



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 26th February 2024

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports 36 babies have died in Victoria's hospitals while 19 others were left with disabilities due to errors in their mothers' maternity care, new data from Safer Care Victoria has shown.
- The [Northern Territory News](#) (page 1) reports 12 Northern Territory MPs remain undecided about how they will vote on proposed voluntary assisted dying laws for the jurisdiction, while 11 support the laws, and one MP is opposed. *Also reported by:* [Northern Territory News](#)
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 2) reports Victoria's hospitals are projected to accrue \$3 billion in debt by the end of the financial year, with regional hospitals concerned ongoing losses may lead to service cuts. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [Bendigo Advertiser](#), [Warrnambool Standard](#)
- The [Northern Territory News](#) (page 3) reports the top end's aeromedical service CareFlight retrieved 7,900 patients across 2023, its busiest year on record.
- [The Age](#) (page 9) reports Coalition backbenchers are voicing concern about the efficacy of planned crackdowns on vaping, with Health Minister Mark Butler expected to present new legislation to parliament in the coming weeks. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#)

- [The Guardian](#) (online) reports the Australian Medical Association has backed calls for the government to begin monitoring premature and preventable deaths amongst homeless Australians and to invest in better housing and care, following new data showing homeless people had an average life expectancy of only 44.
- [The Guardian](#) (online) reports Australians aged over 85 have the nation's highest rate of suicide, but experts say the numbers are likely underestimated due to assumptions of frailty or senility and low investigation rates.

MINISTER BUTLER

China cleans up on energy, and we pay up

The Australian, Media, 26/02/2024, Chris Mitchell, Page 20

Some environment journalists are blind to what's really happening globally in fossil fuel use and the renewable energy transition. [...] The pastoral sector was concerned Health Minister Mark Butler, Labor's former environment spokesman, had accepted a plan by the National Health and Medical Research Council to account for environmental sustainability in official government dietary guidelines.

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Opposition MPs fuming over 'failed' vape sale ban

Age, General News, 26/02/2024, David Crowe and Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 9

Anger over youth vaping has triggered concerns in parliament about government policies that are meant to stamp out the sale of illegal nicotine, in a new sign of frustration with a federal government pledge to quash the black market. Coalition MPs are warning about the "skyrocketing" sale of vapes to children and the rapid spread of illicit tobacco and vape stores in their local communities, despite federal Health Minister Mark Butler's plans to restrict vaping to people with a doctors' prescription.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#)

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Take a scalpel to the health funds' tricks

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 26/02/2024, Scott Pape, Page 10

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler wants you to know that he has balls of steel. You see, each year private health insurers must go cap in hand to him to increase their prices. And this year they wanted to deliver their biggest premium hike in six years but he rejected it. Bam! Instead he'll soon announce that he's allowing a much smaller increase in your annual private health insurance premium.

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

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Bulk-billing GP clinics disappear across many parts of Sydney

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 25/02/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos

Patients in NSW have access to 169 fewer fully bulk-billing GP clinics than 12 months ago, as more doctors in Sydney's middle-income suburbs charge gap fees. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said his government's investment had led to 360,000 more bulk-billed trips to the GP, with the greatest impact in regional areas.

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

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ACT Labor MPs silent on extra bulk billing relief

Canberra Times, Other, 25/02/2024, Miriam Webber and Lucy Bladen

The ACT's federal Labor politicians have refused to weigh in on restoring rural bulk billing incentives to the capital, as new data reveals Canberrans are paying more to see a doctor. Four years ago Canberra and Queanbeyan were cut off from federal government rural incentives which gave extra payments to clinics that bulk-billed pensioners, children and other concession patients. [...] Ms Stephen-Smith said

she had repeatedly raised this with the former Morrison government and with federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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Falling bulk-billing rates hit working families who don't qualify for concession cards

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2024, Leonie Thorne and Alison Branley

As a person who lives with chronic illness, Michelle Ryan was struggling to stay on top financially when her GP announced they would stop bulk-billing. [...] Last November, the federal government tripled the bulk-billing incentive, paying GPs more money to see children and concession card holders — and Health Minister Mark Butler said this was already having an impact "The GP bulk-billing rate has risen by 2.1 percentage points in the first two months since the Australian Government tripled the bulk-billing incentive," he said.

[Read More](#)

Struggling to find a GP that bulk bills? These are the regions where there are none at all

SBS, Other, 25/02/2024, Rashida Yosufzai and Svetlana Printcev

You're not imagining it - the number of bulk billing GPs clinics appears to be decreasing, at least according to a new report. Key Points 87 per cent of Australian electorates saw fewer bulk-billing clinics last year, a new report found. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler defended Medicare at a press conference last month, citing an improvement since the government tripled the bulk billing incentive for doctors in November.

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Canberra's climate war on farmers: Anthony Albanese must reject bureaucrats' move to include 'sustainability' impact in dietary advice

Sky News Australia, Other, 25/02/2024, Nicolle Flint

As we know, the Albanese Labor government is out to get our farmers anyway it can and – as revealed this week – the National Health and Medical Research Council is now in on the act too. [...] The Prime Minister and his Health Minister Mark Butler should intervene immediately to put the review of the Dietary Guidelines back on track and ensure it is limited to what type of food we should all be eating to ensure optimal health outcomes for individuals and the nation.

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The ZAP: a comprehensive update on the latest news in health and aged care

Croakey, Other, 25/02/2024, Melissa Sweet

In the latest edition of The Zap, health policy analyst Charles Maskell-Knight underscores the importance of the New Centre for Disease Control being independent and adequately funded, and urges a "chill pill" for those trying to beat up a storm over the review of national dietary guidelines. [...] Ministers and government Minister Mark Butler announced the "Stronger Medicare Awards, to honour those who have made a significant contribution to Australia's primary care sector".

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

The ZAP: a comprehensive update on the latest news in health and aged care

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ABC, Offsiders, 25/02/2024, Kelli Underwood

Interview with Kieran Perkin, Australian Olympic legend. Perkin discusses a possible redress for the Australian Para Olympics scene particularly the introduction of equal prize money at the London Marathon. He states that this is something that they have in discussion with Minister Anika Wells and the Government is very committed to ensuring that they acknowledge and recognise these athletes.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

The ZAP: a comprehensive update on the latest news in health and aged care

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

CORONAVIRUS

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Ultimate budget tips for pensioners

West Australian, General News, 26/02/2024, Nick Bruining, Page 1

Navigating the complexities of Centrelink to get the age pension can feel like an almost impossible task these days and the 1.1 million claims still yet to be processed by Services Australia confirms that. To make things a little easier, we've tapped into the expertise of financial advisers and former Centrelink employees who know the system backwards and all the ways you can get your age pension fast and drama-free.

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Dementia rates to double in 30 years, care plans in spotlight

Daily Liberal, General News, 26/02/2024, Sarah Falson, Page 5

As dementia rates are tipped to almost double over the next 30 years, a local care home manager hopes families will look at their care options sooner. There are more than 421,000 people of all ages living with dementia in Australia, and without a medical breakthrough, this number is expected to increase to more than 812,500 by 2054.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Vapes up in smoke

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/02/2024, Sierra Haigh, Page 9

More than 30 sensors targeting vaping have been installed across five NT schools' bathrooms, with several more scheduled for operation in the new school year. It comes after the Alcohol and Drug Foundation found 14 per cent of Australian kids aged 12-17 had tried e-cigarettes 32 per cent of whom had used them in the past month.

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

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Challenges facing our water supply

Daily Liberal, General News, 26/02/2024, Allison Hore, Page 2

Between water restrictions, boil water alerts and drinking water still without fluoride, Dubbo's had more than its fair share of water woes in recent years. But what are the biggest issues facing Dubbo's water supply? Speaking before a parliamentary inquiry, Luke Ryan, director of infrastructure at the Dubbo Regional Council, revealed two major challenges facing the city's water security.

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To sort the wellness industry's fact from fiction, Jenny Valentish turned herself into a human guinea pig. Here's what she learnt

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2024, Anna Kelsey

Amidst the ice baths and wearable tech, the self-proclaimed experts and talk of synergies and vagus nerves, there's a line to be drawn between wellness pseudoscience and stuff that can actually have a positive impact on your life. By trying a new wellness regime every week, journalist Jenny Valentish and her partner Frank are trying to work out where that line is.

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Australian Medical Association backs proposal to count homelessness deaths

The Guardian, Other, 25/02/2024, Christopher Knaus

The Australian Medical Association has described hundreds of premature homelessness deaths as a "national tragedy" and urged the government to invest in a monitoring regime and improved housing and health services. [...] The AAEP asked the former government in 2021 to commission the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to develop a reporting framework that would allow police, coroners, hospitals and others to report the homelessness deaths in a consistent way.

Surprise finding: Eating too much protein can clog your arteries

The New Daily, Other, 25/02/2024, John Elder

When appraising our diet, we tend to look at fats and carbs, especially sugars. But protein is also worth a look. A 2018 report from the CSIRO looked at the benefits of eating protein for weight loss. These included better appetite control, metabolic enhancement, reduced food cravings and improved body composition (more muscle, less fat).

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Happy little Vegemites: balancing salt and nutrient intake

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/02/2024

New research has found that that people who consume yeast extracts and tomato-based sauces have higher median sodium intakes, but also receive important nutrients from these products. Salt intakes in Australia are excessive. In adults, the average daily sodium intake, quantified by meta-analysis of 26 studies that measured 24-hour urinary sodium, is 3800 mg (equivalent to 9.6 g or about two teaspoons of salt). By comparison the suggested dietary target (SDT) for sodium is 2000 mg per day (5 g salt or about one teaspoon).

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

So mad we could screen

Herald Sun, General News, 26/02/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 11

An alarming number of eligible Victorians are continuing to miss important cancer screenings, a new report will reveal on Monday. Fresh figures show a worrying decline in testing in Victoria that is in part due to the impact of Covid but is also related to where people live. Cancer screening programs aim for the early detection and prevention of cancer.

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Living miracle Steve gets a second chance

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 26/02/2024, Michael Madigan, Page 4

Living miracle Steve Kauter is one of the very few people in the world who can say they've donated their heart and lived to tell the tale. Mr Kauter, who turns 40 this year, was a busy electrician with his own business in Toowoomba when he began struggling with the physical requirements of his job.

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Tilly Spaeth's parents mission to raise awareness for RCH

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 25/02/2024, Will Keech

An Armstrong Creek woman's motherly instinct to go against a doctor's diagnosis saved her toddler's life. Nicole Lament and Luke Spaeth's daughter Tilly, 2, was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukaemia last July. The couple now want to raise awareness of the good work of staff at the Royal Children's Hospital. Ms Lamont said she rushed Tilly to Geelong hospital's emergency ward in July 2022 despite doctors putting down her constant sickness to childcare bugs months prior.

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Family wants better cancer medicine after losing Emily

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 24/02/2024, Kat Wong

Oncology patient Emily Borg was cancer-free when she died aged five. Her immune system had been obliterated by the treatment designed to save her life, so when she caught a rare fungal infection weeks after, her body could not fight it off. The best available anti-fungal was not approved for use in

children, and even if Emily's doctor applied for use on compassionate grounds it was likely to be rejected.

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How I missed a 5kg tumour the size of a football growing next to my baby until the 33rd week of my pregnancy... and why they sent me to see a physio

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/02/2024, Louise Allingham

A young mum who had a 5kg cancerous tumour in her ovary growing alongside her baby has revealed how the lesion went unnoticed for so long. Emily Wiles, 28, from Brisbane, was 33 weeks pregnant with her second child Eli when doctors had to perform an emergency C-section after finding the huge mass.

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Danielle gave birth to a healthy baby. Then came an excruciating pain

7news.com.au, Other, 25/02/2024

Danielle Penman could have lost her life days after giving birth to her baby girl as a deadly sepsis infection overwhelmed her body. Penman had an episiotomy after an induced labour but hours after being stitched up, her pain was excruciating. Surgery hours later found a massive haematoma.

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Screening and prevention of ovarian cancer

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/02/2024, Michail Sideris, Usha Menon and Ranjit Manchanda

Ovarian cancer remains the most lethal gynaecological malignancy with 314 000 cases and 207 000 deaths annually worldwide. Ovarian cancer cases and deaths are predicted to increase in Australia by 42% and 55% respectively by 2040. Earlier detection and significant downstaging of ovarian cancer have been demonstrated with multimodal screening in the largest randomised controlled trial of ovarian cancer screening in women at average population risk.

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Australia falling behind on hepatitis B elimination targets

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/02/2024

Tracking progress towards Australia's elimination targets for hepatitis B isn't just about measuring progress, it's about providing tools for driving progress towards health equity and saving lives. Chronic hepatitis B is a leading cause of liver disease and liver cancer in Australia, affecting an estimated 200 000 people and leading to over 450 attributable deaths per year.

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Time to make rare diseases everyone's business

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/02/2024

The last day of February each year is Rare Disease Day, a day to raise awareness and drive change for the 300 million people worldwide living with a rare disease. This year, Rare Disease Day falls on the rarest day of the year, 29 February. Rare conditions are a public health priority; as recognised in the first United Nations resolution on Addressing the challenges of persons living with a rare disease and their families.

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Health on a credit card

Herald Sun, General News, 26/02/2024, Alex White, Page 2

Victoria's hospitals are in more than \$1.46bn of debt, leaked data reveals, raising alarm bells over the

state's health funding. Records obtained from the Victorian internal financing system, HeART, showed statewide hospitals had collectively accrued the debt as of December 2023. Health insiders say that deficit is now even higher, and on track to grow to \$3bn by the end of the financial year.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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Staying safely on fence

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/02/2024, Zizi Averill, Page 1

If a bill offering Territorians the right to die was presented to parliament today, only 40 per cent of NT politicians would actively support it. Chief Minister Eva Lawler and Opposition leader Lia Finocchiaro have both committed their parties to a free vote, allowing members to be guided by their conscience when a voluntary assisted dying bill is presented.

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

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CareFlight helps 7900 in record year

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/02/2024, Jordan McCarthy, Page 3

The Northern Territory's leading aeromedical service, CareFlight, clocked its busiest year on record in 2023 amassing a whopping 7900 patient retrievals. CareFlight Top End deputy medical director Sarah Mackney said she was proud of her team and the way they handled the heavy workload last year.

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

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Workshops to help navigate taboo topic

Daily Liberal, General News, 26/02/2024, Sarah Falson, Page 3

Caring for someone who is dying can be a confusing and stressful experience, even apart from the natural grief and sadness of the circumstances. Most of us know little about the practical side of dying, and that can be exacerbated in rural and regional areas by lower levels of palliative care support. That is according to HammondCare, a health and aged care provider in Sydney, which is providing free end-of-life workshops in the Central West.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Calling time on wine o'clock: The hidden reasons working mothers use alcohol to cope

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 25/02/2024, Wendy Tuohy

Now her children are adolescents, it really surprises Lisa Iurada to see memes and social media posts celebrating the joy of alcohol as a way to cope with the stress of motherhood. When her kids were little, she was running small businesses, and mummy wine memes were at their peak, it was considered amusing that mums reached for alcohol to help manage work and domestic duties.

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Women's trauma is not an illness

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 24/02/2024, Ali Anderson

At work yesterday, I was collaborating with our Mental Health Team Leader to develop a form to track the time our Centre invests in supporting the rapidly increasing number women in immediate crisis who walk through our door. To ensure that we are ever responsive to the needs of the women who seek us out, and to lobby harder for funding in critical areas, it's important for us to understand and capture the reasons that drive women at breaking point to us.

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Decline of mental health services at The Hobart Clinic lead key staff to quit

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2024, Eliza Kloser

When Maddison Cutler was recently readmitted to southern Tasmania's last-remaining large-scale private mental health clinic, she expected to be taught new strategies to manage her bipolar and borderline personality disorder. Over the past four years, the 27-year-old has been receiving care at The Hobart Clinic on the city's eastern shore.

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Senior suicide: the silent generation speaking up on a quiet killer

The Guardian, Other, 26/02/2024, Kate Lyons

The age group most at risk of suicide may not be the one you expect. The highest rate of suicide in Australia, for both men and women, is among people over 85, at 32.7 deaths per 100,000 for men and 10.6 deaths for women, respectively. The global picture is similar. People over the age of 70 kill themselves at nearly three times the rate of the general population.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 25/02/2024, Kathryn Robinson and Dan Bouchier

There are concerns that Southern Tasmania's last remaining private mental health facility is on shaky ground. The Hobart Clinic is experiencing staff resignations and financial losses. Dr Tim Jones, RACGP spokesperson, says the clinic always fulfilled its role, particularly since the closure of St Helens Private Hospital.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Little lives lost

Herald Sun, General News, 26/02/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Dozens of Victorian babies died and 19 others suffered harm including disability after "adverse events" and errors in their mothers' maternity care in the five years to June 2022. Data obtained under Freedom of Information laws reveal 36 babies died in cases spanning public and private metropolitan hospitals, and regional and rural health services. Health services reported 55 maternal sentinel events health care's most serious adverse safety incidents.

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Tamworth midwives work 18-hour days

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 26/02/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

A whistleblower says midwives are regularly working 16- to 18-hour double shifts at Tamworth Hospital's maternity unit, amid severe staff shortages putting lives at risk. The unit had to turn away complicated pregnancies from February 16 to 19 due to the lack of staff, Hunter New England Health documents show. The situation was being reviewed on a "shift by shift basis" from February 19 to 25.

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Fun run part of training block for Price

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 26/02/2024, Page 20

A nurse who runs each day and is training for her first marathon has won the Noorat to Terang fun run and walk for the third time. Camperdown's Elle Price produced her fastest time in the event to win the 42nd edition on Friday, February 23. Warrnambool's Ben Wallis - one of the region's most prolific runners - won the men's section.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

New GPs from UK, Malaysia to ease strain

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 26/02/2024, Kate Mcilwain, Page 4

Five new overseas GPs are already treating Illawarra patients and another five are on their way, as part of a federal government push to ease the region's doctor shortage. The Illawarra's two federal Labor MPs said the latest new incoming International Medical Graduates (IMGs) from the UK and Malaysia would begin full-time by July 2024. They will join Dapto Medical and Dental Centre and Corrimal Medical and Dental Centre, which each have an urgent care centre.

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Medical students may hold the key to workforce shortage woes

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/02/2024

As workforce shortages continue to plague the Australian health care system, an innovative program in Melbourne utilising final year medical students as Clinical Assistants could present a solution to hospitals struggling to fill rosters. Final year medical students working as Clinical Assistants could hold the key to easing some staff shortages in Australia's busiest hospitals, but only if their job descriptions were clearer and their conditions were governed by a single enterprise agreement, experts say.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Costing more to see doctor

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 26/02/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 4

Queensland lost more than 100 bulk-billing GP clinics last year and some locals are now paying the highest out-of-pocket increases in the country for an appointment, shock new data reveals. There are fears Queenslanders will start avoiding crucial doctor check-ups entirely and potentially miss out on lifesaving treatment, with a new Cleanbill report highlighting just how few doctors still bulk bill across the state.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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How artificial intelligence could transform taking a medical history

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/02/2024, Jack Marjot

Medical students the world over have been told some variant of the adage "80% of clinical diagnosis is in the history". This wisdom has been reiterated since at least 1975, when Hampton and colleagues published that "a diagnosis that agreed with the one finally accepted was made [by physicians] after reading the referral letter and taking the history in 66 out of 80 new patients".

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Surgeon fails again to reveal Nine journalist's sources

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 26/02/2024, Marta Pascual Juanola, Page 13

Orthopaedic surgeon Munjed Al Muderis has failed in a second bid to uncover the identity of a Nine investigative journalist's confidential sources used in a story that criticised his medical practice. Al Muderis filed two subpoenas in the Federal Court in October that sought to obtain unredacted copies of documents and communications between health professionals and journalist Charlotte Grieve, of The Age.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Banned nurse exposed himself

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26/02/2024, Jordanna Schriever, Page 11

A Royal Adelaide Hospital nurse has been banned for five years for "abhorrent and highly repugnant" behaviour at work, including exposing and touching his penis, while in the presence of other staff members. [...] The tribunal also noted Mr Atkins "refused to be interviewed" by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency until he attended an "interview under compulsion" in January 2022.

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

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Basic care not up to standard

Cairns Post, General News, 26/02/2024, Kate Stephenson, Page 9

A transgender woman claims a doctor refused to use her name when she was treated at a Cairns health facility as she speaks out to the state of transgender care in Australia. While for many, the ability to see a GP and access critical treatment is simple, for transgender patients hurdles including transphobia, long waitlists and Medicare snubs stand in the way of basic care.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Fluoride fundamentals: optimising oral health care

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 26/02/2024

As pharmacists in Australia move towards 'full scope of practice', understanding the role of fluoride in dental care is important in promoting oral health and preventing the many conditions that can affect the teeth and surrounding tissues. By Felicia Heah BPharm Learning Objectives After completing this activity, pharmacists should be able to: outline the importance

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Who should get the last TAVI valve? Public versus private access to disruptive technologies in the Australian health care system

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/02/2024, Jonathan Ryan

"Who should get the last ventilator?" was an esoteric ethics question until footage emerged from inside the main hospital in Bergamo in Northern Italy at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. While Australia was spared the horror of that reality, the need to ration finite health resources is a perennial problem that confronts all health care systems. Health technology assessment (HTA) is a formal multidisciplinary process that aims to "inform decision-making in order to promote an equitable, efficient, and high-quality health system".

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[Back to Top](#)

State goes for broke with \$1bn pitch for Games funding

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 26/02/2024, Mackenzie Scott, Page 3

Queensland Labor has raised the stakes in its troubled-plagued bid to host the 2032 Olympic Games, with a demand that the federal government throw in an extra \$1.15bn. Deputy Premier Cameron Dick on Sunday said he was "very confident" the government would do so after the state pledged \$2.75bn to deliver a major extension of the South East Queensland train line linking Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast ahead of the Games.

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American dream

Courier Mail, General News, 26/02/2024, Peter Badel, Page 1

Broncos superstar Reece Walsh has revealed he will sign a lucrative new deal to stay at Brisbane but says he is open to one day testing himself in the NFL. The Broncos have kicked off talks with Walsh's management on a \$4m-plus extension as Brisbane's pin-up boy prepares to light up America in their historic season opener against the Sydney Roosters in Las Vegas on Sunday.

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

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Film out to challenge view of who belongs on a footy field

Ballarat Courier, General News, 26/02/2024, Melanie Whelan, Page 6

Aussie Rules was not a sport Mitch Nivalis had been interested in until they were searching for a visual project to challenge gender roles and stereotypes. A flyer for Mount Alexander Football Club, in Castlemaine, calling out for women and gender diverse players in a come and try day caught Nivalis' attention.

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Aquatic upgrade in pipeline

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 26/02/2024, Will Keech, Page 1

More than \$10m worth of projects are set to be pushed forward for special funding in Geelong, including a major upgrade at the Kardinia Aquatic Centre. City of Greater Geelong council will vote tomorrow what projects should receive the cash boost as part of the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund. A boiler renewal and electrification works at the aquatic centre is in the pipeline.

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Olympic great Kieran Perkins condemns equestrian Shane Rose's mankini incident

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2024

Australian Sports Commission chief executive Kieran Perkins says he was "horrified" by the sight of three-time Olympic equestrian Shane Rose appearing in a mankini, describing the incident as setting a poor example. Rose, who has won three Olympic medals, wore the attire during a fancy-dress showjumping event last weekend, prompting Equestrian Australia (EA) to launch an investigation after a complaint was made to the governing body.

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Top End esports finds new home at technology hub 'The Array' in Darwin CDB

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2024

Darwin's small but dedicated esports community has been given a new home this week, with the opening of an esports and technology hub in the Darwin CBD. The Victoria Hotel, one Darwin's oldest and most storied pubs, has been given an extra life by hosting the hub, called "The Array", with its official opening held this week.

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Athletes struggling with contraceptives and menstrual health as

periods remain taboo in sport

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2024, Amanda Shalala

Aussie Stingers water polo player Keesja Gofers tried taking an oral contraceptive pill once — and the experience was enough to turn her off for life. "I [took the pill] when I was much younger and I didn't like how I felt on it, and then essentially didn't try anything else," she told ABC Sport.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Biomedical hub to produce keys in life-saving therapies

Canberra Times, Other, 25/02/2024, Samantha Lock

A biomedical research facility will expand to commercial scale, producing life-saving therapies and vaccines in a move the NSW government hopes will make the city a global research hub. The world-leading lab based at Sydney's Westmead uses viral vectors - a key component of many cell and gene therapies - to treat cancer, genetic diseases and infections.

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

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Clue to treat bowel condition that keeps 100,000 glued to loo

The Senior, Other, 26/02/2024

Have researchers found a clue to the root cause of irritable bowel disease (IBD)? More than 100,000 Australians live with (IBD), which causes condition's such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. While there is currently no known cause, a Latrobe University led research team believes they may have made a breakthrough.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Dilemma a bitter pill

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/02/2024, Zizi Averill, Page 3

A Darwin mother, who has spent 10 years locked up despite never being convicted of a crime, says a push by the NT Health Department will condemn her to die in a cell. Nine months ago the Indigenous woman, known to the courts as KMD, was freed from her Holtze cell after spending 10 years in it due to her mental health condition.

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

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Work begins on new medical centre for Indigenous group

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 26/02/2024, Georgina Sebar, Page 3

An indigenous group has held a ceremonial groundbreaking for its new medical facility in North Bendigo. Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative's new medical centre was hoped to reduce GP and allied health waiting times, as well as expanding the numbers of services offered.

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Spotlight on hospital care at Indigenous death inquest

Canberra Times, Other, 25/02/2024, Stephanie Gardiner

Ricky Hampson Jr was a protector, a big brother known as "Dougie" who always looked for ways to bring his family joy. "Dougie was our firstborn, he was always happy," his father Rick Hampson Sr

recalled. "There was something special about him, he was there for everybody - the younger people, the older people. "He was amazing."

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

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Board records Indigenous pharmacists

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 26/02/2024

More than 100 Indigenous Australians hold professional registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia, new data from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) reveals.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Daylight to dark then a terrifying ball of red

Herald Sun, General News, 26/02/2024, Regan Hodge and Brooke Grebert-Craig, Page 6

A Raglan farmer has revealed his devastation after a huge "fireball" tore through his 121ha property as an out-of-control bushfire continues to ravage Victoria's west. [...] Emergency Services Minister Jaclyn Symes said emergency services held "grave concern" for this Wednesday when temperatures are forecast to hit the mid-40s across parts of the state.

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

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Case prompts alert

Daily Advertiser, General News, 26/02/2024, Andrew Pearson, Page 1

A measles alert has been issued for Wagga after a confirmed case of the disease in the city. The detection of the measles case has prompted the city's health authority to warn people to be on alert for symptoms. The community has also been encouraged to ensure they are up to date with their vaccinations. The Murrumbidgee Local Health District issued a warning on Saturday after being notified of a returned overseas traveller with measles.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Tragic end in frog poison therapy

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 26/02/2024, Megan Gorrey, Page 15

Natasha Lechner uttered her final words moments after Amazonian tree frog poison was dabbed onto patches of scorched flesh on her chest and wrist in a healing ritual in northern NSW. [...] O'Sullivan said she would have recommended kambo be made illegal had the Therapeutic Goods Administration not already banned it on the grounds it posed a danger to human health.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Govt sets up hemp task force

Shepparton News Online, Other, 25/02/2024, Zoe McMaugh

The NSW Government is continuing work to future proof NSW Agriculture production and support growers across all sectors by establishing the Hemp Industry Taskforce. [...] It will not consider the production of hemp for use as a therapeutic good (e.g. medicines) as this is restricted and requires a licence from the Office of Drug Control and approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Vic Labor's pill testing plan would 'kill off' second injecting room in CBD

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/02/2024

The Victorian Labor government is considering backing a trial of pill testing at medical clinics across the state, but not at music festivals. "Which we know are rife with drug use," Sky News host Caleb Bond says.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Analysis We looked at 700 plant-based foods to see how healthy they really are. Here's what we found

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2024, Laura Marchese

If you're thinking about buying plant-based foods, a trip to the supermarket can leave you bewildered. There are plant-based burgers, sausages and mince. The fridges are loaded with non-dairy milk, cheese and yoghurt. Then there are the tins of beans and packets of tofu. But how much is actually healthy?

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AICIS

What is bonded asbestos, how did it get into our mulch and just how dangerous is it?

9News, Other, 25/02/2024, Lara Pearce

It started out as a localised scare at a single children's playground in January, but it's rapidly become apparent that Sydney is facing a much larger problem with asbestos-contaminated mulch. In the last week, two schools have shut down, forcing hundreds of students to relocate

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