



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 11th February 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sunday Herald Sun \(page 12\)](#) reports that international vape sellers are beginning to offer insurance in case Australian customs officers seize their product. Health Minister Mark Butler has said that the new vape laws are the toughest in the world, with 250,000 vape products confiscated since the beginning of last year.
- [The ABC \(online\)](#) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has appeared in Triple J's hack to discuss the Better Access Initiative and reducing free psychologist appointments to 10 per year. Mr Butler has said that the pandemic-era 20 psychologist appointments were not equitable across rural, regional and lower socioeconomic areas, though noted that the change to 10 appointments was unlikely to address psychologist shortages in these areas.
- [The ABC \(online\)](#) reports that ACT Senator Katy Gallagher has confirmed that the Australian Institute of Sport will remain in Canberra, with Sports Minister Anika Wells saying that relocation would "compromise athlete preparation for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympics".
- The [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(page 7\)](#) reports that Queensland Health data shows that a total of 633 category 1 and 2 patients erroneously arrived at Brisbane's satellite clinics, staying between 44 minutes and two hours on average before being transferred.

- [The ABC \(online\)](#) reports that 20 endometriosis clinics have opened in Australia in the past 12 months; however, patients in rural and regional areas still struggle to access these clinics. Endometriosis Australia chief executive Maree Davenport has called for more awareness of endometriosis among GPs.

MINISTER BUTLER

Burning issue of community say on vape stores

Sun Herald, Editorials, 11/02/2024, Page 34

The arrival of a store with the name Tobacco Candy Mart has caused a flurry of concern in suburban Dulwich Hill. Residents are worried about a business selling tobacco products in their neighbour hood yet, under current regulations, opening such an outlet in an existing retail shop does not require a development application (DA). [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler last year estimated more than two million Australians vape.

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Vapes insured against seizure

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 11/02/2024, Elise Kaine, Page 12

People trying to import illegal vapes are being offered insurance for seized shipments, explosive new text messages reveal. Just weeks after a nationwide ban came into force, leaked WhatsApp messages show a potential buyer asking if insurance is provided if customs seize the products. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says the new vape laws were the toughest in the world.

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

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Health Minister Mark Butler ignored a recommendation to keep extra Medicare-subsidised psychology sessions. Young people are suffering

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2024

If you ask young people experiencing mental health issues to name a recent federal government policy they think has benefited them in their lifetime, the list is likely to be pretty short. Content warning: this story contains a discussion of self-harm and suicide. [...] So, it was all but a foregone conclusion that after Health Minister Mark Butler announced the cheaper sessions would be returning to 10 as of January 2023, many people – especially young people – would choose to space out their appointments and then stop them altogether after the 10th, because of high out-of-pocket costs.

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MINISTER WELLS

Federal government commits to keeping the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra following independent review

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2024, Isaac Nowroozi

The federal government has confirmed the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) will stay in Canberra, as recommended by an independent review. [...] Federal Minister for Sport Anika Wells said it was clear that relocating the AIS would "compromise athlete preparation for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympics".

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A half announcement? \$200m AIS decision lays the foundation, but needs detail

Let's get one thing clear from the beginning: keeping the AIS in Canberra is the right decision. [...] So while light on detail, the significance of Infrastructure Minister Catherine King, Sport Minister Anika Wells and Finance Minister Katy Gallagher trumpeting the latest development shouldn't be overlooked.

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

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AIS will stay in Canberra giving Olympic athletes certainty

RiotACT, Other, 10/02/2024, Zoe Cartwright

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) will remain in Bruce, with the Federal Government accepting the recommendations of an independent review. The news comes hot on the heels of an ACT Government announcement of funding for preliminary work on a new 30,000-seat stadium at Bruce. [...] Minister for Sport Anika Wells said consistency for athletes in the lead up to the 2032 Brisbane Olympics was crucial.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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DEPARTMENT

Covid outbreak at BlueCare Capricorn Aged Care Facility, Yeppoon

Cairns Post, Other, 09/02/2024, 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". [...] According to the National Covid-19 Health Management Plan for 2023, found on the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care website, aged care residents who test positive for Covid-19 should be isolated within the aged care service in-line with infection prevention and control best practice, but for no longer than is considered clinically necessary.

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CORONAVIRUS

Triple-vax rule leaves midwife vexed

A double-vaccinated Melbourne midwife who has been barred from working in Victorian hospitals due to strict COVID rules, which require at least one booster shot, is urging the state government to loosen the lingering mandate. Such a change which would bring Victoria in line with other states has been backed by experts, but the state government insists the current vaccine settings are in the best interest of healthcare workers and patients.

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Game's up on Labor secrets

Sunday Herald Sun, Editorials, 11/02/2024, Page 58

The dark secrets inside the government led by former premier Daniel Andrews are becoming clearer by the day. While the pain of Covid-19 lockdowns and the cost of infrastructure spending blowouts under Mr Andrews were obvious to all Victorians, the inner workings of his government, the disregard for proper process and the politicisation of the public service were more opaque.

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Flu and Covid cases on the rise

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 11/02/2024, Andreas Nicola, Page 17

Health experts have warned "different viruses" being spread across the state have been exacerbated by the return to both school and work after the summer holidays. The latest Covid wave began in October, initially driven by the XBB. 1.5 strain, but since early December the JN. 1 subvariant has emerged and is now the dominant illness.

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How three housemates in COVID lockdown discovered their Brisbane home was a biodiversity hotspot

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2024, Petria Ladgrove

A mathematician, an ecologist, and a taxonomist walk into a backyard ... it sounds like the start of a bad joke. But for a trio of real-life University of Queensland researchers, who lived in a Brisbane share house during COVID lockdown in 2020, it was the beginning of a survey of local life that surpassed their wildest expectations.

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People are using this wild method to test for Covid now

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/02/2024, Mia Erickson

Forget nasal swaps and saliva collections— there's a new resting technique causing a stir on the internet. Here's the new unconventional way people are checking their bodies for the virus, and why experts warn against it. As the years tick on since the pandemic first began, our collective testing and diagnosis abilities have diversified like never before.

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

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Researchers start to find clues on the trail of long Covid

NEWS.com.au, Other, 10/02/2024

Tens of millions of people across the world are thought to suffer from long Covid, but four years after the pandemic was declared this elusive condition still cannot be tested for -- let alone treated. However research could be finally starting to find early clues on the trail of long Covid, raising hopes of future breakthroughs that may also illuminate other stubbornly ambiguous chronic syndromes.

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

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'Long way to go' to address abuse in care facilities

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 09/02/2024, William Ton

Incidents of abuse, neglect and violence against some of Victoria's most vulnerable are on the rise, volunteer advocates say. In one case, a terminally ill aged care resident had all their finances and decision-making rights seized by a support worker who was caring for them.

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Registered nurse Laura Eveline Nicholson accused of stealing medication from Labrador aged care facility

The Courier Mail, Other, 10/02/2024, Jessica Paul

A Gold Coast nurse charged with stealing medication from the aged care facility she worked at is banned from practising. Laura Eveline Nicholson was last month slapped with the interim prohibition order from the Health Ombudsman, which states she currently does not have approval to practise at any employment or location.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Enduring Powers of Attorney review aims to reduce financial elder abuse

The Senior, Other, 10/02/2024, Eileen Wood

Seniors' advocacy groups are keenly awaiting the publishing of a report expected to recommend major changes to Australia's financial Enduring Powers of Attorney laws. In September the Standing Council of Attorneys-General released a consultation paper covering a range of key improvement areas in financial EPOA laws in an effort to stamp out elder abuse resulting from inadvertent or intentional misuse of EPOAs.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Run vape shops out of town

Sun Herald, General News, 11/02/2024, Andrew Taylor, Page 10

A Sydney council will vote to reduce the number of retailers selling smoking products as concerns grow over the proliferation of tobacconists and vape stores in NSW. Inner West Mayor Darcy Byrne wants his council to have the power to prevent tobacco and vape stores opening in suburban shopping strips and near schools.

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Vague talk won't close the gap

Sun Herald, General News, 11/02/2024, Parnell Palme McGuinness, Page 35

In what was widely heralded as a "scathing review" of progress against Closing the Gap priorities, the Productivity Commission has condemned governments at all levels for failing to fulfil their commitments. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the life expectancy for Indigenous children born now is better than it was for nonIndigenous girls and boys born in the early 1960s.

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Call for nutrition review as more children skip fruit and vegetables

Sunday Age, General News, 11/02/2024, Madeleine Heffernan, Page 10

Natalie Stapleton, a dietitian and mother of two young children, says there's no one-size-fits-all approach to feeding kids. And she is one of many experts who say the country's nutritional guidelines are in desperate need of a review to reflect that. "Every child will have unique nutrition needs. Nutrition

intake for kids over the week varies," says Stapleton, general manager of policy and advocacy at Dietitians Australia and mother to Riley, 3, and Liam, 18 months.

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Climate change inaction risks the health of all Australians

Canberra Times, Other, 10/02/2024, Shaun Watson

The recent finding that global temperatures may have already exceeded 1.5 degrees warming and may pass 2 degrees later this decade are deeply concerning, and it must put our leaders on notice that we need to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The only way we can win against runaway climate change is with wind and solar, and plenty of it.

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

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Spike in Sunshine Coast whooping cough cases

Cairns Post, Other, 09/02/2024, Chloe Grimshaw

A Sunshine Coast doctor has urged parents to get their children vaccinated for whooping cough as cases of the infection in the region rise. Parents are being urged to get their children vaccinated for whooping cough as reported cases of the potentially deadly infection spike in the Sunshine Coast.

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New review analyzes how dangerous vaping is compared with smoking

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/02/2024, Emily Joshu

Vaping is a much safer alternative to cigarettes but will raise your risk of eight lung diseases, according to a major review. Concerns about e-cigarettes have led to bans in at least 34 countries, with the UK becoming the latest to impose restrictions last month, axing the sale of disposable vapes like Juuls and Elf Bars.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Mum and daughter go head to head for cancer and community of Chiltern

The Border Mail, Other, 11/02/2024, Jodie O'Sullivan

There are only 32 students at St Joseph's Primary School at Chiltern and yet in the past two years, three mums have been diagnosed with cancer. It's certainly brought the reality of the disease close to home, says Tai Buchanan who works as a learning support officer in the tight-knit school community. [...] With a thick head of healthy hair, it was a hop, snip and a cut conclusion to decide on a head shave for Cancer Council Victoria.

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Big step in my quest to save kids from DIPG

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 11/02/2024, Cydonee Mardon, Page 19

A medical professor who lost his own daughter to a monster brain cancer has discovered an exciting drug combination that could improve the life expectancy of other children fighting the same disease. Professor Matt Dun and his team of researchers at the University of Newcastle and Hunter Medical Research Institute have discovered a gene that plays a critical role in sustaining the growth of Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) tumours and, in doing so, they have discovered a treatment that might help to change the death sentence faced by every child diagnosed with the aggressive tumour.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Emma started hearing a noise that wasn't there. It eventually led her to

become a doctor

7news.com.au, Other, 10/02/2024, Hayley Taylor

'It was exhausting to be hearing a constant screeching, and the worst part was trying to explain this to my loved ones.' Melbourne woman Dr Emma Laird, like most music lovers, regularly returned from gigs with a ringing in her ears — but one day, 20 years ago, the screeching sounds came and never left. [...] For one-fifth of those young adults it causes significant distress, according to a Hearing Australia study, which also found that 45 per cent of people with tinnitus experience depression.

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'Endangering Australians' health': Experts issue warning over so-called 'safe' tanning beds

9News, Other, 10/02/2024, Daniel Jeffrey

Experts are warning Australians against using sunbeds that are promoted as safe and legal alternatives to outlawed solariums, saying they still pose a cancer risk to whoever uses them. In recent years, so-called collariums have been touted as health-conscious tanning beds.

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Local GPs bridging regional dermatologist shortages as skin cancer rates increase

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2024, Fiona Broom and Lucy MacDonald

Life in the country is a dream for folks who love to spend their time outside. But that outdoor lifestyle comes with a snag — the sun. Regional Australians are at greater risk of melanoma and skin cancer than their city counterparts, and a shortage of dermatologists means treatment wait times can seem as long as an Australian summer.

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Endometriosis clinics a saviour for Australian women, but experts call for more awareness among GPs

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2024, Claire Moodie

When Lianne Williams arrived at a Perth emergency department three years ago doubled up and screaming in agony, she was stunned by the response from medical professionals. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Endometriosis Australia chief executive Maree Davenport argues there was still a long way to go before the condition was on an equal footing with other chronic diseases that receive more attention.

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It started with a limp. Doctors thought it was just a simple virus Jack had picked up at daycare. But then they gave his mum and dad the awful news every parent dreads

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 10/02/2024, Brett Lackey

A mother has revealed how her healthy young son one day came home from childcare with a simple limp that led to a devastating cancer diagnosis. Jaimee Thompson said her son Jack was 'like any other boundary pushing three-year-old' and loved dolphins, the colour yellow and watching 'old school' Scooby Doo and The Smurfs cartoons.

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37-year-old Ocean Grove woman shares bowel cancer fight, pushes for awareness

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/02/2024, Michaela Meade

Elise Stapleton was shocked to find out that what she first thought was her endometriosis flaring up was in fact bowel cancer. Two weeks after her 36th birthday, Ocean Grove's Elise Stapleton was diagnosed with bowel cancer, and is still processing the shock a year on. [...] In celebration of Valentine's Day and in an effort to start conversations between loved ones and raise awareness, limited edition "irregular chocolates" are being launched by Bowel Cancer Australia.

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PRIMARY CARE

'Game changer' for babies

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 11/02/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 11

A RAT-style test to diagnose a leading stillbirth cause in just 15 minutes will be trialled by a major Melbourne hospital as early as next year, in a bid to save hundreds of babies. If successful, the test would be a "game changer" for babies who are at risk of stillbirth, disability, preterm birth or illness if their mothers have a Group B streptococcus infection during late pregnancy or birth.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Battles for life and the tyranny of distance

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 11/02/2024, Patrick Carlyon, Page 18

For many parents, life is a never-ending blur of medical trips to Melbourne. The carers of very ill kids face an unfairly tipped set of scales. Hope collides with despair, and chronic stress competes with fear of the unknown. The next crisis always looms, or so it seems, perhaps amid family and financial upheaval.

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

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Palliative care gets \$7.5m lift

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 11/02/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 21

Palliative care services will be more accessible through a free phone service and website giving information and connecting terminally ill patients and their families with appropriate support services. Palliative Care Connect is funded by the federal government, providing \$7.5m over three years, and will be delivered by the state government.

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Patients in urgent need left waiting

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 11/02/2024, Madura McCormack, Page 7

Hundreds of Queenslanders mistakenly turning up to satellite hospitals are logging stays of nearly two hours despite being in urgent need of lifesaving care best provided at emergency departments. But Health Minister Shannon Fentiman is adamant most people are not bamboozled by the sites carrying the term "hospital", noting 28,000 others had received care for ailments that the facilities are designed for.

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

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Code Red: SA's can-do guy can't fix this

The Australian, Other, 10/02/2024, David Penberthy

It was a political promise that was concise, bold and offered no wiggle room: Labor will fix the ramping crisis. It wasn't tucked away as pledge number 11 on Peter Malinauskas's to-do list ahead of his unanticipated landslide at the 2022 South Australian election, ousting Steven Marshall's Liberals after one term in office.

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Good Friday Appeal: More training, resources for regional hospitals

Adelaide Now, Other, 10/02/2024, Patrick Carlyon

Under-resourced regional hospitals will be given specialised equipment and training as part of the Good Friday Appeal, ensuring better services are available for families in the regions. Latrobe Regional

Health Hospital Paediatrics Rehabilitation Coordinator Monique MacDougall with Mum Tonya Ryan of Moe with her baby Archer born 27 weeks premature and Audrey Butterfield 6 in the rehabilitation playroom at the hospital.

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

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Kalgoorlie-Boulder dentists step up to fill gaps in paediatric service left by State Government

West Australian, Other, 10/02/2024, Amber Lilley

A Kalgoorlie-Boulder business is stepping up to help fill the gaps in paediatric dentistry left by the State Government's understaffed school clinic program. Alex and Rhys Naylor from Goldfields Family Dental this week launched a new mobile clinic van which will travel to schools in the Goldfields and provide almost all procedures to students.

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

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

'Everyone's judging what you look like': How diver Anabelle Smith dealt with body image pressures

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2024, Amanda Shalala

Diver Anabelle Smith was an "energetic" and "bubbly" kid who never thought twice about her body. But things started to change for the three-time Olympian when she hit puberty around the late age of 17. And she simultaneously moved to Brisbane, away from her family and support network, to further her career.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Flying doctor hopes to spread its wings

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 11/02/2024, Cassandra Morgan, Page 13

The scent of jet fuel hangs heavy in the air as weary doctors, psychiatrists and a physio all pile out of a small plane. They stretch while setting foot on the Broken Hill tarmac, several hours since going out bush to be run ragged at fly-in, fly-out clinics. There are smiles as Jackie Hanniver rolls over a trolley soon to be loaded with leftover medications, blood samples and equipment returned from the tiny towns of Wilcannia and Ivanhoe in western NSW.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sunday Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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4BC, Weekends, 10/02/2024, Spencer Howson

Australian nurses and midwives have launched a landmark application with the Fair Work Commission demanding a 35% wage increase.

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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SPORT

Boost ahead for Bruce after AIS certainty

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 11/02/2024, Peter Brewer and Jasper Lindell, Page 7

The decision by the federal Labor government to reject a \$1 billion proposal to move the Australian Institute of Sport to south-east Queensland provided the foundation for "the next stage of intergovernmental discussions on the redevelopment of the broader Bruce precinct". ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr said he welcomed the certainty the decision by an independent review body now provided.

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Why are AC L injuries ending female football careers?

Sunday Telegraph, Body and Soul, 11/02/2024, Holly Berckelman, Page 4

First it was Ellie Carpenter, then our greatest-ever goal scorer, Sam Kerr. So the question has to be asked: what's going on? Body+Soul investigates recent news that Sam Kerr will be on the sidelines for the foreseeable future came as a blow for Matildas fans, especially with the Paris Olympics, likely Kerr's last, only five months away. So what led to the Ballon d'Or runner-up being relegated to the sidelines after an unfortunate anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury in a Chelsea team training camp? And why have four other players from Australia's top team also suffered the same fate?

Also reported by: [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Warning to Aussie athletes over the Enhanced Games

Sunday Examiner, General News, 11/02/2024, Page 34

Australian sport's anti-doping chief has slammed an Olympic-style event with no drug testing as

"grossly irresponsible" while warning of severe ramifications for athletes taking part. Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) chief executive David Sharpe is accusing Enhanced Games organisers of putting profit before health. Sharpe has delivered a broad warning to Australian athletes that they risk being frozen out of organised sport if they participate in the Enhanced Games.

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Australia's anti-doping chief issues grave warning over 'grossly irresponsible' Enhanced Games

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2024

Australian sport's anti-doping chief has slammed an Olympic-style event with no drug testing as "grossly irresponsible" while warning of severe ramifications for athletes taking part. Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) chief executive David Sharpe is accusing Enhanced Games organisers of putting profit before health.

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Retired Australian swimmer James Magnussen faces legal issues in doped world record attempt

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 10/02/2024

Retired swimming champion James Magnussen faces potential legal and ethical issues after declaring he will deliberately dope in an unofficial attempt to break the 50-meter freestyle world record. Magnussen will be paid \$1 million to make the attempt at the Enhanced Games, a sort of Olympics without drug testing that has been condemned by the Australian Olympic Committee as "dangerous and irresponsible."

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Matt Cunningham weighs in on NAAJA funding crisis

Northern Territory News, Other, 10/02/2024, Matt Cunningham

In the late 1990s, well-known Indigenous woman Helen Secretary, the chairperson of the Gwalwa Daraniki Association, beat a murder charge after shooting her husband dead while he was asleep. John Lawrence, then the principal legal officer at North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency, argued successfully before the High Court that Secretary could rely on battered wife syndrome as a form of self-defence, due to the years of abuse his client had suffered at the hands of her violent husband.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Can Prime Minister Anthony Albanese show policy muscle?

West Australian, Other, 10/02/2024, Michelle Grattan

When Anthony Albanese is asked what his Government's Indigenous affairs policy is after the referendum's failure, his response boils down to: watch this space. On Tuesday the Government will present its latest implementation plan for Closing the Gap, when it brings down its annual report on the progress (or lack of) towards the multiple targets.

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

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Treaty now or never? Concerns treaties will become 'political football' as Aboriginal advocates across the country call for action

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2024, Stephanie Boltje

How best to address inequality experienced by First Nations people is again front and centre for politicians, after a long post-Voice referendum hiatus. One option popular with Indigenous folks in surveys and on the streets: state-based treaties, which until recently had secured bi-partisan support in many jurisdictions.

[Read More](#)

Victorian Indigenous health groups welcome apology for abuse in state institutions

National Indigenous Times, Other, 10/02/2024, Dechlan Brennan

The Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and the Balit Durn Durn Centre have welcomed the Victorian government's formal apology to Victorians who were abused and neglected during their childhood in institutional care. On Thursday Premier Jacinta Allan formally apologised to the estimated 90,000 Victorian children who were placed into institutions such as orphanages, children's homes and missions run by the state or religious groups between 1928 and 1990.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 10/02/2024, Kathryn Robinson and Dan Bouchier

Interview with Denise Bowden, Chief Executive, Yothu Yindi Foundation. Robinson says a blistering Productivity Commission report warned governments are not doing enough to Close The Gap in Indigenous life expectancy and other health indicators. Bouchier says the report said that aside from some pockets of good practise overall measures to implement the agreement have been weak and have not led to improvements that are noticeable and meaningful for indigenous people. Bowden admits that they findings as they seem them, are looking to get worse as to keep collecting these data are quite frustrating to them.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Queenslanders warned to stay away from pools as gastro outbreak worsens

The Australian, Other, 10/02/2024, Madeleine Achenza

A spike in gastro cases has lead Queensland health authorities to urge people to stay away from public pools and water parks. More than 823 cases of cryptosporidiosis – a gastrointestinal disease that commonly causes diarrhoea in young children – have been reported in Queensland since the start of 2024. The state has already surpassed the annual total cases reported in both 2021 (569) and 2022 (568).

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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FOOD STANDARDS

Ban on ham in schools

Sunday Times, General News, 11/02/2024, Bethany Hiatt, Page 1

The humble ham-and-cheese toastie - one of the most popular items on school canteen menus - has been banished to a list of restricted foods under controversial changes to WA's school food and drink rules. Under new recommendations dropped on schools in December, ham is one of a raft of food and drink items that have been reclassified in the traffic light system used to colour-code canteen menus.

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The 'diet' foods with more sugar than their non-diet counterparts

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 11/02/2024, Isabelle Marchand and Kate Ng

Research conducted by Yahoo UK has revealed which foods that are marketed as 'diet' or 'low-sugar' foods actually contain more sugar than their regular counterparts. Over the years, a growing number of brands and supermarkets have released ranges that claim to be healthier by having reduced sugar, with labels describing them as 'diet' products or having 'less sugar' or 'low fat'.

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