



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 15th March 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 6\)](#)** reports that a Property Council of Australia submission to the Aged Care Taskforce chaired by Minister Anika Wells claims the commonwealth could save \$945 million annually in aged care costs by delaying Australians' entry into publicly-funded aged care by two years.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Sydney scientists have used an organ-preserving machine dubbed the "liver in a box" to keep two human livers alive for a week outside the body, an achievement that could revolutionise the way scientists trial medicines and other therapies.
- **[The Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the AFL is considering a plan to perform brain scans on draftees, to be compared with scans taken later in players' careers, as part of a series of measures to reduce the health risks associated with concussions.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 2\)](#)** reports that Minister for Health Mark Butler and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have announced the settlement of the eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement, which will include a \$3 billion funding boost for community pharmacies to deliver on the government's 60-day prescribing reforms.

- [The Herald Sun \(page 3\)](#) reports that the national Food and Wellbeing Curriculum 9.0 advises teachers to avoid certain topics, including calculating calories, talking and assessing body weight and calculating BMI (Body Mass Index) “to prevent causing unintended harm”. The update has been criticised by the Institute of Public Affairs’ Foundations of Western Civilisation program as “ridiculous political correctness [that] does not help children”, despite the change being praised by Embrace Collective and Eating Disorders Families Australia.
- [The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#) reports that suicide has overtaken cancer as the leading cause of death in Queensland children aged 10-14, according to data from the state's Family and Child Commission.
- [The Northern Territory News \(page 1\)](#) reports that the Northern Territory and federal government joint project, Casuarina and Aquatic Leisure Centre is progressing well with the pool starting to be filled. Solomon MP Luke Gosling said that the pool redevelopment “will provide a modern, safe, and family-friendly sports and recreational facility that will improve health and wellbeing outcomes across our local community.”
- [The Mandarin](#) reports that Department of Health and Aged Care Secretary Blair Comley has stated he wants to ‘devolve leadership’ in the department to empower staff and increase efficiency across the chain of command.

MINISTER BUTLER

\$3b peace deal eases pharmacies tension after furore

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/03/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 4

Pharmacies have negotiated an extra \$3 billion from Labor in a peace deal struck after almost a year of protest over the government's 60-day medicine script scheme. [...] The agreement follows months of tension between Health Minister Mark Butler and pharmacy owners after the government's decision to double prescription lengths for 320 common medicines in last year's budget.

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

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Labor's \$3bn peace deal with pharmacies

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/03/2024, Jack Quail, Page 2

Australia's community pharmacies have negotiated an additional \$3bn in funding from the Albanese government after a long-running stoush with Labor over its 60-day script scheme. Health Minister Mark Butler and the Pharmacy Guild yesterday announced they had struck a deal that would deliver billions of dollars in taxpayer funds to Australia's 6000 community pharmacies over the next five years.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Pharmacies strike \$3bn deal with Labor

The Australian, Other, 14/03/2024, Jess Malcolm

Community pharmacies have negotiated an extra \$3bn in funding from the federal government, ending a long-running dispute over Labor's move to double the length of prescriptions. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the new agreement would ensure Australians had access to cheaper medicines while underscoring the viability of the community pharmacy sector.

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Pharmacy deal breakthrough after script stand-off

Canberra Times, Other, 14/03/2024, Andrew Brown

Community pharmacies will receive billions from the federal government as part of a new agreement, bringing a drawn-out dispute over prescriptions to an end. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the new

agreement would improve patient outcomes.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Free new nurse program in Adelaide GP clinics to ease pressure on EDs

Herald Sun, Other, 14/03/2024, Brad Crouch

Highly-trained nurses will diagnose and treat patients in six GP clinics – for free – under a pilot program to ease pressure on hospital emergency departments and in turn [...] Federal Health And Aged Care Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Average Broome household spending nearly 70 per cent of income on rent

West Australian, Other, 14/03/2024, Cain Andrews

The average Broome household is spending nearly 70 per cent of their income on rent as the cost of living crisis continues to hit North West communities the hardest. [...] Residents will be hit further with private health insurance premiums set to rise by just over three per cent from the start of April after Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who initially rejected the increases, succumbed to industry pressure.

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

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More pharmacies open across Australia despite guild's dire forecasts on 60-day prescriptions

The Guardian, Other, 15/03/2024, Melissa Davey

The federal government received 87 applications to open new pharmacies in the months after the announcement of 60-day prescriptions 50% more than were received in the same period the year prior. [...] The Health Minister, Mark Butler, told Guardian Australia that a further 100 medicines will become eligible on 1 September.

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More savings on prescription medications

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 14/03/2024, Page 28

Central Coast residents have saved more than \$3.47M on prescription medicines since January 2023, with savings set to grow following an expansion of the number of medicines eligible for a 60-day script. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said cheaper medicines have helped Australians save almost \$280M since January last year.

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New vape ban will hit struggling Australians hardest

Convenience & Impulse Retailing, Other, 14/03/2024, Thomas Oakley-Newell

Over eight in ten voters believe that vapes should be regulated and sold the same way as alcohol and tobacco, new research has found. [...] "As Australians battle against a cost-of-living crisis, Health Minister Mark Butler's laws will cruelly hit the 13 per cent of adults who are under the most financial stress with a tripling of costs when they are forced to pay \$150 for a legal medical vape."

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Pharmacy Guild claims new \$3bn investment

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/03/2024, Holly Payne

The Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement is set to be signed, sealed and delivered by next week, but there are no clues yet as to what is actually in it. [...] "This agreement ensures Australians will

continue to receive cheaper medicines thanks to the Albanese government, including guaranteeing our historic 60-day prescriptions reforms into the future," said Health Minister Mark Butler.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 14/03/2024, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Nurses will be recruited to do the work of GPs as part of a desperate bid to cut wait times at doctors' surgeries and emergency rooms. Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister, says nurse practitioners have much more to offer in their community and they are determined to build that workforce under the year-long trial for nurses that will be based in Adelaide.

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Hope 103.2, 15:00 News, 14/03/2024

Pharmacies have negotiated an extra \$3 billion in funding from the federal government. After a nearly year-long protest over the 60-day dispensing scheme. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia says the agreement which will be staggered over five years, is historic. Health Minister Mark Butler says Australians have already saved millions on medicine costs in the past year, with hopes the new agreement will cement 60-day dispensing reforms.

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2GB, Mornings, 14/03/2024, Ray Hadley

Hadley says there has been breaking news with the Federal Government trying to get square with pharmacies as Australian pharmacies have negotiated an extra \$3b from Labor in a peace deal struck after almost a year of protest over the Government's 60-day medicine strip scheme. He states that the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has reached a historic deal with the Government that would invest billions back into the community pharmacies under the expedited agreement over five years. Hadley says this follows months of tension between Health Minister Mark Butler and Australia pharmacy owners after the Federal Government decided to double prescription lengths for 320 common medicines.

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2SM, 14:00 News, 14/03/2024

Following the pharmacy sector's uproar over changes to dispensing rules, the expedited negotiations on the eighth community pharmacy agreement will see \$3 billion injected into the industry. The agreement sees the government savings from its changes to dispensing that allows 60-day prescriptions funneled back into the pharmacy sector, while still saving Australians money as part of its cheaper medicines agenda. Health Minister Mark Butler says Australians have saved more than \$280 million on their medicines since January 2023, thanks to the cheaper medicines commitment.

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 14/03/2024, David Lipson

Pharmacies are to get billions of dollars in extra funding from the Federal Government in a new deal that experts say could change health care in Australia. Health Minister Mark Butler, says pharmacies will get an extra \$3 billion over that period on top of existing funding. Pharmacist Asim Iqbal says most GP practices are funded through the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

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MINISTER WELLS

'Put off aged care for \$1bn savings'

The Australian, General News, 15/03/2024, Jess Malcolm, Page 6

The Albanese government could bank almost \$1bn in annual budget savings by delaying older Australians' entry into aged-care facilities by two years, industry modelling has revealed. [...] The

taskforce, chaired by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, noted aged care was one of the nation's most pressing budgetary challenges.

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

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The quality of aged care is the real issue

Border Mail, General News, 15/03/2024, Page 48

If elderly Australians are to be slugged even more for aged care they are entitled to ask what they will be getting for their money. [...] The catalyst for the latest debate over aged care funding was the report of a special taskforce, chaired by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, released on Tuesday.

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Residential aged care prices set to soar for wealthiest Australians

Kimberley Echo, General News, 14/03/2024, Katina Curtis, Page 7

Wealthy older Australians could be asked to pay \$5400 a year more for residential aged care and to contribute more for services used in home care under a funding revamp intended to make the growing costs more manageable. [...] An expert taskforce led by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells spent six months examining funding arrangements and handed its recommendations to the Government at the end of December.

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Aged Care Taskforce recommends wealth-based funding

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/03/2024, Arshmah Jamal

The aged care taskforce has rejected the idea of a levy to cover the sector's costs and has suggested older Australians accessing care should pay more based on their personal wealth. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells backed the report and said a levy would create a "genuine intergenerational equity issue".

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Report favours increased user-pays principle for aged care

Government News, Other, 14/03/2024, Natasha Egan

The federal government should continue to be the major funder of aged care but older people who can afford it should stump up more for accommodation and home care services, according to the final report of the Aged Care Taskforce. [...] "The Government confirms today it will not impose any increased taxes or a new levy to fund aged care costs or change to the means testing treatment of the family home for aged care," Minister for Aged Care and taskforce chair Anika Wells said.

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Government vows sustainable, quality aged care a top priority

Healthcare Channel, Other, 14/03/2024, Ritchelle Drilon

The Albanese Government recently released the much-anticipated Aged Care Taskforce's Final Report, marking a significant step toward overhauling Australia's aged care system to provide sustainable, high-quality care for all older Australians, now and in the future. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells, who chaired the Taskforce, stated: "Australia's aged care system is under stress."

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Taskforce report discusses the future of sustainably funding aged care

Mountain Views.Mail, Other, 14/03/2024, Callum Ludwig

The Aged Task Taskforce set to work by the Australian Government released its final report on Monday 11 March, looking into how the sector can be properly funded now and into the future following the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells, who chaired the taskforce, said there is universal acceptance that something must change in order to ensure all Australians can age with the dignity, safety and high-quality care they deserve.

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Sector's positive reaction to Final Report of Aged Care Taskforce

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2024, Caroline Egan

CEOs, politicians, experts, and advocates hit the airwaves on Tuesday detailing the aged care's funding problems and how the Final Report of the Aged Care Taskforce recommendations offer a solution and scaffold for future policy. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells held a press conference in Brisbane at 10am (pictured above).

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MP vows to question Aged Care Minister over \$200,000 cut to local palliative care centre

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2024, Caroline Egan

Federal Liberal Party MP Jason Wood MP, Member for La Trobe, has stated he will approach the Aged Care Minister about the Government's decision to cut \$200,000 in funding from Fernlea Emerald Community Care. "Back in 2004 I secured \$800K to support Fernlea House and they haven't looked back since," said Jason in a statement on Facebook.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

GPs 'worse than hospital' for gender bias

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/03/2024, Holly Payne

A survey on medical sexism finds two in three women believe they have experienced gender-based discrimination in a healthcare setting. [...] The #EndGenderBias report was launched at the National Women's Health Summit on Thursday morning by Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney, who chairs the advisory council.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 14/03/2024, Natalie Forrest

Stereotypes of women are believed to be influencing how their doctors interact with them, according to the latest landmark study shown at the National Women's Health Summit in Canberra. The survey which consists of 2800 women and experts has found two-thirds have felt dismissed or disbelieved by GPs. Ged Kearney, Assistant Health Minister, says the system was built behind centuries ago by men and for men.

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Sky News Live, Newsday, 14/03/2024, Kieran Gilbert

Pre-recorded interview with Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney. Gilbert says there's a summit today in Canberra regarding women's health, particularly relating to gender bias or discrimination when accessing health care. He states that this was learned through the recent Federal Government End Gender Bias survey. Kearney admits that she was rather shocked that two out of three women admit they have experienced some form of bias or discrimination in the health system with 70% of those said happening in their local GP or their primary health care facility.

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WIN Rockhampton, WIN News Central Queensland, 14/03/2024, Lincoln Humphries

New data is painting a grim picture of the challenges women face when seeking treatment for painful medical conditions. Experts and advocates coming together for a Women's Health Summit at Parliament House in the hopes of finding a pathway forward, looking for a cure to the challenges women face in the health system. Ged Kearney, Assistant Health Minister, says they are hoping to learn from people who've experienced these discriminations, as well as learning ways from the experts to avoid them.

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ABC News, Breakfast, 14/03/2024, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Federal Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney. Oriti points out that a survey on gender bias or discrimination for women receiving health care will be launched today at the National Women's Health Summit, as the National Women's Health Advisory Council was formed to investigate this, with Kearney being the Chairwoman of the investigation. Kearney firstly expresses her sadness in the recent news of a man dying due to a rock collapse in Bendigo and she believes that occupational health and safety is the number one issue for the union movement.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 14/03/2024, Sammy J

Interview with Member for Cooper and Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney. J discusses the discrimination and gender bias that women experience upon receiving health care, as reported by the End Gender Bias survey, which was released ahead of the National Women's Health Summit. Kearney says what she's hearing is that the women who've heard the result of the survey are not shocked, but rather they feel relieved that they have finally been able to tell their stories. She states that nearly 3000 women were surveyed and told their stories of gender bias or discrimination.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

APS navigates flexible work, AI

Canberra Times, General News, 15/03/2024, Justine Landis-Hanley, Page 18

The federal public service will need to look beyond Canberra to grow its workforce given the territory's tight labour market, Health and Aged Care secretary Blair Comley has forecast. Speaking at the National Portrait Gallery for an Institute of Public Administration Australia event, Mr Comley talked to the challenges facing the APS, including managing changing expectations around flexible working conditions.

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Neumann, Scarr in bulk-billing quarrel

Ipswich Tribune, General News, 13/03/2024, Rob Mellett, Page 10

Blair MP Shayne Neumann has rubbished LNP claims of a "staggering decline" in GP medical clinics offering bulk billing in the electorate. [...] "The Federal Health Department regularly publishes information on bulk-billing rates for GP services, including for standard GP consultations.

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How many drinks a day do you take? Carnival says 15 is enough

Cruise Passenger, Other, 14/03/2024, Grant Jones

A cruise line's maximum drinks package that allows 15 alcoholic beverages a day – more than three-and-a-half times the daily intake recommended by Australian health advice – has come under attack. [...] But according to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care recommendations, to reduce the risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury, healthy men and women should drink no more than 10 standard alcoholic drinks a week and no more than 4 standard drinks on any one day.

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Aged Care Taskforce recommends wealth-based funding

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/03/2024, Arshmah Jamal

The aged care taskforce has rejected the idea of a levy to cover the sector's costs and has suggested older Australians accessing care should pay more based on their personal wealth. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells backed the report and said a levy would create a "genuine intergenerational equity issue".

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Health concerns are centre stage as the National Climate Risk Assessment rolls out

Croakey, Other, 14/03/2024, Melissa Sweet

The Federal Government has released the first stage of a National Climate Risk Assessment, and is also seeking feedback on an issues paper guiding development of a National Adaptation Plan. [...] While the assessment does not mention the National Health and Climate Strategy or how it fits with this process, the issues paper says the department and the Department of Health and Aged Care "will work closely together to ensure the National Adaptation Plan and the National Health Adaptation Plan are informed by the 2023 consultations to develop the National Health and Climate Strategy".

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Daniel has Long COVID. It has cost him more than \$100,000

SBS, Other, 14/03/2024, Jessica Bahr

Australia's struggling Long COVID community say the government's financial support is inadequate. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has also developed a national plan to provide a framework for the health response to Long COVID.

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Health secretary Blair Comley is drawing a line through public service micro-management habits

The Mandarin, Other, 15/03/2024, Melissa Coade

The new boss of the Department of Health and Aged Care, Blair Comley, is on a mission to 'devolve leadership' in his organisation, describing the goal as a way to empower people and reduce risk. Leadership devolution in the public service has been a particular interest for Comley six months into his tenure as the country's top public servant in Health.

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Aged Care Taskforce's Final Report delivers hope – but also hurdles

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2024, Lauren Broomham

The long-awaited Final Report is cause for optimism across the aged care and retirement living sector – but there are challenges ahead. [...] Once passed, the Department of Health and Aged Care then needs to provide the structure for operators to implement the new legislation.

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Half of 2024's reported COVID-19 deaths in aged care homes

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2024, Caroline Egan

More than 200 aged care residents have died from COVID-19 since the start of the year, about half the nearly 400 total deaths recorded from the virus in the community - showing the aged care cohort still

remains extremely vulnerable to the virus. From the beginning of the year until 7 March, 208 residents have died from COVID.

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CORONAVIRUS

Lockdown party nurses banned

Herald Sun, General News, 15/03/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 16

Three nurses who broke lockdown rules in 2020 to attend a party at an aged care centre that went on to suffer a deadly Covid outbreak have been suspended. Thirty-eight residents died at Epping Gardens Aged Care Home during a Covid outbreak that began four days after a baby shower at the facility in July 2020 and saw the vast majority of their patients infected.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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What COVID means for you this winter

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/03/2024, Steve Evans, Page 10

We are a long, long way from the pandemic. It sometimes seems like just a bad memory of another age.

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Booster call as vaccination rates dip below 10 per cent

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/03/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 10

Covid vaccination numbers have plummeted to below 10 per cent in the Hunter, as health authorities urge people to get boosters ahead of winter. The summer wave of the virus has eased, but another one is expected in the cold months.

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Wardie fuming over job rejection following Covid-19 mandate ruling

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/03/2024, Kylie Lang

An experienced wardman terminated by a major Queensland hospital for not providing proof of Covid-19 vaccination in 2022 is furious after being told he could not reapply for his job – and there was now a blemish on his employment record. The man, a previously long-serving wardie at Gold Coast University Hospital, has accused Minister Shannon Fentiman and Queensland Health of "double standards" and failing to "care about saving valuable staff with experience".

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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Senator's vaccine report calculations don't add up

Crikey, Other, 14/03/2024, Tom Wark

A senator has claimed that COVID-19 vaccines caused an "enormous" increase in injuries compared to other vaccines. Queensland Liberal National Party (LNP) Senator Gerard Rennick claimed that a Western Australia vaccine safety report found that the rate of injuries associated with COVID-19 vaccines was 50 times higher than other vaccines.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

'Sandwiched' families need help with their ageing parents

Canberra Times, General News, 15/03/2024, Mark Woodland, Page 64

The report of the aged care taskforce released on Tuesday makes the argument that people who can afford to contribute to the cost of their care should contribute. It's how the childcare industry addressed many of the same challenges and it helped it become more accessible.

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Investigation needed on ACF antidepressants

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/03/2024, Megan Haggan

A new study has found six out of ten Australian aged care residents are taking antidepressant medication. The study, by the Registry of Senior Australians (ROSA), based at South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), was published in the Journal of American Medical Directors Association (JAMDA).

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Time for an anti-industry policy to fix our workforce shortages

Crikey, Other, 14/03/2024, Bernard Keane

With Australia, to use the succinct words of Malcolm Turnbull, " mugged by reality " on nuclear submarine construction by the United States, once again the implausible nature of the AUKUS agreement to deliver nuclear vessels to Australia is in the spotlight. [...] The health and care workforce is not only by far the largest employing sector in the economy but the fastest growing, and needs to continue to grow rapidly to keep up with demand from an ageing population and rising female participation.

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The future of aged care is home care, for better and for worse

The Mandarin, Other, 14/03/2024, Bernard Keane

The aged care taskforce report, with its recommendation that seniors be required to pay a significantly larger proportion of the costs of aged care rather than all taxpayers carrying the responsibility, has debuted this week to relatively little angst.

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Older people become good friends in visitors scheme

The Senior, Other, 15/03/2024, Therese Murray

Lutheran Care's Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme supports volunteer visits to provide friendship and companionship to older people in either their own home or in an aged care facility. The free service is funded by the Australian Government and matches friendly volunteers to older people looking for social connection.

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How laughter yoga is empowering these Western Australian aged care residents

The Senior, Other, 14/03/2024, Therese Murray

While there's no downward dogs or warrior poses, there's plenty of fun facial expressions and numerous mental and physical benefits. "According to researchers, the body can't tell the difference between deliberate laughter and spontaneous laughter," said Annemarie.

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Just released StewartBrown modelling calculates Taskforce recommendations (if implemented) will deliver an additional \$3.76B to both aged care sectors

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2024, Ian Horswill

This morning Grant Corderoy and the StewartBrown analysts released summary calculations, pointing to where the recommendations are likely to deliver additional cash to support sustainability in aged care.

Aged Care Taskforce: Funding shift for residential and home care

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2024, Ian Horswill

The Final Report of the Aged Care Taskforce, which was completed in December 2023, does not make specific and detailed recommendations in relation to the practical operation of any proposed changes. [...] Residential aged care The Government should continue to be a key contributor to funding aged care, and a specific tax or levy, recommended by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety', to fund the sector should not be adopted.

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Opposition wants to work with Government on Final Report of Aged Care Taskforce

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2024, Caroline Egan

Shadow Aged Care Minister Anne Ruston said the Opposition is looking forward to working through the issues raised in the Final Report of the Aged Care Taskforce. Senator Ruston and Shadow Treasurer Angus Taylor issued a joint statement, stating the Final Report of the Aged Care Taskforce left more questions than answers.

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About 100,000 aged care workers expected to receive a pay rise on Friday

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2024, Ian Horswill

The Fair Work Commission (FWC) has announced it will hand down its decision on Stage 3 of the Aged Care Work Value Case on Friday at 2pm, which means the 100,000 plus indirect workers in the sector are expected to finally receive a pay rise. More than 250,000 "direct care" workers benefitted from a 15% pay rise decided by the FWC in July 2023, and it applied to those working under the Aged Care Award 2010, Nurses Award 2010 and Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010.

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Perth's MercyCare Maddington opens doors to residents

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2024, Caroline Egan

Wa Catholic Not For Profit aged care provider MercyCare opened its Maddington aged care home, 20km southeast of the Perth CBD, earlier this month and accepted its first residents. The 108-bed home is built around the small household model of care, and contains six 18-room homes.

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COTA and OPAN have significant issues over draft new Aged Care Act

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2024, Caroline Egan

A consortium of 12 organisations, led by Council on the Ageing (COTA) and Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN), has released a 300-page submission on the Government's new draft Aged Care Act. "There are significant gaps in the current exposure draft – such as fees and charges and the complaints framework – that need to be addressed prior to its commencement this year.

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Family of allegedly Tasered aged care resident Clare Nowland settles civil case

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2024, Caroline Egan

The family of Clare Nowland, a 95-year-old aged care resident who died last May after allegedly being Tasered by police officer Kristian White has resolved a civil lawsuit against the state of New South Wales. After the alleged Tasered, the great-grandmother fell and hit her head, leaving her in a critical condition.

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Hopes for a big Federal Budget surplus are expected to be quelled in the Treasurer's pre-budget speech today, as iron ore prices drop and the Labor market softens. The Albanese government has also made some big spending promises, including an expansion of the NDIS aged care, and university funding.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Why your home's temperature is bad for your health

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/03/2024, Sera Bozza, Page 65

Ah, the Aussie summer. A season of beach days, barbecues, and, let's be real, some seriously sweaty nights.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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Teaching kids how to fail

Herald Sun, General News, 15/03/2024, Susie O'Brien, Page 3

Schools have been accused of setting students "up to fail as adults" by stopping teachers from talking about "good" and "bad" foods, diets and calories. Debate is raging about a new curriculum guide for all Australian schools which tells teachers to avoid encouraging students to becoming "healthier" in classes about healthy food and wellbeing.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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

We need to talk about blood sugar

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/03/2024, Ashleigh Austen, Page 51

If you've seen more talk of blood sugar on social media lately, you're not imagining things. An increasing number of people are tracking changes in their glucose levels in a bid to improve their health.

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

Thousands drink 'harmfully'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/03/2024, Sandy Powell, Page 4

Tens of thousands of Tasmanians are drinking at levels significant enough to cause both short and long-term harm, the new head of the state's substance abuse support body has said. Jackie Hallam, the new chief executive of the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council Tasmania said that there are 80,000 Tasmanians who have a drinking problem or who are drinking enough for it to cause harm.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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

Expert backs kids' junk food ad ban

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/03/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 16

A federal move towards banning junk food marketing to children needs community support or action could be delayed for another decade, nutrition expert Clare Collins says. As the government seeks to tackle alarming rates of obesity, diabetes and mental health conditions, junk food marketing is increasing.

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

Tragic outcome

A coroner has warned of the "inherent risks" of adults sleeping with an infant while finding that the Mildura mother of a baby who died while the pair slept together was not at fault. "Baby F" was eight months old when she was found dead while sleeping with her mother at the family home in May 2022.

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

ADHD drug shortage crisis

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 15/03/2024, Madeline Grace, Page 17

This Sunshine Coast mother always knew she was different, but after fighting 35 years for an ADHD diagnosis, she's now had the solace of a life-changing medication ripped from her - along with the other one in 20 Australians living with the disorder. Jane McFadden, 37, of Buddina, has spent close to \$10,000 in her quest for an ADHD diagnosis and has been taking critical ADHD drug Vyvanse for close to a year now.

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

Drug capitals of Aust

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/03/2024, Andrew Koubaridis, Page 39

Australia's appetite for illicit drugs shows no signs of abating with alarming new figures showing we consumed more than 30 tonnes of meth, cocaine, heroin and MDMA in just one year. The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's (ACIC) annual Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program reveals meth accounted for 85 per cent or \$10.5 billion worth of drugs consumed in the 12 months to August last year, with Aussies spending \$12.4 billion on the illicit drugs combined.

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

QLD government could fund Cairns fluoride if next council acts

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/03/2024, Annabel Bowles

Cairns mayoral candidates appear hesitant to take a position on fluoride ahead of the election, amid the Health Minister urging the next council to show "leadership" on the issue. It comes after Shannon Fentiman promised to help fund the costs of putting fluoride back into mains water.

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

[Read More](#)

Illawarra records 208 dog attacks in a year as animal injury numbers rise

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 14/03/2024, Kate McIlwain

Figures released this week from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) show injuries from animals are on the rise across the country. Australians were 6.6 times as likely due to injury from non venomous animals compared to venomous ones, and more than half of the 23,379 injury hospitalisations in 2021-22 were due to domestic dogs and cats.

[Read More](#)

Prevention or patch-up? Public health 'crises' have long gestations

The Mandarin, Other, 14/03/2024, Geoff Edwards

It's easy to attach the term 'crisis' to many issues in the contemporary public arena, and commentators do. There is a juvenile crime crisis, a homelessness crisis, a crisis in aged care, a crisis of some kind in Alice Springs, and overshadowing them all, an accelerating climate crisis.

[Read More](#)

It's a trap: Deathcap mushroom warning as wet weather arrives in Australia

The Senior, Other, 14/03/2024

It sure looks pretty and lights up the imagination of being tasty, but beware: this seemingly appetising 'shroom could kill you. Wild mushrooms are 'mushrooming' around Australia this Autumn after wet weather, prompting the Food Safety Information Council to warn people about being extremely careful around wild mushrooms because of the deadly, deathcap mushroom poisoning risk.

[Read More](#)

Over the counter whitening toothpaste slammed after claims it caused 'filling'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 14/03/2024, Laura Koefoed

Hundreds of Aussies are claiming whitening products have caused problems with their teeth after one woman online alleged "purple whitening toothpaste" caused her to need a "filling" — but according to an expert, the reason for the woman's problem is likely to be much more complex.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 14/03/2024, Sarah MacDonald

MacDonald discusses an app that people can use to recycling vaping their vapes properly, for those who are looking to quit vaping. She states that the app is called "Recycling Mate".

[Play Now](#)

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

On a journey for the cancer cure

Courier Mail, General News, 15/03/2024, Kylie Lang, Page 16

Struck down with cancer three times since the age of 21, a former Brisbane primary teacher hopes her fight to beat the disease is finally over - with innovative surgery changing her life. Amy Hennessey has had a cancerous bladder replaced with a "neobladder", constructed from her bowel tissue.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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Go with your gut instinct and demand a screening

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/03/2024, Alice Coster, Page 47

Maths is not the strong suit. This should not come as a shock. [...] Some quick research found Bowel Cancer Australia also recognises lowering screening guidelines.

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

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New breast MRI machine

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 15/03/2024, Phoebe Doyle, Page 5

A "revolutionary" new MRI machine at Sunraysia Radiology is set to help local breast cancer patients in profound ways. From the beginning of February, the clinic has offered breast MRI imaging, the first of its kind in Mildura.

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

More than 1 million Australians have an autoimmune disease, could you?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/03/2024, Ashley Lowe

For the best part of a decade, I have suffered from some degree of joint pain. And as someone who has also always been extremely active, it's fair to say that this constant hum of discomfort has been not only frustrating, but also debilitating.

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

[Read More](#)

Actor Olivia Munn urges women to be proactive about health after breast cancer diagnosis in her early 40s

Actor Olivia Munn has been praised for raising awareness about breast cancer after revealing she had a double mastectomy following her diagnosis. Munn posted a statement to her Instagram account saying she hoped it would help people dealing with cancer "find comfort, inspiration and support". At just 43-years-old, Munn is about 20 years younger than Australia's average age of diagnosis which, according to the Cancer Council , is 62 years old.

[Read More](#)

Childhood asthma twice more likely in outer-city suburbs, new study finds

ABC Online, Other, 14/03/2024, Georgie Hewson

Children who live in the outer suburbs of Australia's four largest cities are twice as likely to have asthma as those living in inner city suburbs, a study based on the Australian census has found. The data was gathered during the 2021 census which asked Australians to share information about long-term health conditions for the first time

[Read More](#)

The diet tweaks that could help banish agony of incurable condition which strikes one in 10 women

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/03/2024, Rebecca Whittaker

It has no known cure and causes crippling pain for the one in 10 women who suffer with it. But experts claim simple diet changes can — in addition to painkillers and hormone therapy — help millions battling endometriosis.

[Read More](#)

Aussies 'traumatised' by Cancer Council's 'terrifying' melanoma ad from the 2000s: 'I still know every word'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/03/2024, Louise Allingham

Australians are reminiscing on a 'haunting' TV commercial from the 2000s and 2010s that left them 'scarred for life'. Cancer Council launched its The Dark Side of Tanning campaign in the late noughties using the familiar slogan 'There's nothing healthy about a tan' alongside 'terrifying' graphics showing how melanoma can spread around the body.

[Read More](#)

Next gen sunscreen spun out of Illawarra women in STEM incubator

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 14/03/2024, Connor Pearce

A project to create next generation sunscreens that will help the Illawarra tackle its status as the skin cancer capital has been given a vital boost.

[Read More](#)

Major gaps in lung cancer services

Medical Forum, Other, 14/03/2024

Researchers from Curtin University have identified critical gaps in the care of lung cancer patients across Australia. [...] The study, supported by the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand and Lung Foundation Australia, also discovered that just 38% of all lung cancer teams met minimum staffing requirements for a multidisciplinary team, as defined by Cancer Australia.

[Read More](#)

Asthma surges in the outer suburbs

Medical Forum, Other, 14/03/2024

A study has found that children living in outer suburbs of Perth have higher asthma rates than those in inner city areas where there is thought to be more traffic and air pollution. Researchers from the Telethon Kids Institute used geospatial modelling and Census data to map asthma risk across Australia's four biggest cities, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

[Read More](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Press Council adjudication

The Australian, General News, 15/03/2024, Page 2

The Press Council considered whether its standards of practice were breached by an article published in The Australian on June 13, 2023, headed "'Gender affirming' care is destroying vulnerable kids" in print and "Why 'gender affirming' care is destroying our most vulnerable kids" online. The article is an opinion piece on what the columnist considers to be the controversies of gender affirming healthcare involving children and adolescents, describing it as a "public health crisis caused not by a virus, not by a disease, but by social contagion".

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

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New surgical theatres to reduce elective waits: minister

Canberra Times, General News, 15/03/2024, Lanie Tindale, Page 15

New Canberra Hospital operating theatres will help improve elective surgery waiting times, the health minister says. The critical services building is expected to open in the third quarter of 2024, health minister Rachel Stephen-Smith said.

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Nurses to ease burden on EDs

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/03/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 17

Highly trained nurses will diagnose and treat patients in six GP clinics for free under a pilot program to ease pressure on hospital emergency departments and, in turn, ambulance ramping. The Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Pilot will fund six nurse practitioners over the next year to diagnose and treat a wide range of health conditions in GP clinics as part of a multidisciplinary team.

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

Urgent care for all

Border Watch, General News, 15/03/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

The state's only regional Urgent Care Clinic has been officially opened amid soaring patient numbers. The bulk-billed clinic first started treating patients late last year and has since welcomed and treated up to 60 patients per day.

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

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

Hospital nurses stop work to protest ramping mandate

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/03/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 5

Launceston General Hospital (LGH) nurses stopped work for 15 minutes on Thursday to address "critical issues" to the transfer of care procedure. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) Tasmania branch secretary Emily Shepherd said over the past year, the ANMF had been advocating for a collaborative approach with the state government to develop a transfer of care procedure.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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For quarter of us, where are the policies?

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/03/2024, Honni Pitt, Page 49

As Tasmanians head to the polls very shortly there is a lot to play for, both for the parties and the community more broadly. As we sit down and look at the policies and promises announced so far, it appears that there's one large demographic that has been overlooked from any additional funding or resources ahead of the March election.

Public patients in Launceston turn to the private health system after languishing on waiting list

ABC Online, Other, 14/03/2024, Ashleigh Barraclough

George Corcoran loved his job as a horticulturalist, but he hasn't worked in nearly two years. He developed a hernia, which leaves him in constant pain and could become life threatening.

[Read More](#)

Doctors could vote on Tasmanian and federal AMA merger

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/03/2024, Sarah Simpkins

AMA Tasmania could become a branch of the federal AMA, rather than an independent entity, with a possible member vote this year. Its president, GP Dr John Saul, said there was no financial or membership crisis.

[Read More](#)

'I hadn't worked in emergency for 40 years': GP leaves his practice to work as a locum 3000km away

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/03/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Long-time Geelong GP Dr Frank Scheelings said there were confronting moments. Ready to retire from solo practice in Geelong, but not wanting to hang up his stethoscope, Dr Frank Scheelings headed more than 3000km north to work as a locum in remote Indigenous towns.

[Read More](#)

Don't lament the tribunal

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/03/2024, Megan Haggan

The AJP's January 1991 edition outlined how the first CPA – back then, known as the Guild-Government Agreement – was "finally" in place in December 1990, and "expected to take place from this month – three months late".

[Read More](#)

Heads of Agreement signed for the 8CPA

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/03/2024

This morning, the Heads of Agreement for the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) was signed with the Commonwealth Government, confirmed National Guild President Trent Twomey at the opening session of APP2024. The announcement brought palpable relief about the profession's funding package to everyone present.

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

[Read More](#)

Rockhampton Hospital to receive new PET scanner

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 15/03/2024, Geordi Offord

After many cries for help, the Rockhampton Hospital will have a PETCT scanner installed, cutting out travel for patients in desperate need of the service. A Central Queensland woman recently diagnosed with cancer is overjoyed by the news Rockhampton Hospital will be receiving a new Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner.

[Read More](#)

Stop-work action over ambulance ramping 'ban' pledge

West Australian, Other, 14/03/2024, Ethan James

Nurses and midwives at Tasmania's two major hospitals are walking off the job over a Liberal state election pledge to "ban" ambulance ramping. The Liberals, who are aiming for a fourth term at the

March 23 poll, want to introduce a protocol in 2026 requiring patients to be transferred from ambulances to emergency departments within 30 minutes.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

WIN Wagga Wagga, WIN News Riverina, 14/03/2024, Lincoln Humphries

New data is painted a grim picture of the challenges facing women seeking treatment for painful medical conditions. Experts and advocates coming together for a women's health summit at Parliament House in the hopes of finding a pathway forward, looking for a cure to the challenges women face in the health system. Advocates and experts uniting comparing notes of their shared struggles.

[Play Now](#)

6PR, Afternoons, 14/03/2024, Julie-anne Sprague

Interview with Dr David Mountain, Spokesperson for Emergency, AMA, about the injuries that present at emergency departments. Mountain explains that as the population gets older and survives longer, the underlying illnesses and injuries could be the same. He believes that spinal injuries are overrepresented, which he thinks isn't a surprise.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 14/03/2024, Leon Compton

Nurses are set to take industrial action at the Launceston General Hospital today, in response to the Liberal's policy to ban ramping. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation will stage a 15-minute stop-work meeting, saying the policy may help paramedics but to the detriment of Emergency Department workers.

[Play Now](#)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Worse than cancer

Courier Mail, General News, 15/03/2024, Stephanie Bennett, Page 1

Suicide is now killing more young Queenslanders than cancer, harrowing new data has revealed, with Queensland's Family and Child Commissioner saying more must be done to stem the scourge. Ambulances were also called more than 160 times for kids aged between just five and nine years who had self-harmed or attempted suicide in the past financial year.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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In a class of its own

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/03/2024, Sierra Haigh, Page 23

A billion-dollar investment in NT public schools will focus on re-engaging kids who have fallen behind in their studies, teacher and school resources, and school-based mental health. The NT and federal governments have committed to investing at least an additional \$1.087 billion into the Territory's public education system from 2025-2029, bringing schools to the full School Resourcing Standard for the first time in NT history.

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Generous community is walking the talk

Border Mail, General News, 15/03/2024, Jodie O'Sullivan, Page 4

It might be four eggs, half a cup of milk and some flour but "something small can do so much", says Robyn Funston. And indeed when the 68-year-old volunteer put out a call asking the community to

donate morning tea items for walkers in the B2B suicide prevention walk last year, the response was immediate - and overwhelming.

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Mum's push for 24/7 centres to keep vulnerable people safe

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/03/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

The suicide of Stockton's Kahi Simon was raised in NSW Parliament on Thursday night, amid calls for the Minns government to significantly boost mental health funding. The Newcastle Herald reported on Tuesday that Kahi, 20, took his own life in October last year.

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

Exercise can help treat depression, but what works best depends on age and gender: study

ABC Online, Other, 14/03/2024, Paige Cockburn

Treating depression can be complicated and financially draining. Seeing a psychologist can leave a big hole in your wallet, and anti-depressants can have such debilitating withdrawal symptoms that some people have to take them indefinitely.

[Read More](#)

Victim advocates call for NSW Police officers to undergo mandatory revetting in wake of double shooting

Northern Territory News, Other, 14/03/2024, Matthew Benns

NSW Police officers should be randomly revetted throughout their careers in the wake of the alleged shooting of two men by serving police officer Beau Lamarre-Condon according to former police officers and victim advocates. Opposition Police spokesman Paul Toole said the regular psychological testing of serving officers would benefit and ensure the safety of both officers and the people they serve.

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

[Read More](#)

Sad trend among Aussie kids each day from 4pm

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 14/03/2024, Joe Attanasio

As the rate of young Australians seeking help with their mental health skyrockets to new heights, peer support workers say they're worried they won't be able to meet demand, with "queues" on hotlines forming each day at 4pm from callers as young as 10.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

No relevant coverage

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Bulk-billing under threat

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 15/03/2024, Tom O'Callaghan, Page 1

"Crippling" changes to a state tax could wipe out the savings Bendigo residents have been getting for trips to their GPs, a doctor has warned. Uncertainty over payroll tax threatens to blow away a Medicare funding boost that has driven up bulk-billing rates, Dr Rod Aziz says.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Woman guilty over beauty clinic death

Daily Advertiser, General News, 15/03/2024, Page 6

A woman is facing jail time after being found guilty of the manslaughter of an unlicensed beauty clinic operator who underwent a botched breast augmentation procedure. The NSW District Court jury quickly delivered its verdict on Thursday morning after beginning deliberations on Wednesday afternoon, more than six years after the September 2017 death.

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

Whistleblowers allege they were targeted by Queensland Health after exposing problems with tuberculosis patient care

ABC Online, Other, 14/03/2024, Rory Callinan

The frontline unit established to combat tuberculosis (TB) in Queensland is alleged to have lost key medical files, employed systems that potentially compromised patient care and persecuted two of its most senior staff, forcing them to seek whistleblower status. The allegations emerged after two of the unit's most senior medicos – infectious diseases expert Doctor Emma McBryde and the unit's former head nurse – made complaints to the state's Crime and Corruption Commission seeking protection as official whistleblowers.

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

[Read More](#)

Gold Coast nurse Nicole Dunjey avoids suspension after ripping off almost \$100k in govt payments

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/03/2024, Jessica Paul

A Gold Coast nurse who ripped off almost \$100,000 in taxpayer dollars has avoided a suspension for carrying out professional misconduct. Nicole Dunjey was also found to have improperly obtained her registration by providing the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia with false or misleading information, in a decision handed down by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).

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

[Read More](#)

'Poor judgement and a lack of insight': Ex-nurse fights publication of name after Roy Fagan patient assault

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/03/2024, Amber Wilson

A Roy Fagan nurse convicted of common assault, by holding on to a patient and forcing medication into her mouth, has failed in his bid to have his name suppressed in an upcoming tribunal hearing. The Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal is yet to hear a professional misconduct case waged by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia against former registered nurse Mark David Thomas, 61.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

WA man gives brother the gift of life after kidney failure turned sibling into a 'walking zombie'

7news.com.au, Other, 14/03/2024, Rebeka Petroska

Two brothers hope a precious sacrifice will inspire others to make one potentially life-saving decision. A WA man has revealed how he spent six months feeling like a "walking zombie" before a generous donation from his brother turned around his life-threatening health challenge.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 14/03/2024, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

Two WA brothers are hoping to get the spotlight on the importance of organ donation and its life-changing impacts. This is to mark World Kidney Day. People are urged to setup donations through the DonateLife website or through Medicare.

[Play Now](#)

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SPORT

Sydney axes half-marathon in push to join the 'majors'

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/03/2024, Zoe Samios, Page 5

The Sydney Marathon has axed one of its key competitive events as it enters the final stage to become one of the world's most high-profile, long distance races by 2025.

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

AFL may give brain scans to draftees

Age, General News, 15/03/2024, Jake Niall, Page 1

The AFL is keen to scan the brains of players when they are drafted, as one of a series of measures to reduce the risks associated with concussions. The plan has been outlined to clubs in briefings by one of the AFL's concussion experts, who suggested that players could be scanned several years into their careers to check on any changes from the original brain images.

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

Whistle blown on violence

Courier Mail, General News, 15/03/2024, Travis Meyn and Peter Badel, Page 1

The Queensland Rugby League has launched its biggest crackdown on player and spectator behaviour in the game's 116-year history, vowing to eradicate thugs in a statewide blitz. Instant send-offs for punching and mandatory 12-month bans for unruly spectators will be dished out this season as the QRL strives to clean up rugby league's image following a spate of ugly incidents.

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

Cut-price Games would be disaster

Courier Mail, Editorials, 15/03/2024, Page 24

Good leadership requires a solid appetite for calculated risk. Taking the easy path is rarely the correct approach, at least in the long term.

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Power play

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/03/2024, Ryan Rosendale, Page 1

Why the nation's eyes are on our great state The JackJumpers are flying into an NBL Championship Series showdown against Melbourne United on Sunday. The Tasmania AFL Club is on a countdown for launch on Monday night and the Tasmania Tigers are packing their bags for a flight to Perth for the Sheffield Shield final against Western Australia on Thursday.

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

Aquatic vision project makes waves

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/03/2024, Jordan McCarthy, Page 1

Water has begun to trickle at the soon to open Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre, with the 25m pool starting to be filled. Federal Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Minister Catherine King was in Darwin to see how works have been progressing.

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

In with a sporting chance

Central Western Daily, General News, 15/03/2024, Riley Krause, Page 1

Plans to build a 400-seat grandstand overlooking Wade Park could still happen according to Orange City Council mayor Jason Hamling. But he says no funding will be sought until construction on the sports precinct has been completed and it will be up to future councils to decide whether to pursue the Wade Park project.

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

Getting involved in upgrade campaign

Shepparton News, General News, 15/03/2024, Jay Bryce, Page 8

The Victorian Government has reached out to The News and engaged with our campaign for an upgrade to the Shepparton Sports Stadium. Greater Shepparton City Council has also got involved, explaining exactly what it is doing in pursuit of funding for the stadium and basketball facilities in Shepparton.

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

The chicken or the egg argument in women's sport: why investment first equals revenue later

ABC Online, Other, 14/03/2024, Brittany Carter

"Don't read the comments" is common advice shared among women's sports fans when equal pay or major investment is announced for female athletes. It's here you'll often find the naysayers critiquing these advancements as being undeserved because of a perceived lack of commercial return.

[Read More](#)

It's a seven-year itch for Adelaide Oval as ground gets green light to host premium December Tests

Cairns Post, Other, 14/03/2024, Andrew Capel

Adelaide Oval is poised to return to the blockbuster stage and host December Test cricket matches, including "Christmas" Tests, for the next seven years. After this season being shunted to a January time slot in a lacklustre fixture against the West Indies - a match that lasted just over two days - the SA Cricket Association is understood to have sealed a long-term deal with Cricket Australia to put Adelaide Oval at the forefront of international cricket again.

[Read More](#)

Force stay tight after Kane Koteka handed drug ban

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/03/2024

The Western Force are wrapping their arms around Kane Koteka following the flanker's shock Super Rugby Pacific doping ban. Koteka was this week handed an 18-month doping ban - backdated to February last year - after returning a positive out-of-competition result for the drug Ostarine.

[Read More](#)

Education must lift to stop NRL racism: Fogarty

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/03/2024, Alex Mitchell

Canberra halfback Jamal Fogarty says education is crucial to stopping more incidents of racism in the NRL, as the use of language within the competition continues to be put on trial. Sydney Roosters prop Spencer Leniu received an eight-game suspension for a racial slur directed at Brisbane five-eighth Ezra Mam, but his coach Trent Robinson leapt to his defence and said it was "a language issue" rather than racism.

[Read More](#)

Leniu 'not a racist', declares Roosters coach Robinson

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/03/2024, George Clarke

Sydney Roosters coach Trent Robinson is adamant suspended prop Spencer Leniu is "not racist" and warned the NRL and society need to start a conversation about the use of language. Leniu has been banned for eight games after his club's season-opener in Las Vegas was marred by claims he labelled Brisbane five-eighth Ezra Mam "a monkey".

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 14/03/2024, Adam Steer

AFL General Manager of Football Laura Kane says attitudes towards concussion are changing as the league imposes harsher punishments on hits to the head. It comes as Saint Kilda's Jimmy Webster was handed a seven-game suspension for a high bump on North Melbourne's Jy Simpkin in a pre-season game that came a week after Port Adelaide's Sam Powell-Pepper received a four-game ban for a high bump on Adelaide's Mark Keane.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Afternoons, 14/03/2024, Sofie Formica

Broncos legend Sam Thaiday is backing Ezra Mam to move on from his racism saga, starting with tonight's clash with the Rabbitohs in Brisbane.

[Play Now](#)

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Scientists kept livers alive in box Pioneers bring liver remedies closer to reality

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/03/2024, Angus Dalton, Page 1

Sydney scientists have kept two human livers alive outside the body for a week and, in a world-first study that could revolutionise the way scientists trial medicines, tested powerful new gene therapies on the donated organs. An organ-preserving machine, nicknamed a "liver in a box", nourished the organs with blood and plasma, drained away bile, kept the livers at body temperature and allowed the researchers to tweak pH, CO2 and oxygen levels.

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

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Films to skeleton reality

Courier Mail, General News, 15/03/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 21

The world of sci-fi has collided with modern medicine with Queensland researchers helping to develop exoskeleton technology to help patients with chronic pain and illnesses. The mechanical frames have appeared in science fiction Hollywood blockbusters such as Edge of Tomorrow and Elysium.

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'Tide is turning for healthcare sector' – ASX biotechs making strong gains in 2024 Part 1

The Australian, Other, 14/03/2024, Nadia McGrath

It's been a tough couple of years for ASX health care, with challenging economic conditions hitting the sector like a nasty dose of influenza. Steep rises in interest rates rises, to combat soaring inflation, have been a major factor.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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World-first ban on animal smoking, forced swim tests

Canberra Times, Other, 14/03/2024

Forcing rodents to swim to see how anti-depressants work will be illegal under a world-first ban of cruel science experiments. Legislation to prohibit such tests, as well as forced smoke inhalation experiments, passed the NSW parliament on Thursday.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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These drinks may mess with your heart's rhythm

Prevention, Other, 14/03/2024, Korin Miller

New research links artificially-sweetened and sugar-sweetened drinks to a higher risk of atrial fibrillation. Atrial fibrillation is linked to a higher risk of stroke and heart attack.

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World Sleep Day: A new study spoils the party

The New Daily, Other, 14/03/2024, John Elder

Happy World Sleep Day. Yes, it's a thing and has been since 2008. Brought to you by the World Sleep Society – with the aim of lessening "the burden of sleep problems on society through better prevention and management of sleep disorders". And how's that working out?

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Channel 9, Nine News Late, 14/03/2024, Tracy Vo

A Queensland led team of researchers say they're a step closer to developing a saliva based genetic test that could reveal a woman's chances of giving birth to twins. The test could also predict which women are more likely to have trouble conceiving.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'It's a sweet feeling': youth navigator answers the call

Central Western Daily, General News, 15/03/2024, Riley Krause, Page 2

Ebony Hay's job is complex and full of moving pieces. But, the Orange Aboriginal Medical Service employee's role can be summed up quite easily.

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Concerns raised over solitary confinement in Queensland youth detention after deaths of two First Nations boys

The Guardian, Other, 15/03/2024, Ben Smee

A Queensland government report has raised concerns over the use of solitary confinement in youth detention, detailing the case of two First Nations children with disabilities who died after spending extensive time in isolation at overcrowded and understaffed youth detention centres. The Child Death

Review Board's annual report, tabled in state parliament on Thursday, details the anonymised cases of two boys, Harry* and Jack*. The report does not explicitly state their cause of death but Guardian Australia understands it to be suicide.

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AIDA cultural program focused on closing healthcare gap

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/03/2024, David Prestipino

Healthcare professionals have rallied in response to February's Closing the Gap report that highlighted significant target shortfalls related to institutional racism across the medical sector. The Productivity Commission's February report brought to light the urgent need for health reform, with the inequity gap described as a "chasm".

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Leading psychologist dismayed at lack of recognition in university curriculum

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/03/2024, Dechlan Brennan

One of Australia's leading psychologists, Nyamal woman Tracy Westerman AM, has said the exclusion of her work in the national psychology curriculum is the reality of being an Aboriginal woman. Dr Westerman has been widely recognised for her work in trying to reduce the burden of mental ill and health and suicide in Indigenous communities.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Gastro is no illusion

Herald Sun, General News, 15/03/2024, Page 5

Victoria's health authority has issued a warning about a gastro outbreak at the "psychedelic bush doof" Esoteric Festival, which was held in Donald at the weekend. Chief health officer Ben Cowie said revellers might develop symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal cramps in the coming days from the outbreak.

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Second measles case confirmed in city

Daily Advertiser, General News, 15/03/2024, Daisy Huntly, Page 3

Measles could be spreading in Wagga undetected after a second case of the infectious virus was confirmed by health authorities. NSW Health has put the city's citizens and visitors on the alert for symptoms - which they may already be experiencing - after the newest case, who was infectious in the community several weeks ago, was discovered.

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Deadly bacteria 'kills in 24 hours'

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 15/03/2024, madeline grace, Page 5

A fit and healthy Brisbane father nearly died and almost lost his arm after contracting a waterborne bacteria while holidaying at a Sunshine Coast caravan park over Christmas Andrew Emmerig, 48, of Warner, has spent every Christmas holiday since he was born at the Cotton Tree Caravan Park. Last Christmas, however, a deleterious bacteria be lieved to have been contracted Andrew from the Emmerig's arm.

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Q fever case spike in Qld drives renewed push for more accessible vaccine for 'nasty' bacterial disease

Queensland health experts have been mystified by an "unusual" spike in cases of Q fever, a nasty bacterial disease that has long plagued rural communities. There have been 89 reported infections across the state so far this year, an increase of almost 90 per cent on the same time in 2023.

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Coroners add weight to calls for a drug testing trial

West Australian, Other, 14/03/2024, Cassandra Morgan

Victorian coroners have thrown their weight behind calls for a drug testing trial in the state following the deaths of two men they believe unknowingly took synthetic substances. Coroners Ingrid Giles and Simon McGregor published fresh recommendations, pleading for the government to consider a trial after their colleagues' calls for ongoing drug-checking services were effectively rejected.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Big W forced to remove 'dangerous' tattoo gun after backlash

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 14/03/2024, Joe Attanasio

The discount retailer has since revealed how the 'unsafe' product ended up online in the first place. Big W has been forced to remove an "at-home tattoo kit" from its online store that was available for kids to buy after Aussies raised the alarm over the "horrible" and "extremely dangerous" product.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

End of endo pain

Border Watch, General News, 15/03/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Limestone Coast locals suffering from endometriosis are celebrating the announcement of a new approved drug treatment. New medication for endometriosis treatment has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) which would help ease pain.

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

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Caruso fined \$82k

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/03/2024

Caruso's Natural Health Pty Ltd has been fined a total of \$82,500 by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for offences relating to regulatory requirements. The NSW-based company received five infringement notices for allegedly failing to hold information or evidence to support five therapeutic uses in relation to three medicines.

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Telehealth vape probe

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/03/2024

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has confirmed it is investigating telehealth websites for "potentially unlawful" nicotine vape prescriptions, according to a new report from Sky News Australia. The drug regulator is looking into four online providers which it suspects may be offering nicotine vape prescriptions without "properly assessing" patients.

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Singular Health pockets \$1m from crypto high-flyer

West Australian, Other, 14/03/2024, Andrew Duffy

Prominent global cryptocurrency identity Craig Sellars has backed ASX-listed Singular Health Group with a \$1 million investment in a major coup for the company's revolutionary 3Dicom medical device.

[...] Retaining the certification also opens the door for the company to meet the regulatory and quality requirements of Health Canada, the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia and the United States Food and Drug Agency (FDA) through that country's Medical Device Single Audit Program.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Are seed oils bad for you?

Australian Healthy Food Guide, General News, 01/04/2024, Jess Burvill, Page 28

You may have heard on social media that seed oils are toxic and responsible for all manner of health conditions from infertility to cancer. At Healthy Food Guide we don't tend to demonise foods and when rumours start to run wild about a particular ingredient or food group our Spidey senses awaken.

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