



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 15th February 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports almost 24,000 people with developmental delays joined the NDIS across 2022-23, but between five and six per cent of their number are expected to be removed annually as increasing staffing levels permit more active reassessments.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports 39 Ambulance Victoria branches are without power and five hospitals were still on generator power last night after storms caused mass power outages across the state on Tuesday. *Also reported by [Channel 9](#)*
- The **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports trust levels across Canberra's public health system have declined, with the latest Canberra Health Services staff culture survey showing only a third expressing "high trust" in executives.
- The **[West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports free mercury tests have been organised for students and teachers, while WA's East Kalgoorlie Primary School has been temporarily shuttered, after police discovered an illegal gold extraction operation being run by bikies at a nearby property.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports NSW Health has issued an exposure warning after a person recently in Southeast Asia was diagnosed with measles after flying from the Gold Coast to Sydney. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#), [The Guardian](#), [9News](#)*

- **The Australian** (page 3) reports researchers at Melbourne's Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre have announced a breakthrough in the study of circular RNA that could prove vital in its use as a treatment for cancers. *Also reported by: Daily Telegraph, Herald Sun, Adelaide Advertiser, Hobart Mercury.*
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 3) reports the opening event of Sydney's LGBTQIA+ Mardi Gras "Fair Day" has been cancelled after bonded asbestos was detected in Victoria Park, one of several to be fenced off yesterday after the chemical was identified in mulch used around trees.
- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 5) reports the University of South Australia's long-running veteran's medical program MATES has been closed after ex-ADF personnel complained about the non-consensual use of sensitive private data.
- **ABC Online** reports health insurers have been accused of using "sneaky" and "misleading" tactics to raise prices for top-tier hospital coverage well above government premium caps.

MINISTER BUTLER

Cheaper medicines for advanced melanoma and multiple sclerosis

Bungendore Weekly, General News, 14/02/2024, Page 2

From 1 February 2024, Australians with advanced melanoma and relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (MS) will have access to new and updated medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Australia has the highest melanoma rates in the world with one person dying from melanoma every six hours. Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, said "The Australian Government understands that many Australians are doing it tough, which is why we are committed to making medicines cheaper and more affordable for all Australians.

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Good news: Bulk-billing on the rise in Mayo

Islander, General News, 15/02/2024, Page 5

Federal Member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie MP, is sharing the good news that Mayo general practitioners' (GPs) bulkbilling rates have experienced the second highest uplift in the nation, since bulk-billing incentives rose on November 1, 2023. [...] "As a result I have frequently contacted the Minister for Health, Hon Mark Butler MP, seeking relief, particularly for the most vulnerable members of our community.

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Mixed response to GP incentive

Mount Barker Courier, General News, 14/02/2024, Joseph Moore, Page 9

Bulk billing rates in Mayo have increased since the Federal Government increased incentives for GPs to remove out-of-pocket fees for children and pensioners, but some stakeholders say more needs to be done. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said there had been a "turnaround in bulk billing" as a result of recent changes, adding that almost two thirds of additional free GP appointments in November and December were in rural and regional Australia.

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Why Giselle skipped school for Albanese

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/02/2024, Courtney Gould, Page 11

Meeting on diabetes with Prime Minister in Canberra Giselle Nelson didn't tell her friends, or her teachers, why she skipped school on Tuesday. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government had seen first hand the benefits of JDRF's research programs.

Also reported by: Sky News Australia (Online).

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\$35 Million allocation for ground-breaking Corneal Blindness Research

The Australian Government has allocated \$35 million to the University of Sydney-led BIENCO consortium to accelerate the commercialisation of their pioneering research aimed at combating corneal blindness, a condition affecting an estimated 23 million individuals worldwide. [...] Minister Mark Butler hails the grant as a significant step towards addressing the pressing need for innovative treatments, reaffirming Australia's leadership in medical research.

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Health funds infighting

Swan Hill Guardian, Other, 14/02/2024, Peter Bannan

Regional Victorian lives are being put at risk by Labor's state and federal "infighting" over health policies, according to Member for Mallee Anne Webster. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has urged the Victorian Government to review its controversial GP payroll tax, while the Victorian Government is concerned about Mr Butler's plans to take more than \$2 billion in health funding from the states and territories over the next five years.

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Health insurers accused of charging more for top-level hospital cover than price cap set by federal government

ABC Online, Other, 15/02/2024, Kate Ainsworth and Samuel Yang

Major health insurers are using "sneaky tactics" to charge premiums for their top-tier hospital policies that far exceed the federal government's approved price increases, according to consumer advocacy group Choice. The group claims health insurers have increased their average premiums for top-level or "gold" hospital policies by an average of 30 per cent during the past three years — well above the average 8. [...] In December, health minister Mark Butler rejected a proposed 6 per cent premium increase by health insurers, who said inflation had put pressure on their costs.

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Channel 9, Nine News: First at Five, 14/02/2024, Monika Kos

As summer winds down, the campaign to get more Australians skin checked is ramping up. Health advocates taking their fight to Canberra today. Rolling into Canberra is one of the only trucks that does mobile skin cancer cheques in the country today, giving out free screenings to workers, including a special guest Health Minister Mark Butler, not shying away from the realities of skin cancer.

Similar content from: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC South East SA, Breakfast , 14/02/2024, Becc Chave

Interview with Emma Poland, Chief Executive, Limestone Coast Local Health Network. Poland mentions the Working Better for Medicare Review which was announced by Minister Mark Butler back in November 2023, which is a project they are focusing on. She adds that they play an important role to be able to inform and advocate for their GPs and primary health networks as part of that review, who allocates registrars, training, and doctor placements.

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MINISTER WELLS

Aged care gets a new voice

Koori Mail, General News, 14/02/2024, Page 25

First Nations leader Andrea Kelly has been appointed as AUS the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner. Ms Kelly's appointment is a first step in addressing Recommendation 49 of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, which recommended appointing a statutory First Nations Aged Care Commissioner. [...] Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said improving aged

care for First Nations people was a key reform priority, as well as making sure they have access to culturally safe and tailored aged care services.

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Act consultation period extended

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/02/2024

Following feedback from the sector, the government is allowing more time for stakeholders to review the draft of the new Aged Care Act. In a statement released on Tuesday, the office of the Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said since the consultation period began in mid-December it had heard from people who receive and deliver care across the industry.

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No formal compliance or enforcement action taken over 24/7 RN requirement: regulator

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/02/2024, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) is working with residential aged care providers unable to meet their 24/7 RN requirement due to staff shortages, and to date there have been no cases that have warranted formal compliance or enforcement action, Commissioner Janet Anderson has told The SOURCE. [...] Anika Wells promised homes would not close over 24/7 RN's In the lead up to the introduction of mandatory 24/7 RN coverage, the Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells and Ms Anderson said homes would not close if the target is not met and the regulator would work with providers unable to meet the new rules.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Health business boost

Canberra Times, Business News, 15/02/2024, Page 25

Health technology breakthroughs are bringing more jobs, a more advanced health system and better outcomes for patients, according to Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney. Some 56 new full-time jobs have been created for every \$1 million of total investment, and more than four times the gross economic value for every dollar spent, according to an independent report released by Ms Kearney on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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Australia's digital health sector yields record-breaking economic returns

ChannelLife Australia, Other, 14/02/2024, Sean Mitchell

Today In an Australian first, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney launched an economic impact assessment of the country's investment into digital health at Parliament House today. Produced independently by global firm L.E.K. Consulting, the report analysed the impact of the MRFF-funded ANDHealth+ program and Masterclass: ACCELERATE series on Australia's MedTech sector.

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

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Australia's digital health investment needs cooperative model to thrive

The Mandarin, Other, 14/02/2024, Melissa Coade

A cooperative industry model has been offered as the cure for startup commercialisation challenges facing industries across the nation, and as part of efforts to nurture a thriving digital health economy. An independent report by global firm L. [...] Assistant minister for health and aged care Ged Kearney released the report at a special event in Canberra on Wednesday.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

Remote jobs program to help close the gap in employment

Perth Now, Other, 14/02/2024, Rudi Maxwell

As part of their approach to Closing the Gap, the federal government has announced a new program that aims to create 3000 jobs in remote areas over the next three years. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health Malarndirri McCarthy said the new program is about closing the gap in employment and will include superannuation, long service leave and better workplace conditions.

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First Nations employment program to create 3,000 jobs

Council Magazine, Other, 14/02/2024, Kody Cook

The Federal Government is looking to close the gap in First Nations employment by creating 3,000 jobs in remote Australia with the announcement of a new Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program (RJED). [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health, Malarndirri McCarthy, said that the delivery of a proper jobs program in the bush will make a positive difference in the lives of Indigenous Australians and ensure they can fulfil their full potential regardless of where they live.

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DEPARTMENT

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Shanjida finds her calling in aged care

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/02/2024, Natalie Croxon, Page 16

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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Brave couple share dementia journey ahead of free event

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/02/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 9

At 65 years old, former HydroTasmania electrician Graeme Fleming is used to the shocked reactions he gets when people learn he has dementia. Mr Fleming was diagnosed with Younger Onset Dementia two years ago when he noticed something was "not quite right" with his memory.

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Community groups calls on State Government to support plans for aged care worker essential housing in Denmark

West Australian, Other, 14/02/2024, Stuart McGuckin

Key Denmark community groups have come together to urge the State Government to commit "urgent funding" to housing for essential aged care workers in the town. A joint pre-budget submission recently presented to relevant ministers has asked for \$5.1 million to be set aside in this year's State Budget to provide 12 affordable rental homes for aged care workers.

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Telehealth training coming to aged care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/02/2024, Natasha Egan

The program will develop nationally consistent and free how-to training for aged care homes. A partnership of primary health networks around the country is developing a telehealth training program for residential aged care that will be rolled out to homes in the first half of this year.

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Assessment tool receives positive feedback

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/02/2024

A new integrated tool for assessing people for aged care services has been given the thumbs up by trial participants, according to a government report. Trialled across the country between April and July 2023, a total of 22,002 assessments were completed using the Integrated Assessment Tool.

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New PIM list reveals high-risk medicines for older patients

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 14/02/2024, Chloe Hava

A new 'Potentially inappropriate medicines' (PIMs) list unveiled 16 high-risk medicines or medicine classes that could result in negative clinical outcomes, including hospitalisation and death in older patients. The medicines span a range of different classes, from antiemetics such as chlorpromazine and metoclopramide, to centrally active antihypertensives such as clonidine and methyldopa, and 'Z drugs' such as zolpidem and zopiclone, says PIMs list co-author Dr Amy Page FPS, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia's School of Allied Health Pharmacy and President of the PSA Victorian Branch.

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Future of Ageing Awards profile: The ROSA project's impact on Australia's ageing population

Inside Ageing, Other, 14/02/2024, Amy Clarke

In this case study, we profile the 2023 Future of Ageing Awards entrant the Registry of Senior Australians (ROSA), awarded highly commended in the Research category. [...] The sector has faced numerous investigations into quality and safety over the years, culminating in the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety (2018-21).

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Top appointment

Dementia Australia welcomed the appointment of Robert Fitzgerald AM as the next Age Discrimination Commissioner last week. Fitzgerald will operate within the Australian Human Rights Commission to lead the work of preventing age-based discrimination, and promoting equality across the areas of employment, education, suitable accommodation, and the provision of various goods and services.

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Cafes bring people with dementia and their loved ones together

The Senior, Other, 14/02/2024, Hazel Bradley

During her years working as a nurse, Jan O'Shea saw the struggles and isolation that dementia patients and their loved ones went through after diagnosis. Determined to provide a welcoming environment for people living with dementia, Jan launched Swan Valley Memory Cafe in October 2019 with the help of volunteers and local businesses.

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Government asks FWC to bring forward decision on Phase 3 of Work Value case

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/02/2024, Caroline Egan

With the sector still waiting for the Final Report of the Aged Care Taskforce and an extended deadline for submissions on the draft of the new Aged Care Act, another deadline is looming: the Fair Work Commission (FWC)'s decision on Phase 3 of the Work Value case for the cleaners, food services workers, maintenance staff, and laundry workers in residential aged care.

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Late 2023 slowdown in aged care resident COVID jabs preceded vaccination dive to 30%

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/02/2024, Caroline Egan

The rate of COVID-19 vaccinations administered in residential aged care dropped off sharply in the three months to November 2023, as case numbers eased and vaccine fatigue set in. In the three months to the end of November, just more than 8,000 vaccinations were administered to residents in residential aged care - on average about 100 per day.

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WA aged care provider opens dedicated training hub

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/02/2024, Caroline Egan

Coolibah Care, a Not For Profit provider of residential aged care, independent living, and home care services in Mandurah, Western Australia, about 70km south of Perth, opened its Coolibah Care Training Hub on 31 January 2024. WA's Minister for Regional Development, Disability, Fisheries, Seniors and Ageing, and Volunteering, Don Punch MLA (pictured above, right), performed the official opening.

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Aged care worker charged after allegedly "stomping" on 95-year-old female resident

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/02/2024, Caroline Egan

Detectives in Cannington, a suburb about 15km south east of the Perth CBD, have charged a man over the alleged "stomping" of a 95-year-old female aged care resident last month. A statement from police alleges the 33-year-old man, at the time an employee of Bethanie's aged care home in Como, 6km south of Perth's CBD, assaulted the resident by stomping on her feet a number of times.

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Vaping prohibition feeds black market crime

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/02/2024, Robert Richter, Page 28

As a criminal barrister with a special interest in drug law reform, I have watched in horror as Australia's prohibitionist stance on vaping has helped create another thriving black market, controlled by criminal networks. As history has shown with alcohol and illicit drugs, harsh restrictions simply shift the market from legal retailers to criminals.

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

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Tooth & nail

Cairns Post, General News, 15/02/2024, Isaac McCarthy, Page 1

Cairns is witnessing almost double the rate of tooth decay than any other Queensland region because of the lack of fluoride in the local water supply, professionals say. Statistics show the region experiences much higher levels of tooth decay as a result, according to Dr Harry Robertson, Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service's director of oral health. "My message to council is we should just do this because it's a really well-established public health measure that has enormous benefits for the community," Dr Robertson said.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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'No tastes': mum's hard line on alcohol

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/02/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 9

Wollongong mum Danika Hall always took a hard line stance against giving alcohol to her children, even when her teenage daughters would complain that everyone else's parents were doing it. And while new stats show almost half of all current teenage drinkers, aged between 12 and 17, got their last drink from their parents, Ms Hall said she found it easy not to give in.

Also reported by: [Canning Examiner \(Perth\)](#), [Armada Examiner \(Perth\)](#).

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Why it's a bad idea to mix alcohol with some medications

Canberra Times, Other, 14/02/2024, Tina Hinton, Jasmine Lee, Kellie Charles and Nial Wheate

Anyone who has drunk alcohol will be familiar with how easily it can lower your social inhibitions and let you do things you wouldn't normally do. But you may not be aware that mixing certain medicines with alcohol can increase the effects and put you at risk.

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With the current cost of living, is private health insurance worth it?

ABC Online, Other, 14/02/2024, Mary Lloyd and Dinushi Dias

Just when it feels like every item on the family budget is going up, health insurance providers are making a plea to the government to hike their premiums. In December, their bid to add up to 6 per cent to the cost of their policies was knocked back, but they are expected to have another go at getting the health minister's approval for a smaller increase. [...] According to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, individuals paid 15 per cent of the country's total healthcare expenditure in 2019-2020, almost twice what health insurers chipped in.

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

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Nutritionist explains difference between ham and fairy bread lunch box bans

NEWS.com.au, Other, 14/02/2024, Natalie Brown

Once filled with processed treats and sugary snacks, two decades of health intervention has transformed the lunch boxes and tuckshop options of school students across Australia. In a bid to combat the rising tide of childhood obesity, governments and health organisations identified schools as having a central role in promoting healthy behaviours, prompting an ever-growing list of food and drinks to be pulled from canteen menus, and ordered to be kept at home.

Cancer Researchers revise sun safety guidelines to reflect skin colour

NEWS.com.au, Other, 14/02/2024, Elliot Nash

Cancer researchers have revised sun safety advice to better address the diverse skin tones of Australians, who face the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. Published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, the updated advice reflects evolving evidence on the risks and benefits of sun exposure for individuals with different skin types.

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New study finds improved quality of life linked to physical activity for disability population

SBS, Other, 14/02/2024

The first systematic review of the benefits of regular physical activity for the disability population has been completed by Australian researchers. They found that indicators on participation, mobility and quality of life were consistently enhanced in ways that offer a scaleable strategy to increase physical activity.

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New campaign to break Australia's suntanning obsession

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Other, 14/02/2024

Australians' age-old love affair with suntanning might be looking at its sunset, thanks to a fresh initiative that's taking the fight against skin cancer online, to festivals, and beyond. The Australian Government and Cancer Council Australia are shelling out \$7.3 million for a campaign that's all about shaking up the suntanning culture among 18 to 30-year-olds.

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Love in moderation: Aussies relationships with saturated fats

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 14/02/2024

Sweet nothings aren't the only thing being exchanged this Valentine's Day, with new research demonstrating Aussies are about to embark on a love affair with one particular micronutrient – saturated fats. From charcuterie boards to heart-shaped cakes topped with velvety smooth buttercream, it's no surprise that confectionery such as chocolate and crisps (75 per cent), baked goods (69 per cent), and red meat (56 per cent) intake are set to increase this Valentine's Day, according to the new data commissioned by global food and nutrition tracking app MyFitnessPal.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

What King Charles' diagnosis can teach us

Daily Advertiser, General News, 15/02/2024, Jeff Dunn, Page 11

The news of King Charles' cancer diagnosis, on World Cancer Day, took many of us by surprise. Commendably, in a break with tradition, the official statement from the Palace confirmed that His Majesty decided to make the announcement to avoid speculation and to promote greater awareness and understanding of the disease - a highly praiseworthy act.

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'It could happen to me': How Michael's dad's sudden death made him take action

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 14/02/2024, Kate McIlwain

Almost five years ago, Wollongong man Michael Williams was playing the first football game of the season with his two brothers when their dad collapsed at the side lines. The much-loved Kiama

Football Club president, Darren Williams , had a heart attack and couldn't be revived, sending his family and community into shock over his sudden death at 55.

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I thought I had Bali Belly - but it turned out to be something far worse. Here's what I want every Aussie woman to know

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/02/2024, Antoinette Milienos

A young Australian woman has spoken out about the moment she was diagnosed with stage three ovarian cancer while on a backpacking trip around the world. Tora Murphy was four weeks into her backpacking trip last year when she started to feel bloated in South East Asia.

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Aussie Taylor Swift fan given three years to live shares her dying wish to meet the popstar

7news.com.au, Other, 14/02/2024, Cindy Tran

Samantha Bulloch hopes to fulfil her wish to meet Taylor Swift before she dies. She was given three years to live after being given a gut-wrenching stage four colorectal cancer diagnosis at 28. The now 29-year-old has made a heartfelt plea on social media in the hope of meeting the pop megastar when she's in Australia for her sellout Eras Tour from February 16-26.

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Channel 9, Nine News Late, 14/02/2024, Jane Goldsmith

Australia's skin cancer truck rolled into the capital today, its operators pushing for more funding to offer free cheques across the country every six hours. An Australian dies of melanoma and advocates say too many people are getting, putting off, getting checked because of the cost.

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PRIMARY CARE

Power pain set to drag on

Age, General News, 15/02/2024, Annika Smethurst, Page 1

The Victorian government has warned that the energy network must be made more resilient to cope with destructive winds of the type which tore down transmission towers and blew trees onto power lines on Tuesday. [...] Authorities believe 41 communities are isolated from public communications and may not be able to make emergency calls, while Ambulance Victoria had 39 branches without mains power.

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Denial of women's pain: call for inquiry amid claims of bias

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/02/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

A pain expert has called for a NSW government inquiry into women's pain, amid concern that the healthcare system is biased towards men. Fiona Hodson, a Newcastle-based pain specialist, said a Victorian government inquiry into women's pain could have national implications.

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Spartan First Imaging to improve regional patients' access to radiology and nuclear medicine

West Australian, Other, 14/02/2024, Carwyn Monck

A Kalgoorlie-Boulder medical imaging service aims to lessen the geographic barriers faced by regional and rural patients through a mobile radiology and nuclear medicine service. Health service providers Spartan First and TeleMed Health Services collaborated to form Spartan First Imaging, likely to be Australia's first Indigenous medical imaging service.

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

'Tragic' anomaly leaves patients in pain, pharmacists afraid: Chaney

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/02/2024, Megan Haggan

Pharmacists are afraid to even talk about voluntary assisted dying on the telephone with doctors, the House of Representatives has heard. Kate Chaney, the independent member for Curtin, has introduced the Criminal Code Amendment (Telecommunications Offences for Suicide Related Material – Exception for Lawful Voluntary Assisted Dying) Bill 2024's second reading by pointing out that

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'Really robust' collaboration trial hoped to set standard

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/02/2024, Megan Haggan

Researchers aim to help set collaborating prescribing practices as Australia's expected standard of care, with a new project on reducing hospital medication errors. Pharmacists are partnering with patients and doctors in a \$1.4 million federal government-funded project led by the University of South Australia's Dr Jacinta Johnson.

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

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Minister 'blown away' by response to 24-7 pharmacy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/02/2024, Megan Haggan

In its first week, more than 440 South Australians have sought advice from South Australia's first 24-7 pharmacy after hours. A total of 384 people visited the Norwood National Pharmacies store between the hours of 10pm to 8am from Sunday, 4 February, to Sunday, 11 February. An additional 65 people called the pharmacy for expert

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Wilcannia's new health service opens its doors to the community

Australian Rural & Regional News, Other, 14/02/2024, Meta Time

Services are now being provided from Wilcannia's Health and Wellbeing Centre in Bonney St, off Ross Street, following a move to the new facility over the past three days. The facility – designed by Adelaide based architects, Troppo and built by Dubbo based David Payne Constructions, is a purpose-built facility on the banks of the Barka (Darling) River and took eleven months to complete.

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BaptistCare to pilot end-of-life program

Community Care Review, Other, 14/02/2024

Aged care provider BaptistCare has been commissioned to operate a new and innovative end-of-life care pilot program in New South Wales.

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Data on child deaths

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/02/2024

The Paediatric Palliative Care National Action Plan Project has achieved another first with data on the delivery of specialist paediatric palliative care in Australia. Prof Meera Agar, Chair of Palliative Care Australia said, "for the very first time we can clearly see the gaps that need to be addressed" - see [here](#).

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 14/02/2024, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

A number of hospitals are currently running on generators with a total of 15 hospitals lost power. Five hospitals are still being powered by generators with Bairnsdale, Yarram, and Gippsland South.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

NDIS misses autism checks

The Australian, General News, 15/02/2024, Stephen Lunn and Sarah Ison, Page 1

Thousands of children with autism or developmental delay who should not be on the \$42bn National Disability Insurance Scheme are still getting taxpayer support because public servants are failing to reassess their cases. The NDIS caseload surged last year, as the number of children up to six years old who joined the scheme skyrocketed 400 per cent more than expected.

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Stressed boffins 'risk brain burnout'

The Australian, General News, 15/02/2024, Natasha Bitu, Page 7

Bullying, overwork and costcutting in universities have left two-thirds of academics and staff at high risk of burnout and depression, a landmark survey shows. The four-year survey of 6200 university employees from 38 universities reveals they are twice as likely as other Australians to suffer "high mental stress". It describes "a sector suffering high stress, exhaustion and unrelenting work pressures".

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

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Suicide service folds up

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/02/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 9

A Northern Territory suicide prevention service that offered training at schools, councils and prisons in the Red Centre has closed its doors after 20plus years. Lifeline Central Australia Inc, which was founded in 2003 and had an office at Bath St, Alice Springs, closed after a bid for renewed funding via the NT government was unsuccessful.

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Swift helps shake off stigma

West Australian, General News, 15/02/2024, Lisette Kaleveld, Page 36

It isn't clear exactly how robust the evidence is, but it isn't difficult to find a Taylor Swift fan (or a parent or a lpsychologist for that matter) who agrees that she has a welcome positive influence at a time when young people are under enormous pressure. The ABS' National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing shows that the mental health of young Australians has declined dramatically over the past 20 years, with young women more likely to be affected.

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You're not imagining it, Valentine's Day can be bad for your mental health

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/02/2024, Diane Young

If the festive romance and scent of mass-produced flowers on February 14th leave you feeling more blue than rosy, you're not alone. Here's why, according to an expert. Valentine's Day, with its hearts, roses, and romantic gestures, is often hailed as a celebration of love and affection. However, for many of us, the pressures and expectations associated with this day can contribute to stress, anxiety, frustration, disappointment and feelings of loneliness and even despair.

[Read More](#)

Four-star Brisbane hotel transformed into \$36m mental health hospital

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 14/02/2024, Aaron Goodwin

A four-star Brisbane hotel and Queensland Heritage listed residence has been repurposed into a \$36 million facility to set a new benchmark in private mental health care. Aaron Goodwin South-East Advertiser The third Monday in January is recognized as Blue Monday, which is believed to be the most depressing day of the year.

How exercise can treat and prevent common mental illnesses like anxiety and depression

ABC Online, Other, 14/02/2024, Kate Ashton

During the pandemic, Nikola Sowry made a decision that helped her become happier and healthier. After feeling challenged and disconnected during recurring lockdowns, the 29-year-old decided to try out a community football team in Melbourne's inner suburbs.

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

[Read More](#)

Single word a 13-year-old Northern Territory schoolgirl wrote in her notebook 27 times was a 'secret, silent cry' about the tragedy to come

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/02/2024, Pranav Harish

An inquest into the death of a young girl has heard how she wrote the word 'help' 27 times in her notebook before she took her own life. Grace, whose full name is suppressed during the inquest, died after she shot herself with a rifle in her parent's bedroom in the Darwin suburb of Parap on January 28, 2022.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 14/02/2024, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

Australian experts are calling for more doctors to prescribe exercise as a mental health treatment. It comes as new research shows physical activity can be more effective than medication or counselling when it comes to treating and preventing depression and anxiety.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

New nurses roll out to care

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/02/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 12

Caring for others is a value that runs deep in Lana Suris's DNA. The 21-year-old graduate is now a proud fourth-generation nurse, following in the inspirational footsteps of her mother, grandmother, and greatgrandmother in the profession. Ms Suris, along with colleagues Brielle Barnes and Andrew Wang, is part of the latest intake of 270 new nurses joining Tasmania's health system across the state.

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

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

Launceston Birth Centre celebrates 40 years of care

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/02/2024, Annika Rhoades, Page 3

Australia's longest-running independent birth centre is celebrating its 40-year anniversary. After struggling financially and nearly closing in 2019, the Launceston Birth Centre received an outpouring of support from the community, enabling them to keep their doors open.

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Nurse union's hefty wages claim attempts to piggy-back on aged care rise

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/02/2024, Caroline Egan

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) lodged an application with the Fair Work Commission (FWC) last Friday (9 February) to increase wages for nurses, midwives, and assistants in nursing (AIN) by up to 35%. The claim has been made on the basis that nurses' and midwives' work

has never been properly valued, and that any recognition given to Aged Care Workers in the Aged Care Work Value case should be extended to all nurses, midwives and AINs covered by Awards.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 14/02/2024, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Sally(*), nurse. Reucassel points out that they were talking to Health Minister Ryan Park before the news about several issues about asbestos, about parking for nurses and new nurses graduated and coming to hospitals. Sally says she's been a nurse for 25 years and the pay ratios of maintaining staff need to be addressed. She states that they pay they earn are \$16,000 less than teachers.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Staff trust in health executives declines

Canberra Times, General News, 15/02/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 1

Staff trust in bosses within Canberra's public health system has declined, with the latest culture survey results showing only one-third of staff consider there is "high trust" in the executive team. Staff at North Canberra Hospital, formerly Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, expressed even lower levels of trust with only one-quarter of staff expressing high trust in executives.

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Scholarships to attract doctors

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/02/2024, Harry Brill, Page 7

Prestigious scholarships have been tabled in an effort to attract and retain doctors in the Territory. General Practice Registrars Australia president Karyn Matterson said the initiative aimed to tackle the "ongoing challenge" of staff shortages. "We are delighted to co-ordinate three of these scholarships for current NTbased GP registrars, and to introduce a new scholarship targeting prospective NTbased registrars," she said.

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

RFDS Reasons to join the RFDS Board

Barrier Truth, General News, 14/02/2024, Page 8

In the remote landscapes of rural New South Wales, Ruth Sandow's story with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) unfolds as a testament to determination and community spirit. After almost 14 years on the Board of RFDS South Eastern Section (RFDSSE), Ruth will step down mid-year and is encouraging passionate community members, particularly those with experience in remote areas, to join and help shape the future of this vital organisation.

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8CPA negotiations tough

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 14/02/2024, Page 1

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has stated that it "will not agree to cuts on cuts for patients or community pharmacies" as it hammers out the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA). The government had agreed that negotiations for the 8CPA would commence in Sep last year to achieve agreement, before the next tranche of 60-Day Dispensing cuts, on 01 March this year (PD 01 Sep 2023).

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

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Wide Bay-Burnett welcomes new RACQ LifeFlight Rescue doctor

Cairns Post, Other, 14/02/2024, Nicole Strathdee

A rescue chopper team gives an insiders' view of the intense training doctors undertake to join LifeFlight with one medico revealing how he will overcome his own fear to help those in need. The Wide Bay Burnett has welcomed the newest addition to the lifesaving RACQ LifeFlight team , with Dr Daniel Ballantine joining the Bundaberg helicopter base crew.

[Read More](#)

Guild pushes strategies to tackle workforce shortages

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/02/2024, James Tsaoucis

Government urged to extend HELP to pharmacy graduates and lift cap on skilled migration to attract overseas candidates to fill workforce vacancies The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is calling on the federal government to take steps to address workforce shortages. In its pre-budget submission, the Guild noted that pharmacists are facing growing demand for their

[Read More](#)

'No person should be subject to abuse in doing their job'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/02/2024, Megan Haggan

One state is examining strengthening its sentencing for assaults against frontline health and retail workers, in a move welcomed by pharmacists. The Tasmanian government has opened consultation on an amendment to sentencing legislation, which would see a sentencing court required to impose at least six months' imprisonment on a person convicted of any offence which...

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Watch: the PDL Guide to Medicines by Injection – a risk management perspective

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/02/2024, Jan Decomps

Pdl officers discuss key considerations for administration of medicines by injection and share useful new tools and resources What are some of the most common incidents around vaccination or administering other medicines by injection? What resources are available to support my pharmacy team in the preparation and delivery of injectable services?

[Read More](#)

Early career workshop announced

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Other, 14/02/2024

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is proud to announce the Early Career Pharmacist Workshop at this year's APP Conference on the Gold Coast next month. The workshop's session is titled "Embrace, adapt, thrive" and will take place on Friday March 15 from 4pm to 5:30pm.

[Read More](#)

NAPSA Congress draws a crowd

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Other, 14/02/2024

This year's National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) congress has been declared a success after it was held in Hobart last month. One hundred and fifty students from around the country attended the five-day event which began with the keynote speech by Guild National President, Professor Twomey.

[Read More](#)

2024 Rental Report released for Guild members

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Other, 14/02/2024

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has just released this year's Pharmacy Rental Report, exclusive to Guild members. For most pharmacy owners rent represents the largest expense of operating a pharmacy and the 2024 Pharmacy Rental Report is designed to help members, community pharmacy owners and aspiring owners to be prepared when negotiating rental and leasing arrangements.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Beware of the hidden dangers in fast medicine

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/02/2024, John Saul, Page 20

Is fast medicine good medicine? Convenience is not always the best for treatment, writes Dr John Saul. You're a woman; you are experiencing pain when urinating and think you may have a urinary tract infection (UTI). You have heard you can't see a general practitioner (GP) in under two weeks, maybe even longer. Where better to go than your local pharmacist for an antibiotic prescription to treat your symptoms?

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GV residents save \$1.3m via Cheaper Medicines policy

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/02/2024, Grace Carter

The Albanese Government is trying to make medicines more affordable and accessible for Australians. Changes to make medicines cheaper have saved Victorians \$57 million in 2023. [...] In January 2023, the Federal Government lowered the maximum cost of prescription medications listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to \$30 from \$42.50, the largest cut to the co-payment in the PBS's 75-year history.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Qlik completes IRAP assessment

CRN, Other, 14/02/2024

Data analytics and software integration company Qlik said it has successfully completed the Information Security Registered Assessors Program (IRAP) at the Protected Level. Administered by the Australian Cyber Security Centre, the IRAP classification allows Australian government agencies to use Qlik's data analytics platform with the assurance that it meets federal government security guidelines.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 14/02/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Cenatiempo is joined by Brent Ford, Capital Radio Newsroom. Cenatiempo says that there has been a glitch in Canberra's digital health record which has resulted in over 200 missed referrals from clinicians to hospitals. Ford says what annoys him is that the Government knew that this was not ready to go as they were told by people rolling it out. He states that Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith can't hear what the people are saying.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Veterans' medical program ended

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/02/2024, George Yankovich, Page 5

A longstanding medical program run by the University of South Australia has been ordered to shut down after military veterans complained sensitive data was disclosed without their consent. It comes amid an ongoing lawsuit by incensed veterans and a new threat of class action by high-profile firm Gordon Legal.

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Jail romps no bar for psych

Courier Mail, General News, 15/02/2024, Vanda Carson, Page 18

A jail psychologist who detailed her lurid sex romps with two inmates inside a Queensland prison in X-rated messages has been reprimanded for misconduct but can still work as a psychologist, a tribunal has ruled. In a decision handed down by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal on December 19, published Wednesday, judicial member Ray Rinaudo ruled that Sarah-Jane Lodington can return to practice as soon as she has an "approved practice location".

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

National Rural Health Conference open for submissions

Barrier Truth, General News, 14/02/2024, Melanie Gates, Page 7

This year's National Rural Health Conference is bringing together more than 1200 delegates who are passionate about rural and remote health and wellbeing, and here's your chance to join the program. The 17th National Rural Health Conference - themed Imagine, inspire and innovate - is to be held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre this year, so organisers are looking for abstracts to include in an engaging, inspiring program.

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Best Practice will use AI assistant to draft GP patient notes by 'listening' to consults

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/02/2024, Heather Saxena

Best Practice is integrating an AI assistant for note-taking. Major GP software maker Best Practice is integrating a note-taking AI assistant to its desktop software. The tool was built by Lyrebird Health, an Australian company founded eight months ago and will be fully integrated into the software which is used by around 25,000 doctors.

[Read More](#)

'Giving three tablets is nothing'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/02/2024, Megan Haggan

Olivia Collenette addresses the PSA's ACT Pharmacist of the Year Awards. It's the most expensive jurisdiction in which to see a GP – yet hospital patients are discharged with as little as a couple of days' worth of medication. Olivia Collenette, the president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Australian Capital Territory branch, says that the organisation is in "positive" discussions with Territory politicians regarding change.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacy workforce a focus of budget submission

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Other, 14/02/2024

The Pharmacy Guild has lodged its pre-budget submission with strategies on how to address the pharmacy workforce shortage. The shortage was raised in the submission along with aged care reform, PBS prescribing and medicine affordability.

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SPORT

'Address the warrior mentality'

Footballer Keith Titmuss told his mum Lafo how he felt "destined for big things" on the eve of joining the Manly Sea Eagles senior squad. And Lafo too felt for her son that the coming NRL season was going to "be his year". Lafo described how her 20year-old son had an "extra bounce in his step" and that "he loved having his own allocated place in the dressing room" at the club's base in Narrabeen on Sydney's northern beaches.

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

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Stadium guru's grim warning over Gabba's future

Herald Sun, Sport, 15/02/2024, Shannon Gill, Page 60

"Dead, buried and cremated" was how Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner referred to the \$2.7 billion Gabba rebuild that has been spectacularly abandoned by Australian Olympic Committee officials. But will that mean the death of the venue itself? That's the question Simon Gorr, the man who knows stadium building better than most in Australia, is asking himself.

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NRL's sex trap fear

Courier Mail, General News, 15/02/2024, Brent Read and Peter Badel, Page 1

At least 40 guards will be deployed in a multimillion-dollar NRL operation as America's top Super Bowl security boss warned rugby league stars of "sex" traps and extortion scams in Las Vegas. Las Vegas police boss Kendall Bell was called in yesterday morning by the NRL to address players and officials from the four clubs -including the Brisbane Broncos -ahead of the code's historic 2024 premiership kick-off in America.

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

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KAP bid to kill Olympics

Courier Mail, General News, 15/02/2024, Page 9

A pitch by the crossbench to cancel the Brisbane 2032 Games has been shot down spectacularly amid some fiery debate in Queensland's parliament on Wednesday. Katter's Australian Party member Nick Dametto put forward a motion to "immediately commence the necessary steps to cancel the Brisbane Olympics", calling for the government to "redirect the \$7bn of funds towards improving state government services and infrastructure".

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

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\$375m cap on stadium

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/02/2024, David Killick and Blair Richards, Page 1

Premier Jeremy Rockliff has sought to neutralise the proposed Macquarie Point Stadium as an election issue by promising to cap the state contribution at \$375m. In his opening shot of the 2024 state election campaign, Mr Rockliff pledged a hard ceiling on Tasmanian taxpayers' support with any shortfall to be made up by the private sector.

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Schools on hard knocks

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/02/2024, Ben Cameron, Page 32

Returning to sport should be the last thing on the to-do list for a student who has suffered a concussion, a local expert in the field believes. It comes as the AIS released key recommendations regarding concussion at grassroots, youth and community level sport earlier this month - in a statement backed by expert medical opinion - offering comprehensive guidelines for teachers.

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

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Long-awaited tennis centre upgrades by year's end: Council

The City of Launceston council has shed some light on plans for the Launceston Tennis, Community and Events Centre, which has been in limbo for several years. Construction on the \$3.5 million project - which includes \$500,000 from the council - is expected to begin in May, and take seven months according to the council.

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Footballer collapses, dies during training

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/02/2024, Page 3

The rugby league community has been rocked by tragedy after a player collapsed and died while training in the Hunter. An Aberglasslyn Ants player was training at McKeachie's Sportsground on Tuesday when the emergency unfolded about 5.30pm. Paramedics and police rushed to the scene on Redgum Circuit after reports the 31-year-old man had collapsed, but he could not be revived.

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Heart of the nation

Australian Photography, General News, 01/03/2024, Rob Cianflone, Page 8

For the first time in the history of the tournament, last year's FIFA Women's World Cup was to be hosted by Australia and New Zealand. As you might expect, the Matildas performance in the tournament captured the attention of the nation. When I captured this image, Australia and England were facing off in the semi-final. It was the furthest any Australian team, male or female, had ever reached in a FIFA World Cup.

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Indigenous All-Stars players inspire at TAIHS' Deadly Choices Community Day

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 14/02/2024, Natasha Emeck

NRL sensation Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow traded tackles for a powerful pitch promoting Indigenous health as he rubbed shoulders with locals at a community day in Garbutt. The beloved fullback, celebrated for his on-field prowess, seized the spotlight alongside a cohort of Indigenous All-Stars players at TAIHS' Deadly Choices Community Day on Tuesday, ahead of their eagerly awaited showdown with the Maori Kiwis.

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The Enhanced Games backers say they're testing the limits of human potential but the truth is far murkier

ABC Online, Other, 14/02/2024, David Mark

The internet has been humming of late with the news that a group of venture capitalists were going to stage an athletics event that would encourage athletes to take performance-enhancing drugs. The Enhanced Games is the brainchild of Australian lawyer and entrepreneur Aron D'Souza and bankrolled by a small group of billionaires including the co-founder of Pay Pay Peter Thiel, venture capitalist Christian Angermayer and Balaji Srinivasan who was the first chief technical officer for the cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase.

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

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Alex Carey equals world record in South Australia-Queensland domestic one-day cup match

ABC Online, Other, 14/02/2024

Alex Carey has taken a world record-equalling eight catches in an innings for South Australia in its domestic one-day cup match with Queensland. Five of Carey's catches were taken off the bowling of Jordan Buckingham, who finished with 6-41 in the Bulls' total of 218 at Adelaide's Karen Rolton Oval.

[Read More](#)

Australia pays \$1.5m to help athletes from 13 other countries reach the

Paris Olympics

7news.com.au, Other, 14/02/2024, Steve Larkin

Swimming, weightlifting and track-and-field athletes will be among those helped along by the offer. Australian taxpayers will help fund Pacific nations get to the looming Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris. Sports in 13 Pacific nations will receive \$1.47 million funding from the federal government in partnership with the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC).

[Read More](#)

2GB, Afternoons, 14/02/2024, Michael McLaren

McLaren points out that Rugby Australia is considering scheduling an afternoon Bledisloe Cup clash in Sydney namely in 21 September 2024. He believes that it will be historic because it will only be the third afternoon trans-Tasman kickoff in Australia in the professional era of the game. McLaren discusses about primetime being the usually best spot for sporting events in terms of viewership and ad revenue.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Afternoons, 14/02/2024, Sofie Formica

Interview with Matt Levy, author, Going the Distance. Formica discusses with Levy the upcoming 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games being held in Australia. Levy points out that this is a great opportunity for Brisbane and also for Qld as a whole in general to really showcase that they are a sporting state and they are helping kids with disability.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Huge leap in cancer vaccine research

The Australian, General News, 15/02/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

Australian researchers have unlocked a crucial key to future cancer vaccines in a world-first discovery set to fast-track RNAbased therapeutics. Vaccine technology took a giant leap forward with the advent of Covid-19, when mRNA vaccines proved successful and were administered to hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#)

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PharmAust extension study begins as analysis shows MND/ALS drug 'defied the odds'

The Australian, Other, 14/02/2024

PharmAust has begun an open-label extension (OLE) study for monepantel (MPL) in patients with Motor Neurone Disease (MND)/Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) at Calvary Health Care Bethlehem in Melbourne, as a statistical review shows the drug "defied the odds". Clinical-stage biotech PharmAust (ASX:PAA) says the first patient has been dosed in the 12-month OLE study for patients with MND/ALS – with all 12 patients from the Phase 1 MEND Study expected to be enrolled after meeting the minimum requirement of being able to swallow.

[Read More](#)

Trial offers hope for millions that jab could prevent rheumatoid arthritis

The Guardian, Other, 14/02/2024, Andrew Gregory

Scientists have discovered a jab that could prevent rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a development experts say could offer hope to millions at risk of the disease. RA is a chronic disease that causes inflammation in the body and triggers pain in the joints. About 18 million people globally are affected by the condition, which can lead to heart, lung or nervous system problems, according to the World Health Organization.

[Read More](#)

Timing of menopause and menarche influences COPD risk: study

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/02/2024, Kemal Atlay

Both younger and older age at menarche were tied to an increased likelihood of COPD, say researchers. Women who experience natural menopause before the age of 40 are nearly 70% more likely to develop COPD than those who reach menopause at 50, an Australian-led study shows.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Heart of the matter: Missed opportunity costs Aboriginal lives

Canberra Times, General News, 15/02/2024, Boe Rambaldini, Page 22

My people have the worst health outcomes on this continent. There was a time when we were the healthiest people. Sadly, today, we are at the mercy of the health system. Indigenous health is rightly on the national radar as governments and health experts work to close the gap, with too many people still falling through the cracks. Closing the gap is a good strategy to improve the health of my people, and there is some movement.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#).

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Geraldton police shooting: Family of Yamatji woman JC hope inquest into her death will prompt change

West Australian, Other, 14/02/2024, Phil Hickey

The family of an Indigenous woman who was fatally shot by police in 2019 say they hope a coroner's inquest into her death later this year might lead to positive changes as to how WA Police engage with First Nations people. Yamatji woman JC was fatally shot by a police officer in a Geraldton street on September 17, 2019.

[Read More](#)

VACCHO submission to Yoorrook highlights vast disparity in Indigenous healthcare

National Indigenous Times, Other, 15/02/2024, Dechlan Brennan

The Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation has made their submission to the Yoorrook Justice Commission's inquiry addressing systemic injustices faced by communities in healthcare, education, and housing ; arguing current policies are still contributing to poorer health and wellbeing among Indigenous people in the state.

[Read More](#)

Children's commissioners across Australia welcome announcement of national Indigenous role

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/02/2024, Dechlan Brennan

The announcement of a National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children has been welcomed by the Australian Children's Commissioners Guardians and Advocates (ACCGA), labelling the decision a turning point for children and families across Australia.

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Flyer's measles put city on alert

The Australian, General News, 15/02/2024, Page 2

The measles virus has been detected in a Jetstar passenger flying into Sydney from the Gold Coast, with health authorities urging anyone who might have been exposed to the traveller to be alert for symptoms. NSW Health said the traveller had recently returned from Southeast Asia, where a measles outbreak hit several countries.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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'Nothing was stopping this thing': Escape from Grampians blaze

Age, General News, 15/02/2024, Clay Lucas, Page 1

Mark Sleeman was forced to flee his home on Tuesday as an out-of-control bushfire in the Grampians National Park bore down on the small town of Pomonal. While his three children had moved to safety in nearby Stawell that morning, Sleeman had stayed at home until the state emergency app pinged.

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Weather watching

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/02/2024, Jordan McCarthy, Page 1

Communities from Port Roper across to the Queensland border are being warned to brace for wild weather with a cyclone watch announced by the Bureau of Meteorology on Wednesday afternoon. The BoM's Shenagh Gamble said they had been closely monitoring the tropical low as it passed across the top of the Territory earlier in the week.

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Call to get whooping cough vaccine

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/02/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 2

More than 30 whooping cough cases have been recorded in Hunter-New England this year, the most since COVID restrictions stopped many bugs from spreading. Hunter New England Health physician David Durrheim said "we get waves of whooping cough every three to four years".

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

Outbreak: 'Don't swim for two weeks after diarrhoea'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/02/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

Cases of cryptosporidiosis have hit their highest levels in nine years in Hunter-New England, amid a sharp rise of the disease across the state. NSW Health data shows Hunter-New England recorded 46 cases of the disease in January, the highest outbreak since December 2016.

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

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Mackay a syphilis 'hotspot' as docs urge condoms, testing on Valentines Day

Daily Mercury News, Other, 14/02/2024, Zoe Devenport

A head doctor is urging safe sex and STI testing on Valentine's Day after a Queensland town became a syphilis hotspot, finding four times the usual number of annual cases. Stay safe for your romantic rendezvous and wear a condom this Valentine's Day, a Queensland town's top doc has warned, ringing the alarm bell on growing syphilis outbreak.

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

[Read More](#)

Community calls for voluntary welfare check system to help vulnerable people during emergencies

Gary Paul would like a knock at his door next time the power is cut during a heatwave. The Kalgoorlie resident was among the thousands left without air conditioning in 40-degree Celsius heat last month when a massive storm destroyed critical transmission infrastructure across southern parts of Western Australia

[Read More](#)

NSW North Coast has lowest childhood immunisation rates in Australia, finds new study by Supplemento

PRWire, Other, 14/02/2024

Analysis of 3 cohorts of children (aged 1, 2 and 5) reveals that the NSW North Coast has the lowest childhood vaccination rates in Australia, averaging less than 90% for all age groups. according to a new study by Supplemento. The analysis also found that the Gold Coast region has the second lowest immunisation rates overall, with rates not far off those in the NSW North Coast.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 14/02/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Health officials are warning us to do all we can to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds in our neighbourhoods. With Ross River virus on track to infect thousands of Queenslanders within months. We've taken a look at the risks and a number of ways you can protect yourself.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Wrinkle jab law changes concern

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/02/2024, Chelsea Bunting, Page 9

A Geelong business owner says "confusing" new rules will put patients at risk after clinics were banned from using the terms "anti-wrinkle injections" and "dermal filler". The move is part of a crackdown on advertising cosmetic injectables by Australia's medical regulator. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) updated its guidelines in January, outlining changes to how services could be advertised.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#)

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Driving on prescribed cannabis

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/02/2024, Page 11

Drivers prescribed medical cannabis had no impairment on simulated driving performance, a new study has found. The Swinburne University of Technology's Centre for Human Psychopharmacology study suggests that medical cannabis, when used as prescribed for a chronic health condition, has a negligible impact on simulated driving performance.

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FOOD STANDARDS

6PR, Perth Live, 14/02/2024, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Alison Xamon, Mayor, City of Vincent. Peterson points out that Xamon and the Council are now opening up public consultation on a healthy food and drink policy. Xamon says that everyone who owns a farm can be calmed because what they are aiming for is to have healthy food and drink opportunity options and make sure that they've got consideration for various cultural, religious, and dietary needs and also minimising food packaging.

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AICIS

Asbestos leaves Mardi Gras without opening Fair Day

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/02/2024, Michael Koziol, Page 3

The City of Sydney council was urged a month ago to test parks in its municipality for asbestos but declined to do so after being wrongly assured by a contractor that its mulch did not come from the affected supplier. Lord Mayor Clover Moore said it would have been unreasonable to test the council's 400 parks and thousands of garden beds "when there was no indication there was an issue".

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

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Bikie gang's melted gold poisons school

West Australian, General News, 15/02/2024, Bethany Hiatt, Page 1

A Goldfields primary school has been forced to close because "elevated levels" of mercury were detected on site after police smashed an illegal gold-extracting operation allegedly run by bikies at a nearby property. Free mercury testing has been organised for children and teachers at East Kalgoorlie Primary School with the school shut until further notice while soil and water tests are carried out.

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