlie-Boulder residential aged-care facility is combating a COVID outbreak, with group activities cancelled and COVID-positive residents isolating in their rooms. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care's weekly report, as of January 4, there were 229 active resident cases across the State in 41 WA residential aged-care facilities with active outbreaks.

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The curious case of the 'de-sexing' of clinical language and the Attorney-General

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/01/2024, Rachel Carter

Academic Dr Karleen Gribble explains where the drive to 'de-sex' medical terms is coming from and the potential impacts of it. [...] I wrote to my federal MP about it and got a reply from the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Government consulting fees of 400 consultancies leaked by breach

consultancy.com.au, Other, 12/01/2024

A massive confidentiality breach has rattled the Australian consulting sector, but this time it was the government itself passing on the sensitive commercial information on billing-rates among rival firms. [...] According to reports, almost two dozen consultancies were made privy to the data, which was mistakenly forwarded by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Grieving Horsley mother frustrated by inaction on vaccine change

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 12/01/2024, Natalie Croxon

[...] An online petition has garnered over 11,000 signatures and Mrs Chater has met with dozens of MPs - including NSW Health Minister Ryan Park and federal Health Minister Mark Butler - but lawmakers seemingly haven't progressed the matter. [...] Mr Butler did not comment but the federal Health Department provided information in response to questions to the minister's office.

Movers & Shakers: NDIA promotions, assistant secretaries galore

The Mandarin, Other, 12/01/2024, The Mandarin

[...] Anna Peatt is now a first assistant secretary at the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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How to make GP digital health gravy

The Medical Republic, Other, 12/01/2024, Jeremy Knibbs

On 21 December last year DoHAC published what should rank as one of our most important health planning summary documents for decades: the Digital Health Blueprint 2023-2033. [...] That'd be my get best attempt at a "get out line" if Mark Butler sent a WTF email though to my boss on the timing of the plan's release – which if he didn't, he probably should have.

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Sky News Live, News Night, 12/01/2024

It's been revealed the majority of residents in Queensland's aged care facilities haven't had a recent Covid booster jab. New data from the Health and Aged Care department revealed.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Statewide Breakfast, 12/01/2024, David Iliffe

New data from the Department of Health and Aged Care has shown only just over 26.7% of aged care residents in Qld are properly protected from COVID-19. The only state with worse aged care booster jab rates is Western Australia with 26.6%. Qld Chief Health Officer John Gerrard says more than 70% of 300 Queenslanders currently in hospital with COVID are over the age of 65.

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CORONAVIRUS

Don't hit Covid panic button

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/01/2024, Ellen Ransley, Page 31

Australia is unlikely to return to widespread mask mandates, experts say, despite the country grappling with a surge of Covid-19 cases. In some states, Covid-19 cases are higher than they were last winter, with two highly infectious strains of the virus circulating among the community and hospitalisations increasing.

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Hunter COVID cases hit 12-month high

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/01/2024, Jamieson Murphy, Page 4

The COVID-19 wave sweeping through the Hunter New England Health district is the largest the region has seen in 12 months. The combination of a new variant and the holiday season has seen cases spike at least 20 per cent in a month.

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

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COVID, flu vaccination rates drop as cases surge: WHO

Canberra Times, Other, 12/01/2024, Jennifer Rigby and Julie Steenhuysen

Low vaccination rates against the latest versions of COVID-19 and influenza are putting pressure on health care systems, leading public health officials say. In the United States, several European countries and other parts of the world, there have been reports of rising admissions to hospitals linked to respiratory infections in recent weeks.

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Vic health chief calls for masks, patient, visitor, staff Covid tests in hospitals, aged care in JN. 1 surge

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/01/2024, Mandy Squires

Victoria's chief health officer Claire Looker has called for health, aged care and disability service providers to consider enforcing N-95 mask wearing in clinical care settings and reintroducing Covid testing of patients, staff and visitors, amid the state's horror JN.1 wave.

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

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Doctor explains what the new COVID wave means for you and your kids

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/01/2024, Sam Hay

You've probably seen the news about the rise in COVID-19 cases. Omicron 'Kraken' XBB 1.5 strain is making waves and home testing kits are back in low supply in pharmacies and supermarkets.

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

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Everything you need to know about the JN.1 Covid variant

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/01/2024, Mia Erickson

As we embark on another year, the pandemic that never seems to cease has replenished its mighty forces once again, with a new strain of COVID-19 taking centre stage across Australia. The JN.1 variant is a direct descendant of Omicron, first appearing in select cases late last year. Evolving from the Pirola variant in 2023 (another offshoot of Omicron), the latest strain has also been recognised for its multiple spike protein mutations.

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

[Read More](#)

'Bring back masks': Medical expert urges action

The Courier Mail, Other, 12/01/2024, Carla Mascarenhas

Mandatory face masks could return within weeks as Covid-19 cases continue to soar, with a leading epidemiologist urging the federal government to bring them back in high risk settings. Dr Raina MacIntyre from the Kirby Institute told news.com.au that masks should be used in hospitals and aged care facilities because community transmission is high in those settings.

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'The half-lives of the brain injury markers meant this is objective evidence of ongoing brain injury one year after Covid-19'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/01/2024, Mandy Squires

Startling new research suggests severe Covid infections can age a person's brain by as much as 20 years, leading Victorian health experts to warn education and work performance could be badly affected into the future. An eye-opening British study currently under review in the respected medical journal Nature Portfolio reveals "the magnitude of cognitive deficits ... increased with severity of illness during the acute phase, with deficits among individuals requiring respiratory support or mechanical ventilation similar in magnitude to ageing 20 years from 50 to 70 years".

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

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RAT plan needed to ensure access

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 12/01/2024, Ben Wishaw

Shortages of Covid-19 rapid antigen tests (RATs) in Tasmania prompts call for supply chain plan to

manage future waves Tasmanian patients are being forced to purchase expensive dual RATs or forego testing due to supply shortages, Helen O'Byrne the president of the state branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia says.

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COVID cases at 12-month high

Barrier Truth, Other, 12/01/2024, Jason Irvine

NSW Health is urging residents across the state to remain alert to rising Covid cases after the latest data from the department found transmissions are currently at a "higher level" than last year's peak during winter. The NSW Health Respiratory Surveillance Report for the fortnight ending January 6 indicates 6757 new cases statewide, with the Far West Local Health District (FWLHD) having 12 new confirmed cases of Covid in that period and 894 cases in total from January 1, 2023, to now.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 12/01/2024, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan

Interview with Guardian Australia reporter Josh Taylor. Taylor says they are seeing a massive rise in COVID cases in NSW which aligns with how COVID season is overseas and they are now in a state where it's really hard to get rapid tests again. Taylor states the Herald Sun reports there's going to be a 69% rise in melanoma cases over the next ten years in Victoria due to the sun. He says there was a 13% drop in people getting sort of detections from melanomas during the pandemic.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 12/01/2024, Jaynie Seal

Interview with infectious diseases expert Prof Robert Booy. Seal says COVID-19 cases in parts of Australia are reaching levels not seen since December 2022 due to the JN1 variant. Booy says it is a concern as they got a lot more hospitalisations compared to a month ago but it is still an Omicron subvariant. He notes the issue is a lot of vulnerable people haven't had a booster.

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ABC News, Breakfast, 12/01/2024, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Chief Health Officer Prof Paul Kelly. Oriti says experts say there's been no evidence that the JN1 COVID variant is more severe and this comes as data published by the Federal Government in December showed that less than a quarter of people over the age of 75 were up to date with their booster shots. Kelly says it has been labelled a variant of interest though by the World Health Organisation on the 20th of December and it is now the dominant strain in Australia. He notes there has been no evidence of an increased rate of death and the ICU rates remain relatively stable.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 12/01/2024, Kim Huynh

Panel Discussion with Monash University's Dr Tom Chodor and University of Qld's Dr Shahar Hameiri. Huynh says Chodor and Hameiri have looked back at the political and policy responses to the pandemic with their book The Locked Up Country. Hameiri says Australia had elaborate plans which aimed to test, trace and isolate in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organisation but lacked the capacity to back these plans. He notes the Federal Government made the National Medical Stockpile but health systems were not ready to cope with a pandemic on that level.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Dementia could cost you \$10,000 a week

AFR Weekend, Smart Money, 13/01/2024, Bina Brown, Page 26

A dementia diagnosis can have a devastating impact on the person affected as well as friends and family, especially as complications arising from the...

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POPULATION HEALTH

Fitness hacks of the wealthy, on a budget

AFR Weekend, General News, 13/01/2024, Lucy Dean, Page 8

Wellness a long, healthy life doesn't have to cost a fortune. Every morning at 4.30, entrepreneur Paul Hanney will climb out of bed and get straight into his ice bath.

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Miracle operation a life changer

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/01/2024, Robyn Riley and Brad Crouch, Page 1

Shy, softly-spoken Victor Ramei has one simple wish for 2024. The teenager from a small village in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, says he just wants to get on with his life.

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Get rid of ultra-cheap booze to get communities on track

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 13/01/2024, Ashley Reid, Page 137

We all want our communities to be healthy and safe places to live, work, and raise children. The stories of communities impacted by alcohol harms reported in this paper have been confronting to read, to put it mildly.

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Trust key to Kimberley crisis

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 13/01/2024, Daniel Morrison-Bird, Page 137

There is little doubt that the alcohol and drug issues plaguing the Kimberley are doing significant harm to the community, and to families. Though I've never lived in the region (I'm a proud Noongar, Gija and Yamitji man), I have roots in the Kimberley and family who still call it home.

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Sam's raising a glass to becoming a quitter

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/01/2024, Tamara McDonald, Page 19

While some people have given up grog for Dry January, Sam Wilson spends every month sober. [...] The proportion of Australians aged 14 and over drinking daily has continued to decline, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, while lifetime risky drinking has also dropped.

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

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Victorian school crackdown as children call Quitline to stop vaping addiction

The Courier Mail, Other, 12/01/2024, Alexandra Feiam

The new education program comes as kids as young as eight are being offered e-cigarettes, with vaping rates "increasing rapidly over just a very short period." Quit Victoria Leader Rachael Anderson hopes their new vape programme will support teachers in having conversations about the risks of vaping with students.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Australians struggled to breathe during the Black Summer bushfires. If the smoke comes back, are we any better prepared?

ABC Online, Other, 12/01/2024, Lottie Twyford

When large swathes of the country burned during the Black Summer bushfires and the skies glowed orange, Australians choked on thick, cloying smoke. In the national capital, where air quality is generally excellent, smoke carried in from fires in the surrounding regions of NSW saw it plummet to the worst in the world.

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Why the trendy 30 plants a week diet might not be as good as you've been led to think... and the surprising foods that count (yes, chocolate is one!)

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/01/2024, Rebecca Whittaker

The dietary advice is spouted by respected health experts, who claim it will boost digestion, your immune system and even brain health. But cramming 30 different 'plants' into your breakfast, lunch and dinner each week isn't the holy grail you've been led to believe.

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The push to name deadly Australian heatwaves — and how it could save lives

SBS, Other, 12/01/2024

There's concern Australians aren't taking deadly heatwaves seriously. Some say the part of the solution is to name them. [...] A recent report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found severe heat accounted for about 7,000 of the 9,000 hospitalisations caused by extreme weather in the decade to 2022.

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5AA, Mornings, 12/01/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Cancer Council SA's Andrew Schultz. Pantelis says they have been told that kids as young as ten are calling Quitline for vaping addiction. Schultz says the long-term effects of vaping are not yet known and there are concerns kids will turn to smoking through vaping. He notes they are hearing reports and the challenges going on in schools with young people having an addiction to nicotine and ultimately using vapes to help that nicotine addiction.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Researcher hopes to solve cancer with a single jab

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 13/01/2024, Sue White, Page 7

Name: Dr Clare Slaney. The profession: Cancer research. The organisation: Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre & Currus Biologics. The title: Senior research fellow and scientific adviser. The pay: A typical salary for a senior research fellow ranges between \$125,000 and \$145,000pa.

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

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Albo, think of the kids

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 13/01/2024, Page 70

Conservative MP Anne Webster she doesn't understand why the federal Government has stalled on giving funding to research of aggressive brain tumours and neither do we. Ms Webster rightfully points out that scientist Dr Matt Dun is one of the leading experts in the world and he knows what he can achieve with just \$21 million.

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Three women tell of weeks, months waiting for mammogram services in Tasmania, despite millions pledged in 2019

ABC Online, Other, 12/01/2024, Adam Holmes

When Lynda Bain felt a lump in her breast the size of a five-cent piece, she got a referral from a Hobart GP for a mammogram. But when she contacted the private provider, she was told it would be a two-and-a-half month wait.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/01/2024, Candice Wyatt

The rate of skin cancer in Victoria is tipped to rise dramatically over the next ten years. New data from the Victorian Cancer Registry shows a dip in new melanoma cases in recent years, sparking concerns thousands of people could be unaware they have the cancer.

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2GB, Drive, 12/01/2024, Neil Breen

Interview with cardiologist Dr Elizabeth Paratz. Breen says researchers say bystanders' discomfort in touching a woman's chest is stopping them from providing help as just 5% of women who had a cardiac arrest in 2020-2021 received defibrillation from a bystander. Paratz says they want people to just say this is a life-or-death situation and they should try not to think about gender. She notes a good CPR should be compressing the chest by about a third to a half.

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3AW, Mornings, 12/01/2024, Heidi Murphy

Interview with Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance executive director Prof Grant McArthur. Murphy says deadly skin cancer diagnoses are expected to rise by up nearly 70% in Victoria over the next decade. McArthur says there is a need for investment in public health messaging because people forget and a lot of sun exposure over a period of time contributes to having the cancer. He notes there is a lot of UV radiation in the Australian environment, those with fair skin have a higher risk, and an ageing population can contribute.

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3AW, Breakfast, 12/01/2024, Ross Stevenson and Russel Howcroft

Interview with Cancer Council Victoria SunSmart head Emma Glassenbury. Glassenbury says skin cancer is almost entirely preventable by using all five forms of sun protection. She notes they need to check the UV levels before heading outdoors any time from the end of August right through to the end of April.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 12/01/2024, Sally Sara

Interview with University of Melbourne professor of neurology Trevor Kilpatrick. Sara says the DNA of ancient teeth and bones has helped researchers uncover the origins of multiple sclerosis. Kilpatrick says multiple sclerosis is a complex condition in which both genetics and environmental factors play important roles in terms of who gets the disease. He notes there are environmental factors to determine who is most at risk of getting MS, including smoking, inadequate exposure to sun, and childhood obesity.

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PRIMARY CARE

Medic wait times fall

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/01/2024, Page 15

New data shows some dramatic falls in waiting times to see a public hospital specialist. There are now 11 specialities at various hospitals with wait times of five years or more, compared to four last quarter.

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

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Phone 'runs hot' in telehealth

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 13/01/2024, Tegan Guthrie, Page 13

Helping regional patients not have to travel as much for specialist appointments is what motivates Sally Gourgaud to continue her work at the Kalgoorlie Health Campus. As the regional telehealth co-ordinator, Ms Gourgaud says she keeps her "patient hat" on, with improving access for patients always at the forefront of her mind.

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Region's hospitals top complaints

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/01/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 2

New England hospitals were the most complained about in the state last financial year, clocking up 309. The complaints account for 18.2 per cent of those made about public hospitals in NSW, nearly double the next most complained about health district.

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Fewer GPs bulk-billing

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 13/01/2024, Page 10

Mallee MP Anne Webster says a study by an online healthcare directory shows that the Federal Government is making it harder and more expensive for people to see a doctor. Dr Webster, the Opposition's spokesperson for regional health, said the Cleanbill report, National General Practitioner Listings, released this week, showed that bulk-billing by GPs was continuing to decline.

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Hospital patient priority review needs a 'reality check', says doctors' union leader David Pope

Adelaide Now, Other, 12/01/2024, Brad Crouch

The doctor whose bombshell claims sparked a review into patient priority in the state's hospitals says its findings are a "whitewash" and the reviewers need a "reality check". Hospital doctors' union leader Dr David Pope has blasted the inquiry into whether some less urgent patients get priority treatment over sicker patients as a "whitewash", saying it was "never going to uncover what is truly going on".

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

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The week in review

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/01/2024, William Stevenson

The New Year has started with the issues of medicines access and affordability dominating the headlines once again. Pharmacy organisations are reiterating their calls for continued dispensing measures to be implemented permanently to ensure patients have access to prescription medications in emergencies.

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Machine learning touted to fix SA ramping crisis

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 11/01/2024, Jacob Shteyman

Machine learning technology has been floated as a potential solution for South Australia's ramping crisis after a review found no evidence clinicians were being pressured to treat ambulance patients ahead of sicker patients in waiting rooms. The state government commissioned the independent report in December after Dr David Pope, an emergency specialist doctor and president of the South Australian Salaried Medical Officers Association, alleged health bureaucrats were intimidating hospital staff to inappropriately prioritise ambulance patients to reduce ramping statistics.

Channel 7, Seven News, 12/01/2024, Blake Johnson

Melbourne doctors are warning mothers about the dangers of free birthing after a baby is fighting for life in the Royal Children's Hospital following a disastrous free birth in regional Vic. Royal Women's Hospital director of maternity services Assoc Prof Stefan Kane says people are either making decisions based on information that isn't accurate or don't feel comfortable coming to a healthcare provider. AMA president Prof Steve Robson says a DIY birth, is nowhere near as safe as a hospital or birth centre birth, or even a properly regulated home birth.

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Sky News Live, Credlin, 12/01/2024, Caleb Bond

Interview with Liberal Senator Alex Antic. Bond says the Opposition is calling for the COVID inquiry to be expanded and Qld nurse Ella Leach was told she will be sacked despite the COVID vaccine mandate no longer existing. Antic says the terms of reference need to take a proper approach on what happened and they still have around 10% to 17% death rate in the country. He notes they have 150 clinicians of one form or another in South Australia who are in the process of being terminated by SA Health amid a ramping crisis and shortage of healthcare professionals.

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5AA, Breakfast, 12/01/2024, Graeme Goodings

Interview with SA Salaried Medical Officers Association president Dr David Pope. Goodings says an SA Government-commissioned review of ambulance ramping has found there's no evidence to back up claims that health bureaucrats are prioritising treatment for ambulance arrivals over sicker patients in hospital waiting rooms. Pope says they will support the review recommendations and everybody is on the same page about wanting to do the best for the patients.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 12/01/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with SA Salaried Medical Officers Association president Dr David Pope. Pope says the way the evidence has been collected during the SA Government inquiry into ramping was disappointing but they support the recommendations as it is important to move forward. He notes the terms of reference has to accord with the experience of people on the ground.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

How to know if a loved one has autism

Canberra Times, General News, 13/01/2024, Lanie Tindale, Page 43

Parents of primary school students talk about autism assessments in the playground, and professionals secretly speculate whether colleagues are "on the spectrum" or just shy. Parents wonder if their child is high-energy or hyperactive, while teenagers worry - am I disorganised or is my brain actually different from everyone else's?

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Blue healers

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/01/2024, Cydonee Mardon, Page 1

A team of counsellors has been rushed to Nowra police station to support officers caught up in the shooting of fake lawyer Alexander Pinnock. The clinicians will be embedded with officers as part of a new statewide program to protect the mental health of struggling officers.

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

Coroner's swipe at jail crisis

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 13/01/2024, Phil Hickey, Page 24

A coroner has called for "drastic changes" to mental health services in WA's jails in the wake of the death of a man who took his own life in prison in 2019. Coroner Philip Urquhart said the treatment Shane Nathan Roberts received in the lead up to his death was "not satisfactory" and that more families - and the general community - would continue to suffer if prisoners were not given proper treatment for mental health issues.

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

Patients get bottled water

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/01/2024, Tamara McDonald, Page 5

Bottled water is being given out at a new mental health facility in North Geelong after its water was found to be contaminated. Barwon Health became aware late last year of water quality issues at the 16-bed McKellar Mental Health and Wellbeing Centre, which opened in 2022.

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Alexander Pinnock's family say mental health system failure contributed to fatal Nowra police shooting

ABC Online, Other, 12/01/2024, Romy Gilbert

The family of a man shot dead by police following an armed stand-off say while they do not condone his behaviour, his death stems from a failure by the New South Wales mental health system. Alexander Pinnock's family say they are confident police acted to the best of their abilities

[Read More](#)

Mental Health training comes to town

Barrier Truth, Other, 12/01/2024, Dylan Stone

The Far West Community Legal Centre Ltd (FWCLC) has hit the ground running for 2024, with the organisation supporting the National Wellbeing Agency in delivering free mental health and wellbeing training across Broken Hill in March. The first set of training will be delivered on Wednesday, March 6 and Thursday, March 7, and will focus on First Nations Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Training, while the second set of training will be delivered on Wednesday March 20 and Thursday the 21st, and will focus on First Nations Adult Mental Health and Wellbeing Training.

[Read More](#)

The 5 best things parents can do to help their teen manage stress.

Mamamia, Other, 12/01/2024, Nicole Madigan

As parents, life can be stressful, even overwhelming at times, and it's easy to look back at our teen years with fondness and longing. But as with many of our long-lost memories, we often view them through rose-coloured glasses, forgetting the challenges that came with teen life.

[Read More](#)

As a psychologist I have witnessed a surge in climate grief. This is what I tell my clients

The Guardian, Other, 13/01/2024, Carly Dober

Bearing witness to the climate crisis can feel surreal. These strategies can help manage the feeling of despair "It sucks... and it's only going to get worse," my client says, disbelief colouring their facial expression.

[Read More](#)

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is missing on booze crisis

West Australian, Other, 12/01/2024, Melissa Price

Crime, poverty, child neglect and youth suicide are all exacerbated by severe alcohol abuse. This is not news to those living in the north-west of our State who have watched tragedy after tragedy for many years.

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 12/01/2024, Kim Huynh

Interview with University of Canberra senior lecturer in educational psychology Dr Karen Oakley. Oakley says dyslexia is a neurological condition, which means that there have been differences in how the brains have developed in people with these conditions. She notes people with a diagnosis may identify as being neurodivergent.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 12/01/2024, Sally Sara

Interview with Disaster Relief Australia CEO Geoffrey Evans. Evans says they have been working closely with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and they just ran a 12-month longitudinal study into service in DRA which found they will make a successful transition out of defence if they have a purpose in life despite having mental health issues or physical issues.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Disability advocate warns on shortages

Weekend Australian, General News, 13/01/2024, Stephen Lunn, Page 4

Imminent workforce shortages of more than 120,000 disability carers and more than 100,000 aged care workers requires an urgent co-ordinated plan by state and federal governments, disability advocate Bruce Bonyhady says. Professor Bonyhady, co-chair of the recently completed independent review into the National Disability Insurance Scheme, said one of its key recommendations was for governments to integrate their approach to building and maintaining the broader care and support workforce looking after children, older people and those with disability.

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

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Covid 'no jab' policy revolt

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 13/01/2024, Tara Miko and Brad Crouch, Page 9

More than 230 SA Health staff have been axed since October 2021 for refusing the Covid-19 jab and dozens more remain "absent" due to noncompliance, with calls for the policy to be overturned. The mandate persists despite staff shortages contributing to stress in emergency departments and record ambulance ramping.

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

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Intake of 25 junior doctors 'a new chapter for health care'

Border Mail, General News, 13/01/2024, Ted Howes, Page 8

Twenty-five new junior doctors have joined the ranks of the Border medical community after finishing their degrees. The diverse group of interns, including several from Malaysia and Sri Lanka, will start their rotations across various divisions including psychology, general medicine, emergency medicine and surgery.

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Health workers' fury as paid parking comes back

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/01/2024, Anna Falkenmire, Page 2

Frustrated and overworked healthcare staff are furious that they must start paying for parking at Newcastle hospitals amid a COVID case surge and a cost of living crisis. The state government will reintroduce parking fees for nurses, midwives, doctors and allied health workers at John Hunter, Calvary Mater and James Fletcher hospitals from February 1.

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

Record nurse numbers welcomed by hospital

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/01/2024, Bethany Westwood, Page 1

The city has welcomed a record number of nursing and midwife graduates ready to begin their careers at Townsville University Hospital. Townsville Hospital and Health (THH) services Chief Executive Kieran Keyes said the job was a privileged profession.

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Medics choose FNQ to start out

Weekend Post, General News, 13/01/2024, Luke Williams, Page 16

Rural patients are set to benefit from dozens of junior doctors starting their careers in Far North hospitals this week. The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service is welcoming 59 medical interns, who have all selected to work in Far North Queensland after years of studying medicine.

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Woodcroft Medical Centre faces closure as GPs cite 'burnout' for exodus

Northern Territory News, Other, 12/01/2024, Brad Crouch

The loss of four GPs in 12 months has put a southern suburbs clinic at risk of closure as it struggles to find doctors to fill the vacancies. After the loss of four female GPs in just 12 months Woodcroft Medical Centre's director Dr John Pakos faces the painful decision of whether to close the clinic, leaving its 5000 patient list at risk of needing to find care elsewhere.

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

[Read More](#)

How Benevolent Living is meeting new registered nurse requirements

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 12/01/2024, Vanessa Jarrett

Sponsoring nurses from overseas, recruitment of workers from Fiji, temporary agency nurses and \$10,000 sign-on bonuses are just some of the ways one Rockhampton aged care provider are trying to fill the new 24/7 registered nurse requirements and mandated care minutes. Under the new changes introduced by the Australian Government and effective from October 1, 2023, residential aged care homes are required to deliver at least 200 care minutes per resident per day, including 40 minutes with a registered nurse.

[Read More](#)

Scholarship winner urges budding Indigenous doctors to take remote posts

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/01/2024, David Prestipino

Applications are closing soon for a prestigious Indigenous medical scholarship that helped previous recipients an avenue to become prominent leaders in health and medicine. The Australian Medical Association's Indigenous Medical Scholarship was created in 1994 to help produce more First Nations doctors, who play critical roles in the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people, especially those living in remote communities.

[Read More](#)

Award for agent of change

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 12/01/2024

Monash University's Rural Pharmacy Liaison Officer Emily Griffin was recognised with the Early Career

Pharmacist of the Year Award at the recent Victorian Annual Excellence Awards, presented by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PD 20 Dec 2023). The award recognised Griffin's deep-rooted passion for healthcare and efforts to make pharmaceutical services more accessible, noted a statement from the university.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Hospital record tech ailing

Northern Territory News, General News, 13/01/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 3

NT Health claims a final decision is yet to be made on whether its new \$259m integrated electronic health records system will be suspended in two emergency departments, despite an internal email reportedly suggesting otherwise. The system, Acacia, which replaces six legacy clinical systems and integrates a dozen more into a single digital ecosystem compiling medical history, results and treatment for patients for clinicians to access at the point-of-care has been steadily expanding since it was rolled out in late 2020.

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

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Lost patience

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 13/01/2024, Page 44

The \$260m IT system for NT hospitals was spruiked as the "biggest project of its type ever undertaken" in the NT when the second stage of the rollout was announced. That was just over 12 months ago. Now the patient health system Acacia could be suspended in emergency departments after staff complaints and concerns about its effectiveness.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Killer's compo bid over eyesight

Herald Sun, General News, 13/01/2024, Ashley Argoon, Page 13

An aged care worker who murdered her former mother-in-law then told her son "you're next" is suing the state for medical negligence because she's lost her vision in jail. Leah Marie Stensholt, 52, stabbed great-grandmother Carol McDonald in the neck amid a dispute with the woman's son over child custody arrangements.

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Region's hospitals top complaints

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/01/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 2

New England hospitals were the most complained about in the state last financial year, clocking up 309. The complaints account for 18.2 per cent of those made about public hospitals in NSW, nearly double the next most complained about health district.

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Melbourne GP suspended after prescribing drugs to family members

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 12/01/2024, Melissa Meehan

A Melbourne GP under the coercive control of her family has been suspended for six months for treating them when she wasn't supposed to. The Medical Board of Australia referred the matter to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) over allegations the doctor illegally treated family members including her mother, father, two sons, grandfather and ex-husband.

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

[Read More](#)

Melbourne GP cleared after sex with patient in toilets

Canberra Times, Other, 12/01/2024, Melissa Meehan

A Melbourne doctor who had sex with a patient in the toilets of a bar has been cleared of allegations of professional misconduct. Melbourne GP Rizwan Sami was accused of raping a 23-year-old woman he had treated on 10 separate occasions since 2017 for complex and highly personal matters.

[Read More](#)

Full list of Victorian nurses banned in past year

The Courier Mail, Other, 12/01/2024

A dozen nurses – from those who abused patients to others who stole painkillers – have been banned from their jobs in the past year. [...] The list – based on records from the tribunal and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency – represents nurses and midwives hit with sanctions after a tribunal found allegations of concerning conduct against them had been proven.

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

[Read More](#)

Janet Reah: ANF boss investigated for allegedly sharing patient medical records on profile named 'Iliketofart'

West Australian, Other, 12/01/2024, Jessica Page

One of WA's most senior and powerful union officials is refusing to step down, while an investigation's underway into complaints she breached patient confidentiality. Australian Nursing Federation secretary Janet Reah is the subject of four complaints, over social media posts that revealed patient x-rays and gratuitous medical details.

[Read More](#)

Suspended pharmacist found dead

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 12/01/2024, Ben Wishaw

Victorian pharmacist, Nima Alavi, who was linked to the Essendon sports supplements scandal, has died months after revealing he was the target of an extortion scheme.

[Read More](#)

Remorseful pharmacist banned over self-prescribing

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 12/01/2024, Vincent Chua

The Pharmacy Board of Australia has announced that a Western Australian pharmacist who dispensed Schedule 4 medication to herself and others without prescriptions, has been barred from seeking to register to practice for 18 months.

[Read More](#)

Clinical nurse James Baker appeals proposal for disciplinary action over misconduct allegations

Cairns Post, Other, 12/01/2024, Elizabeth Neil

A Sunshine Coast clinical nurse of more than two decades is fighting to keep his job after allegations he threatened a person at a major Noosa shopping centre, while on the clock, came to light. Queensland Industrial Relations Commission documents state James Baker, a clinical nurse within the

Community Care Team for the Nambour Adult Community Mental Health Service, is fighting to keep his job after allegations he engaged in misconduct at work on November 29, 2022.

[Read More](#)

Murray disqualified

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 12/01/2024

A Perth pharmacist has had her registration cancelled and been disqualified from re-applying for 18 months for dispensing meds to herself and others without valid scripts over a six-month period. On 21 May 2021, the Pharmacy Board of Australia took immediate action and accepted an undertaking from Lauren Murray not to practise following two notifications that alleged she had dispensed various Schedule 4 medications on multiple occasions to herself and others without valid prescriptions between Nov 2020 and Apr 2021.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Suspended board member set to challenge WACA in court

Weekend Australian, General News, 13/01/2024, Paul Garvey, Page 3

Behind-the-scenes dysfunction at the Western Australian Cricket Association could soon be aired in court. The board member suspended after blowing the whistle on the organisation's controversial decision to omit urinals from its ground redevelopment is now considering legal action.

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

Support grows for annual talkfest as AFL chiefs ponder big issues facing the game

Weekend Australian, Sport, 13/01/2024, Jessica Halloran, Page 37

Premiership-winning coach John Longmire has called for the AFL to host an annual conference with major stakeholders to discuss the burning issues, from concussion to the interchange, to encourage a "collaborative" approach to making "big decisions" in the game. Longmire, in his 14th year as Sydney Swans coach, praised new AFL chief Andrew Dillon for informally gathering senior club figures at Marvel Stadium in Melbourne before Christmas and is now pushing for a forum to be formalised around the AFL draft every year.

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

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What men's sport needs to learn from the Matildas

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/01/2024, Jewel Topsfield, Page 8

Ian Roberts, the first professional rugby player in the world to come out during his playing career, says men's sport still has a real issue with same-sex couples and should "bow down" to women's teams such as the Matildas. "Being gay is seen as a weakness in men's sport. It's sad," says Roberts.

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

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Tiley opens up on his grand vision for global domination

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 13/01/2024, Marc McGowan, Page 55

Craig Tiley plans to remain in Australian tennis' top job for the foreseeable future, driven by the lofty

ambition to transform the Australian Open into the biggest sporting event on the planet. Tiley joined Tennis Australia in 2005 as director of tennis, became the Melbourne grand slam's tournament director a year later, and has also been the national body's chief executive since 2013.

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

The great stadium grudge match

The Saturday Age, General News, 13/01/2024, Rachael Dexter and Carla Jaeger, Page 1

It was after 1am on Monday on January 31 in 2022 when Tennis Australia president Jayne Hrdlicka stepped onto the blue Australian Open court. Rafael Nadal had just defeated Russian Daniil Medvedev in one of the greatest comebacks in Australian Open history.

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

Pitch battles

Herald Sun, General News, 13/01/2024, Brayden May, Page 1

Victorian soccer players have been put on notice as referees are forced to operate in "one of the most hostile environments recorded". Football Victoria is aiming to stamp out anti- social behaviour on and off the pitch. Interim chief executive Karen Pearce said the governing body was "drawing a line in the sand for 2024, saying enough is enough".

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Weigh off the mark

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/01/2024, Emily Olle, Page 1

Port Adelaide great Kane Cornes has blasted the AFL for its decision to exclude players' weights in the season guide, branding the move "soft". The guide's editor, Ash Browne, said the AFL had deemed player weights to be "inappropriate" for this year's edition.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/01/2024, Natalie Forrest

[...] Lifeguards say not fighting against the flow is the key to survival. The vast majority of people that are getting into trouble on Australian beaches are actually Australian residents. Last summer, A rips took the lives of a record 29 people on Australian beaches. That's a 16% increase on the ten year average and all beaches were unpatrolled. Only 10% of Aussies believe they can confidently spot a rip.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Political attacks on unis damage higher education sector

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/01/2024, Kylie Message-Jones, Page 46

Universities are taking a beating in the culture wars. Last year the Chair of Universities Australia, David Lloyd, called them "a ready punch bag or an easy target, used to score points in some inexplicable game of tall poppy decapitation". Recent examples have included university presidents in the United States from Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania. Alongside the president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, they faced criticism from the US Congress for failing to say unequivocally that calls on campus for the genocide of Jews would violate their institution's codes of conduct.

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Major study on dementia risk retracted by Lancet after data bungle

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/01/2024, Paul Smith

An influential study suggesting hearing aid use in adults with hearing loss was linked with a reduced dementia risk has been retracted by an open-access Lancet journal after a data bungle was identified.

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Nasty virus in Kwinana

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 13/01/2024, Page 31

Ross River virus has been detected in Perth's southern suburbs for the first time this year in a worrying sign the warmer climate will trigger a dramatic rise in mosquito-borne infections. The virus was detected in mosquitoes at The Spectacles in the City of Kwinana through WA Health's mosquito disease surveillance program.

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

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Warning over risks posed by mosquitos

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 13/01/2024, Page 4

Regional Victorians in flood-affected areas are being urged to take precautions against mosquito-borne disease, as recent flooding and warm weather creates the perfect breeding environment for the insect. Flood-impacted communities should be on high alert in the coming weeks, as pooling water fuels the risk of disease, including Ross River virus, Murray Valley encephalitis and Japanese encephalitis, according to health authorities.

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Warning about diseases after rain

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/01/2024, Jordan McCarthy, Page 18

Australians are being warned about mosquito-borne diseases as recent conditions create the perfect breeding environment for the bugs. The warning comes after Victoria, NSW, Queensland and South Australia were hit with heavy rain and wild weather.

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Hardcore reveller lifts lid on Melbourne's 'toxic' rave culture

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/01/2024, Brooke Grebert-Craig and Carly Douglas

A hardcore Melbourne reveller has lifted the lid on the toxic culture of raves, revealing that partygoers feel peer-pressured to get "cooked" on drugs, as four people continue to fight for life after overdosing at a Flemington rave last weekend. The 27-year-old man, who asked not to be named, told the Herald Sun that most revellers take MDMA at hardstyle and trance events.

[Read More](#)

Tourism groups say visitation support is needed as parts of Victoria recover from flooding

ABC Online, Other, 12/01/2024, Callum Marshall and Sandra Moon

As some communities across Victoria continue to mop up after recent flooding, people in Shepparton are still waiting to see when the Goulburn River will peak. Emergency services say the river level in Shepparton may near 10.4 metres on Saturday, below the moderate flood level of 10.7 metres.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Weed Week: Thailand back-pedals on cannabis law; Aussie support for home growing

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/01/2024, Eddy Sunarto

As Thailand back-pedals on its progressive cannabis laws and the Netherlands moves towards full legality, Aussies have had their say on growing at home. [...] Emyria this week said its distinguished psychiatry specialist (unnamed) had been granted "Authorised Prescriber" status by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications

[Read More](#)

The best of CES 2024

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 12/01/2024

Presenting our 12 honorees, plus the winner of our best in show award. [...] The company said it's already in talks with the chief medical officers of several insurance providers in the US, and has registered the GyroGlove as a medical device with the FDA and Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

ABC News, News Breakfast, 12/01/2024, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan

Extra policing and sniffer dogs will be at Juicy Fest in Melbourne tonight after eight people were rushed to hospital from a rave last weekend. The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association says this isn't the answer as the increase of sniffer dogs might actually increase the risk of harm because people might go to areas and take these drugs where they're not in a safe place. They're also hoping pill testing will be rolled out in Victoria similar to ACT and Qld and the Royal Australian College of GPs say they are a no-brainer.

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3AW, Drive, 12/01/2024, Tom Elliott

Interview with Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association program manager Scott Drummond. Drummond says young people take drugs such as MDMA in festivals as humans have been taking drugs since they started to exist. He notes healthcare workers in those places and spaces point out that the safest option is not taking drugs but the 'Just Say No' campaign did not work. Drummond states pill testing lets individuals and broader communities know what's in the composition of a particular drug and not about encouraging them to use it.

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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Asbestos found before parklands were opened

Sydney Morning Herald, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 13/01/2024, Nigel Gladstone and Anthony Segaert, Page 3

Contaminants including asbestos, hydrocarbons and toxic heavy metals sit at levels as shallow as 30 centimetres below the surface in some parts of Rozelle Parklands, an audit report of the site has revealed. The contaminants represent a low risk to park users, the report said, but waste management expert Charlie Pierce, who wrote the first version of the NSW landfill guidelines, warned that the bonded asbestos could become friable, and more dangerous, if it became weathered or disturbed.

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