



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 19th March 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that experts are warning that there has been a sharp rise in young Australians self-diagnosing mental health conditions based on social media messaging, increasing the risk of young Australians seeking unwarranted clinical care.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that Independent MPs and unions have allied to demand planning law reforms from the NSW government that will deliver affordable housing for essential workers including nurses and paramedics.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 1) reports that NSW is set to take further hits on GST as its population increases, affecting its ability to pay for hospitals, with Health Services Union NSW boss Gerard Hayes warning, "NSW is supposed to be the gateway to Australia yet the Commonwealth seems to think it is a cash pinata that should be repeatedly belted ... If we keep funnelling money out of NSW, the health workforce will go with it."
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Steven has rejected plans to spend \$3.4 billion on a new Olympic stadium at Victoria Park, instead opting to upgrade the existing Queensland Sport and Athletic Centre as well as Suncorp Stadium and the Gabba at a cost of \$1.6 billion. *Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review](#), [The Australian](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [ABC Online](#)*

- [The West Australian](#) (page 3) reports that WA Health has warned Kimberley residents and Easter travellers to take care against Murray Valley encephalitis. *Also reported by: [The Australian Online](#)*
- [The Australian](#) (page 4) reports that veterans' advocates and medical bodies are urging the federal government to increase funding for veterans' healthcare, warning that low co-payments paid by DVA to healthcare providers may be affecting veterans' ability to access medical services.
- [The Australian](#) (page 6) reports that the Missing Piece campaign, which launched on Monday, is petitioning the federal government to provide more POC testing to support preventative care in Indigenous communities.
- [The Daily Telegraph](#) (page 6) reports that western Sydney is getting \$1.7 billion for hospitals, including \$1.3 billion for the new Bankstown hospital alongside upgrades to Canterbury, Blacktown and Mount Druitt.
- [The Canberra Times](#) (page 8) reports that the Australian Medical Association has called for a \$2 billion increase to the federal budget to help reform the nation's public health system, while more than 500 psychiatrists from all over Australia have signed an open letter asking Health Minister Mark Butler to address mental health workforce shortages.

MINISTER BUTLER

\$2b needed to fix hospital 'crisis': AMA

Canberra Times, General News, 19/03/2024, Tess Ikonmou & Belad Alkarkhey, Page 8

Australia's peak medical body has called for urgent steps to help reform the nation's public health system. [...] More than 500 psychiatrists across the country have signed an open letter by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, calling on Health Minister Mark Butler to address mental health workforce shortages.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Dungog Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Pay rise jackpot

Mountain Views Mail - Healesville, General News, 19/03/2024, Callum Ludwig, Page 1

Action is being undertaken across the aged care sector as three big announcements last week should see working conditions improve in the sector. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was examining the "lengthy and highly detailed" content of the decision.

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MP joins fight for Fernlea

Ranges Trader Mail, General News, 19/03/2024, Matthew Sims, Page 6

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.

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Avoiding health insurance price hikes

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 19/03/2024, Lanie Tindale, Page 4

It did not take long for some private health insurers to announce higher prices last week. That is because Federal Health Minister Mark Butler approved premium increases to go into effect on April 1.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

Dire shortfall in bone marrow donors

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 19/03/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 5

Tahlee Bearham knows what it's like to watch a loved one suffer from leukaemia [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has previously acknowledged Australia was falling behind and has promised to work with state and territory counterparts to enable more funding.

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Healthy boost to treating wounds

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 19/03/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 11

Chronic wounds are a hidden epidemic in Australia that experts say are costing health budgets an estimated \$6bn each year. [...] "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.

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Private health insurance cost increases to be capped at an average of three per cent

About Regional, Other, 18/03/2024, Andrew McLaughlin

Just as the economy starts to flatten and cost-of-living relief policies are implemented, Australians with private health insurance will be slugged with a more than three per cent average increase in their premiums from 1 April. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the increase in health insurance premiums would be much lower than the increase in the cost of other insurance products, which he said rose by around 17 per cent in 2023.

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'Wage justice': Huge wage update for millions of Aussie workers

Aged Care Insite, Other, 18/03/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Aged care workers have secured a "historic" pay rise – some getting up to a 28.5 per cent increase – in what has been called a "life-changing" improvement for one of Australia's most undervalued work groups. [...] In a joint statement, Employment Minister Tony Burke, Health Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the government welcomed the decision from the FWC.

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Flying Doctor to receive \$29m extra funding over 2 years

Australian Aviation Magazine, Other, 18/03/2024, Jake Nelson

The Federal Government will provide almost \$30 million in extra funding to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). [...] "The Albanese Government is making sure everyone can get health care – no matter whether you live in the inner suburbs of our major cities, or the most remote outback town," said Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler.

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Target highest-risk patients first: SHPA

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 18/03/2024, Megan Haggan

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has welcomed progress made toward the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) through the Heads of Agreement announced last week by health Mark Butler and Guild national president Professor Trent Twomey.

[Read More](#)

The Zap: growing the First Nations workforce, aged care news, pharmacy owner profits – and a buzzword salad of a consultation

Croakey, Other, 18/03/2024, Melissa Sweet

Developments in the First Nations health workforce, aged care, pharmacy and nursing are covered in the latest edition of The Zap. [...] In a brief statement Ministers Mark Butler and Anika Wells joined

Workplace Relations Minister Tony Burke in welcoming the decision, and reiterating the Government's commitment to "provide funding to support increases to award wages made by the Fair Work Commission in this matter and... help deliver a higher standard of care for older Australians".

[Read More](#)

Butler: 8CPA reaffirms commitment

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/03/2024

Australia's Health Minister, Mark Butler (pictured) addressed hundreds of delegates at APP2024 last Fri to highlight what had been achieved by signing the Heads of Agreement for the eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) (PD 14 Mar). Butler said the landmark announcement, which underscores a commitment by the Albanese Government to make a further investment of \$3 billion into community pharmacy and cheaper medicine, marked "exciting times" for the pharmacy sector.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(None\)](#).

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RANZCOG's OGET pilot delivers training to rural and regional maternity services – College urges government to extend funding

RANZCOG, Other, 18/03/2024

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists The Obstetrics and Gynaecology Education and Training (OGET) project, for which RANZCOG successfully secured funding from the Australian Government in 2021, addresses the essential need for equitable delivery of health services in Australia. [...] The College is now calling on the Honourable Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care to continue OGET funding beyond February 2025.

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RACGP pushes workforce solutions at national roundtable

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 18/03/2024

Fifty peak medical bodies have convened in Canberra to identify the health system's pressure points and highlight areas for change.[...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler spoke at the event and acknowledged the workforce shortages impacting Australian healthcare.

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Overtake 'ill-conceived' ECG rebate cut: AMA

The Limbic, Other, 18/03/2024, Geir O'Rourke

Pressure is ramping up on the federal government to reintroduce Medicare funding for GPs to interpret ECGs, with the AMA labelling the removal of items 'ill-conceived' and bad for patients. [...] But hopes have been raised that his successor to the portfolio, Labor's Mark Butler, may finally restore the rebates, after a new report appeared to point in the same direction.

[Read More](#)

Why the AMA isn't just calling for indexation this budget

The Medical Republic, Other, 18/03/2024, Holly Payne

It'll take more to fix the MBS than just money, the powerful federation has argued in its pre-budget submission. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was among the attendees at the Canberra meeting.

[Read More](#)

Aged care employees set for a 23 per cent average pay rise

Upper Yarra Mail, Other, 18/03/2024, Maeve Bannister & Samantha Lock

Australia's aged care workers are celebrating a substantial pay rise after a years-long campaign their union says will usher a "new era of decency and dignity". [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was examining the "lengthy and highly detailed" content of the decision.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 18/03/2024, Sandra Sully

The National Party is seeking the Liberals' support for a new Coalition policy that would put vapes back on the store shelves. It claims the government's prescription-only model has been a failure, with 92% of the vapes being used today being sourced through the black market. Health Minister Mark Butler says the tough legislation he's bringing forward on Thursday has the support of all Australian health and police ministers.

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Channel 10, 10 News First: Midday, 18/03/2024, Narelda Jacobs

As the Federal Government moves to ramp up its tight restrictions on vapes, convenience store owners are calling today for vapes to be taxed instead of banning them. They are arguing Australia is missing out on \$9b worth of revenue. The reforms that Health Minister Mark Butler has put up have been supported by all Australian health and police ministers while the opposition's position is not yet known on this latest tranche of legislation.

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Triple M Adelaide, 08:00 News, 18/03/2024

Industry leaders are gathering today with the Federal Minister to discuss a renewed push for Canberra to address growing wait times for surgery, ambulance ramping and a lack of funding between now and when a new agreement kicks in. AMA President Steve Robson says Mark Butler will attend today's meeting.

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MINISTER WELLS

Home truths: Aged care plan ignores the reality

The Australian, Business News, 19/03/2024, James Kirby, Page 19

A fear of going anywhere near the family home has left a gaping hole in the government's new aged care plan. [...] While the report is being reviewed by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, Coates of the Grattan Institute says: "It would take a bit of bravery for any government to go near the aged care means test."

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

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Sustainable funding crucial

Mountain Views Mail - Healesville, General News, 19/03/2024, Callum Ludwig, Page 6

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

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Wells: Wage-price spiral unlikely

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 18/03/2024, Page 8

The sizeable pay bump for 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 wage-price spiral and says pay increases for the nation's lowest-paid workers isn't a major inflation driver.

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Aged care workers pay hike 'not inflationary'

Aged Care Insite, Other, 18/03/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Claims that a pay boost for some 350,000 aged care workers could fuel inflationary pressures have

been dismissed 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.

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‘Wage justice’: Huge wage update for millions of Aussie workers

Aged Care Insite, Other, 18/03/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Aged care workers have secured a "historic" pay rise – some getting up to a 28.5 per cent increase – in what has been called a "life-changing" improvement for one of Australia's most undervalued work groups. [...] In a joint statement, Employment Minister Tony Burke, Health Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the government welcomed the decision from the FWC.

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Aged Care Task Force points to self funding as care workers receive historic pay rise

Procurement and Supply Australasia (PASA), Other, 18/03/2024

Last week, the Aged Care Task Force released 23 recommendations including a move towards aged care funding based on personal wealth, while aged care workers' hourly wage will increase by up to 28.5 percent. [...] The Minister for Aged Care and taskforce chair Anika Wells, who has been criticised for her position due to effectively reporting to herself, added that the government will not "change the means testing treatment of the family home for aged care."

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 18/03/2024, Laura Jayes

The Federal Government is set to make retirees pay more for home-aged care as it looks to strike a better balance between how much taxpayers and the elderly are paying to fund the sector. One of the key areas Aged Care Minister Anika Wells seemed to admit that they will be tackling is the issue of home care. At the moment, 95% of the cost of that aged people's home care is taken up by the taxpayer while hardly any user pays in the system at all.

Report continues on: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).

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Artsound FM, 08:00 AIR News ACT Edition, 18/03/2024

A major report into aged care has made 23 recommendations to make the sector more viable. There are concerns some providers are struggling to stay afloat. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has told Sky News the government is considering a range of measures to improve sustainability, but any change won't be rushed. Liberal Senator Michaelia Cash says the opposition is willing to work with Labor, however, there's been no approach.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Hub for cutting-edge healthcare

Northern Star Weekly, General News, 19/03/2024, Page 10

Healthscope and La Trobe University have officially opened La Trobe Private Hospital, a state-of-the-art centre for patient care, research and education, located within La Trobe's Bundoora campus. [...]

The hospital was officially opened by the Health and Ageing Assistant Manager Ged Kearney.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 18/03/2024, Sarah MacDonald

Interview with Sophie Scott, host, National Women's Health Summit, regarding concerning stories about medical misogyny that were tackled during the event and was recently discussed by Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney with Richard Glover. Scott says it was an amazing day to get together with all the health experts, patients and advocates and it was almost like they heard the best of what's going on and the worst of what's going on as well. She adds Kearney also released the gender bias study on that day as well and it found that two-thirds of the women who reported in this study reported some gender bias in their care.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Alternative arrangements in aged care supported

Mountain Views Mail - Healesville, General News, 19/03/2024, Callum Ludwig, Page 6

The University of Wollongong's Centre for Health Service Development has released its final report on 'Alternative Arrangements for Residential Aged Care Staffing' commissioned by the Australian Government, creating an outline for acceptable alternative arrangements when registered nurses (RNs) are not available on-site 24/7. [...] The supplement is intended to support homes that have on average, 60 residents or less, to meet the 24/7 RN requirement, with the Department of Health and Aged Care's site on the supplement inferring those with more on average over a calendar month receive sufficient funding through the Australian National Aged Care Classification (ANACC) Basic Subsidy.

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Comley dishes writing tips, as APS gains ex-PwC partner

Canberra Times, Other, 18/03/2024, Miriam Webber & Justine Landis-Hanley

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. Among these was the need for the department to lift its strategic policy capability, which Mr Comley said on one level meant ensuring "our written work is as clear as possible".

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

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It's a trend – proportionally fewer public servants working in Canberra

PS News, Other, 18/03/2024, Chris Johnson

Canberra's relationship with the Australian Public Service is getting a tweak from both ends, with the ACT Government and the federal bureaucracy flagging changes ahead for the capital. [...] Department of Health and Aged Care Secretary Blair Comley told an Institute of Public Administration Australia event that flexibility in the workforce had changed so dramatically that many public servants could work remotely.

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

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Retirement Living Council's concerns with Exposure Draft Aged Care Bill 2023 very clear

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/03/2024, Ian Horswill

The Property Council's retirement living division is seeking changes to the proposed new Act to protect operators, like LDK, RetireAustralia and Odyssey Lifestyle Care Communities, who provide fee-for service private aged care. [...] " Exclusively revealed by The SOURCE on 5 March, the RLC is lobbying the Department of Health and Aged Care to trial a shared care model, which provides three models for retirement village operators to deliver community-based care services under the Support at Home program within the village setting, either independently or through a delivery partner.

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CORONAVIRUS

Long Covid danger is real

The Nightly, General News, 18/03/2024, Andrew Miller, Page 15

Any attempts to downplay seriousness of the disease's lasting impacts are self-serving and wrong. It is what it is.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

No proof hearing aids help stop dementia, experts say

Australian Financial Review, General News, 19/03/2024, Jill Margo, Page 9

Two hearing experts have cautioned their colleagues against promoting hearing aids on the premise that these devices can reduce the risk of dementia.

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

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Age pension up again: how to get a bigger boost

The Australian, Business News, 19/03/2024, Anthony Keane, Page 19

This week's pension payday will deliver many seniors almost \$20 extra per fortnight, and some of them have a chance to turn it into even more money. While the 1.78 per cent rise from March 20, part of Centrelink's twice-yearly indexation, is below the big 3 per cent-plus rises pensioners saw during inflation's peak, retirement income specialists say higher living costs make it more important than ever to maximise pensions and other entitlements.

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Couple stunned by gold haul

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/03/2024, Page 3

Supporting a charity near to their heart has won an Angle Vale couple more than \$200,000 in gold after winning a Play for Purpose raffle. The couple were enjoying scones on St Patrick's Day when they received the call announcing their ticket supporting National Seniors Australia won the grand prize of \$250,000 in cashable gold bullions.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Help can go down very well

Everyone does it hundreds of times daily, yet swallowing is difficult for about 8 per cent of Australians. Speech Pathology Australia says most people swallow up to 700 times a day and take it for granted, until swallowing becomes a challenge.

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Centre staff given a serve

Northern Territory News, General News, 19/03/2024, Julie Cross & Annabel Fleming, Page 5

Nearly half of residents living at a Northern Territory aged care home never liked the food they were served, according to official data. Terrace Gardens in Farrar, Palmerston, was given the lowest rating for food by its residents in the territory, with 47 per cent saying they never liked the meals.

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Why the cost of aged care is set to increase by \$200,000

The Border Mail, Other, 18/03/2024, Rachel Lane

The Aged Care Taskforce Final Report was released last Tuesday. It gave 23 recommendations relating to the fees and funding arrangements for aged care.

[Read More](#)

Make your future health care wishes known now, while you still can!

The Senior, Other, 18/03/2024, Eileen Wood

National Advance Care Planning Week 2024 (March 18-24) is encouraging Australians to share their preferences for future health care with those who are important to them. Advance care planning ensures your voice is heard so you are not one of the 30 per cent of people unable to make their own end-of-life medical decisions.

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Houston, we have a problem. No hospital beds as well as no care beds

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/03/2024, Chris Baynes

On page 5 of The Australian today the Australian Medical Association is going to the media to say that hospitals across the country are experiencing the highest levels on record of emergency presentations and bed blockers. Many are retirement village and aged care residents.

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Does this pass the pub test? Direct aged care workers awarded wages rises of up to 13.5% by Fair Work Commission – but indirect care workers only given up to 6.8%

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/03/2024, Lauren Broomham

Workers across residential aged care and home care will receive wages rises between 3.2% and 13.5% after the Fair Work Commission (FWC) determined on Friday that their work has historically been undervalued. The Stage 3 decision in the long-running Aged Care Work Value Case followed an interim finding last year that saw 'direct care' workers – including personal care workers, Assistants in Nursing and home care workers – awarded a 15% wage rise on 1 July 2023.

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Only in SATURDAY: the land lease operators smashing gender pay and executive gap

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/03/2024, Lauren Broomham

The verdict is in on the best performers for gender equality across the retirement living and aged care sector – and these land lease operators are leading the pack. In this week's 'Women Leaders' issue of SATURDAY, we speak to Ingenia Communities Lifestyle Communities and Hometown Australia about how they are tackling the gender pay gap – and delivering impressive results for their businesses.

[Read More](#)

Age Pension indexation comes into effect tomorrow – how much will you get?

Your Life Choices, Other, 19/03/2024, Jan Fisher

Age pensioners will receive an extra \$19.60 a fortnight for singles and \$28.40 for couples when the March indexation comes into effect tomorrow. While the minister in charge claims it will ease the cost-of-living pressures, representative groups are less than impressed, with one group claiming pensioners are being "disrespected and discarded".

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POPULATION HEALTH

Hot summer too much for sweltering renters

Age, General News, 19/03/2024, Jim Malo & Kate Burke, Page 13

Summer temperatures can range from uncomfortable to nearly unlivable inside Australian rental properties, which renters say affects their health and their ability to use their home, research from advocacy group Better Renting has found. Health professionals and community groups have spoken out in support of strengthening minimum standards for rentals to include insulation and cooling, to alleviate heat-related illnesses.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#).

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West Australian, Today, 19/03/2024, Katie Hampson, Page 1

Health and wellness influencers may do more harm than good. Here's how to spot and avoid bad nutritional advice and find information you can trust

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Is meth use really going up? Let's look at the evidence behind the latest scary headlines

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 18/03/2024, Nicole Lee, Page 6

Widely reported data released from the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program last week appears to show the rising use of methamphetamine (also known as methylamphetamine). You may know it as speed (the powder form) or ice (the crystal form).

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Gen Z would 'rather die hot than live ugly' as they revive tanning bed trend

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/03/2024, Brooke Kato

Gen Z youths are bringing back tanning, much to the chagrin of older generations who learned too late of the damages inflicted by sun-beds, UV rays and tanning oils. Despite the wealth of information available about the health risks of tanning, like premature ageing and skin cancer, the skincare obsessed generation is, ironically, flocking to tanning beds, reports.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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These are the best foods to lower your cholesterol, experts say

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/03/2024, Shona Hendley

According to one dietitian, ensuring your body gets enough of the 'good' type of cholesterol is just as important as staying away from the 'bad' type. Cholesterol often gets a bad rap, but it is a substance in our bodies that we need for a variety of functions including the formation of sex hormones

(testosterone, estrogen, progesterone); steroid hormones (cortisol, adrenalin) and a precursor to bile production which helps your body to absorb fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E & K).

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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The 'generational sandwich' crisis creeping up on us

Your Life Choices, Other, 19/03/2024, Andrew Gigacz

The CEO of a health tech company is warning that Australia is on the brink of a healthcare crisis, and that Australian parents are increasingly at risk of being caught in a 'generational sandwich'. This refers to parents caught between caring for their children while also managing the health of their ageing parents.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Cancer weight finding

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/03/2024, Page 4

About 20 per cent of cancer deaths can be attributed to weight loss caused by the disease, and international researchers believe they have discovered a way cancerrelated weight loss happens. Researchers at Peking University screened the levels of metabolites - created as the body breaks down foods, chemicals or itself - in humans and mice who were losing weight due to cancer.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Blood test 'could identify people at highest risk of dying from heart failure'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 18/03/2024

A new cheap and simple blood test could help identify people who are at the highest risk of dying from heart failure, research suggests. [...] Professor Bryan Williams, chief scientific and medical officer at the British Heart Foundation (BHF), said: "This new research suggests that a new, cheap and simple blood test, could help us in future to more accurately spot which patients with heart failure are at highest risk of early death.

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Plan to help Wollongong kids breathe easier as city becomes 'asthma smart'

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 18/03/2024, Kate Mcilwain

Wollongong will be transformed into a "asthma smart community" under a new three year plan to keep children out of hospital due to asthma attacks. The project, called Breathe Better in the Gong, is being jointly run by local health promotion group Healthy Cities Illawarra and Asthma Australia , and is designed to make the local government area a leader in asthma prevention.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today, 18/03/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Interview with Chris Tanti, CEO, Leukaemia Foundation. regarding the World's Greatest Shave. Tanti says the event allows them to do what they do for people living with blood cancer. He adds that 140,000 people are living with blood cancer, and they provide accommodation for those in regional, rural and remote areas and a whole lot of things like research and financial assistance.

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PRIMARY CARE

Funding crisis hits veterans' health

The Australian, General News, 19/03/2024, Jess Malcolm, Page 4

The Albanese government is being urged to increase funding for veterans' health care amid concern that thousands of former Defence personnel are missing out on critical medical services, including physiotherapy and psychological counselling. Veterans advocates and peak medical bodies have joined forces to call on Labor to significantly increase co-payments paid to doctors, warning comparatively low levels of payment for treating veterans in comparison to other government subsidised services are preventing them from offering health care.

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

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

Flooded and duddled

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/03/2024, James O'Doherty, Page 1

Our state takes the biggest hit in the nation when it comes to housing new immigrants, but population growth in NSW is set to cut the amount of our GST revenue by \$80 per person next financial year, heaping pressure on the government to fund hospitals, schools and roads. Premier Chris Minns declared it "unreasonable" for NSW to do the heavy lifting on immigration while taking a "decreasing share" of GST funding.

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Ramping questions on GP tax

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/03/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 10

Government reassurances that enforcing payroll tax on GP clinics from July won't add to ambulance ramping have been questioned by the opposition. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners claims the vast majority of clinics will add an average of \$12 to gap fees, while those that still bulk-bill will abandon it.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), Similar coverage reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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

Talks on future of hospital site

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/03/2024, Page 29

An advisory group comprising local government and community representatives, and current tenants of the McLaren Vale and Districts War Memorial Hospital site, has been formed to help develop a new vision for the site. It forms part of a community consultation process being led by retirement living and aged care provider Kalyra, which took over ownership of the site after the hospital's closure last year.

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

Bankstown gets new hospital in \$1.7bn boost for west

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/03/2024, Jake McCallum, Page 6

A \$1.7 billion plan to dramatically expand four western Sydney hospitals has been confirmed to boost bed numbers and specialist services. Health Minister Ryan Park said planning of the new \$1.3bn Bankstown Hospital is underway, while major expansions to Canterbury, Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals were also in the works.

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

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

Healthy choices

The Nightly, General News, 18/03/2024, Nick Bruining, Page 22

With private health insurance premiums set to rise by more than 3 per cent next month, it's more important than ever to know if you are getting value for money 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.

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

Fewer patients, but hospital emergency wait times rise

Daily Liberal, General News, 19/03/2024, Sarah Falson, Page 2

Dubbo's emergency wait times are getting longer despite a drop in the number of patients presenting to the department. Data from the Bureau of Health Information's (BHI) latest Healthcare Quarterly report showed a drop in the number of patients presenting to the emergency department (ED) at Dubbo Hospital, as well as a drop in the number of those who were seen on time.

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

Doctors warn hospitals are \$2b behind

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 19/03/2024, Page 8

Public hospitals are operating at breaking point with a \$2 billion Federal Budget boost needed to end the crisis, doctors have warned. The Australian Medical Association has called for reforms targeting five areas including general practice, public hospitals and private health.

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

Health 'monitoring' after UK decision

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/03/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 8

The NSW government says it is monitoring "developments" after England's health service said there was "not enough evidence" to support the use of puberty blockers as a routine treatment for children and young people with gender dysphoria. The blockers are provided in Newcastle through Maple Leaf House, one of two specialist hubs providing trans and gender diverse health services in NSW.

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Virtual emergency care a first

Shepparton News, General News, 19/03/2024, Kady Hadjab, Page 5

The Victorian Virtual Emergency Department is an Australian-first video telehealth medical consultation service, run by Northern Health and funded by the Department of Health, for people with non-life-threatening medical conditions. Highly trained doctors and nurses can assess and treat patients virtually, arrange referrals and provide follow-up care plans for those who require them, all through a mobile device.

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

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

ABC News, News Breakfast, 18/03/2024, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan

Interview Professor Steve Robson, National President, AMA, regarding a meeting in Canberra that will tackle surgery waiting lists and ambulance ramping. Robson says it's a huge issue around the country and it doesn't seem to be getting better. He adds it needs resourcing and commitment from state and territory governments to treat patients and get them back into their lives and into the workforce.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 18/03/2024, Tiffany Warne

South Australians will likely feel the most pain from the worsening tax fight between doctors and the SA Government. A survey reveals that 95% of GP clinics planned to increase patient fees by an average of \$12 per appointment if hit with the tax as planned. Some doctors say the move will mean closing their practise doors for good, and believe that will force more patients into emergency departments already under pressure.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 18/03/2024, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

A trip to the doctor could soon cost much more as GP clinics are about to be hit with an unpopular payroll tax, which they say will drive up fees and spell the end of bulk billing. Clinics already pay the payroll tax on employees like nurses and receptionists and from July, it will apply to GPs too.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 18/03/2024, Sarah MacDonald

The Australian Medical Association is calling for the implementation of a federal planning agency to advise the government on the size and structure of the medical workforce. The agency would cost more than \$1b over four years. The AMA says public hospitals are in a crisis.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Social media 'bad for mental health'

The Australian, General News, 19/03/2024, Noah Lim, Page 1

Young people are increasingly "diagnosing" themselves with mental health conditions based on social media messaging, according to one of the nation's top mental health leaders. Ian Hickie, co-director of the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre, said while social media had been a valuable tool to raise awareness and direct people to seek help, it had also convinced some to wrongly believe they suffer from specific mental health conditions.

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

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At-risk bikie died after move 'without proper care'

Age, General News, 19/03/2024, Erin Pearson, Page 2

Finks bikie boss Brent Reker had "ruthless" tattooed above his right eye. He was physically imposing, and prison staff feared him.

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

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

Prison feared mass suicide

Herald Sun, General News, 19/03/2024, Page 12

Miles Proust A bikie boss found dead in his prison cell was transferred out of a specialist mental health unit because staff feared he was organising a "mass self-harm" event. Brent "BJ" Reker, 35, the heavily tattooed former national president of the Finks, took his own life after barricading himself in his cell at Ravenhall Correctional Centre.

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

Ex-WA bikie made suicide pact threat

West Australian, General News, 19/03/2024, Melissa Meehan, Page 10

Prison officers feared a one-time WA bike boss was organising a suicide pact with fellow inmates in the days before he was found dead in his Victorian jail cell. Those fears resulted in Finks boss Brent "BJ" Reker being transferred out of a specialist mental health unit in December 2019, for the safety of other inmates.

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Touching tribute

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 19/03/2024, Page 1

A sea of teal could be seen on Bendigo's streets on Sunday as the community came together to mark one of the region's most solemn events. Every year, Suicide Prevention Awareness Network Central

Victoria's annual walk unites people touched by suicide and those who want to support them.

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

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

Bikers brave rain to join Black Dog ride

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 19/03/2024, Page 2

After losing her first love to suicide when she was a teenager, Wollongong's Sandy Norse has done everything within her power to break down the barrier of silence around mental health. "He was a rebel, a free-thinker, with a good sense of humour, all of the things I admire in a person," Ms Norse said of her childhood boyfriend.

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Talk it out while sweating it out

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 19/03/2024, Jessica Greenan, Page 3

Being physically fit is one thing, but a Warrnambool gym owner says it's time to get active for mental health. Momentum Fitness is hosting its second March Mental Challenge which aims to raise both funds for the Let's Talk Foundation and general awareness about mental health.

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The novel treatments helping Canberrans with stubborn depression

Canberra Times, Other, 18/03/2024, Lanie Tindale

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.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

We need separate waiting rooms for all the different mums at the OB/GYN

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/03/2024

You've got a follow up appointment with your OB/GYN after the devastating loss of your baby You walk in, and the waiting room is FULL of women in their third trimester.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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

West Australian, Other, 18/03/2024, 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: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Birth trauma inquiry reveals just one of the ways NSW is failing on mental health

Crikey, Other, 18/03/2024, Alex Mckinnon

The lack of mental health support for people who have experienced birth trauma is emblematic of a wider crisis facing the state's mental health care system. In her opening statement to the NSW parliamentary inquiry into birth trauma last week, mother of two Mary van Reyk spoke of her 10-year journey to becoming a mother.

[Read More](#)

'The training is not comparable': Nurse-turned-GP's warning on scope of practice

Australian Doctor, Other, 18/03/2024, Heather Saxena

Dr Jaimie Drysdale believes nurse practitioners are an asset — but only when supervised by doctors. Before medicine, GP Dr Jaimie Drysdale was an experienced nurse contemplating training to become a nurse practitioner.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 18/03/2024, Peter Overton

The NSW Government is investing \$6.19m into a new initiative called Pregnancy Connect which will focus on improving early access to specialist maternity care, especially for women in rural and regional areas. Health Minister Ryan Park says it is about making sure that they give every child in NSW the very best start to life and investment in those first 2000 days.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Evenings, 18/03/2024, Rebecca Levingston

Discussion about surrogacy laws in Australia and the barriers to surrogacy potential parents face.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Rare alliance to deliver essential worker housing

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 19/03/2024, Alexandra Smith & Angus Thomson, Page 1

Independent MPs and unions have joined forces to demand the Minns government deliver affordable housing for nurses, teachers and paramedics as part of sweeping changes to planning laws. The eight crossbenchers, including lower house speaker Greg Piper, and the union movement want a parliamentary inquiry into how the state government can deliver housing for essential workers.

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

Where's the fresh talent?

Daily Advertiser, General News, 19/03/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf, Page 1

The difficulties attracting young doctors to the regions and communication challenges between doctors and the hospitals rose to the fore as the first regional hearings of an inquiry into state and healthcare funding kicked off in Wagga on Monday.

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

Victorian paramedics take industrial action as they fight to reach new enterprise agreement

Northern Territory News, Other, 19/03/2024, Tess Mccracken

Paramedics in one Aussie state will stop billing patients as they take industrial action for better work-life balance. Victorian paramedics will stop taking billing information from patients and undertaking hospital tasks as they launch industrial action following a dispute that has lasted more than a year.

[Read More](#)

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

Victorian paramedics have scribbled slogans on ambulances and stopped collecting patient billing details as their protracted pay dispute ramps up. The Victorian Ambulance Union kicked off industrial action on Monday morning after being unable to broker a new enterprise agreement.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today, 18/03/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Victorian paramedics are taking action this morning, striking for better pay and working conditions. Paramedics say they won't be taking billing details from people in ambulances and they also say if their ambulance is ramped outside of a hospital for more than 40 minutes, they'll be turning on their beacon. Negotiations have been going on for more than a year, and the union says this is all about job retention.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 18/03/2024, Tom Connell

Paramedics claim working conditions in Victoria are the worst they have seen in more than two decades. Workers have started industrial action after negotiations failed to break the deadlock. As part of the industrial action, workers have turned ambulance windows into billboards and patients won't be charged for trips to hospital.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Lobby group's dire predictions turn out to be incorrect, surprising nobody

Crikey, Other, 18/03/2024, Luke Slawomirski

The term "lobbying" — which describes an interest group's attempt to influence government decision-making — stems from these efforts having originally taken place in a legislative chamber's lobby. [...] Readers may recall that, in 2023, the government announced changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme that would allow patients to collect 60 days' worth of common prescription drugs (up from 30 days), saving consumers (and the government) time and money.

[Read More](#)

Medsaware pitch

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/03/2024

Conversations around discontinuing medicines that are no longer needed, including psychotropics in aged and disability care will be the main theme of MedsAware's 2024 campaign, starting today. Following strong success in 2023, the MedsAware campaign's 2024 theme is 'Ask because you care'.

[Read More](#)

PSA welcomes Pill move

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/03/2024

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has praised a move by the Queensland Government to allow trained pharmacists to dispense hormonal contraception to women 16 years and older across the state from Jul 2024. Under the new pilot program, local pharmacists can prescribe low-estrogen oral contraceptive pills and the progesterone-only pill.

[Read More](#)

'Could these medicines be doing more harm than good?'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 18/03/2024

Australian medical groups are asking clinicians this question as part of a push towards reducing polypharmacy. Around 250,000 Australians are admitted to hospital each year due to medication-

related issues, many of which are preventable.

[Read More](#)

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

New app may be the only identity check you'll need

Australian Financial Review, General News, 19/03/2024, Tom Burton, Page 9

A new brand and logo, myID, could become as prominent as Medicare or myGov as the government forges ahead with a digital tool for Australians to prove their identity without physical passports, driver's licences or utility bills.

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

Push to end agency's 'stop-gap' funding

Canberra Times, General News, 19/03/2024, Miriam Webber, Page 3

The main public sector union will focus its pre-budget campaign on Services Australia, calling on the Albanese government to end a so-called trend of "stopgap" funding for the agency. Government Services Minister Bill Shorten announced a \$288 million boost for Services Australia in November 2023.

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

Medicare surcharge hit on your windfall

The Nightly, General News, 18/03/2024, Nick Bruining, Page 22

The joy of collecting a whopping 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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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Surgeon's licence must be restricted

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 19/03/2024, Page 18

Redemption can be earned in a relatively short period of time, if the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal is to be believed. In 2021, ear nose and throat surgeon William Mooney was banned from practising for a year after the NCAT found him to be unethical, to have lied and to have provided substandard medical care.

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

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

Doctor accuses regulators of a 'witch-hunt' over patient's death at abortion clinic

Australian Doctor, Other, 18/03/2024, Carmel Sparke

AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher says the watchdog is 'gravely concerned by the picture emerging' of the Melbourne facility. The medical director of an abortion clinic has accused regulators of carrying out a "witch-hunt" after one of its doctors was suspended and the clinic banned from performing further surgeries.

[Read More](#)

I love the AMA like family but expelling its own members is beyond ridiculous

I too received the strange letter from the Federal AMA last month which advised all West Australian AMA members that we had been dismembered. As they say on the Federal AMA website , there is currently "no avenue for WA doctors to be ordinary members of Federal AMA".

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Take youth health literacy seriously call

Launceston Examiner, General News, 19/03/2024, Saree Salter, Page 9

Tasmanian schools could soon access an internationally acclaimed health literacy initiative "if the incoming government can commit to core funding for HealthLit4Kids". Chief executive officer of HealthLit4Kids, Dr Rosie Nash, said the initiative supports primary schools in building the health literacy of staff and students and developing a culture through which the needs of the whole school community are identified and supported.

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

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Vape tax would bring in \$9bn

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 19/03/2024, Regan Hodge, Page 14

The federal government would be more than \$9bn better off if the ban on vapes was scrapped and the products were regulated and taxed the same way tobacco is, a new industry report reveals. New data from Tulipwood Economics states almost \$6bn would be raised in excise revenue and more than \$3bn in GST revenue in a move that would help dismantle the black market trade in vapes.

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Defusing a bomb

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/03/2024

Australian Medical Association President, Professor Steve Robson, is urging federal MPs to support the government's vaping restrictions on the back of strong support from the AMA and health groups. Prof. Robson described vaping as "a ticking time bomb that is threatening future generations of Australians", and a public health crisis that needs to be quickly addressed.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today, 18/03/2024, Alex Cullen and Sarah Abo

More than \$9b could be collected by the Federal Government if vapes were regulated and taxed in the same way tobacco is. New data is suggesting not only would it take down the black market trade, but also raise \$6b in excise revenue and over \$3b in GST.

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SPORT

Lang Park revamp to open Games

Australian Financial Review, General News, 19/03/2024, Zoe Samios & Michael Bleby, Page 9

Brisbane's Olympics organisers have dumped a plan to demolish and rebuild the historic Gabba cricket ground as the heart of the 2032 Games, and also rejected a review panel's proposal to build a new \$3 billion stadium.

Similar coverage reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Crikey \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

It's a poll vault: Miles puts votes before value

The Australian, General News, 19/03/2024, Lydia Lynch & Jamie Walker, Page 2

Queensland Premier Steven Miles rejected the key finding of the inquiry he ordered into the troubled venue program for the Brisbane Olympics and will spend up to \$1.6bn on an ageing suburban stadium that did not provide "value for money". Mr Miles announced on Monday that the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre built for the 1982 Commonwealth Games would become ground zero of Australia's third Olympics, even though it was not on a train line and might seat only 40,000 people.

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

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

Olympic plan gets knocked down for old site's rebuild

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 19/03/2024, Cameron Atfield, Page 7

The Queensland government has sensationally rejected the signature recommendation of its own Olympic venue review panel to build a new stadium in Brisbane. Instead of building a \$3.4 billion, 55,000-seat Olympic stadium on the site of an old golf course at Victoria Park in Brisbane's inner north, Premier Steven Miles has chosen to spend \$1.6 billion dusting off the old QEII Stadium at Nathan in the city's south.

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Billion dollar bungle

Courier Mail, General News, 19/03/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 1

Premier Steven Miles will waste \$1bn on a temporary white elephant stadium in suburban Brisbane to host athletics at the 2032 Games the very option his own review of venues concluded would deliver the worst legacy outcome. Mr Miles rejected the headline recommendation from the review that a new \$3.4bn stadium be built at inner-city Victoria Park.

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

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

'Timid, meek retreat'

Courier Mail, General News, 19/03/2024, James Hall & Greg Stolz, Page 6

The Premier's rejection of an independent review's recommendation to build a new \$3.4bn stadium at Victoria Park for the 2032 Games has been blasted as a "timid (and) meek retreat for political expediency". Peter Edwards, the founder of architecture firm Archipelago, had attracted significant support for his plan to build a sporting and events precinct in the sprawling parklands.

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

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Champion's cost fear

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 19/03/2024, James Hall & Greg Stolz, Page 6

One of Queensland's greatest Olympians has revealed she is deeply worried about the Brisbane 2032 Games. Champion swimmer and now Triple M radio host Liesel Jones said on air on Monday that she was nervous the Games would end up costing more, after hearing Premier Steven Miles rejections of key recommendations handed down in an independent venues review.

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Queensland to its politicians: where is the leadership?

Courier Mail, Editorials, 19/03/2024, Page 20

Today is a sad day for Queensland. Not only has political cowardice left us with a frankly embarrassing 2032 Games outcome that will literally waste \$1bn of taxpayer money, but the Premier and his alternative have been exposed as politicians who care more about winning votes than about the future of our state.

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

Matildas statue set for Suncorp this year

Cairns Post, General News, 19/03/2024, Page 4

A statue to honour the Matildas will be put in place before the end of the year at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium. The team made a significant mark on Australia last year, as it seemed the whole country watched with bated breath during the women's FIFA Women's World Cup.

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

New plan needed

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 19/03/2024, Tom Gillespie, Page 1

Toowoomba must pivot towards securing funding for venues to support equestrian, basketball, squash and athletics to meet community needs now and also keep our Olympic dream alive. That's the advice of political leaders and experts, after a proposed \$80m upgrade of the Toowoomba Sports Ground (TSG) was urged to be scrapped for the 2032 Games.

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Mountain bikers push space limits in regional towns while others cash in on tourism opportunities

ABC Online, Other, 18/03/2024, Adam Sheldon

Mountain biking numbers have doubled across Australia in the past six years, and while some regional economies are cashing in on the tourism opportunities presented by the boom, a lack of trails in one South Australian town is prompting local riders to take matters into their own hands. Data from the Australian Sports Commission indicated 470,000 people are now participating in the sport of mountain bike riding, double the number of 2018.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News Late, 18/03/2024, Natalia Cooper

A decision will be made on Friday in a backflip worthy of the Olympics themselves. Brisbane will not build a new stadium for the 2032 Olympic Games, axing plans for a state of the art facility just hours after it was recommended.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Parents of son with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome want more research into disease

ABC Online, Other, 18/03/2024, Jodie Hamilton

It has been four years since 35-year-old former builder Dan Harris has been able to get out of bed. He lies for 24 hours a day in the dark, in silence, wearing an eye mask and ear plugs.

[Read More](#)

'We actually don't know much': the scientists trying to close the knowledge gap in trans healthcare

The Guardian, Other, 19/03/2024, Nicola Davis

When Cameron Whitley was diagnosed with kidney failure seven years ago, the news came as a shock. But the situation was about to get worse.

[Read More](#)

New spray offers hope for people with common sleep condition

9News, Other, 18/03/2024, Sarah Swain

Australian researchers have discovered a bedtime nasal spray that can potentially reduce the severity of sleep apnea. The new research offers hope to millions of people around the world affected by the common and debilitating chronic respiratory condition.

Share or comment on this article: Research could provide new means of diagnosing and...

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 18/03/2024

The need for invasive biopsies when diagnosing bowel cancer could become a thing of the past as researchers have found a way to check for the disease using digital screenings. Research was conducted by the Glasgow-based scientists on behalf of Cancer Research UK, who said imaging technology can be used instead of biopsies when diagnosing the disease.

[Read More](#)

Apple cider vinegar a treatment for obesity? What the experts say

The New Daily, Other, 18/03/2024, John Elder

Can a small amount of apple cider vinegar, taken every day, cause overweight or obese young people to lose a significant of weight and reduce their BMI? These are the findings of a new study that verges on ascribing magical properties to apple cider vinegar.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 18/03/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

A new bedtime spray could help thousands of Australians achieve a good night's sleep. Early research shows it can ease sleep apnoea, potentially allowing sufferers to do away with the clunky machines needed to help them breathe easier.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Medicine's missing link key to lifting Indigenous 'life sentence'

The Australian, General News, 19/03/2024, James Dowling, Page 6

Ray Kelly has dedicated years to reversing type 2 diabetes in Indigenous communities but for a long time did not even know that reversing it was possible, or that the process had been discovered in 1984. Dr Kelly, an exercise physiologist by trade with 33 years in the health sector, has pushed a 10-12week exercise regimen that has helped take patients off insulin and prevent a majority moving on to diabetic comorbidities.

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

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

First Nations mothers' trauma of baby removals heard in inquiry, calls to change process

ABC Online, Other, 18/03/2024, Stephanie Richards

Mitzi Nam spent almost a decade helping pregnant First Nations women prepare for birth. The senior Kaurua woman and former Aboriginal family support officer used to visit expectant mothers at home, drive them to antenatal appointments, and give them advice.

[Read More](#)

First Nations health conference spotlights lung and cervical cancers

SBS, Other, 18/03/2024, Sydney Lang & Cameron Gooley

Lung and cervical cancer are in the spotlight at a global First Nations health conference underway in Naarm, Melbourne. The World Indigenous Cancer Conference aims to foster better working relationships and collaboration between experts from across the globe.

[Read More](#)

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress warns absence of inspectors will spark "new wave" of alcohol-driven harm in Alice Springs

National Indigenous Times, Other, 18/03/2024, Giovanni Torre

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress warned on Monday that the Northern Territory government's decision to leave Alice Springs bottle shops without full coverage from Police Auxiliary Licensing Inspectors or their equivalent will "lead to a new wave of alcohol-related harm in the town", including increases in alcohol related domestic violence, assaults, and presentations at the Alice Springs Hospital Emergency Department.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mozzie viruses hit Kimberley

West Australian, General News, 19/03/2024, Page 3

WA Health has issued a stern warning to Kimberley residents and Easter travellers to safeguard against mosquito bites in the wake of concerns about Murray Valley encephalitis. The potentially fatal disease has been detected in mosquitoes and chickens.

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

Murray Valley encephalitis detected in northern WA as locals and travellers are warned to protect themselves

The Australian, Other, 18/03/2024, Clareese Packer

Murray Valley encephalitis has been detected in Kimberley, WA, as locals and travellers are warned to protect themselves. Easter travellers and locals have been warned to protect themselves against a potentially fatal disease circulating in Western Australia.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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WA Health issues Murray Valley encephalitis warning for Kimberley residents amid surge in cases

West Australian, Other, 18/03/2024, Sam Jones

WA Health has issued a stern warning to Kimberley residents and Easter travellers to safeguard against mosquito bites in the wake of growing concern about Murray Valley encephalitis. The potentially fatal disease has been detected in mosquitoes and sentinel chickens this year and comes amid a surge in mosquito-borne disease activity in the region.

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Chlamydia retesting 'too low' in young women, doctors warn

Australian Doctor, Other, 18/03/2024, Sarah Simpkins

Most patients are asymptomatic and may not know they are reinfected, says Dr Stephanie Munari. Sexual health doctors say chlamydia retesting rates in Australia are suboptimal, with just one in six young women being tested for reinfection within the guideline-recommended time frame.

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Easter travellers warned of fatal disease

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 18/03/2024

Easter travellers and locals have been warned to protect themselves against a potentially fatal disease circulating in Western Australia. Murray Valley encephalitis was found in mosquitoes and sentinel chickens in the Kimberley region for the first time this year.

Channel 7, Sunrise, 18/03/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Doctor Sam Hay, GP, on experts bracing for an unpredictable flu season this winter and are desperate to prevent child tragedies. It comes as new data reveals only a quarter of Australian parents plan to get their kids vaccinated. Last year was Australia's worst flu season on record since 2019, with nearly three-quarters of those admitted to hospital with influenza being children. Hay says the great COVID crisis taught people a lot about managing colds and cases of flu but that's also led to people being complacent about influenza.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 18/03/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

RSV, a highly contagious respiratory virus is the number one cause of hospitalisation in Queensland children under five. Babies born preterm are the most vulnerable, but new research is looking at a groundbreaking vaccine.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Start-up, regulators off script

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 19/03/2024, David Swan, Page 25

One of Australia's most high-profile technology start-ups has escalated its battle with health regulators and lobby groups, with Eucalyptus chief executive Tim Doyle accusing the Medical Board of Australia and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners of "technophobia" and "bad-faith attacks" on its business model. [...] He said he favours mandatory regulation for telehealth clinics, and that they fall in between regulators currently, given there's the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency for doctors and the Therapeutic Goods Administration for medicines.

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

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