



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 9th February 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)  
| [Coronavirus](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)  
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)  
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)  
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)  
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)  
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |  
[First Nations Health](#) | [Office of Health Protection and Emergency Management](#)  
| [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office for Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)  
| [AICIS](#)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports Victoria's Good Friday Appeal will this year be expanded to disperse millions in funds to regional healthcare services through the Royal Children's Hospital. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#)*
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 1) reports David Penberthy has questioned South Australia's decision to cancel an inquiry into gender dysphoria and trans care, cautioning politicians not to risk benefits for the trans community and children for fear of causing offence.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 1) reports Queensland has seen over 800 cases of gastrointestinal disease in 2024, up 13 fold on the same time last year, while health experts are warning people with symptoms to avoid public pools and water parks. *Also reported by: [7news.com.au](#)*
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 3) reports NSW emergency departments have seen a rise in cases of young people with pneumonia due to ongoing waves of respiratory illnesses and a surge in cases of mycoplasma pneumonia in the northern hemisphere.
- The [Australian Financial Review](#) (page 5) reports Opposition aged care spokeswoman Anne Ruston has accused the government of being "secretive" about the results of an inquiry into reforming Australia's aged care systems following multiple delays to its release.

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 7) reports the RACGP has written to Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan asking her to intervene in ongoing disputes over expansions of payroll tax to include GPs, saying they have "lost confidence" in Treasurer Tim Pallas' handling of the situation.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 29) reports the Albanese government will legislate further efforts to combat vaping in March, including flavour restrictions, lowered nicotine content, plain packaging and bans on advertising and sale of single-use and non-pharmaceutical vapes, Health Minister Mark Butler says. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#)
- The [Canberra Times](#) (online) reports a lack of informed choice, competition between providers and "excessive market power" means patients needing specialist medical care are often left financially worse off, an ACTU report by former ACCC chair Allan Fels has found. *Also reported by:* [West Australian](#)
- [The Guardian](#) (online) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has declined calls to redouble bulk-billed mental health care sessions, saying the COVID-era measure had worsened care for Australians in regional areas and on low-income.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Turning the tide on vaping

Herald Sun, General News, 09/02/2024, Mark Butler, Page 29

How do i stop my child from being lured into vaping Hit's another worry for parents of school-aged children. Data shows one in six high school students and one in four young Australians aged between 18 and 24 are vaping. One desperate mother reached out to me recently after she found more than two dozen used vapes in her 15-year-old daughter's room. She couldn't figure out where or when her daughter was getting the vapes, or what she could do to stop her.

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

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### Skin in the game? Checks are on offer

Shepparton News, General News, 09/02/2024, Taylah Baker, Page 1

Important checks a groundbreaking initiative to receive free melanoma screenings has been rolled out to the Goulburn Valley this week. [...] On behalf of the organisation, Mr Allen is meeting with the Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler in Parliament House in Canberra next week to discuss funding for another life-saving truck.

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

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### GP fee hike fears

Wangaratta Chronicle, General News, 09/02/2024, Steve Kelly, Page 1

Local MPs have warned the State Government that changes to payroll tax on medical centres would hurt struggling families seeing a GP. [...] Federal Labor Health Minister Mark Butler has also urged the Victorian Government to reconsider and he called for nationwide consistency referencing a model in Queensland implemented last year where medical centres are not subject to payroll tax.

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

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### Rural health is forgotten

Young Witness, General News, 09/02/2024, 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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## Single vaping law coming

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 08/02/2024, Page 1

A single law for vaping products across all states and territories will shortly be introduced through the Australian Parliament. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler told the ABC yesterday, "I'll introduce it over coming weeks". "Let me just say there will be still one legal pathway to get a vape in Australia," he added. "They'll be required to have prescribed concentrations of nicotine, and they'll only be able to be sold through a pharmacy - not these vape stores or convenience stores - dispensed by a pharmacist, on a prescription by a doctor.

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

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## Subsidised psychologist sessions plummet amid calls on Labor to reinstate extra Medicare visits

The Guardian, Other, 08/02/2024, Sarah Basford Canales

Australians accessed almost a quarter of a million fewer subsidised psychology sessions last financial year, prompting psychologists to urge the federal government once again to double the number available to patients and work to reduce high gap fees. [...] But the health minister, Mark Butler, has so far resisted calls to reinstate the Coalition's Covid-era policy, instead saying the decision had "worsened" access to the cheaper sessions and resulted in many Australians living on lower incomes and in regional, rural and remote areas missing out.

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## 'We had an agreement': Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas slams federal Labor over healthcare funding backflip

Sky News Australia, Other, 08/02/2024, Patrick Hannaford

Victoria's Treasurer has hit out at the Albanese government, accusing his federal Labor colleagues of breaking a health funding agreement that was struck just three months ago. Treasurer Tim Pallas has written a sternly worded letter to federal Health Minister Mark Butler accusing the Albanese government of planning to cut \$2 billion in health funding from the states and territories.

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## \$1 million vape seizure "not even a drop in the ocean"

Convenience & Impulse Retailing, Other, 08/02/2024, Thomas Oakley-Newell

Sixty retailers have been raided across Sydney in a blitz that resulted in \$1.1 million worth of illegal vapes and tobacco products being seized. [...] "Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler are simultaneously creating another burden during the cost-of-living crisis by forcing adults who vape to see a doctor and pay \$150 – around five times the amount for a black market vape – to access a legal one from the chemist."

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## Australian government allocates \$35 Million for corneal blindness research

Eyesmart, Other, 08/02/2024

The Australian Government has allocated a substantial \$35 million grant to BIENCO, a collaborative group of researchers, to support their pioneering work in combating corneal blindness, which affects an estimated 23 million people worldwide. [...] The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, stated: "I'm very pleased to announce \$35 million in funding to create a new facility to help fight blindness in Australians.

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## Melanoma drug newly listed on PBS

Australians can now access a combination immunotherapy drug with better survival rates than previously covered treatments. A dual immunotherapy (Opdualag, Bristol-Myers Squibb) for unresectable or metastatic melanoma will be available to patients on the PBS from 1 February. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler made the announcement at a press conference held at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Adelaide, last weekend.

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## Sky News Live, First Edition, 08/02/2024, Peter Stefanovic

Four Greens MPs have been ejected from a rowdy Question Time in Victoria, prompting the speaker to demand an apology over what the Opposition is labelling an anti-Semitic stunt. The stunt overshadowed some matters of substance during Question Time with the Opposition attempting to go after the Albanese Government over matters relating to health, particularly comments from Federal Minister Mark Butler who last week told Sky News his criticism of a state payroll tax charged on general practitioners undermining the bulk billed Medicare system.

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## ABC North Queensland, Mornings (Late), 08/02/2024, Susan Graham-Ryan

Interview with Dr Catriona Davis-McCabe, President, Australian Psychological Society, regarding the shortage of services in regional and remote areas. Davis-McCabe says there's a huge shortage of psychologists and it is across the board because the Federal Government is only meeting 35% of their target workforce and it is lower in regional areas. She adds the problem is that they need 20 sessions in place to adequately treat some mental health conditions. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said that the decision to make the subsidised psychology sessions into ten means that it's fairer for people.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### Labor delays aged-care review ahead of Dunkley byelection

Australian Financial Review, General News, 09/02/2024, Phillip Coorey, Page 5

The Albanese government will no longer say when it plans to release its review into reforming the aged-care system, prompting speculation it has been shelved until after the March 2 Dunkley byelection.

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

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### Timeline of Gabba redevelopment for the Brisbane Olympics 2032

The Courier Mail, Other, 08/02/2024

It's the Olympic legacy project delivering just that , good or bad. The planned rebuild of the Gabba for the 2032 Brisbane Games has been a lightning rod talking point ever since it was first mooted by Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk. [...] The suggestion of the Labor government walking away from rebuilding the Gabba in Queensland for the Olympics is "very dramatic", says Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

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### 4BC, 06:30 News, 08/02/2024

Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells says she's looking forward to seeing the results of a review into infrastructure for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. International Olympic Committee Vice President John Coates wants to scrap the plans for the Gabba rebuild.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### **Suspected robodebt breaches revealed**

Canberra Times, General News, 09/02/2024, Miriam Webber, Page 10

The Australian Public Service Commission has told 15 federal public servants they may have breached their code of conduct through their involvement in robodebt, and will continue to investigate most of them. [...] Former Public Service Commissioner Stephen Sedgwick is leading the inquiries, supported by Department of Health deputy secretary Penny Shakespeare.

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

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### **Policy that thinks with the world (the way the world thinks) – Part 2**

The Mandarin, Other, 08/02/2024, Cathy Fussell

As set out in my first article in this series, people and the world evaluate according to whether the capacity to act to achieve outcomes is enhanced (i.e., value is created). [...] One instance of an initiative that mirrors complex system dynamics and is rich with insights is the federal Department of Health and Aged Care's Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC). Under PCOC, the outcomes measured are those that are valuable to patients, clinicians, and carers. Value is defined from the bottom up rather than centrally.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CORONAVIRUS

### **Workers' compensation and the sharp end of vaccine mandates**

In Daily, Other, 08/02/2024

A recent decision by the South Australian Employment Tribunal (SAET) has shed new light and developed new law on the consequences of mandating Covid vaccines as an employer. In the case of *Shepherd v State of South Australia*, the SAET found that an employer making a vaccine mandatory and threatening employment consequences if the vaccine was not administered, meant that an adverse reaction to the vaccine, as occurred to Mr Shepherd, was work related and thus compensable in workers compensation law.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Aveo sells off another Freedom retirement village

Courier Mail, General News, 09/02/2024, Chris Herde, Page 55

Leading retirement living provider Aveo has sold another former Freedom Aged Care village on the NSW border as it continues its portfolio rationalisation strategy. A private Brisbane investor paid \$18m plus GST for the vacant Tweed Fairways retirement village at 1-3 Soorley St, Tweed Heads, after an expressions of interest campaign through CBRE.

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### Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre - being there for seniors

Hervey Bay Advertiser, General News, 08/02/2024, Page 35

The Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre (HBNC) has a proud history of leading community-based initiatives and supporting the "disenfranchised people in the community." While our ageing community deals with many challenges in their latter stages of life, having programs and services readily accessible to our seniors community can be life changing for many.

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### St Anne's resident restrictions

Barrier Truth, Other, 08/02/2024, Jason Irvine

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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### How one woman found her calling in aged care in the Illawarra

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 08/02/2024, Natalie Croxon

Shanjida Chowdhury studied a Master of Information Technology but found her calling in aged care when she signed up for a program aiming to boost the number of people providing in-home support to older people. Mrs Chowdhury became a care worker after registering her interest at a university careers fair for the Home Care Workforce Support Program , a \$91 million federal government initiative introduced in 2022 to grow the sector's workforce in Australia by 13,000.

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### Covid outbreak at BlueCare Capricorn Aged Care Facility, Yeppoon

Morning Bulletin, Other, 08/02/2024, Geordi Offord

Rules reminiscent of peak Covid times are back in force at a Central Queensland aged care facility which says it has activated its "pandemic management plan". While covid lockdowns might be a thing of the past, outbreaks in aged care facilities are still common and in Yeppoon, one company says it is implementing its "pandemic management plan" following a string of cases.

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### Exercise class enhancing seniors' health and wellbeing

Shepparton News Online, Other, 08/02/2024, Shannon Colee

Strength and balance classes in Echuca, Lockington and Gunbower are improving the physical and emotional health of the region's older population. Intereach Community Support Workers Kay McGrath and Fran O'Nial have been running the classes for more than three years after taking over from Campaspe Shire Council.

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### Distinguished mandarin named Age Discrimination Commissioner

A leading official, whose public service career has included stints as Australian productivity commissioner, NSW community and disability services commissioner, and deputy ombud, will become the next age discrimination commissioner in two months. [...] Fitzgerald has previously served as NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner, commissioner for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and chair of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Advisory Board.

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

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## **New program trains aged care workers to support CALD seniors**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 08/02/2024, Arshmah Jamal

A new training program will help equip aged care workers with skills to support culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) seniors. Settlement Services International (SSI) has launched a new online program that will train workers as a proven way to boost health outcomes and quality of life.

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

Aged Care Insite, Other, 08/02/2024, Michael Woods and Eugenia Tsihlis

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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## **Criminal case against VIC aged care over Covid deaths delayed after 'oversight'**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 08/02/2024, NCA NewsWire

The case against an aged care home at the centre of a devastating killer Covid wave in 2020 in Victoria 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 when a magistrate would test the evidence.

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## **Enjoy the best of both worlds: Retiring to a serviced apartment**

HelloCare, Other, 08/02/2024, Bianca Iovino

Downsizing from the family home is a significant decision – from lifestyle and location to finance and flexibility, there are many factors to consider in finding the perfect place to live in retirement. It can be daunting, but also promises to open a door to newfound freedom and simplicity with less time spent on chores and maintenance and more doing the things you love.

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## **Older Australians join the fight against loneliness and social isolation**

Pharmacy ITK, Other, 08/02/2024

Older Australians will help Monash University-led research to assess and address social isolation and loneliness among their peers. [...] The recent Royal Commission into Aged Care also highlighted loneliness among aged care recipients as an urgent issue, warning that it has increased even more amongst this group since the COVID-19 pandemic started.

Also reported by: [Have a Go News \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

## Vape plan goes up in a puff

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/02/2024, James O'Doherty, Page 11

The Minns government has quietly walked away from a plan to install vape detectors in public school bathrooms because the rollout could cost as much as \$800 million and cause more harm than good. The Daily Telegraph can reveal the Department of Education has shelved plans for a widespread vape detector rollout after testing the market last year.

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

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## Lunch box food for thought

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/02/2024, Page 18

School's back and so is the daily task of packing lunch. Children eat around a third of their daily food at school or kindergarten, so what goes into their lunch box matters for their learning and development. While it might seem a simple task, there might be a lot for parents to consider - where will I find time to shop and pack the lunch box, is it healthy enough, is it enough food, will my child have time to eat it all?

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## Fitness influencers are giving up high intensity exercise. But why?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/02/2024, Lauren Ironmonger

Anyone who survived 2010s diet and fitness culture will be familiar with high intensity interval training, better known as HIIT. In recent years, HIIT has remained popular, but there's been a noticeable shift towards more gentle ways of moving, like walking and Pilates. On social media, some influencers (including those who focus on women's health) even argue that high intensity exercise is not only unnecessary, but is bad for us.

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## Perth weather: WA Health issues extreme heat warning for Laneway festival

West Australian, Other, 08/02/2024, Gabrielle Waite

There appears to be no end to Perth's summer with another sweltering on the cards. The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast Friday and Saturday are expected to reach a top of 41C, followed by a sizzling 38C on Sunday. With thousands expected to venture out into the scorching sun for Chinese New Year celebrations and the Laneway festival, WA Health has issued a warning to revellers.

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## 'Scared' snack food bosses knock down door of Ozempic maker Novo for advice

West Australian, Other, 08/02/2024, Naomi Kresge and Madison Muller

Makers of everything from snack food to knee implants are facing a potential threat from Novo Nordisk's powerful appetite-suppressing treatments. So they're calling the drugmaker for advice. "A couple of CEOs from, say, food companies have been calling me," Novo chief executive Lars Fruergaard Jorgensen said during a wide-ranging discussion in New York. He declined to name names, saying questions had centred on how the drugs work and how fast they would roll out.

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## Pam Bubrzycki: The vaping war is far from over

West Australian, Other, 08/02/2024, Pam Bubrzycki

It has been roughly six weeks since the Australian Government's new regulations on vaping came to 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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## Positive partnership tackles tobacco

Barrier Truth, Other, 08/02/2024, Jason Irvine

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.

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## 'Spores everywhere': Mould concern flagged at Bundaberg IGA

Cairns Post, Other, 08/02/2024, Nicole Strathdee

A former nurse has raised concerns over mould in a Bundaberg grocery store after noticing an "awful smell" and large black spots on ceiling air conditioners. Cheryl Pershouse and her husband Keith visited the Everfresh IGA in Bundaberg on Monday, February 5 when they noticed a putrid odour radiating through the store.

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## Nicotine pouches widely marketed to young Australians in wake of vaping crackdown

ABC Online, Other, 08/02/2024

They're brightly coloured, come in flavours like lemon spritz and tropic breeze, and are marketed by influencers on TikTok. Similar to Sweden's 'snus', the sweet, tea-bag-like nicotine pouches are slipped discreetly along the gum line and their rising popularity among young Australians is raising alarm bells for the federal government.

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## WA vape shops mostly near schools

Medical Forum, Other, 08/02/2024

Vape stores in WA are densely located around schools and in disadvantaged areas, according to new research which found that 88% of stores were situated within 1km of a school. The collaborative study, between The University of Notre Dame Australia, UWA, and Curtin University – commissioned by the Cancer Council WA – also revealed that in metropolitan WA, vape store density was nearly seven times higher in the most socio-economically disadvantaged areas than in the least disadvantaged.

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## Heatwaves hammer ambos as the sh!t rains down

Medical Forum, Other, 08/02/2024

As the mercury rises and Australians swelter through a long, hot summer, the effects of heatwaves and the likelihood of ambulance callouts is at the heart of new Australian research, with a wide range of sometimes surprising factors impacting people's health. [...] Their findings have been supported by a new report released this week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), which revealed that in the 10 years from 2012 to 2022, there were 9,119 hospitalisations for injury in Australia directly attributable to extreme weather.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 08/02/2024, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

South Australian kids are still getting their hands on e-cigarettes. Parents say they're more anxious than ever about vaping, and they're demanding authorities close a legal loophole. According to new data from the Cancer Council, 30% of children aged 14 to 17 have vaped and 3 in 4 parents are concerned about their teenagers vaping.

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[Back to Top](#)

# CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

## Cochlear lifts guidance but threats loom

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 09/02/2024, Liam Walsh, Page 13

Hearing implant company Cochlear has jacked up sales expectations despite concerns in parts of the market about pharmaceutical giants making drugs that might reduce deafness. The Sydney-based company's upgraded guidance yesterday sent its shares up 4.4 pe...

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

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## When illness hits

Australian Financial Review, General News, 09/02/2024, Sally Patten, Page 29

In late 2019, Ruth Limkin, the founding chief executive of luxury rehabilitation provider Banyans Healthcare, and her husband walked into the doctor's surgery to get Limkin's test results.

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## Vigilance is needed to protect our kids

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/02/2024, Linda Martin, Page 30

As our kids return to school, they head off to the iconic Australian return-to-school event, the swimming carnival. Year after year, I have watched with dismay as my children and their peers line up in marshalling areas, wearing not much more than underwear, in the midsummer Australian sun. [...] It has been 40 years since the Cancer Council's successful 'Slip Slop Slap' campaign, which rightfully earned Australia international fame in preventative health policy.

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## Regional boost a game-changer for Ollie

Herald Sun, General News, 09/02/2024, Page 12

It's the routine heel prick test given to every newborn, but for Ollie Robertson's parents it delivered the shock of their life. The brave boy from Ballarat was three weeks old when Mel and Peter Robertson were told he had cystic fibrosis.

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## Maisie's doing the hard yards, all with a smile

Herald Sun, General News, 09/02/2024, Jen Kelly, Page 13

After 24 appointments in the past 12 months, Mickey and Hayden Davies know the road from their Warragul home to the Royal Children's Hospital all too well. Maisie, 2, needs regular treatment at the hospital for a rare condition called lymphatic malformation.

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## Potential to screen blood locally hits sweet spot for Ava

Herald Sun, General News, 09/02/2024, Jen Kelly, Page 13

Like any lively six-year-old, Ava Rees loves chocolate. But she knows more than a small bite at a time could lead to permanent brain damage. "At Easter, I can't have chocolate Easter eggs," the grade 1 student said. "It could make my brain go silly and make me go to hospital and die.

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## Race against time for brave youngster

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/02/2024, Emily Ollie, Page 9

Cheeky five-year-old Murphy Nowak's first day of school was nothing short of a miracle. But now, his family faces a mercy dash to the US to save his life. Murphy suffers from stage 4 neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer with an average five-year survival rate of just 50 per cent.

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## A heart's journey

Shepparton News, General News, 08/02/2024, Kelly Carmody, Page 12

From miracle to message here is Adelina Jaskolski's inspiring story. [...] Left ventricular non-compaction dilated cardiomyopathy is a rare heart condition. Typically congenital, meaning Adelina was born with it.

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## Be sun smart when fishing

Shepparton News, General News, 09/02/2024, Kevin Tyler, Page 26

Last week, the weather was fine - and we started to get dry conditions for fishing from the bank of the Goulburn and other rivers and streams in our area. While most fishing is done from boats, bank fishing remains popular.

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## Free skin cancer checks at Walcha Show

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 08/02/2024, Heath Forsyth

It's show season in the New England, bringing truckloads of fun for all ages to people in our communities. This year, the Walcha Show will be held on the 8th and 9th of March 2024 and will bring an important, potentially lifesaving truck to town.

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## Collarium sun beds claiming to improve skin are increasing melanoma risk, skin cancer experts say

ABC Online, Other, 08/02/2024, Julia André

Queensland Health is investigating the legality of collarium tanning beds popping up in the state's south east, despite sun beds being banned nationally from commercial operations since 2016. Collarium machines — advertised by commercial premises in Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria with sessions from \$30 — claim to give users a "longer-lasting beautiful tan" via UV and red light, as well as stimulating collagen, preventing hair loss, and protecting cells against free radicals.

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

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## An Indian model faked her death for cervical cancer awareness. Many were appalled, some say it motivated them to get tested

ABC Online, Other, 08/02/2024, Angelica Silva

Like many women, Nadia found Indian model Poonam Pandey's faking of her death on Instagram for cervical cancer awareness "distasteful". But the 21-year-old from Mumbai, who has been putting off getting her pap smear, says the stunt has pushed her to get the screening, as well as the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to help prevent the disease. [...] There are more than 200 different types of HPV, but only a few types that affect the cervix, according to the Cancer Council.

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## Hypercholesterolaemia and its silent precursor

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/02/2024, wilson tan

What is the role of nutraceuticals in cardiovascular health, and what are the reasons for using them alongside statin therapy in the management of hypercholesterolaemia?

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## Why women need to take their heart health more seriously

Prevention, Other, 08/02/2024

Heart disease kills more than two times as many Australian women than breast cancer. And about 40% of heart attacks in women are fatal, and many occur without warning. Sadly, heart disease is less recognised in women, according to Heart Research Australia. This is because women tend to develop

symptoms of heart disease at a much later stage of the illness than men and their symptoms are often more complex or vague, so women are less likely to seek help quickly.

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## Channel 9, National Nine News, 08/02/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Thousands of Qld men are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year, and a quarter of a million Australians are living with the disease. Now, a first-of-its-kind online toolkit has been developed to help empower and educate men during their cancer journey.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 08/02/2024, Craig Zonca and Loretta Ryan

Australian skin cancer researchers are calling on governments to clamp down on a type of sunbed called a collarium, which admits UV and red light. The commercial use of solariums was banned across most Australian states and territories more than five years ago due to users' increased risk of developing skin cancer, including melanoma. Collarium machines advertised commercially in Queensland claimed to tan users whilst improving their skin. Cancer Epidemiologist Professor Anne Cust says collariums are simply rebranded solariums.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 08/02/2024, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Paige Preston, General Manager of Advocacy, Lung Foundation Australia, regarding the negative effects of vapes on passive vapers. NSW Health said there can be over 200 chemicals in vapes known to be harmful to human health, which also are found in cleaning products, nail polish remover, insecticides and weed killers. Preston says passive vaping can irritate eyes, and airways and worsen respiratory conditions. She adds passive vape can increase airborne particulate matter and in its own right is associated with negative health impacts like heart disease cancer and various other things.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).*

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[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Sharing hope across our great state

Herald Sun, General News, 09/02/2024, Jen Kelly, Page 1

In a huge win for sick kids across Victoria, the Good Friday Appeal will provide funding via The Royal Children's Hospital for regional health services for the first time. The history-making announcement on Friday will mean even more of the state's littlest fighters benefit from the generosity of Victorians. The regional cash splash will ensure sick kids can be treated close to home, keep families together, reduce waiting times, and lead to better medical outcomes.

*Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).*

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### GPs call for tax intervention

Herald Sun, General News, 09/02/2024, Mitch Clarke, Page 7

Australia's peak doctor group have written to Premier Jacinta Allan, pleading for an urgent intervention in an ongoing tax dispute which they say is threatening to drive doctors out of Victoria. The Herald Sun this week revealed that Victorian doctors will have to increase patient fees by a whopping 30 per cent to combat the "tax grab". [...] RACGP Victorian chair Anita Munoz said: "The Treasurer has shown he is

more interested in blaming others than owning his mistakes and meeting with GP groups to prevent practices having to raise fees or closing."

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## Minister reveals protocol in apology on ramping

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/02/2024, David Killick, Page 6

Health Minister Guy Barnett has apologised to those affected by ambulance ramping at the state's public hospitals. Addressing a parliamentary committee on Thursday, Mr Barnett said the government was doing all it could. "I want to reassure all Tasmanians an enormous effort is being made to address this issue and we will not rest until significant improvements are made on behalf of the government," he said.

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## World-class equipment for weight-loss surgery

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 09/02/2024, Page 5

New technology is being used at Mildura Health Private Hospital to provide weight-loss surgery something which has been unavailable locally for the past two years. Surgeon Dr Margaret Dunkley says the equipment, known as Olympus Towers, is "the best in the world".

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

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

## Dedicated hospital auxiliary honoured for fundraising

Western Advocate, General News, 09/02/2024, Amy Rees, Page 3

Bathurst hospital has received a lot of new and important equipment over the years, thanks to the generosity of the community and volunteers. The Bathurst Hospital Auxiliary volunteers have worked hard shown amazing dedication for decades, raising money for much-needed medical equipment.

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## Health system readies for ACT assisted dying changes

Canberra Times, Other, 08/02/2024, Lucy Bladen

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.

Also reported by: [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Ever had bill shock at the doctor's? Here's what to do

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/02/2024, Navarone Farrell

Have you left the doctor's office feeling sick and vulnerable, only to discover that the initial consultation fee came with additional costs? You're not alone, writes Navarone Farrell. [...] "The AMA is strongly committed to fee and billing transparency and publishes extensive information to support fully informed financial consent between doctors and their patients," President Professor Steve Robson said.

[Read More](#)

## Royal Flying Doctor Service reports 24 per cent jump in patients from South West requiring assistance in 2023

West Australian, Other, 08/02/2024, Sean Van Der Wielen

WA's Royal Flying Doctor Service has experienced a 24 per cent increase in patients airlifted from the South West last year as the organisation recorded its busiest year on record. The emergency service provider helped transport 558 patients from the region in 2023, up from 450 patients assisted in 2022.

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

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## Children's hospice Boodja Mia finally under construction in Allen Park,

## near Swanbourne Beach

West Australian, Other, 08/02/2024, Jake Dietsch

A hospice by the ocean for dying kids in WA is finally under construction, years after it was proposed. The \$34 million Boodja Mia — or Sand Castles — hospice in Allen Park, near Swanbourne Beach, met stiff opposition from the City of Nedlands council, with one councillor fearing it could be hit in a war due to its proximity to an army barracks.

[Read More](#)

## Builder appointed for Ocean Grove health hub

Bellarine Times, Other, 08/02/2024, Angus Smith

Bellarine Community Health (BCH) has advanced their Health and Wellbeing Hub project in Ocean Grove by appointing Loaram Constructions to lead the construction's initial phase. The project is anticipated to reach completion by the end of August this year.

[Read More](#)

## What does it mean to die well?

ABC Online, Other, 08/02/2024

As the influence of Christianity declines in Australia there's a rise in people looking to other forms of support and a form spirituality that may not be religious. A group of researchers at Melbourne University is examining the rise of Buddhist-inspired practices like mindfulness and compassion, particularly when it comes to end-of-life care.

[Read More](#)

## Arts administrator to apply for assisted dying scheme

ABC Online, Other, 08/02/2024

Roz Hervey says she will apply to South Australia's voluntary assisted dying scheme when her battle with motor neurone disease enters its final stages.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 08/02/2024, Mark Ferguson

A new probe into hospital wait times in NSW has found almost half of the people who presented at emergency departments did not need to be there. A special taskforce met for the first time today, looking at whether the cost of visiting a GP could be to blame for the emergency. While a similar taskforce for elective surgeries has been able to slash wait lists, the NSW Health Minister admits this group haven't been given any targets or goals, instead just hoping to see improvement across the system.

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## 2GB, Mornings, 08/02/2024, Ray Hadley

A special task force has been set up to find ways to reduce waiting times at New South Wales emergency departments. However, the Premier admits it won't happen overnight.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 08/02/2024, Georgia Stynes

A new ACT task force will work on regulation, workforce and review requirements ahead of the expected legalisation of voluntary assisted dying in the Territory later this year.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### One woman's gender regret

The argument holds that the vexed issue of gender dysphoria and the manner in which cases are managed should not be debated lest it cause further distress within the trans community. It is an argument that comes from a well-meaning and empathetic place. There is no doubt that railing against trans politics has become an obsession on the Right of politics.

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

## Mother of five reveals dark side of parenting

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 09/02/2024, Madeline Grace, Page 15

A mum who had her first child at the age of 16 has revealed the dark side of battling perinatal depression while caring for her young children. Sunshine Coast single mother Tallulah Mackay, 28, of Banya, says her depression didn't rear its ugly head until the birth of her third child.

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## 'Still waiting': A mother's frustration over lack of disability services for autistic daughter in rural SA

ABC Online, Other, 08/02/2024, James Findlay and Dixie Sulda

A mother in regional South Australia says she has been trying to get occupational therapy for her autistic daughter since October 2022. She says the seven-year-old finds it hard to emotionally regulate and is prone to after-school meltdowns that can turn physical. What's next? An expert in autism says people in rural and regional areas who are seeking disability services should access telehealth where possible.

[Read More](#)

## Perth private psychiatric hospital announces closure after just nine months citing 'financial unviability'

ABC Online, Other, 08/02/2024, Jo-Trilling and Emma Wynne

Bethesda Clinic, a \$60 million 75-bed mental health facility, opened with great fanfare in March 2023 but the operator says an acute shortage of psychiatrists and insufficient private health insurance rebates are behind the decision. Chief executive of Bethesda Health Care, Dr Neale Fong, said the facility would close on February 23, with all remaining patients to be discharged or transferred to other hospitals by then.

[Read More](#)

## 'I feel crazy': Influencer's fury after her baby's death

NEWS.com.au, Other, 08/02/2024, Brielle Burns

A TikTok star has hit back at those who criticised her for posting on social media following the tragic death of her six-week-old baby. Veruca Salt, 25, shared the heartbreaking loss of her son, Cash, in an Instagram story on Tuesday, sharing the infant died "in his sleep" on Monday morning.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 08/02/2024, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

Vulnerable mental health patients say they'll have nowhere to turn when Bethesda's Coburn clinic shuts in a few weeks. The WA Health Minister today called on her Canberra counterparts to do more to keep privately owned facilities afloat.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

## WA Country Health Service offers support to returning nurses in bid to bolster the regional nursing workforce

West Australian, Other, 08/02/2024, Boer Kalgoorlie

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.

[Read More](#)

## 'Unfairly sluggish': Nurses to rally for free parking at John Hunter

Newcastle Herald, Other, 08/02/2024, Damon Cronshaw

Nurses and midwives at John Hunter Hospital will rally on their own time to on Friday. They are "deflated and angry" over the NSW government's decision to reinstate Since the start of February, healthcare staff had been paying up to \$21 a week to park at work.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### 'A soul-destroying, form-filling, foolish endeavour': Doctors reveal their experiences of the CPD regime

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/02/2024, Paul Smith

This week we published the results of our survey on the Medical Board of Australia's revamped CPD requirements for medical registration. The top-line result found that 82% of the 890 doctors taking part believe the system introduced last year should be scrapped As we as we noted, this seems a very far cry from the board's claim when announcing the change in 2021 that the reform would "increase the value of doctors' lifelong learning".

[Read More](#)

### Administering medicines by injection

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/02/2024

In recent years, the pharmacy profession has seen significant expansion in the range of medicines that pharmacists can administer by injection. The scope has broadened to encompass different age groups and medicines, via different routes.

[Read More](#)

### Are intern evaluations objective?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/02/2024, Megan Haggan

One researcher is looking into how entrustable professional activities are used to support competency development in intern pharmacists "Teaching and precepting are key roles in being a pharmacist," says Tarik Al-Diery, PhD candidate at the University of South Australia. "Whether we are new graduate pharmacists or experienced veterans, we're often at the forefront of mentoring.

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[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Would I regret not getting private health insurance? I decided to find out

SBS, Other, 08/02/2024, Madeleine Wedesweiler

I've been told it could save me money, or equally it could be a complete waste of it. After turning 26 and getting kicked off my family plan I'm looking into it. [...] It now covers some medications, under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and pays costs for bulk billed appointments directly to doctors.

[Read More](#)



## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### \$1m NDIS plans in two-year surge

The Australian, General News, 09/02/2024, Sarah Ison, Page 1

The number of NDIS participants on plans worth at least \$1m has more than doubled in the past two years, new documents reveal, with calls for more transparency over the value of plans as the government seeks to rein in growth of the \$42bn scheme. There were more than 1000 people on plans costing taxpayers more than \$1m a year and seven costing more than \$2m at the end of last financial year, according to documents obtained under freedom of information.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Probe of claims death records falsified

Launceston Examiner, General News, 09/02/2024, Benjamin Seeder, Page 3

Claims that Launceston General Hospital records were falsified in a cover-up is being investigated by the Department of Health, Health Minister Guy Barnett has said. His comments came after LGH nurse and midwife Amanda Duncan told a parliamentary committee inquiry that former head of medical services Dr Peter Renshaw was well known for altering the death certificates of patients that had died at the hospital.

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### Perth aged care worker 'repeatedly stomped' on elderly resident

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/02/2024, Heather McNeill

An aged care worker has been charged with assault after allegedly stomping on a 95-year-old resident last month. A WA Police spokesman said the Cannington man, 33, was employed at an aged care home in Como when he repeatedly stomped on the feet of a woman.

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

[Read More](#)

### University of Queensland medical lecturer fired over sexual misconduct allegations

ABC Online, Other, 08/02/2024, Victoria Pengilley

A University of Queensland (UQ) lecturer and doctor who received thousands of dollars in research grants has been dismissed over allegations of sexual misconduct. The university issued a student-wide email on Wednesday, saying it had been made aware of allegations against the then-staff member in the UQ faculty of medicine late last year.

[Read More](#)

### ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 08/02/2024, Mel Bush

The Health Department is calling on anyone with concerns relating to the death of a patient at the Launceston General Hospital they believe should have been referred to the coroner to come forward. Health Department Secretary Kathrine Morgan-Wicks says a further four anonymous complaints have been received by her which support the allegations raised by witnesses to the select committee but do not identify any patient information to review.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Competition void leaves specialist patients 'worse off'

Canberra Times, Other, 08/02/2024, Poppy Johnston

Patients often walk into specialist medical appointments with no clue how much the visit will cost them and a former competition watchdog head says this needs to change. Without proper costing information, former Australian Competition and Consumer Commission chair Allan Fels says there's not enough competitive pressure between providers to keep prices in check.

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

[Read More](#)

### Dramatic reform could be coming to let patients know of doctor misconduct

ABC Online, Other, 08/02/2024, Emily Baker

A psychologist who initiated a sexual relationship with a former client who had just turned 18 was allowed to keep seeing patients after an 18-month suspension. A doctor who admitted to inappropriately touching a patient's vagina was allowed to return to work on the condition he's not left alone with female patients older than 13.

[Read More](#)

### Banned doctors should front tribunal before being allowed to practise again: health ministers

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/02/2024, Antony Scholefield

The proposed reforms are a response to media scrutiny of doctors breaching boundaries. Deregistered doctors would have to apply to a tribunal for reinstatement rather than the Medical Board of Australia under a suite of changes proposed by state and territory health ministers.

[Read More](#)

### 'Unthinkable' GP process for some on hospital discharge: SHPA

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/02/2024, Megan Haggan

An independent, five-year, nationally consistent Hospital Pharmacy Agreement is needed for Australia, says one group. In its pre-Budget submission, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia makes a series of recommendations, including transition to a five-year, independent, nationally consistent Hospital Pharmacy Agreement for the public hospital sector.

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[Back to Top](#)

## SPORT

### Nervous wait for Walsh visa

Courier Mail, General News, 09/02/2024, Peter Badel, Page 1

Nrl stars Reece Walsh and Brandon Smith face a nervous wait to play in Las Vegas after local US Embassy officials referred their visa applications to the American government on Thursday night. The Courier-Mail can reveal Broncos superstar Walsh and Roosters Test hooker Smith have yet to get the green light to enter the United States for the NRL's double header at Vegas' Allegiant Stadium on March 3 (AEST).

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

### DV blamed on knocks

Courier Mail, General News, 09/02/2024, Patrick Billings, Page 1

An ex-NRL player accused of a vicious assault on his partner who he's alleged to have tortured will

seek to rely on repeated head injuries during his playing days as a possible defence. In a case that could raise serious safety concerns for the NRL, its players and their loved ones, Kayleb Minirapa Milne charged with the domestic violence offences of torture and wilful damage and two counts each of choking/suffocation/ strangulation and assault occasioning bodily harm - has a possible head injury diagnosis from a specialist concussion clinic at Griffith University.

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## Gabba on the nose

Courier Mail, General News, 09/02/2024, John Rolfe and Tileah Dobson, Page 1

Former premier Peter Beattie has joined a chorus of calls for the \$2.7bn rebuild of the Gabba to be dumped, and for an upgraded Suncorp Stadium to host the Brisbane 2032 opening and closing ceremonies. Olympic supremo John Coates' public take-down of the Gabba rebuild has set off a chain reaction of calls for it to be permanently axed, with Mr Beattie saying it was the "wrong decision".

*Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).*

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## Reveal for AFL team

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/02/2024, Brayden May, Page 1

The next big step in the establishment of Tasmania's AFL team has been locked in. On Thursday, it was confirmed the AFL's 19th team will officially reveal its club name, colours, logo and foundation jumper on March 18. "The club made a commitment to the Tasmanian community that the reveal would happen in March and we are thrilled to confirm that this will now take place on March 18," the club's executive director, Kath McCann, said.

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## Construction gets moving on Moulder Park sports hub

Central Western Daily, General News, 09/02/2024, Grace Dudley, Page 3

A new multi-purpose sporting facility is under construction in the Orange CBD. The site at Moulder Park is expected to include an enclosed sports court, basketball hoops, cricket stumps, and small soccer goals. Trades workers could be seen constructing a fence around the sports court near Anson Street on Wednesday.

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## Region's newest sport complex unveiled

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 09/02/2024, Madeline Grace, Page 7

A major developer transforming the southern end of the Sunshine Coast has given a sneak peek at plans for a new district sports precinct and recreation facility as part of its massive master planned community. The Baringa Sports Complex, a 7.5 hectare sports and recreation facility located in Baringa, would be a part of Stockland's \$5bn Aura master planned community west of Caloundra and 20km south of Maroochydore.

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## 'Nothing will ever take away the pain': Manly players still affected by Titmuss' training death

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/02/2024, Adam Pengilly

Keith Titmuss' Manly teammates still remain deeply "affected" by his sudden death after a pre-season training session more than three years ago, an inquest into the rising rugby league player's death has heard. On the fourth day of evidence at the NSW Coroners Court, a former Manly official spoke about the pain Titmuss' death has caused the squad, while urging the NRL to follow the AFL's lead and have more medical professionals at training.

[Read More](#)

## PRD chief economist says Brisbane 2032 Olympics could drive up housing unaffordability

Christopher Dingli worries his peaceful neighbourhood will be forever changed when the 2032 Olympics comes to town. The single dad sends his kids to East Brisbane State School, which could soon be bulldozed to make way for a bigger Brisbane Cricket Ground (Gabba).

[Read More](#)

## Australia could co-host next Commonwealth Games

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/02/2024

Australia could co-host the next Commonwealth Games with other countries as the scramble continues to save the multi-sports event. Australia remain steadfast in wanting to keep the next edition, slated for 2026, despite the Victorian government pulling out as host.

[Read More](#)

## Peter Bol forced to make 'difficult decision' due to injury ahead of 2024 Paris Olympics

7news.com.au, Other, 08/02/2024, Harrison Reid

One of Australia's great Olympic hopes has delivered the sad news just days out from his comeback race. Peter Bol will miss the start of the Australian athletics season after suffering an "unfortunate injury". The Australian 800m star was set to race in Adelaide this weekend and then again next Thursday in the John Landy Mile at Melbourne's Maurie Plant Meet, which can be seen live and free on 7plus

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### One food to eat for weight loss

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/02/2024, Page 60

New research has discovered people who eat up to three servings of kimchi a day have a lower prevalence of obesity than those who don't. A study published in the journal BMJ found a daily dose of fermented vegetables could be key to tackling obesity and abdominal fat. The dish, made by fermenting cabbage or radish and adding seasonings such as garlic, onion and fish sauce, is a traditional Korean condiment eaten by many in the population.

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

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### Chimeric up after starting Leukaemia Phase 1B trial; Cochlear upgrades guidance,

The Australian, Other, 08/02/2024, Eddy Sunarto

Chimeric Therapeutics ( ASX:CHM surged 12 per cent on Thursday morning after announcing it had dosed the first leukaemia patient with its cell therapy as part of a Phase 1B trial. The patient has received treatment with CHM 0201, in combination with Azacitidine and Venetoclax, in the ADVENT-AML Phase 1B clinical trial in acute myeloid leukaemia (AML).

[Read More](#)

### Aussie COVID breakthroughs in 2024

Medical Forum, Other, 08/02/2024

With the pandemic over according to public opinion, despite the rapid rise in Australian cases thanks to JN1 – the new omicron variant that touched down in mid-October last year – COVID innovations have largely been relegated to the back pages of the news. Yet exciting Australian breakthroughs are still taking place, with University of Queensland (UQ) researchers engaging machine learning to help predict the risk of secondary bacterial infections in people who have been hospitalised, detecting whether antibiotics will be a suitable, critical treatment for these patients.

[Read More](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### **Aboriginal health service calls for Alice Springs alcohol restrictions, community grog bans to be extended**

Northern Territory News, Other, 08/02/2024, Fia Walsh

A year on from urgent alcohol restrictions being introduced in Alice Springs, the largest Aboriginal health organisation in Central Australia says they're working. The largest Aboriginal health organisation in Central Australia has praised the government's alcohol restrictions in Alice Springs a year after the snap measures were introduced to combat soaring crime.

[Read More](#)

### **Unique NT Medical Program offers Indigenous students pathway**

Northern Territory News, Other, 08/02/2024, Harry Brill

Sophie didn't think she was "smart enough" to become a doctor – thanks to a unique pathway, she will hit the study books this month. Indigenous woman Sophie L'Estrange didn't think she was "smart enough" to become a doctor, but a unique pathway means the dream can become reality.

[Read More](#)

### **'I miss him a lot': Sister of Kowanyama man, who died in police custody, reveals family's sorrow**

Cairns Post, Other, 08/02/2024, Samuel Davis

The grieving sister of a western Cape York man, whose death in custody has prompted a coronial inquest in Cairns, has revealed the sorrow and "deep depression" she felt after learning her youngest sibling had died. The grieving sister of a western Cape York man, whose death in custody has prompted a coronial inquest, has revealed the sorrow and "deep depression" she felt after learning her youngest sibling had died.

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### **New Indigenous nursing and midwifery graduates for Western NSW**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/02/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Four new Aboriginal nursing and midwifery cadets in the Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) have completed their training and taken up positions across the region. The program's benefits include 12 weeks employment in a clinical setting, as well as knowledge gained as undergraduate nursing students and job readiness.

[Read More](#)

### **VACCHO and Lowitja Institute call for dedicated Aboriginal-led accountability body**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/02/2024, Dechlan Brennan

A new joint study from the Lowitja Institute, Equity Economics and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation has underscored the urgent need for an Aboriginal-led accountability body. The study, which comes in the wake of the scathing Productivity Commission report on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, said the body would ensure government transparency as well as maintaining the standards in both the development and delivery of the services.

Also reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Mandarin \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### **Perth-based Indigenous corporation increases youth crisis accommodation capacity after ILSC support**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/02/2024, Brendan Foster

A First Nations organisation that provides accommodation for at-risk youth has moved into new digs on

Whadjuk Noongar Country in Perth thanks to \$1.7 million in funding from the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation. Ebenezer Aboriginal Corporation's new HQ in the northern suburb of Malaga will allow the not-for-profit organisation to offer up more services for youths and provide more space for the most vulnerable in the community.

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[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Fears of gastro explosion

Courier Mail, General News, 09/02/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 1

Queenslanders with diarrhoea symptoms are being warned against using swimming pools and other recreational water facilities amid an explosive increase in a gastro-related illness across the state. New data from Queensland Health revealed there had been 823 cases of cryptosporidiosis - a gastrointestinal disease spread by a parasite - so far in 2024.

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

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### Surge in emergency pneumonia cases for school-aged children

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/02/2024, Megan Gorrey, Page 3

A wave of respiratory illnesses spreading among young people has helped drive a surge in school-age children with pneumonia presenting to emergency departments in NSW. There was a steep climb in the number of children aged 5 to 16 who presented to emergency departments due to pneumonia in December, NSW Health data published yesterday showed.

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

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### Spike in whooping cough cases prompts warning from health officials and infectious disease expert

ABC Online, Other, 08/02/2024, Mark Rigby

Cases of whooping cough are surging across Australia, with an infectious disease expert warning the disease is "back with a vengeance". In Queensland, which saw more cases of whooping cough than any other state or territory in the last national reporting period, health authorities have recorded 317 cases of the highly infectious respiratory disease this year — four times the year-to-date average since 2018.

Also reported by: [Sunshine Coast Daily \(Online\)](#)

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### States edging closer to vaccination harmonisation

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/02/2024

The rollout of the National Immunisation Program Vaccination in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) program has prompted steps towards regulatory harmonisation across the states and territories, Karen Castle the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) senior policy pharmacist says.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 7, Seven News, 08/02/2024, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella

There's a warning over a whooping cough outbreak in the South East. By this time last year, only one case had been reported in Queensland. The first six weeks of 2024 have already seen more than 300 cases recorded. Doctors on the Sunshine Coast and in Brisbane have also noted a surge in patients.

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[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Headed south for mental health drugs

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/02/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 19

State restrictions mean patients face travel costs to access innovative new treatment SEVERAL Hunter residents will soon travel to Melbourne for MDMA and psilocybin treatments for mental illness. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration approved the two medicines for prescription by authorised psychiatrists from July 1 last year.

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

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### Billionaire Chris Ellison pushes to quash court row, permanently suppress explosive claims

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/02/2024, Jesinta Burton

Lawyers for billionaire Chris Ellison have demanded the explosive case levelled by his ex-contracts manager be thrown out, including allegations about the illegal importation of COVID testing devices, and its top-secret files wiped from the court record. [...] And Ellison's legal team also attacked Pigozzo's attempt to revive other contentious allegations previously struck out, including that Ellison and MinRes co-founder Bob Gavranich directed the contracts manager to arrange the importation of COVID-19 testing equipment without notifying the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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### TV chef Pete Evans and wife Nicola list Byron Bay hinterland wellness retreat for sale

7news.com.au, Other, 08/02/2024, Georgie Kearney

Controversial former tv chef Pete Evans and his wife Nicola appear to be closing the doors of their cooking and wellness retreat, Evolve Sanctuary. [...] The chef was fined \$25,000 by the Therapeutic Goods Administration of Australia for promoting a \$15,000 lamp he claimed to his followers would treat the illness.

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### \$1 million vape seizure “not even a drop in the ocean”

Convenience & Impulse Retailing, Other, 08/02/2024, Thomas Oakley-Newell

Sixty retailers have been raided across Sydney in a blitz that resulted in \$1.1 million worth of illegal vapes and tobacco products being seized. [...] "Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler are simultaneously creating another burden during the cost-of-living crisis by forcing adults who vape to see a doctor and pay \$150 – around five times the amount for a black market vape – to access a legal one from the chemist."

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[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Weed Week: Study says exercise is even better on cannabis; and recent ASX pot winners

The Australian, Other, 08/02/2024, Eddy Sunarto

Good news for health nuts out there wanting to get more kick out of their sessions. A study of 42 runners published in the journal Sports Medicine concluded that a bit of weed before a workout can boost motivation, and thus make exercise more enjoyable. The findings held true regardless of whether participants used THC or CBD-dominant products, although CBD users seem to get more fun out of their exercise.

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## How on earth? criminals' most bizarre drug trafficking attempts

Canberra Times, Other, 08/02/2024, Anna Houlahan

Crime syndicates have devised creative ways to smuggle drugs into the country and take some cream off Australia's "high lucrative" drugs market, according to Australian Federal Police (AFP). Drugs have been found in window frames, a coffee grinder, a fleet of buses and inside detergent bottles as criminals attempt to sneak shipments across Australian borders.

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## NSW to consider medicinal cannabis expansion and drug law reform as hemp industry tipped to boom

The Guardian, Other, 08/02/2024, Catie Mcleod

The New South Wales agriculture minister has opened the door to increasing the production of medicinal cannabis and reforming the state's drug laws as the government prepares for a major expansion of the hemp industry. The minister Tara Moriarty said she saw a boom on the horizon for hemp farmers as she prepared to announce a new taskforce to drive growth in the sector to produce food, fibre and construction materials.

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[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### What's safe to eat after best-before

Herald Sun, General News, 09/02/2024, Melissa Meier, Page 31

Date labels on food packaging are a source of confusion and contention for many. In today's day and age, where we're all trying to do our bit for the planet, throwing away food unnecessarily really pulls at the heartstrings. So I get trying to push the boundaries on date labels a little. After all, if food looks and smells fine, why shouldn't you be able to eat it?

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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### ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 08/02/2024, Rick Hind

Interview with Dr Danielle McMullen, Vice President, Australian Medical Association, regarding the Rethink Sugary Drink Alliance, which comprises professionals from the AMA, the Cancer Council of Australia, the Australian Dental Association, the Food for Health Alliance and the Heart Foundation. They went to Canberra to urge the government to introduce a 20% health levy on sugary drink manufacturers. McMullen says putting in place a 20% levy on sugary drinks does change consumer behaviour and decreases Australians' sugar intake by 2.6 kilos per person per year.

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[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

### Locals at risk after helicopters drop effluent to put out Bullsbrook fire

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/02/2024, Sarah Brookes

Bullsbrook residents have been warned not to eat anything from their garden and to empty their water tanks after it was revealed that the Department for Fire and Emergency Services used sewerage wastewater to help extinguish a blaze threatening the town on Wednesday. [...] The Department of Defence confirmed the ponds were fed from reticulated water supply and do not have any PFAS chemicals present.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [9News](#)



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