



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 8th February 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports Victorian treasurer Tim Pallas has questioned government plans he claims will pull \$2 billion of federal funding to state health services over the next five years in a letter sent Wednesday to Health Minister Mark Butler. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#)
- The [West Australian](#) (page 1) reports a Perth aged care worker has been sacked and charged by police after allegedly "stomping" on a 95-year-old woman; the Bethanie aged care home in Como says it has reported the matter to ACQSC and is cooperating with police.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 2) reports almost 2,300 more South Australians who called an ambulance last month were reached on time, new data has found, but the state opposition says the Malinauskas government has yet to follow through on its pledge to fix ambulance ramping. *Also reported by:* [Channel 10](#), [Channel 10](#)
- The [West Australian](#) (page 3) reports private mental health clinics are struggling to attract and retain psychiatrists due to a rise in diagnoses of ADHD, forcing some clinics to close, Bethesda Health Care chief executive Neale Fong says.

- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 4) reports NSW's Finance Minister Courtney Houssos will meet with doctors from the RACGP on Friday and other doctors groups in March to discuss impending changes to payroll taxes. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#), [9News](#), [7news.com.au](#)
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 5) reports a Federal Court decision that will determine if ENT doctors trained in facial plastic surgery techniques can label themselves "surgeons" has been delayed, but Justice Melissa Perry said she expected her ruling to set a standard for advice given to ENTs in future.
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 6) reports Tasmania's Health Department will review allegations death certificates were altered at Launceston General Hospital and processes at all public hospitals, state Health Minister Guy Barnett says.
- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports an expert panel set to consider new care models that could take pressure off NSW's emergency departments will convene for the first time on Thursday.

MINISTER BUTLER

Albo's \$2b scalpel

Herald Sun, General News, 08/02/2024, Shannon Deery, Page 1

Victorian treasurer Tim Pallas has raised concerns that the federal government plans to rip more than \$2bn in health funding from the states and territories. [...] The demand came in a letter to federal Health Minister Mark Butler in which Mr Pallas doubled down on Victoria's controversial payroll tax, which GPs have warned would hike the cost of patient fees by an average 30 per cent.

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

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Taking on Big Tobacco to protect our kids

Northern Territory News, General News, 08/02/2024, Mark Butler, Page 17

As a father of three, I know that sending your kids off for the first day of a new school year is always an Aexciting yet nervous time. Do they have everything they need? What teacher will they have? Will they find a good group of friends? [...] Mark Butler is federal health minister

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

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Sixty retailers targeted in vaping blitz

Weekly Times, General News, 07/02/2024, Page 2

Retailers across the city of Sydney and south east Sydney have been targeted in a joint operation to crack down on the illegal sale of nicotine e-cigarettes (vapes). NSW Health inspectors and NSW Police officers, working with officers from the Therapeutic Goods Administration, conducted 60 raids between 29 January and 2 February 2024. [...] Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said vape products were deliberately marketed to children.

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New plan for the Hilltops

Boorowa News, General News, 08/02/2024, John Snelling, Page 4

Australia Day has come and gone and maybe the people intent on getting a change of date for this, our national holiday, won't be heard for a while. My biggest complaint was the fact that all those 'screaming' for change of date never once, that I can recall, came up with a viable alternative date. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is pursuing a total ban on e-cigarettes.

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Light shone on brain health

Broome Advertiser, General News, 08/02/2024, Ian Chadband and Esther Linder, Page 19

Children and young sportsmen and women are the focus of new guidelines on managing concussion at

grassroots level. David Hughes, the Australian Institute of Sport's chief medical officer, said the importance of education could not be overstated in introducing the recommendations for youth and community sport. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler told Channel Nine the new guidelines would add peace of mind for parents and others overseeing community sport.

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PM pops in to talk up Medicare

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 08/02/2024, Terry Collins, Page 1

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese paid a surprise visit to the Central Coast on Thursday, February 1, to mark the 40th anniversary of Medicare and the success of the region's two Medicare Urgent Care Clinics - one at Lake Haven and the other at Umina Beach. See page 3 [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said doctors' groups had called the tripling of the bulk billing incentive a "game changer".

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McCormack: Rural health is forgotten

Grenfell Record & Bland Advertiser, General News, 08/02/2024, Page 7

Federal Member for Riverina Michael McCormack 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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Sunrise host Nat Barr forced to break up fiery clash over tax cuts

Sound Telegraph, Other, 07/02/2024, Eleanor Campbell and Courtney Gould

Sunrise host Natalie Barr has had to break up a fiery clash between two politicians over Labor's changes in tax cuts. Clare O'Neil and Jane Hume traded barbs over accusations the tax changes were politically driven. [...] Concerning trend in schools Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has issued a warning to Aussie parents after authorities seized more than \$1m worth of illegal vapes off the streets.

[Read More](#)

Mark Butler says the bill to wipe out all vape shops ready in "a few weeks"

ABC Online, Other, 07/02/2024, Sarah Macdonald

Federal Health Minister says the import ban, effective 1 Jan 2024, was only the first step to rid vapes from Sydney. Mark Butler spoke to Sarah Macdonald to outline the next steps.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).

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Young Australians love tanning. What will it take to change their minds?

ABC Online, Other, 07/02/2024, Cale Matthews, Lucy Robinson and Sharon Gordon

From Slip, Slop, Slap to "no hat, no play", today's teenagers and young adults grew up with sun safety messages in their schools, homes, and TV and radio ads. At some point, they've been warned of the well-documented risk of fatal skin cancers from sunbaking. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said a key part of the strategy was partnering with people young Australians would listen to.

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Albanese government condemns 'widespread marketing' of nicotine pouches to young people

The Guardian, Other, 08/02/2024, Natasha May and Josh Butler

The federal government is "deeply concerned" about nicotine pouches being advertised and supplied in Australia, and has condemned social media marketing aimed at young people. [...] The health

minister, Mark Butler, has led a major government crackdown on illegal vapes, but a sudden influx of ads for nicotine pouches on Instagram and Facebook suggests resellers are stepping up efforts for the novel nicotine product in Australia.

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‘All good to take to school?’: Australian influencers spruik flavoured nicotine pouches to vape-addicted youths

The Guardian, Other, 07/02/2024, Natasha May

Australian social media influencers are promoting highly controversial and likely harmful flavoured nicotine pouches in viral videos claiming they are an effective tool to quit vaping, as public health experts warn the increasingly popular products could become the next youth epidemic. [...] It comes ahead of a federal ban on non-prescription vapes, which the health minister, Mark Butler, promised would halt the tobacco industry's attempt to create a "new generation of nicotine addicts".

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Payroll tax means cost of GP visits to rise 30 p.c.

Aged Care Housing News, Other, 07/02/2024

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has urged Victoria to review its controversial payroll tax.

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Primary health care nurses campaign to work to full scope of practice

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 07/02/2024, Anmj Staff

Primary health care nurses are calling on policymakers to better utilise nurses in the sector by enabling them to work to their full scope of practice. On today's inaugural Primary Health Care Nurses Day, established to highlight the pivotal work nurses carry out across the sector, Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) leaders, including President Karen Booth, and several PCH nurses, are meeting with Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler, and Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Ged Kearney in Canberra, to discuss barriers preventing PHC nurses from making an even bigger difference to the health and wellbeing of Australians.

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Government invests in the development of world-first tissue-engineered cornea

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 07/02/2024

"I'm very pleased to announce \$35 million in funding to create a new facility to help fight blindness in Australians,"said Health Minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

Historic \$35M grant to propel Australian bioengineered cornea to commercialisation

Insight, Other, 07/02/2024, Myles Hume

The Federal Government has awarded a staggering \$35 million to BIENCO, a group of Australian researchers developing bioengineered corneal replacement tissue. The grant is believed to be the largest for eye research in the country's history, with hopes that one donor could provide treatment for 30 people in future. [...] Minister Mark Butler announced the grant on 6 February 2024, stating that the facility is a major step towards ensuring there is help available for those who need it.

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Nicotine nightmare as vaping store shown to be targeting schools

The Catholic Weekly, Other, 07/02/2024, Marilyn Rodrigues

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has warned that ready access to illegal vape products has become a public health menace. Photo: Unsplash New research revealing vape stores are located strategically close to schools is the latest blow to an industry accused of exploiting children and young people for profit.

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Opinion: most people use aged care for 15 years-plus. Time to rethink your strategy?

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/02/2024, Lauren Broomham

Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has confirmed what DCM Group has suspected: the ageing journey is much longer than many would think. This week, Tim Hicks, Bolton Clarke's Executive General Manager, Policy and Advocacy, posted the graph above on LinkedIn. [...] Healthy ageing on the Government's agenda Last year, the Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler, pinpointed 'healthy ageing' as one of five key priorities for an ageing Australia.

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Risky activity 'invincible' Gen Z admit they love despite experts' dire warning

Yahoo! Australia, Other, 07/02/2024, Joe Attanasio

We know being sun safe is important, but a growing number of young people still appear to hold the belief that skin cancer won't affect them · Senior Reporter Updated · 4-min read "There's nothing healthy about a tan" — it's a slogan etched into the minds of a generation, but even still, Australia has the highest melanoma rates in the world , and in fact by age 70, two out of three of us will be diagnosed with some form of skin cancer [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said "young people think they're bullet proof".

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Triple M Sydney, 08:00 News, 07/02/2024

The Federal Government is now stepping in to try and stop a vaping crisis affecting young Australians across the country. Every school will now be offered support to help educate students and help them quit. The latest data show that 1 in 7 students aged between 14 to 17 years old uses e-cigarettes regularly, and there are concerns that the number will increase. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says parents are concerned their children will become addicted with vape shops deliberately popping up right near schools.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 07/02/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Lesley Jordan, CEO, HeartKids, Australian families affected by childhood onset heart disease who will have a specific framework to guide their medical journey following the recent release of Universal Standards of Care in Canberra. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler joined HeartKids in launching the Standards of Care, which will provide clarity, clinical direction and holistic support to the hundreds of thousands of Aussie families living with COHD. Jordan says whilst it's about ten years in the making, it is the start of a pathway in a clear framework to provide support or care for those impacted by COHD.

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3AW, 07:30 News, 07/02/2024

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is calling on Victoria to review its new GP payroll tax. The extra costs are expected to be passed on to patients, blowing out the gap fee to see a local doctor. Butler says while payroll tax is a matter for the states, he is very worried new investments in Medicare will be lost if clinics up their fees to cover the tax increase.

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MINISTER WELLS

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

PM pops in to talk up Medicare

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 08/02/2024, Terry Collins, Page 1

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese paid a surprise visit to the Central Coast on Thursday, February 1, to mark the 40th anniversary of Medicare and the success of the region's two Medicare Urgent Care Clinics - one at Lake Haven and the other at Umina Beach. See page 3 [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said doctors' groups had called the tripling of the bulk billing incentive a "game changer".

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Parking to remain free at Wyong Hospital

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 08/02/2024, Page 1

The State Government has put to rest fears that paid parking could be introduced at Wyong hospital. It was announced on February 2 that free parking would remain in place at the hospital following a Government review. [...] Member for Dobell Emma McBride said news parking would remain free at the hospital followed a strong community campaign.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Primary health care nurses campaign to work to full scope of practice

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 07/02/2024, Anmj Staff

Primary health care nurses are calling on policymakers to better utilise nurses in the sector by enabling them to work to their full scope of practice. On today's inaugural Primary Health Care Nurses Day, established to highlight the pivotal work nurses carry out across the sector, Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) leaders, including President Karen Booth, and several PCH nurses, are meeting with Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler, and Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Ged Kearney in Canberra, to discuss barriers preventing PHC nurses from making an even bigger difference to the health and wellbeing of Australians.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

ABC Radio Brisbane, 14:00 News, 07/02/2024

The Productivity Commission has called for urgent changes to Closing the Gap measures. Senator and Federal Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Malarndirri McCarthy says systemic change has to occur in other ways after the failed Voice referendum. The commission is calling for better accountability mechanisms and engagement with First Nations people.

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DEPARTMENT

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\$19 million paid out under COVID-19 vax compo scheme

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/02/2024, Heather Saxena

The single largest claim to date was \$2.2 million. The Federal Government has compensated 256 patients for severe COVID-19 vaccine side effects under its vaccine claims scheme, which will close to new applicants on 30 September. The total amount of compensation has reached \$18.8 million as of 17 January.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

More time granted for Covid care home

The Australian, General News, 08/02/2024, Liam Beatty, Page 7

The case against an aged-care home at the centre of a devastating Covid outbreak in 2020 has returned to court. Lawyers acting for the home charged after residents died in a Covid cluster have asked for a key hearing to be delayed. St Basil's Homes For The Aged In Victoria was due to face a three-day committal hearing in the Melbourne Magistrates Court this week. But when the case was called on Wednesday, the home's lawyers requested an adjournment, citing an "unfortunate situation".

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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St Anne's resident restrictions

Barrier Truth, General News, 07/02/2024, Jason Irvine, Page 6

Southern Cross Care (Broken Hill) is still restricting the number of residents coming into St Anne's Nursing Home due to a continuous shortage of clinical nurses and care workers. While the shortage is being felt Australia-wide, Southern Cross Care (Broken Hill) Chief Executive Officer Bernard Nankivell said the situation was worse in most regional and remote communities.

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Police officer to plead not guilty

Border Mail, General News, 08/02/2024, Page 13

A police officer accused of fatally using a stun gun on a 95-year-old woman will face trial in the NSW Supreme Court. Kristian White, 33, appeared before Cooma Local Court on Wednesday morning, with his solicitor indicating the senior constable would plead not guilty to manslaughter.

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

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Leading the charge on dementia awareness in Dubbo

Daily Liberal, General News, 08/02/2024, Tom Barber, Page 3

Bruce McDermaid has seen first-hand the effects of dementia and what it can do to those around him, which is why he is leading the charge for a Dubbo first. On February 11, Dubbo will hold its first-ever memory walk/jog at Lions Park to be held by Dementia Australia, an organisation Mr McDermaid knows well.

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Agile aged care requires client-centred software

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/02/2024

If your clients don't receive a quality of care that meets their expectations, they will likely transition to a provider that will. Since 1 July 2019, Australian aged care organisations have been required to comply with the Aged Care Quality Standards. [...] These requirements build on The Final Report of the Royal

Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, which emphasised that "a profound shift is required in which the people receiving care are placed at the centre of a new aged care system."

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Robert Fitzgerald new Age Discrimination Commissioner

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/02/2024

Robert Fitzgerald will resign as New South Wales Ageing and Disability Commissioner to take up a new position with the Australian Human Rights Commission. [...] Commissioner Fitzgerald's long career in NSW and federally includes working as deputy NSW ombudsman, as a productivity commissioner and as a commissioner on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

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Governance compliance a concern, says regulator

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/02/2024, Christopher Kelly

Aged care providers need to lift their game when it comes to governance, according to the latest sector performance report. Released Tuesday by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, the first quarter sector performance report shows that, during 1 July to 30 September 2023, quality standard eight – organisational governance – had the lowest rate of compliance across both the residential aged care and home care sectors.

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Sector significantly underfunded, says report

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/02/2024, Christopher Kelly

Aged care providers are being under-subsidised by more than \$100 per resident per day, according to an independent cost of care study. The study – conducted on behalf of the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority, which advises government on the efficient price for health and residential aged care services – shows the average daily cost per resident per day is \$352, far higher than the Australian National Aged Care Classification starting price of \$253.

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Regional facility receives \$1 million upgrade

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/02/2024

A government-funded aged care home in the central Victorian town of Maryborough has been given a \$1.2 million face lift. Unveiled by local federal Member of Parliament Martha Haylett last week, the refurbishment of Wattle Rise includes an expanded dining room, new visitor spaces and 20 private ensuites replacing 10 shared bathrooms.

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Aged care housing boost for Cottesloe

Australian Seniors News, Other, 07/02/2024

The WA Government has finalised the \$35 million sale of the heritage-listed Cottesloe Deaf School site to Cottesloe Living, Health & Aged Care, in what is set to be a major boost to aged-care housing and deaf support facilities. Cottesloe Living, Health & Aged Care 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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Yet more concerns raised about the Federal Government's plans for aged care legislation

Croakey, Other, 07/02/2024, Melissa Sweet

Plans for new federal aged care legislation do not address longstanding concerns about a lack of transparency on the performance of aged care providers, according to policy analyst Charles Maskell-Knight. [...] At the Brisbane hearings of the Aged Care Royal Commission Professor Ron Paterson (previously engaged by the Government to review aged care quality regulation) said: These are publicly-funded providers... who are caring for the most vulnerable members of our community.

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Changes are coming for Australia's aged care system. Here's what we know so far

HelloCare, Other, 07/02/2024, Bianca Iovino

Australia's subsidised aged care services now help around 1.5 million older people to receive care and support. Taxpayers contributed A\$28 billion to the various programs in 2022-23. [...] What we know so far Following the report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, the Government is rewriting the Act with a view to it commencing on July 1 2024 – less than five months from now.

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New era begins at George's Cottages, St Andrew's Village Byron Bay

The Northern Rivers Times, Other, 07/02/2024

After a year of uncertainty, a new era begins for the residents of the former Feros Village at Byron Bay with new operators, St Andrew's Ballina assuming management of the beloved institution from 7am today. St Andrew's will be negotiating a 40-year lease with Crown Lands, and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care and Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission have licensed the facility to maintain the existing 40-aged care beds at the Marvell Street facility.

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

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Only 63% of home care services compliant with Quality Standards: regulator

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/02/2024, Caroline Egan

The rate of non-compliance in home care was "significantly higher" than in residential aged care, according to the September quarter Sector Performance report, released by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC). While one out of every five residential aged care homes failed to meet all 42 Quality Standards, two in five home care services did not comply, according to the 57-page report.

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ACQSC releases draft guidance on new Aged Care Quality Standards

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/02/2024, Caroline Egan

There are six draft guidance documents on the new strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards, with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission hosting a webinar attended by more than 5,000 to launch the release. The documents include the Standards Guidance and Worker Guidance, the evidence mapping framework, the audit methodology, the pre-audit preparation tool, the request for information, and the glossary of terms.

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BlueCare's Sunshine Coast aged care home set to open in early 2024

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/02/2024, Caroline Egan

The Not For Profit's Sunrise Beach aged care home, which is located about 3km from the centre of Noosa, in Queensland, is set to open early this year. Designed by ThomsonAdsett, the home is based on the small household model with residents to live in groups of eight or nine around a central courtyard with covered walkways that take advantage of the sub-tropical climate.

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Home care providers relying on paper could be to blame for low number of reported SIRS incidents

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/02/2024, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) has written to home care providers that have not reported any incidents under the Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS), warning them to review their incident management systems and processes. You can read the letter [here](#)

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Where's the missing link? Fed Govt defines health and aged care responsibilities – but home care still a 'grey area'

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/02/2024, Caroline Egan

The Department of Health and Aged Care has released a document to outline the roles and responsibilities of aged care and health providers caring for older people in Australia. The 10-page document lists the responsibilities of the Australian Government, State and Territory governments, residential aged care providers, and home care providers. Its release is aimed at complying with the Aged Care Royal Commission's recommendation 69, which proposed 'clarification of roles and responsibilities for delivery of health care to people receiving aged care' and recommendation 70, which required 'explicit commitments' by State and Territory governments.

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Expanding Arcare targets staff and clients with new ad campaign

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/02/2024, Caroline Egan

The private aged care provider has long been regarded as one of the best marketers in the sector and their latest campaign is no exception. Advertising firm Bundy Agency has created a whimsical advertising campaign, showing care staff working together as a team - pulling together the 'threads' - to provide excellent care to residents.

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HammondCare commits 15 beds to people living with dementia stuck in hospital beds in Adelaide

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/02/2024, Caroline Egan

15 beds at HammondCare Daw Park dementia care village, within the new Repat Health Precinct, will be made available to people living with dementia who are occupying public hospital beds and awaiting an aged care placement. The \$31 million, 70-place Daw Park dementia care village, located a few kilometres south of the Adelaide CBD, opened last year, delivered by HammondCare in partnership with the Federal and State Government.

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ACIITC survey reveals Australian aged care providers lack digital innovation

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/02/2024, Caroline Egan

This week, the Aged Care Industry Information Technology Council (ACIITC) released its report on digital maturity in Australia's aged care system. The aim of the project was to give providers an idea of how their digital maturity compared to other providers in the sector, and provide them with a tool for improvement. Improving technology in the aged care sector was a recommendation of the Aged Care Royal Commission (Recommendations 68 and 109).

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January aged care deaths from COVID-19 surge 400% as vaccination rates languish

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/02/2024, Caroline Egan

There were 108 deaths in residential aged care from COVID-19 in the four weeks to 1 February 2024, compared with 27 deaths in the four weeks to 31 August 2023, showing the devastating impact the virus is still wreaking on aged care residents and providers. Only 30.

[Read More](#)

What to expect when the Age Pension is indexed next month

Your Life Choices, Other, 08/02/2024, Jan Fisher

Older Australians should keep their expectations modest when Age Pension payments are indexed next month. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) announced its selected cost-of-living indexes yesterday, and the news isn't good for pensioners.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Anger at block on gender inquiry

The Australian, General News, 08/02/2024, Rachel Baxendale, Page 2

Expelled Victorian Liberal MP Moira Deeming says she is "disgusted" after South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas killed off an attempt to launch a parliamentary inquiry into the treatment of young people with gender dysphoria. Some SA Labor MPs were understood to have been in favour of the motion by independent MP Frank Pangallo, but they will be prevented from supporting it after caucus opted not to allow a conscience vote a decision supported by the Premier.

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

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Top chefs make school lunch a highlight of the day

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/02/2024, Lucy Carroll, Page 3

Just over 18 months ago, chefs Donna Chau and Kenji Okuda reluctantly decided to close the small Ashfield restaurant they had run for almost three years. The husband-and-wife duo, who have spent a decade working at some of Sydney's top dining institutions including the hatted Billy Kwong and Toko, were regularly putting in 80-hour weeks to sustain their eatery, Koku Culture, while also raising two school-aged children.

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

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Vaping war is far from over

West Australian, General News, 08/02/2024, Pam Bubrzycki, Page 39

It has been roughly six weeks since the Australian Government's new regulations on vaping came into pass, and it has become abundantly clear that we are in for a long fight. It was disappointing to read this week's coverage on Perth retailers continuing to sell disposable vapes, but then, we always knew that laws and regulation alone would not fix this problem.

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Vape market worth up to \$500 million in Victoria

Canberra Times, Other, 07/02/2024, Callum Godde and Rachael Ward

Victoria's e-cigarette market could be worth up to \$500 million and almost half a million people vape. That's according to analysis by the state's parliamentary budget office, released amid an ongoing violent conflict between organised crime groups over illegal cigarettes in Victoria.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [3AW \(Online\)](#).

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Free spirits: Why more Aussies are ditching booze

West Australian, Other, 07/02/2024, Katie Hampson

WA's drinking culture is changing. The sober curious movement - where people are mindfully drinking less, or not at all - is growing. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare revealed the proportion of the population who identified as "ex-drinkers" rose from 7.6 per cent to 8.9 per cent in three years to a record 1.9 million people in 2019, driven largely by young people.

[Read More](#)

Preventive health check-ups could help you live longer while taking strain off the system

ABC Online, Other, 07/02/2024, Peter Gunders

When she turned 47, Robyn Gattera felt it was time to visit her doctor. "I just called the surgery ... and they said it was the perfect age for a routine check-up," she said. "They checked my blood pressure, weight, height, I had a blood test ... and they discovered I had an atrial septal defect in my heart, which was something I was born with." It led to months of specialist appointments and successful surgery.

Is passive vaping a hidden risk to the public? Here's what the experts know so far

ABC Online, Other, 07/02/2024, Ruby Ritchie

As more becomes known about the health effects of using vapes, there is also growing concern the habit may pose a risk to non-vapers' health. A national study last year found that one in four Australian teens had vaped and their use is now commonplace across the country.

[Read More](#)

'People are dying waiting for a house': how Australia's healthcare system leaves rough sleepers with nowhere to turn

The Guardian, Other, 08/02/2024, Christopher Knaus

Nigel Pernu knows all too well the damage homelessness wreaks on a person's health. He slept rough for six months after six heart attacks left him hospitalised long-term in Adelaide, leading to an opioid addiction. "You're constantly worrying about where you're going to sleep," he says. "It puts a strain on your body. It also increases stress levels, cortisol levels, gives you high blood pressure and weakens your immune system as well.

[Read More](#)

'Australia's Sleep Revolution with Dr Michael Mosley' looks at the nation's sleep crisis

SBS, Other, 07/02/2024

Dr Michael Mosley and the sleep scientists from Flinders University are on a mission to inspire a sleep revolution in this new SBS series, premiering 6 March. Dr Michael Mosley is back in Australia to wake the nation up to the dangers of poor sleep with his eye-opening new three-part series

[Read More](#)

Read before you freeze: How egg freezing became women's insurance policy.

Mamamia, Other, 07/02/2024, Elfy Scott

Sarah says she had always wanted to be a mum – in fact, she'd always planned on having a large family, with around four children. But life didn't exactly work out as she'd planned. She'd turned 30 and then years passed without finding the long-term partner she'd always banked on to start a family with.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 07/02/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Australia's state and federal governments have come together to support schools as they tackle the vaping epidemic. Health and education ministers are preparing advice for teaching staff about resources available to help students quit vaping.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 07/02/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Australian school principals will be given support to help battle the rise of vaping children. State health and education ministers are right now putting together information and advice for teaching staff in a bid to help students quit and make them aware of the dangers associated with vapes.

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

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Partnership tackles tobacco

A partnership between Cancer Council NSW (CCNSW) and the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Southeastern Division to help people in regional and remote areas - including Broken Hill - to reduce their cancer risk has seen positive results since launching last year. CCNSW provided a \$5000 grant to upskill the RFDS Southeastern Division's Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) staff in helping clients quit smoking as part of the Tackling Tobacco program.

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

NRG health and fitness

Barrier Truth, General News, 07/02/2024, Indyanna Kooyman, Page 11

Neuroplasticity refers to the brain's ability to change, reorganise, or grow neural networks. This can involve functional changes due to brain damage or structural changes due to learning strategies. Neuroplasticity is divided into two major mechanisms, neuroregeneration and functional reorganisation. Neuro-regeneration is the regrowth or repair of the brain's nervous tissue by generating new neurons, axons, synapses, and glial cells to replace those damaged by injury, and achieves a longer lasting functional recovery.

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

Mildura's Cancer Centre's big open day

Barrier Truth, General News, 07/02/2024, Jason Irvine, Page 13

To coincide with World Cancer Day this Sunday, Mildura Health Icon Cancer Centre opened its doors this weekend so the public could tour the new state-of-the-art centre and learn about the services it provides to patients - including from Broken Hill - undergoing cancer treatment. Since its official opening 10 months ago, the facility has bridged the gap in cancer treatment for patients, with the feedback to the Open Day on the weekend exceeding the expectations of those running and operating the centre.

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

How to make heart healthy changes that are also good for your bank balance

Canberra Times, Other, 07/02/2024, Chloe Steele

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.

[Read More](#)

I was diagnosed with postpartum rage - I didn't know it was a thing

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/02/2024

Motherhood can be an isolating, lonely, and challenging experience, especially during the early months. There's pressure to 'do it all' - with a smile - while navigating a new identity and learning how to raise a child. New mums (and dads) are told that it is the most joyful time of their lives, but for many, it can be a time of anxiety and depression.

[Read More](#)

How long does low back pain last and what treatments can help?

ABC Online, Other, 07/02/2024, Paige Cockburn

"When will this pain go away?" You may have wondered this if you've ever had days of agonising low back pain for no clear reason. The condition is a leading cause of disability but it's often hard to pinpoint why the pain has erupted, with 90 per cent of low back pain cases not linked to a disease or physical injury. This makes it difficult for people to know how long they'll be doubled over for.

[Read More](#)

Teen who believed her cancer was cured by 'miracle from God' ordered

by NSW court to continue chemotherapy

The Guardian, Other, 07/02/2024, Nino Bucci

A teenage girl who believed she had been cured of cancer because of a "healing miracle from God" has been ordered by a New South Wales supreme court judge to continue chemotherapy treatment. The girl was 16 when she was diagnosed with a form of cancer in the bone last year.

[Read More](#)

The King's accidental cancer diagnosis: Could it happen to you?

The New Daily, Other, 07/02/2024, John Elder

It doesn't help that the kingship of Charles is handed down by God. Take away the crown, and his story is a very human one, your basic nightmare. When King Charles shared with the world his diagnosis of a benign enlargement of his prostate, he may have had some anxieties about the surgery. But he would have been feeling pretty confident that he would be repaired, and life would go on.

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

[Read More](#)

Victoria has a constant 'sonic ring' in her head. Her condition is on the rise in Australia

SBS, Other, 07/02/2024, Omoh Bello

One in three Australians live with some degree of tinnitus, which can interfere with many aspects of daily life and have an impact on mental health and well-being. Buzzing. [...] A study by Hearing Australia found that up to 70 per cent of people aged 18 to 35 years have experienced tinnitus and 16 per cent experience it more than once a week.

[Read More](#)

The silent noise: tinnitus

SBS, Other, 07/02/2024

A hearing condition is silently having significant negative impact on many people around the world but it is easily overlooked. With one in three Australians living with some degree of tinnitus, it can interfere with many aspects of daily life and have an impact on mental health and well-being. [...] A study by Hearing Australia found that up to 70 per cent of people aged 18 to 35 years have experienced tinnitus and 16 per cent experience it more than once a week.

[Read More](#)

Offer compression sleeves to prevent breast cancer-related arm lymphoedema: new guidance

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/02/2024, Kemal Atlay

Axillary reverse mapping and prophylactic lymphatic reconstruction can also be considered as preventive interventions, say doctors. Patients at risk of developing arm lymphoedema after breast cancer treatment should be offered prophylactic compression sleeves, according to world-first guidance.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 07/02/2024, Michael Rowland and Emma Rebellato

Researchers found people with Parkinson's disease are often undertreated for pain related to the disease, which can also go unrecognised. A study underway at the University of South Australia is investigating the characteristics and treatment of pain in Parkinson's disease, with hopes that medical professionals will advance treatments for the condition.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 07/02/2024, Mel Bush

The Tas Government says the survival rate for Tasmanians who have a heart attack out of hospital has

greatly improved. According to data from the Productivity Commission, the survival rate is the second highest in Australia and almost 10% above the national average.

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospitals in crisis: plan to go virtual

The Australian, General News, 08/02/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

A panel of experts is set to begin examining how to radically reshape models of care in the nation's largest public hospital system, including virtual treatment, as emergency departments come under unsustainable pressure amid a breakdown in primary care and chronic bed block in the wards. An emergency department taskforce convened by the NSW government will hold its first meeting on Thursday as attendances hit record highs, ambulances are regularly unable to offload patients, and sick people are frequently unable to be admitted to a bed.

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

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

Worried sick over new tax on GPs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/02/2024, Madeleine Bower, Page 4

The state government will meet with doctors groups this week to discuss whether GPs will be forced to pay additional payroll tax charges. Finance Minister Courtney Houssos' office set up urgent meetings on Friday with doctors from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners after The Daily Telegraph revealed new research that showed 95 per cent of GPs could be forced to increase their fees by \$12 and 16 per cent of clinic Ms Houssos.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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

'Greatest threat to affordable health care': Why local GP clinics could close

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 07/02/2024

General practice clinics across Geelong and the Surf Coast may be forced to consider closing their doors as independent doctors face a controversial payroll tax. Clinics already pay payroll tax on their employees, including receptionists, doctors in training and nurses, but the tax did not apply to GPs, as most lease rooms from the practice owner and work under independent agreements. [...] Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Victoria chair Dr Anita Muñoz said the payroll tax was the "greatest threat" to affordable healthcare.

[Read More](#)

More ambos on time

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/02/2024, Page 2

Nearly 2300 more South Australians who called for an ambulance were reached on time last month when compared with the Liberals' last January in office. Latest data from SA Ambulance Service showed an extra 2277 patients in lifethreatening priority one (emergency) and priority two (urgent) cases in metro Adelaide were reached on time in January this year.

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

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

Taskforce to lead health's planning for ACT VAD

Canberra Times, General News, 08/02/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 11

A taskforce to help prepare the ACT's health system for voluntary assisted dying will be established by

the territory government. The taskforce will examine referral pathways across the system, the establishment of a pharmacy service, workforce training and communications with the community.

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

Blair MP salutes Ipswich Urgent Care Clinic milestone

Ipswich News Today, General News, 08/02/2024, Page 5

The Ipswich Medicare Urgent Care Clinic has dealt with more than 3,100 presentations since it opened last August. The clinic was opened as part of the Albanese Labor Government's commitment to increase access to doctors and nurses, and divert patients from the Ipswich Hospital Emergency Department.

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

Co-location decision is a loss for North

Launceston Examiner, General News, 08/02/2024, Peter Milne, Page 19

A "once in a lifetime" opportunity for Tasmania. This term is thrown around a lot, specifically in reference to football stadiums. Yet, when it comes to building health infrastructure with the potential to fundamentally change the way healthcare is delivered in Northern Tasmania - we remain at-risk of missing out. The Clifford Craig Foundation is extremely concerned about Calvary Healthcare's decision not to proceed with plans to build a co-located hospital with the Launceston General Hospital.

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Dying well: why Australians are turning to 'Buddhish' deaths

The Guardian, Other, 08/02/2024, Hannah Gould and Anna Halafoff

Sometimes the mere presence of her maroon and saffron robes allows people to speak honestly about death with Venerable Tsultrim. She suspects the robes have a "calming influence" and signal something of her willingness, as a Buddhist nun, to discuss topics like suffering and impermanence. Tsultrim offers support for dying people, families and medical staff through Karuna Hospice Services, an in-home palliative and spiritual care provider in Queensland. It is one of a small number of hospice services across Australia affiliated with Buddhist organisations.

[Read More](#)

GPs left in the dark as practice deals with repeat blackouts

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/02/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Dr Ajit Chaurasia has been asking the council to install a generator at his practice for the past four years. Dr Ajit Chaurasia is used to power blackouts at his practice in rural WA, but this time, a bushfire was approaching and a heatwave forced him to camp in his backyard for two days. The most recent power outage, which lasted four days, saw him close the only practice in Wongan Hills for effectively a week, at a time when residents needed care the most.

[Read More](#)

SA pharmacy reports first 24/7 night success

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/02/2024, Megan Haggan

More than 40 South Australians sought help from the state's first 24-hour pharmacy on its opening night "Our first night of 24/7 trade has gone smoothly with our pharmacist reporting that health advice and medication was sought from patients across central Adelaide and as far south as Brighton and as far west as West Lakes,"

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

[Read More](#)

Pharmacy falls victim to Kirrily

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/02/2024, James Tsaoucis

Government urged to provide financial support to businesses impacted by Cyclone Kirrily Plans to officially open a new pharmacy in Townsville this month have been destroyed after Cyclone Kirrily hit the store causing millions of dollars worth of damage. Speaking in the House of Representatives today (Wednesday, 7 February), coalition MP, Phillip Thompson, called on

‘Advertise the service not the vaccine’

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/02/2024, James Tsaoucis

Exemptions allowing pharmacies to highlight the availability of Covid-19 vaccinations do not apply for other jabs, Peter Guthrey warns. Pharmacists are being urged to focus on advertising their services rather than specific products when it comes to promoting their immunisation offering.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 07/02/2024, Kate Freebairn

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas says thousands more South Australians are being reached on time by ambulances than at any time in the past two years. It comes after taxpayers poured more than \$110m into recruiting more ambulances and paramedics to hit the road. However, the number of hours ambulances are lost on emergency department ramps continues to be a challenge the government can't tame. Last month, the RAA recorded the largest number of hours lost on record.

Report continues on: [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 07/02/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Millions of Australians looking to book an appointment with their local GP could soon be forced to pay more. The NSW and Vic governments are pursuing payroll tax changes, which will sting many doctors who will pass that cost on to patients. Last year, Qld axed a very similar proposal.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 07/02/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

An extra \$2m has been thrown at Queensland's largest hospital to help get rid of mould growing on some of its wards. Health experts are concerned it could compromise sick and vulnerable patients at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, causing secondary infections and severe illness.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 07/02/2024, Laura Jayes

A new survey has revealed most doctors in NSW and Vic expect to increase their fees after their payroll tax bill increases from August. On average, it would cost patients an extra \$12 and the out-of-pocket expense would go from \$40 to \$52. Around 16% of clinics are worried they'll have to close altogether.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 07/02/2024, Nadia Mitsopoulos

The Manjimup Senior High School in WA's South West Region is trialling an on-site GP for 12 months. The Bridgetown Medical Group will provide students bulk-billed health care at the school one day a week. The WA Government says the trial will make health services more accessible and improve school attendance.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 07/02/2024, Craig Reucassel

The NSW Government's plan to enforce an additional GP payroll tax charge in August will end up with 95% of clinics increasing their fees. Thousands of GPs now face payroll tax charges for the first time after a ruling from Revenue New South Wales in February last year changed how general practises pay the tax. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners NSW Chair Dr Rebekah Hoffman says it will lead to an additional \$15 standard appointment.

[Play Now](#)

Tasmania's Health Department has started investigating allegations of death certificates being falsified at the Launceston General Hospital after allegations made by two nurses to a parliamentary inquiry into ambulance ramping.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Women worse after break-up

Herald Sun, General News, 08/02/2024, Page 12

Women find it harder to emotionally adjust after a divorce or break-up, international researchers suggest. Chongqing Medical University researchers in China tracked the antidepressant use of close to 230,000 people aged 50 to 70 who had lost a partner.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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ADHD boom busts clinics

West Australian, General News, 08/02/2024, Josh Zimmerman, Page 3

Skyrocketing ADHD diagnoses are threatening the viability of privately operated mental health clinics across the country - and played a key role in the collapse of Bethesda Clinic less than a year after it opened. Bethesda Health Care chief executive Neale Fong said rising rates of ADHD, a trend particularly pronounced in grown women, was stripping psychiatrists out of hospitals, such as the 75-bed facility he is closing.

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

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Kids still struggling

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/02/2024, Page 13

Students as young as grade three are struggling with their resilience and mental health, new University of Adelaide research has found. It showed 27.4 per cent of primary school students and 35.9 per cent in secondary school reported high levels of anxiety, depression.

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NT commits to rolling out Be You initiative in all schools to help students, staff manage mental health concerns

ABC Online, Other, 07/02/2024, Isabella Tolhurst

At Ludmilla Primary School in Darwin, children start the day by telling their classmates how they feel — be it angry and frustrated; confused and nervous; or happy and relaxed. Students then share why they may feel that way, in a bid to normalise talking about their emotions.

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

[Read More](#)

Five years after landmark WA inquest into 13 deaths, are children any safer from suicide in outback Australia?

ABC Online, Other, 07/02/2024, Erin Parke

Coronial inquest documents are usually grim, but this one was unforgettably tragic. It detailed the lives of 13 children and young people who died by suicide in one of the most remote corners of the country. There were the sisters, aged 10 and 13, who killed themselves just a couple of years apart. One had left a suicide note in her bedroom saying, "I love all of you and miss you."

[Read More](#)

The treatment by police of a 13-year-old autistic boy is shocking – but it fits an appalling pattern

The Guardian, Other, 07/02/2024, George Newhouse and Duncan Fine

The Australian federal police website proudly states that one of its central roles is to "play a lead role in keeping Australians safe from terrorism". So it's extremely disturbing to discover that the joint counter terrorism team (JCTT), which comprises Australian federal police, Victoria police and Asio members, has in fact been found by a magistrate to have actually radicalised an individual in the course of a counter terrorism investigation.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Surrogacy is violation of women

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/02/2024, Renate Klein, Page 39

In his offensively titled 'Equality Bill', NSW Independent MP Alex Greenwich proposes to among other things circumvent the federal ban on commercial surrogacy within Australia. As the Federal Parliament's findings after a 2016 Inquiry pointed out: "Even with the best of regulatory intentions, there is still significant potential for the exploitation of surrogates and children to occur."

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Support on offer for returning nurses in regions

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 08/02/2024, Anneke De Boer, Page 3

In a bid to bolster the regional nursing workforce, support is being offered to returning nurses to help them regain accreditation. The WA Country Health Service has made the pathway back into the workforce easier through a Registered Nurse Re-Entry Program which supports returning nurses who need to complete a period of supervised practice to regain registration.

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Cairns' Hospital invest in homegrown nursing talent

Cairns Post, Other, 07/02/2024, Kate Stephenson

More than one hundred nursing and midwifery graduates joined the Far North Health service on Monday, with leaders making the most of homegrown talent. More than one hundred nursing and midwifery graduates joined the Far North Health service on Monday, with leaders making the most of homegrown talent.

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Veruca Salt posted a heartbreaking video of her smiling baby after six-week-old Cash died in her sleep on Monday. "Do you know how much I love you?"

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/02/2024

Gold Coast influencer and TikTok star Veruca Salt shared a heartbreaking video of her son Cash after revealing the infant "died in his sleep" on Monday. Veruca, whose real name is Kimberly Summer Hartley, shared a video of her smiling newborn on social media early Wednesday morning.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Facial plastic surgeons: strict rules leave patients confused

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/02/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 5

Graham Kittle was surfing in heavy swell at Manly when a surfboard escaped its owner's leg rope and smashed across his face, breaking his skull and scything a hole from his left ear to his jawline. Nine hours of surgery later, he woke to discover facial nerves on his left side had been severed and it would take many more surgeries from a specialist to put them back together.

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

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Tassie attracting bright young medicos

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/02/2024, Rob Inglis, Page 6

For young radiographer Josh Robinson the decision to move from Newcastle to work in Tasmania's health system has paid off, with the 22-year-old's short time at the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) opening his eyes to a world of opportunities. Mr Robinson is one of 33 new graduate allied health professionals to have recently started working in Tasmanian hospitals as part of the state government's Allied Health Scholarship Program.

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From teaching to speech pathology

Burnie Advocate, General News, 08/02/2024, Sarah Fittock, Page 3

Three years ago Devonport's Claire Kent decided to hang up her teaching hat and take the leap into speech pathology. She had been working as a teacher in the early intervention space for 10 years and loved establishing language "I just really enjoyed being part of those experiences for children," she said.

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Healthy boost available for students in medical fields

Western Advocate, General News, 08/02/2024, Paul Toole, Page 6

Applications are open for study subsidies of up to \$12,000 for students studying fields such as nursing, medicine and midwifery. Subsidies are also available for students of paramedicine, Aboriginal health, dentistry and oral health therapy, psychology, pharmacy, physiotherapy and medical physics.

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Plea for Australian burns expertise to help Ukrainian resistance

ABC Online, Other, 07/02/2024, Matthew Doran

The number of Ukrainians dying from burn injuries is surging, according to doctors from the war-ravaged nation pleading with the Australian government to send extra medical support to eastern Europe. Lviv-based Rudi Myhovich from the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine is coordinating medical teams and supplies to be sent to Ukraine and has brought his campaign to Canberra as the resistance against Russia's invasion approaches its third anniversary.

[Read More](#)

Judgement day: 82% of doctors say medical board's CPD regime is a fail

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/02/2024, Paul Smith

For those who pushed for the changes — what follows should make grim reading. This article makes clear, perhaps for the first time, what doctors collectively think of the Medical Board of Australia's CPD regime. Based on the results of AusDoc's survey, they believe it is a major failure on virtually every level, the most important being its failure to support them to maintain their standards.

[Read More](#)

Student grant program open

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/02/2024, Ajp Staff

PdI has announced the opening of the 2024 Student Grant Program, with applications open until April 14 The grants program was established to help Australian pharmacy students broaden their education by attending a professional pharmacy conference. The funds contribute to event registration, travel and accommodation expenses up to the value of \$5,000 each.

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

New diabetic drugs to help Australian's manage diabetic threat

7news.com.au, Other, 07/02/2024, Sarah Keszler and Lucy McLeod

New diabetic drugs assisting patients with weight loss may soon be available in Australia, with doctors hoping future treatments may help patients with diabetes to enter remission. Ozempic was one of the first diabetes injections to also reduce appetite, and now experts say new and more powerful drugs will soon be available.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Forget tax cuts, rein in the NDIS or heads must roll

Australian Financial Review, General News, 08/02/2024, John Kehoe, Page 1

The budget hole from the NDIS is now so serious that hard, honest truths must be told and a big light shone on Bill Shorten, Jim Chalmers and Katy Gallagher.

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

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

Cost still a barrier to seeing a GP

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 08/02/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 2

An increasing number of Tamworthians are now able to see their GP without paying out-of-pocket fees as more doctors take advantage of financial incentives for bulk billing their patients. But new data from the Productivity Commission shows a large number of sick and injured people are still putting off seeing their local doctor due to the cost of appointments.

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Pensioner slugged for scan pushes for rebate

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/02/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 4

Belmont North's Diana Taaffe can't understand why she wasn't entitled to a Medicare rebate, after paying \$550 for an MRI. Mrs Taaffe, 85, said her GP sent her for the scan because "she thought I had a hernia". "It came back that I had a little hernia, but I also had a lesion on my liver," Mrs Taaffe said. She initially had an ultrasound and a CAT scan, but they made "no conclusion".

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Medical gaslighting of women is real pain

Age, General News, 08/02/2024, Katy Hall, Page 29

About five years ago, after I fell over and fractured my wrist in three places, a doctor asked why it had taken me so long to get an X-ray. "Did it not hurt?" she asked me, perplexed. By that stage, three days had passed since my tumble and the pain that began in my wrist had extended to my elbow. A relentless pulsing kept me awake at night, the intensity eventually boiling over and causing me to vomit before I finally conceded I might need to get it checked out.

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

Aged care stomp claim

West Australian, General News, 08/02/2024, Phil Hickey, Page 1

A Perth aged-care worker has been sacked after being charged by police for allegedly "stomping" on a 95-year-old woman. The West Australian can reveal the allegations centre on the Bethanie agedcare home in Como. The man has been charged with aggravated common assault and is due to appear in Perth Magistrates Court on March 5.

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Review of LGH death claims by Health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/02/2024, David Killick, Page 6

The Health Department is examining claims that death certificates were modified at the Launceston General Hospital. Health Minister Guy Barnett last night released a statement to say the Department was working to identify the cases revealed in a parliamentary committee earlier this week. Two nurses told the Select Committee on Transfer of Care Delays (Ambulance Ramping) of a culture of cover-up at the hospital, with multiple cases of death certificates being falsified and deaths being concealed from the Coroner.

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

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

Health giant refuses to open patient files for Medicare probe

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 07/02/2024, Sean Parnell

The Medicare watchdog has asked a Federal Court judge to examine why Queensland Diagnostic Imaging is not allowing an official audit of its medical practices and billing. In documents filed in court, the Professional Services Review has argued the company, a subsidiary of Healix, "refused or failed to comply with a notice" issued by one of its investigative committees in December.

[Read More](#)

Gabriel Perkhofer: Royal Darwin Hospital nurse arrested in US, charged with child sexual offences

Northern Territory News, Other, 07/02/2024, Alex Treacy

A registered nurse at the Royal Darwin Hospital is being held in custody in the United States after being charged with five child sexual offences. [...] According to information held by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, Mr Perkhofer's registration, which he has held since April 2000, has been suspended, meaning he cannot practice in Australia.

[Read More](#)

Gold Coast surgeon committed to trial on indecent treatment charges

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 07/02/2024, Jessica Paul

A Gold Coast surgeon remains banned from practising anywhere in Australia amid allegations he sexually abused a young relative. The man, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, has been committed to stand trial in Southport District Court on three charges of indecent treatment of a child under 12 as a "lineal descendant".

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'Catastrophic' consequences averted by pharmacist and cardiologist

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/02/2024

A pharmacist was one of several people who notified the regulator about a doctor who was using kinesiology to diagnose patients, and prescribed potentially dangerous medicines regimes – plus colour therapy. The Medical Board received several notifications about the doctor – including one from a pharmacist, in August 2015, regarding several of his patients.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

The 50-year-old 'mistake' that changed general practice

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/02/2024, Andrew Orr

The recent passing of Bill Hayden, the politician responsible for making Medibank a reality some 50 years ago, provoked me to reflect on his role in what has happened to general practice. This is the potted history of how the best intentions of Gough Whitlam's minister for social security, who died last October, have left us all arguably worse off.

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Policy reform for lower back pain suffers

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 07/02/2024

The NSW State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA) and the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation have endorsed a new model for low back pain management. The Summary Model of care for low back pain has adopted the term 'physical therapies', focusing on best-practice recommendations with the aim of enhancing health, quality of life, and social outcomes for people grappling with low back pain.

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SPORT

Battle was raging in brain of ex-Magpie

The Australian, Sport, 08/02/2024, Mark Robinson, Page 24

Former Collingwood and Richmond star Craig Stewart had the early stages of a debilitating neurological disorder linked to repeated head knocks when he died. An analysis of Stewart's brain by Australian Sports Brain Bank showed the 66-year-old was battling Stage I CTE chronic traumatic encephalopathy when he died in June last year.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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NRL stars grilled over arrests to get US visas

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/02/2024, Michael Chammas, Page 1

The National Rugby League's hopes of getting all its players into the United States for the season opener took an important step yesterday when some of the game's biggest names visited the US Consulate. The NRL organised interviews for players who had previously been arrested in the hope of them gaining visas in time for the historic opener next month.

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Tears at Titmuss inquest over 'devastating' finding

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 08/02/2024, Adam Pengilly, Page 48

A former Manly high-performance manager who rushed to Keith Titmuss' aid inside the club's dojo broke down in tears during a coronial inquest, saying he was "devastated" to learn the rising rugby league star likely died of heatstroke. Don Singe, the club's head of performance when Titmuss suffered a seizure and later died on the first day of the Sea Eagles' preseason training in November 2020, pleaded yesterday for a formal process to be ratified for players returning to NRL training.

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Gabba Games over: Coates

Courier Mail, General News, 08/02/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 1

Olympics boss John Coates has killed forever the Gabba's chances of being rebuilt for the 2032 Games - unveiling a dramatic new cut-price venues plan and blasting the government for its failings. Mr

Coates led a high-powered delegation this week that told Premier Steven Miles's Games venues review boss the athletics should instead be held at the old QEII stadium in Nathan, and that Suncorp Stadium should be upgraded to host the opening and closing ceremonies.

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

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Woodhouse is new swim boss

Courier Mail, General News, 08/02/2024, Julian Linden, Page 3

Swimming Australia has turned to Emma McKeon's uncle Rob Woodhouse to steer the country's favourite Olympic sport out of troubled waters after being ordered to get its house in order. One of the most respected figures in the sport because of his success in the pool and on dry land, Woodhouse will take over as Swimming Australia's new chief executive officer in April.

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

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Multipurpose venue upgraded

Barrier Truth, General News, 07/02/2024, Melanie Gates, Page 1

Horse enthusiasts, school groups, punters, campers, and tourists will be able to enjoy everything the Broken Hill Regional Events Centre and Racecourse has to offer after almost \$182,000 in upgrades to the 77-hectare multipurpose venue just out of the Silver City on Racecourse Rd.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Obese mum-to-boy link

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/02/2024, Page 7

Boys are more likely to be overweight at birth and develop metabolic complications in later life, including liver disease and diabetes. However, female fetuses are programmed to avoid such problems. The way male sex hormones activate pathways in the developing liver is partly to blame for the gender health difference, according to the study led by UniSA researchers into effect of maternal obesity on "foetal liver androgen signalling".

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

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HPV-heart issues link

West Australian, General News, 08/02/2024, Page 19

Women have a four times higher risk of dying from cardiovascular disease if they are infected with a high-risk strain of the human papillomavirus (HPV), according to new research. HPV is a common infection and high-risk strains can cause cervical cancer.

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

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Search for positive palliative care stories

Barrier Truth, General News, 07/02/2024, Jason Irvine, Page 4

A research team from the University of South Australia (UniSA) is looking for people to take part in semi-structured interviews as part of a new study hoping to gain a better understanding of what is working well in rural palliative care. With a goal of improving knowledge and access to palliative care in rural and remote areas, the study - conducted by UniSA's Department of Rural Health and supported by The Hospital Research Foundation - is part of a larger research project, the Palliative Care Research Collaboration.

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Researchers developing artificial ovary for cancer survivors facing infertility

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/02/2024, Alexandra Feiam

Researchers in Melbourne are one step closer to developing an artificial ovary for thousands of cancer survivors who are unable to have children due to the side effects of chemotherapy. Stacey-Lee was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia twice, first at the age of three and again at seven, before being diagnosed with thyroid cancer as an adult.

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Australian researchers develop world-first method of treating lupus

SBS, Other, 07/02/2024

For Vu Nguyen, having the chronic inflammatory condition lupus has been debilitating. Diagnosed at the age of nine, she has lived with it now for 30 years - and it has had huge impact on her life. "It was 1995 - so back then it wasn't very well-known. The first symptoms I had were aching joints, swollen joints. So I went to the GP. Luckily, he was reading up on it and he said maybe go do these blood tests."

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\$135m for corneas

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/02/2024

The University of Melbourne, in collaboration with BIENCO, a consortium led by the University of Sydney, has received a \$35 million grant from the Australian Government Medical Research Future Fund. This significant funding is dedicated to supporting the development of the world's first tissue engineered cornea.

[Read More](#)

New study aims to ease chronic pain for people with Parkinson's

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 07/02/2024

In Australia Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurological disease. As a degenerative disease with no known cure, managing and treating symptoms is vital. A new study from the University of South Australia aims to investigate the characteristics and pain in Parkinson's disease with the hope of advancing patient-centred pain care services.

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Researchers Identify potentially dangerous drugs used in Australian healthcare

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 07/02/2024

Researchers from RMIT University have developed a list of 16 potentially dangerous medications used in healthcare and their safer alternatives. 'Potentially inappropriate medicines' (PIMs) are medicines with risks that may outweigh their benefits. PIMs can have high risks of severe adverse effects, drug interactions, increased risk of falls and even death.

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Women infected with HPV are five times more likely to have a stroke, according to new major analysis

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/02/2024, Emily Joshi

Researchers found that HPV was linked to a greater risk of heart disease. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in women. Women infected with a sexually transmitted infection that affects 80 percent of people at any point in their lives are five times more likely to suffer a stroke, a new study suggests.

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Treaty 'would address failures in Closing the Gap'

Age, General News, 08/02/2024, Jack Latimore, Page 8

Victorian Indigenous leaders say a scathing independent assessment of Australia's failure to improve outcomes for Indigenous people confirms that governments need to share power with First Nations organisations - best achieved via the state's treaty process. Bipartisan support for a treaty in Victoria fell apart when Liberal leader John Pesutto and Nationals leader Peter Walsh said they would no longer back Labor's process, just weeks before the Productivity Commission released its review of the Closing the Gap agreement.

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

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Policies failing Indigenous

Courier Mail, General News, 08/02/2024, Ellen Ransley, Page 1

A "business as usual" approach to Indigenous affairs is overwhelmingly failing, a damning report has found. The final report of the Productivity Commission's first three-yearly review of government action on the Closing The Gap agreement found governments had "failed to fully grasp" the nature and scale of change required to meet the obligations they signed up to.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Crikey \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#).

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'I want to give back'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 08/02/2024, Rachel Clark, Page 1

A much-loved Tamworth doctor is in the running to be named NSW Indigenous Woman of the Year, but Dr Casey Sullivan isn't in it for the recognition. The proud Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi woman wanted to give back to the community and family that had supported her dream. Since opening MyGP in 2017, Dr Sullivan has become a leader and role model.

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Five years since Kimberley deaths, are children safer?

ABC Online, Other, 07/02/2024, Erin Parke

It's been five years since the Western Australia coroner released the findings of an inquest into the suicides of thirteen children and young people. All were Aboriginal, and all lived in the remote Kimberley region. The deaths included a ten-year-old girl who took her own life, an event that led to promises of change to help keep children safe.

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Trailblazing Indigenous nurse and leader, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, passes away aged 91

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 07/02/2024, Robert Fedele

Trailblazing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurse, leader, and rights activist, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, passed over the weekend, aged 91. A proud Yankunytjatjara woman, Dr O'Donoghue leaves behind a remarkable legacy of work underpinned by a fierce and unrelenting drive to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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Study looks at how the Maori dealt with COVID

National Indigenous Times, Other, 07/02/2024, Joseph Guenzler

A study on the Maori social response to COVID-19 suggests that the close-knit nature of Indigenous

communities could be crucial in shaping improved public health policies. Charles Darwin University and Auckland University of Technology conducted a study concentrating on a remote hapu (sub-tribe) of Ngati Kahungunu along the East Coast of the North Island.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 07/02/2024, Michael Rowland and Emma Rebellato

The Productivity Commission found that governments nationwide are largely failing to meet their commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. In its first review, the commission made four recommendations, emphasising the need for governments to share decision-making power with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Urgent large-scale changes are needed to prevent the agreement from failing and the gap from persisting.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

New mandatory AIR fields for pharmacists

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/02/2024, James Tsaoucis

Pharmacist immunisers may soon be required to record details of whether vaccinations they have administered were provided privately or as part of a government-funded program, when reporting them to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

World-first use of MDMA gives trauma patients hope

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/02/2024, Jordan Baker, Page 8

When a Sydney psychiatrist gave a severely traumatised patient a dose of MDMA in a borrowed Melbourne clinic, the duo made global medical history and were the talk of mental health doctors around the world. [...] Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration surprised the medical world last February by approving MDMA to treat PTSD and approved psilocybin, the active ingredient in magic mushrooms, to treat certain treatment-resistant mental illnesses.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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'Monumental' – Bioxyne subsidiary awarded first Aussie GMP licence to manufacture psilocybin, MDMA

The Australian, Other, 07/02/2024

Bioxyne says its Breathe Life Sciences (BLS) subsidiary has been awarded Australia's first GMP (good manufacturing practice) licence to manufacture psilocybin and MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine). [...] BXN says its Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) GMP licence covers parts 1 and 2, allowing it to manufacture MDMA and psilocybin active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) as well as final dose form capsules for supply to authorised prescribers and clinical trials.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Vegies in powder form

Herald Sun, General News, 08/02/2024, Page 9

Food innovator Nutri V has launched a new range of Australian grown, 100 per cent pure vegetable powders. Nutri V is repurposing imperfect broccoli, cauliflower and pumpkin into shelf-stable powders thereby giving vegies a new life as well offering a convenient solution to everyday meals for families looking to increase their vegetable intake.

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