



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 18th March 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Adelaide Advertiser**](#) (page 1) reports the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission is investigating the case of a support worker who drove a young male patient to a park to meet a teenage girl he later sexually abused.
- The [**Daily Telegraph**](#) (page 3) reports Health Minister Mark Butler will on Monday announce a \$3 million boost in the fight against chronic wounds, which affect 450,000 Australians at a cost to health budgets of \$6 billion a year. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#).
- The [**Herald Sun**](#) (page 3) reports taxing vapes rather than limiting them to prescription-only use would gradually decrease the number of vapers and raise \$9 billion a year in excise and GST revenue, data from Tulipwood Economics has found. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Hobart Mercury](#).
- [**The Australian**](#) (page 5) reports the AMA is calling for an immediate \$4.67 billion injection into the public health sector to address overloaded emergency departments and ease elective surgery waitlists, warning overstretched public hospitals are creating a negative feedback loop of bad health outcomes.

- [The Australian](#) (page 5) reports Health Minister Mark Butler will this week introduce legislation banning the sale of single-use vapes in a bid to crack down on the burgeoning black market.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 6) reports 95 per cent of South Australia's GP clinics say they will meet new costs imposed by the state's impending payroll tax, a survey by HotDoc shows, amidst warnings the tax will damage bulk-billing in the state.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 7) reports children in WA are waiting up to 21 months to see a local paediatrician, with some families forced to take out loans or fly interstate to seek urgent care.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 8) reports some 320,000 people could be paying extra for aged care services by 2034 as the rate of retirees drawing an aged pension falls while superannuation balances rise for more Australians.
- [The Australian](#) (page 9) reports Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has rejected claims a payrise for aged care workers will lift inflation, saying "We don't have inflationary problems in this country because our lowest-paid workers are being paid too much." *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#)
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 10) reports over 500 psychiatrists under the auspices of the RANZCP have written to Health Minister Mark Butler to express concern about the industry's severe workforce shortages and their impact on patient wait times and national mental health and wellbeing outcomes. *Also reported by:* [The Age](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Tax on gas companies focus of potential parliament showdown

The Australian, General News, 18/03/2024, Jess Malcolm, Page 5

A political showdown over the government's push to increase taxes on gas companies is set to go before parliament this week, as Anthony Albanese spruiks Australia's critical minerals future, including its ability to unlock jobs and economic opportunities. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler will this week introduce legislation to ban the sale of disposable single-use vapes in convenience stores and other shopfronts in a bid to crack down on a thriving black market.

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

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Mental health care waitlist crisis

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 18/03/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 10

Patients needing to see a psychiatrist are waiting several months, or delaying treatment altogether until their conditions deteriorate, as workforce shortages stretch the country's mental health services and cause thousands of vulnerable people to miss out on care. [...] The issue has prompted more than 530 psychiatrists, led by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, to write this week to Health Minister Mark Butler with their "deep concern" about severe workforce shortages and their impact on patients.

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

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Healthy boost to treating wounds

Daily Telegraph, General News, 18/03/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 3

Chronic wounds are a hidden epidemic in Australia that experts say are costing health budgets an estimated \$6bn each year. Figures show more than 450,000 Australians are living with a chronic wound and often these are cared for at home by family. "For hundreds of thousands of Australians, a simple accident can lead to a wound that just won't heal, damaging their health and causing great pain and suffering," federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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\$9bn of revenue goes up in smoke

Herald Sun, General News, 18/03/2024, Regan Hodge, Page 3

The federal government would be more than \$9bn better off if it overthrew a ban on vapes and products were regulated and taxed in the same way as tobacco, an industry report reveals. [...] But Health Minister Mark Butler's decision this year to ban the products has so far showed few signs of stopping the use of vapes, with black market operators continuing to control the trade.

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

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Vaping crackdown's \$9bn budget windfall

The Australian, Other, 17/03/2024, Jess Malcolm

A regulatory crackdown on vaping products by the Albanese government would deliver Jim Chalmers a budget windfall of about \$9.1bn, new industry modelling has found, sparking calls for Labor to impose a tobacco-style excise on e-cigarettes and stamp out a thriving black market. [...] The new modelling comes as Health Minister Mark Butler prepares to introduce new legislation into parliament this week to ban the sale of vapes at convenience stores and other shop fronts.

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Australian College of Nursing calls for ad campaign funding to target men and women

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/03/2024, Julie Cross

The public hold an outdated view of a nurse, says a peak body figure, who is calling for an ad campaign to educate people on how "caring and smart" they have to be. @juliejourn 4 min read March 17, 2024 - 5:00AM News Corp Australia Network [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government "wants to send a clear message to nurses who are considering that extra couple of years of education that there's going to be a meaningful career for them".

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Royal Flying Doctor Service opens \$2 million unstaffed health service in William Creek

ABC Online, Other, 17/03/2024, Isabella Carbone

Residents in and around a remote outback town have celebrated the opening of an unstaffed centre that will offer a 24/7 telehealth service backed by the Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS). Located about 860 kilometres north of Adelaide and 850km south-east of Alice Springs, the remote town of William Creek has a permanent population of less than 20. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government would monitor the results from the clinic to determine whether the model of care could be rolled out elsewhere.

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Mental health crisis looms without funding reform

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/03/2024

Before we reinvest blindly in Medicare or hospital care, we really need to map out the service landscape of community mental health care, writes Dr Sebastian Rosenberg. Readers who follow the fortunes of Australian mental health reform continue to endure the vicissitudes of political attention and recognition. [...] Currently, my fellow colleagues with an interest in this area are looking forward to seeing the findings of the Mental Health Reform Advisory Committee, set up by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP.

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Cost of aged care at home likely to rise

Australian Financial Review, General News, 18/03/2024, Michael Read, Page 4

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells looks set to make retirees pay more for in home aged care packages, saying the government wants to get the balance right between how much taxpayers and the elderly pay to fund aged care. The Albanese government's aged care ta...

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

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We must pay more for aged care

Australian Financial Review, General News, 18/03/2024, Jason Kara, Page 35

The proposal to make wealthy people pay more from their own pockets to cover the cost of their aged care has created the potential for the mother of all scare campaigns. If that temptation is not resisted, quality aged care in this country i...

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

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Review points to self-reliance for aged care

Australian Financial Review, Editorials, 18/03/2024, Page 38

It's not surprising that Aged Care Minister Anika Wells did not release the Aged Care Task force Review until after this month's by election in the federal seat of Dunkley. It is more than two decades since Peter Costello's first Intergenerational Report ...

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

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Aged-care wage bill tipped to delay rate relief

The Australian, General News, 18/03/2024, Patrick Commins, Page 9

A more stimulatory federal budget and the big boost to aged-care worker wages could delay interest rate relief for struggling mortgage holders, a leading economist says, ahead of the Reserve Bank's latest decision on Tuesday. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells on Sunday played down warnings that pay increases of as much as 13.5 per cent for 350,000 aged-care workers and up to 7 per cent for another 100,000 workers would complicate the RBA's battle to bring inflation back under control.

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

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Means test could get nasty

West Australian, General News, 18/03/2024, Katina Curtis, Page 8

A move to ask self-funded retirees in aged care to cover more of their accommodation and living costs could lead to some 320,000 people paying extra by 2042. [...] This has led to an expert panel, led by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, to recommend that older Australians who do not qualify for age pensions pay more for some elements.

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Wells hits back at claims over pay rises in aged care

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 18/03/2024, Jack Quail, Page 4

Claims that a pay boost for some 350,000 aged care workers could fuel inflationary pressures have been rubbished by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells. On Friday, the Fair Work Commission awarded increases of up to 13.5 per cent on top of 15 per cent granted last year for employees across the industry at a cost of roughly \$3.3bn over the four year forward estimates period.

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

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Minister defends aged-care wage win

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 18/03/2024, Page 11

The sizeable pay rise awarded to hundreds of thousands of aged-care workers has been defended

from inflation fears by the Aged Care Minister. Anika Wells has dismissed the possibility of a wageprice spiral and says pay increases for the nation's lowest-paid workers aren't a major inflation driver.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Work on this year's budget has started. Welcome to rent-seekers central

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 18/03/2024, Ross Gittins

Last week we got a reminder that, among its many functions, the federal budget is the repository of all the successful rent-seeking by the nation's many business and other special interest groups. [...] Also last week, we saw the government releasing the report of the aged care taskforce, chaired by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, calling for the well-off elderly to contribute more to the cost of their own care.

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Australian MPs claiming thousands on taxpayer-funded trips for official 'parliamentary duties' that coincide with sporting events

The Guardian, Other, 18/03/2024, Sarah Basford Canales

MPs and senators are claiming thousands of taxpayer dollars on interstate trips for official "parliamentary duties" that coincide with major sporting events they've been invited to, raising questions about whether the rules need to be further tightened. [...] Other examples include trips by the opposition leader, Peter Dutton, and sports minister, Anika Wells, to the AFL and NRL grand finals.

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Opposition calls for court action after 150 former detainees tangled in visa bungle

9News, Other, 17/03/2024, Yashee Sharma

The Opposition has called for the federal government to take the matter to court hours ahead of lawmakers meeting in Canberra tonight. [...] "We've invested an extra quarter of a billion dollars to our law enforcement and security agencies to tackle this head on," Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said.

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Aged Care Minister Anika Wells optimistic Albanese government can win opposition support for ambitious reforms

Sky News Australia, Other, 17/03/2024, Max Melzer

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells is optimistic the Albanese government can strike a deal with the opposition to progress its ambitious reforms to the struggling sector. On Tuesday, Ms Wells unveiled the final report from the government's aged care taskforce, which included 23 recommendations aimed at improving outcomes for the millions of Australians in care and securing the sector's ongoing sustainability.

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'Long neglected': Concerns raised about aged care sector

Sky News Australia, Other, 17/03/2024

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the aged care sector has been "long neglected". A task force headed by Ms Wells has handed down a report with key recommendations to help fix issues in the sector.

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ABC, Insiders, 17/03/2024, David Speers

Panel discussion with Dan Bourchier, Samantha Maiden and Phil Coorey, regarding the big 28% pay rise from the Fair Work Commission for aged care workers which includes the 15% last year that was

awarded. Coorey says it's a great pay rise and it will no doubt attract workers from other parts of the economy and it could have a knock-on effect on wages and so forth. Meanwhile, the government and Minister Anika Wells have ruled out the idea of a Medicare-style levy for all taxpayers to fund aged care. Bourchier says it seems to be in complete contrast to the Aged Care Royal Commission which said that older Australians should not be required to contribute to their cost of care and that it should not nor should it be means tested.

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Sky News Live, Sunday Agenda, 17/03/2024, Andrew Clennell and Cheng Lei

Interview with Anika Wells, Aged Care Minister, regarding the release of the Aged Care Taskforce report into the future of aged care and government funding in Australia. Wells says aged care is one of those areas that has been long neglected the lack of funding in the sector threatens its sustainability. She adds there will be no new levy and tax on all Australians and there will also be no changes to the treatment of the family home.

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5AA, 12:00 News (Weekend), 17/03/2024

A major report into aged care has made 23 recommendations to make the sector more viable but there are concerns some providers are struggling to stay afloat. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the government is considering a range of measures to improve sustainability, but any change won't be rushed.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Rural health overhaul needed for equitable care

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/03/2024

Rural and regional Australia continues to suffer reduced access to general surgery and emergency care, prompting calls for greater focus on retaining and upskilling rural health care workforces. [...] "Upskilling for rural emergency care Recently in Canberra, ACEM President, Dr Stephen Gourley, met with Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, the Hon Emma McBride MP, and other regional Members of Parliament, to discuss the urgent funding needed for the Emergency Medicine Education and Training (EMET) program to continue.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Public service gains an ex-PwC partner

Canberra Times, General News, 18/03/2024, Miriamwebber and Justine Landis-Hanley, Page 12

Blair Comley wants you to write like a journalist. Sort of. The Department of Health and Aged Care secretary spoke at the National Portrait Gallery last Thursday about the learnings from his department's capability review, for the Institute of Public Administration Australia.

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CORONAVIRUS

Pandemic 'most probably' a lab leak

The Australian, General News, 18/03/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 4

A lab leak that sparked the Covid-19 pandemic is "equally or more probable" than a natural original theory, according to a major scientific paper led by one of Australia's strongest medical supporters of pandemic lockdowns. Scientists from one of the country's foremost infectious diseases institutes, the Kirby Institute at the University of NSW, have concluded a lab leak cannot be dismissed as a plausible theory for the pandemic's origin, but that the world may never know the truth.

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

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We can't fall short

West Australian, General News, 18/03/2024, Andrew Miller, Page 13

Ignore the naysayers, long COVID is an insidious ongoing issue It is what it is. Jerry Seinfeld based an entire riff on this well-worn tautology, making us all laugh by pointing out there is zero new information in the phrase. A waste of breath, he said.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Retirement living about remaining connected

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/03/2024, Claire Scapinello, Page 13

When we look to the future needs of housing in South Australia, we often hear about the need for new housing developments for young families or the ability to provide first homeowners a chance to enter the market and the need for more rental accommodation. How often are we having a conversation about the changing needs and expectations of our over65s housing and what this needs to look like?

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Answering questions on the pension rate income boost

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 18/03/2024, Page 17

The quarterly age pension adjustments have been announced and, thanks to inflation, all pensioners will get an income boost. The pension rates are somewhat confusing because there are four changes a year: in July and January each year they adjust the thresholds, and in September and March they adjust the amount of pension paid.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Retirement village proposed for Armstrong Beach, Mackay

Daily Mercury News, Other, 17/03/2024, Heidi Petith

Plans have been lodged to build a new 100-home retirement village in a beachside Mackay region suburb. Grummitt Town Planning, on behalf of Karkel Contracting, submitted an application to build the village at 48 Armstrong Beach Rd in Armstrong Beach, about 40 minutes' drive south of the Mackay CBD.

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Greek aged care home ranked among best for delicious food in Australia

Greek City Times, Other, 17/03/2024, Stella Mazonakis

The Greek Community Home For The Aged in Earlwood, Sydney, operated by the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW has ranked among the top 20 nationally for its delicious food, according to a new national survey conducted on behalf of the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care reports news.

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More housing options on target as ACH builds new health and wellbeing hub

The Senior, Other, 17/03/2024, Therese Murray

The developments are part of ACH Group's strategy to boost the wellbeing of older South Australians through positive health outcomes and independent living. "Supporting South Australians to stay physically active and connected to their communities is critical to their wellbeing and quality of life," ACH Group Interim chief executive Linda Feldt said.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Burning suburbs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 18/03/2024, Jessica Wang, Page 15

Western Sydney is expected to cop the social, economic and health cost of increased heatwaves in NSW in coming decades, a new report has revealed. The Burning Money report, compiled by the Committee for Sydney and Scyne Advisory, uses modelling to forecast the number of days over 35C will double from 10 days a year in 2010 to 2019, to 20 days in 2070-79.

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

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Hopes that soya beans can fix double chins

West Australian, General News, 18/03/2024, Page 17

Double chins can be the scourge of even the most beautiful women in the world, with actor Richard Burton once saying his lover Elizabeth Taylor had one. But now researchers say the humble soya bean can get rid of the unwanted facial fat. In a trial, a compound is being used to selectively break down what is referred to as submental fat, which affects 60 per cent of people.

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Health premiums need a check-up

West Australian, Business News, 18/03/2024, Nick Bruining, Page 41

As arguably one of our biggest household expenses, health insurance is again under the surgical spotlight with annual premiums set to rise by an average of 3.03 per cent on April 1. The big question always asked by families at this time of year is: "Is it still worth it?"

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Sleep crisis a wake-up call for Aussies

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/03/2024, Page 16

We are not getting enough sleep. A company (albeit one which sells sleeping aids) found more than two-thirds of Australians were getting less than eight hours of sleep per night. Sleepless Australians put "anxiety" at the top of their blame lists. But we didn't need a survey to tell us what many of us knew already. Too often, we wake up feeling less than refreshed, less than ready for the day. This isn't just a matter of discomfort but of health.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#).

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Obese teens can crash diet safely if monitored by a dietitian, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 17/03/2024, Robin Mckie

Short-term, very low-calorie diets for obese teenagers are safe as long as they are closely monitored by an experienced dietitian, according to researchers in Australia. The study, by scientists based at Sydney University, also revealed that many adolescents involved in the investigation thought the diets were an acceptable way to lose weight despite experiencing side-effects that included fatigue, headache, irritability, constipation and nausea.

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Refined carbs for breakfast makes you less attractive

The New Daily, Other, 17/03/2024, John Elder

The good old French. All that smoking, red wine and constipated posturing gets in the way of us wholly appreciating their genius. These were the guys who invented the stethoscope, codeine, aspirin, blood transfusions and identified the danger of germs. So when they come up with a new study that suggests sugary breakfast cereals (refined carbs) can make a person ugly within two hours of eating ... well, who are we to disagree?

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'It reconnects me with myself': Study finds Wim Hof's cold exposure may have benefits

SBS, Other, 17/03/2024, Caroline Riches

A UK study has found the Wim Hof Method, followed by cold therapy lovers around the world, seems to reduce inflammation, though a medical expert cautions it's not without risks. Early every Sunday as day breaks over the ocean, 50 or so people gather in the park behind Sydney's Bronte Beach to breathe together before plunging into ice.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Our 'smouldering' health crisis

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 18/03/2024, Liz Szabo, Page 16

One in three Australians or around 6.8 million people have high blood pressure, according to the Heart Foundation. High blood pressure is a smouldering public health crisis, says Dr Rishi Wadhera, an author of new research showing that blood pressure screenings have not returned to what they were before the pandemic.

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No hat, no play now the rule at sun-smart high school

Age, General News, 18/03/2024, Robyn Grace, Page 1

Eva Urtone spent all of primary school being told "no hat, no play". When she started year 7, no one told her she had to wear a hat, so she didn't. But from term four, the year 9 student will face detention if she doesn't remember her headwear. [...] It was developed in consultation with students, the school council and Cancer Council Victoria following a review of all school policies last year.

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

Community spirit rallies families facing tough times

Ballarat Courier, General News, 18/03/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 2

The generous spirit of the Ballarat community is helping keep a smile on Nora Seeary as she recovers from surgery to remove her kidney, with the little girl facing a gruelling fight against cancer. The Cardigan four-year-old recently had major surgery to remove her left kidney which had three large tumours attached.

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Jed's story an open book

Cairns Post, General News, 18/03/2024, Catherine Duffy, Page 6

Far North Queenslander Jed Baker was only 11 months old when he had his first stroke. Sebastian Leonardi, a family friend of the Bakers, was two years old when he was diagnosed with brain cancer. Now, their mums have written a book inspired by their sons' battles and to raise awareness for strokes in children.

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Trek takes dramatic turn

Daily Advertiser, General News, 18/03/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf, Page 1

A man travelling on a epic journey from Toolleen to Canberra on a rider mower in a bid to raise awareness of motor neurone disease has landed in hospital during a stop in Wagga. Warren Acott, pictured with family and friends as paramedics took him to Wagga Base, fell from a wheelchair on Sunday morning.

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Kealii Jevdenijevic GoFundMe raises \$190k, but family's battle is far from over

Northern Territory News, Other, 17/03/2024, Fia Walsh

A Top End couple are desperately trying to fund treatment for their "happy, loving" son's brain cancer, as costs jump further out of reach and the window for intervention rapidly closes. Kealii Jevdenijevic had been like any other toddler, screeching and giggling as he tried to keep up with his older siblings at the Palmerston PlayShack when his parents Zoe Connell and Dennis Jevdenijevic noticed something was wrong in December last year.

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Pioneering procedure made Vali the luckiest unlucky person you'll meet

SBS, Other, 17/03/2024, Sarah Conte

Ten years ago, a world-first procedure gave an Australian cancer survivor the gift of motherhood. It took a frozen ovarian graft, a then-experimental transplant, and 17 rounds of in vitro fertilisation. Now, in the third and final episode in our series on the Future of Fertility, we hear how researchers are investigating what other ways ovarian grafts could be used to help patients.

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How the energetic rhythm of Samba drumming is benefiting Parkinson's patients

SBS, Other, 17/03/2024

Parkinson's disease is a degenerative condition without a known cure, but a Samba drumming class in Cardiff, Wales is having a surprising and beneficial effect on patients. The class' success is now prompting a research project to see just how Samba drumming can improve the well-being of people with Parkinson's.

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'Billions needed now' to fix hospitals crisis

The Australian, General News, 18/03/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 5

Public hospitals need an immediate \$4.67bn "recovery plan" to stop people dying while waiting for care in overloaded emergency departments and on elective surgery waiting lists, according to top doctors who say the public system is in such a state of acute crisis that the situation must be addressed urgently. The next National Health Reform Agreement promises a big injection of cash for public hospitals, but doesn't come into effect until well into 2025.

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

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Heart & soles for the kids

Herald Sun, General News, 18/03/2024, Fergus Ellis, Page 1

Melbourne was treated to an array of colourful outfits, pumping music and heartwarming stories of support at the Herald Sun/Transurban Run for the Kids. Among the 25,000 experienced and not-so-experienced athletes, many had special reasons to lace-up their runners on Sunday morning. Young couple Ben Bramley and Jennifer Monaghan told the Herald Sun they had been active in the event since their baby, Olive, died seven years ago.

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Not what the doctor ordered

West Australian, General News, 18/03/2024, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 7

Families are waiting almost two years for a paediatrician appointment in WA as almost 10,000 sick children are left in limbo and parents look east for help. The waitlist is also forcing desperate parents to resort to the "bank of nan and pop", quick loan agents, or to tap into their superannuation to go private or fly east in the hopes of seeing a specialist sooner.

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

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New health service opens in Orange

Central Western Daily, General News, 18/03/2024, Riley Krause, Page 2

A new health service aimed at treating urgent but not life-threatening illnesses and injuries has opened in Orange. The Orange Urgent Care Service will be open 365 days a year, from 8am to 8pm, and will be staffed by general practitioners and nurses with diagnostic services on-site including radiology and pathology.

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Families 'locked out'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 18/03/2024, Matt Maloney, Page 1

The state's Community and Public Sector Union has raised concerns over a Liberal party promise to fund 20 additional speech pathologists and child psychologists in Tasmania, saying there are a large amount of vacancies already in the state. The party last week announced it would upskill the early childhood education and care sector through a \$5 million Early Years Workforce Development Fund.

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

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Airing a grievance about urgent care

Launceston Examiner, General News, 18/03/2024, Page 13

The Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) in Wellington Street, Launceston has been set up to take the strain off the emergency department (ED) at the LGH. They say to go there if you have asthma or COPD. Aerosols are not permitted so that means no nebulisers, no wall oxygen or medical air.

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Euroa gets healthcare boost

Shepparton News, General News, 18/03/2024, Grace Carter, Page 3

A new partnership means that Euroa residents will be able to receive more free healthcare. Euroa Health and Goulburn Valley Health are working together to transition the delivery of Euroa Health's acute services to the public health system. On Friday, March 15, state Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes visited Euroa Health to announce that the Victorian Government is backing the collaboration between Euroa Health and GV Health, with a \$5.5 million investment to deliver more care and upgrade the hospital.

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

Online trauma training workshops

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 18/03/2024, Page 2

A Toowoomba aeromedical doctor is encouraging Darling Downs residents to sign up for a free LifeFlight online trauma training program, so they can be better prepared for emergencies. First Minutes Matter has been developed by LifeFlight Australia's most senior first response medical training experts.

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St John NT: A Friday night on the road with paramedics reveals a workload spiralling out of control

Northern Territory News, Other, 17/03/2024, Alex Treacy

It is 7pm on a Friday night. St John NT, the Territory's major ambulance operator, already has 18 jobs banked up. Duty manager Sam Cooper, who is based at Casuarina Ambulance Station tonight, says all but one are stabbings, assaults or mental health related, meaning they can't be attended to until NT Police officers are at the scene.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

'Zoomers' made sick by preachers of eco-anxiety

The Australian, General News, 18/03/2024, Nick Cater, Page 13

Parents of troubled adolescents have been offered gratuitous advice from the Climate Council, a charity dedicated to scaring us stupid about the forthcoming apocalypse. In a 2022 guide entitled Managing Eco-Anxiety in Your Kids, the Council's public health expert, Kate Charlesworth, says the many daily challenges parents face are dwarfed by the risks of living in an unsafe climate.

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

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Pokies tragedy

Canberra Times, General News, 18/03/2024, Steve Evans, Page 1

The family of a gambler who took his own life after going broke has blamed a Canberra club for not doing more to stop him pouring his money into its poker machines. And four years on, they're furious an official investigation has not concluded.

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

The novel treatments for stubborn depression

Canberra Times, General News, 18/03/2024, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

When Allison Simpson's dad returned from Vietnam to a small country town, there was no support for his mental health problems. Decades later, Ms Simpson, 50, has just finished a novel treatment to address her own depression.

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

Rebel with a cause

Northern Territory News, General News, 18/03/2024, Sierra Haigh, Page 1

Sunday drivers no doubt did a double take when a convoy of motorcyclists took to the Top End's major roads to raise awareness for mental health. Eight Australians die by suicide every day, and the NT's motorcyclist community hopes to save even just one life by drawing attention to the heartbreaking numbers.

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

New guidelines for neurodiversity-affirming practice

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/03/2024

Neurodiversity-affirming practice is now recommended in national clinical guidelines for assessment and supports for autistic people, but making it happen requires engagement, understanding, and effort. In Australia, and around the world, there is growing recognition of the importance of recognising and respecting neurodiversity and engaging in neurodiversity-affirming practice.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 17/03/2024, Chris Bath

A clinical trial out of Sydney's Macquarie University has just started looking at how micro-doses of magic mushrooms could be used to help Australians living with depression. 1 in 7 Australians will be diagnosed with depression in their lifetime, and it can be debilitating. Doctors say conventional treatments can and do work, but that they need more tools in their toolkit.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nursing's soul sisters

Herald Sun, General News, 18/03/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 15

A golden group of nurses met in Melbourne on Saturday for a special reunion. They were known as class 1/74, a figure representing the year they started training. Half a century on they came together to celebrate their golden anniversary and reminisce about their unique training at The Royal Children's Hospital.

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

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Nurses in Illawarra schools improving kids' health

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 18/03/2024, Natalie Croxon, Page 5

When Rebecca Smith got a message from a mother saying her child's hearing loss would not have been picked up had it not been for a clinic she organised, it drove home the impact of her job. Mrs Smith is one of eight wellbeing nurses in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District who work with 25 primary and secondary schools from Corrimal to Sussex Inlet, under a partnership between NSW Health and the Department of Education.

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

NSW Health Minister to announce a new Pregnancy Connect initiative aimed at making health care better and more accessible for pregnant women

The Australian, Other, 17/03/2024, Clareese Packer

Women and their babies in rural and regional NSW will soon have better and earlier access to pregnancy care as part of a new multimillion-dollar government scheme. The Pregnancy Connect initiative will ensure women have early access to specialist maternity care closer to home, particularly for women in rural and regional areas.

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

HEALTH WORKFORCE

GPs in fight against 'patient tax' as fee rise looms

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/03/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 6

GPs across South Australia today launch a campaign urging the state government to stop what doctors have dubbed "the patient tax" on general practice care. They say the looming payroll tax on clinics from July 1 will likely be the death knell for bulk billing with most planning to put up fees to cover the cost.

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'Not an easy sell': paramedics to ramp up pay dispute

Canberra Times, Other, 18/03/2024, Callum Godde

Victorian paramedics will scribble slogans on ambulances and not collect billing details from patients as their protracted pay dispute ramps up. The Victorian Ambulance Union will kick off industrial action from Monday morning after being unable to broker a new enterprise agreement.

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

[Read More](#)

"There needs to be a properly funded model"

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 17/03/2024, Chris Brooker

Speaking at APP2024 on the Gold Coast last weekend, Trent Twomey, national president of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, outlined some of his bucket list for the profession's future.

[Read More](#)

3AW, Weekend Mornings, 17/03/2024, Darren James

Interview with Danny Hill, Secretary, Victorian Ambulance Union, on VAU members voting for protected industrial action as enterprise bargaining talks with the Allan Government and Ambulance Victoria have been stalled. Hill says they will start industrial action tomorrow morning. He adds it's disappointing that they are at this point, but they have been in negotiations for over a year.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Chemist deal upending all the accepted rules

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 18/03/2024, Jemima Whyte, Page 28

If you need further proof that the proposed \$8.8 billion Sigma Healthcare-Chemist Warehouse deal breaks most of the usual M&A rules, cast your mind forward to the chemist group's results on Thursday. They're almost irrelevant.

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

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Proud to be backing our pharmacists

Daily Liberal, General News, 18/03/2024, Mark Coulton, Page 2

Last week the Pharmacy Guild of Australia reached an agreement with the Labor government to secure Australia's 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement. While the full details are yet to be released, the government will invest an additional \$3 billion in community pharmacy and in cheaper medicines, following changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) which included 60-day dispensing.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Taxman's scalpel ready to take slice of your bulging income

West Australian, Business News, 18/03/2024, Nick Bruining, Page 41

The joy of collecting a tidy profit on the sale of an investment property or a windfall received through a superannuation death benefit payment could have a nasty sting in the tail if you don't have private health insurance. Both could trigger a Medicare levy surcharge liability.

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Challenges for Medicare and universal health care in Australia since 2000

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/03/2024, Damien Linnane, Craig Cumming and Stuart Kinner

People incarcerated in Australia are uniquely excluded from Medicare, although this exclusion is not widely understood or studied. In their article discussing challenges for Medicare in Australia since 2000, Angeles and colleagues explicitly excluded coverage of groups that lack Medicare access, including people in prisons. They did, however, note the lack of success in addressing the vast health inequities faced by Indigenous Australians.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

You pay for sex abuse#2

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 18/03/2024, Eva Blandis, Page 1

The NDIS will investigate after a court case revealed a support worker drove Jayden Ramone McKenna to a park to pick up a girl, 13, with whom McKenna then had unlawful sex. McKenna, 22, received a suspended sentence. It is the second case in weeks of NDIS-funded support workers taking young male clients to meet with underage girls who were then abused. McKenna's support worker did not know of his client's intentions.

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Wife's death just start of traumas

Herald Sun, General News, 18/03/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 2

A grieving husband says he has been left in the dark about his wife's sudden death at a Melbourne clinic now subject to major restrictions and has faced a series of insensitive, bureaucratic hurdles. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency announced on Friday it had begun investigating "wider issues" and practitioners at the clinic.

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

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Heart attack victim's fury at 'treatment'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 18/03/2024, Ted Howes, Page 2

A retiree who suffered two heart attacks and was treated first at Melbourne, then at Wagga, says he is baffled as to why he couldn't be treated in Albury for a stent procedure. Steve Taylor, 72, said after his second attack in August last year when he was sent by ambulance to Wagga, when he was discharged he was "put out on the street" with no wallet and no shoes.

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

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Hospital negligence payout cut to \$350k

Wollongong Private Hospital has unsuccessfully argued it was not negligent when a back surgery patient's bed struck a wall, leaving him with permanent nerve damage, but will not have to pay as much in damages. Graham Cleary sought damages from the hospital's operator, Health Care Corporation Pty Ltd (Ramsay), because he experienced ongoing pain, numbness and sensation in his left leg after his bed hit a wall while two employees were moving him between wards following spinal surgery in July 2020.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Cutting the queue: the need for evidence-driven surgery

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/03/2024, Jai N Darvall and Toby Richards

It is a tricky time for surgeons. Restrictions on elective surgery during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic led to major backlogs on waiting lists. In Australia, 17% fewer people were admitted to public hospital for surgery during 2021–22 than in the preceding year, the result being that 9.6% of people on waiting lists had waited more than a year for treatment, compared with 2.1% in 2018–19.

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Shackling prisoners in palliative care 'must stop'

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/03/2024

There are urgent calls to abandon the restraining of prisoners receiving palliative care, with the ongoing practice blamed on the Australian justice and health systems colliding. Prisoners receiving palliative care in Australia, either in a hospital or a palliative care unit, may still be subject to prison policies regarding restraint even though care is being provided outside of a prison environment, experts say.

Also reported by: [Medical Journal of Australia \(Online\)](#).

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SPORT

Formula 1 leads race to produce sustainable fuel

Australian Financial Review, General News, 18/03/2024, Peter Ker, Page 10

More than 80 per cent of the new cars sold around the world last year were petrol guzzlers, and Pat Symonds reckons that should be a reminder to anyone who thinks electric vehicles can single-handedly get the world to net zero by 2050. "The lifespan of ve...

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Moscow to be asked to observe a ceasefire during Olympics

Canberra Times, International News, 18/03/2024, Page 10

Russia will be asked to observe a ceasefire in Ukraine during the Paris Olympics, French President Emmanuel Macron said in an interview from Paris shown on Ukrainian television and posted by a Ukrainian journalist on her YouTube channel. "The demand for a ceasefire during the Olympics. They (the Russians) must do this. That is what has always happened," the interviewer said, speaking through an interpreter.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Olympics blueprint

Courier Mail, General News, 18/03/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 1

Plans to rebuild the Gabba for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympic Games should be scrapped and instead a \$3.4bn stadium should be built in inner-Brisbane's Victoria Park, the government has been told. Former Brisbane lord mayor Graham Quirk's bombshell Games venues review also recommends a new \$2.5bn, 15,000-plus seat indoor arena be constructed at the Roma Street Parkland.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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This is Devil country

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/03/2024, James Bresnehan, Page 1

Tasmania's new afl club is hoping for a tsunami of fans to sign up for its inaugural memberships when they are released on Monday night. It will be history in the making for Tasmanian football as the state's long-awaited AFL team is officially launched across the state, with the club's colours, nickname, jumper design, logo and general branding to be unveiled at special launch events.

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

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QRL's junior player safety focus helps grow sport

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 18/03/2024, Jason Gibbs, Page 32

Five years ago Queensland Rugby League was at a crossroads. The growth of the junior game was a concern and officials decided action was needed. Brought into play in 2021, changes to the Player Development Framework were criticised by the sections of the rugby league community. Those changes however are responsible for the growth of the game and its increased safety according to current QRL CEO Ben Ikin.

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The family of an athlete who died from heat stroke sued for millions. Lawsuits in Australia are 'almost inevitable'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 17/03/2024, Marnie Vinall

Lawsuits against sports that don't protect their players from extreme heat are "almost inevitable" in Australia, as the effects of climate change continue to rise. A new report by athlete climate advocacy group FrontRunners and lawyers at the Environmental Defenders Office details how climate change is already affecting sports and putting athletes in harm's way.

[Read More](#)

Lauren Ryan and Jack Rayner lower Australian 10,000m records

The New Daily, Other, 17/03/2024, John Salvado

Australian distance runners Lauren Ryan and Jack Rayner have smashed the national 10,000m records at a meet in California, taking giant strides towards the Paris Olympics. Ryan stripped a remarkable 94 seconds off her personal best, stopping the clock at 30 minutes 35.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Cold sores could raise your risk of developing Alzheimer's

Australian Financial Review, General News, 18/03/2024, Jill Margo, Page 13

Herpes is generating a buzz in the world of Alzheimer's research. After being discounted for decades, there's now a flurry of research on whether the virus may be a risk factor for this devastating disease.

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

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\$100k for muscle disorder research

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 18/03/2024, Monique Patterson, Page 2

A Warrnambool-based charity searching for a cure for muscular dystrophy is kicking goals. The Gillin Boys Foundation Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Warrnambool has donated \$100,000 to the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. It's the second \$100,000 donation the charity has made to the institute in 12 months.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Treaty push 'faces racism, ignorance'

The Australian, General News, 18/03/2024, Tricia Rivera, Page 1

Victoria's truth-telling chairwoman has hinted at multiple treaties being struck across the state and claims some of the wariness and misinformation on treaty involves "a degree of racism" and "a degree of ignorance". Yoorrook Justice Commission chairwoman Eleanor Bourke also called for more "public education about what did happen to Aboriginal people" as a result of white settlement.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Actions, not talk, needed to Close the Gap

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/03/2024, Page 19

Year on year, Aboriginal youth and adults in Tasmania continue to be over-represented in detention and prison settings. This was again highlighted earlier this month with the Productivity Commission releasing updated Closing the Gap data. From 2022 to 2023, the gap between non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples grew in Tasmania's youth detention centre and adult prisons.

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TAMS submits new plans

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 18/03/2024, Rachel Clark, Page 1

New plans reveal the future construction of an \$18 million medical centre in South Tamworth. Tamworth Aboriginal Medical Service (TAMS) has lodged a statement of environmental effects (SEE), for Lot 2 at Hyman Park, Hillvue Road, with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

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Yarning together: toward targeted, co-designed parenting programs for Aboriginal Australians

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/03/2024, Simone Sherriff and Josephine Gwynn

Participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander caregivers, including fathers, in culturally appropriate parenting programs is a fundamental right. Macdonald and colleagues sought to explore their participation in trials of such programs in the scoping review published in this issue of the MJA. The author team, including two Aboriginal researchers (including the first author), reviewed published randomised controlled trials (RCTs) of parenting programs in Australia that quantitatively measured at least one outcome related to the health, health behaviour, or wellbeing of children aged up to 18 years old.

[Read More](#)

From 'short wind' to 'good wind': fighting chronic lung disease in Indigenous Australians

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/03/2024

We suggest a "back to basics" approach to treating lung disease in Indigenous people in the Top End by making best use of limited resources, as shown in our recent study that used a simple chest x-ray and spirometry. Associate Professor Ford's mother Nancy Daiyi used to describe her health as "Ngu.

OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Megan makes her mark

Northern Territory News, General News, 18/03/2024, Sierra Haigh, Page 1

Remote Territorians are being advised to consider self-relocating to avoid the worst of Tropical Cyclone Megan after the "severe" weather event intensified to a category three storm on Sunday. Incident Controller Sonia Kennon said while there was no evacuation order in place for the affected communities including Alyangula, Borroloola, McArthur River Mine, and Robinson River.

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Outbreak linked to festival

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 18/03/2024, Page 5

People who attended a central Victorian music festival should immediately get tested if they have gastro-like symptoms. They could have the highly contagious shigella disease. State health officials issued the warning to anyone feeling sick after going to last weekend's Esoteric Music Festival in Donald.

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Flu risk: How to protect your kids from Influenza A, B

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/03/2024, Sue Dunlevy

Little Lani Armitage was "wiped out" by the flu, not once but twice. Her mother Carly rushed the nine-year-old to hospital, vomiting and suffering a fever. "For 10 days straight she was completely wiped out (with influenza A), vomiting, raging temperatures, headaches, she had a cough and a sore throat," Ms Armitage, from the Gold Coast, said.

[Read More](#)

Resistance to antibiotics: how do we address it?

ABC Online, Other, 17/03/2024

The World Health Organisation rates Antimicrobial Resistance — or AMR — as "one of the top global public health threats facing humanity" and says it was associated with the death of around 5 million people in 2019. Tim Walsh is delivering the 2024 Arthur Cobbold Memorial Lecture at the University of Tasmania — his lecture is called "Antibiotic Armageddon: Do we have hope?"

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 17/03/2024, Johanna Nicholson and Fauziah Ibrahim

West Australian infants up to eight months old will be offered free immunisation against the highly contagious RSV. Across the country, respiratory syncytial virus is the leading cause of hospitalisation for children up to five years old. The vaccine is not yet part of the National Immunisation Program. AMA NSW President Dr Michael Bonning says more needs to be done to make young children a priority group for immunisation.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 17/03/2024, Johanna Nicholson and Fauziah Ibrahim

At least 260 people have reported symptoms of gastroenteritis after attending a music festival in Victoria's west. An alert was issued after several people attending last weekend's Esoteric Festival reported symptoms including diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Case numbers are continuing to rise and several have been confirmed as antibiotic-resistant Shigella.

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 17/03/2024, Johanna Nicholson and Fauziah Ibrahim

Health authorities are monitoring the success of a new immunisation program in WA before deciding whether to roll it out nationwide. As of next month, West Australian infants up to eight months old will be offered free immunisation against the highly contagious RSV across the country.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Analysis What is minoxidil, the anti-balding hair growth treatment? Here's what the science says

ABC Online, Other, 17/03/2024, Kirsten Staff and Jacinta Johnson

Hair loss (also known as alopecia) often affects the scalp but can occur anywhere on the body. It's very common and usually nothing to worry about; about half of Australian men show signs of visible baldness at age 50 and over a quarter of Australian women report hair thinning by the same age. [...]

It's been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australia's regulatory authority for therapeutic goods, for the treatment of hereditary hair loss in males and females.

[Read More](#)

Global shortage of ADHD medication Vyvanse leaves Australian mother 'a complete mess'

7news.com.au, Other, 17/03/2024, Warren Barnsley

'I've been a complete mess.' When Jane McFadden began taking Vyvanse, the "music" in her head stopped for the first time in her life. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration believes supplies of Vyvanse 40mg will return to normal on April 30 this year, according to a notice from the federal authority this week.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Sydney's cocaine addiction costing non-users dearly

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 18/03/2024, Page 20

Sydney has Australia's highest house prices and is the nation's cocaine capital, two crowning achievements that should be matters of deep regret for the damage they wreak on ordinary lives. The realisation that our city's towering real estate market is a major and symbolic contributor to Australia's onerous cost of living crisis is now starting to be appreciated but our growing fondness for what was once the "party" drug of choice goes on unhindered with law enforcement agencies despite occasional successes - seemingly unable to stop the snow storm.

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State 'wants change' on pot

Herald Sun, General News, 18/03/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 4

Most Victorians are in favour of cannabis regulation over criminalisation, new research released on Sunday reveals. Think tank the Pennington Institute, which is developing a model for cannabis regulation in Victoria, says it is the highest level of support for regulation over criminalisation in an Australian independent survey.

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

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