



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 5th 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.

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists has downgraded Concord Hospital's training program to a D-grade after it found senior specialists were so overworked they were unable to train junior staff.
- **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports that Canberra Health Services is struggling to meet the ACT's new nurse-to-patient ratios due to workforce shortages, with new training programs being implemented to address the issue.
- **[Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that SA Ambulance Service has launched a review after a disabled Hectorville man died of abdominal issues while waiting more than 10 hours for an ambulance. *Also reported by:* [West Australian](#), [ABC Online](#), [The Guardian](#)
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports that the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has suspended Ben Huynh's pharmacy licence while he faces allegations that he defrauded the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

- [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 5) reports that an experiment conducted by UniSA at Adelaide hospital found that Big Brother-style eyeball posters placed in the hospital's operating theatres dramatically improved staff behaviour. *Also reported by:* [The Guardian](#)
- [Courier Mail](#) (page 6) reports that patients at Queensland's new satellite hospitals are experiencing over long wait times and misdiagnoses resulting in emergency surgery.

MINISTER BUTLER

Vapes away: Locals have say on changes

Shepparton News, General News, 05/01/2024, Jay Bryce, Page 5

With many members of the health sector voicing their concern about the increase in vape use, particularly among young people, the Federal Government has cracked down on the devices. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said like all illegal drugs, some vapes would still get into the country but, hopefully, would be far less accessible to young and impressionable Australians.

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

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UOW to train more future doctors for rural and regional Australia

The Northern Rivers Times, Other, 04/01/2024

An extra 30 medical students will do their medical studies each year in the University of Wollongong's end-to-end rural medical program as part of a \$90 million Australian Government investment to support rural medical students nationally. [...] The additional places and funding were announced by Health Minister the Honourable Mark Butler MP today (4 December).

[Read More](#)

'Students are becoming addicted': Vape crackdown applauded

Wellington Times, Other, 04/01/2024, Allison Hore

As vapes find their way into the hands of children as young as primary school, a local principal has welcomed a federal government crackdown. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler said the disposable vape ban is "just the first chapter of the government's vaping reform".

[Read More](#)

Seven Toowoomba, Seven Local News, 04/01/2024, Joanne Desmond and Adam Straney

The price of some medications has gone up in line with the consumer price index. The Pharmacy Guild is pushing for the cost to be brought back down, as research reveals, that some patients are struggling to pay for essential health care. Health Minister Mark Butler says about \$20m is being saved every month just from the measure that they introduced on the first of January last year.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 04/01/2024, Danica De Giorgio

Press conference by Mark Butler, Health Minister, on reforms to the aged care funding, which could see wealthier retirees pick up the greater share of costs. Butler says the aged care task force has been a positive process led by Minister Anika Wells and it is the sort of debate that Australia needs to make sure that we not only have a top-quality care system for older Australians. Butler adds Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney is also looking at the government's response to the reproductive health access inquiry very carefully.

Press conference continues on: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#)

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2GB, 23:00 News, 04/01/2024

A federal government task force is recommending a major shake up of aged care, which would see

wealthy residents pay more. New figures show aged care's price tag will soar by more than 82% as Australia's population gets older. Health Minister Mark Butler says the current system needs to change.

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4BC, 09:00 News, 04/01/2024

Aging baby boomers with more wealth could be asked to pay more for aged care as the Federal Government warns that it could cost taxpayers \$63b per year in ten years. The Australian reports that a task force is advising Federal Aged Care Minister Mark Butler to tighten the means testing of aged services. The Older Persons Advocacy Network wants careful deliberation on the matter.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 16:00 News, 04/01/2024

The Albanese Government has tasked the Treasury to come up with a new cost of living relief for Australians for the May Budget. Shadow Home Affairs Minister James Paterson says Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has been too slow to introduce a cost of living relief. But Health Minister Mark Butler said the Government has already delivered billions of dollars in support for Australians.

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MINISTER WELLS

Boomer cash call in aged care bill

Courier Mail, General News, 05/01/2024, Madeleine Achenza, Page 16

Baby Boomers who can afford to should be required to pay more for aged care, a federal government taskforce has advised the government. The taskforce has advised Aged Care Minister Anika Wells to change means-testing for aged care services to require wealthier Australians to pay more out of their own pocket, according to latest reports.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Manjimup-Bridgetown Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [North West Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#).

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Major Industry Shake-up: Wealthy Baby Boomers Set to Pay More

7SD FM, Other, 04/01/2024, Adam Chapman

The federal government task force has advised that baby boomers who can afford it should pay more for aged care. According to the Sydney Morning Herald, the task force has recommended that Aged Care Minister Anika Wells change the means-testing for aged care services to require wealthier Australians to contribute more out of their own pocket.

Also reported by: [Hot100FM \(Online\)](#), [River 1467 \(Online\)](#), [Hot 91.1 \(Online\)](#), [Wave FM \(Online\)](#), [Magic 89.9 \(Online\)](#), [POWER100 \(Online\)](#).

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Staying safe at Australia's finest beaches

Star Community, Other, 04/01/2024

As we flock to the beach for the summer break, it's important to make we know how to remain safe at the beach. [...] Federal Minister for Aged Care and Sport, the Hon Anika Wells MP, said the Australian Government was determined to support organisations like Royal Life Saving Society Australia and Surf Life Saving Australia to raise water safety awareness.

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Wealthy baby boomers could soon be forced to pay more for their aged care under a proposed reform for both residential and home care. A government task force is advising Minister Anika Wells to change the way aged care services are means-tested. In a report set to be published this month, the task force will also suggest larger contributions from users rather than taxpayers.

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2CC, Breakfast, 04/01/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Scott Phillips, The Motley Fool. Phillips says a task force that will report to Aged Care Minister Anika Wells will recommend a whole host of changes about who should pay what. He adds that at the moment, aged care costs are capped and people only have to pay 4% of their aged care while the government picks up the other 96%. Phillips says it's unsustainable because people are all living longer while the proportion of those in retirement aged care relative to those still in the workforce is growing and it becomes a significant challenge for the Federal Government.

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3AW, Mornings, 04/01/2024, Neil Mitchell

Interview with Paul Sadler, Paul Sadler Consultancy, on Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, being advised by a Federal Government task force to reform how aged care services are means tested. It essentially means that wealthier people in aged care will have to cough up more for their services. Sadler says it would mean that Australia will have a more equitable aged care system.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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DEPARTMENT

Mental health support on the way

Berwick Star News, Other, 04/01/2024, Jin Hui

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) are moving forward with cautious optimism after good news that the CMHA has welcomed the recommendation for foundational community-based mental health and psychosocial support outside of the NDIS, which will be implemented with 50:50 funding from the National Cabinet. [...] "Clearly alternative pathways are needed to channel future demand and to help meet the massive gap that is being revealed in the current national assessment of unmet need being commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. Some of these alternatives already exist in effective state and territory community mental health programs, they just need to be expanded," says Mr Gye.

2023 Future of Ageing Awards winner: The Palliative Aged Care Outcomes Program

Inside Ageing, Other, 04/01/2024, Sean Mckeown

The Palliative Aged Care Outcomes Program won the Palliative Care category in the 2023 Future of Ageing Awards. [...] The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care funds the program.

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Channel 9, Today, 04/01/2024, Jayne Azzopardi and Clint Stanaway

Baby boomers with deep pockets are being asked to contribute more to aged care costs. The expected shake-up coming as a federal task force aims to inject new funds into the system at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$30b a year. The cost of aged care is tipped to rise to \$63.6b over the next decade.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 04/01/2024, Danica De Giorgio

Interview with Chris Grice, Chief Executive, National Seniors Australia, on wealthy baby boomers being possibly asked to contribute more to aged care costs as part of a shake-up of funding for the sector. A Federal Government task force has advised that aged care service funding should be reformed to improve equity. Grice says what the task force was all about was coming up with some different solutions around funding aged care going forward.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Heat a hidden health risk

Herald Sun, General News, 05/01/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 10

More than 2000 Victorians were admitted to hospital with heat stroke or heat-related dizziness in five years, as a leading Melbourne hospital warns many people underestimate the life-threatening condition. New Monash University Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit data shows public emergency departments treated 2098 patients for heat-related injuries in the past five financial years.

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

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Disability advocates call for government investment to improve Australian beach accessibility

ABC Online, Other, 04/01/2024, Olivia Sanders

Sandy feet, splashing in the waves, fending off seagulls — visiting the beach is perhaps the most Australian day off there is. But this simple joy is not so simple for some. [...] According to the Australian

Institute of Health and Welfare, about 40 per cent of Australia's population live with a disability or long-term health condition.

[Read More](#)

Gross reason why you should never let kids drink from the garden hose

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/01/2024, Oliver A.H. Jones

Tempting as it may be when everyone's enjoying some water play in summer, experts have weighed in about the dangers. We know the importance of staying hydrated, especially in hot weather.

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

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Ear infection speech link

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/01/2024, Page 7

Ear infections are a common childhood experience, but a new study suggests parents should take these infections seriously to preserve their children's language development. That's because each ear infection can potentially impair hearing with fluid building up behind the eardrum.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Beans are a plus for your pulse

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/01/2024, Alice Callahan, Page 36

A new study extols the virtues of plantbased food instead of red meat, writes Alice Callahan. The case has never been clearer: eat less bacon and more beans.

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Stay sun safe, doctors warn

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 05/01/2024, Page 9

With many families enjoying their summer holidays, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia is urging people to "be a shady type" and protect themselves from the sun wherever possible. Association president Dr Raymond Lewandowski said slapping on the sunscreen, wearing a hat, and staying in the shade wherever you can - particularly during the middle of the day - is the best way to avoid skin damage and potentially deadly skin cancers in the future.

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How scientists used nanomachines to discover a new form of cancer treatment

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/01/2024, Nicholas Finch

It's called nanomechanical therapy, and it could be an alternative form of treatment to chemo. Australian researchers are a step closer to developing a cure for diabetes.

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

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Asbestos ban improves survival rates

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 04/01/2024

Data on 60 years' worth of Western Australian cases of the lung disease mesothelioma, which is primarily caused by asbestos exposure, suggested that an Australia-wide ban on asbestos may be working with a fall in the incidence of DIY/renovation exposure. The study looked at 2,796 cases of mesothelioma with around 85% occurring in men.

Quest on to regenerate insulin in cells

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 04/01/2024

Australian researchers are zeroing in on the ultimate quest to regenerate insulin in pancreatic stem cells and replace the need for regular insulin injections for patients. Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute researchers have demonstrated in the Nature scientific journal that newly made insulin cells can respond to glucose and produce insulin following stimulation with two US Food and Drug Administration-approved drugs in as little as 48 hours.

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Solbari gets \$10m

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 04/01/2024

A Melbourne-based company looking to combat the risk of skin cancer by selling ultra-protective clothing worldwide has secured \$10 million in funding from the Australian Business Growth Fund (ABGF), reported Business News Australia. Established in 2014 by CEO Johanna Young, Solbari sells a range of sun-protective clothing, hats and accessories, all of which are rated Ultra Protection Factor 50.

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PRIMARY CARE

Left to die for 10 hours

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/01/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 1

Agonising death while waiting for an ambulance SA's ramping crisis has claimed the life of a disabled man, 54, who died in agony after waiting more than 10 hours for an ambulance. The man died despite three emergency calls from his home on December 27.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).

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Eye on the wall curbs abuse

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/01/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 5

Creepy Big Brother-style "eyes" put in an operating theatre dramatically improved the manners of staff, who had the spooky feeling they were being watched. Researchers trialled the novel experiment in a private Adelaide hospital to "address offensive and rude comments" in operating theatres.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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New satellite hospitals are already feeling the pressure

Courier Mail, General News, 05/01/2024, Stephanie Bennett & Mikaela Mulveney, Page 6

The state government's satellite hospitals - spruiked as easing the burden on crowded emergency departments have been slammed over long wait times, under-pressure staff and misdiagnoses. There has also been confusion among patients travelling to the newly opened centres at Kallangur and Caboolture north of Brisbane, with floods of people turning up over the new year period ultimately sent to emergency departments - or home.

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

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Holiday spike in hospital demand

Geelong hospital has seen a holiday surge in demand, with 15 ambulances about four times the hourly average transferring patients at one stage on Tuesday. It comes as the region's health system battles its summer population growth, which can swell by more than 100,000 during the busy holiday period.

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

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Healthcare is about to change, and change dramatically

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/01/2024, Steve Robson, Page 60

Artificial intelligence will begin to have a dramatic impact on healthcare and health services in 2024 - but will it make things better or worse? [...] Steve Robson is a Canberra doctor and the president of the Australian Medical Association.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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More hubs help cut down the elective surgery waitlist

Canberra Times, Other, 04/01/2024, Tara Cosoleto

Three new rapid access hubs are opening in Victoria, allowing 6000 additional patients to undergo elective surgery in the state. The latest one at The Alfred Centre will open on Monday, while the Moorabbin and the Royal Children's hospitals will start accepting patients from May.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#).

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Health minister concedes Vic government will likely fail to deliver 240,000 planned surgeries

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/01/2024, Mitch Clarke

Victoria's health minister has conceded the state government will likely fail to meet its own promise of delivering 240,000 planned surgeries in 2024. A "cessation of elective surgery" during lockdowns has seen Victoria's waiting list reach 200,000 patients, says Day Hospitals Australia CEO Jane Griffiths.

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

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VAD for teens

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 04/01/2024

The ACT Human Rights Commission has called for teenagers to be allowed to access voluntary assisted dying, arguing that capping the scheme at the age of 18 infringes on young people's right to receive healthcare "without discrimination". ACT Human Rights Minister Tara Cheyne told The Australian in Jun she was considering allowing teenagers as young as 14 to access the euthanasia scheme.

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Walsh says knee-jerk medical strategy paralysing hospitals

Shepparton News Online, Other, 04/01/2024

The Nationals leader and Member for Murray Plains, Peter Walsh, says regional Victoria's hospital system is becoming paralysed by "another fatally flawed Labor Government knee-jerk plan". Mr Walsh said in a "frantic bid to boost frontline doctor numbers" across the state the Health Department is throwing thousands of dollars at them to do casual shifts in regional hospitals.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 04/01/2024, Yvonne Yong

SA Health has launched a review after it was revealed a man died while waiting ten hours for an ambulance. The paramedics union says it's one of the worst cases they've seen, with the ambulance

service saying high volumes of ramping contributed to the slow response.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 04/01/2024, Mike Amor

Victoria's health system is getting a major boost with four more rapid access hubs open. There'll be upgrades at the Northern Alfred, Moorabbin and Royal Children's Hospital to help clear surgery.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Another reason to be kind to people

Courier Mail, Editorials, 05/01/2024, Page 28

Queensland's mental health crisis has been laid bare by startling WorkCover figures that show mental injury claims have ballooned by 28 per cent in a single year. WorkCover Queensland's annual report reveals that 2532 primary mental injury claims were accepted in the past year.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nursing ratios fall short

Canberra Times, General News, 05/01/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 1

Canberra Health Services are not meeting mandated nurse-to-patient ratios for more than a quarter of shifts. But authorities are hopeful a range of initiatives aimed at training and helping new nurses will help to fill the shortfalls.

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Hospital on notice over staff burnout

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/01/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 1

A Sydney hospital has been given 12 months to improve after the body responsible for accrediting its radiology training program found senior specialists were so overworked they were unable to train junior staff some of whom were so exhausted they had been in car accidents. In a damning audit of radiology training at Concord Hospital, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) downgraded the hospital's training program to a D-grade the lowest level on its scale and gave the department until December to act upon its 13 recommendations.

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Rebel nurses' pay deal plans need a shot in the arm

West Australian, General News, 05/01/2024, Jake Dietsch, Page 8

An unsanctioned nurses rally outside Royal Perth Hospital has called on nurses to reject a 3 per cent pay rise put forward by the State Government, claiming their union is "not working on our behalf".

Thursday's rally which was not a protected action and not sanctioned by the Australian Nursing Federation WA attracted a small crowd of less than 40.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Scripts for vaping begin

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 04/01/2024

From the start of this year, every doctor and nurse practitioner will be able to prescribe therapeutic vaping products dispensed only through pharmacies, where clinically appropriate, with the commencement of a new Special Access Scheme pathway. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is undertaking a comprehensive review of the Supporting smoking cessation: A guide for health professionals to ensure it is up-to-date and in line with best practice.

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

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

It's not so super for car-loving chemist

The Australian, General News, 05/01/2024, Angelica Snowden & Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 5

Luxury car lover Ben Huynh's pharmacy licence has been suspended as he faces allegations of a Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme fraud. [...] An alert has been attached to Mr Huynh's profile on the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency register.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Women missing out on HIV PrEP, doctors warn

Australian Doctor, Other, 04/01/2024, Sarah Simpkins

Women are overlooked for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis under Australian guidelines and risk being left behind in the race to eliminate HIV transmission, according to sexual health physicians. Currently, daily pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is recommended for men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender patients, people who inject drugs, and heterosexual men and women who met risk criteria such as condomless sex with a serodiscordant partner who has a detectable viral load.

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Screws tighten on vapes

Medical Forum, Other, 04/01/2024

New private health insurance data shows 178 Australians including six from WA have been

hospitalised with serious health health problems caused by vaping since 2000. Lung and chest disorders were the most common clinical category for the vaping-related hospitalisations, which resulted in two deaths.

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SPORT

US giant backs Melbourne's big soccer goals

The Australian, Business News, 05/01/2024, John Stensholt, Page 13

Funding from a deal with a \$US38bn (\$56bn) New York Stock Exchange-listed giant should finally see major work under way within a year on an ambitious \$2bn sport and property project in Melbourne's west. Building technology group Johnson Controls will help provide the funding for the owners of A-League soccer club Western United to undertake a \$2bn commercial and residential property project to be built around a new 15,000-capacity stadium.

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Still stumped over lost cap

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/01/2024, Ben Horne, Page 7

The search for David Warner's missing baggy greens has gone global but Cricket Australia is no closer to finding the culprit. After the bag containing the caps went missing in transit from Melbourne, Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley confirmed that all hands are on deck to try to find the culprit.

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The time for fun & games is over

Courier Mail, General News, 05/01/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 16

Olympics supremo John Coates has backed a move by new Premier Steven Miles to review the infrastructure plan for Brisbane's 2032 Games. The International Olympic Committee vice-president praised Mr Miles' decision to hold a 60-day infrastructure review and establish an independent authority to deliver infrastructure.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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Sportsmen must step up to end acts of violence

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/01/2024, Danielle Wood, Page 38

The Big Freeze and Pink Test show the power of just one sportsman can create huge change for the better. We don't yet know the precise circumstances of the New Year's Eve death of Olympic cyclist and mother of two Melissa Hoskins.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Place of safety to open for intoxicated Aboriginal people in Geelong

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 04/01/2024, Tamara Mcdonald

A dedicated "place of safety" for intoxicated Indigenous people will open in Geelong, after public drunkenness was recently decriminalised in Victoria. A dedicated "place of safety" for intoxicated Indigenous people will open in the Geelong region in coming months following public drunkenness being decriminalised.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

CITIC in asbestos probe

West Australian, Business News, 05/01/2024, Adrian Rauso, Page 41

WorkSafe investigates after first rejecting contamination fears WA's workplace health and safety regulator started delving into fresh claims of asbestos exposure at the Sino Iron operation in the Pilbara just two days after rejecting calls to heighten its scrutiny of the \$23.5 billion mine's decontamination procedures.

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Mozzies carrying 'serious disease'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 05/01/2024, Madeleine Achenza, Page 5

Health authorities are warning people to protect themselves after a mosquito-borne virus was detected in NSW. Mosquito populations are thriving in NSW right now after persistent wet, warm weather over the holiday period.

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

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There's been a recent outbreak, but what exactly is Legionnaires' disease?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/01/2024, Mia Erickson

This week, the New South Wales government has issued an alert for symptoms of Legionnaires' disease after a recent outbreak in Sydney. Here's what you need to know.

Also reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Calls for Tasmania to follow Qld in offering free MenB vaccine after state's fourth case of the year

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/01/2024, Alex Treacy

With meningococcal cases up 10 per cent across Australia, and a young Tasmanian woman in the state's North coming close to death last month, there are calls to roll out a free state-based vaccination program for MenB. With meningococcal B cases up 10 per cent across Australia, and a young Tasmanian woman in the state's North coming close to death with the bacterial infection last month, there are renewed calls to roll out a free state-based vaccination program.

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

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Melbourne teenager and his family call for change to state's meningococcal vaccination program after brush with death

7news.com.au, Other, 04/01/2024, Molly Magennis

'We wouldn't wish this on anyone'. A Frankston teenager and his family are calling for an overhaul to

Victoria's meningococcal vaccination program after the 18-year-old almost died when he was struck down by a strain of the deadly disease.

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NIP vaccines payments have started

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 04/01/2024

From 01 Jan, participating pharmacies are receiving a payment of \$18.85 per vaccination for administering National Immunisation Program (NIP) vaccines (PD 06 Dec). The payment only applies to NIP vaccines that are administered in a pharmacy setting to individuals aged five years and older.

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Travellers could trigger mosquito disease outbreak in Australia as weather warms

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 04/01/2024, Michael Dahlstrom

New tropical diseases could become established in Australia as the weather gets hotter and wetter. Australia's most annoying insects are bad now, and their impact could be about to get worse.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 04/01/2024, Michael Rowland and Emma Rebellato

There are fears a Legionnaires' disease outbreak in Sydney could grow after seven people were hospitalised, two of whom are in intensive care. The infected patients, aged in their 20s through to their 70s, had all visited Sydney's CBD in recent weeks. Health authorities say they may detect more cases because of the sheer amount of people in Sydney over Christmas and New Year's Eve.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 04/01/2024, Hugh Riminton

People who have recently been in Sydney's CBD, are being warned to be on alert for symptoms of Legionnaires' disease. Seven people have been hospitalised with pneumonia, with New South Wales Health now inspecting cooling towers, which are thought to be the likely cause.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Becky Freeman: New regulations make it harder to access vapes. Here's what's changing

West Australian, Other, 04/01/2024, Becky Freeman

This year the Australian government is introducing a series of measures to restrict the availability of vapes, starting this week. [...] But the Therapeutic Goods Administration will tightly regulate prescription-only vapes.

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GP clinic's compounded semaglutide scripts raise TGA alarm

Australian Doctor, Other, 04/01/2024, Sarah Simpkins

Dr Matthew Vickers said telehealth providers were following the lead of other doctors. The worldwide semaglutide shortage has sparked an 'emerging trend' of telehealth platforms offering to prescribe locally compounded versions of the drug to treat obesity, the TGA says.

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Warning over herbal erectile remedies

Medical Forum, Other, 04/01/2024

The TGA has released a series of alerts warning consumers about three popular Chinese products advertised as herbal remedies for erectile and sexual dysfunction. Rather than relying on centuries-old formulae handed down through the generations the backbone of traditional Chinese herbal medicine the remedies were found to contain the undeclared and highly modern substance sildenafil, more commonly known as Viagra.

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Worry over compounded diabetes drug

Medical Forum, Other, 04/01/2024

The TGA and the FDA have raised concerns about compounded semaglutide, with both regulators receiving reports of adverse events following patients' use of semaglutide-like products. They have warned that patients should not use a compounded drug while an approved product is available and reiterated that patients and health care professionals should understand that the agency does not review compounded versions of these drugs for safety, effectiveness, or quality.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Radio National, AM, 04/01/2024, Sabra Lane

Report on a growing number of Australians turning to medicinal cannabis for help managing a range of medical conditions, including epilepsy and chronic pain. And although it's legal, many workplaces still don't accept it, making it a tricky issue for businesses and employees to navigate.

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