



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 1st March 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports that private hospitals are warning that medical reimbursement funding is not keeping up with the cost of inflation, ahead of a decision on health insurance premium increases by Health Minister Mark Butler next week.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that 80 brands of medication that were part of a guaranteed supply deal with the federal government are now in short supply, with the Department of Health and Aged Care noting that most had alternative brands available on the PBS.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has reiterated that the government was not stopping health workers terminated for refusing vaccine mandates from reapplying for positions, after one former employee was falsely denied.
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 3) reports that Australian research has found correlation between the consumption of ultra-processed foods and an increased risk of suffering from 32 health conditions including cardiovascular disease, anxiety and depression.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 3) reports that health experts are calling for “urgent” harm prevention funding after new figures show young Australian women are using illicit drugs at the same rate as men for the first time, up 27 per cent since 2019

- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports that the ACT government has been urged to review the phrasing of its voluntary assisted dying laws to ensure the legislation doesn't include broad conditions like old age.
- [The Guardian](#) (online) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has said some GPs may need to upskill to handle an anticipated increase in Australians seeking prescriptions for vaping, following an upcoming non-prescription ban in July.

MINISTER BUTLER

Ramsay warns of hospital closures

Australian Financial Review, General News, 01/03/2024, Simon Evans, Page 1

The chief executive of the country's largest private hospital operator says more than a dozen health centres run by competitors have shut in the past year, warning other services will close without more funding from insurers and the government.

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

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New report reveals alarming bulk billing rates across Regional Australia

Gundagai Independent, General News, 29/02/2024, Page 7

An alarming new report by online healthcare directory Cleanbill has shed light on the worrying reality of low and declining bulk billing rates across regional Australia. [...] "What we see in Cleanbill's 2024 Blue Report Electorate Breakdown is a reality completely at odds with what Health Minister Mark Butler and the Labor Government have been trying to peddle," Mr McCormack said.

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Mental health being devalued by govt

Mudgee Guardian & Gulgong Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2024, Carly Dober, Page 9

Speaking on radio earlier this month about mental health and the Better Access scheme, the federal Health Minister Mark Butler stated that people in rural and regional areas were not being supported by psychologists, which was one of their driving factors for the government cutting the Medicare psychology sessions from 20 to 10 in 2023. We know the pandemic, and now the cost-of-living crisis has significantly impacted the mental health of many Australians, and those who were already doing it tough are not faring any better, including those living in the regions.

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Butler Must Act on State Labor Cash Grab

Sea Lake & Whycheproof Times Ensign, General News, 29/02/2024, Page 7

The Albanese Labor Government must push back against Victoria's GP payroll tax and save patients money, Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health and Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster, says. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler previously urged Victoria to review the payroll tax, warning it undermined Federal investments in Medicare.

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Vape shops 'funding organised crime'

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 12

Vape shops have become a lucrative source of revenue for organised crime, who use sales to fund drug and sex trafficking, Health Minister Mark Butler says. The federal government has banned the importation of single-use vapes and more restrictions are set to take effect from today, but vaping remains a pervasive addiction.

Also reported by: [Cobram Courier \(Online\)](#), [Yarrawonga Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Area News \(Online\)](#), [Singleton Argus \(Online\)](#), [Hawkesbury Gazette \(Online\)](#).

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Australians encouraged to continue getting booster jabs

Albany Advertiser, Other, 29/02/2024, Kat Wong

All Australian adults should continue to get COVID-19 booster jabs but children in good health need not worry, the government's vaccine advisory group says. [...] Vaccinations remain the best way to protect Australians from severe disease, and on Thursday Health Minister Mark Butler revealed the latest vaccine advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation.

Also reported by: [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Narooma News \(Online\)](#), [Katherine Times \(Online\)](#), [Narromine News \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Minister defends anti-vape ambassador caught with vape

Albany Advertiser, Other, 29/02/2024, Kat Wong

As the number of young vape users continues to grow, it would be more surprising if the influencers hired for the government's anti-vape campaign had never used one before, the health minister said. On Wednesday, Health Minister Mark Butler revealed the government would spend \$250,000 partnering with Spotify, social media influencers and sports stars as part of its anti-vaping program.

Also reported by: [Katherine Times \(Online\)](#), [The Area News \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Cootamundra Herald \(Online\)](#), [Augusta Margaret River Mail \(Online\)](#), [Busseton Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Annual Covid boosters confirmed

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/02/2024

Government accepts atagi recommendations for annual free Covid-19 booster shots for adults
Australians aged 18 to 64 years will be eligible for annual Covid-19 jabs, Mark Butler the Minister for Health and Aged Care says. In a statement released this morning (Thursday 29 February), the minister confirmed that the government had accepted the Australian

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Greater efforts are needed to tackle a "staggering" increase in vaping rates

Croakey, Other, 29/02/2024, Melissa Sweet

The Federal Government this week launched a new influencer-led social media campaign to discourage vaping among young people, warning that social media is "awash" with pro-vaping content. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said TikTok has more than 18 billion posts with the hashtag #vape and Instagram has more than 18,000 'vaping influencer' profiles solely dedicated to promoting vaping.

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All Australian adults urged to get booster shots against Covid before winter

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/02/2024, Olivia Day

All Australian adults should continue to get COVID-19 booster jabs but children in good health need not worry, the government's vaccine advisory group says. [...] Vaccinations remain the best way to protect Australians from severe disease, and on Thursday Health Minister Mark Butler revealed the latest vaccine advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation.

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'Have to stop': vaping addicts face withdrawals as users rise, bans expand

Newcastle Herald, Other, 29/02/2024, Damon Cronshaw

Smoking rates fell by five per cent in seven years in the Hunter New England district while rates soared, federal data shows. [...] It coincided with federal health minister Mark Butler saying the ban on "importation of all vapes without a licence and permit will begin on March 1".

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The Next Stage Of Australia's Vape Ban Kicks In Tomorrow, Here's What You Need To Know

Pedestrian TV, Other, 29/02/2024, George Shiers

The next stage of Australia's vape ban will come into force tomorrow, with laws around the importation and sale set to get much tougher. [...] "Vaping is creating a whole new generation of nicotine dependency in our community, especially amongst young Australians," said Minister for Health Mark Butler.

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'Forever given up vaping': Dave 'Hughesy' Hughes pledges to star in NSW anti-vaping campaign for free

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/02/2024, Jessica Wang

The Aussie radio star well-known for his radio prime time spot and comedy career has made a major health pledge, offering to be the face of a statewide campaign in one state. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has teamed up with social media personalities to launch an influencer-led anti-vaping campaign aimed at young Australians.

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

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'No intention of stopping': New Zealand online vape seller vows to ignore Australia's new import ban

The Guardian, Other, 01/03/2024, Melissa Davey and Natasha May

A New Zealand online vape seller is taunting the Albanese government over its vaping reforms, telling customers "we have no intention of stopping" vape shipments because of "one twat in Canberra", presumably in reference to the federal health minister, Mark Butler. From Friday, importation of vapes to Australia is banned unless an importer has a licence and permit.

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Questions raised about whether GPs will be ready for influx of people seeking vaping prescriptions

The Guardian, Other, 01/03/2024, Josh Butler

Doctors admit helping patients quit vaping is a new experience' ahead of a near-total ban coming into force on 1 July Get our morning and afternoon news emails, free app or daily news podcast GPs are preparing for a rush of patients seeking prescriptions for vapes or help to give up smoking, with a peak doctor's lobby admitting it is a "new experience" for some medical experts ahead of new government vaping crackdowns and a near-total ban on electronic cigarettes from July. The health minister, Mark Butler, says there is a need to "upskill" some GPs to help Australians off vapes.

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Vape shops could close as government eyes sales ban

The Mandarin, Other, 29/02/2024, Kat Wong

The sale of vapes could be banned within months with retailers coming into focus as the next battlefield in the war on vaping. [...] Health minister Mark Butler said he is now targeting vape shops.

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How will we cope with double the dementia?

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/02/2024, Amanda Sheppeard

We can't wait another 25 years to get management right. There's more to it than just preparing GPs. [...] Our present Health Minister Mark Butler will also be turning 84 (we were born just 20 days apart, I have discovered) and our Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will be a nonagenarian at 91 years old.

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Parliament to vote on vape sales ban

The Saturday Paper, Other, 29/02/2024

The sale of vapes will be outlawed in Australia from July 1 with legislation to be introduced to parliament next month, Health Minister Mark Butler has announced. The federal government has already passed two tranches of its vaping crackdown, serving to ban the importation of single use vaping devices.

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2MCE, 14:00 National Radio News, 29/02/2024

The Federal Government has banned the importation of single-use vapes, and more restrictions are set to take effect from Friday. Health Minister Mark Butler says criminal organisations are using sales from vape shops to fund drug and sex trafficking. Since January, more than 360,000 vapes worth almost \$11 million have been seized by the Australian Border Force and the Therapeutic Goods Administration

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4CA AM, John Mackenzie, 29/02/2024, John MacKenzie

The Federal Government has been embarrassed after photos of a TikTok influencer vaping were circulated online just hours after he was recruited in a high-profile campaign to educate young people on the harms of vaping. A photo of comedian Jaxon Fairbairn holding a vape while out with friends have circulated online, after he was revealed as one of the stars of a campaign to stop youth vaping. Health Minister Mark Butler announced him as one of eight TikTok stars recruited for the campaign.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Mornings , 29/02/2024, Rafael Epstein

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Epstein points out that people import billions of dollars worth of illicit drugs and sell them. Butler says they have provided substantial additional resources to the Border Force, particularly in tackling illegal import of drugs and disposable vapes. He states that in the first two months of the ban being in effect, they have seized more than 360,000 disposable vapes.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 29/02/2024, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Reucassel says a photo has surfaced of one of the influencers namely comedian Jaxon Fairbairn, holding a vape last year and he's one of the influencers recruited by the Federal Government as part of a \$250,000 campaign to combat pro-vaping messages online. Butler points out that young people are getting their messages increasingly from TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube and not from the media that they are used to. He states that these social media channels are overwhelmed with messages being promoted by big tobacco companies and they are told that 18 billion posts on TikTok are promoting vaping.

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MINISTER WELLS

Aged care 'spiralled into crisis' from lack of leadership: Anika Wells

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/02/2024

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says Australians "have the right to know" how their aged care system is performing. It is the third anniversary of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety report being tabled in parliament.

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

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Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells concedes Australia's sporting systems "aren't equal"

2023 was a banner year for women's sport in Australia, with the rise of the Matildas and the domination of our swimmers. But to those behind the scenes, there's still plenty more to do. Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells has committed to doing more to help women thrive on and off the field after conceding Australia's sporting systems "aren't equal".

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

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What is money being spent on in Australia's aged care sector?

Aged Care Guide, Other, 29/02/2024, David McManus

The government has explained its spending habits in Australia's aged care sector. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the government needed to proactively ensure regulatory standards.

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Aged care sector failing to find nurses

Aged Care Insite, Other, 29/02/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Almost 6,000 more nurses are needed to meet the upcoming rules for residential aged care, but there is doubt about whether many services will be able to operate. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells blamed workforce shortfalls on "nine years of Coalition neglect" and poor planning.

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Provider spending made public

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/02/2024, Christopher Kelly

In a bid to boost transparency, the federal government has published what aged care homes spend on services and staffing to inform for older Australians and their families. [...] "We recognise that the majority of aged care providers are working to deliver high quality and safe care, but we have to shine a light on those who aren't and take action," said Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells.

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New online tool reveals how aged care homes spend taxpayer money

CathNews, Other, 29/02/2024, Rebecca Comini

Aged care residents and their families will be able to see exactly how their home spends their money on food, care and services through a new online tool the Albanese Government says will hold providers to account for how they spend taxpayer money. Source: The Guardian. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said that while most facilities were doing the right thing, "we have to shine a light on those who aren't and take action".

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New My Aged Care data shows operator's spending on care, staffing, food compared to sector averages

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Caroline Egan

Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, has revealed new data is now available on My Aged Care, including how much providers are spending on care and nursing, administration, and food - and how the data compares to sector averages. It's another increase in transparency for residential aged care providers - who now may have to answer questions from would-be clients such as why they are spending 25% less than the sector average on care and nursing.

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2SM, 19:00 News, 29/02/2024

Australians can now view more information about aged care homes in a bid to increase transparency. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says they're shining the light on the sector.

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DEPARTMENT

Vital medicines running out

Courier Mail, General News, 01/03/2024, Sue Dunlevy, Page 1

Many of Australia's most commonly used medicines are out of stock, despite the government paying drug companies millions to guarantee supply. [...] A spokesman for the Department of Health and Aged Care confirmed 80 brands of medicines subject to the 4-6 month stockholding deal were currently in short supply.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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Mural makes big IMPACT

Gladstone Today, General News, 29/02/2024, Page 8

When you walk into the reception area of the newly refurbished IMPACT Community Health Service (ICHS) at Agnes Water, you might feel like you have stepped into a different world [...] Kim was approached by ICHS Practice Manager Pamela Mackie to create a feature wall for the reception area as part of a \$150,000 major refurbishment project funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Sexually transmitted infections on the rise

Latrobe Valley Express, General News, 28/02/2024, Page 9

Gippsland saw its highest number of gonorrhoea cases in 2023, jumping almost 20 per cent on previous years. [...] "Data from the Department of Health and Aged Care shows that one in six Australians will develop an STI at some stage in their lifetime.

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Win for junior doctors as hospital bosses abandon court fight over unpaid overtime

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/02/2024, Heather Saxena

Peninsula Health had appealed against a Federal Court ruling to pay Dr Gaby Bolton \$8000 in unpaid

overtime. [...] "Peninsula Health, the other health services, the Department of Health and Aged Care and the State Government need to decide whether they want to keep spending taxpayers' money fighting the unwinnable fight," he said.

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Substitution arrangement for gliclazide

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/02/2024, John Smith

Ongoing shortages of gliclazide 30mg products prompt Department to issue substitution instrument
Pharmacists can now dispense specific 60mg gliclazide oral tablets as alternatives to brands of 30mg formulations. The Department of Health and Aged Care issued the Therapeutic Goods (Serious Scarcity and Substitutable Medicines) (Gliclazide) Instrument 2024 earlier this week (27 February), enabling pharmacists to

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APIs for aged care quality indicators, 24/7 nursing in test mode

Pulse+IT, Other, 29/02/2024, Kate McDonald

Four new application programming interfaces (APIs) that will support aged care providers to directly report on critical areas of care such as 24/7 nursing and quality indicators are now in test mode in the Department of Health and Aged Care's business to government (B2G) developer portal.

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In Practice: RACGP Foundation grants now open

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/02/2024

More than \$700,000 in funding is being made available to support upcoming general practice research projects. [...] Visit the Department of Health and Aged Care website for more information.

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Drug survey backs RACGP's calls for harm reduction

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/02/2024

The college's Addiction Medicine Chair believes the results should be used as leverage to better support GPs providing care in this area. [...] The Federal Government then delayed a ban on GPs administering opioid dependence treatment medicines as a private script until 30 June this year – a temporary decision also backed by the college.

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DoHAC in the dark on PHN performance

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/02/2024, Cate Swannell

Thanks to a lack of 'timely or informative' reporting, it's impossible to know whether the outfits are fulfilling their purpose. The Department of Health and Aged Care has not demonstrated that the primary health network delivery model is achieving its objectives, according to a damning report released by the Australian National Audit Office yesterday.

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Govt looking at “equivalent of a Home Care Package Level 5” from July 2025

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Caroline Egan

At the Support at Home online Q&A, Nick Morgan, Assistant Secretary of Support at Home Reform Branch, Department of Health and Aged Care, revealed that home care providers may receive a dollar amount per client for care management as funds that can be pooled.

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Funding reforms improving aged care profitability but pricing accommodation appropriately needed, latest QFS reveals

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Caroline Egan

Residential aged care and home care operators were more profitable in Q1 FY24 than they have been in years after the introduction of AN-ACC, the latest Department of Health and Aged Care's Quarterly Financial Snapshot (QFS), released today reveals.

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Opinion: Level 5 Home Care Packages could be a game-changer for aged care and village operators

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Lauren Broomham

The Department of Health and Aged Care is still weighing up a higher-level classification for the new Support at Home Program – and this could have big ramifications for the ageing sector. Currently, there are only four levels of Home Care Package, with a Level 4 Package tapping out at \$59,410.

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Why Round 3 of the Electronic Medication Chart grant was cancelled

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Caroline Egan

The Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) has cancelled Round 3 of the Electronic National Residential Medication Chart (eNRMC) grant, after high levels of interest saw initial funds for Rounds 1 and 2 exhausted and additional funds tipped into Round 2. The eNRMC grant provides up to \$20,000 per residential aged care home, and is aimed at helping homes implement eNRMC systems.

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“Like Taylor Swift tickets”, Home Care Package allocations exhausted within hours

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Caroline Egan

There were 51,044 Australians waiting for the level of home care services they were assessed as needing at the end of 2023, a 78% increase in only six months when wait times fell to historic lows, Senate Estimates heard in evidence from the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) last week.

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MIX 104.9, 360, 29/02/2024, Katie Woolf

Woolf points out that a spokesperson from the Department of Health and Aged Care confirmed 80 brands of medicines subject to the four to six-month stock holding deal are currently in short supply.

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CORONAVIRUS

‘Cannot trample free choice’: MP makes Covid mandate demand

The Mercury, Other, 29/02/2024, Peter Carruthers

A Far North MP has called for the immediate scrapping of all Covid-related disciplinary action against government employees following a bombshell court ruling that found mandatory vaccine orders were "unlawful". Dozens of police and health workers including paramedics have won a mammoth legal battle over mandatory vaccination orders after the handing down of a Supreme Court ruling on Tuesday.

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

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Dr Nick Coatsworth exposes how Australia got its response to Covid wrong - and why restrictions were too harsh

Dr Nick Coatsworth, who helped lead Australia's response to Covid, says draconian pandemic restrictions went for far too long and states should be stripped of their disease control powers. The former deputy chief medical officer stated 'group think' and exhaustion led to poor Covid responses in a 10-page submission to the special commission of inquiry being held into the pandemic.

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QLD tops state aged care COVID-19 count as vaccination rates sit at 36%

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Caroline Egan

In Queensland, 73 aged care homes experienced a COVID-19 outbreak in the week to 22 February 2024, more than any other state. The state also had the highest number of residents and staff case numbers, at 433 and 162 respectively.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Oldies on pain meds

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 19

Only 11 per cent of Japanese aged care facility residents are prescribed regular painkiller medications compared with nearly three-quarters (74 per cent) of Australia's aged care facility population, a new study reveals. Furthermore, the use of opioid painkillers in aged care facilities was found to be 30-fold higher in Australia, according to the study from Monash University, in collaboration with Japan's Institute for Health Economics and Policy.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#). Similar coverage reported by: [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

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New WA aged care an example of 'living in the home' recommendations

Aged Care Insite, Other, 29/02/2024, Arshmah Jamal

A new residential aged care opened in southern Western Australia, basing its practices and homes on community. [...] The Aged Care Royal Commission recommended that aged care focus more on the "experience of living in the home".

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Increasing user contributions fairly

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/02/2024, Tim Hicks

There are better ways to boost co-contributions and provider viability than targeting the family home, writes Tim Hicks. The prime minister's statement that government won't change the treatment of the family home in the aged care means test is the right call.

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VR allows care leaders to walk in the shoes of clients living with dementia

HelloCare, Other, 29/02/2024, Bianca Iovino

Virtual Reality (vr) is once again transforming the way care staff understand the challenges faced by people living with dementia – by literally "seeing" it. With the help of Dementia Training Australia's (DTA) new national and free program, leaders in the care space will use VR to learn more and specialise in helping people living with the condition.

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Arcare Aged Care expands NSW Central Coast “Circle of Care” with acquisition

The Weekly Source, Other, 01/03/2024, Caroline Egan

The operator, which is owned by property developer Knowles Group, has bought its 51st residential aged care home, The Orchards, a 120-bed facility in Lisarow, mid-way between Sydney and Newcastle in NSW. The acquisition expands the provider's "Circle of Care" residential aged care focus on the Central Coast, which already consists of Arcare Kanwal Arcare Belmont , and Arcare Warner's Bay (opening in May 2024).

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80 Councils nationwide jump ship from CHSP in less than three years

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Caroline Egan

Since 1 July 2021, 80 local Councils have exited, at least in part, the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), the low-care Government-funded program that currently delivers services to more than 800,000 older Australians in the community. Of those Councils to exit, more than half - 46 - have been in Victoria , Russell Herald, Assistant Secretary, Home and Residential Division, told Senate Estimates on 15 February in response to questioning from Greens Senator Janet Rice (pictured).

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New Interim CEO of Aged Care provider Princes Court will continue planning of new 50-bed home in Mildura

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Caroline Egan

Mildura's largest aged care provider, Not For Profit Princes Court, has appointed experienced business executive Anthony Couroupis Interim CEO for a six-month tenure. Anthony will step down from his role on the board of Princes Court while he takes on the job.

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Estia Health lodges plans for 124-bed aged care home in Findon, SA

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Caroline Egan

Estia Health, one of Australia's largest aged care providers, has lodged a development proposal for a greenfield aged care home in Findon, 9km northwest of the Adelaide CBD, South Australia. The site was one of two development sites that Estia Health purchased in its acquisition of Premier Health Care in 2022, along with four aged care homes.

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63 nurses set for aged care careers under ACCPA's Nursing Transition to Practice Program

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Caroline Egan

The peak body for aged care providers has announced that 63 new Registered and Enrolled Nurses will enter aged care workforce having completed its Government-funded Aged Care Nursing Transition to Practice Program. The group consists of 48 graduate Registered Nurses (RNs) and six graduate Enrolled Nurses (ENs) who have been participating in the program for the past year, and nine transitioning RNs who joined the program for six months from other nursing fields and are moving into the aged care sector for the first time.

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Calvary Health Care closes Melbourne aged care home as it opens new expansion nearby

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Caroline Egan

One of Australia's largest Not For Profit healthcare providers will close its residential aged care home Calvary Bonbeach, located 31km southeast of Melbourne's CBD, effective 31 May 2024. At the same time, the doors of a modernised new wing at Calvary George Vowell (pictured above) will open at Mount Eliza, 42km south east of the CBD, only about 15km from Bonbeach.

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Former KPMG partner Grant Robinson to become Chair of WA aged care provider Juniper

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/02/2024, Caroline Egan

WA Not For Profit aged care provider Juniper Care has announced independent Chair Maree Anason will retire at the end of February 2024, and current independent board member and former KPMG partner Grant Robinson will step into the role. Grant has strong credentials in governance and excellent insight into Juniper, having been on the provider's board since 2018, and as Juniper's current Audit and Risk Committee Chair.

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Older Australians 'left behind' by increasingly cashless society as banks fast track end of cheques

ABC Online, Other, 29/02/2024, Jessica Black

Australia is phasing out cheques by 2030, but banks are moving well ahead of the federal government's timeline. With less than one per cent of payments made this way, who will it affect?

Also reported by: [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

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POPULATION HEALTH

Processed food linked to 32 ways to die

Australian Financial Review, General News, 01/03/2024, Jill Margo, Page 3

Australian-led international research has found consistent evidence of an association between ultra-processed foods and an increased risk of 32 damaging health conditions.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#). Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Ultra-processed foods linked to multiple health risks

The Australian, General News, 01/03/2024, Sofia Dmitrieva, Page 7

High exposure to ultra-processed foods has been linked to an increased risk of different health problems both physical and mental, according to a new study. The research underlines the urgent need for targeted measures to reduce consumption of such foods and improve the population's health.

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

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

Pain in the neck

West Australian, General News, 01/03/2024, Kate Emery, Page 1

WA school kids are sitting down and using screens so much they are turning up at physios with sore backs and necks, lacking motor skills and potentially putting themselves at risk of developing pre-arthritis postures. And the problem is so bad nationally that at least one Queensland primary school has installed a physio to treat kids' sore backs and necks before and after school, and at lunchtime.

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

Junk food health risk

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 5

Eating more junk foods such as soft drinks, snacks and sugary cereals is associated with a higher risk of 32 different health problems, a new study has found. The researchers found that higher ultra-processed food intake was associated with about a 50 per cent increased risk of cardiovascular disease related death, a 48-53 per cent higher risk of anxiety and common mental disorders and a 12 per cent greater risk of type 2 diabetes.

Council election hopefuls urged to back water fluoridation as Queensland local government polls loom

ABC Online, Other, 29/02/2024, Christopher Testa

Fluoridated water is a political hot potato few leaders in Queensland seem willing to take on. As voters prepare to head to the polls to elect their local councils for the next four years, new Premier Steven Miles is steering clear of the controversial public health issue.

[Read More](#)

Two in five Aussies are not getting enough rest: Australia facing a 'sleep crisis'

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/02/2024, Madeline Crittenden

These "bad" bedtime habits are stopping us from falling asleep, and robbing us of much-needed rest. Expert Dr Michael Mosley on how the simple things we can all do to get more sleep.

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

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Leukaemia bills pain

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 18

Concerning new figures show the significant financial distress leukaemia patients and their families face in Australia. Leukaemia Foundation research shows 43 per cent of the 19,500 patients diagnosed with blood cancer in the past year faced out-of-pocket treatment costs totalling hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars.

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Funding boost for endometriosis in women's strategy

West Australian, Other, 29/02/2024, Fraser Barton

Women will have greater access to clinical care and services for endometriosis under a lever of a Queensland government health strategy. More than \$18 million will be used to break down barriers faced by women when receiving an endometriosis diagnosis.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Development of Covid vaccines could be the blueprint for ending breast cancer deaths

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 28/02/2024, Robyn Riley

The unique scientific collaboration that led to the development of Covid vaccines could be a blueprint for researchers to achieve zero deaths from breast cancer. That's the belief of the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) which will reveal on Wednesday that funding this "collective focus" of researchers across the country will be key to its future investments.

[Read More](#)

Breakthrough stroke drug trial

Medical Forum, Other, 29/02/2024

Perth stroke patients are set to be dosed with a breakthrough Australian-developed drug designed to reduce brain tissue death. People admitted to hospital emergency departments around the country,

including Sir Charles Gairdner and Fiona Stanley hospitals, will be included in the trial.

[Read More](#)

New model of care could save lives from CVD

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 29/02/2024

A new model of care to treat cardiovascular disease (CVD) will be launched in Parliament House introducing the test, treat, and track model of care. The CVD Impact Report launched on 29 February 2024 in federal parliament provides how the Federal Government's investment of \$364 million over five years could save more than 4,000 lives and return \$3 billion in healthcare savings to the economy through the establishment of the novel test, treat, track model.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 29/02/2024, Sandra Sully

Artificial intelligence could prove a major lifesaver for many cancer sufferers. World-first technology is now promising to shorten the critical time between a diagnosis and treatment from weeks to just minutes. Danielle Spence, Cancer Council Victoria, says the wonderful innovation that this would bring will serve as a game-changer for people.

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PRIMARY CARE

Assisted dying law needs fixing

The Australian, General News, 01/03/2024, Rhiannon Down, Page 7

The ACT government has been urged to amend its voluntary assisted dying legislation to clarify the requirement for a patient to be suffering from an "advanced" illness and in the "last stages of their life", amid concerns the terms are vague and could include old age. A committee review of the proposed legislation, which will be the nation's most liberal assisted suicide framework if it becomes law, has recommended the Labor-Greens government review the phrasing of its eligibility requirements to avoid being "vague and open to interpretation".

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

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Liberal dissenters blast most 'extreme' VAD proposal

Canberra Times, General News, 01/03/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 8

Clearer terminology is needed to determine who is eligible for voluntary assisted dying in the ACT's proposed bill, a parliamentary inquiry has recommended. A Legislative Assembly select committee said the phrases that a person must have an "advanced" condition and be in the "last stages of life" needed to be more clearly defined. But members of the committee have disagreed on a final report.

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

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A campaign health check

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 01/03/2024, Page 24

Public hospital systems are the backbone of societal wellbeing, yet they often become a neglected topic in political discourse during elections because everyone knows how difficult they are to fix. But as representatives of the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, the Health and Community Services Union, Health Consumers Tasmania and the Medical Staff Association called out yesterday, health must become a key issue as this campaign rolls on towards the March 23 polling day.

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Huge expense: bulk-billing GPs disappear in the Illawarra

Patients in the central and northern Illawarra have access to three fewer bulk-billing clinics than they did a year ago, despite government efforts to improve access to primary care. New data showing how GPs stack up in each electorate has revealed the bulk-billing rate in both Cunningham and Whitlam has plummeted.

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

Choice for home-based care

Border Watch, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 12

Two pharmacies in the Limestone Coast will provide better access to palliative care medications. Gambier City Pharmacy and TerryWhite Chemmart Kingcraig in Naracoorte have both signed up for the new initiative which is expected to allow South Australians to continue treatment at home and avoid visiting emergency departments.

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Leaders at hospital pleaded with 2 ministers

Border Mail, General News, 01/03/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

Albury Wodonga Health's chief executive and chair have told the NSW and Victorian health ministers that the "likely reality" the Twin Cities will continue with split hospitals is "grossly disappointing". Bill Appleby and Jonathan Green wrote to Ryan Park and Mary-Anne Thomas on December 19, 2023 with their concerns about what had unfolded since October 2022 when a single-site hospital in Albury was flagged by the then NSW and Victorian premiers.

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Elizabeth Eccleston files District Court lawsuit over death of husband Tony, who waited nine hours in Lyell McEwin's ED

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/02/2024, Sean Fewster

Tony Eccleston waited nine hours in an emergency room to see a doctor, and then died. Now his widow wants a court to hold the hospital to account.

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

[Read More](#)

Cleanbill report reveals Gilmore locals paying more than ever for doctors

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/02/2024, Tom McGann

New data has revealed Gilmore locals are paying more than ever for doctors, however the federal government has said the opposite, stating healthcare is cheaper than ever. RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins says health is an "essential right," and the federal government needs to make sure investments are made in primary care.

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

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Tara and Millmerran set to receive new health facilities worth \$51.2m

Cairns Post, Other, 29/02/2024, Christine Schindler

Construction has started on two new health facilities in the growing region of the Western Downs. Construction on \$51.2m worth of replacement health facilities has started for two towns in the Western Downs, with completion expected in early 2025.

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

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Has Illawarra palliative care been cut? Health minister in war of words

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 29/02/2024, Kate McIlwain

Health Minister Ryan Park has shaken off suggestions by the NSW opposition that his government cut

the Illawarra's palliative care budget by over 36 per cent. In a fiery budget estimates hearing last week, Mr Park was peppered with questions about the budget for end-of-life care, including questions on how many nurses were working in palliative care in his local area.

[Read More](#)

'What they're looking to achieve': Hospital mergers on state agenda

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 29/02/2024, Jessica Greenan

'What they're looking to achieve': Hospital mergers on state agenda South-west Victoria's hospitals could merge into a single service, with the state government pushing for amalgamations as it develops a new blueprint for the system, an eminent health expert says. Victoria's health leaders are providing the government with feedback on the optimal design and governance of its public health network.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 29/02/2024, Lucy Breaden

Interview with Frank Nicholson, spokesperson, Tasmanian AMA. Nicholson points out that there is a system-wide problem that they are dealing with within the hospital system, particularly the emergency departments. He adds that GPs are struggling, as well as paramedics, in regards to discharging people who no longer require acute care back into the community.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Iris has eyes on Ipswich

Courier Mail, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 63

A redeveloped property in the heart of Ipswich has secured its second tenant - a mental health and disability support service organisation. Blue Iris Support Services has a long-term lease on 288sq m of office space at 26 East, St, and joins youth and young adult counselling and support services group Headspace which has leased the remainder of the building.

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'I couldn't make any more decisions': How doctors struggle in silence during menopause

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/02/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Dr Andrea Binks says the mental health impact of menopause is often overlooked. Facing perimenopause herself, Dr Andrea Binks decided to ask 100 fellow anaesthetists about whether menopause had affected their work.

[Read More](#)

Mental illness prevention program for first responders

In Daily, Other, 29/02/2024

Flinders University has developed a program aimed at preventing mental illness in emergency service workers, with 39 per cent of first responders diagnosed with a mental illness in their lifetime. Flinders University has created a three-pronged program aimed at supporting first responders and the people around them to prevent the development of mental health conditions.

[Read More](#)

'Crisis' as eating disorders cost Australia \$67 billion

The Border Mail, Other, 29/02/2024, Cassandra Morgan

Australia is in the midst of a "public health crisis" as the number of people with eating disorders increases, costing the country \$67 billion a year. That's the verdict from charity the Butterfly Foundation, which says 1.1 million Australians are living with an eating disorder, representing an increase of 21 per cent since 2012.

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Abortion is essential healthcare – so why isn't it universally affordable and accessible?

The Guardian, Other, 29/02/2024, Ronli Sifris

The ACT has made abortion up to 16 weeks' gestation free to all residents. It is now time for the rest of Australia to follow suit Australia's cost-of-living crisis has been well reported.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 29/02/2024, Mark Gibson

Interview with Dr Michael Gannon, former head of AMA WA. Gibson points out that he has heard, that people do not want to give birth around Christmas and the New Year. Gannon says the fact is, that one in three births in Australia now come when labour is induced.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Medical college gone phishing

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/03/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 22

A top medical college has been hit by a cyber attack, with hackers stealing information including doctors' phone numbers and education details. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners which represents GPs across Australia confirmed they had a "cyber security breach" earlier this month.

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

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Health's re-hiring ban error

Courier Mail, General News, 01/03/2024, Jackie Sinnerton & Madura McCormack, Page 1

Hospital human resource departments were directed by Queensland Health not to reemploy workers who had been terminated for refusing to get the Covid-19 vaccine, according to leaked emails obtained by The Courier-Mail. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman (pictured) has this week denied three times that there was anything stopping former health workers from rejoining the workforce.

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

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Policy fail on health crisis

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/03/2024, David Killick, Page 6

The state's frontline health staff say they are too few in numbers, overworked, underpaid and demoralised and have called on the major political parties to come up with a fix. Representatives of the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, the Health and Community Services Union, Health Consumers Tasmania and the Medical Staff Association held a press conference in Hobart on Thursday calling for a plan to fix the state's ailing health system.

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A solution to the GP shortage

Launceston Examiner, General News, 01/03/2024, Isabel Bird, Page 15

The solution to pay the HELP debts of trainee doctors is backed by Tasmania's Australian Medical Association, with state president Annette Barrett labelling it an "out of the box" idea to encourage graduate doctors to train in the state. General Practice Training Tasmania board member Andrew Fair called for a \$4 million state investment to pay the HELP debts of 40 graduating doctors.

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New Shepparton Private Hospital CEO

Shepparton News, General News, 01/03/2024, Jay Bryce, Page 3

The new Shepparton Private Hospital chief executive was born, bred and battle-tested in Greater Shepparton. Brett Walters was born in Katandra West and still lives there now.

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Workers at 16 Sydney hospitals to down tools over fury over staff hospital parking hikes

West Australian, Other, 29/02/2024, Jessica Wang

Fury is brewing among hospital workers over drastic increases to parking in metropolitan Sydney hospitals, with staff across 16 hospitals walking off the job over hikes to staff parking amid a cost-of-living crisis. About 1000 workers, including psychologists, scientists, theatre technicians, kitchen staff, cleaners, and security guards, will down tools between 12pm to 2pm on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

MedAdvisor to introduce new vax transaction fees

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/02/2024, Michael Khoo

Transaction fees linked to vaccination services and Project Stop are set to boost MedAdvisor's revenue Medication management platform provider, MedAdvisor Solutions, is set to introduce new transaction fees for a range of services, including Project Stop in the coming months.

[Read More](#)

'That undercurrent of bullying and harassment'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/02/2024, Megan Haggan

A new report has revealed high levels of psychological risk in health workplaces – and a pharmacy burnout expert says she hopes it opens up conversations and reduces stigma. Safe Work Australia has released a new report identifying trends in psychological health in workplaces, finding that mental health conditions accounted for 9% of all serious

[Read More](#)

National RTPM stops drug misuse in NT

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/02/2024

A serious case of medication misuse in the Northern Territory was avoided earlier this month, thanks to the use of the national Real Time Prescription Monitoring (RTPM) system, NT Health told Pharmacy Daily. The incident recently took place when a patient in Darwin and Palmerston attempted to attain early supply of the S8 drug pregabalin by approaching several pharmacies in succession.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Female drug use up

Herald Sun, General News, 01/03/2024, Eleanor Campbell, Page 3

A new survey has found that young Australian women are using illicit drugs at the same rate as men for the first time, with an uptick in binge drinking leading experts to call for an "urgent" investment into harm prevention. More than one in three young women have consumed an illicit drug over the past year, up from 27 per cent in 2019, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's latest National Drug Strategy Household Survey.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#). Similar coverage reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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Hughesy offer to puff up anti-vape push

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/03/2024, Jessica Wang, Page 23

Radio star and comedian Dave "Hughesy" Hughes and his cohost Erin Molan have offered to prop up a NSW anti-vaping campaign, free of charge. Hughesy, who has been open about overcoming smoking and vaping, made the admission on 2Day FM on Thursday morning while interviewing NSW Health Minister Ryan Park.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Funding for vaping education needed

Burnie Advocate, General News, 01/03/2024, Isabel Bird, Page 14

Curious, nicotine-naive kids are choosing to try vaping at least once, according to new data that is prompting more calls for a greater focus on preventing kids under 14 from ever trying it. The data from the Australian Health and Welfare Institute has led Australian health professionals and academics to call for strategies to dampen the attraction of vaping, to ensure it is not normalised in young people.

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

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Beach areas, jetties, shops and sports venues to be vape-smoke free

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/02/2024, Brad Crouch

Smoking and vaping in popular outdoor public spaces including jetties, parts of beaches and outside shops will be banned from Friday, with new fines to help enforce the law. From March 1 no-smoking and vaping zones will include outdoor swimming pools, children's sporting events, beaches near patrol flags, jetties, outside shopping centre entrances, childcare settings, schools and hospitals.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#)

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South Australia bans smoking and vaping at major public places

The Mercury, Other, 29/02/2024

One state is introducing a strict new ban on smoking and vaping in public places from Friday, with huge fines for anyone caught out. Smoking and vaping will be banned at popular outdoor areas in South Australia from Friday, with fines for those who flout the law.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Vape, illicit drug use across Western Australia is soaring, national drug survey reveals

West Australian, Other, 29/02/2024, Dylan Caporn

Vaping use across Australia has tripled, with soaring rates of young West Australians admitting to using e-cigarettes in a wide-ranging national drug survey. The figures, which show a quarter of 18 to 24 year olds regularly use e-cigarettes, up from just six per cent three years ago, were released as part of the National Drug Strategy Household Survey over 2022 and 2023.

Similar coverage reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Medical Forum \(Online\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 29/02/2024, Kate Freebairn

Starting tomorrow, smoking and vaping will be banned in several outdoor public spaces across Adelaide. New legislation is designed to safeguard the community from inhaling passively and it authorises hefty fines. As of tomorrow, smoke and vape-free zones will be expanded across SA, including within ten metres of shopping centre entrances, childcare centres, schools, hospitals and government and commercial buildings, plus at major events and in sections of beaches.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 29/02/2024, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

From tomorrow, anyone caught smoking or vaping near hospitals or shopping centres could be slapped with an on-the-spot. Fine, but there will be no patrols instead. SA Health is asking the public to do them in its public health enemy number one. From tomorrow, it'll be illegal to smoke or vape within ten metres of schools, hospitals and shopping centres

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 29/02/2024, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

New outdoor no-smoking zones will be in place across the state from tomorrow, with vaping and cigarette use banned at places like beaches and outside shops and schools additionally, a new advertising campaign also rolling out. This is just the latest part of an Australian-wide crackdown In January, the federal government banned the importation of disposable vapes into the country. From tomorrow that will extend to all vapes, including those that are rechargeable.

[Play Now](#)

5AA, Afternoons, 29/02/2024, Stacey Lee

Pre-recorded interview with SA Health Minister Chris Picton. Lee says smoking and vaping will be banned in even more public places around SA and a spot fine of \$105 is set if a person is caught smoking in front of kids' sporting events. Picton says they don't want people to have to walk through a gauntlet of smoke and vape when they are taking their kids to school or taking their kids to the shopping centre.

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 29/02/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with Clinton Cenko, Manager, Tobacco Control Unit, SA Drug and Alcohol Service. Schiller points out that there will be new vaping laws set for 1 March, wherein people can't vape within 10 metres of public hospitals, outdoor pools, major events, schools, and pre-schools. Cenko points out that the laws will create smoke-free and vape-free areas in a range of popular and well-visited public zones where the general public and children go.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 29/02/2024, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park. Karvelas says the crackdown on vapes is becoming an increasing challenge for authorities as demand for them continues to grow. She states from Friday, the importation of all vapes without a licence or a permit will be banned, which follows a ban on the import of all single-use vapes. Park points out that they have the ability to seize said products which is what they've been doing for some time now and they will continue those seizures.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 29/02/2024, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Dr Erin Lalor AM, CEO, Alcohol and Drug Foundation. Karvelas says the next phase of the Federal Government's e-cigarette crackdown comes into effect with restrictions being strengthened, making it harder to buy vapes in Australia. Lalor says the report that was released today on vaping details particularly the National Drug Strategy Household Survey Report, initiated by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, showed there is an increase in vaping use from ages 18 to 24 yrs. She states that the reforms put in place recently by the Federal Government have been driven by this report.

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SPORT

Stadium eyes an NFL show

Courier Mail, Business News, 01/03/2024, Glen Norris, Page 31

Are we looking at a Tay Tay and Travis double header at Suncorp Stadium? Suncorp Stadium general manager Alan Graham is in Las Vegas to witness the Brisbane Broncos make National Rugby League history this weekend at the casino mecca's Allegiant Stadium.

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NRL 2024 concussion protocols: Spudd Carroll's urgent warning following Corey Parker CTE revelations

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 28/02/2024, Fatima Kdouh

Former rugby league hard man Mark Carroll has urged the NRL to introduce longer concussion stand down periods in the wake of Brisbane great Corey Parker's shock CTE revelations. The NRL brought in an 11-day stand down rule as part of revamped protocols almost 12 months ago for players diagnosed with concussion.

[Read More](#)

Gradual acceptance of concussion risk prompts new reality for Australian sport

The Guardian, Other, 29/02/2024, Jack Snape

Another new footy season is here, but in 2024 something in sport has changed. An increasing acknowledgment of the risk of concussion is helping to drive rule modifications and investment in state-

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Plan to 'clean' up brain

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 25

Ambitious plans are under way to clean the brain in the hope of eventually fighting dementia and memory loss. Under the plan being hatched at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), scientists hope to devise ways to check how well a patient's brain is cleaning itself, then to help when it is not doing a good enough job.

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

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Appetite to study our diets

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 16

A Deakin University multidisciplinary team will develop and test an online consultation tool to get a clearer picture of how rural and remote communities access and buy food and how that influences dietary behaviour. The research collaboration between engineering and IT researchers from Deakin's Intelligent Systems Research and Innovation (IISRI) and health experts from the Institute for Health Transformation (IHT) - hopes to understand the dietary risks for rural and remote Australians, who face shorter lifespans and higher rates of diet-related disease compared with metropolitan areas.

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Sydney girl Grace, 8, needs help, is one of two people in the world with super rare condition

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/02/2024, Rohan Smith

Little Grace Maly is living inside a body that does not match its brain. She is one of just two people in the world with this super rare condition. A world-first diabetes breakthrough by Melbourne researchers could prove to be a potential cure for the disease.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Dougie Hampson wrote to relative admitting fear of going to hospitals, inquest hears

ABC Online, Other, 29/02/2024, Zaarkacha Marlan

An Indigenous man misdiagnosed at a Central West New South Wales hospital who later died once wrote to a relative saying he was "really scared" to visit them in hospital, an inquest has heard. The Hampson family has granted the ABC permission to use Ricky "Dougie" Hampson Jr's name and image.

Similar coverage reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Sarah Corrigan's Journey: from TAFE courses to empowering First Nations healthcare

SBS, Other, 29/02/2024, Bertrand Tungandame

Sarah Corrigan, who lives and works on Awabakal Country, reflects on her transformative journey through TAFE education. Sarah Corrigan completed five TAFE courses in Newcastle, a decision she hails as her best study-work choice yet.

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Health experts on a mission to fight rheumatic heart disease in Mparntwe

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/02/2024, Dechlan Brennan

The Deadly Heart Trek will launch its fourth leg in Mparntwe/Alice Springs, in a battle to address the critical health issue of rheumatic heart disease amongst Indigenous Australians. The team brings together a coalition of paediatric cardiologists, multidisciplinary doctors, Aboriginal cultural guides and health workers to help fight a disease that is almost eradicated amongst large sections of the Australian population but remains prevalent in Indigenous communities.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Obesity drugs are here to stay, but need close watch

Herald Sun, General News, 01/03/2024, Neale Cohen, Page 63

The obesity epidemic and its consequences is one of the most important health issues of developed nations. [...] It is reasonable, as announced by the TGA, that off-label prescribing for obesity is not advised.

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

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Opioid access: more action needed, say hospital pharmacists

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/02/2024, Megan Haggan

Patients should not have to pay for unsubsidised morphine products brought in to manage the current shortage, says the SHPA Yesterday (28 February 2023), the AJP reported that the Therapeutic Goods Administration has granted approval for several internationally-registered morphine oral liquid products to be supplied in Australia.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 29/02/2024, Yvonne Yong

The Therapeutic Goods Administration will move to ban compounding pharmacists from making their own versions of injectable weight loss drugs like ozempic and manjaro. The drugs are approved for diabetes and widely used off label for weight loss, which has led to supply problems and shortages in Australia that enabled Australian pharmacists to use a regulatory loophole to replicate the drugs and supply them to customers with a prescription.

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AICIS

PFAS-contaminated soil clean up cost to bite Dogs Victoria

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 28/02/2024, Mark Buttler & Mitch Clarke

Dogs Victoria is facing a hefty clean-up bill after it was ordered to fix land on its headquarters in Melbourne's southeast where PFAS-contaminated soil from an old fire station was dumped. The 470 cubic metre of dirt was trucked in to the Skye property from the former Metropolitan Fire Brigade station at Foote St in Templestowe, four years ago.

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