



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 13th March 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (page 1) reports Australians spent more than \$12 billion on tonnes of illegal drugs in the year to August 2023, new Australian Crime Intelligence Commission data has shown. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Canberra Times](#), [West Australian](#)
- **The Australian** (page 3) reports asthma rates amongst children double in the outer suburbs of Australia's largest cities, a study by Curtin University has found. *Also reported by:* [West Australian](#)
- The **Daily Telegraph** (Page 3) reports only 25 per cent of people agree with a proposed government ban on non-prescribed vapes, a poll commissioned by the Australian Association of Convenience Stores has found. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Hobart Mercury](#)
- The **Herald Sun** (page 3) reports Victoria's paramedics have voted for industrial action following a breakdown in salary negotiations. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#)
- **The Australian** (page 5) reports over 600,000 self-funded retirees would be out of pocket an extra \$2 billion a year if new Aged Care Taskforce recommendations are adopted, analysis by

accountants Stewart-Brown has found. *Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [West Australian](#)*

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has instructed his department to investigate the financial position of the private hospital sector after a leaked report revealed losses of \$611 million last financial year. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#)*
- The **[Herald Sun](#)** (page 8) reports over 200,000 Australians will return a cancer diagnosis by 2033, new projections from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare say, prompting health experts to urge more people to get cancer screenings.
- The **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 9) reports Victoria's government will continue to lobby for the new Australian Centre for Disease Control to be built in Melbourne's health research precinct as a "turf war" emerges with the ACT for the vital infrastructure.
- The **[Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 11) reports fewer than half of NSW's emergency department patients were seen within accepted timeframes, while one in ten spent more than 17 hours awaiting diagnosis and treatment, the state's Bureau of Health Information's latest quarterly report has found. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#)*

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Private hospitals bleeding money

The Australian, General News, 13/03/2024, Jess Malcolm, Page 7

A confidential briefing presented to Health Minister Mark Butler has revealed private hospitals are bleeding money after the sector plunged to a \$611m loss last financial year, almost double that of the previous year. Losses have accelerated since the start of the pandemic, according to a leaked financial report, which warns patient choice, elective surgery wait times and the government's fiscal position are all under threat.

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

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### Private hospitals must be viable

The Australian, Editorials, 13/03/2024, Page 10

The sector takes a heavy load from the overburdened public system Those familiar with the deficiencies of Britain's National Health Service and the costs of medicine in the US recognise the benefits of Australia's hybrid public-private hospital system. Alarm bells are ringing, however, after revelations in two major reports that the nation's private hospitals are bleeding money. The sector plunged into a \$611m loss last financial year, almost double that of the previous year, according to confidential briefings presented to federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

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### Vape control up in smoke

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/03/2024, James O'Doherty, Page 3

Voters slam government and demand e-cigs be taxed like booze and tobacco More than eight in 10 voters think that nicotine vapes should be sold in the same way as alcohol and tobacco, according to new poll which has delivered a damning assessment on the Albanese government's handling of e-cigarettes. [...] The poll, commissioned by the Australian Association of Convenience Stores (AACS), comes as Health Minister Mark Butler prepares to introduce legislation designed to more strictly ban the sale of illegal vapes.

*Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).*

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### Avoiding health insurance price hikes

It did not take long for some private health insurers to announce higher prices last week. That is because Federal Health Minister Mark Butler approved premium increases to go into effect on April 1. And while the government and insurers want all Australians to have insurance, experts say it is not worth it for everyone.

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## MP fights for aged care respite funds

Pakenham Gazette, General News, 13/03/2024, Matthew Sims, Page 1

La Trobe MP Jason Wood has hit out at the Federal Government for their decision to cut \$200,000 in funding towards local aged care respite centre Fernlea Community Care. Mr Wood visited the Emerald centre on Tuesday 5 March to speak with clients and executive team members. [...] La Trobe MP Jason Wood has called on Federal Aged Care Minister Mark Butler to reinstate the level of funding provided to aged care respite centre Fernlea Community Care, after a recent reduction of \$200,000 in federal funding.

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## Premium rise 'modest'

Swan Hill Guardian, Other, 13/03/2024, Peter Bannan

As health insurers begin implementing premium increases, Mildura Health Fund continues to offer some of the most competitive rates in Australia. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler approved an average 3 per cent sector-wide rise, and while many are raising premiums more than that, MHF has announced a 2.

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## When the minister delegates decision-making, they delegate decision-making

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 13/03/2024

Like almost all his successors, Health Minister Mark Butler has delegated virtually all his powers over PBS decision-making to departmental officials. There appears to be a misunderstanding about the implications, and nobody should think the minister directs decision-making after delegating legal powers.

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## Feds called on to get Bowden a pharmacy Mar 12, 2024 , updated Mar 12, 2024

In Daily, Other, 12/03/2024

SA's Minister for Housing and Urban Development requested the Federal Health Minister discretionally issue a pharmacy licence for Bowden after residents complained about a lack of essential services in the redeveloped suburb. [...] InDaily can today reveal this spurred action from the Minister for Housing and Urban Development Nick Champion, who in February this year wrote to the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler requesting his approval under ministerial discretion for a new pharmacy licence to be issued to service Bowden.

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## Teenagers are Acting as Gatekeepers to Mental Health Services: How Schools Can Assist

School News Australia, Other, 12/03/2024, Shannon Meyerkort

An award-winning program offers schools the chance to help students support their peers when seeking help for mental health and substance use. "One in 10 Australians between 16 and 24 are struggling with a substance use disorder. [...] Stage 2 Calling for secondary schools to come on board The Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, recently announced a \$1.3 million grant, which will fund the next stage of the MAKINGtheLINK project.

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### 'Include family home' in aged care means test

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/03/2024, Tom McIlroy and Simon Evans, Page 4

People with expensive homes should have to pay more for aged care, a leading economic think tank says, as the Coalition and industry providers signal support for plans for wealthier retirees to pay more. In a plan designed to strengthen the sector ahead o...

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

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### Self-fund retirees to wear aged care redo

The Australian, General News, 13/03/2024, Stephen Lunn and Jess Malcolm, Page 5

Self-funded retirees will pay about \$2bn a year more out of their own pockets for aged care if the Albanese government accepts the recommendations of its taskforce. [...] The taskforce was created by Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells last June to advise the government on how to make the aged-care sector financially sustainable, with most nursing home providers operating at a loss.

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

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### Bills would go up \$20 a day for wealthy

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/03/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 12

Baby Boomers who could afford it would pay at least \$20 more a day to cover food and cleaning expenses in nursing homes under a reboot of aged care funding designed to accommodate the rising number of ageing Australians. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said those were "red lines" the opposition had expressed and she wanted to work in a bipartisan way.

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

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

### Wealthy should pay more for care

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/03/2024, Ross Gittins, Page 18

Of course well-off Boomers should eat into their bountiful super accounts to pay for their aged care; it's only fair. The report of the aged care taskforce, released yesterday, makes eminently sensible proposals for changes to cover the ever-growing cost of aged care. But since its solution is to require the well-off elderly to bear more of the cost, I doubt if Aged Care Minister Anika Wells will be able to implement the changes without much push-back from those welloff elderly otherwise known as the "wealthy Boomers".

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

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### The quality of aged care is the issue

Canberra Times, Editorials, 13/03/2024, Page 14

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.

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

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### Demand for details on potential aged care reforms

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/03/2024, Clare Armstrong, Page 6

Labor has been accused of keeping older Australians in the dark on how much extra they would have to fork out for their own aged care after the federal government's expert task force recommended wealthier people pay more to use the system. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said there were only

two ways to fund the sector either through taxpayers or aged-care users, and the government wanted to "get the balance right".

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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## **Paying more seems to be a little unfair**

West Australian, General News, 13/03/2024, Katina Curtis, Page 8

Perth residents have reacted cautiously to a plan for wealthier Australians to pay more for aged care, with some unhappy that those who had been taxed all their lives should now pay extra in their later years. Cottesloe resident Gerry Byrne, 66, said he didn't understand why someone who was more affluent should pay more for the same services as has been recommended by a task force led by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

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

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## **Aged care unity**

The Nightly, General News, 12/03/2024, Katina Curtis, Page 11

The Opposition has backed the principle that wealthy older Australians should pay more for their aged care as minister Anika Wells declared any changes needed bipartisan support. There is broad recognition among advocacy groups, politicians, economists and the aged care sector that something has to give to boost quality amid a demographic time bomb in the shape of higher demand and a shrinking taxpayer base.

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## **All is not well as Wells mulls her own musings**

The Nightly, General News, 12/03/2024, Mark Riley, Page 14

The aged care minister has spent months considering a report from a task force she chaired. The chair of the Federal Government's aged care task force has handed a wide-ranging report on critical reforms to the Federal Minister for Aged Care. The chair of the task force is Anika Wells.

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## **Wealthy to pay more for aged care under taskforce recommendations**

The Saturday Paper, Other, 12/03/2024

The government-led Aged Care Taskforce has rejected the royal commission's recommendation for a tax levy to cover the sector's growing costs, instead calling on contributions for aged and in-home care to be based on personal wealth. What we know: The taskforce, led by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, was established last year to determine how aged care can be properly funded following the recommendations made by the royal commission into the sector (ABC). The commission suggested the introduction of a 1% levy to help pay for aged care in Australia, but the taskforce did not support this.

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## **Calls for wealthy Australians to pay more for aged care**

Canberra Times, Other, 12/03/2024

Wealthier Australians should pay more for their own aged care if the government wants to ensure everyone can access to residential and in-home when they grow old, regardless of their means. The overall wealth of older Australians is expected to increase with the proportion of people over 65 accessing the aged pension or other income support projected to decline by 15 percentage points by the early 2060s, a review into the aged care system found. [...] The task force, chaired by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, made 23 recommendations which are being considered by the government.

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## **Push to make aged care affordable as tax ruled out**

Canberra Times, Other, 12/03/2024, Dominic Giannini

A new tax or levy to help fund the aged care system as it puts pressure on the Commonwealth's coffers has been ruled out with older people expected to be wealthier in retirement than their predecessors. A

review into the aged care system instead recommended superannuation be used to fund retirees' aged care to take pressure off the federal budget with the nest egg largely set to make boomers wealthier in retirement. [...] The task force, chaired by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, made 23 recommendations which are being considered by the government.

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

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## **Aged care tax ruled out as retirees told to use super**

Canberra Times, Other, 12/03/2024, Dominic Giannini

Superannuation should be used to fund retirees' aged care to take pressure off the Commonwealth's coffers, a review has found, as the government rules out imposing a new tax to prop up the sector. Older people are expected to be wealthier in retirement than their predecessors, largely due to the superannuation system. [...] The task force, chaired by minister Anika Wells, made 23 recommendations which are being considered by the government.

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

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## **Albanese government rules out new aged care tax and levy, no changes to home means testing**

Herald Sun, Other, 11/03/2024, Ellen Ransley

As more and more Australians turn to aged care, there are questions about how the country can afford it. One option is off the table. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells will not immediately announce the government's final response to the report – or how Labor plans to sustainably fund the sector in the long term – but confirmed on Tuesday that the government would not introduce any new levies or taxes.

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## **Wealthy Australians called on to pay more for aged care**

Perth Now, Other, 12/03/2024, Tess Ikonomou

Wealthier Australians are being urged to pay more for aged care so the government can help older people with lesser means access residential and in-home services. The overall wealth of older Australians is expected to increase, with the proportion of people over 65 accessing the aged pension or other income support projected to decline by 15 percentage points by the early 2060s, a review into the aged care system found. [...] The task force, chaired by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, made 23 recommendations which are being considered by the government.

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

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## **Aged care fees could be changing. Who pays what now?**

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024, Tom Crowley

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has made her view clear: wealthy retirees should pay more for their own aged care. A task force chaired by Ms Wells declared it was not "optimal" or "fair" that taxpayers pay so much of the bill for aged care — 75 per cent of residential care costs, and 95 per cent of in-home care costs.

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## **Should wealthier Australians pay more for aged care?**

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024, Elizabeth Cramsie

As the so-called "grey wave" of ageing boomers hits the economy, a major review into the aged care sector has suggested wealthy Australians pay more when they need care. The proposal moves away from lump sum deposits and towards rental contributions. [...] Featured: Beverly Baker, Chair, Older Women's Network of New South Wales Mike Baird, Taskforce member and CEO of aged care provider HammondCare Anika Wells, Aged Care Minister Elizabeth Cramsie, Reporter

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## **Analysis Why new controversial aged care reforms could be the biggest shake-up for the sector in the decades**

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024, Anne Connolly

It's three years since the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety handed down its scathing report showing how successive governments, the regulator, and providers ignored shocking neglect, abuse, and substandard care in Australia's nursing homes for decades. [...] The Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the government "will continue to analyse this report and finalise our response".

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## **Australia's aged care fees are under review. Will wealthy people have to pay more?**

The Guardian, Other, 12/03/2024, Josh Butler

The long-awaited report of the government-appointed aged care taskforce has recommended wealthier Australians be expected to tap into their superannuation balances to pay for more, in a bid to keep the system sustainably funded. [...] The aged care minister, Anika Wells, said any talk of dollars at this stage was "hypothetical".

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## **Wealthy older Australians to pay more for aged care under taskforce recommendations**

9News, Other, 12/03/2024, Daniel Jeffrey

Australians won't be hit by a new tax or levy to cover the rising costs of aged care, but wealthy people who use the service could end up paying more for it than their less well-off counterparts. The federal government released the final report from the aged care taskforce today, which contained 23 recommendations to make the system fairer and more sustainable. [...] "Australia's aged care system is under stress," Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said.

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## **Some Australians could soon pay more for aged care. Here are the recommended changes**

SBS, Other, 12/03/2024, Madeleine Wedesweiler and Jessica Bahr

A review has recommended superannuation should be used to fund wealthy retirees' aged care to take pressure off the federal budget. Key Points A government-commissioned review has ruled out a new tax or levy to help fund Australia's aged care system. [...] The task force was chaired by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells and made 23 recommendations, which are being considered by the government.

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## **Wealthier seniors could pay more for aged care services**

Sky News Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

As part of a system-wide shake-up, wealthier seniors could be asked to pay more as the government grapples with the expected influx of baby boomers into aged care. Following a long-awaited government review, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells ruled out new levies or taxes to boost funding.

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## **Andrew Clennell breaks down Aged Care Taskforce report**

Sky News Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

Sky News Political Editor Andrew Clennell says he expects the government to put through some of the Aged Care Taskforce report recommendations. A task force headed by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has handed down a report with key recommendations to help fix issues in the sector.

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## **Older Australians may pay more for aged care under new recommendations**

Older wealthier Australians could be asked to pay more for their aged care under new recommendations released today. The aged care system can receive more money from the government or more co-contributions from people who can afford to pay. [...] "There were 22 reports into aged care under the previous government," Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said during a press conference on Tuesday.

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## **Australian government unveils Aged Care Taskforce's final report: charting a path to sustainable and quality aged care**

Aged Care Online, Other, 12/03/2024

The Albanese Government is today releasing the Aged Care Taskforce's Final Report, an important next step towards delivering a sustainable aged care system that provides high quality care to all Australians now and into the future. [...] Chaired by the Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells, the Aged Care Taskforce brought together representatives of older Australians, aged care providers, and experts, to consider the great unanswered question of the Royal Commission: how to sustainably fund aged care into the future.

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## **User-pay central to taskforce report**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 12/03/2024, Natasha Egan

Aged care funding reform recommendations rely heavily on older people with means paying more for accommodation, living expenses and some home care services. The federal government should continue to be the major funder of aged care costs but older people who can afford it ought to contribute more towards things like accommodation, living expenses and some home care services. [...] Minister for Aged Care and taskforce chair Anika Wells said all Australians had a stake in a sustainable, high-quality and dignified aged care sector.

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## **Government's aged care report proposes older Australians pay more but eschews a levy**

Healthcare Channel, Other, 12/03/2024, Michelle Grattan

A government-instituted taskforce has proposed older Australians should pay more of the cost of their aged care, while steering clear of politically fraught options such as a levy or touching the family home to help finance the sector. Under the recommendations from the Aged Care Taskforce, refundable accommodation deposits (RADs) would eventually be phased out, replaced by a rental-only model. [...] The taskforce, chaired by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells and with representation from the sector, was charged with examining how funding can be put on a more sustainable basis.

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## **Wealthy seniors should pay more for aged care, Gov taskforce recommends**

HelloCare, Other, 12/03/2024, Jakob Neeland

Under the recommendations from the Aged Care Taskforce, refundable accommodation deposits (RADs) would eventually be phased out, replaced by a rental-only model. A co-contribution-for-service model for home care would be established. The taskforce, chaired by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells and with representation from the sector, was charged with examining how funding can be put on a more sustainable basis.

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## **Call for super to fund aged care**

Self Managed Super, Other, 12/03/2024, Jason Spits

Older Australians with higher levels of superannuation should use those funds to pay for aged care to lighten the burden on working Australians and avoid tax increases to fund public expenditure in this area, according to the final report of a government-appointed taskforce. The Aged Care Financing Taskforce, chaired by the Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, recommended that "It is appropriate older



people make a fair co-contribution to the cost of their aged care based on their means" as part of its final report released today.

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## Will rich boomers get champagne in aged care while the poor get the dregs?

The Senior, Other, 12/03/2024, Eileen Wood

Will an aged care funding proposal where the rich can pay for extra services and amenities in aged care while the poor receive the basics, lead to a two-tier system of the haves and have-nots? At least one senior's organisation believes it's possible. [...] "We will continue to analyse this report and finalise our response to its other recommendations," said Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

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## Wealthy Aussies called to contribute more to aged care costs

Starts at 60, Other, 12/03/2024, Matthew Hart

In a significant stride toward fortifying Australia's aged care system for present and future needs, the Federal Government has unveiled the findings of the Aged Care Taskforce's Final Report. Spearheaded by Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells, the Taskforce, comprising representatives from older Australians, aged care providers, and experts, aimed to address the pivotal query raised by the Royal Commission: how to sustainably fund aged care into the future.

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## Those with means should pay more for aged care: report

Your Life Choices, Other, 13/03/2024, Brad Lockyer

Wealthy people should pay more for aged care to ensure those with fewer means can also access care services, a government report into the sustainability of the aged care system has found. But the Aged Care Taskforce stopped short of recommending any new taxes or levies be introduced to increase funding to the sector. [...] "Australia's aged care system is under stress," aged care minister Anika Wells 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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## Channel 7, Seven News, 12/03/2024, Peter Mitchell

Wealthier retirees could soon pay more for aged care than their poorer counterparts. It's a key recommendation from an expert task force to stop the sector from collapsing. Aged and Community Care Providers Association's Tom Symondson says Australia is going to see a tripling in the number of people over the age of 85 in the next 20 years and those people are going to need services. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says they will rule out any new tax, any levy or any changes to the treatment of the family home.

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## Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/03/2024, Sandra Sully

It is one of the nation's fastest-growing expenses, and tonight wealthy older Australians are being called upon to help cover more of the cost of aged care. It is one of 23 recommendations handed down by a panel, given the task of making the sector more sustainable. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says they will rule out any new tax, any levy or any changes to the treatment of the family home.

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## Sky News Live, Newsday, 12/03/2024, Kieran Gilbert

Wealthier seniors could be asked to pay more for aged care as part of a shake-up to make the system more sustainable. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has released the long-awaited taskforce review into aged care funding and it has explicitly ruled out something the Royal Commission had called for, and that is some sort of levy or tax to pay and help fund the system more broadly.

Also reported by: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).

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## **ABC News, ABC News at Noon, 12/03/2024, Ros Childs**

Older Australians could be asked to pay more for aged and income care under recommendations made to the Federal Government. The ageing population has driven a rise in the cost of funding aged care, with spending forecasts to rise by 55% to \$42b in three years. The government's Aged Care Taskforce has now delivered its recommendations and it's provided 23 recommendations on a pathway forward for the funding of aged and in-home care. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says they are ruling out any new tax, levy and changes to the treatment of the family home.

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## **Channel 9, National Nine Morning News, 12/03/2024, Kate Creedon**

A long-awaited report has recommended some Australians pay more for aged care services. It says the aged care sector is currently not in a financial position to meet expected demand. The Aged Care Taskforce says significant work needs to be done to get the sector up to scratch. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says we must start work now to fund a sustainable aged care service.

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## **ABC News, Mornings, 12/03/2024, Lorna Dunkley**

Press conference with Anika Wells, Aged Care Minister, regarding the Albanese Government releasing the Aged Care Taskforce final report, an important next step towards delivering a sustainable aged care sector that provides high-quality care for Australians. Wells says the taskforce brought together older Australians, aged care providers and experts to consider what was the great unanswered question of the Royal Commission which was how to sustainably fund aged care into the future. She adds the government confirms that it will not impose a new tax or a new levy to fund aged care costs or any changes to the means-testing treatment of the family home. Wells adds they are determined to set the aged care sector up for long-term success to make sure that older Australians receive the high-quality care that they deserve, both in the years and decades to come.

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

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## **3AW, 14:00 News, 12/03/2024**

The Federal Government has confirmed there will be no new taxes to fund aged care. However, Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says they will respond to the proposal of businesses and advocates for higher taxes for wealthier residents.

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## **4BC, 12:00 News, 12/03/2024**

A Federal Government Task Force is recommending wealthier aged care residents pay more due to some providers being in dire financial straits. Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says they will set the aged care sector up for long-term success. Aged & Community Care Providers Association CEO Tom Symondson states no one was brave enough to fix the sector 20 to 30 years ago. The Federal Opposition says the report does not accurately address workforce shortages.

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## **ABC Radio Brisbane, 12:00 News, 12/03/2024**

The Aged Care Taskforce has recommended wealthy older Australians should pay more for aged care to help keep the sector afloat. Its report released today didn't call for a new levy or tax to pay for rising care costs. Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says Labor hopes to work with the Coalition on new measures. Shadow Minister Anne Ruston states the Opposition will consider the report's recommendations.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

### Morning News Bulletin 12 March 2024

SBS, Other, 12/03/2024

The federal government has announced it will invest millions on Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. \$23.5 million will be spent on improving the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with \$18.4 million to go to the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress to expand its Children and Youth Assessment and Treatment Services. [...] Senator Malarndirri McCarthy says the investment will have a significant effect.

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## DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

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## CORONAVIRUS

### Covid cut 1.6 years off life

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/03/2024, Page 16

Global life expectancy fell by 1.6 years during the Covid pandemic, reversing previous trends towards longer life expectancies. A study estimates that the pandemic caused global mortality to jump among people over age 15, rising by 22 per cent for males and 17 per cent for females from 2019 to 2021.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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### Does treatment with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir raise risk for COVID-19 rebound?

Medicine Today, Other, 12/03/2024

In a community-based study, clinical and virologic rebound was more common in patients who received nirmatrelvir/ritonavir than in those who did not receive antivirals. While symptomatic rebound after a five-day course of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) has been reported, this phenomenon appears to occur infrequently and independently of antiviral administration ( NEJM JW Infect Dis Jan 3 2024 ).

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## Aged care payment shake-up on cards

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 13/03/2024, Rachel Lane, Page 4

This week the government finally released the Aged Care Taskforce Report which contains 23 recommendations to reform the fees and funding across home care and residential aged care. The taskforce ruled out meeting the increasing cost of aged care through a tax or levy pointing to the "substantial intergenerational equity issues in asking the working age population, which is becoming proportionately smaller".

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

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## Wealthy Australians called on to pay more for aged care

Canberra Times, General News, 13/03/2024, Kat Wong, Page 5

Wealthier Australians are being urged to pay more for aged care so the government can help older people with lesser means access residential and in-home services. The overall wealth of older Australians is expected to increase, with the proportion of people over 65 accessing the aged pension or other income support projected to decline by 15 percentage points by the early 2060s, a review into the aged care system found.

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

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## Who pays to keep Boomers in old age

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/03/2024, George Yankovich, Page 6

Voters in South Australia's Liberal heartland are divided on the federal government's aged care funding shake-ups, which would see wealthier retirees paying more to access support. On Tuesday, an independent taskforce advised the government that those with more assets should fork out more in co-contributions to prop up the rapidly growing sector.

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## Spreading the load of costs will benefit all

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/03/2024, Lincoln Hopper, Page 21

When one of our aged care residents, Pauline, turned 100 in January, she Wdidn't just get a cake. The Broncos tragic received a visit from Brisbane legends Alfie Langer and Kevin Walters. [...] The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety was clear that the engine of aged care, it's funding model, was broken.

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## Fasting to keep their rent paid

Courier Mail, General News, 13/03/2024, Hayden Johnson and Shaye Windsor, Page 8

Elderly Queenslanders are cutting charity meals in half to preserve food and prevent starvation as not-for-profit organisations are battling to survive the state's worsening cost of living crisis. The soaring cost of food and supermarket pricing structure were key issues addressed at The Courier-Mail and Queensland Council of Social Service cost of living forum on Tuesday.

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## Listen up: Generous donation for residents

Border Watch, General News, 13/03/2024, Page 36

The Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West has recently supplied more than 40 headsets to Boandik Lodge and Resthaven for use for clients suffering with dementia. The headsets were loaded with music that each client had selected for them, often by family members, who could identify music that relates to their earlier experiences and memories.

## Call for raid on super for care

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/03/2024, Clare Armstrong, Page 4

Australian taxpayers will not be slugged with an extra levy to fund the nation's aged care, but Labor will consider expert calls for the elderly to co-fund more of their own supports either at home or in a residential facility if they can afford to. Making aged care fees fairer, simpler and more transparent, as well as ensuring older Australians only have to pay for the services they use are among a raft of recommendations handed to the federal government by a taskforce commissioned to investigate how to make the sector sustainable.

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## Aged care sector ready for funding shift: industry leader

Australian Financial Review, Other, 11/03/2024, Tom McIlroy

Australians with adequate retirement savings should make meaningful contributions to the cost of their care, an industry leader says, as part of efforts to improve services and upgrade facilities. Uniting executive director for NSW and the ACT Tracey Burt...

[Read More](#)

## Costs of a comfortable retirement rise again, sparking new warning

The Australian, Other, 12/03/2024, Anthony Keane

High insurance, electricity and food costs have helped push the cost of a comfortable retirement above \$72,000 a year, prompting warnings for people to plan earlier for life after work. New figures from the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia show a couple aged about 65 must spend \$1382 a week to be comfortable, while a single must spend \$982 – well above current age pension payments.

[Read More](#)

## Resident believed dead after retirement village blaze

Canberra Times, Other, 12/03/2024, Anna McGuinness

One person has died in a blaze at a retirement village north of Brisbane. Emergency services were called to Morayfield Rd in Burpengary about 9pm on March 11. Firefighters arrived to find two units alight and fire spreading to two others, a Queensland Fire and Emergency Services spokesperson said. Five fire crews contained the fire to three dwellings and it was extinguished by 10.20pm.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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## 'I do like this policy': Review suggests wealthy should pay more for aged care

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

Sky News host Danica De Giorgio says she "likes" the proposal for wealthy Australians to pay more for their aged care because the number of people over 80 is "set to triple" over the next 40 years. A major review of aged care funding has told the Albanese government that wealthy Australians should draw down their superannuation and pay more for their aged care costs.

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## 'We can't afford to do nothing': Calls for aged care sector funding revamp

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

Herald Sun's Susie O'Brien says Australia "can't afford to do nothing" in the aged care sector and called for "transparency in the funding model". A major review of aged care funding has told the Albanese government that wealthy Australians should draw down their superannuation and pay more for their aged care costs.

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## Call for aged care inquiry alongside 'overinflated' NDIS

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

Nationals Leader David Littleproud says the Australian aged care sector is "under stress" as it needs to be looked into alongside the "overinflated NDIS". "We want to be constructive – I don't think you can look at aged care in isolation to the NDIS," he said.

[Read More](#)

## **'It's a no-brainer': Aged care funding will 'only increase exponentially' if not fixed**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

Radio 2CC host Stephen Cenatiempo says the cost to the taxpayer for aged care is going to "only increase exponentially", and a bipartisan policy to resolve the issues is a "no-brainer".

[Read More](#)

## **Aged care system needs to be 'sustainable' for Australia's population demographics**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

Assistant Defence Minister Matt Thistlethwaite says the government wants to make sure the aged care system is "sustainable" for Australia's population demographics. Mr Thistlethwaite joined Sky News Australia to discuss the latest on UNRWA funding and the release of the Aged Care Taskforce report.

[Read More](#)

## **'Massive challenge': Mike Baird on aged care funding review**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

HammondCare Chief Executive Mike Baird says funding for aged care is a "massive challenge" as an aging population brings "incredible demand". A major review of aged care funding has told the Albanese government that wealthy Australians should draw down their superannuation and pay more for their aged care costs.

[Read More](#)

## **Opposition willing to work with Albanese government on aged care reform**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

Shadow Health and Aged Care Minister Anne Ruston says the way the Albanese government has attempted to gain support for aged care reform has been "disappointing". "We've been saying for the last 12 months that we want to work with the government to make sure that we get sensible reform," Ms Ruston told Sky News Australia.

[Read More](#)

## **Governments should seek opportunities to fund 'essential critical services': Mike Baird**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

HammondCare Chief Executive Mike Baird has called on governments to look for opportunities to fund "essential critical services". A major review of aged care funding has told the Albanese government that wealthy Australians should draw down their superannuation and pay more for their aged care costs.

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## **Aged care providers 'not recouping costs' as operating losses pass into billions**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

Australians are "very fortunate" their essential needs in aged care facilities are largely taxpayer-funded, despite service providers "not recouping their costs," says Aged Care Taskforce member Grant Corderoy. "The taxpayer subsidy covers over 94 per cent of those costs for residential aged care and over 95 per cent for home care," he told Sky News Australia.

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## Improve literacy around death and dying

Shepparton News Online, Other, 12/03/2024

Clinical nurse consultant Jon San Martin will present a workshop on improving literacy around death and dying. Photo by Contributed Caring for someone who is dying can be a confusing and stressful experience, even aside from the natural grief and sadness of the circumstances.

[Read More](#)

## New hope for dementia sufferers

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 12/03/2024, Allan Murphy

A new, groundbreaking program in the Loddon-Mallee region that uses the power of nature as respite for people with early stage dementia and their carers has achieved early success with trips to gardens, farms, walking tracks, outdoor events and overnight retreats helping to improve quality of life.

[Read More](#)

## Alternative arrangements in aged care supported by report, but funding supplements still fall through the gaps

Upper Yarra Mail, Other, 12/03/2024, Callum Ludwig

AdventCare Warburton has seen progress but still struggles to meet registered nurse requirements. Picture: ON FILE The University of Wollongong's Centre for Health Service Development has released its final report on 'Alternative Arrangements for Residential Aged Care Staffing' commissioned by the Australian Government, creating an outline for acceptable alternative arrangements when registered nurses (RNs) are not available on-site 24/

[Read More](#)

## Broad support for aged care funding changes

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024, Jacqueline Breen

A recommendation for wealthier Australians to pay more for their aged care appears to be gaining widespread support. But advocates want more detail on how capacity to pay will be measured, and assurances that whatever system the government puts in place, no one will be left behind.

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

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## The wealthy may be asked to pay more under proposed aged care reforms

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024, Sarah Ferguson

The number of Australians aged over 80 is expected to triple in the next 40 years to more than 3.5 million. That means more of us are going to access aged care.

[Read More](#)

## Aged care: Who will pay?

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024, Samantha Donovan

New recommendations for the funding of Australia's aged care system appear to be gaining widespread support. The Victorian Government's plan to knock down 44 public housing towers is being challenged in Court.

[Read More](#)

## Ruston: Questions remain over aged care plans

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024

Significant changes to aged care funding have been recommended by a federal government task force set up to examine the issue. This morning we've been following the report that looks at how to make the sector sustainable over coming decades as Australia's population ages and demand on aged care services grows.

[Read More](#)

## Aged care taskforce sparks concern

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024

As the so-called 'grey wave' of ageing boomers hits the economy, a major review into the aged care sector says wealthy Australians should pay more for care. After a week of gang attacks in Haiti, the nation is fast descending into anarchy.

[Read More](#)

## What are the proposed changes for funding aged care?

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024

A taskforce reviewing funding arrangements for aged care has rejected the idea of a levy to cover the sector's costs and instead suggested Australians accessing care should pay more based on their personal wealth.

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## Mike Baird explains recommendations from Aged Care Taskforce final report

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024, Sarah Macdonald

Former NSW Premier Mike Baird has been the CEO of HammondCare since 2020 and is a member of the Federal Government's Aged Care Taskforce, which has published its final report. Mike Baird speaks to Sarah Macdonald and argues for substantial rethink before the aged care tsunami engulfs us.

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## Report recommends individuals pay more for aged care

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024

Australia's population is ageing, and the question of who will pay for aged care is critical. Today the aged care task force has recommended individuals should be paying more for their care, with money from superannuation or home equity on the table, but it doesn't say exactly how much residents should contribute.

[Read More](#)

## Aged Care Taskforce proposes wealthy people should pay more for aged care

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024

A taskforce reviewing aged care funding has rejected the idea of increased taxes to cover the sector's costs and instead suggested Australians accessing care should pay more based on their personal wealth. CEO of the Aged and Community Care Providers Association Tom Symondson, told Raf Epstein that perceptions the sector is making huge profits are 'not true', and that we need to change the funding model in order to keep providing aged care to Australians.

[Read More](#)

## Demographic shifts force funding changes

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024, Anne Connolly

A taskforce reviewing funding arrangements for aged care has rejected the idea of a tax levy to cover the sector's costs instead suggesting Australians accessing care should pay more based on their personal wealth. The federal government established a task force last year to find out how the country could properly fund aged care, following a range of recommendations made by a damning royal commission into the sector.

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## Should wealthy Australians pay more for aged care?

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024

A review into aged care sector funding has recommended the federal government get older Australians who have the means to contribute more to their aged care, but it's dismissed a previous suggestion



from the Aged Care Royal Commission to introduce a levy.

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## Who should pay for aged care?

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024

One of the biggest challenges for the federal government will be how to pay for aged care. Today the Aged Care Taskforce has released its recommendations on how the sector can be made more sustainable, by easing access to superannuation funds or allowing individuals to use their home equity to pay for aged care.

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## Older Australians could be asked to pay more for aged care

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024, Evelyn Manfield

A review into aged care sector funding has recommended the federal government get older Australians who have the means to contribute more to their aged care, but it's dismissed a previous suggestion from the Aged Care Royal Commission to introduce a levy. Featured:

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## Why boomers are furious after being told they should cough up more cash to ease the burden on millennials: 'People think we're greedy'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/03/2024, Padraig Collins

Baby boomers are furious at a new report suggesting they should pay more for their aged care to ease the burden on millennials, as the sector is predicted to cost taxpayers nearly \$64 billion by 2034. Currently, taxpayers foot a bill of more than \$30billion to support elderly Australians with the cost of their aged care

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## A Medicare-style levy would guarantee all Australians the right to aged care when we need it

The Guardian, Other, 12/03/2024, Sarah Holland-Batt

The aged care royal commissioners were notably split on a number of key issues, but on one principle they were united. Older Australians should not be required to contribute to their cost of care, nor should care be means tested. Instead, commissioner Tony Pagone wrote, every Australian should "contribute towards the financing of the aged care system through their working life" through a Medicare-style levy, therefore guaranteeing each of us the right to aged care when we eventually need it.

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## St Vincent's calls on Govt to adopt aged care recommendations in full

Australian Seniors News, Other, 12/03/2024

St Vincent's – Australia's largest not-for-profit health and aged care services provider – has welcomed the release of the Aged Care Taskforce report, saying it will set the aged care system up to be sustainable for the next generation and has called on the Federal Government to adopt its recommendations in full. [...] "Our residents and their loved ones have gone through a period of enormous change in the wake of the Royal Commission, and then again with the upheaval of COVID.

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## OPAN welcomes aged care funding report

Australian Seniors News, Other, 12/03/2024

The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) has today welcomed the Aged Care Taskforce report into funding arrangements for aged care in Australia. However, OPAN Director Policy and Systemic Advocacy, Samantha Edmonds said the organisation wanted to explore the safety net provisions in more detail.

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## Making end-of-life care inclusive for LGBTIQ+ people

For many in the LGBTIQ+ community, facing the end of life can be an anxious experience. There are concerns about discrimination and not receiving respectful, affirmative care. A new online training program aims to change that. LGBTQIA+ Health Australia has launched a free four-part e-learning course to teach healthcare workers how to make palliative and end-of-life care more inclusive.

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## **What the Aged Care Taskforce Final Report means for retirement living operators**

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/03/2024, Ian Horswill

The retirement living sector, especially those who have residents receiving a Home Care Package, should read the Final Report of the Aged Care Taskforce closely. There are 23 recommendations but the ones most pertinent to the retirement living sector are: Recommendation 1 : Underpin the Support at Home Program with inclusion and exclusion principles and clearly defined service lists.

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## **Big structural changes on the way – pay for accommodation, pay for services including home care**

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/03/2024, Chris Baynes

The Aged Care Task Force Report released at 10pm last night recommends to the government that the government should pay for the care component of home and residential care, and the non-care accommodation services should be paid by the client. The exception is people on full-aged pensions.

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## **In 2024, don't forget to check on your older neighbours living alone**

Your Life Choices, Other, 13/03/2024

Bella\* likes to joke she's "old but still naughty". Bella, in her early 80s, has lived alone since her husband passed away almost 20 years ago. Her relatives are all scattered across Australia, and she spent another festive season by herself. She's lost count of how many times she's been alone during the holidays. Bella feels very lonely, but doesn't talk about it with her loved ones. She describes loneliness as a "painful thing that gnaws at you"; a feeling that constantly reminds you that you have "no company".

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## **3WM, Country Today, 12/03/2024, Libby Price**

Pre-recorded interview with John Bradshaw, Community Engagement Professional from Live Up. It's an organisation that helps people as they get into the older stages of their life keep fit and keep mentally active as well. Bradshaw says they are a national program funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. He adds they empower older people to take control of their ageing journey because research has shown that 75% of how we age is down to us and the way that we control our ageing.

[Play Now](#)

## **ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 12/03/2024, Steve Austin**

Interview with Simon Kuestenmacher, Co-Founder, Demographics Group, regarding the release of the final report by the Aged Care Taskforce. It has been recommended that older Australians with more wealth contribute more to their aged care. Kuestenmacher says around 14 years from today, Australia will have 1.1 million people aged 85 plus rather than 550,000 people as of today. He adds there's no way we even have the workforce to look after those people let alone have the financial resources in place to pay for it as a society.

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

[Play Now](#)

## **ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 12/03/2024, Nadia Mitsopoulos**

Interview with Dr Catherine Stoddard, CEO, Brightwater Care Group, regarding the Aged Care Taskforce report which recommends a move to a user pays rental model. Stoddard says there is real potential in it and fundamentally, the government will still provide the majority of the care funding.

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

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## Radio National, Breakfast, 12/03/2024, Sally Sara and Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Mike Baird, CEO, HammondCare. After months of consultations and deliberations, the Federal Government taskforce set up to examine the issue has recommended some major changes and the most significant shift is a move to a user pays rental model, but many of the details remain vague. Baird says he thinks there are some very good recommendations and at the moment the majority of aged care providers are still not breaking even. He adds we need to get the position where it's sustainable so they can provide the quality care that's needed.

Interview continues on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Mundane to motza: toothpaste revolution has flavour of fortune

The Australian, General News, 13/03/2024, John Stensholt, Page 1

By turning a laborious twice-daily chore into a global sensation, Nik Mirkovic and Alex Tomic have quickly made their fortune. And it's all thanks to making toothpaste taste far better than you might ever have imagined. Mirkovic, 28, and his 30-year-old business partner Tomic are the young entrepreneurs behind Hismile, a business they built after finishing high school on the Gold Coast.

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### Eat meat, cheese - cut out guilt

The Australian, General News, 13/03/2024, Peta Bee, Page 12

Despite writing a book on the health benefits of fruit and vegetables, Rhiannon Lambert says you can still enjoy a steak or dairy guilt-free. Rhiannon Lambert's biggest gripe is the widely held misconception that a plant based diet requires us to ban meat, dairy and chocolate.

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### Step up to the plate

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 13/03/2024, Page 1

Bendigo Community Health Services is sending out a city-wide invitation to Take the First Step to healthy eating and active living. Autumn is considered the best time in Bendigo to get out to the many parks, gardens, pools, walking and cycling paths and get started on the recommended 30 minutes of exercise a day. Likewise, the season brings plenty of fresh produce, and much of it locally grown.

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### Help to end period poverty

Border Watch, General News, 13/03/2024, Melanie Riley, Page 9

Share the Dignity's biannual Dignity Drive has begun for March and the charity is urging people to donate where they can. Share the Dignity has seen an increase in requests from its charity partners, with levels currently sitting at 170,000 and rising. Period products including pads, tampons, maternity pads, incontinence pads, reusable pads, period-proof underwear and menstrual cups can be donated in pink boxes set up at all Woolworths supermarkets nationwide and selected chemists and other retailers.

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### It started with a jelly snake: How to have a healthy attitude about

## unhealthy food

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 12/03/2024, Sarah Berry

It started with a jelly snake. I had been handing out a single jelly snake to each girl in my daughter's little athletics team at the end of the sessions I was age manager for (a role I share, alternating weeks with another mum). My decision to hand out the lolly was innocuous enough, I thought. But the real bite was in what it represented – an issue that impacts all of us.

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## Why do I need to get up during the night to wee? Is this normal?

9News, Other, 12/03/2024

It can be normal to wake up once or even twice during the night to wee, especially as we get older. One in three adults over 30 makes at least two trips to the bathroom every night. Waking up from sleep to urinate on a regular basis is called nocturia. It's one of the most commonly reported bothersome urinary symptoms (others include urgency and poor stream). So what causes nocturia, and how can it affect wellbeing?

[Read More](#)

## IgE-mediated food allergies in infants and children: an update on prevention and management

Medicine Today, Other, 12/03/2024, Eric Lee and Preeti Joshi

Food allergies are common and on the rise in Australia, particularly among infants and children. In case of anaphylaxis, adrenaline autoinjectors can be prescribed, with device-specific education and training. Allergen avoidance, assessment and management of the anaphylaxis risk and implementation of a shared care model with specialist input are the mainstays of treatment, but there are promising therapeutic options on the horizon.

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## The menopause transition: managing symptoms and improving quality of life

Medicine Today, Other, 12/03/2024

The menopause transition is defined as the period leading up to the final menses. Women can present with a range of symptoms, such as irregular bleeding, vasomotor symptoms, genitourinary concerns and psychological changes. Referral to a gynaecologist may be necessary if initial treatments are ineffective or if further investigations are warranted.

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## How many steps you need to do to offset sitting, according to scientists

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 12/03/2024, Laura Hampson

For years it's been drilled into us that walking 10,000 steps per day is the optimum number for good health – and a new study has provided further evidence to back this up. Scientists at the University of Sydney in Australia have looked at the exact number of steps people need to do each day in order to offset their sitting time, or sedentary lifestyles.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Cancer rates to skyrocket

Herald Sun, General News, 13/03/2024, Page 8

The number of Australians to get a cancer diagnosis is set to surpass 200,000 by 2033, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare research predicts. The concerning data has prompted health experts to renew calls for people to get screened for the disease.

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## Audiology Australia calls for a rethink

Border Watch, General News, 13/03/2024, Page 18

Audiology Australia (AudA) is challenging Australians to a national rethink on hearing health, as they put pressure on government, policy makers and the sector to commit to making access to ear and hearing care a reality for all. "We're calling time on stigma, embarrassment, and inaction," said AudA president, Dr Barbra Timmer.

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## Tylan's cancer battle sparks charity effort

Daily Advertiser, General News, 13/03/2024, Taylor Dodge, Page 2

Wagga mum Kylie Hampton had no time to pack, let alone think, when her son Tylan, 2, was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer during a standard visit to the doctors. The pair were flown to Randwick Children's Hospital in Sydney less than 24 hours after Tylan's diagnosis of juvenile myelomonocytic leukaemia on December 12, 2023. The single mother had to leave older son Kye-Ray, 5, while she spent Christmas, Tylan's second birthday and the months following by Tylan's side.

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## Heart risk rises with depression

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/03/2024, Page 3

People with depression face a higher risk of heart disease, but more women experience heart disease following a depression diagnosis than men, according to Japanese researchers. The University of Tokyo team looked at more than 4.1 million patients aged 36-52, collecting data on BMI, blood pressure, and other health values as well as depression diagnosis.

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## Stroke survivor plans ultra-marathon run

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 13/03/2024, Agron Latifi, Page 6

Running was never something Alice Johnson particularly liked doing. That all changed for the Kiama mum when she had a stroke aged just 29. Earlier this month Johnson did her longest run, a 45 kilometre trek from Kiama to Gerringong up over Foxground and Saddleback Mountain and back. The run was a good preparation for her first ever 100 km ultra-marathon, which Johnson will run in on March 23, the day after she turns 41.

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## New leadership, new hope as ImpediMed looks to grow

The Australian, Other, 12/03/2024, Nadine McGrath

During Lymphoedema Awareness Month – and just two months into her role as interim CEO and MD of ImpediMed ( ASX:IPD ), Dr Parmjot Bains says her company has moved past boardroom battles to focus on preventing a painful condition that hits many cancer sufferers. In the process, she says, the company will generate future value for shareholders.

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## The genetic 'crystal ball': Would you want to know which disease will kill you?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 12/03/2024, Angus Dalton

"If a crystal ball could reveal your personal risk for developing heart disease or breast cancer or Alzheimer's disease, would you pay to take a look?" wrote the brilliant, 40-year-old US neuroscientist Dr Rahul Desikan in 2019. Three months later, he was dead. The lab leader, father and DJ, who spun Indian music with American guitar jazz, had been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a disease he had studied during a powerful research career.

[Read More](#)

## Andrew Emmerig, of Brisbane, nearly loses arm to ocean bacteria while on Sunshine Coast

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

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 believed to have been contracted from the ocean nearly forced doctors to amputate his right arm.

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

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## Family's shock after Ashley Timbery suddenly collapsed and later died due to mystery bacteria that attacked her internal organs

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/03/2024, Brett Lackey

A family has been left heartbroken after a young woman was suddenly struck down with a mystery illness and died. Ashley Timbery, 29, of Nowra on the NSW South Coast lost feeling in her legs on February 15 and collapsed before she was rushed to ICU at Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital.

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

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## Carrie Bickmore reveals heartbreaking loss

7news.com.au, Other, 12/03/2024, Pip Christmass

Radio personality Carrie Bickmore has announced some devastating personal news that has hit close to home. On Tuesday, Bickmore shared that a friend, Donna Nottage, had lost her battle with brain cancer — the same disease Bickmore's husband Greg Lange died from in 2010.

[Read More](#)

## Calcium and vitamin D supplements 'cut long-term cancer mortality risk'

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/03/2024

Postmenopausal women taking calcium and vitamin D supplements may have a lower cancer mortality but higher CVD mortality after more than 20 years of follow-up, US findings show. University of Arizona researchers examined long-term health outcomes among postmenopausal women in the Women's Health Initiative trial, involving almost 36,300 women with no history of breast or colorectal cancer.

[Read More](#)

## For managing febrile urinary tract infections in young children, shorter duration may be better – or at least as good

Medicine Today, Other, 12/03/2024

In a randomised trial in Italy, five days of an oral antibiotic was as effective as 10 days. Most children with uncomplicated febrile urinary tract infection (UTI) receive oral antibiotics, typically for 10 days. But is this traditional duration evidence based? In a multicentre trial, Italian investigators assessed recurrent infection within 30 days of completing five-day versus 10-day treatment courses. Secondary end points were clinical response, adverse events and antibiotic resistance.

[Read More](#)

## Benefits of using decision aids highlighted in updated Cochrane review

Medicine Today, Other, 12/03/2024, Rebecca Jenkins

Decision aids help patients make more informed healthcare choices and do not substantially lengthen consultation times, an updated Cochrane review finds. In the latest version of the landmark review, first published in 2003 and last updated in 2017, researchers added 104 newly published randomised controlled trials comparing outcomes when patients were offered decision aids versus usual care.

[Read More](#)

## Sustained survival benefits seen with resynchronisation–defibrillation for heart failure

Medicine Today, Other, 12/03/2024, Michael Doris

The enduring benefits of cardiac-resynchronisation therapy (CRT) combined with an implantable

cardioverter–defibrillator (ICD) for patients with symptomatic heart failure have been confirmed in a long-term follow-up trial to The Resynchronization–Defibrillation for Ambulatory Heart Failure Trial (RAFT).

[Read More](#)

## Dual therapy with lamotrigine and levetiracetam safer than valproate monotherapy in pregnant people with epilepsy

Medicine Today, Other, 12/03/2024

In a large population-based cohort study, first-trimester exposure to dual therapy with lamotrigine and levetiracetam was associated with a 60% lower risk for major congenital malformations than exposure to valproate monotherapy in offspring of pregnant people with epilepsy. Valproate is an effective treatment for seizures in people with epilepsy, particularly generalised epilepsy.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Patients staying in hospital longer

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/03/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 13

Hip replacements and heart problems are keeping patients in NSW public hospitals for longer than five years ago, as the state government is confronted by unprecedented demands on the state's health system. [...] Heart Foundation chief medical adviser Garry Jennings said that during the pandemic many people with chest pain delayed seeking treatment, while others were successfully treated at home when they previously would have required hospital admission.

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

### Sick wait for help at EDs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/03/2024, Lachlan Leeming, Page 11

Only half of patients treated on time at Western Sydney hospitals, new stats show Fewer than half of emergency department patients in Western Sydney hospitals were treated on time at the end of last year, with one in 10 patients spending almost 17 hours getting treatment in EDs across the region.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [In Daily \(Online\)](#).

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### Move on, mayor told

Border Mail, General News, 13/03/2024, Beau Greenway, Page 1

The NSW and Victorian governments have effectively ignored Albury mayor Kylie King's plea to provide a hospital to service the needs of the Border community. In response to Cr King's mayoral minute tabled at Monday's Albury Council meeting, where she said "significant further investment" was required for the single site hospital development to become a reality, both states said they were "getting on with" delivering the \$558 million project.

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

### Feasibility in motion

Border Watch, General News, 13/03/2024, Page 5

Work has kicked off into a feasibility study for a radiation treatment facility in the Limestone Coast. Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton responded to a question in Parliament last week put forward by Mount Gambier MP Troy Bell. Mr Picton reiterated the Limestone Coast Local Health Network committed to undertaking the study on radiation oncology in the region.

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

### Report in 2025

Border Watch, General News, 13/03/2024, Page 5

The eagerly awaited report addressing service delivery and infrastructure needs for Naracoorte Hospital and its surrounding areas is expected to be completed next year. Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton answered a question posed by MacKillop MP Nick McBride last week stating he expected the work to be finalised next year.

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## Emergency \$16.5m delivers 20 beds, 126 staff

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 13/03/2024, Amaani Siddeek, Page 3

One of the busiest hospital emergency departments in the state has officially opened an expanded facility. An extra 20 emergency treatment spaces have been opened at Robina Hospital, bringing the total number to 66, with an extra 126 staff hired. But the new treatment spaces will be dedicated to treating less acute injuries and illnesses in a bid to cut wait times. The \$16.5m investment, a key election promise from the Labor government's \$14bn Health Big Build initiative, is the biggest expansion of the hospital since it first opened in 2000.

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## Hospital ED pain

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 13/03/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 1

Wollongong Hospital's emergency department has copped a hammering in the latest ED patient scorecard with complaints about lack of privacy and pain management and not enough information from medical staff. The emergency department ranked fifth worst in the state for quality of care, according to the stats.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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## Pressure on emergency staff mounts

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/03/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

John Hunter and Cessnock hospitals recorded their worst quarterly result for the median time that patients spend in the emergency department since modern records began in 2010. Only 34.6 per cent of John Hunter emergency patients were treated and discharged within four hours - also the worst result on record.

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## More babies, and Tamworth emergency is getting busier

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 13/03/2024, Page 5

Fewer people arrived at Tamworth hospital by ambulance, but attendances at emergency have risen, according to the latest Bureau of Health Information data. The October to December quarter of 2023 was also a busy period for the maternity ward, with 257 babies born, 17 more than during the same period in 2022.

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

## The man who shut down a Sydney emergency department

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 12/03/2024, Angus Thomson

A Sydney man will face court on Tuesday on harassment and stalking charges after allegedly sending death threats to his sister's nursing colleagues, sparking a dramatic response leading to his arrest inside Westmead Hospital. Officers from the Parramatta Police Area Command, the dog unit and highway patrol were called to the hospital on Hawkesbury Road just after 5pm on Thursday after two of its nurses received threatening phone calls allegedly from Robert Steven Turner, 45, of Harrington Park in Sydney's south-west.

[Read More](#)

## The common factor first responders say they see in almost all fatal road crashes

9News, Other, 12/03/2024, Emily McPherson

In her 23 years working as a paramedic in Victoria, Molly Thompson has been to countless road crash



sites. It's one of the hardest parts of an already tough job - arriving at scenes where a horrific trauma has played out on our roads and fighting to keep her patients alive until they reach hospital.

[Read More](#)

## Primary Health Networks: The \$12 billion black hole experiment

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/03/2024, Paul Smith

An audit report found that health officials had no plans to assess PHN performance for six years. The Australian National Audit Office report released last month is of considerable length and uses language that could only excite an accountant.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/03/2024, Kate Freebairn

Nurses on multiple wards at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are battling a linen shortage, with some planning to lodge formal complaints saying it's compromising patient care.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 12/03/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with Peter Malinauskas, SA Premier, regarding the Queen Elizabeth Hospital expansion. Malinauskas says they anticipate that the final commissioning will be complete by the middle of the year. He adds the ED is 50% larger which is a pretty substantial increase but there are other elements within it, more than just the size that are important in terms of patient flow and the model of care.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### 'Free uni' for sake of mental health

The Australian, General News, 13/03/2024, Rhiannon Down, Page 7

Eminent psychiatrist Patrick McGorry has called for university study to be free and student debts to no longer be indexed, urging Labor to address the mental health crisis in its higher education reforms. Professor McGorry, a former Australian of the Year who founded youth mental health service Orygen, said poor mental health in young people was the "biggest challenge" to university completion, with most conditions emerging in the late teens and early 20s.

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

### A local retiree, a Brazilian influencer and a \$200,000 scam

Age, General News, 13/03/2024, Cameron Houston, Page 6

When Melbourne retiree Marilyn Ayres posted a poem on a social media site for fellow cat lovers, she could never have imagined it would eventually cost her \$200,000. An online encounter last year with a stranger claiming to be an American engineer called Franklin Edward would also break her heart, and recently forced the 70-year-old to seek treatment at a mental health facility.

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

### Greens put money into students' mental health support

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/03/2024, Simon Mcguire, Page 7

The Greens want to see more psychologists in schools and increase the number of social workers in Tasmania. On Tuesday, the party announced its plan to employ 50 new school psychologists and 40 extra social workers. The Greens said employment would be staged over four years and cost \$30m.

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### 'Dire' mental health system in need of fix

Leading organisations are calling on the NSW government to invest in a mental health care system on the brink of collapse due to long-term underfunding. Despite enjoying the largest budget, data shows NSW has invested the least per capita on mental health services over the past three years when compared to other states and territories.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#)

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## Libs hear Circular Head mum's plea for a child, family centre

Burnie Advocate, General News, 13/03/2024, Sarah Fittock, Page 5

The Liberal government has promised to build a new child and family learning centre (CFLC) at Smithton if it is re-elected. The announcement follows a plea from a Circular Head mum who said a centre "would be a game changer" for her and her two children.

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## Life-saving health workshops result of partnership

Launceston Examiner, General News, 13/03/2024, Saree Salter, Page 3

Kentish Regional Clinic has partnered with Head to Health in Launceston to help save lives. Offering free workshops as part of CORES Australia [Community Owned Response to Eliminating Suicide], the goal was to help community members access helpful resources.

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

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## 'Help is there': Australians urged to reach out for support during cost of living crisis

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/03/2024

Suicide Prevention Australia CEO Nieves Murray has urged Australians to reach out for help during the cost of living crisis. "Reach out early for help," she told Sky News Australia.

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

[Read More](#)

## My 15yo tried to take her own life - the Swiftie community changed everything

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 12/03/2024, Alexandra Feiam

Fifteen-year-old DeeLyLah was a fan of Taylor Swift before she was born; her mum, Christa, had been listening to the popstar's music while pregnant with her second child. A shy but driven student, the Minnesota teen was once on top of her class and got fantastic grades but was regularly teased by other kids in her school. When the pandemic hit, things began to change. DeeLyLah began refusing to switch on her screen for remote learning, her grades plummeted and her mental health suffered.

[Read More](#)

## Perinatal depression linked to long-term suicidal behaviour

Medicine Today, Other, 12/03/2024, Rebecca Jenkins

Women with perinatal depression (PND) are at a particularly increased risk of suicidal behaviour in the first year after diagnosis, but some risk remains for a further 18 years, a study finds. Suicidal ideation was common among women with PND, but prospective data, particularly on the long-term risk of suicide attempt and completed suicide, were limited, Swedish researchers wrote in JAMA Network Open.

[Read More](#)

## Shifting of gears

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 12/03/2024

The Public Health Association of Australia's inaugural Preventive Mental Health Symposium today, will be the first-of-its-kind event with an "urgent focus" on preventing mental disorders. The National Study

of Mental Health and Wellbeing found that of Australians aged 16-85 from 2020-2022, an estimated 8.

[Read More](#)

## Better mental health care support for LGBTQ+ community

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 13/03/2024

Exploring ways to create an inclusive and safe mental healthcare environment for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (LGBTQ+) community is the focus of a new research project from Flinders University. Almost three quarters (74.5 per cent) of LGBTQ+ Australians have experienced poor mental health at some time in their life (compared with 41.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### UOW's doctors opt for the regions

The Australian, Higher Education, 13/03/2024, Page 21

The University of Wollongong says its graduate doctors are likelier to work in regional areas, and relieve doctor shortages there, than the average Australian medical graduate. A paper published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health has found nearly one-third of UOW medical graduates are working in regional areas up to a decade after graduation, a number on par with the proportion of the Australian population in regional areas.

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

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### Paramedics vote to stop work over pay fail

Herald Sun, General News, 13/03/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 3

Victorian paramedics will take industrial action and refuse to do hospital tasks or take patient billing details, after a breakdown in pay negotiations. Victorian Ambulance Union members voted for protected industrial action on Tuesday as enterprise bargaining talks with the Allan Government and Ambulance Victoria stalled.

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

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### Forum puts health jobs in the spotlight

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 13/03/2024, Rachel Clark, Page 1

Oxley High School student Lily Androuso wants to be a doctor in the Northern Territory and help outback communities gain access to healthcare. "I feel like there are not enough services available to Aboriginal communities in those remote areas, and I want to be able to help," she said.

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### Channel 7, Seven News, 12/03/2024, Peter Mitchell

Victoria's paramedics have just voted to take protected industrial action starting from Monday. The action will include writing protest messages on ambulance vehicles, refusing to collect billing details from patients and stopping performing hospital tasks. They are campaigning for better pay and work-life balance.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Capricornia, Breakfast, 12/03/2024, Jeremy Jones

Pre-recorded interview with Professor Sabina Knight, Director, James Cook University Central Queensland Centre for Rural and Remote Health, on construction beginning on a \$4.2m clinical health training facility in Emerald. James Cook University will manage the centre, which will offer additional placements for various programs, including medicine, nursing, and social work. It's hoped that the extension of the placement program is going to increase community access to health care in the region. Knight says the funding is coming from the Department of Health and Aged Care's workforce branch and the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training program.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Managing e-scripts remains a challenge

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 12/03/2024, Geoffrey Timbs

Consumers and health professionals report challenges in managing token-based electronic prescriptions. Data from the Australian Digital Health Agency's (ADHA's) National Electronic Prescribing Survey reveals that patients, prescribers and pharmacists are reporting challenges with managing e-scripts.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### How has AI become popular in healthcare?: Q&A

Nursing Review, Other, 12/03/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Australia has been quick to embrace artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to enhance patient care and improve overall health outcomes. Virtual reality (VR) training has been popular with NSW rolling out VR training for nurses to help with stroke care and helping rural QLD midwives upskill their maternity abilities

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Nurse stole patient's \$11k

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/03/2024, Amber Wilson, Page 12

A nurse who once stole \$11,000 from a Brisbane patient with schizophrenia has been working for years on Hobart's public psychiatric ward. In 2016, Yogeshkumar Patel helped the patient who was under a forensic mental health order and had been treated for a gambling addiction install a mobile phone gambling application.

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### Review launched into sexual harassment of health staff

Canberra Times, Other, 12/03/2024, Savannah Meacham

Workplace culture concerns have sparked an independent review into sexual harassment in Queensland's hospitals. The state's peak medical body has welcomed the move, just months after a Queensland-wide survey revealed a third of young doctors didn't feel safe at work.

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

[Read More](#)

## Eddie's aunt sends angry message to Malinauskas in Liberals' new Dunstan by-election ad

Adelaide Now, Other, 12/03/2024, Brad Crouch

The aunt of a man who died after waiting 10-hours for an ambulance has delivered an emotional message ahead of the by-election. The angry aunt of disabled man "Eddie" who in December has filmed a powerful video blaming Premier Peter Malinauskas for his death.

[Read More](#)

## Coroner investigating another two baby deaths within months at Mackay Base Hospital shortly after damning review

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024, Hannah Walsh

After a recent healthcare scandal at the same Queensland hospital involving baby deaths, the state coroner is now investigating two more infant fatalities at the same facility. Chloe Stanley's baby girl, Everlee, died in her arms seven days after she was born at Mackay Base Hospital in May 2023.

[Read More](#)

## WA pharmacist suspended and fined

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 12/03/2024

A Western Australian pharmacist has been reprimanded, suspended for two months, and fined \$10,000 last week for professional misconduct after inappropriate dispensing of steroid medication. Chetan Anant Hegde, a registered pharmacist, dispensed anabolic androgenic steroids during the period 01 Jan 2008 to 30 Apr 2009, and was referred by Ahpra in May 2017 to the State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Expert concern over Melb-based centre

Canberra Times, General News, 13/03/2024, Ben Silvester, Page 9

The Victorian government has hit back at the push to build an Australian Centre for Disease Control (ACDC) in Canberra, despite concerns a Melbourne-based centre would be biased. ACM revealed the Canberra campaign on March 4, with national public health bodies, ACT senator David Pocock and the ANU joining the ACT government to pressure federal Labor to headquarter the new centre in the nation's capital.

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

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### Climate risk assessment report warns of threats to healthcare, finance and infrastructure

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024, Nick Grimm

The federal government's first climate risk assessment report has detailed how life in Australia will continue to change because of rising temperatures and extreme weather events. Federal Assistant Minister for Climate Change Jenny McAllister said the first step was understanding the threats.

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## SPORT

### Kick a goal and we'll fund team's AFL stadium: Labor

Tasmanian Labor will consider funding a new stadium, but only if the state's AFL team proves itself, Opposition Leader Rebecca White said in the first leaders' debate of the state election. Ms White was pushed on her position on the stadium proposed for Hobart's Macquarie Point, telling a crowd of business leaders on Tuesday that the state could not afford its likely \$1bn price tag.

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## Racism scandal is a wake-up call for NRL players

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 13/03/2024, Page 16

There are several important lessons flowing from the appalling racial abuse which marred the NRL's season opener in Las Vegas and has dogged the game in the week since. The first is that Roosters prop Spencer Leniu inflicted serious hurt on Ezra Mam by calling the Broncos five-eighth a "monkey".

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

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

## 'Lagging well behind': Sport's new risk

Canberra Times, Sport, 13/03/2024, Melanie Dinjaski, Page 38

Think climate change doesn't affect sport? A new report highlights exactly how it does, and in more ways than one. FrontRunners - an organisation founded by Emma and David Pocock - in partnership with the Environmental Defenders Office released findings that sports are feeling the impact of climate change on multiple fronts, and the result is putting the health of those in sport at risk, as well as presenting serious legal liability for organisations and even directors.

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

## Up in arms over gun club

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/03/2024, David Barwell, Page 17

A Sydney shooting range is defending plans for a major increase in the number of days it can operate amid furious backlash from residents living within earshot of the site. Noise, environmental concerns and impacts on house prices are among objections raised by fired up residents following a proposal by the Peninsular Firearm Academy in Terrey Hills to boost its operating hours.

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## GRNSW staffer sacked over crass remark

Daily Telegraph, Sport, 13/03/2024, Peter Badel, Page 59

A grnsw staffer has been sacked over a tongue-in-cheek comment in a form guide in a tasteless twist to the racism saga. Just hours after the NRL judiciary suspended Leniu for eight games for calling Mam a "monkey", rugby league's racism saga spilt into the greyhound industry.

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## Malaysia game to run with our cash

Herald Sun, General News, 13/03/2024, Matt Johnston, Page 5

Malaysia looks poised to swoop on the 2026 Commonwealth Games and almost \$200m in Victorian taxpayer cash being offered to replacement host nations. Victoria was contracted to host a regional Commonwealth Games in 2026 but former premier Daniel Andrews tore up his own deal last year citing concerns about escalating costs and forking out \$380m in compensation to the event's global governing body in the process.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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## Matildas in record sellout

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/03/2024, Erin Smith, Page 3

The Matildas have sold out their 13th straight home game - in record time. It's a monumental achievement when you consider the average match attendance in 2019 was 10,000. All 30,000 pre-sale tickets to the Matildas match against reigning AFC Women's Cup champion China PR at Adelaide

Oval were sold in four hours last week. The remainder of the tickets to the 53,500capacity stadium went on sale at noon on Tuesday and were snapped up in less than hour.

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## Parents playing swim safety catch-up

Ballarat Courier, General News, 13/03/2024, Alison Foletta, Page 3

Waiting lists to catch up from COVID-19 lockdowns, a lack of swimming teachers and cost of living pressures are leaving parents scrambling to return to pre-COVID routines including vital swimming lessons. Mount Helen parent Hayley said she was unable to get her child into lessons. "We are on two wait lists because all the after-school programs are full," she said.

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

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## All roads lead to Marsh as skipper

Cairns Post, General News, 13/03/2024, Page 29

The confirmation of Allan Border medallist Mitch Marsh as Australia's captain for the T20 World Cup is all but complete, with national coach, and one of three selectors, Andrew McDonald declaring "all roads will lead to Mitch". It marks a significant moment for Marsh, whose international resurgence began during Australia's charge to victory at the 2021 T20 World Cup, where he was player of the match in the final.

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## Trisome Games for athletes with Down syndrome set to see Australian Andre Rivett going for gold

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024

When Andre Rivett dons the green and gold it means the world to him. The athlete nicknamed "The Hulk" will next week be the only Australian representing his country on the global stage at the Trisome Games in Antalya, Türkiye. The 26-year-old from Woodridge in Logan City, Queensland, will compete with the biggest smile, a secret weapon, and the hope that one day athletes with Down syndrome will be recognised at the Paralympics.

[Read More](#)

## After two decades and \$340m of funding, Geelong's Kardinia Park upgrade nears end

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024

In the 70s and 80s, Geelong kids would gather empty beer cans from the feet of adults at Kardinia Park. Back then, the cans were strong and could hold a young child's weight if they were stacked just right. Standing on top, a young footy fan could get a clear view of the field, where their heroes donned the blue and white hoops of one of the oldest football teams in the world.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### \$200m donor picks out winners

The Australian, Higher Education, 13/03/2024, Tim Dodd, Page 21

Canberra Airport owner the Snow family has announced two more \$8m long-term grants to individual scientists it believes will make landmark medical breakthroughs. The kicker is that neither is a medical researcher. The Snow Medical Research Foundation, which has poured more than \$200m into Australian medical research in the past several years, said Australian National University chemist Lara Malins and University of Queensland statistical geneticist Loic Yengo will each receive \$8m fellowships to fund their laboratories for eight years - enough time to test innovative ideas that could lead to major advances.

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## New hope for lung cancer

Herald Sun, General News, 13/03/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 15

A way to improve success rates treating the most common type of lung cancer has been discovered by a Melbourne-led team of researchers. The international collaboration, called the SEISMIC study, was led by the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre. The team confirmed a more accurate way to treat nonsmall cell lung cancer, which accounts for 87 per cent of lung cancer in Australia. The discovery is expected to become standard practice globally.

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

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## Brain gain

Courier Mail, Business News, 13/03/2024, Glen Norris, Page 39

The Queensland Brain Institute is partnering with McKinney's Jewellers to fast-track research into dementia. Margot McKinney, the fourth generation to run Brisbanebased McKinney's Jewellers, along with her nephew Andrew McKinney-Welch and Pat Goldsworthy from Ray White, this week made a \$500,000 donation to QBI from proceeds raised from their inaugural Dining for Dementia fundraising dinner.

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

## Investment to care for LGBTQ community

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 12/03/2024

Exploring ways to create an inclusive and safe mental healthcare environment for the LGBTQ community is the focus of a new research project from Flinders University. The research project has received more than \$700,000 in funding from the Medical Research Future Fund, and is part of a larger funding package by the Australian Government of \$26 million to improve treatment and care for LGBTQ people.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 12/03/2024, Peter Overton

Australian researchers have discovered how to make semaglutide, the key ingredient in the weight loss drug Ozempic faster and cheaper, potentially easing global supply issues. Scientists from the Florey Institute say it appears to be easier and cheaper to manufacture than the original.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### 'Ambitious' \$4b housing plan

Central Western Daily, General News, 13/03/2024, Page 7

Indigenous Australians living in overcrowded and dilapidated homes in the Northern Territory are set to benefit from a historic multibillion-dollar housing spend. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced \$4 billion jointly funded by the federal and territory governments during a visit to the community of Binjari, near Katherine, on Tuesday.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Shepparton News \(Shepparton\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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## High burden of bronchiectasis in Indigenous adults in the Northern Territory Top End

Medicine Today, Other, 12/03/2024, Melanie Hinze



An Australian expert has highlighted the importance for rural health practitioners to consider bronchiectasis in their day-to-day clinical practice. Associate Professor Subash Heraganahally, from Flinders University, Darwin, was commenting on his and colleagues' research, published in the Medical Journal of Australia, that found the prevalence of bronchiectasis and associated all-cause mortality to be 'alarmingly high' among the adult Indigenous Australian population in the Northern Territory Top End.

[Read More](#)

## **New leaders appointed for Fred Hollows Indigenous Australia program**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/03/2024, Dechlan Brennan

The Fred Hollows Foundation has welcomed two new appointments to help oversee their Indigenous Australia program. Country Director Vincent Bin Dol and Program Manager Tanya Morris have both been announced to take charge of the Australian-wide program, which aims to end avoidable blindness and improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

[Read More](#)

## **Dinybulu Regional Services improving housing for Ngangalala Homeland residents**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/03/2024, Giovanni Torre

Works are underway on 10 houses in the remote East Arnhem Land Homeland of Ngangalala, 560 km east of Darwin. The refurbishments and upgrades are being delivered by Dinybulu Regional Services after being awarded a \$3.5million grant under the Northern Territory government's Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program.

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## **NSW Indigenous groups warn of danger posed by harsh bail laws for children**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/03/2024, Giovanni Torre

Indigenous advocacy groups including the Aboriginal Legal Service of NSW/ACT warn that the New South Wales government's planned changes to bail laws for children will fail to reduce crime and end in disaster for youth engagement in regional communities. ALS NSW/ACT chief executive Karly Warner said on Tuesday that confirmation the NSW government would go ahead with the changes is a betrayal of Closing the Gap.

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## **Victoria to forge on with raising the age of criminal responsibility, new bail laws.**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/03/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Indigenous groups have criticised the Victorian Opposition for attempting to reintroduce bail laws that were previously labelled an "unmitigated disaster," and which had a particularly detrimental impact on Indigenous people. It comes as the Victorian government has denied reports they will shelve plans to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14, despite attacks from opposition leader, John Pesutto, on Monday.

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## **How a First Nations' Approach in marketing is helping to decolonise healthcare**

Nursing Review, Other, 12/03/2024

As the gap in healthcare outcomes for First Nations Australians persists, the concept of decolonisation in healthcare has emerged as a crucial step toward addressing these inequities. Our research explores the transformative role of marketing in challenging these inequalities and improving healthcare in First Nations communities.

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## Asthma 'twice as likely in the outer suburbs'

The Australian, General News, 13/03/2024, James Dowling, Page 3

Outer suburbs children have twice the chance of developing asthma compared to those living in the inner city. A study published by Curtin University based on health data captured in the last Australian census analysed the rates of asthma in four major cities Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

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

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## Boost for fight against super bugs

Daily Advertiser, General News, 13/03/2024, Sarah Lansdown, Page 4

Imagine a future where a simple infection could cause economies to grind to a halt. This could become our reality as microbes become resistant to current medicines, such as antibiotics and antimalarial drugs. Professor Lara Malins and her team at the Australian National University's Research School of Chemistry are working to find new molecules for our next line of defence against drug-resistant diseases.

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## The big picture of tiny particles: size matters in the dust debate

Mining Magazine, General News, 01/04/2024, Nikky La Branche, Page 38

The last decade has seen an increased focus on the escalating prevalence of mine dust lung disease in both the mining and engineered stone industries. A new dust testing methodology has been developed by the Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre (MISHC) at The University of Queensland (UQ) to provide insight into dust exposure to better protect workers from mine dust lung diseases such as black lung and silicosis.

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## Nocturnal asthma symptoms 'should trigger treatment review'

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/03/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Dr Kerry Hancock says asthma-related sleep disturbances should not be accepted as normal. GPs may need to step up treatment in patients with asthma-related sleep disturbances despite correct inhaler technique and adherence, according to the National Asthma Council.

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## The A – Z of getting tested: updating the rulebook on sexual health

Rolling Stone Australia, Other, 12/03/2024, Joe Cutcliffe

It's 2024. Like it or not, the risk of sexually transmissible infections (STI) are unfortunately part and parcel of being sexually active. Safe sex behaviours, including regular STI testing and using barrier protection are by and large the best policies to protect you and your sexual partners.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### TGA safety advisory on Withania

Medicine Today, Other, 12/03/2024

The TGA has issued a safety advisory on medicines and herbal supplements containing the herb Withania somnifera, which can cause acute, severe vomiting and diarrhoea that may be mistaken for infectious gastroenteritis. In very rare cases, these products may also cause liver injury. The TGA

advises health professionals to consider whether a complementary medicine could be involved when treating patients with symptoms of liver injury.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Melbourne is top heroin city as drug spend spikes

Age, General News, 13/03/2024, Melissa Cunningham, Page 1

Melbourne has retained its title as Australia's heroin capital, with new data showing Victorians accounted for almost half of the nation's yearly consumption of the drug. The Australian Crime Intelligence Commission yesterday released its annual snapshot of drug use which found Australians spent a record \$12.4 billion on methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and MDMA in the year to August 2023.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Medicine Today \(Online\)](#).

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### Heartless trolls attack aspiring DJ Anthony Maugeri after he died from a suspected drug overdose at music festival: 'Beneath contempt'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/03/2024, Olivia Day

Cruel trolls who targeted an aspiring DJ after he died from a suspected drug overdose at a weekend music festival have been called out online. Antony Maugeri, 20, was airlifted to Melbourne's Alfred Hospital from the Pitch music festival held near Ararat in southwestern Victoria at about 1am on Sunday. The up-and-coming DJ was one of three men rushed to hospital after suffering suspected drug overdoses at the five-day festival.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Know the spore on mushrooms

Herald Sun, General News, 13/03/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 11

The popular pastime of gathering wild mushrooms being "heavily promoted" on social media is potentially lifethreatening, the Food Safety Information Council says. It has issued an urgent warning to people not to forage for wild mushrooms because of the poisoning risk by death cap mushrooms.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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### Toddler milks are marketed as beneficial, but they're unnecessary and could be harmful

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024, Norman Swan

It's the ultra-processed milk powder intentionally marketed as a follow-on to breastfeeding or infant formulae. But evidence suggests toddler or transition milks are unnecessary at best and harmful at worst. Anthea Rhodes, a paediatrician at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, says parents are being tricked into thinking their toddlers need the products.

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