



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 25th January 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (Page 1) reports that a Tasmanian parliamentary committee into ambulance ramping has heard a former senior administrator at Launceston General Hospital failed to refer multiple patients to the Coroner. *Also reported by:* [Hobart Mercury](#).
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (Page 3) reports that nursing unions have raised concerns about patient care and whether nurses would be impacted by St Vincent's Hospital's cost-saving measures, amid a forecast \$70 million funding deficit by July.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (Page 6) reports that ACT Mental and Justice Health Minister Emma Davidson is pushing for permanent funding of mental health response services through the Police, Ambulance, Clinician Emergency Response program, which has funding until June.
- **[Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 6) reports that Charles Sturt mayor Angela Evans has called for the South Australian government to give financial support to Western Hospital at Henley Beach, which may be forced to close due to rising debt.
- **[Guardian Online](#)** reports that after years of research scientists have identified the cause of the Buruli ulcer that has rapidly spread across Melbourne, tracing it back to bacteria carried by mosquitoes. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph Online](#), [ABC Online](#)

- [ABC Online](#) reports that patients have had their appointments cancelled and rescheduled, sometimes a month in advance after five general practitioners left a clinic in Mount Isa in North West Queensland, leaving just three doctors in his practice.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Doctors on board

Cranbourne Star News, General News, 25/01/2024, Violet Li, Page 1

Pearcedale Medical Centre has reopened on Friday and Saturday mornings since 19 January after the community's joint effort to raise awareness of the GP shortage crisis in town. [...] In a statement to Star News, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said they knew Melbourne's outer south-east was continuing to grow and it was becoming more difficult to get into a GP.

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### 'The test part before the best part': Government's 'Beforeplay' campaign promotes STI testing, via Ogilvy

Marketing Magazine Australia, Other, 24/01/2024, Sophie Berrill

In a bid to normalise regular testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among young people, the Australian Government has launched a new behaviour change campaign called 'Beforeplay', with creative developed by Ogilvy. [...] "One in six Australians will get an STI and the rates of infection are rising, particularly among young people aged 20 to 34," Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said in a media statement "It's been almost 15 years since the last major STI awareness campaign from the Australian Government.

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### Tobacco experts praise closing of vaping law loopholes

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 24/01/2024

Leading Australian tobacco control experts have praised the Federal Government's plans to close vaping law loopholes in a new paper published today, calling for the proposed reforms to be introduced urgently to grasp the opportunity to end the youth vaping epidemic. Associate Professor Becky Freeman from the University of Sydney, Professor Tanya Buchanan, CEO, Cancer Council Australia, and Anita Dessaix, Chair of Cancer Council's Public Health Committee, outline the pressing need for vaping reform in a new commentary in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health. Reforms to tighten vaping regulation were announced by Health Minister the Hon Mark Butler in November 2023.

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### Mental health peak body calls for more Medicare-subsidised psychologist visits

The Mandarin, Other, 24/01/2024, Melissa Coade

The National Mental Health Consumer Alliance is pushing for Australia's 10 available government-subsidised psychologist visits to be increased after the number of eligible visits for rebates was revised down last year. [...] Health minister Mark Butler said the government's extra 10 subsidised sessions with a GP, psychiatrist or psychologist were not "appropriately targeted", noting in 2021 an average of five sessions were used by Australians.

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### ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 24/01/2024, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Australasian College for Emergency Medicine WA faculty chair Dr Peter Allely. Allely says urgent care clinics will never be going to take the pressure off the inpatient beds and they might have a small impact on waiting rooms. Mitsopoulos says Health Minister Mark Butler said nearly half of all presentations to EDs in WA are for semi and non-urgent conditions. Allely states it is not the case as they're certainly less than 5%. Mitsopoulos notes Butler was not available for an interview today, but they were told he is very keen to offer his point of view.

## MINISTER WELLS

### Australia's best boxers hooked on AIS as they prepare for Paris

Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), Other, 24/01/2024

Australia's boxing team has taken over the AIS Combat Centre for a fortnight of training, sparring and bonding ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. [...] Minister for Sport The Hon Anika Wells also stopped by campus to join the team for breakfast at the Dining Hall and catch up on their preparations for Paris.

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### Has the AN-ACC funding model impacted lifestyle and leisure coordination?

HelloCare, Other, 24/01/2024, Bianca Iovino

How we fund aged care has been a hot topic, and the Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) saw changes within the industry – some for the good and some for the worst. [...] ARTA has since contacted Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, who is said to have recognised its concerns, the importance of leisure and lifestyle staff, and that providers are still obliged to fund this area of aged care.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## DEPARTMENT

### Now open: Wilcannia's Health and Wellbeing Centre

Barrier Truth, General News, 24/01/2024, Melanie Gates, Page 4

Health services are now being provided from Wilcannia's Health and Wellbeing Centre in Bonney St following a move to the fresh new facility over the past three days. [...] "I would like to thank our funding bodies - The Department of Regional NSW, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, Maari Ma and the NSW Ministry of Health for their assistance and also the support received from Central Darling Shire Council.

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## Bishop welcomes first resident to new Mercy Health home

CathNews, Other, 24/01/2024

Our Lady Mercy Place Harris Park residential aged care facility has officially welcomed its first resident, as it opened its doors in the Greater Western Sydney suburb on Monday. [...] Bishop Tarabay was on hand to welcome the home's first resident along with the OLACC board and guests including Employment and Workplace Relations Minister Tony Burke, federal MP for Parramatta Andrew Charlton, Parramatta Lord Mayor Pierre Esber, and representatives from the Department of Health and Aged Care and Mercy Health.

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## Tasmanian COVID-19 Update: Providers urged to review their policies

National Disability Services (NDS), Other, 24/01/2024

As Covid-19 continues to circulate in the community, COVID-safe behaviours remain an important part of taking care of each other. [...] New monovalent vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe disease, and for in-depth information about COVID, the latest vaccines and vaccination guidelines, visit the Department of Health and Aged Care's COVID page.

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## Name change imposed on women's health qualifications

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 24/01/2024

RANZCOG will no longer be allowed to use 'diploma' or 'advanced diploma' for its courses, but has promised GPs everything else will remain the same. [...] They then spent two years in discussions with the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) and TEQSA, but despite this, the use of the diploma title will no longer be allowed.

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## Retirees concerned at lack of funding details in draft aged care act

The Senior, Other, 24/01/2024, Eileen Wood

Retirees have expressed concerns about the the lack information on funding in the Exposure Draft of the new Aged Care Act. [...] "There is also concern that with the additional safeguards and oversight incorporated into the New Aged Care Act for the Department of Health and Aged Care governance, the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, Office of Inspector General of Aged Care, the Office of Complaints Commissioner and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Advisory Council, the overall administration costs of aged care will increase."

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## Department delays aged care provider preview of finance and operations information

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/01/2024, Caroline Egan

On Monday, the Department of Health and Aged Care wrote to providers to inform them the provider preview of finance and operations information has been delayed. The provider preview of finance and operations information will be made available through the Government Provider Management System (GPMS), the Government's IT system that is supposed to make it easier for providers to share information with the Department.

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## Consultancy firms report 528 conflicts of interest with aged care regulator

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/01/2024, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) has revealed contractors have declared 528 potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest since 2021, when the current procurement process commenced. [...] Last week, the Department of Health and Aged Care confirmed to the SOURCE that since November 2022, nearly 1,000 questions from Community Affairs Legislation and Finance Public Administration Committees remain unanswered.

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## Online aged care platforms face tougher regulation: new Aged Care Act

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/01/2024, Caroline Egan

The operators of aged care online platforms look set to face tougher regulation under the new Aged Care Act. [...] "The community wants online platforms to be regulated," Assistant Secretary, Harmonisation and Regulatory Strategy Branch with the Department of Health and Aged Care, Caroline Turnour, told a Q&A panel discussion on the exposure draft of the new Act last week.

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## CORONAVIRUS

### A rising ballet star battles long COVID

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 25/01/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 7

Early last year, Wollongong-born dancer Riley Lapham was one of the rising stars of Australian ballet. One of five young dancers vying for a \$25,000 prize in the Telstra Ballet Dancer of the Year Award, the 23-year-old did interviews and photoshoots showing a glamorous day-in-the-life of a full time dancer.

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### 'Out of stock': tests dwindling as virus spreads

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/01/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 21

A shortage of rapid antigen tests has hit the Hunter amid a double wave of COVID, reviving memories of an earlier stage of the pandemic. Chelsea Felkai, co-owner of My Village Pharmacy Whitebridge, said the RAT shortage had been coming since Christmas.

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

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### Analysis How long does immunity last after a COVID infection?

ABC Online, Other, 24/01/2024, Lara Herrero & Wesley Freppel

Nearly four years into the pandemic, Australia, like many other countries, is still seeing large numbers of COVID cases . Some 860,221 infections were recorded around the country in 2023, while 30,283 cases have already been reported in 2024.

Also reported by: [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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### Australians with long Covid at an 'increased risk' of domestic violence

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/01/2024, Natalie Brown

Victims of long Covid are at an "increased risk" of domestic violence because of the mysterious condition's mental and physical symptoms, research shows. The Australian-first study , released on Wednesday and conducted by a team of researchers at Melbourne's Monash University, sought to better understand the challenges faced by those with the long-term illness, as well as their specific support needs.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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### Channel 9, Today, 24/01/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Interview with former Health Minister Greg Hunt. Hunt says there were many inputs from the medical side from people such as Brendan Murphy and Professor Paul Kelly during the pandemic but the decision fell on Scott Morrison's shoulders and the work on borders, testing and tracing saved an enormous number of Australians.

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## 2CC, Breakfast, 24/01/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with La Trobe University senior investigator Joel Miller. Cenatiempo says a new study by epidemiology experts from Australia and New Zealand has found that restricting movement between cities is the most effective way to slow the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Miller says border lockdowns within Australia prevented infection from getting from one place to another but it had mental health implications. He notes their study gives the said unfortunate result.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 24/01/2024, Dom Knight

Interview with University of Australia professor of biostatistics and epidemiology Adrian Esterman. Esterman says NSW Health data has revealed COVID numbers are as high as they were back in January last year. He notes the virus has been mutating so fast while immunity dries up after a certain period of time. Esterman states it is intriguing booster shots are not being recommended.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Dementia workshops to assist carers

Burnie Advocate, General News, 25/01/2024, Libby Bingham, Page 5

Understanding the person living with dementia is the "first and fundamental step" in managing their care. It's also key to addressing the overuse of medication. [...] The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety report in 2021 identified overuse of psychotropic medication as a significant problem.

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### Slight financial boost, says report

Community Care Review, Other, 24/01/2024, Christopher Kelly

But greater level of consumer co-contribution needed to sustain sector. Home care revenue has increased, according to the latest industry analysis.

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### Fee-free dementia care course

Community Care Review, Other, 24/01/2024

The fully-funded online training program aims to build dementia expertise. [...] "Strong leadership was recognised as a critical element of sustained improvements by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, and in response, the federal government."

Also reported by: [Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal \(Online\)](#).

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### Gold Coast Bulletin Minda client dies after choking on peanut butter sandwich

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 23/01/2024, Kathryn Bermingham

A Minda client who died after choking on a sandwich should have been supervised while eating, then monitored for 20 minutes an inquest was told – instead he was left alone after just two minutes. A Minda client who died after choking on a peanut butter sandwich could not be properly supervised because of staffing issues at the facility where he lived.

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### Opal HealthCare to redevelop first five floors of Adelaide highrise with Living Choice

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/01/2024, Caroline Egan

Opal HealthCare has acquired a 2.8 hectare site in Fullarton, in Adelaide's inner south, jointly with leading Adelaide retirement village operator Living Choice for \$42 million. The site, located at 103 Fisher Street, includes the vacant 11-storey Julia Farr Centre, which was built in the 1970s.

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## **Only 155 visas approved under new Aged Care Industry Labour Agreements as more providers sign up**

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/01/2024, Caroline Egan

There are currently 34 Aged Care Industry Labour Agreements (ACILA) in place and 155 visas approved under the program, eight months after it was established in May 2023. As of 5 January 2024, the Department of Home Affairs was finalising a further nine Labour Agreement requests, so further approvals could be imminent, but with the aged care sector short an estimated 17,000 workers, there's still some way to go.

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## **Governance and systems are home care's greatest weaknesses: Pride report**

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/01/2024, Caroline Egan

Advisory firm Pride Living has released its first report on non-compliance in home care, based on data contained in the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's Sector Performance Report for the June 2023 quarter. The most commonly unmet standard in 2022-23 was Standard 8 - Organisation Governance, followed by Standard 2 - Ongoing Assessment and Planning with Consumers, and, third, Standard 7 - Human Resources.

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## **Faulty movement detectors likely contributed to aged care death, Coroner says**

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/01/2024, Caroline Egan

The care received by Aubrey Reeve, resident of Umina Park Home for the Aged, leading up to his death on 24 July 2023 was "not of an acceptable standard" and "likely contributed" to the fall that caused his death, said the Coroner of the Magistrate's Court of Tasmania, Simon Cooper, in December last year.

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## **Proposed new Quality Indicators to track allied health and ENs in aged care**

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/01/2024, Caroline Egan

Three new Quality Indicators (QIs) for Enrolled Nurses (ENs), allied health and lifestyle coordinators, due for implementation by July 2025, are now open for consultation. The idea for the new QIs came out of feedback received during consultations on 24/7 RNs, which indicated that the number of ENs, allied health and lifestyle coordinators declined following the introduction of 24/7 RNs.

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## **2GB, Afternoons, 24/01/2024, Michael McLaren**

Interview with Group Homes Australia founder Tamar Krebs. McLaren says 421,000 people are living with dementia. Krebs says Dementia Retreat is a government-funded retreat where it teaches the person living with dementia and their partner how to live well at home. She notes people need to understand there's so much that can be done to reduce the symptoms.

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## Transition to adulthood can be heavy going

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/01/2024, Sue Dunlevy, Page 20

Maintaining a healthy body weight during the transition into adulthood is instrumental in preventing heart disease and many cancers, while exercising will help stave off depression. Young adults are the group gaining weight the fastest in Australia and leaving the family home to start a life of work or study is often to blame.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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## 'Am I going to hell for vaping while I'm pregnant?'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/01/2024, Dominique Birouste

As soon as I found out I was pregnant, I was inundated with info on foods to cut out, positions to sleep in and the vitamins that would help support my pregnancy. While I had never craved sashimi and raw cake batter more than throughout those nine months, I did everything I could to reduce any risk to my baby and cut out all the recommended foods and drinks.

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

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 24/01/2024, Georgia Stynes

Interview with Public Health Association of Australia CEO Terry Slevin. Slevin says people who are doing it the toughest are the ones who have the poorest health outcomes and they do better if they make it more equitable. He notes they would like to see a stronger social wage for those who rely on them and investment in preventive health. Slevin states the Australian Centre for Disease Control needs resources as it will help managing chronic disease drivers.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 24/01/2024, Adrienne Francis

Interview with Clinic Skin Health founder Cara Ho. Ho says they have seen a huge spike in more inflammatory skin conditions this summer including perioral dermatitis for the general population. She notes the environment in Canberra is triggering genes to behave a certain way.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Waiter suing casino dies before trial

The Australian, General News, 25/01/2024, Angelica Snowden, Page 6

A former Crown waiter diagnosed with terminal lung cancer who was suing the casino after working in a high-roller room where smoking was allowed has died. Dien Nguyen lodged two cases against the venue in late August, alleging that during his work in the Mahogany room between 2014 and 2023, he was exposed to tobacco smoke that contributed to his diagnosis of metastatic lung cancer in February 2020.

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

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## Pharmacist voices wanted on women's pain

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 24/01/2024, Megan Haggan

Women's pain is often overlooked, says the Victorian government – and its decision to launch an



inquiry has been welcomed by pharmacists. The Listening to Women's Voices survey showed that 40% of Victorian women live with chronic pain, and that close to half of all women are impacted by issues related to their periods, pregnancy,

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

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## Channel 9, National Nine News, 24/01/2024, Alicia Loxley

King Charles' impending surgery has led to a spike in Australian men getting their prostates checked. Experts say it could help in the early diagnosis of the life-threatening disease. A regular PSA blood test is recommended for men over 50 and earlier for those with a family history of prostate cancer.

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## 5AA, Mornings, 24/01/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia CEO Anne Savage. Pantelis says King Charles going to the hospital for an enlarged prostate procedure has resulted in a 200% increase in Google searches on how to check the prostate. Savage says this is a great call to action for all men who are eligible to be aware of PSA testing for prostate cancer and enlarged prostate. She notes 50% of men between the ages of 50 and 60 will experience an enlarged prostate and it increases to 70% among men who are aged 60 and over.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Nurses push back on cuts as hospital faces pinch

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 25/01/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 3

Financial pressure St Vincent's Hospital has told its staff it is facing financial pressures as it scales back the use of one-on-one nurses for some of its most vulnerable patients in a move frontline workers say will limit their ability to care for people with behavioural problems and those at high risk of falls. Nurses at the publicly funded hospital in Darlinghurst were concerned to receive an email last Friday announcing close observation nurses would not be used on morning shifts from Monday to Friday.

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### Get our hospital off life support

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/01/2024, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 6

A western suburbs mayor is the latest to come out in support of a financially-stressed hospital as its chief further details the challenges for private healthcare, pointing to inequities in health fund rates paid. It was reported on Monday that Western Hospital at Henley Beach might be forced to close due to its rising debt, with a \$1m loan from the state government needed to help it meet rental payments.

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### Inquiry told LGH deaths 'hidden'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 25/01/2024, David Killick, Page 1

An inquiry is needed into claims a disgraced senior administrator at the Launceston General Hospital failed to refer the deaths of multiple patients to the Coroner despite being required to do so by law, a parliamentary committee has heard. Tom Millen told parliament's ambulance ramping inquiry he has been a registered nurse for more than 20 years, mainly in the emergency department at the LGH.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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### Chesters marks a decade in office, but still has work to do

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 25/01/2024, Ben Loughran, Page 3

Lisa Chesters plans to use her style of "megaphone diplomacy" to push for more GPs to bulk bill and secure greater funding for childcare in the Bendigo region. The Bendigo federal parliamentarian, after 10 years in office, has used it to get funding for the Bendigo RSL redevelopments and upgrades to Bendigo airport and the Gurri Wanyarra wellbeing centre.

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## **We're bathing in comparative adequacy**

Daily Advertiser, General News, 25/01/2024, Zoe Wundenberg, Page 10

As Australians, we hear horror stories about the healthcare sector in places like the US and we read about the barrage of issues with the UK's NHS. We are made to feel grateful for Medicare, our NDIS scheme and the comparative accessibility to healthcare that we, as a nation, appear to enjoy.

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## **New kidney clinic boost to services**

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 25/01/2024, Mohammad Alfares, Page 15

A Gold Coast satellite hospital facility has introduced new services tipped to "significantly enhance" healthcare accessibility in the region. The Tugun Satellite Hospital announced the start of a kidney dialysis clinic on Wednesday.

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## **MP worried hospital rebuild 'not a priority'**

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 25/01/2024, Monique Patterson, Page 2

Health Warrnambool the Victorian Health Minister has been accused of "pulling a swiftie" over the \$384 million redevelopment of the Warrnambool Base Hospital. Member for South West Coast Roma Britnell said Tuesday's confirmation by Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas that the budget for the works would not be increased - despite escalating costs - proved the state government was not willing to show the same respect for the region's largest health service as it does to similar operations in Melbourne.

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## **GP at odds with CEO on Lyndoch's doctor exodus**

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 25/01/2024, Ben Silvester, Page 2

A Warrnambool GP has spoken out to dispute Lyndoch Living's explanation for the exodus of doctors from its medical clinic. The Lyndoch Medical Hub has seen GP numbers halve over the past year, and is down to six doctors, with more on the way out.

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## **Clinical review rejects doctor's claims that ED staff were urged to prioritise patients in ambulances**

Australian Doctor, Other, 24/01/2024, Paul Smith

The claims had been made last year by Dr David Pope. A clinical review has found no evidence that ED staff were being forced to prioritise patients in ambulances over sicker patients arriving in waiting rooms due to ambulance ramping.

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## **Planning underway for upgrades at Milton Ulladulla Hospital as NSW government forks out \$7.5m**

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 23/01/2024, Tom McGann

A regional hospital on the NSW South Coast has been given a handy sum to spend on much-needed upgrades – now the team behind the emergency department must decide on priorities. The South Coast News Milton Ulladulla Hospital is set to receive \$7.5m worth of upgrades.

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## **Channel 9, National Nine News, 24/01/2024, Alicia Loxley**

Rosebud residents are calling on the Vic Government to fund a long-talked-about \$1.1b redevelopment

of Rosebud Hospital. It comes as patients in serious conditions are forced to go elsewhere. Vic Government says it is focused on the redevelopment of Frankston Hospital, which they said will service the peninsula.

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## Channel 9, Today, 24/01/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

A concerning number of callers to Triple Zero in Victoria are being forced to wait at least one minute to be answered, according to official data. An anonymous whistleblower says some of the cases are extremely time-sensitive, with people under immediate threat.

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## 2GB, Breakfast, 24/01/2024, Ben Fordham

Interview with NSW Young Australian of the Year nominee Nikhil Autar. Fordham says Autar invented an app that allows businesses, hospitals and agencies to map accessibility information and created another device which can turn any bed into a hospital bed. Autar says he created the device based on his hospital experiences and he ended up needing it when he had open heart surgery. He notes it is designed to be affordable and works with current solutions.

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# MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

## Ongoing funds needed for health plan

Canberra Times, General News, 25/01/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 6

The ACT's Mental and Justice Health Minister would like to see a mental health response service become permanent and will push for permanent funding. Emma Davidson said she would take the case to Chief Minister and Treasurer Andrew Barr in a push to secure more funding for the Police, Ambulance, Clinician Emergency Response program, known as PACER.

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## Game-changing mental health training for sporting communities

Barrier Truth, General News, 24/01/2024, Melanie Gates, Page 5

Have you ever felt like an accidental counsellor, offering someone guidance to help them through a difficult situation? If so, you may want to jump on board the free Mow's Ya Mate?

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## SA's Chief Psychiatrist restricts James Nash House from admitting patients to 'dated' ward

ABC Online, Other, 24/01/2024, Stephanie Richards

South Australia's Chief Psychiatrist has restricted an Adelaide mental health facility from admitting some patients to one of its wards, claiming the unit "looks and feels like a prison". Under the temporary gazettal conditions imposed by Dr John Brayley, James Nash House in Adelaide's north-east is no longer allowed to admit patients on inpatient treatment orders to its 14-bed rehabilitation unit, Birdwood Ward.

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## Gold Coast Bulletin Families concerned about eating disorder treatment at Monash Children's Hospital

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 23/01/2024, Jade Gailberger

Teens with life-threatening eating disorders are getting kicked out of a vital adolescent treatment unit in Melbourne's southeast early and without support due to a lack of funding. Desperate parents and patients have asked the state and federal governments to urgently fix the troubled funding model,

warning that under-resourcing at Monash Children's Hospital is traumatising patients and putting their recoveries at risk.

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

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## Health of the Nation: Experts' advice on how to help teenagers with mental health, cyberbullying, vaping issues

The Courier Mail, Other, 24/01/2024, Sue Dunlevy

Mental health, cyber bullying and vaping are some of the many issues young Aussies are facing. See experts' tip on how to spot the signs and help them navigate the minefield.

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

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## 2CC, Canberra Live, 24/01/2024, Leon Delaney

Interview with Former Public Health Association of Australia CEO Dr Michael Moore. Delaney says the ACT Government has committed to providing funding for the second PACER team to continue at least until the end of June but there appears to be no commitment beyond that. He notes ACT Chief Police Officer Neil Geoghegan indicated more resources for mental health care and more support for the mental health response team are needed because police are not always the best option to be attending a mental health incident. Moore says they know it is a successful service and Minister for Mental Health Emma Davidson has said this has significantly reduced the number of people who go to hospital for mental health issues.

Interview continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 24/01/2024, Sarah MacDonald

Interview with Maudsley Deprescribing Guidelines author Dr Mark Horowitz. Horowitz says doctors often don't bring up the issue of stopping the drugs, which is why Australia has some of the highest use of antidepressants in the entire world. He notes around 30% to 50% of people on antidepressants are on them for longer than guidelines recommend.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### AI's processing muscle could help end the 'torture' of IVF

Australian Financial Review, Other, 24/01/2024, Tess Bennett

Advocates say artificial intelligence can make the IVF process quicker and cheaper by sifting through huge amounts of data in short order. Not everyone agrees.

[Read More](#)

### Coroner calls for change after tragic deaths of baby, mum

The Mercury, Other, 24/01/2024, Joel Erickson

Melbourne mum Melissa Arbuckle was suffering from severe postnatal depression when she lay on train tracks in Melbourne's east cradling her nine-week-old daughter. Now, a coroner has called for sweeping changes to make sure this tragedy never happens again.

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

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## Health Minister in a search for answers

Courier Mail, General News, 25/01/2024, Page 12

Health Minister Shannon Fentiman says she will be "asking questions" about whether policies were adequately enforced after a doctor facing allegations of rape and a police investigation was not stood down from a Brisbane hospital. Instead, Queensland Health allegedly suggested the female nurse who made a rape complaint to police take leave.

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

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## NSW hospitals welcome 1000 new doctors

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/01/2024, Madeleine Bower, Page 11

More than 1000 new doctors will start work in public hospitals across the state this month, with the number of doctors growing in the last year by 3 per cent. The newest intake of doctors will bring the number of practitioners working in public hospitals in NSW to nearly 16,000.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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## Labor's nurse plan would ease pressure

Burnie Advocate, General News, 25/01/2024, Page 35

I understand from talking with people in communities across the state that they're tired of the lack of access to local health services, particularly in rural and regional areas. And from talking with our dedicated nurses and midwives, I know they're exhausted and stressed from trying to give Tasmanians the best possible health care while dealing with understaffing, double shifts and burnout.

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## Nurse union considers industrial action

Launceston Examiner, General News, 25/01/2024, Charmaine Manuel, Page 4

The nursing union says it's actively considering industrial action over unmet promises made by the Tasmanian government in 2022 which they say will help retain nurses in the industry. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation said government had failed to deliver a commitment from 2022 to set up clinical coaches which is leading to significant workload pressures.

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## Mount Isa healthcare system in crisis after GPs leave outback city

ABC Online, Other, 24/01/2024, Zara Margolis & Larissa Waterson

Veteran GP Michael Mbaogu says he is scrambling to keep his outback Queensland clinic working amid worsening doctor shortages. Five general practitioners have left Dr Mbaogu's clinic in North West Queensland, leaving three doctors to service Mount Isa's population of about 20,000.

Also reported by: [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Victoria's junior doctors fighting to recoup millions of dollars in unpaid overtime

Adelaide Now, Other, 24/01/2024, Shannon Deery

Victoria's junior doctors claim they are owed millions of dollars in unpaid overtime as they battle a "brutal culture and terrible conditions" in the state's hospital system. Australian Medical Association Victoria president Jill Tomlinson said Victoria's hospital system is crumbling.

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

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## RACGP training numbers rebound but 116 places still vacant

Australian Doctor, Other, 24/01/2024, Rachel Carter

In 2023, some 183 RACGP training places were left vacant. GP training numbers have rebounded, with the RACGP filling 1261 of its 1377 Australian General Practice Training places for this year.

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## Nurses get ready to embark on their career across The Territory

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 24/01/2024, Jordan McCarthy

The Northern Territory has welcomed 82 graduate nurses to hospitals in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine. The Northern Territory has welcomed its latest batch of graduate nurses set to embark on their careers in the medical industry across the state.

[Read More](#)

## 3AW, Breakfast, 24/01/2024, Ross Stevenson and Russel Howcroft

Interview with Australian Medical Association Vic president Dr Jillian Tomlinson. Stevenson says the Vic Government faces wage claims by up to 15,000 junior doctors who say they are owed millions of dollars. Tomlinson says there was a Federal Court finding last year that Peninsula Health had implicitly approved the overtime but not paid it but the Vic Government and health services have decided to appeal. She notes they are calling on the Government to pay the unpaid overtime and to make the system much clearer regarding how overtime is paid and approved.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### More than 10,000 spared GP visit under new trials

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 24/01/2024, Luke Costin

Women running short on the contraceptive pill have jumped at new trials loosening restrictions that forced them into busy GP clinics. The trials in Victoria, NSW and the ACT began in late 2023 and allow eligible women already prescribed the pill to get up to one year's supply from trained pharmacists, without needing a GP visit.

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

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Victorian midwife banned for 10 years for endangering the lives of four infants

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/01/2024, Alexandra Feiam

A Victorian midwife has been banned for 10 years after being accused of endangering the lives of four infants. Martina Gorner, a midwife and director of Ten Moons Pty Ltd, a home birth provider, was

accused of giving her patients dangerous and "inappropriate advice" about their birthing practices and pregnancies.

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

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## Sydney dentist Dr Saad Abdul-Hassan Al-Mozany guilty of bungling treatment of patients

7news.com.au, Other, 24/01/2024, Elizabeth Daoud

'i never really knew what was happening to my teeth and found it difficult to obtain information.' A Sydney dentist who bungled the treatment of several patients has been found guilty of professional misconduct.

[Read More](#)

## Sneaky way therapist Julie Ann Catt tried to get around the rules so she could have a steamy sexual affair with a female patient: 'You blow my mind'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/01/2024, Eliza McPhee

A psychologist who was suspended over her relationship with a female patient tried to 'shave off' the amount of months she had been officially treating her in order to avoid punishment. Sydney therapist Julie Ann Catt was found guilty by a tribunal of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct over a flirty affair that turned sexual after she stopped treating her. [...] According to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), any therapeutic relationship between a patient and therapist must have finished two years before a personal relationship can begin.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Radio National, Life Matters, 24/01/2024, Hilary Harper & Michael Mackenzie

Panel Discussion with RMIT Vice Chancellor Dr Monica Barratt and ANU College of Science's Prof Malcolm McLeod. Harper says the multiple recent overdoses at Victorian festivals have renewed calls for pill testing. Barratt says these services have been operating now in at least 28 countries around the world and there are excellent policy work in ACT and Queensland that Vic can draw from. She notes there was a systematic review published in addiction which went through all of the research that's existed on drug checking or pill testing and has found people will take lower dose if they found out the drug is strong.

Panel Discussion continues on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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## SPORT

### Fans show why First Test should be ours

Courier Mail, Editorials, 25/01/2024, Page 24

The first day of the Gabba Test is always a special occasion and while that is because it is usually the first match and so heralds the start of summer, today it is because it's the year's only day-night game. With that fact and that the second day of the Test falls on the Australia Day public holiday, we have ahead of us two massive occasions with the crowds today and tomorrow expected to top the attendances in both Perth and Adelaide.

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## Boland's view now sees Smith back date change

Courier Mail, Sport, 25/01/2024, Daniel Cherny, Page 68

Steve Smith says a conversation with Scott Boland has shaped his view around a potential date change for Australia Day. A day after captain Pat Cummins said he backed a shift for the controversial public holiday, vice-captain Smith provided qualified support for the move.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Nick Kyrgios drops sudden retirement news as Australian Olympic 'disgrace' re-emerges

7news.com.au, Other, 24/01/2024, Glenn Valencich

The 28-year-old has issued a statement after a private conversation opened his eyes to what had to happen. Nick Kyrgios has confirmed his tennis career may already be over despite admitting he could yet return to the court within months.

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

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## Tim May calls for ICC overhaul to fix 'untenable' Test cricket situation

Adelaide Now, Other, 24/01/2024, Ed Bourke

Cricket's governing body must alter course drastically to avoid more situations like the current West Indies tour, a former Test cricketer says. Former players' union boss Tim May says the current position of Test cricket on the international calendar looks "untenable" without a major scheduling overhaul.

[Read More](#)

## Cameron Green to play with Covid against West Indies

The Australian, Other, 24/01/2024, Ed Bourke

Australian cricket coach Andrew McDonald (left) has tested positive for Covid just as Travis Head was cleared to play without restrictions in the second Test. Back-up Test batter Matt Renshaw isn't being called back to Brisbane and will get to play in the Big Bash final on Wednesday night despite Covid spreading through the Australian camp on the eve of the second Test against the West Indies.

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

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 24/01/2024, Adam Shirley

Interview with University of Canberra associate professor Catherine Ordway. Ordway says men's teams usually take priority and women's are the add-ons but it is the opposite for Canberra United. She notes Canberra is traditionally a gender equality women's sport first town. Ordway states they saw some great examples of integrity during the Women's World Cup where Sweden had a win because their penalty was allowed through the VAR system.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH



## Call to remove all race powers

The Australian, General News, 25/01/2024, Paige Taylor, Page 6

Liberal senator James Paterson has called for the removal of the races power in the Constitution, the set of words that opened the door to the White Australia policy and later legislation on Indigenous land rights, Indigenous health and the protection of sacred sites. Australia's first prime minister, Edmund Barton, once described the races power as necessary to "regulate the affairs of the people of coloured or inferior races."

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

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## Sky News Live, The Bolt Report, 24/01/2024, Andrew Bolt

Bolt is joined by Sky News Investigations producer Taylor Auerbach. Bolt says the Good Medical Practice: A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia has included acknowledging colonisation, systematic racism, the impact of their work on the environment, and acknowledging Aboriginal beliefs about the afterlife. He notes it has already been endorsed by the Australian Medical Board, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the Australian Medical Council. Auerbach says doctors have had enough as it goes against what Hippocrates stood for.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Measles alert for Sydney and Canberra after international traveller returns with disease

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/01/2024, Eli Green

Health authorities are urging Sydneysiders and Canberrans to be on the lookout for signs of measles after a case was confirmed in an international traveller. The case is an adult who had been returning from India, where measles outbreaks have been occurring in recent weeks.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### Alice is among a growing number of Victorians battling this flesh-eating ulcer. Scientists say they now know why

The Guardian, Other, 24/01/2024, Natasha May & Adeshola Ore

When Alice Mika was bitten by a mosquito last summer in Melbourne's west, she didn't think anything of it. Then, a small raised bump appeared on her ankle more than five months later and wouldn't go away. She saw her GP who prescribed antibiotics, believing it to be a spider bite.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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### Flooding, wet weather across Australia prompts warning over mosquito-borne diseases

ABC Online, Other, 24/01/2024, Samantha Dick

Flooding caused by heavy rainfall across northern Australia and the eastern seaboard has prompted warnings from medical experts about a spike in mosquito-borne diseases. Ross River virus, the most common mosquito-borne disease in Australia, causes fever, chills, headache and debilitating muscle pain that can last for months.

[Read More](#)

## Radio National, Breakfast, 24/01/2024, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Doherty Institute professor of microbiology Tim Stinear. Stinear says Buruli Ulcer has been growing in the suburbs of Melbourne and Geelong despite being not tropical places. He notes mosquito bite prevention or public health authorities can use mosquito control can help prevent the disease. Stinear states a PCR test can be used to detect the disease and it is treatable.

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## Channel 10, 10 News First, 24/01/2024, Lachlan Kennedy

There is a measles alert for Sydney after an infectious person transited through the city before heading to Canberra. The adult, who recently returned from Asia where there have been several outbreaks in multiple countries, travelled on an Air India flight named A1 302 from Delhi to Sydney.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### TGA quietly bans doctors from advertising 'anti-wrinkle injections'

Australian Doctor, Other, 24/01/2024, Sarah Simpkins

Cosmetic doctors say the TGA could have acted 'with more professionalism'. A ban on advertising "dermal fillers" or "anti-wrinkle injections" has angered cosmetic doctors, who say the TGA did not provide any warning or guidance ahead of the crackdown.

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### Montekulast use sparks suicide concerns

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 24/01/2024, Chloe Hava

With reports of children as young as 5 attempting suicide and low efficacy, here's how pharmacists can approach montelukast supply. [...] Montelukast is listed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for use as an asthma treatment in children aged 2 years and older , and for the symptomatic management of allergic rhinitis.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 24/01/2024, Craig Reucassel

Interview with UNSW food nutrition scientist Dr Emma Beckett. Reucassel says frozen fruit and vegetables in some cases may have more nutritional value than fresh produce. Beckett says freezing and canning are preservation methods to extend shelf life and nutritional content.

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## AICIS

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