



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 7th February 2024

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports authority should be given to Indigenous communities to quell government failures to address health, education and safety outcomes under the Closing the Gap agreement, a Productivity Commission report has found. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [West Australian](#), [The Guardian](#)
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports King Charles began regular treatments on Tuesday for an undisclosed cancer and will step back from all public-facing duties, Buckingham Palace says. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Canberra Times](#), [West Australian](#), [ABC Online](#)
- The **[Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 1) reports NSW's proposed GP payroll taxes could see 95 per cent of doctors' clinics up payments by \$12 in August, while up to 360 clinics may be forced to close, patient engagement provider HotDoc has warned. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#)
- The **[Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 5) reports Australian schools will be given anti-vaping support by federal and state governments, with Health Minister Mark Butler warning vapes have transcended their health risk to become the "number one behavioural issue" in many schools. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (Minister Butler editorial), [Courier Mail](#)

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 6) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has urged Victoria to review impending payroll tax changes, saying he is concerned they could cancel out new investments in Medicare services. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#)
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 7) reports hospitals may be forced to consider cutting staff numbers if the government does not address a widening gap between funding and "true running costs", the Victorian Healthcare Association has warned in its state government budget submission.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 9) reports accidental prescription medication overdoses now claim more lives than the national death toll, AHPRA data has shown, while 768 health workers were reported to the authority for dangerous prescription practices between 2020 and 2023. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#)
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 11) reports a senior doctor at Launceston General Hospital routinely falsified records and failed to report deaths to the coroner, a nurse has told a state parliamentary inquiry into ambulance ramping. *Also reported by:* [Hobart Mercury](#), [Launceston Examiner](#), [ABC Online](#)
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 13) reports more than \$2 million will be spent to address widespread black mould growth in the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Schools to tackle vaping epidemic

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/02/2024, Clare Armstrong and Eilidh Mellis, Page 5

Governments back teachers Every school principal in Australia will be given anti-vaping support by federal and state governments to combat the rising epidemic among children. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said parents were rightly anxious about their kids being attracted to brightly coloured vapes in flavours like bubblegum, grape or cherry.

*Also reported by:* [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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### Your taxes make us sick

Herald Sun, General News, 07/02/2024, Jade Gailberger and Shannon Deery, Page 6

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has urged Victoria to review its controversial payroll tax, revealing he's deeply worried that investments in Medicare would be lost under the changes. The concerns come after the Herald Sun revealed new data showing patients could face massive fee hikes of 30 per cent and hundreds of clinics could close if GPs are sluggish under the state government's planned cash grab.

*Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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### Taking on Big Tobacco to protect our kids from vapes

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2024, Mark Butler, Page 13

As a father of three, I know too well that sending your kids off for the first day of a new school year is always an exciting yet nervous time. Do they have everything they need? What teacher will they have? Will they find a good group of friends? In recent years, another very serious issue has become an increasing concern for many parents - how do I stop my child from being lured into vaping? [...] Mark Butler is federal health minister

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### Coulton blasts health minister

Lake News, General News, 07/02/2024, Page 6

Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton has expressed serious concerns for the health welfare of regional, rural and remote Australians after the Minister for Health, Mark Butler, said Australians should just "ring around" to find a bulk-billing GP in their area. It comes after the Minister moved the goalposts regarding Distribution Priority Areas for GPs - bringing Newcastle, Wollongong and some suburbs of

Sydney into the scheme therefore stripping doctors from the regions - and the forcing of community pharmacies to pick up the tab for its 60-day medicine dispensing policy - putting jobs and services in regional communities under threat.

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### Urgent care clinic helps hospital wait

MyCityLogan, General News, 06/02/2024, Page 13

Pressure on Logan Hospital's emergency department has reportedly eased thanks to the recently established urgent care clinic at Browns Plains. Federal health minister Mark Butler said that non-urgent and semi-urgent presentations at the hospital were down 10 per cent since the clinic opened last August.

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### More than \$1.1 million in vapes, nicotine products seized in raids across Sydney

9News, Other, 06/02/2024, Mikala Theocharous

Nsw Police and NSW Health conducted 60 raids across Sydney CBD and southeast Sydney between January 29 and February 2. [...] "Vape products are deliberately marketed to our children," Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said.

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### GP registrars call for national leave fund in budget

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/02/2024, Holly Payne

Training conditions are a key concern in the pre-budget submissions from various GP organisations this year. Budget night is still three months away, but various health organisations and peak bodies have been keen to unveil their vision for primary care funding. [...] Last year, Health Minister Mark Butler flipped the script by announcing extra GP-specific funding that tripled the Medicare bulk billing incentive and introduced a new patient registration system, MyMedicare.

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### MINISTER WELLS

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## DEPARTMENT

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## CORONAVIRUS

### COVID on the rise in local health district

Daily Liberal, General News, 07/02/2024, Amy Rees, Page 2

Lockdowns and isolation periods may be a thing of the past, but COVID-19 is still very much present in the community. And with the cases in the Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) spiking, it's a timely reminder for the region's residents to continue practising COVID-safe behaviours.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Don't leave old-age talks for the hospital car park

Australian Financial Review, Smart Investor, 07/02/2024, Louise Biti, Page 22

If you don't live with your parents or visit every day, it may be easy to miss the small things and the signs that an older parent is not coping as well as they used to with day-to-day needs.

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

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### Westpac on the lookout for signs of financial abuse

The Australian, Business News, 07/02/2024, Paulina Duran, Page 19

Westpac is bolstering its "zero tolerance" approach to financial abuse, introducing a new monitoring and alerting system for 150,000 customer accounts with a power of attorney arrangement. The system will focus on account activity, and suspicious payments will be flagged for further investigation by an internal specialist team.

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

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### Big win for care in WA

West Australian, General News, 07/02/2024, Kim Macdonald, Page 38

The heritage-listed WA Deaf School in Cottesloe has been sold to an aged-care joint venture for \$35 million. The site will be developed to include residential aged-care housing and new facilities to support Western Australia's deaf children, after selling to Cottesloe Living, Health & Aged Care. The new owner is a joint venture between the Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Fund, and aged-care provider Hall & Prior Aged Care Group.

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### Grant brings comfort to aged care residents

Border Watch, General News, 07/02/2024, Page 7

Residents and staff of Boneham Aged Care (BAC) are benefitting from the purchase of an almost \$16,000 Carendo mobile hygiene chair made available by a Stand Like Stone Foundation grant of \$7260 toward the costs. The piece of equipment provides a safe and comfortable way for staff to assist residents with mobility issues with daily showering and washing.

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## Carer accused of theft from elderly client

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 07/02/2024, Grace Crivellaro, Page 6

A former aged care worker allegedly fleeced tens of thousands from a client with dementia by sending the funds into her own account across 130 transactions. Illawarra woman Joanne Whyte, 53, was arrested two days before Christmas in 2022, after police claim she defrauded \$16,547 from elderly home care client Janette Nicholson.

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## Aged care home with fatal COVID cluster back in court

Canberra Times, Other, 07/02/2024, Melissa Meehan

A criminal case against an aged care home where 45 coronavirus-infected residents died during outbreak in 2020 will return to court in Melbourne. St Basil's Home for the Aged was charged by WorkSafe in 2022 with nine breaches of occupational health and safety legislation.

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

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## How to talk to reluctant parents about aged care as industry enters 'critical' reform

ABC Online, Other, 06/02/2024, Daniel Miles

Australia's population is rapidly ageing and putting increasing pressure on a care system that is yet to fully emerge from the impacts of a devastating royal commission. [...] "Both the pandemic and the news around the royal commission and neglect in aged care has certainly increased our reluctance to go into residential aged care and increased the appetite for home-based care," Dr Low said.

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## Overuse of drugs in dementia care: 'see the person not the behaviours'

The Senior, Other, 06/02/2024, Libby Bingham

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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## All (retirement village) eyes are on Canberra and care

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2024, Chris Baynes

Over the last three months there has been a flurry of activity in the retirement living sector to position villages as a care solution, in Canberra, within the sector and with customers. Will villages be providing 50,000 beds into the residential care system within five years?

[Read More](#)

## ACCPA sets sights on retirement village operators with new appointments

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2024, Ian Horswill

The Aged & Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA) states it is for providers of residential aged care, home and community care, retirement living and seniors housing. Under the leadership of Tom Symondson, who was appointed in July 2022, it is known ACCPA seriously wants to become the voice of retirement living, at a time the Property Council's Retirement Living Council has increased its membership, with Anglicare Sydney and Uniting NSW.

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## The Sleeping Giant: Retirement Living Council's five demands for inclusion in FY25 Federal Budget

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2024, Ian Horswill

"Retirement communities are the sleeping giant of Australia's health and housing landscape given the benefits they provide to consumers and governments alike," says the Retirement Living Council as it makes a submission to the Federal Government for inclusion in its FY25 Budget.

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## Star ratings system for aged care a failure, says expert

Your Life Choices, Other, 07/02/2024, Andrew Gigacz

Ratings are a big part of life these days. Appliances are ranked for efficiency and energy. We get a chance to rate restaurants, hotels, resorts and businesses. Even doctors and lecturers receive online star ratings. But how accurate are these ratings and do they always paint a clear picture? In the aged care sector, research suggests the answer is 'no'. In December 2022, the federal government introduced a star rating system for aged care facilities.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Premier kills off landmark trans inquiry

The Australian, General News, 07/02/2024, David Penberthy, Page 8

The push to hold the nation's first parliamentary inquiry into the treatment of young people with gender dysphoria has been killed off after South Australian Labor refused its MPs a conscience vote on the issue. Several members of the more socially conservative South Australian branch of the ALP were ready to support the motion by independent MLC Frank Pangallo for an inquiry amid a major increase in the number of young people transitioning in SA.

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

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### Fears over state's \$500m black market vape trade

Age, General News, 07/02/2024, Kieran Rooney, Page 1

Victoria's black market for vapes has been valued at up to \$500 million, prompting warnings the proceeds must be kept out of the hands of organised crime as the state grapples with a gangland war for control of the sale of illegally imported cigarettes. The importation and sale of illegal tobacco in Victoria has been linked to dozens of firebombings, and a new analysis from the state's Parliamentary Budget Office has sparked fears the closely associated e-cigarette industry could become another lucrative black market.

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### Wealth is key to health

Courier Mail, General News, 07/02/2024, Page 14

Most Australians believe their financial health is a factor in their overall health and six in10 are thinking more about their financial outlook than they did 12 months ago. Respondents recognised the link between financial, physical and mental health in the research from Australian life insurer TAL, with 58 per cent saying their financial health impacts their mental wellbeing and 47 per cent saying it impacts their physical wellbeing.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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### Where there's smoke, there's schoolkids

Sound Telegraph, General News, 07/02/2024, Bethany Hiatt, Page 6

Almost 90 per cent of vape stores across Perth are less than 1km from a school, with Rockingham among the suburbs with the highest number of stores, an alarming WA study has revealed. Of the 194 vape shops identified by researchers from the University of Notre Dame Australia for the Australian-first study, 88 per cent were a short walk from either a primary school or high school.

## Why you can't keep off the weight you lose

Australian Financial Review, Other, 06/02/2024, Hattie Garlick

Yo-yo dieting is not only dangerous for your physical health, it can be debilitating to your sense of self-worth. You've lost five kilos and you're feeling good.

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## Urge for safety sense around Murray during Southern 80

Shepparton News Online, Other, 06/02/2024, Michael Lloyd

Marine Rescue NSW, Life Saving Victoria and Ambulance Victoria are urging visitors to the Murray River to be careful as the Southern 80 takes place this weekend, February 9 to 11. The Murray River will be closed between Five Mile and Victoria Park boat ramps between 6am and 7pm on Saturday, and between Torrumbarry Weir and Victoria Park Boat Ramp from 6am to 7pm on Sunday.

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## Premature deaths of hundreds of homeless Australians 'completely unacceptable', housing minister says

The Guardian, Other, 07/02/2024, Christopher Knaus

The federal housing minister, Julie Collins, has described hundreds of premature homelessness deaths as "completely unacceptable" amid a sector-wide push for the establishment of a reporting scheme to shine a light on the crisis. Guardian Australia this week published the findings of a 12-month investigation of 627 homelessness deaths, finding a three-decade life expectancy gap and an average age of death of 44, and widespread systemic failings across the housing, health and justice systems.

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## ABC, ABC News, 06/02/2024, Jeremy Fernandez

Authorities have seized 30,000 illegal vapes with nicotine in raids on 60 shops in Sydney. The haul has a street value of more than \$1.1m and also included 118,000 cigarettes and 45kg of flavoured and loose-leaf tobacco.

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## Channel 7, Sunrise, 06/02/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Ryan Park, NSW Health Minister. on the major vaping blitz across Sydney. Around 60 stores have been targeted and 30,000 vaping devices have been seized with a street value of \$1.1m. It's the largest number of inspections carried out in a single week. Park says they need to do their bit to reduce the availability of these products to young people. This is our largest weekly haul in terms of the number of inspections,

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## Channel 9, Today, 06/02/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

More than 30,000 illegal vapes have been seized during raids right across New South Wales. Authorities stinging more than 60 stores, some allegedly hiding the smoking devices behind fake walls, in ceilings and secret drawers. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says it is about making sure that they reduce the availability of those products, particularly to young people right across the community.

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## Radio National, Breakfast, 06/02/2024, Patricia Karvelas

A survey has found a third of Australian parents are concerned about their children vaping. More than 1000 parents were surveyed for the Cancer Council last month and around 78% say preventing their kids from using vapes is a high priority. Around 90% say all governments should prioritise restricting access to vapes to only those with a valid prescription.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Can Charles go on? Cancer diagnosis clouds King's future

The Australian, General News, 07/02/2024, Jamie Walker, Page 1

The King's retreat from public duties while battling cancer will jeopardise his first trip to Australia since he was crowned and will raise renewed questions about the viability of his barely-established reign. Buckingham Palace was scrambling to line up senior royals to cover for the 75-year-old monarch after revealing he would step away from all "public-facing" engagements on medical advice.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### Look after your heart on a budget

Canberra Times, General News, 07/02/2024, Chloe Steele, Page 22

Some of US think heart disease is something that happens to other people but in reality, it affects 1.2 million Australians. February marks the start of RedFeb, when Heart Research Australia campaigns to raise awareness and ultimately help to prevent heart disease. There are five key lifestyle steps that can decrease the chances of developing heart disease: Not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, exercising, and getting enough sleep, are all great ways to reduce your risk.

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### Best quit by middle age

Herald Sun, General News, 07/02/2024, Page 17

Fifteen years after stopping smoking, a person's cancer risk drops to 50 per cent of the risk associated with continued smoking. A Korean Department of Cancer Control and Population Health population-based study following almost three million participants in South Korea found that quitting smoking at any age helped reduce the risk of cancer, but stopping before middle age reduced the risk especially for lung cancer substantially.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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### Narelle's fight against terminal prognosis

Border Mail, General News, 07/02/2024, Jodie O'Sullivan, Page 12

Narelle Lawrence had all the signs of a kidney infection. The 45-year-old Wodonga resident had experienced them before so she "kind of knew" what the pain felt like. [...] Narelle is now keen to help raise awareness and "much needed funds" for Ovarian Cancer Australia through an initiative with fashion retailer Black Pepper.

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### Take charge of your health

Border Watch, General News, 07/02/2024, Michael Simmons, Page 24

February marks RedFeb, Heart Awareness Month and this year Heart Research Australia is aiming to empower Australians to take charge of their cardiovascular well-being without straining their finances. Heart disease affects two in three Australians and remains the leading cause of death in our country. [...] Heart Foundation community health advocate Anne Young has been involved in workshops throughout the state to spread the message on caring for your heart.

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### Bowel cancer can strike early



Your body knows when something is wrong. Chris Gash knew it when he started falling ill around December 2020. Living in Cobram with his wife and his one-year-old son, he did a lot of exercise to pass the time. But he suddenly began noticing changes to his body, especially his weight.

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## **'Different level': US woman's warning about Australia**

The Australian, Other, 06/02/2024, Duncan Evans

She issued a warning after getting badly burned An American influencer has revealed to the world the brutal threat of severe sunburn that is a daily part of life in Australia's sweltering summers. Taylor Nunez, 22, posted a video to TikTok showing off the gruesome sunburn she suffered on her arms and legs during her first trip to Sydney. [...] Sunburn is acute skin inflammation following overexposure to UV radiation, according to Cancer Council.

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## **Two friends on a personal mission to cure cancer**

The Guardian, Other, 07/02/2024, Jane Lee

When Prof Georgina Long and Prof Richard Scolyer accepted their award for Australians of the Year, they had a very personal message. Their pioneering work has dramatically increased survival rates for melanoma, the most common cancer among people between 20 to 39 years old.

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## **Beyond sugar levels: How to actively manage diabetes?**

SBS, Other, 06/02/2024, Itee Dewan

Diabetes, characterised by excess glucose in the bloodstream due to insulin deficiency, presents significant health risks. Endocrinologist Dr Shilpa Verma explores proactive approaches to diabetes management, emphasising the crucial role of nutrition.

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## **'A woman's right to know': Why radiologists now back widespread breast density reporting**

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/02/2024, Heather Saxena

About one in 10 Australian have extremely dense breasts, says Associate Professor Michelle Reintals. In December last year, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists joined calls for widespread breast density reporting to inform patients of their individual risk.

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## **Mother-son bond strengthened during ovarian cancer treatment**

The Senior, Other, 06/02/2024

Flashback to late 2020. Avoca Beach local Karen Gower was reading an old magazine on the train. [...] As part of it, two specially designed scarves, a top and blouse are available through the fashion label, with a portion of sales going to not-for-profit organisation Ovarian Cancer Australia in a bid to raise \$100,000 to support women with ovarian cancer.

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## **PRIMARY CARE**

### **We're just sick of it**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/02/2024, Madeleine Bower, Page 1

Doctors across NSW will be forced to jack up their fees by \$12 in six months' time to combat a state government "tax grab" a move that will result in 95 per cent of GP clinics increasing their fees, new figures show. [...] AMA president Dr Michael Bonning said it was imperative a decision was made

quickly so flow on effects and contracting arrangements for doctors could be put into place before the freeze ends.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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## Money only fix for health woes

Herald Sun, General News, 07/02/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 7

Issues in the state's healthcare system will get worse so long as funding continues to fall short of hospital and health services' true running costs, their peak body says. The Victorian Healthcare Association's state budget submission has warned this yearslong "structural deficit" cannot be fixed by targeting inefficiencies "without devastating results" for "the health of Victorians".

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## Hospital mould spreads

Courier Mail, General News, 07/02/2024, Kylie Lang, Page 13

Mould is continuing to spread in the state's largest hospital including a major surgical recovery ward as the government throws millions at eradicating the dangerous spores amid one of Queensland's hottest and most humid summers. [...] Australian Medical Association (Queensland) president Maria Boulton said mould could exacerbate existing conditions and cause secondary infections and severe illness.

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

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## Healing our sick hospitals

Northern Territory News, General News, 07/02/2024, Page 11

With less than 200 days to the Northern Territory election, the Territory Labor Party and the Country Liberal Party have revealed their plans to deliver stronger health outcomes across the NT. Each party had 200 words to share its policy stance on two of the biggest issues impacting health services in the Territory.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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## Unhealthy waiting times

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2024, Alexander Blain, Page 10

Some Geelong public health patients continue to face extended wait times and Geelong hospital's emergency ward remains sluggish amid high demand, new figures reveal. Barwon Health, among the state's busiest health services, has also seen improvements in some areas. The last three months of 2023 were the busiest quarter on record for paramedics in the state, with Ambulance Victoria responding to a record 154,267 cases - including 99,833 code one patients.

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## Demand for RFDS growing

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 07/02/2024, Amber Lilley, Page 6

The Royal Flying Doctor Service experienced a 7.5 per cent increase in Goldfields patients last year compared to 2022, with more than 1400 people helped during 2023. Statewide, 10,270 patients were retrieved by RFDS WA in 2023, making it the organisation's busiest year on record with an average of 28 patients per day.

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## Ambos setting fast pace

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 07/02/2024, Jack Evans, Page 9

Mildura recorded the second fastest ambulance response time in the state, narrowly behind Swan Hill, in the most recent Ambulance Victoria data. Mildura paramedics attended 86.8 per cent of Code 1 patients within 15 minutes, while Swan Hill was the best in Victoria with paramedics attending 89.4 per cent of Code 1 patients within the time-frame.

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## Hospital build takes shape

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 07/02/2024, Leighton Smith, Page 15

Construction on Townsville's second private hospital is taking shape, with scaffolding coming down on the five-storey building and a connecting bridge completed to link with the historic Townsville West State School building. Geon Property broke ground at the corner of Sturt St and Ingham Rd on the \$60.5m Weststate Private Hospital in February 2022 to deliver a short-stay facility incorporating state-of-the-art technology.

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## I-MED launches advanced MRI machine in Geraldton, giving communities north of Perth a closer service

West Australian, Other, 06/02/2024, Jessica Moroney

An advanced magnetic resonance imaging scanner is operating in Geraldton, providing communities north of Perth with faster and more accurate health diagnoses. I-MED Radiology, located at St John of God Healthcare Campus, has launched a 3Tesla MRI and claims it is Western Australia's most advanced MRI scanner north of Perth.

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## Bunbury ambulance ramping accounts for more than three-quarters of regional hours as union cries foul

West Australian, Other, 06/02/2024, Oliver Lane

The Australian Medical Association WA is calling for the delivery of more beds at the Bunbury Regional Hospital after St John WA data revealed the hospital accounted for three-quarters of regional ambulance ramping hours in 2023. There were 921 hours of ambulance ramping at the Bunbury Regional Hospital out of a total of 1218 hours across major regional hospitals.

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## Builder appointed to Health Hub

Ocean Grove Voice, Other, 06/02/2024

A builder has been appointed for the Ocean Grove Health and Wellbeing Hub project. Loaram Constructions was appointed to undertake stage one of the Bellarine Community Health (BCH) project, with work currently underway and expected to be completed by the end of August. BCH chief executive Garry Ellis said he was "thrilled" to work with the construction company again to deliver a purpose-built, accessible, and inclusive hub on Goodwell Drive in Kingston Estate.

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## Yarrawonga Health's favourable result

Shepparton News Online, Other, 06/02/2024, Robert Muir

An increase in funding support from the Department of Health has led to a favourable operating result for 2022-23 by Yarrawonga Health. Yarrawonga Health's operating result before capital and specific items for 2022-23 was a surplus of \$178,000. The net result for the 2022-23 financial year was a deficit of \$1,108,000 after capital and specific items, including a net capital surplus of \$961,000 and depreciation of \$2,118,000.

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## Most wild rescues: Life Flight reveals Sunshine Coast increase for 2023

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 06/02/2024, Madeline Grace

A grandma impaled by a large stick, a rock climber falling 20m down a cliff and a smashed plane – these are just some of the most wild Life Flight rescues on the Sunshine Coast from the past year. The Sunshine Coast RACQ LifeFlight Rescue helicopter crew helped 557 people in the past 12 months, which represents a 31 per cent increase on the previous year.

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## Ambulance Tasmania ramping inquiry hears apologies over wait times, inadequate care, as man tells of family's ordeal

ABC Online, Other, 06/02/2024, Madeleine Rojahn

In the two years before she died, Joseph Kowaluk's mother Chelle was hospitalised frequently from excruciating pain and "severe" hip dislocations, a result of surgeries she'd been having since her family found out she had terminal cancer. Mr Kowaluk said he "struggled to keep count" of how often she was admitted.

[Read More](#)

## 2CC, Canberra Live, 06/02/2024, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, regarding their call for the Federal Government to subsidise children's health checks for the first 2000 days. Higgins says Australia has around five million kids under five years old and they want to make sure that they set them up well for life.

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

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### \$60m clinic shuts after just a year

West Australian, Edition Changes, 07/02/2024, Josh Zimmerman, Page 9

A privately operated 75-bed mental health clinic will close its doors less than a year after it opened because it is "not financially viable" and is struggling to find specialist staff. In a statement released on Tuesday, Bethesda Health Care revealed it was "suspending services" at its \$60 million Cockburn facility later this month "for the foreseeable future".

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

### Riders saddle up to spread the word

Daily Liberal, General News, 07/02/2024, Sarah Falson, Page 1

Organisers of the Black Dog Ride are preparing to take to their motorbikes to raise awareness about the cost of suicide in the community. Local coordinator Wayne Amor said more than 3000 lives were lost to suicide in Australia every year, and one in five Aussies would be affected by mental illness every year, with three million living with depression or anxiety.

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

### Boost for mental health

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 07/02/2024, Anneke De Boer, Page 5

Students at a KalgoorlieBoulder senior school have attended a mental health morning program hosted by a WA-based youth charity aiming to equip them with skills to boost compassion for themselves. The workshop at Eastern Goldfields College on Tuesday was part of Zero2Hero's week of outreach programs in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

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

### Rio Tinto extends a helping hand to Lifeline WA

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 07/02/2024, Page 11

Lifeline WA has welcomed a new partnership with mining giant Rio Tinto, which will add more than 100 new crisis support workers to its team. The organisation recorded a "staggering increase" in calls for help in 2023, with staff taking more than 116,000 calls and another record-breaking year is expected in 2024.

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

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

## Passionate about mental health?

Shepparton News, General News, 07/02/2024, Kady Hadjab, Page 6

If you are aged between 15 and 24, passionate about youth mental health and want to make a positive difference in the community, this incredible opportunity is for you! What's going on? Headspace Shepparton is looking for young people to join its Youth Advisory Committee for 2024. The mission, if you accept it, can lead to profound changes in how mental health services are provided not only in Shepparton but nationally.

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

## WRAD Health's new chief vows to push for city rehab facility

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 07/02/2024, Monique Patterson, Page 2

The newly appointed chief executive officer of WRAD Health has vowed to continue to push for The Lookout residential rehabilitation facility. Mark Powell, who has been interim CEO since the retirement of Geoff Soma in July 2023, has been officially appointed to the role. Board chair Helen Taylor said Mr Powell brought a wealth of experience in drug and alcohol treatment and mental health.

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

## Signs of addiction

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/02/2024, Ashwini Padhi

While it is an extremely complicated issue, some key factors determine how predisposed you are to becoming addicted to a substance or behaviour. Addiction is a complex and multifaceted issue, impacting millions of lives around the world. While the causes of addiction can vary widely, a key question often arises: Do some individuals have a predisposition to addiction, and can possessing what's often termed an 'addictive personality' make you more likely to struggle with addiction?

[Read More](#)

## Social media urgency is real - and it could be harming your relationships

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/02/2024, Emily Holgate

Responding to notifications every time your phone pings might seem like you're being a good friend or colleague, but it could end up being detrimental in the long run, writes Emily Holgate. Staying on top of your work inbox each week can be time-consuming, mentally exhausting and sometimes even overwhelming.

[Read More](#)

## Farmer calls for mental health reform

Shepparton News Online, Other, 06/02/2024, Jeanette Severs

Hannah Borland, who works on a dairy farm at Lindenow and is featured in the 2024 Gippsland dairy farmers' mental health calendar; Sallie Jones, co-founder of Gippsland Jersey; and guest speaker Joe Meggetto, of Warragul, who featured in the 2018 calendar. Dairy farmer and mental health advocate Joe Meggetto is concerned about the slow implementation of recommendations from the Royal Commission into Victoria's mental health system.

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

[Read More](#)

## Helpline receives record-breaking number of calls amid rising cost-of-living

9News, Other, 06/02/2024

Western Australia have received a record-breaking number of calls for help amid the skyrocketing cost-of-living. Lifeline WA today revealed it received 39 per cent more calls in 2023, pushing up the total to 116,000. "It is the first time in our history that we have ever supported more than 100,000 people," chief executive Lorna MacGregor said. "Our callers reflect the people doing it hard in the community."

[Read More](#)

## 'We do not talk openly about suicide': Suicide prevention awareness in Australia's Nepali community

SBS, Other, 06/02/2024, Dinita Rishal

On Friday, 2 February a suicide prevention focus group discussion was organised by Australia Nepali Public Link (ANPL) at Cyprus Community Hall in Brunswick East, Melbourne. A selection of Nepali community leaders and members, including new student arrivals took part in the program which was a part of an ongoing research on mental health jointly conducted by ANPL and Western Sydney University.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Next generation of obstetricians to be trained at Rockhampton Hospital

Morning Bulletin, Other, 06/02/2024, Geordi Offord

Rockhampton will become a training ground for the next generation of obstetricians and gynaecologists after meeting strict criteria to have a training program extended. Rockhampton will become a training ground for the next generation of obstetricians and gynaecologists after meeting strict criteria to have a training program extended.

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### WA nurses union to run for 2025 state election

Nursing Review, Other, 06/02/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Australian Nurses Federation Western Australia (ANFWA) has confirmed they will be running for next year's state elections after formally registering the party on Monday. ANFWA secretary Janet Reah confirmed the party had reached the required 500 signatures over the weekend, but no candidates had been selected yet.

[Read More](#)

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Scholarship support welcome

Border Watch, General News, 07/02/2024, Caroline Hammat, Page 14

The Stand Like Stone Foundation has awarded Boneham Aged Care (BAC) employee, Anna-Therese Winkler, a \$10,000 scholarship to assist in continuing her tertiary dementia studies. Ms Winkler applied for the scholarship, available through the foundation's Rackham educational program, after being encouraged by BAC director of care, Jo McGregor.

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

### On top of the world

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/02/2024

Paul Sinclair, the first Australian president of the International Pharmacy Federation (FIP) talks about the future of the profession and the changes he sees impacting pharmacy In the latest edition of the AJP podcast, our host, Carlene McMaugh, speaks to FIP president Paul Sinclair about the The topics covered include: What are some of the

[Read More](#)

### PSA welcome South Australian scope expansion

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/02/2024

Pharmacists in South Australia will be able to support patients suffering with UTIs from March, minister confirms Plans to expand pharmacists' scope of practice in South Australia are on track, with Chris

Picton, the state's Health Minister confirming the rollout of pharmacist-initiated treatment of urinary tract infections (UTIs) will commence in March, as previously reported.

[Read More](#)

## Govt to scope health and medical research workforce

InnovationAus, Other, 06/02/2024, Brandon How

The Health department has ordered an independent audit of Australia's health and medical research workforce to inform the development of national policy amid a "paucity of recent data". The Department of Health and Aged Care on Friday issued an approach to market (ATM) seeking a supplier to undertake the audit.

[Read More](#)

## PSA's 5 pt Budget focus

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/02/2024

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is calling for more investment into pharmacy and pharmacist services to help improve access and equity of care as part of its 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission. The PSA National President Fei Sim (pictured) said that funding for pharmacist services is key to equitable and accessible care now and in the future.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Consumer group seeks accelerated 60-day dispensing

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/02/2024

Consumers' Health Forum calls for PBAC to investigate listing medications for 90-day supply, while seeking final phase of double dispensing to be brought forward Patient lobby group, the Consumers' Health Forum (CHF) is urging the government to make "a trip to the pharmacist affordable" as part of its pre-budget submission.

[Read More](#)

### Listings expand treatment

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/02/2024

Australians with advanced melanoma and relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (MS) will have access from this month to new and updated medicines under the PBS. The nation has the highest melanoma rates in the world with one person dying from melanoma every six hours.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 7, Seven News, 06/02/2024, Peter Mitchell

Doctors have begun prescribing the next phase of weight loss injections, which supercharge the Ozempic effect and could soon come in pill form. The Australian Diabetes Society wants the drugs to be subsidised for everyone to tackle obesity and ward off diabetes.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Low income earners to benefit from Medicare levy change

Canberra Times, Other, 06/02/2024, Andrew Brown

Low-income earners will receive a tax boost with the Medicare levy threshold set to rise. Laws introduced to federal parliament will see the income threshold at which taxpayers need to pay a two per

cent Medicare levy increase by 7.1 per cent, in line with inflation.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## How many GP clinics bulk-bill in the Illawarra?

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 06/02/2024, Natalie Croxon

Only a handful of GP clinics in the Illawarra that still offer bulk-billing for all patients have their books open to new patients, research by the Mercury has found. Meanwhile, the number of clinics across NSW which bulk-bill standard consultations has fallen over the past 10 months, even as the number of bulk-billed visits to the doctor has risen in recent months thanks to higher incentives.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 06/02/2024, Peter Mitchell

The cost of seeing a doctor is set to soar as clinics pass on the Vic Government's GP tax. Doctors say it's driving the industry to a crisis point and could spell the end for bulk billing in Victoria. Medical bodies are calling for a tax amnesty, but the Vic Government is refusing to budge.

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## Channel 9, National Nine News, 06/02/2024, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

There's more hip pocket pain on the way for Victorians with GPs warning they'll have to lift fees to cope with new payroll tax bills. Many doctors are already at a crisis point, but Vic Premier Jacinta Allan is refusing to back down.

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 06/02/2024, SAMMY J

Doctors say the Victorian Government's GP payroll tax will cause hundreds of clinics to close across the state. New data from patient engagement provider HotDoc reveals nearly 250 GP clinics are considering shutting down because the Vic Government decided to impose a tax on independent GPs. The study found patient fees could rise by an average of \$12 per visit. Royal College of General Practitioners Dr Nicole Higgins says people will delay seeing their doctor.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Deadly opioid epidemic across Oz

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2024, Taylor Auerbach, Page 9

A "silent epidemic" of lounge room overdoses across the country has reached crisis levels as shock data reveals a surge in the number of doctors accused of wrongfully prescribing potentially deadly drugs. And average middle-aged men and women are most at risk, with accidental drug overdoses now claiming more lives annually than the road toll.

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

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### LGH deaths cover-up claims

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/02/2024, David Killick, Page 11

The senior doctor at the Launceston General Hospital falsified the cause of death on official documents on multiple occasions as part of a pattern of cover-ups well known to staff, a parliamentary inquiry has heard. Launceston General Hospital nurse Amanda Duncan said the hospital's former Director of Clinical Services Peter Renshaw routinely falsified death certificates and failed to report deaths to the coroner as required by law.



Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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## Mental health worker injured by Covid jab jailed after becoming cocaine dealer to Perth professionals

West Australian, Other, 06/02/2024, Tim Clarke

A disillusioned mental health worker — whose health collapsed after getting the Covid-19 jab — switched careers to become a high-end cocaine seller, until his drug dealing enterprise was busted during a national crackdown on bikie activity. Abraham Soto, 35, spent years helping Perth's vulnerable as a mental health counsellor and staff member, until becoming "emotionally destroyed" by the experience.

[Read More](#)

## Doctor William Pridgeon among three on trial in Brisbane for alleged conspiracy to move children interstate in defiance of family court

7news.com.au, Other, 06/02/2024, Cheryl Goodenough

Three people, including a doctor, have been accused of colluding to remove or conceal children in defiance of the court. Three people, including a GP, are facing court on allegations they conspired to avoid the law with a complex cross-border operation to move a child interstate.

[Read More](#)

## Found with no registration

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/02/2024

A man has been prosecuted by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) for holding himself out as a registered pharmacist after his registration lapsed, in contravention of section 116 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009. On 25 Jan, he was sentenced in the Downing Centre Local Court, Sydney to a 12-month conditional release order and directed to pay Ahpra's legal costs of \$3,000.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, ABC National News, 06/02/2024, Joe O'Brien

A Tasmanian parliamentary inquiry into ambulance ramping has heard explosive accusations of death certificates being falsified at the Launceston General Hospital. The allegations have been made by a nurse who works at the hospital, who says a former medical services boss falsified the documents to avoid coronial investigations.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Genetic discrimination in life insurance must end: Drs

Canberra Times, Other, 06/02/2024, Melissa Meehan

Australians are avoiding genetic testing out of fear it will rule them out of life insurance, according to the nation's peak medical body. The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has called for a legislated ban on the use of genetic testing in life insurance underwriting.

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

[Read More](#)

### Tougher penalties ahead after \$1m illegal vaping blitz

Canberra Times, Other, 06/02/2024, Samantha Lock

Tougher penalties are in sight for retailers caught selling illegal vapes after more than \$1 million worth of the contraband was seized in a fresh blitz. More than 30,000 illegal vapes were uncovered stashed

in secret rooms and drawers, behind fake walls and inside ceiling panels in a series of raids across Sydney.

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

[Read More](#)

## How does Australia's health system stack up internationally? Not bad, if you're willing to wait for it

Nursing Review, Other, 06/02/2024, Stephen Duckett

When things are going bad in the health system, we are reassured we've got one of the best health systems in the world. But we're rarely told where we actually stand relative to others. A new report from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shows where Australia is doing relatively well – and not so well. The report is more than 200 pages with dozens of charts and tables.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 06/02/2024, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Professor Steve Robson, Federal President, Australian Medical Association, regarding insurance companies asking people to undertake genetic testing before deciding whether they'll insure them. The Federal Government is looking into whether it should be changed and is set to put out a consultation paper on the issue. Robson says the broader issue is that Australians are increasingly being offered and having a choice to have genetic testing to assess their risk.

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## SPORT

### Funding for new study to probe Bruce stadium site

Canberra Times, General News, 07/02/2024, Jasper Lindell, Page 2

A new stadium at Bruce will be the subject of an in-depth analysis to be funded in the ACT government's mid-year budget review. "This investment will support technical due diligence for a new rectangular stadium in Bruce as part of an expanded sports, health and education precinct, linking investments in the AIS precinct, CIT Bruce, University of Canberra and the Northside Hospital," the government said.

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### Pies boss hits out at concussion criticism

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 07/02/2024, Oliver Caffrey, Page 39

Collingwood chief executive Craig Kelly has slammed "sensationalist" reporting around Magpies defender Nathan Murphy returning to football after another concussion. Murphy, 24, was cleared to continue his AFL career after suffering his most recent concussion during the Magpies' grand final win last September.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### 'Threat to our existence'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 07/02/2024, Ben Hann, Page 28

The \$130 million redevelopment of UTAS Stadium will begin construction late this year and is expected to finish in 2027. With the planned end date to link up well with the timeline of Tasmania's AFL team - their first season is in 2028 - politicians and Stadiums Tasmania, the new owners of the precinct, joyously announced that the investment made would secure national-level sport in Launceston for years to come.

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### Legends back on field to raise awareness

The legends are coming back. Townsville is set to host some of rugby league's biggest names for the second year in a row as the International Legends of League descend on North Queensland for a showdown with some of Rugby League Townsville and District's A-Grade stars of yesterday.

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## 'Nine or 10' out of 10 intensity of Manly training session the day Titmuss died

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/02/2024, Adrian Proszenko

Manly back-rower Ben Trbojevic believes a recent presentation on heatstroke to Sea Eagles players should be replicated at other clubs in the hope that it prevents the tragedy that befell his late teammate Keith Titmuss. Trbojevic, along with former Manly players Moses Suli and Sione Fainu, gave evidence on the second day of a coronial inquest into Titmuss' death.

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

[Read More](#)

## AFL announces series of rule changes including tightening guidelines on smothers after Brayden Maynard controversy

ABC Online, Other, 06/02/2024

The AFL insists it can improve the on-field product and make the game safer at the same time after rubber-stamping rules around smothers. The league has ticked off on a raft of changes for the upcoming season following a meeting of the AFL Commission on Monday, held at Collingwood's headquarters.

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

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Coalition set to reject Labor's ARC overhaul

The Australian, Higher Education, 07/02/2024, Tim Dodd, Page 25

The federal Coalition will oppose the Albanese government's planned reforms to the Australian Research Council that will strip ministers of the power to veto funding for individual research projects, except on national security grounds. In debate in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, opposition science spokesman Paul Fletcher defended the decisions made by past Coalition ministers to reject ARC funding recommendations and said the opposition would not back the government's amendments to the ARC Act.

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### Faulty cell fix in lupus

Herald Sun, General News, 07/02/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 15

Victorian researchers have made a "profound" discovery that offers a potential cure for the autoimmune disease lupus. A Monash University team announced overnight in the journal Nature Communications it had discovered how to fix a faulty cell believed to cause the disease. The breakthrough treatment in which the defective cells are replaced with protective molecules from healthy people will be tested by Victorians in a world-first clinical trial to start in 2026.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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## How big-hearted EBR Systems is pacing a multi-billion dollar cardiac market

The Australian, Other, 06/02/2024, Nadine McGrath

It's hard to imagine that a device, equivalent in size to a cooked grain of rice, embedded inside the heart's left ventricle and remotely powered by ultrasound, is capable of treating heart failure. However, EBR Systems ( ASX:EBR , established in 2003 in Silicon Valley, has pioneered the WiSE cardiac resynchronisation therapy (CRT) system tech – literally the size of a cooked rice grain – which employs proprietary wireless methods to provide pacing stimulation directly inside the heart's left ventricle.

[Read More](#)

## **'Nature created a mechanism for combating viruses billions of years before humans even existed'**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/02/2024, Mandy Squires

Fast diagnosis and new drugs are set to follow a huge discovery by Australian Covid researchers of a "hidden", extended natural immune defence pathway called VIPERIN that creates its own antiviral agents. Ten compounds were detected in groundbreaking research by the Australian National Phenome Centre (ANPC) in collaboration with scientists from New Zealand, the U.S., U.K and Germany — with nine of them new to human biology knowledge and previously unknown biomarkers of infection.

[Read More](#)

## **Artificial ovaries may give women diagnosed with leukaemia the chance to have children**

7news.com.au, Other, 06/02/2024, Hope Wilson and Sarah Keszler

Australian researchers are on the verge of a 'massive breakthrough'. Breakthrough Australian research into artificial ovaries hopes to give women diagnosed with leukaemia the chance to have children. Stacey-Lee Craanen was diagnosed with leukaemia at age three and again at age seven, and like others with cancer, her future fertility options were compromised.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## **How to prevent gut inflammation as new study links it to Alzheimer's**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 07/02/2024, Laura Hampson

Gut health is a pivotal tool in aiding the function of the rest of our body – and a new study has even linked gut inflammation to Alzheimer's disease. It's not the first time an inflammatory gut has been linked to the cognitive disease, but the new study has confirmed the link between the digestive system and a healthy brain.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 9, National Nine News, 06/02/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes**

Australian doctors are getting closer to developing artificial ovaries to help overcome infertility linked with certain cancers. Researchers and the Cancer Council are partnering to create new technology to mimic the fertility function of the natural ovary.

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## **FIRST NATIONS HEALTH**

### **PC push for Indigenous power shift**

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 07/02/2024, Paige Taylor and Sarah Ison, Page 1

Governments across the country should relinquish powers on Aboriginal affairs policy to Indigenous communities and legislate watchdogs with more authority than the defeated voice would have had, to save failing efforts to close the gap, the Productivity Commission has declared. Less than four months since 60 per cent of voters said no to an Indigenous advisory body in the Constitution, the commission accused governments of not listening to Indigenous communities despite signing up to do so in the Closing the Gap agreement and said watchdogs with the ability to "punish" them were necessary.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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## Indigenous groups urge reform of NSW child protection system

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/02/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Indigenous organisations have responded to a series of troubling revelations in the NSW child protection system by reissuing their calls for reform to better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, as well as prevent further children entering out-of-home care.

[Read More](#)

## Indigenous man wasn't deemed to be on drugs by nursing staff despite "degloving" own hand, Victorian inquest hears

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/02/2024, Dechlan Brennan

An Indigenous man removed the skin from his hand without showing any pain in the hours before his death but was not deemed by medical staff to be under the influence of drugs. Yorta Yorta and Gunnaikurnai man Joshua Kerr, 33, died whilst on remand on August 10, 2022, at the privately run Port Phillip prison.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Queensland health authorities responding to spike in COVID-like mycoplasma pneumonia

7news.com.au, Other, 06/02/2024, Warren Barnsley and Laura Dymock

When Astrid Carpentier took her daughter Jorja to Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH), the emergency department was "full of kids" with "the same cough" as her sick child. Health officials have warned about mycoplasma pneumonia — the illness that put three-year-old Jorja in hospital for days — as the state responds to a spike in cases.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Bark eases the bite

West Australian, Business News, 07/02/2024, Ben Harvey, Page 22

An African tree that took over a Kimberley sandalwood plantation after a planting blunder is being hailed as a remedy for period pain. [...] Achieving regulatory approval was difficult because the Therapeutic Goods Administration requires 75 years of evidence that a botanical is safe for human consumption before it will allow a product to be sold in Australia.

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

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## What makes a good sunscreen? Here's what experts want you to know

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/02/2024, Abby Seaman

Any dermatologist or skincare fanatic will tell you to wear sunscreen every day. Applying an SPF should always be the last step in your skincare routine, before makeup – or the only step if you don't have a routine. [...] Most sunscreens in Australia, including chemical formulas, are regulated as a

medicine by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) who assess the quality and safety of each product says Cust.

[Read More](#)

## Health authorities seize 30,000 illegal vapes and tobacco products worth \$1.1 million from Sydney retailers

ABC Online, Other, 06/02/2024, Jesse Hyland and Maryanne Taouk

More than 30,000 illegal vapes and tobacco products worth more than \$1 million have been seized by health authorities in a series of raids across Sydney. The major vaping blitz saw 60 retailers targeted throughout the city's south east. More than 30,000 e-cigarettes, 118,000 cigarettes, 45 kilograms of flavoured and loose-leaf tobacco and 284 containers of nicotine pouches were taken during the NSW Health and Therapeutic Goods Administration raids.

[Read More](#)

## Ozempic maker warns doctors against writing compounded scripts due to 'potential safety risks'

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/02/2024

The best political, clinical and latest medical news Semaglutide maker Novo Nordisk has hit back at GPs prescribing compounded versions of its blockbuster drug. Semaglutide (Ozempic) was already under scrutiny for mass off-label use.

[Read More](#)

## Advance Australia joins CAPS in targeting Dunkley

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/02/2024, Benjamin Kop

Advance Australia is reportedly planning to spend \$200,000 in a bid to swing the Victorian seat away from the government on 2 March. The lobby group, which was co-founded by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's executive director, Gerard Benedet, will be [...] Why can't the Board or TGA ban pharmacists from... Benjamin Kop

[Read More](#)

## GMP certification

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/02/2024

Breathe Life Sciences has been awarded a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) licence for the production of medical cannabis. The licence also encompasses the manufacturing of psilocybin & MDMA, marking a first in Australia for GMP certification of the substances. The TGA has granted Breathe the GMP licence authorising the company to manufacture MDMA and psilocybin active pharmaceutical ingredients as well as final dose capsules.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Kid deaths meth fear

Herald Sun, General News, 07/02/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 1

Research has found that 50 Victorian children were exposed to methamphetamine before they died, and their cause of death was "unknown" in more than half of cases. The shocking study, which looked at child deaths between 2011 and 2020, also revealed that 32 babies exposed to the drug were under the age of one.

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### Benefits of pill testing

Border Watch, General News, 07/02/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 15

Pill testing for South Australians is once again on the agenda of Limestone Coast Substance Misuse

project manager Sophie Bouchier. It comes following the South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services expressing its support on the initiative. The harm reduction approach acknowledged both illicit and licit drug use exists within society.

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## **Adelaide cocaine problem exposed: The South Australian traffickers who faced court in the past 12 months**

Adelaide Now, Other, 06/02/2024, Isabel McMillan

Australia's "large demand" for cocaine has reached "unprecedented levels" authorities warn, with nearly 20kg used in just one month in Adelaide according to recent data. The warning comes as 139kg of the dangerous party drug destined for South Australian streets was discovered hidden inside a shipment of luxury buses.

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## **Psychedelics: from magic to medicinal**

ABC Online, Other, 06/02/2024, Nathan-Turnbull, Claire-Slaterry and Natasha-Mitchell

Psychedelics were once the domain of hippies and cults, but these drugs have come long way from the 'turn on, tune in, drop out' countercultural philosophy of the 1960s and 70s. Nowadays, the field of psychedelic research is experiencing a resurgence, with substances like psilocybin, MDMA and ketamine being used in controlled laboratories to treat complex mental health issues.

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## **FOOD STANDARDS**

### **Collins gives food for thought**

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/02/2024, Lisa Rockman, Page 12

Cost versus convenience, "flavour bombs" and "base jumping" are three factors predicted to influence our food choices in 2024, a leading Newcastle dietitian and academic says. Clare Collins AO is Laureate Professor in Nutrition and Dietetics in the College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing at the University of Newcastle, and director of the Food and Nutrition Research Program at the Hunter Medical Research Institute.

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### **Why the buzz for kava is growing, and how The Calmer Co. is capitalising**

The Australian, Other, 06/02/2024, Rob Badman

In an increasingly health conscious – yet anxious – world, and as young people cut back their alcohol use, kava's time has come, says the boss of Calmer Co. The plant-based recreational beverage kava appears to be growing in popularity and ASX-listed The Calmer Co. believes it can become a global phenomenon.

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### **Speedy Amazon delivery helps Wollongong paediatrician's mission to help cut food allergies**

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 07/02/2024, Connor Pearce

A Wollongong paediatrician with a side hustle hoping to reduce Australia's world leading rate of food allergies is hopeful that the extension of Amazon's next day delivery service to Illawarra Prime members will get his products in the kitchen of all young Illawarra families.

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### **Peak industry bodies reject call for soft drink tax**

Food & Drink Business, Other, 06/02/2024, Kim Berry

The Australian Beverages Council, National Retail Association and Australian Association of Convenience Stores have rejected a call for a tax on soft drinks, labelling it a misguided measure that won't address obesity but will hit households that can least afford it. Launching its new position statement in Canberra, the Rethink Sugary Drink alliance – the Australian Medical Association (AMA), Cancer Council Australia, the Australian Dental Association, Food for Health Alliance, and Heart Foundation – urged the government to introduce a 20 per cent health levy on sugary drink manufacturers.

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## Australian Government seeking consultation on food marketing

FoodProcessing, Other, 06/02/2024

Current measures to reduce children's exposure to unhealthy food marketing in Australia are predominantly industry led and voluntary in nature, with minimal regulatory protections in place. The Australian Government is now investing in a feasibility study to examine the landscape of unhealthy food marketing to children.

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## AICIS

### Chemical spill off truck causes section of Rockingham Road in Kwinana to shut

West Australian, Other, 06/02/2024, Claire Sadler

A chemical spill has closed down a section of Rockingham Road with people in the area urged to stay inside. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services were called to Rockingham Road near the intersection of Anketell Road about 1.40pm on Tuesday after chemicals fell off a truck.

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### ABC, Late Night ABC News, 06/02/2024, Jade Barker

Three years after a state of the art agriculture school was meant to open its doors, it still hasn't been delivered. [...] The New South Wales Department of Education promised state of the art science labs, a greenhouse and outdoor learning. But when PFAs contamination was found at the proposed site in the Hawkesbury, construction was put on hold.

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