



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 14th March 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (page 1) reports half of Victorian mothers are missing postnatal depression screenings, a Department of Health review has found, with nurses and clinicians admitting they are reluctant to screen some patients due to the poor availability of mental health services.
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 6) reports the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists will not follow a move by the UK's NHS to stop prescribing puberty blockers to children, but has called for more research to determine best practices for treatment. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#), [The Age](#), [The Guardian](#)*
- The **Herald Sun** (page 6) reports a trial of a new drug to treat hand osteoarthritis, a condition that affects half of Australian women and a quarter of men, has been expanded to 150 patients.
- The **Herald Sun** (page 13) reports researchers at Melbourne's WEHI and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre have discovered a potential cure for aggressive blood cancer, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. *Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury](#)*
- **The Australian** (online) reports NSW says it will move cautiously on adopting newly approved mental health treatments using MDMA and psilocybin, but the state's Mental Health Minister

Rose Jackson has admitted more needs to be done to improve available treatments for people with severe conditions. *Also reported by: [Canberra Times](#)*

- The [Canberra Times](#) (online) reports the government has been called on to expand its inquiry into the COVID pandemic to include lockdowns and the impact of public health measures on disabled communities.
- [Adelaide Now](#) (online) reports more than 1,000 SA Health staff skirted a mandatory vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis without punishment, an inquiry into the state's mandatory vaccination policy has found.
- [The Guardian](#) (online) reports Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney says the results of the End Gender Bias survey, due to be announced on Thursday, will mark a "turning point for women's health in Australia".
- [The Guardian](#) (online) reports the Department of Health was aware a company that supplied millions of unusable masks during COVID had no background in PPE and became aware of the firm only after an unsolicited approach was made to then Health Minister Greg Hunt.

MINISTER BUTLER

Healthscope calls in the restructuring specialists

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 14/03/2024, Page 16

Canadian infrastructure giant Brookfield's private hospitals business Healthscope has called in restructuring specialists, as health insurers tighten the screws on payouts. Street Talk can reveal Healthscope has appointed MA Financial to oversee the moote...

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Tapping in to TikTok's positive influence

The Nightly, General News, 13/03/2024, Jeni O'Dowd, Page 14

Life is good on the middle-aged woman side of the social media algorithm, where joy and creativity take centre stage. I have a confession. [...] What was particularly interesting was the admission by Health Minister Mark Butler that the Government did this as teenagers could not be reached by traditional advertisers.

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70pc of income goes to rent

Broome Advertiser, General News, 14/03/2024, Cain Andrews, Page 10

The average Broome household is spending nearly 70 per cent of its income on rent as the cost-of-living crisis continues to hit North West communities the hardest. [...] Residents will be hit further with private health insurance premiums set to rise by just over 3 per cent from the start of April after Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who initially rejected the increases, succumbed to industry pressure.

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Premium rise 'modest'

Swan Hill Guardian, General News, 12/03/2024, Page 2

As health insurers begin implementing premium increases, Mildura Health Fund says it 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 were raising premiums more than that, MHF announced a 2.14 per cent rise.

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England's health service bans puberty blockers for children

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/03/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos

A decision by England's National Health Service to stop prescribing puberty blockers to children will fuel debate among Australian medical professionals about the best way to treat young people with

gender dysphoria. [...] A departmental brief prepared for Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney last year, published under freedom of information, said the Health Department receives a "consistent number of enquiries regarding gender-affirming care from stakeholders with diverse views".

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

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Voters want vapes regulated like alcohol and tobacco according to a damning new poll

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/03/2024, James O'Doherty

Most voters surveyed think the government should change its policy on nicotine vapes. 2 min read
March 13, 2024 - 5:00AM More than eight in ten 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.

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MP fights for aged care respite funding after \$200,000 cut

Star Community, Other, 13/03/2024, Matthew Sims

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. First established in 2004, Fernlea Community Care began with day respite care at Fernlea House in Emerald before expanding to provide in-home care services in 2015, opening the op shop and expanding to a second location in Pakenham, supporting more than 800 locals across the Cardinia, Yarra Ranges and Dandenong areas over two decades of operation.

Also reported by: [Ranges Trader Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ferntree Gully Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Residents beg for walkable pharmacy after rejection

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/03/2024, Megan Haggan

A South Australian minister has written to Mark Butler asking for approval for a new pharmacy licence, after members of a "walkable community" lamented their lack of a pharmacy InDaily reports that minister for housing and urban development Nick Champion has written to the federal health minister asking for help – but been rejected.

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Pharmacies prepare to gather in Queensland for the annual APP Conference

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 13/03/2024

The event coincides with the negotiation of the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement. Health Minister Mark Butler is not scheduled to attend. It remains unclear whether any representative of the Albanese Government will speak as part of the program.

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2GB, Drive, 13/03/2024, Chris O'Keefe

Interview with Dr Matthew Vickers, Eucalyptus. Vickers says Ozempic needs to be rethought by Health Minister Mark Butler and the TGA, as they shouldn't fear new technology because it's on the internet. He adds that it's proven to be safe and it's proven to be effective.

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2SM, Afternoons, 13/03/2024, Brent Bultitude

Bultitude says Health Minister Mark Butler is preparing to introduce legislation designed to more strictly

ban the sale of illegal vapes. He states that according to a vote to stop the illegal vaping market, more than half the voters surveyed believe the Government should regulate vapes like they do alcohol and tobacco while restricting sales to kids.

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3WM, Country Today, 13/03/2024, Libby Price

Interview with Dr Anne Webster, Member for Mallee. Compere says over a million Australians have avoided seeing their GPs due to the costs and the lack of doctors that are seen bulk billing. Webster admits that 1.2 million Australians are avoiding seeing a doctor because they can't afford it and people are choosing to put food on their table understandably, rather than visiting their GP. She mentions that lobbying Minister Mark Butler, who while he brags about the GP bulk billing rate, actually is sitting at 77.7% compared to 84% under Peter Dutton when he was health minister, and 88.5% when we left office in 2022.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 13/03/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with Nick Champion, Minister for Trade and Investment. Feldhoff says for Bowden, there's no pharmacy planned anytime soon. She asks Champion if they were able to discuss such matters with Health Minister Mark Butler. Champion points out that the Federal Agency that regulates pharmacies mentioned no on this request, which wasn't very helpful for them. He adds that they are interested so they can attract doctors in rural areas.

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MINISTER WELLS

Stewards query polities' Melbourne Cup travel claims

Herald Sun, General News, 14/03/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 6

The expenses of several senior politicians have come under the microscope following revelations taxpayers were charged for trips in which they attended the 2022 Melbourne Cup. New Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority data shows Sport Minister Anika Wells, Tourism Minister Don Farrell, Nationals leader David Littleproud and Opposition sport spokeswoman Anne Ruston went to the coveted event and claimed more than \$7600 in travel costs for official duties during their visits.

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Short-term thinking

West Australian, General News, 14/03/2024, Katina Curtis, Page 13

Australia's never-ending election cycle strangles political daring Imagine you had a job contract for three years, but had to start an arduous reapplication process after two. [...] Instead, it looks set to opt (after a six-month expert examination led by minister Anika Wells) for a slow phase-in of higher fees for the wealthy people using aged care.

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The quality of aged care is the issue

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 14/03/2024, Page 31

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: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Taskforce report discusses the future of sustainably funding aged care

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

Also reported by: [Ranges Trader Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ferntree Gully Mail \(Online\)](#), [Lilydale Star Mail \(Online\)](#).

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The government is preparing to squeeze older Australians on aged care costs — and the opposition is keeping unusually quiet

ABC Online, Other, 14/03/2024, David Speers

Two unusual things happened this week. Firstly, the government flagged higher out-of-pocket costs for potentially millions of Australians. This is something it typically avoids like the plague, in an era of trying to ensure everyone's a winner and limiting complaints. [...] Ruston was joined by shadow treasurer Angus Taylor for a briefing by aged care minister Anika Wells before the release of the taskforce report.

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Four federal politicians defend taxpayer-funded trips coinciding with Melbourne Cup that cost more than \$5,000

The Guardian, Other, 13/03/2024, Sarah Basford Canales

Four federal politicians have defended taxpayer-funded trips that allowed them to attend the 2022 Melbourne Cup, costing more than \$5,000 in accommodation and transport. Labor ministers Don Farrell and Anika Wells, along with the Nationals leader, David Littleproud, and the shadow sports minister, Anne Ruston, attended the event in the Victorian capital on 1 November 2022, charging the public for various expenses associated with their attendance.

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Aged Care Taskforce releases final report

Austaxpolicy, Other, 13/03/2024, Teck Chi Wong

The Aged Care Taskforce, chaired by Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells, has released its final report. The Taskforce has made 23 recommendations. Among them include: Recommendation 2: Continue the significant role for government funding of aged care services. A specific tax or levy to fund aged care is not recommended.

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Taskforce recommends wealthy pay more for aged care services

PS News, Other, 13/03/2024, James Day

Individuals with personal wealth should be asked to pay more for aged care to allow those less well-off to receive greater support, the Aged Care Taskforce has found in its final report. Led by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, the taskforce has published 23 recommendations in its final report on the sector that's expected to reach \$42 billion in Commonwealth funding over the forward estimates.

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

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 13/03/2024, Greg Jennett

Panel discussion with Susan Templeman, Labor MP, and Allegra Spender, Independent MP. Jennett points out that the taskforce report on aged care has recently been made public. Templeman points out that they should have had this conversation two years ago, when there was a huge aged care crisis. Jennett points out that Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has ruled out several things for action such as special levies, additional taxes, changes to means, testing on the home

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Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells says she's considering a new report that recommends higher fees for residents who can afford it. She adds that they can't continue to ignore the problem.

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2CC, 05:30 News, 13/03/2024

The Federal Government is ruling out any new taxes or levies to fund aged care. A panel of experts, advocates and industry leaders is instead recommending higher fees for residents who can afford to pay. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the government will respond to the taskforce in due course.

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2GB, Mornings, 13/03/2024, Ray Hadley

Hadley says more than half of nursing home residents and in-home care recipients are self-funded, the proposed changes from the task force initiated by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, will likely impact more than 600,000 older Australians. He states that according to a financial analyst namely Stewart Brown, the task force's proposal for nursing home residents who don't draw a pension to pay their everyday living costs, such as meals, cleaning, and laundry, would see them pay \$570m.

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2SM, Breakfast, 13/03/2024, Richard King

King mentions an aged care task force led by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, who declared it was unfair that taxpayers pay so much of the bill for aged care, namely 75% of residential care costs, and 95% of in-home care costs. He mentions that originally, the Government has ruled out a taxpayer levy in the 2021 Royal Commission. He states that Wells is confirming that they will not impose a new tax or a new levy to fund age care costs or any changes to the means testing treatment of the family home.

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2SM, Breakfast, 13/03/2024, Richard King

King mentions that Aged Care Minister Anika Wells have made her view clear that wealthy retirees should pay more for their own aged care. He states that the task force, chaired by Wells, declared it was not optimal or fair that taxpayers pay so much of the bill for aged care.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

England's health service bans puberty blockers for children

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/03/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos

A decision by England's National Health Service to stop prescribing puberty blockers to children will fuel debate among Australian medical professionals about the best way to treat young people with gender dysphoria. [...] A departmental brief prepared for Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney last year, published under freedom of information, said the Health Department receives a "consistent number of enquiries regarding gender-affirming care from stakeholders with diverse views".

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

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Two-thirds of women report bias or discrimination in Australian healthcare in national survey

The Guardian, Other, 14/03/2024, Natasha May

A woman "bullied into" accepting long-term contraception in order to obtain endometriosis surgery is one of many dehumanising experiences of gender bias in the health system revealed by a government survey. [...] The survey was conducted by the National Women's Health Advisory Council, formed in late 2022 to address medical misogyny and chaired by assistant minister for health, Ged Kearney.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

Anthony Albanese says \$4bn commitment to NT remote housing key to close the gap

Northern Territory News, Other, 13/03/2024, Fia Walsh

Anthony Albanese has hailed a \$4 billion investment in remote housing in the Northern Territory as a critical step to close the gap, in the most significant announcement for Aboriginal Australians since the voice referendum defeat last year. [...] Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaks to resident Stevie (left) as he tours a newly built community housing unit together with Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney and NT Senator Malarndirri McCarthy at Binjari near Katherine.

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

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DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

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CORONAVIRUS

Lockdowns should be included in COVID-19 inquiry

Canberra Times, Other, 13/03/2024, Tess Ikonomou

Lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic made a challenging situation almost "impossible to bear" and should be looked at in an inquiry, the peak national employers association says. The Albanese government announced a 12-month inquiry into the pandemic in September last year, but the terms of reference does not include individual state and territory decisions including lockdowns.

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

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Australian government knew obscure retailer had no PPE experience before paying \$100m for unusable Covid masks

The Guardian, Other, 14/03/2024, Christopher Knaus and David Conn

The Australian government knew an obscure online retailer had no experience importing PPE prior to handing it \$100m and receiving 46m unusable masks at a critical point during the pandemic, documents show. A Guardian Australia investigation last year revealed how a virtually unknown company, Australian Business Mobiles, received \$100m in PPE contracts in early 2020 despite its prior business largely involving the sale of air fryers, robot vacuum cleaners, bedding and massage guns.

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Global life expectancy fell by 1.6 years during the COVID-19 pandemic but Australia bucked the trend, study finds

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2024, Audrey Courty

A new study has found global life expectancy fell by 1.6 years during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, but Australia was among the few countries to buck the trend. The peer-reviewed paper published in The Lancet medical journal on Tuesday (local time) is the first to provide a comprehensive look at the pandemic's toll on human health so far.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Spreading the burden of costs will benefit us all

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/03/2024, Lincoln Hopper, Page 43

When one of our aged care residents, Pauline, turned 100 in January, she didn'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.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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How do social activities bene?t well-being in later life?

Have-a-Go News, General News, 01/03/2024, Frank Smith, Page 9

Researchers at Monash University need your input with their studies into seniors' well-being and social activities. They are looking for aged care recipients to answer a national survey about social activities, connections, and well-being.

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Responsibility for aged care will remain 'overwhelmingly' with government

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/03/2024

The responsibility for aged care will "remain overwhelmingly with government", says Australian Retirement Trust Director Janine Walker. Her remarks come after a special taskforce suggested wealthy Australians pay more for aged care.

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

Crikey, Other, 13/03/2024, Bernard Keane

When you think aged care you probably think nursing homes. But home care is increasingly dominating how we care for seniors. The aged care taskforce report , with its recommendation that seniors be required to pay a significantly larger proportion of the costs of aged care rather than all taxpayers carrying the responsibility, has debuted this week to relatively little angst.

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These astounding numbers about aged care explain why we have a taskforce

Crikey, Other, 13/03/2024, Anton Nilsson

Crikey pores over the figures in the new report from the federal government's aged care taskforce. In the latest instalment of Paint by Numbers, Crikey's new series about the big issues of the day told via the numbers, we lay out the challenge facing Australia's aged care system.

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Safe, supportive, cost-effective print solutions for Aged Care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 13/03/2024

With Australia's aging population set to rapidly accelerate over the next ten years, the demand for and pressure on aged care services both aged care residences and within home-based support programs is expected to increase exponentially. In 2020 it was reported by the Australian government that more than 840,000 Australians were receiving support via the Commonwealth Home Support Programme, and around 245,000 Australians were living permanently in aged care residences.

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Exploring a mobile model of care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/03/2024, Christopher Kelly

In the future, older Australians will be able to access the care they need in whichever environment they choose, an industry expert has told Australian Ageing Agenda Speaking ahead of her appearance at an industry conference in Sydney next week, Katie Formston – head of design, property and capital works at dementia care specialists HammondCare – said: "We're thinking going forward that the access to care will be divorced from the choice of accommodations ... the care goes to the consumer rather than the consumer going to the care.

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'Treated like interns working all hours': What happened to GPs after the aged care royal commission?

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/03/2024, Simon Willcock

One of the aged care facilities where I see residents has a car space under a shady tree reserved for doctors. It seems a welcoming gesture until you return to find your car covered in bird droppings — an apt allegory for how many GPs feel they are regarded within the residential aged care system. The recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety have resulted in much tighter compliance requirements, with no real opportunity for dissent or negotiation.

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Art therapy benefits show you're never too old to embrace creativity

HelloCare, Other, 13/03/2024, Alex Jacobs

Queensland aged care residents are channelling their inner Picasso as TriCare's Mt Gravatt Aged Care Residence embraces art therapy as a way to keep its talented residents social and creative. Art therapy is a proven winner in residential aged care settings as it stimulates the brain and provides an emotional outlet.

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Sixty per cent of nursing home residents given antidepressants: study

The Senior, Other, 13/03/2024, Eileen Wood

Six out of 10 residents of aged care homes are taking antidepressant medication - a much higher rate than the general population. A study by the Registry of Senior Australians analysed the de-identified data of 779,659 residents from 3,371 aged care homes, between 2006 and 2019. [...] The researchers believe several factors are contributing to the rise, including a growing focus on mental health, spurred by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

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

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 13/03/2024, Laura Jayes

Interview with Janine Walker, Director, Australian Retirement Trust. Jayes says a special task force has this week delivered its final report on how we can ensure the longevity of our aged care system and one of the recommendations from this report is making wealthier seniors pay for more from their pocket for aged care. Walker says the task force is concerned that the current aged care funding system is opaque. She states that there's an underlying thinking that they need to make it clear to people what they are paying for and what they're getting for with their money.

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Steer says the Federal Government report that was released yesterday suggests that some wealthier Australians should pay more for aged care, if they can afford that.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Puberty blockers under fresh scrutiny

The Australian, General News, 14/03/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

Australia's major children's hospitals have distanced themselves from growing questions over the prescription of hormone drugs to children in the wake of a ban by British health authorities on the routine prescription of puberty blockers to young teenagers. The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne despite being the setters of quasi-national standards of care that incorporate the prescription of hormone blocker drugs to children in the early stages of puberty refused to respond to the English National Health Service's move to restrict prescription of puberty blockers to clinical trials, the move mirroring growing doubts over the safety and clinical effectiveness of the hormone drugs in a host of European countries.

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

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Toothless fluoride debate

Cairns Post, General News, 14/03/2024, Annabel Bowles, Page 3

Cairns mayoral candidates appear hesitant to take a position on fluoride ahead of the election, as the Health Minister urges the next council to show "leadership" on the issue. It comes after Shannon Fentiman promised to help fund the costs of putting fluoride back into mains water. During her recent visit to Cairns, Ms Fentiman said it was "really disappointing" Cairns Regional Council had not "taken leadership on this issue and listened to the health advice".

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

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COVID pets spark flurry of injuries for owners

Canberra Times, General News, 14/03/2024, Neve Brissenden, Page 16

Australians adopted pets in huge numbers to keep them company during the pandemic, but the increase in furry companions has resulted in a flurry of pet-related hospital admissions. Cats and dogs were responsible for more than half of all injury hospitalisations related to contact with animals in 2021/22, data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

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Tackling period poverty

Border Watch, Other, 13/03/2024, Melanie Riley

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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Preventing insomnia

We can all have a bad night's sleep but what happens if it goes on for years? In this edition of The Conversation Hour we talk insomnia — from what causes it to how to treat it.

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An apple cider vinegar drink a day? New study shows it might help weight loss

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2024, Evangeline Mantzioris

Made from fermented apples and naturally high in acetic acid, apple cider vinegar has been popular in recent years for its purported health benefits — from antibacterial properties to antioxidant effects and potential for helping manage blood sugars. Its origins as a health tonic stretch much further back.

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

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 13/03/2024, Craig Zonca and Loretta Ryan

Zonca points out that there were data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare regarding dog, cat, pet bird, and snake injuries.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Go with your gut instinct and demand a screening

Herald Sun, General News, 14/03/2024, Alice Coster, Page 31

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

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Your voice matters now more than ever

West Australian, General News, 14/03/2024, Page 18

Cancer Council WA is urging West Australians to get behind new vape laws that will gnally end the teen vaping epidemic. Federal politicians need to hear your voice and understand the devastating impact that vaping is having on young people, says Cancer Council WA CEO Ashley Reid.

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'It's a hard thing to come to grips with'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/03/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

John Rook's disability is hard to live with, but writing a novel and the love of his wife has helped him through it. "I'm 73 and my body is a mess," Mr Rook said. "I have no feet, my lower legs have been amputated and I spend most of my day in a wheelchair. "It's a hard thing to come to grips with to know your body is failing."

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'It felt like a fire under my arm': Dad almost dies after ocean swim

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/03/2024, Joel Erickson

Nbc reports that potentially deadly infections from a flesh-eating bacteria could increase as climate change continues to warm the world's oceans. According to a study published in 'Scientific Reports,' infections caused by ... An Aussie father-of-two was forced to fight for his life, and almost lost his arm, after simply going for a swim in the ocean during his Christmas holidays.

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New study reveals a stark difference of asthma rates in poorer and richer suburbs

9News, Other, 13/03/2024, Yashee Sharma

There is a serious gap in asthma rates between inner city and outer suburban children in Australia, a new study based on the latest census data has revealed. Telethon Kids Institute and Curtin University researchers initially believed children aged between five and 14 years living in inner-city areas would have higher rates of asthma due to pollution and traffic.

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

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Calls for greater awareness around Tinnitus hearing condition

SBS, Other, 13/03/2024, Omoh Bello

A hearing condition is silently having significant negative impact on many people around the world but it is easily overlooked. With one in three Australians living with some degree of tinnitus, it can interfere with many aspects of daily life and have an impact on mental health and well-being.

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Have you checked out the new sun safety guidelines

SBS, Other, 13/03/2024

Australia's sun safety guidelines have been updated for the first time to include advice for diverse skin types. The new guidelines also acknowledge and balance the harms and benefits of sun exposure for different risk groups.

[Read More](#)

Woman, 29, dies after superbugs attack her organs and cause body to go into septic shock

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 13/03/2024, Jordan Greene

A mysterious illness led to the collapse of a 29-year-old woman in Australia, prompting an urgent rush to the ICU where she later died. According to Yahoo News Australia , Ashley Timbery was at her home in Nowra, located in the South Coast region of New South Wales, on Feb. 15 when she suddenly collapsed. Her brother promptly rushed her to Shoalhaven Hospital, where she remained for 10 days before being transferred to St George Hospital in Sydney, as reported by the outlet.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 13/03/2024, Georgia Stynes

Interview with Associate Professor Graham Newstead, Medical Director, Bowel Cancer Australia. Newstead believes that Australia's bowel cancer screening programme is the best in the world. He adds that the National Health and Medical Research Council has now come out just last year and mentioned that they need to push for at least 74 and beyond screenings.

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PRIMARY CARE

Service 'not fit for purpose'

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/03/2024, Zizi Averill, Page 17

A senior clinician has admitted that the Territory's therapeutic out-of-home care system is "not fit for purpose" and unable to deal with the complexity of vulnerable children in their care. On Tuesday, NT coroner Sarah McNamara was told that 15-year-old Kailab was a young aspiring rapper "full of potential" despite his troubled upbringing, pinballing between 35 different residential care placements and Don Dale Detention Centre.

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

Overdue elective surgery wait list slashed

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 14/03/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 3

The wait list for Illawarra residents whose surgery is overdue has been slashed by more than half in the space of a year, as the health district plays catch-up after COVID-19. Between December 2022 and December 2023, the number of people waiting longer than clinically recommended for a planned surgery has dropped from 932 to 355.

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

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Libs queried over 'ramping ban' policy

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/03/2024, Benjamin Seeder, Page 13

Health Minister Guy Barnett was forced on the defence over his flagship policy to end ramping during Tasmania's election debate of health issues that took place on Tuesday evening. The debate, which followed a similar showdown between Jeremy Rockliff and Rebecca White organised just hours earlier, included Mr Barnett, Greens leader Dr Rosalie Woodruff, and Labor health spokesperson Anita Dow.

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

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

Cataract surgeries most common procedure

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 14/03/2024, Lydia Roberts, Page 2

Age and climate change are wreaking havoc on eyes across the Northern Tablelands, with cataract surgery becoming the most common procedure performed in the district's public hospitals. Double the number of cataract removals were performed at Moree Hospital between October and December 2023, compared with the same time last year, latest data shows.

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

Do the numbers add up?

Western Advocate, General News, 14/03/2024, Amy Rees, Page 1

Are more people really getting treated on time at Bathurst Hospital or is there a grey area in the data? That's the question being asked by a Bathurst Regional councillor. According to the figures for the period October to December 2023, the number of emergency department presentations at Bathurst starting treatment within the recommended time was up 10.9 per cent, compared with the same period the previous year.

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

The right to die with dignity

Law Institute Journal, General News, 01/03/2024, Victor Tse[✉], Page 28

While enormous progress has been made legislating euthanasia in Australia, many shortcomings of the current laws have been identified. Future debate and further law reform is expected and legal practitioners should actively monitor developments and engage in the ongoing conversation. Voluntary assisted dying (VAD)¹ is a way for someone who is suffering from a terminal illness to legally access a substance to end their life with the support and assistance of registered health practitioners. The person can choose the time and place.

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

Record emergency visits driving long hospital waits

Canberra Times, Other, 13/03/2024, Maeve Bannister and Samantha Lock

One in 10 patients are waiting nearly 11 hours in NSW hospital emergency departments as unprecedented numbers of patients turn up in urgent need of treatment. A record number of triage level one and two presentations - people with the most pressing clinical needs - were logged in the state's hospitals in the final quarter of 2023, according to the Bureau of Health Information.

[Read More](#)

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Mums missing mental health tests

Age, General News, 14/03/2024, Henrietta Cook and Aisha Dow, Page 1

Half of Victorian mothers are missing vital screenings for postnatal depression, with a scathing Department of Health review calling for an overhaul of mental health checks for parents. Experts are backing the revamp, saying that for too long the mental health of new and expectant mothers has been neglected, despite women being at risk of developing mental illness during this vulnerable time.

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Caleb is driven to make sure mental health is addressed

Central Western Daily, General News, 14/03/2024, Riley Krause, Page 5

Seven years after his friend's death, Caleb Lewis has made it his mission to ensure those battling mental health issues aren't doing so alone. In March 2017, 19-year-old Joseph Mateo died by suicide, with a Glenroi basketball court subsequently renamed in his honour.

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Greens say psychologists needed in schools now than ever

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/03/2024, Saree Salter, Page 14

According to the Australian Psychology Society, more psychologists are needed in schools now than ever. The Greens have announced a policy that will push for increased psychologists in Tasmanian public schools to meet the needs of young people.

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

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The road to addressing Australia's youth mental health crisis

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 13/03/2024

Poor mental health can affect anyone at any time. And while anxiety or depression may not sound as 'severe' as other diseases or illnesses, if it is not detected early or left untreated, poor mental health can very quickly lead to other serious health concerns such as substance abuse, eating disorders, self-harm or suicide.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Remote control: Unions push for right to work from home

Age, General News, 14/03/2024, Angus Thompson, Page 4

Millions of workers should be given the right to work from home, according to a proposal by the union movement's peak body that ratchets up the tension between staff and their bosses over returning to the office. [...] However, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation has submitted to the commission review that the award for nurses should be varied to allow workers who are not in frontline care roles to have the right to request remote work.

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

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

200 health students in ACT take up payments

Canberra Times, General News, 14/03/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 10

More than 200 health students have taken up an offer of financial support from the ACT government to help them with cost-of-living pressures. Nursing, midwifery and allied health students in Canberra are eligible to receive \$3000 a year and a support payment of up to \$1000 when they are undertaking work placements.

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

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No life for us in sick system

Herald Sun, General News, 14/03/2024, Danny Hill, Page 31

Paramedics are currently bargaining with Ambulance Victoria (AV) and the Allan government for a new enterprise agreement. We have claims for improvements to wages, conditions, valuing MICA, better rural resourcing, and incentivising longevity in the job. But, for many members, the most important claim is simply the ability to get home after the shift ends.

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

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UOW medical school curing rural ills

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 14/03/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 4

Being a doctor in regional and rural Australia is not a popular choice for medical students, with less than one in five medical school graduates wanting to work in these areas. But, as the shortage of GPs and specialist doctors in these areas worsens, new research from the University of Wollongong shows its medical school is producing more doctors for country areas than others across Australia.

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First 29 GPs formally recognised for their special interests under RACGP's \$1350 certificate

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/03/2024, Heather Saxena

The college launched its 'extended skills certificate' late last year. Twenty-nine GPs can now tout formal recognition of their areas of special interest after receiving the RACGP's new \$1350 certificate. In November, the RACGP launched its Recognition of Extended Skills for GPs who wanted certification of their special interests in dermatology, psychological medicine, addiction medicine, integrative medicine or developmental disability medicine.

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

[Read More](#)

More than ever...

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/03/2024, Megan Haggan

The 2024 theme for Thank Your Pharmacist Day has been announced The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has stated that the 2024 theme for Thank Your Pharmacist Day is, "More than ever". More than ever highlights pharmacists' growing role in Australia's health care system, and the enduring commitment of pharmacists in all practice areas and specialisations

[Read More](#)

College launches PAs scope course

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/03/2024

The Australasian College of Pharmacy has just launched a short training course for pharmacy assistants to support the Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot. Developed in partnership with the Queensland branch of The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the new course covers information about the pilot and its services, patient eligibility and consent and how assistants can support community pharmacists.

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Docs demand pharmacy rules Bill rejection

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/03/2024, Megan Haggan

Doctors are yet again calling for the removal of pharmacy ownership and location rules, despite a report countering their objections. A Queensland parliamentary committee has recommended supporting the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill in full, in a move which has been welcomed by the Pharmacy Guild's state branch president Chris Owen.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacists cite concern over 'blowback'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/03/2024, Youhana Younan

Fear of repercussions is a barrier to reporting medication errors, but safe reporting cultures can help, says professional officer. A small qualitative study on medication error reporting has found that attitudes and practices vary between pharmacists, doctors and nurses.

[Read More](#)

Does how you print dosing intervals on medicine labels matter?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 13/03/2024, Claire Antrobus and Chloe Hava

Expert advice for applying the right dosage instructions on medicine labels on a case-by-case basis. How do you word instructions on dispensing labels? Could some simple changes make your instructions clearer for patients? Claire Antrobus MPS, Manager, Practice Support at PSA explains the importance of simple and explicit dosing instructions tailored to medicine type, dosing requirements and patient comprehension.

[Read More](#)

FDA approves Wegovy for the heart

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/03/2024

Novo Nordisk's weight-loss drug Wegovy (semaglutide) was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Fri for new implications of lowering the risk of stroke and heart attack in overweight or obese adults who do not have diabetes, Reuters has reported. Novo's semaglutide belongs to a class of drugs called GLP-1 agonists and is taken by millions of people already, but the FDA's stamp of approval for the heart benefits is likely to open its use to more patients worldwide.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

'A human right': NDIS on par with Medicare, study shows

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/03/2024, Tom Burton, Page 6

Australians consider the National Disability Insurance Scheme to be a fundamental government service on par with Medicare and want fraud and waste to be fixed to ensure its sustainability, focus group research shows. The NDIS-commissioned research found r...

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

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Is technology helping make medicine use in Australia safer?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 13/03/2024, Deborah Hawthorne

Do pop-ups make practice safer or more dangerous? It seems a reasonable assumption that pop-up warnings make health care safer. Surely health professionals who are provided with information about drug interactions or potential errors at the time of prescribing/dispensing/administration make safer decisions?

[Read More](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Sextort' charges for uni staffer

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/03/2024, Sean Fewster and Isabel Mcmillan, Page 9

A Flinders University staffer with a prior career in child protection has been arrested by elite police and charged with "sextorting" abuse material from a teenage girl. College of Medicine and Public Health research fellow Duncan David Langford-Glass faced Adelaide Magistrates Court on Wednesday.

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

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Doctors failing the vulnerable

Herald Sun, Editorials, 14/03/2024, Page 30

The Coroners Court has heard troubling revelations this week of a 16-year-old boy said to have been handed 64 scripts from 31 GPs in the year before his overdose death. In the days before the boy died in January 2019, the coroner heard that he was given 60 tablets of opioids and benzodiazepines via three doctors. [...] A number of practitioners were set to be investigated by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency in relation to Mr Liefvoort's death.

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

How our hospital failed Dougie

Daily Liberal, General News, 14/03/2024, Allison Hore, Page 1

It is meant to be a place of healing, where people feel safe and cared for. But 36-year-old Kamilaroi Dunghutti man Ricky Hampson Jr was always afraid of hospitals. And it was the failings of a regional hospital which ultimately led to his untimely death, a coronial inquest has heard. Who was Ricky Hampson Jr?

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Review finds hundreds of health workers ignored non-Covid vaccine mandate without penalty

Adelaide Now, Other, 13/03/2024, Brad Crouch

A review has found more than 1000 SA Health workers were "uncategorised" on their mandatory vaccination status for diseases other than Covid. More than 1000 SA Health staff in the southern area alone were "Uncategorised" regarding their vaccination status for the mandatory dTpa booster against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, documents released under Freedom of Information show.

[Read More](#)

Qld paramedic 'immediately suspended' by watchdog

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/03/2024, Vanda Carson

A Queensland Ambulance Service paramedic has been immediately suspended from working in the field by the industry watchdog. Anthony Shawn Sehl had his registration as a paramedic suspended by the state's Office of the Health Ombudsman on March 7, according to a posting on the OHO website. [...] According to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency he is from the central Queensland town of Collinsville and was first registered in the profession in 2018.

[Read More](#)

Australia's doctor from hell is exposed as he is banned from practicing medicine

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/03/2024, David Southwell

A once devoted doctor who wrote about how he loved working in a hospital's emergency room has been banned from practising medicine for two years after his life spiralled into a prolonged struggle with drug addiction and bizarre crimes. Sri Lankan-born Dr Warnakulasooriya Patabandige Ruwantha

Wijetunga, 42, was once promoted on social media as the competent and caring face of a major Sydney hospital.

[Read More](#)

Dad Jimmy Mitchell brands Western Australia the 'worst' state in Australia after dentistry nightmare for his son Liam

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/03/2024, Antoinette Milienos

An Aussie dad has branded Western Australia the 'worst' state in the country after he called more than 15 emergency dentists for his son but none were available. Jimmy Mitchell, 36, and wife Pauline, 35, gave up their stereotypical lifestyle in Western Australia to travel South East Asia for the past 12 months with their sons Liam, 8 and Riley, 7.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

\$4m for donors

Courier Mail, General News, 14/03/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 21

Australia's quest for more lifesaving bone marrow donors will be bolstered under a \$4.2m injection of funds by the nation's health ministers, but the cash still falls well short of what advocates have been calling for. Eight out of 10 transplant patients in Australia rely on overseas bone marrow donors, with the nation's pool shrinking each year as those above the age of 60 are retired from the registry.

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Promises to fix our health crisis are empty words as the issues go right to the bone and can't be fixed here

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/03/2024, John Cleary, Page 38

For three or more years we have had continuous commentary and debate about the plight of our hospitals, ambulance ramping and delays in health services. On reading and listening to media reports, we are led to believe that Tasmania alone is facing a crisis in health. Let's listen to the facts, rather than listening to political propaganda which has been in overdrive over the past few weeks.

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SPORT

Coates: why didn't royals save Games

The Australian, General News, 14/03/2024, Julian Linden, Page 7

Australian Olympic supremo John Coates has questioned why the British royal family did not do more to help save the Commonwealth Games after Malaysia emerged as the event's unlikely saviour - thanks to a \$194m sweetener from Victorian taxpayers. Mr Coates on Wednesday welcomed the news that Malaysia was considering hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games after being promised a truckload of free money.

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

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Roosters pounce as rugby fiddles

The Australian, Sport, 14/03/2024, Jessica Halloran, Page 24

While billionaire Roosters chairman Nick Politis took the time to meet with young Wallaby Max Jorgensen preparing to offer him \$1.8 million to become their next James Tedesco Rugby Australia boss Daniel Herbert is yet to personally sit down with his code's most exciting teenager. Rugby Australia head office have pushed Jorgensen's contract "down the line" to their "contracting

department" to negotiate as both Politis and Roosters premiership-winning coach Trent Robinson met with the 19-year-old. Robinson talked with Max for two hours to discuss the Bondi club's vision for the Waratahs playmaker.

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No Russia-style Olympics ban for Israel: IOC

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/03/2024, Iain Payten, Page 8

International Olympic Committee vice-president John Coates says the war in Gaza does not warrant the same Olympic sanctions for Israel as those imposed on Russia after it invaded Ukraine, due to differences between the conflicts. Coates explained the IOC's position after the peak Olympic body recently rejected calls for Israel to be banned from the Paris Games this year, in the same fashion as the Russian Olympic Committee.

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Loving Angels instead

Herald Sun, Sport, 14/03/2024, Shannon Gill, Page 67

A smile comes across Julie Uhrman's face when asked whether Australia could be part of the future plans of Los Angeles' Angel City FC. "I may have a meeting or two while I'm down there," Uhrman, the club's co-founder and president says ahead of being the keynote speaker at next week's SportNXT sports industry conference in Melbourne. Angel City's backstory reads more like a Hollywood script than an expansion sports team. It has triggered a mini revolution for female sport in America.

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Footy at the 'crossroads'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 14/03/2024, Emily Clooney, Page 40

The North-West's two main country football associations are at a crossroads and if they are to survive, they must merge or "just allow natural attrition to take its course". That is the view of former NWFA president Brian Holloway, who is not surprised that a second Coastal club - West Ulverstone - had gone into recess before the first bounce of the 2024 season.

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Training and braining experience

Daily Advertiser, General News, 14/03/2024, Tahlia Sinclair, Page 23

When Helen Fisher first started as a football trainer in the 90s, concussion wasn't a high priority among football clubs. Now, she's pleased to see increasing awareness and caution in relation to head injuries sustained on the field. The North Wagga, Victorian Country Masters, and Riverina Bulls trainer has hailed the AFL's new community concussion protocols as a welcomed change.

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Rosier leads the charge for Bathurst

Western Advocate, General News, 14/03/2024, Alexander Grant, Page 24

Byron Rosier's silver medal was a highlight among a sea of strong performances from the Bathurst contingent at the recent 2024 Athletics NSW Junior Championships. Rosier finished runner-up in the under 14s high jump while teammates Will Curtin, Miller Rivett, Thalia Ruming and Kobe Borgstahl all had reasons to be proud of their efforts at Sydney Olympic Park.

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Broncos welfare officers support Mam ahead of Souths

Canberra Times, Other, 13/03/2024, Joel Gould

Brisbane coach Kevin Walters says Ezra Mam is "right to go" against South Sydney as the club's welfare officers rally around the star five-eighth. At Suncorp Stadium on Thursday night, Mam will play his first NRL game since being called a monkey by Sydney Roosters prop Spencer Leniu in the round-one clash in Las Vegas.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#),

[Read More](#)

From the grassroots to the elite, sport is already feeling the impacts of climate change, so why aren't peak bodies prepared?

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2024, Jess Davis

Climate change is putting the sports we love at risk, with the impacts of worsening extreme weather — especially heatwaves — already being felt. Four years ago Pocock co-founded Frontrunners with her husband, former Wallabies captain and ACT senator David Pocock. The organisation is working with athletes and sports bodies to address the impacts of climate change.

[Read More](#)

Mega esports event DreamHack gears up for Melbourne return

9News, Other, 14/03/2024, Julian Price

Australia's gaming community is eagerly anticipating the return of DreamHack AU, the country's largest esports event. Excitement is at an all-time high following the announcement of a deal to keep the event in Melbourne for many years to come.

[Read More](#)

League-banned Leniu is not racist, says Roosters coach

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/03/2024

Sydney Roosters coach Trent Robinson has defended prop Spencer Leniu against accusations of racism following his eight-week suspension by the National Rugby League for calling an opponent a "monkey". Leniu, born in New Zealand but raised in western Sydney, admitted to using the racially-charged term towards Brisbane Broncos' Ezra Mam, who is an Indigenous Australian, during the season-opening doubleheader in Las Vegas.

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

[Read More](#)

AFL hands out a shocking number of life bans to fans who were found guilty of one of the lowest acts in footy

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/03/2024, Andrew Prentice

As racism continues to be a huge talking point in Australian sport, it can now be revealed the AFL issued 16 lifetime bans to 'fans' last season after they were found guilty of racially attacking players at stadiums across the nation. The AFL Integrity Unit investigated all 16 incidents, and later confirmed none unfolded on social media - all were in person.

[Read More](#)

\$100,000 grant boosts First Nations arts businesses ahead of Brisbane Olympics

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/03/2024, Joseph Guenzler

The Queensland Government has unveiled the first recipients of the First Nations Arts Business Grants. More than \$100,000 is being allocated to support 11 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural businesses in Queensland, supporting skill development and enhancing capacity.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 13/03/2024, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella

A fired-up Kevin Walters refused to weigh in on the Spencer Leniu racism saga that engulfed his star playmaker. Walters, however, backed-up Ezra Mam to overcome the scrutiny that, speaking out has put him under.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9 Darwin, Nine News, 13/03/2024, Paul Murphy

Roosters coach Trent Robinson has launched a passionate defence of Spencer Leniu. Robinson says the NRL's attitude to racist language needs to change, and insists it's a problem all of society must deal with.

2GB, Mornings, 13/03/2024, Ray Hadley

Hadley says the Rugby League Players Association has praised Brisbane's Ezra Mam for calling out racism.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Why this old drug may be new hope

Herald Sun, General News, 14/03/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 6

Victorians suffering from hand osteoarthritis, a painful and chronic disease, are being invited to help test a drug showing promise to treat the common condition. The Herald Sun revealed in October that a team from Monash University and Alfred Health had discovered a low dose of the drug methotrexate, already being used to treat cancer, could be repurposed to treat hand osteoarthritis (OA).

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Got a gene on the brain

Herald Sun, General News, 14/03/2024, Page 7

Australian researchers are learning more about the role a mysterious gene plays in maintaining healthy DNA, which could lead to new treatments for a sweep of brain disorders. THOC2 is an essential gene for the development and function of brain cells, but not much is known about the exact role it plays in normal brain development and neurodevelopmental disorders.

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Blood cancer breakthrough

Herald Sun, General News, 14/03/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 13

A discovery described as "surprising, but remarkable" offering hope against a common type of aggressive leukaemia has been revealed by Melbourne researchers. The team from WEHI and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre investigated how to treat acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL), a blood cancer that appears suddenly, grows quickly and often returns after chemotherapy.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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Long term benefits of the jab

Courier Mail, General News, 14/03/2024, Page 19

Covid-19 vaccinations have been found to lower risk of heart complications and clotting after Covid-19 infections. The University of Oxford observational study found vaccination reduced risk of heart failure and some clot-related complications for up to a year compared with unvaccinated individuals.

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

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'A game-changer': Will the tool to edit life end disease – or trigger dystopia?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/03/2024, Greg Callaghan

Great discoveries – the ones that alter the course of human history – rarely happen with the sudden "Eureka!" moment you see in the movies: a lone inventor's sudden flash of genius, giving birth to a fully formed breakthrough no one has ever thought of before. In the real world, giant leaps of technology – from the motor vehicle to the airplane, refrigeration to antibiotics, the computer to the mobile phone – happen far less dramatically.

[Read More](#)

New genetic research to prevent chronic disease

Canberra Times, Other, 13/03/2024, Savannah Meacham

Researchers hope to reduce the burden of chronic disease by unlocking the genetic key to predict risks decades before symptoms develop for a person of any ethnicity. The landmark research will look at the risk factors of common diseases like diabetes or heart disease based on the link to genetics.

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

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Future Health Expo

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/03/2024

From virtual robots assisting with kids' mental health to innovative cancer treatments, the University of NSW's Future Health Expo will have more than 70 fascinating research projects and initiatives on display tomorrow. The event will feature projects across therapeutic innovations, healthcare technology, next-gen medicine and various health systems.

[Read More](#)

Link between brain injuries and Parkinson's: SA study

The Senior, Other, 13/03/2024, Therese Murray

In a ground-breaking study by the University of Adelaide, researchers are on the verge of providing vital insights into the long-term brain health of individuals who have experienced traumatic brain injuries or are living with Parkinson's disease. Led by Associate Professor Lyndsey Collins-Praino and Dr Irina Baetu, these studies aim to identify factors in the brain that increase the risk of neurodegenerative diseases and long-term memory impairment following an injury while uncovering patterns of cognitive performance that may predict the development of cognitive problems in Parkinson's.

[Read More](#)

Silent killer: Quarter of people with TB show no symptoms, study says

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 14/03/2024, Matt Mathers

Health bodies need to rethink the way they diagnose pulmonary tuberculosis (TB), researchers have warned, after a study found more than a quarter of people living with the disease do not report any symptoms at all. Researchers, led by the Amsterdam University Medical Center (UMC), also found that 80 per cent of patients with TB do not have a persistent cough - despite this being one of the key symptoms used by doctors to identify the condition.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'Indigenous funds ignore state'

The Australian, General News, 14/03/2024, Michael McKenna, Page 6

Queensland Indigenous leaders have called on Anthony Albanese to deliver greater funding for housing in the state's remote communities, accusing successive commonwealth governments of ignoring their pleas over endemic overcrowding. A day after the Prime Minister unveiled \$4bn in commonwealth investment for social housing in Northern Territory remote communities, two veteran Indigenous mayors said the Albanese government had been providing only a "drip-feed of funding" to tackle a worsening housing problem in Aboriginal communities.

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

WA First Nations child removal complaint filed in Human Rights Commission

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/03/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Western Australia has become the second state to be subject to an Australian Human Rights Commission complaint for the discriminatory removal of First Nations children from their families. In

what has been termed a "second Stolen Generation", the complaint against the Department of Communities in WA alleges widespread racial discrimination by state governments over decades, resulting in the "unlawful and unjust" removal of Indigenous children from their families and community into state care.

[Read More](#)

NSW Bar Association condemns government's "rushed" bail changes

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/03/2024, Giovanni Torre

The New South Wales Bar Association has criticised the NSW government's "rushed bail reforms", which were introduced into the NSW Parliament Tuesday "without prior consultation". NSW Bar Association president, Dr Ruth Higgins SC, said the proposed additional bail test in the Bail and Crimes Amendment Bill 2024 is inconsistent with evidence that supporting, rather than detaining, young people is more effective at reducing reoffending.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Gastro bug hits city pool again

Herald Sun, General News, 14/03/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 18

An outbreak of a highly contagious, chlorine-resistant bug has been linked to a popular Melbourne pool, with the inner-city facility forced to shut its doors for the second time this year. Brunswick Baths announced on Wednesday that cases of cryptosporidium a chlorine-resistant parasite that causes severe gastro had been linked to its pools.

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Getting candid about STIs

Star Observer, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 18

It is the kind of topic that is at the back of everyone's minds, and one we often avoid talking about. One in six Australians will get a Sexually Transmissible Infection (STI) in their lifetime. It's time to have an open and honest conversation about sexual health, breaking down stigmas, and promoting safer practices and regular sexual health check-ups. Firstly, let's clear the air about STIs. They don't discriminate based on sexual orientation, gender, race, or relationship status.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

TGA looking into suspect telehealth platforms selling vapes on their websites

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2024

While the government tightens anti-vaping laws, telehealth websites are popping up prescribing and selling nicotine vaping products. One of these sites appear to only sell products by tobacco giant Phillip Morris. Associate Professor at University of Sydney School of Public Health told Raf Epstein there is a big difference between quality telehealth which helps you quit smoking and clicking through an online form to get a script for a vape.

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The \$100m telehealth corporate prescribing compounded semaglutide — its top GP speaks with AusDoc

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/03/2024, Rachel Carter

The TGA is considering a ban on compounded semaglutide, but Dr Matt Vickers says that would not halt the model of care. Telehealth corporate Eucalyptus is making headlines for prescribing off-label compounded semaglutide as part of an online weight loss program that costs up to \$599 a month. [...] And the TGA is threatening a ban semaglutide compounding because of patient safety fears.

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Infant RSV immunisation 'highly effective', real-world study confirms

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/03/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

The long-acting monoclonal antibody nirsevimab may be more effective in protecting infants against respiratory syncytial virus than clinical trial results would suggest, according to a real-world study. [...] The TGA approved nirsevimab, to be given as a single IM injection, in November 2023 for preventing RSV in under-2s.

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Push for mandatory unit dose barcoding

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/03/2024, Vincent Chua

Pharmacists at the Peter McCallum Cancer Centre want the TGA to mandate barcoding for unit dose products Mandating pharmaceutical companies to include barcodes on unit doses of products could boost medication safety, pharmacists from the Peter McCallum Cancer Centre believe Speaking at the Medication Safety and Efficiency Conference in Sydney last week (7 March),

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TGA's injectables update

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/03/2024

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has now amended its guidelines on advertising of cosmetic injectables. In its latest update, the TGA no longer permits direct or indirect references to prescription medicine in advertising related to cosmetic health services.

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NSW Mental Health Minister Rose Jackson acknowledges calls for NSW to expand psilocybin, MDMA treatments

The Australian, Other, 13/03/2024, Jessica Wang

NSW Mental Health Minister Rose Jackson has conceded more needs to be done to allow people suffering from severe mental health conditions to access emerging therapies such as MDMA and psilocybin. [...] Despite approval by the TGA, the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) has expressed reservations about psychedelic-assisted therapy.

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

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2GB, Drive, 13/03/2024, Chris O'Keefe

O'Keefe says the TGA is revoking the ability of chemists to compound the drug Ozempic and sell it to people.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Drug study shows 'war' not working

Canberra Times, Editorials, 14/03/2024, Page 28

While some, particularly within the federal Coalition, would almost certainly argue the results of the latest wastewater drug testing are proof the ACT's "harm minimisation" approach to illicit drug use is

misguided, they are wrong. First, the testing, which found drug use is back to, or even higher than, pre-COVID levels, was conducted before the ACT's decriminalisation legislation took effect in 2023.

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Meth up, alcohol down: What wastewater testing tells us about Australia's drug use

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2024, Leonie Thorne

Australia's consumption of illicit drugs including methamphetamine and cocaine has risen while alcohol intake continues to decline, according to new wastewater analysis. More than 10.5 tonnes of methamphetamine was consumed in the year to August 2023, up 17 per cent from the year before.

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

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Channel 10, The Project, 13/03/2024, Sam Taunton, Waleed Aly, Sarah Harris and Nick Cody

A new study of our wastewater has revealed Australians are drinking less alcohol. But we're taking more illicit drugs. In the year to August 2023, methamphetamine use was up 17%, cocaine use rose 19%. The spike comes after a drop in substance use during the pandemic. Cannabis was the most popular drug.

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4BC, Afternoons, 13/03/2024, Sofie Formica

Interview with Dr Tim Piatkowski, Lecturer in Applied Psychology, Griffith University. Formica says there was a research from the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring programme that shows that the levels of cocaine use in August of 2023 were more than three times higher than they were the previous year. Piatkowski admits that they are seeing more of a return to normalcy for those taking illicit drugs, as supply comes back after the COVID-19 pandemic. He states that it was logical that consumption went down during the lockdown due to supply being low.

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