



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 20th March 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 1) reports evidence linking degenerative brain disorders to contact sports has grown following the diagnosis of four additional rugby players with chronic traumatic encephalopathy after death by Neurosciences Research Australia.
- [The Age](#) (page 1) reports Victoria's hospitals risk falling into deficit from the end of March due to ongoing funding shortfalls, with fears services will be cut and recruitment efforts will be shelved to save essential services.
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 1) reports Tasmania's Labor opposition has pledged \$160 million for a new hospital dedicated to elective surgeries to ease the state's waiting list. *Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury](#)*.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 3) reports north Melbourne aged care home St Basil's has been ordered before County Court to answer nine Occupational Health and Safety Act breaches made during the COVID pandemic.
- [The Australian](#) (page 4) reports the Aged and Community Care Providers Association has called on the government to invest \$4 billion in dental care and \$6 billion in home care support for older Australians in June's budget.

- **The Australian** (page 5) reports Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Association executive director Professor Philip Morris has apologised after the organisation cancelled the appearance of Israeli mental health expert Dr Moshe Farchi at a mental health conference on the Gold Coast earlier this month.
- **The Australian** (page 5) reports the government has donated \$3.5 million to the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation, with the three-year investment to boost the number of scholarships available to help Indigenous Australians enter nursing and public sector careers.
- **The Australian** (page 9) reports the number of children requiring hospital care for preventable dental treatments rose 15 per cent between 2018 and 2022, but paediatric dentists say access to operating theatre has fallen by 60 per cent over the period. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#)
- **9News** (online) reports flu cases are up 30 per cent on 2023, new data from the Department of Health has shown, prompting doctors to urge Australians to get flu vaccines earlier this year.

MINISTER BUTLER

Dire shortfall in bone marrow donors

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 20/03/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 13

Tahlee Bearham knows what it's like to watch a loved one suffer from leukaemia. First the heartbreak, then a sliver of hope a matched bone marrow donor will be found. [...] 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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Funding for pharmacies

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 20/03/2024, Phoebe Doyle, Page 9

Community pharmacies across Australia are set to receive an extra \$3 billion in funding thanks to a deal struck between pharmacists and the Federal Government. Last week, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia announced they had brokered an agreement that would deliver the taxpayer funds to about 6000 community pharmacies over the next five years.

Also reported by: [Swan Hill Guardian \(Swan Hill\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Online\)](#), [Swan Hill Guardian \(Online\)](#)

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What's up doc along the famed outback Oodnadatta Track?

The Australian, Other, 19/03/2024, Mark Day

After 20 years of lobbying – some would say pestering – the 21st century has come to the outback. It takes the form of a remote emergency telehealth centre, unmanned but available 24/7, the first of its kind, opened in William Creek in South Australia's north at the weekend. [...] The centre's first customer was Health Minister Mark Butler who opened the building after getting the thumbs up for his blood pressure and oxygen readings.

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

Mountain Views.Mail, Other, 19/03/2024, Maeve Bannister and Samantha Lock

Aged care employees could see an increase of as much as 28 per cent in their salary. Picture: ON FILE By Maeve Bannister and Samantha Lock, AAP 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.

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Albanese government has 'delivered' on cheaper medicine promise: Mark Butler

Minister for Health Mark Butler says the Albanese government has "delivered on" the promise of cheaper medicine in Australia. Mr Butler said the government wants cheaper medicines and a "strong community pharmacy sector".

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Honouring the remarkable legacy of Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG

Croakey, Other, 19/03/2024, Alison Barrett

On 8 March 2024, hundreds gathered at St Peter's Cathedral, on Kurna Country, for a state funeral to honour and celebrate the remarkable life of Yankunytjatjara woman Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG. [...] Other dignitaries included Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler, SA Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton, and former Senator Natasha Stott Despoja AO.

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Wound care consumables scheme kicks off ... kinda

The Medical Republic, Other, 19/03/2024, Holly Payne

Good news: there's movement in the wound consumables scheme. Bad news: it's not on wound consumables. [...] This week, Health Minister Mark Butler announced that \$2 million in grant money would be going toward a national education campaign designed to drive up public awareness of chronic wounds run by Wounds Australia.

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'Wage justice': Big pay rise for aged care workers

Nursing Review, Other, 19/03/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Aged care workers have secured a "historic" pay rise – up to 28.5 per cent – in what has been called a "life-changing" improvement for one of Australia's most undervalued workforces. The Fair Work Commission (FWC) delivered the major update on Friday following an anxious wait for consultation on the proposed changes. [...] 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.

[Read More](#)

Flying Doctor gets government funding boost to deliver extra regional and remote services

PS News, Other, 19/03/2024, Andrew McLaughlin

The Federal Government has provided an extra \$30 million in funding to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) to allow the organisation to expand its services. The funding will go towards providing more critical emergency aeromedical evacuations when and where they are needed, as well as primary health clinics, dental care and mental health services. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government is ensuring everyone can get health care, whether they live in the inner suburbs or the most remote outback town.

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2SM, 20:00 News, 19/03/2024

Health Minister Mark Butler says pharmacy double dispensing is working well. Butler has told Parliament there's been a great response to changes in the pharmacy sector. He says while the Opposition voted against it, the government delivered.

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MINISTER WELLS

Aged care report reveals blueprint for sector

The long-awaited Aged Care Taskforce Report was released earlier this month and has been met with varying reaction from local providers. With Australia's older population set to triple in the next 40 years, the Federal Government established the taskforce last year to investigate how to best fund aged care services across the country. [...] "Myself and other representatives are going to continue to work with the Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells to deliver the expectations of those that rely on aged care services.

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Funding future aged care

Lilydale Star Mail, 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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Aged care report findings 'fair': Respect CEO

Monaro Post, General News, 20/03/2024, Luke Treadwell, Page 8

The Aged Care Taskforce headed by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has handed down its nal report, delivering 23 recommended changes to help x issues within the sector. Managing Director and CEO for local provider Respect, Jason Binder, said overall, the 23 recommendations are fair and reasonable for everyone.

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

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Roll on silver tsunami

News Weekly (Merimbula), General News, 20/03/2024, Therese Murray, Page 8

As you may have heard, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has released the long-awaited Aged Care Taskforce's final report with 23 recommendations aimed at making the system more "equitable and sustainable". It also provides a blueprint for future funding reforms. It confirms that the federal government will not introduce a new tax or levy to fund aged care or change means testing of the family home. Good news.

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From travel expenses to dark money, lifting the veil on political donations is essential for a healthy democracy

The Guardian, Other, 19/03/2024, Clancy Moore

Champagne, canapes, and mixing with celebrities. This was how a number of MPs, including Bert van Manen, Don Farrell, Anika Wells, David Littleproud and Anne Ruston, spent their 2022 Melbourne Cup. Sounds like fun and noone has broken any rules. But when taxpayers are footing the bill for their travel and accommodation costs, it raises some questions.

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Labor and Liberals swallowing hard to stop mollycoddling Baby Boomers

The New Daily, Other, 19/03/2024, Paul Bongiorno

The crunch is coming for a generation of older Australians who for the most part of their adult lives have been given preferential treatment by governments hungry for their votes. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells is hoping this political reality will be enough to convince the Opposition that it is in their interests as well to be seen backing measures to relieve the burden on younger taxpayers while at the same time provide desperately needed additional funding.

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\$200M initiative to drive gender equality in sport

Good Morning Macarthur, Other, 19/03/2024, Brian Lau

Applications are now being accepted for the Albanese Government's Play Our Way initiative, a \$200 million program aimed at bolstering inclusivity and equity in sports for women and girls. This initiative supports local governments, community organizations, and not-for-profit and sporting groups in implementing projects geared towards creating a more welcoming environment for female participation in sports. [...] Minister for Sport Anika Wells highlighted the concerning gender disparity in sports participation, with only one woman playing for every two men.

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'Wage justice': Big pay rise for aged care workers

Nursing Review, Other, 19/03/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Aged care workers have secured a "historic" pay rise – up to 28.5 per cent – in what has been called a "life-changing" improvement for one of Australia's most undervalued workforces. The Fair Work Commission (FWC) delivered the major update on Friday following an anxious wait for consultation on the proposed changes. [...] 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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Women's sport gets big push via \$200m program

South West Voice, Other, 19/03/2024

South Western Sydney clubs are expected to show keen interest in funding for projects that make sport more welcoming and equitable for women and girls. Women's sport has come a long way, but it needs funding like this, the \$200 million Play Our Way program, to fully catch up with men. [...] Federal sport minister Anika Wells agrees: "For every two men who play sport, only one woman does and too many girls drop out of sport," she says.

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Artsound FM, 08:00 AIR News ACT Edition, 19/03/2024

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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ABC News, Mornings, 19/03/2024, Chris Mitchell

Interview with Anne Connolly, ABC investigative journalist, on what it means for the family inheritance to pay for aged care. Connolly says the regulator, the government and the Department of Health have no oversight of what the providers are giving to the public. She adds an Aged Care Taskforce was set up last year and it was under Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells chairs it. She adds they were tasked with examining the funding options specifically the option that came from the Royal Commission which recommended an aged care levy but it was ruled out and neither government wants to impose a new tax.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Plan to track ill health

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 19/03/2024, Page 3

The Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and pharmacist, Emma McBride, spoke about the significance of Australia's first national wellbeing framework at the recent Preventive Mental Health Symposium in Melbourne. The 'Measuring What Matters' framework,

introduced by Treasurer Jim Chalmers, aims to track qualitative measures across society, crucial for addressing the main drivers of distress and mental ill-health disorders.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

Australia's eSafety Commissioner issues legal notices to six tech giants amid surge in online extremist material

The Australian, Other, 19/03/2024, Eleanor Campbell

There is now around 12.52 million Instagram users in Australia. Australia's online safety regulator has issued a warning to social media giants over concerns about a rise in the spread of violent and extremist material on their platforms, airing warnings about the use of generative AI to facilitate terrorist activity. [...] After the Coalition seized on Monday's question time to pressure the government over its detention regime, Labor frontbencher Malarndirri McCarthy rejected that public safety was at risk.

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

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DEPARTMENT

'I'm a big believer that we as public servants need to engage honestly with our stakeholders'

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 19/03/2024

"It's really important to have a conversation with stakeholders if you can before it gets really tricky because then you have a relationship, and that relationship really matters," said Department of Health and Aged Care Secretary Blair Comley.

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Department of Health and Aged Care to treads carefully on generative AI

Digital Nation Australia, Other, 19/03/2024

The Department of Health and Aged Care has said it will remain focussed on the agenda already established as it believes it will take around two years to see practical uses for generative AI. Fay Flevaras, first assistant secretary of digital transformation and delivery at the Department of Health and Aged Care, said the department has the mindset to contend with the emerging technology

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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Central bank to watch for effects from aged care pay rise

Australian Financial Review, General News, 20/03/2024, David Marin-Guzman, Page 8

The Reserve Bank will watch for spillover effects from last week's "very worthy" aged care pay rise of up to 14 per cent for about 300,000 workers, but says this is unlikely to shift forecasts for wages or inflation.

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

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Pensioners face income hit as cost of living soars

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 20/03/2024, Page 25

Retirees could face cuts to their Centrelink pensions and benefits at the same time as the cost of funding a comfortable retirement hits record highs, prompting some to draw down equity from their home or even return to work, say seniors' groups.

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

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The increasing price of ageing

Canberra Times, General News, 20/03/2024, Rachel Lane, Page 17

The Aged Care Taskforce Final Report was released last Tuesday. It gave 23 recommendations relating to the fees and funding arrangements for aged care. So what does mean for the average Australian, and their hip pocket? The report says there is a need for an immediate increase to the Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RAD) price threshold to \$750,000.

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

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Covid-19 trial for St Basil's

Herald Sun, General News, 20/03/2024, Lucy Callander, Page 3

The nursing home at the centre of a deadly Covid cluster in 2020 will face a criminal trial over the tragedy. St Basil's Homes For The Aged in Fawkner was on Tuesday ordered to stand trial in the County Court to answer charges relating to nine Occupational Health and Safety Act offences. WorkSafe has alleged that after being notified by a staff member of a positive test on July 9, 2020, St Basil's failed to require workers to wear personal protective equipment and train workers on how to safely put on and take off PPE.

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Elderly woman at Blue Care Kallangur Pilgrim dies after maggots infested wound

The Courier Mail, Other, 19/03/2024, Molly Snaylam

An aged care home operated by one of the state's most recognisable brands says they have lifted their standards after an elderly woman in their care died after her wound became infested with maggots last year. The woman's eye-watering wound was discovered by a nurse at Blue Care's Kallangur Pilgrim facility. The nurse, who wished to remain anonymous, said she had worked for the nursing home for 13 years but chose to not return after the incident.

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The simple solutions that could help reduce depression in aged care

ABC Online, Other, 19/03/2024, Barbara-Heggen

People in aged care face some of the highest risks of depression in our community. And perhaps that's not surprising, after a 2021 report by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety found

major systemic failings. But new Australian research shows there may be simple solutions with enormous potential to help, if they're properly implemented.

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Effective tech 'comes down to humanising the individual'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 19/03/2024, Natasha Egan

The context is crucial to the successful deployment of innovation and technology in the ageing space, says a digital health expert. Understanding the context – including by collecting much more information at the human level – is the key to successful deployment of innovation and technology, according to an international digital health expert.

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New medical advisor at Dementia Australia

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 19/03/2024

Dr Long has a strong interest in women's health. Dementia Australia has appointed Dr Marita Long as an honorary medical advisor. Dr Long – a Victorian-based GP working across clinical practice, medical education and research – has a strong interest in women's health and dementia and has made a significant contribution to dementia treatment and care.

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Workers 'left behind'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 19/03/2024, Christopher Kelly

Last week's decision by Australia's workplace tribunal on the aged care work value case sends the wrong message, according to an industry insider. "It says we are valuing one group of employees above another – but they're all playing a very special and important role," said Chris Mamarelis – chief executive officer of New South Wales and Queensland regional and rural aged care provider Whiddon.

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Investment needed for sector to become digitally mature

Community Care Review, Other, 19/03/2024, Christopher Kelly

A lack of investment is stifling digital innovation in the aged care sector, say industry experts. Appearing on a webinar hosted by Australian Ageing Agenda on Wednesday, Gary McDonald – senior account manager at software vendor Epicor – was keen to stress the importance of investment in innovation. "Whether that is out in the field or whether that's back offices, it doesn't really matter, you've got to spend that time on investment."

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A pay rise alone won't solve aged-care workforce shortages

HelloCare, Other, 19/03/2024, Jakob Neeland

Aged-care workers will receive a significant pay increase after the Fair Work Commission ruled they deserved substantial wage rises of up to 28%. The federal government has committed to the increases, but is yet to announce when they will start. [...] The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, which delivered its final report in March 2021, identified a litany of tragic failures in the regulation and delivery of aged care.

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Being MedsAware: Ask because you care

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 19/03/2024

The MedsAware campaign is back, with MedsAware 2024: Deprescribing Action Week kicking off today. This year's theme 'ask because you Care' seeks to empower older Australians, Australians living with a disability, and their careers, to ask health professionals "could any of these medicines be doing more harm than good?"

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2023 survey reveals improvements in aged care meal satisfaction

The quality of meals in aged care homes is a vital yet often under looked aspect of care that directly impacts residents' health, happiness, and quality of life. Encouragingly, the 2023 resident reviews have illuminated the significant strides being made in this area, inspiring a positive reevaluation of food service standards across the sector.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 19/03/2024, Leon Compton

Tasmania's Council on the Ageing is calling for more action to prevent elder abuse in the state. It comes after a Tasmanian coroner found an 83yo woman living at home in North West Tas, died of carer's neglect.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Call for \$4bn boost to dental care

The Australian, General News, 20/03/2024, Stephen Lunn, Page 9

A \$4bn dental care package for older Australians over the next three years is just one urgent budget investment the Albanese government should make ahead of implementing its broader aged care reforms, the nation's peak aged care provider advocacy group says. Another \$6bn in home care support over three years was also needed to help more older people remain in their own homes, the Aged and Community Care Providers Association proposes.

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

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Booze retailers fail study's pregnancy test

Daily Telegraph, General News, 20/03/2024, Page 8

Australia's largest alcohol retailers are not displaying mandatory pregnancy warnings on their websites, potentially putting customers' unborn children at risk of permanent brain damage, a new study reveals. Virtually none (0.1 per cent) of the 8343 alcoholic beverages examined had a warning visible on a product's main page, which may be a deliberate strategy to avoid alerting women to the risks, made possible by regulatory loopholes for online settings, The George Institute researchers say.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Not so fast say fad diet researchers

West Australian, General News, 20/03/2024, Page 14

It's the dieting trend endorsed by everyone from Elon Musk to Jennifer Aniston. But it appears that intermittent fasting might not be the magic bullet for weight loss and researchers now think such dieting could be damaging to longterm health. Previous studies linked timerestricted eating to improved cardiometabolic health measures such as blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol levels.

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

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Exercise in a pill

The Nightly, General News, 19/03/2024, Chris Pollard, Page 11

It is the pill that lazybones the world over have been praying for. After decades of work, scientists have come up with a medicine that could mimic the physical boost of a workout and potentially treat couch potato conditions like obesity and muscle atrophy.

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Rockingham MP joins Australian Breastfeeding Association's Breastfeeding is Welcome Everywhere project

West Australian, Other, 20/03/2024, Laura Pond

Rockingham MLA Magenta Marshall has thrown her support behind an initiative aimed at giving breastfeeding mothers a warm and welcoming environment. The first-term politician, who announced in February she was pregnant, has joined the Australian Breastfeeding Association's Breastfeeding is Welcome Everywhere project.

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45.3 degrees inside: the renters who tracked temps over summer

ABC Online, Other, 19/03/2024, Dave-Marchese

Passing out, calling 000 and sleeping in the backyard: a temperature-tracking study has found heaps of renters spent the summer in conditions the WHO reckons are not only uncomfortable, but also potentially dangerous. [...] Plus, with a huge global shortage of ADHD medication, Vyvanse, Aussies are struggling to find alternatives. So is there any solution?

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

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Only seven countries meet WHO air quality standard, research finds

The Guardian, Other, 19/03/2024, Oliver Milman

Only seven countries are meeting an international air quality standard, with deadly air pollution worsening in places due to a rebound in economic activity and the toxic impact of wildfire smoke, a new report has found. Of 134 countries and regions surveyed in the report, only seven Australia, Estonia, Finland, Grenada, Iceland, Mauritius and New Zealand are meeting a World Health Organization (WHO) guideline limit for tiny airborne particles expelled by cars, trucks and industrial processes.

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Victoria under pressure to mandate reporting of homelessness deaths

The Guardian, Other, 20/03/2024, Christopher Knaus

A former housing minister and a supreme court judge have joined the chief executives of 23 homelessness agencies to call for reforms mandating the reporting of homelessness deaths. Last month a Guardian Australia investigation revealed that Australians experiencing homelessness were dying at an average age of 44, a shocking life expectancy gap driven by violence, treatable illness and systemic failures across the housing, health and justice sectors.

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Working mothers and alcohol use

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 19/03/2024

Last month, a study from Latrobe University into the drinking habits of Australian working mothers found the normalisation of alcohol as a solution to stress is fuelling alcohol consumption. The study summarised its results as: Women felt they had to be available to both their employers and their children at the same time.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Epilepsy care alternatives

Daily Telegraph, General News, 20/03/2024, Page 8

A new campaign has been launched to help Australians living with drug-resistant epilepsy to better understand available treatment options and access them sooner. The campaign, Mind the Treatment Gap, asks healthcare professionals and people living with drugresistant epilepsy to prioritise

conversations about treatment pathways alternative to anti-seizure medications to achieve seizure control and improve quality of life.

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Lights helped save Tony's life

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 20/03/2024, Georgina Sebar, Page 2

A heathcote man's decision to turn on his lights after calling triple 0 may have saved his life, say the paramedics who attended. Tony Ager's street has no lights - at 2am, when he started experiencing chest pain, it was pitch black. "You can't see anybody from the road without the lights on unless there's a full moon, but there wasn't that night," said Mr Ager.

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New machine detects 'time bomb' melanoma

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 20/03/2024, Georgina Sebar, Page 3

A Bendigo cancer nurse has praised new skin cancer detection technology at Bendigo Health for detecting a pre-cancerous melanoma which might otherwise have been missed. Karen Wellington's skin cancer was discovered on her neck thanks to a 3D imaging on trial at the hospital.

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Local excitement for condition representation

Border Watch, General News, 20/03/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 4

A non-partisan forum for parliamentarians to discuss and raise awareness of lymphoedema will be launched today. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Friends of Lymphoedema committee, launched March 20, aims to provide a space for lymphoedema experts, stakeholder organisations, health policy makers and consumers to come together and drive improvements in health outcomes of Australians affected by the condition.

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Fundraising key for patients

Border Watch, General News, 20/03/2024, Tyler Redway and Sophie Conlon, Page 16

With blood cancer patients facing increased financial pressures, the Leukaemia Foundation is calling for more people to participate in the 25th Worlds Greatest Shave. According to the foundation, close to half Australian blood cancer patients have between \$5000 and \$11,000 out of pocket costs for treatment.

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Plan to help kids breathe easier

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 20/03/2024, Kate Mcilwain, Page 8

Wollongong will be transformed into an "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.

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Allergic rhinitis and sleep

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Sue Holzberger, Page 57

The common condition of hayfever (allergic rhinitis) is estimated to affect around 19 per cent of the population in Australia. Although not life threatening, its symptoms are often annoying and people will present to the pharmacy for treatment and symptom relief.

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The sleeping sickness so often untreated

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Tracey Cheung, Page 73

Sleep apnoea leads to lower quantity and quality of sleep, which is why the condition is so debilitating

for sufferers, with sleep being vitally important for health. The effects from lack of sleep can include decreased work performance, and major safety issues, with the risk that sufferers can fall asleep during the day, for example at work or while driving.

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Cancer Council's sun smart message always important with UV levels still high in autumn

West Australian, Other, 19/03/2024, Claudette Rizzi

Cancer Council WA has relaunched its Two Sides of the Sun campaign to educate people in the South West that it is UV radiation, not just hot weather, that causes skin damage. Although temperatures are beginning to cool down as autumn rolls on, UV levels remain high throughout the day.

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Blood test is 83% accurate in detecting colorectal tumours

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/03/2024

Most of those with colorectal cancer detected by colonoscopy had a positive cell free DNA test: study. A cell-free DNA blood-based test accurately detected colon cancer in more than 8 in 10 people confirmed to have the disease, researchers report.

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PRIMARY CARE

Dentists' surgery crisis hits children

The Australian, General News, 20/03/2024, Angus McIntyre, Page 9

A perfect storm is brewing in pediatric dentistry, as the number of children admitted to hospital for dental work increases while the amount of hospital space available sharply declines. The number of children requiring hospital care for preventable dental conditions increased by about 15 per cent between 2018 and 2022, according to the Australian Dental Association.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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Beleaguered hospitals in need of cash transfusion

Age, General News, 20/03/2024, Annika Smethurst and Kieran Rooney, Page 1

Victorian hospitals' dire financial situation has been exposed by new internal data showing the network is forecast to need a major funding injection of up to three weeks' worth of operational costs. More than half the state's health services are low on cash, prompting fears of a financial squeeze and lay-offs within the sector.

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Health kick

Hobart Mercury, General News, 20/03/2024, David Killick, Page 1

Labor has pledged to build a new \$160m public hospital dedicated exclusively to elective surgery to help ease the state's long waiting lists if it wins office. Opposition Leader Rebecca White announced the 24-bed hospital at New Town on Tuesday, pledging it would be operating within three years.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#)

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Patient tracking app offers peace of mind

West Australian, General News, 20/03/2024, Page 12

Joondalup Hospital will soon offer a patient-tracking service, allowing relatives to keep up to date with what stage their loved ones are in surgery. Revealing the new technology at the announcement of an

extended contract with the State Government at the northern suburbs' main hospital, Ramsay Health Care State manager Dr Shane Kelly said the new service would take pressure off staff.

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

Mayor's emotional reading of letter from hospital bosses

Border Mail, General News, 20/03/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 7

A letter from Albury Wodonga Health's leaders to state health ministers, raising concerns about Border hospital plans, should be seen as a "cry for help", according to Wodonga's mayor. Ron Mildren said the letter, from the health service's chief executive Bill Appleby and chair Jonathan Green, that emerged publicly after a request by NSW MP Amanda Cohn was "meaningful in so many different ways".

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

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Subsidy call falls on deaf ears

Border Watch, General News, 20/03/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 6

A motion put forward by the Member for Mount Gambier Troy Bell requesting to increase the accommodation allowance and all subsidies to be tied to consumer price index (CPI) for the patient assistance transport scheme (PATS) has flopped. Mr Bell spoke to the motion in Parliament last week as part of his continued 10-year advocacy for the increase in PATS after more than 13,000 South Australians used the service last year.

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

Walk-in shift sparks debate

Border Watch, General News, 20/03/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 7

Lucindale residents have called on the state government to change local health services back to their original form as soon as possible. A recent change in services has seen nurses attending the clinic by appointment only rather than the three days a week for walk-in services as was previously available.

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Hull calls for improved end of life support

Daily Advertiser, General News, 20/03/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf, Page 3

A retired politician has raised concerns over the lack of palliative care support services in rural and regional parts of the Riverina as a state government inquiry into healthcare funding opened proceedings in Wagga. Former Riverina MP Kay Hull called for greater funding towards palliative care services in Riverina towns on the first regional day of proceedings of the Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding at the Wagga Courthouse.

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

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Sickness in the health system runs deep

Newcastle Herald, General News, 20/03/2024, Page 18

The shortage of GPs should be firmly on the radar of the Albanese government at the federal budget in May. People in the Hunter, and elsewhere, are finding it increasingly difficult to see a GP. And the cost of seeing a doctor is rising in a cost-of-living crisis. Coinciding with this is a long-term rise in GPs treating more chronic diseases like obesity, diabetes, mental health conditions and cardiovascular disease.

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'A trailblazer to the end': Lola's legacy for Voluntary Assisted Dying

Canberra Times, Other, 19/03/2024

Lorraine Doyle's last memory of her 90-year-old mother is "helping set her free" from pain. On February 8, 2024, Lola Hope Dickson of Blaxland became the first person to die by Voluntary Assisted Dying at Springwood Hospital. Lorraine, also known as 'Rainey', said her mum spent almost 10 years suffering from heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary lung disease.

[Read More](#)

MLHD working on programs to stem emergency department presentations

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 20/03/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf

The MLHD has outlined proactive efforts to nip emergency department presentations in the bud as a senior management executive Murrumbidgee Local Health District executive director of integrated care and allied health Emma Field said the health district is collaborating on several initiatives to help reduce pressure on both GPs and emergency departments.

[Read More](#)

Long waitlists to see cardiologists as regional Queensland hospitals struggle with demand

ABC Online, Other, 19/03/2024

Nearly six months have passed since Ashleigh Sendon was put on a waitlist to urgently see a cardiologist, and each day, her worries grow bigger. "Am I going to die and leave my kids behind?" Ms Sendon said. The Gladstone woman was waitlisted as a category one patient — the top priority — in September to see a cardiologist at the Rockhampton Base Hospital.

[Read More](#)

Karen has waited for 'urgent' surgery since 2022, a painful symbol of Tasmania's dire health crisis

The Guardian, Other, 20/03/2024, Cait Kelly

When Launceston woman Kristy Wagg, 40, had her daughter in 2016 it was a difficult birth she had a third-degree perineal tear and needed surgery to recover. "This is where things take a turn," she said. "I started to not be able to go to the toilet to defecate. The urgency was there but I could just not go."

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 19/03/2024, Jessica Brown

Joondalup Private Hospital will undergo a major multi-million expansion to cater for growing demands in Perth's northern suburbs. It comes as the WA Government inked a new deal with Ramsay Health Care to continue running the Joondalup Health Campus for the next 19 years.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 19/03/2024, Kate Freebairn

The Malinauskas Government has clocked up half of its current term with unsurprisingly vastly different appraisals from both sides of politics. SA Premier Peter Malinauskas says they want to make sure that ramping heads in the right direction. He adds there is a lot of work to be done, but we've got a plan for it, and much of that is through the additional investment in beds and staff to service those beds.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mum safe from dark thoughts

Courier Mail, General News, 20/03/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 14

Just weeks after the birth of her twins Tegan Luker was in a very dark place. Unable to find the joy in being a new mum, the Brisbane woman was consumed by suicidal thoughts. She struggled to get through each day and a simple trip to the doctor felt impossible. "I was not in a good way, I was referred to Catherine's House after presenting to the Royal Brisbane Hospital," Mrs Luker said.

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

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Men chase impossible ideal

West Australian, General News, 20/03/2024, Marilyn Bromberg and Tomas Fitzgerald, Page 46

Many people are still talking about the Barbie movie and so they should be. How many places in the world whether real or fictional can you think of where women have nearly all the power? [...] In 2024, men and boys are not all right. The Australian Psychological Society found the number of men with body image dissatisfaction had tripled from 15 to 45 per cent in the past 25 years.

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

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

Mental health 'overload'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 20/03/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf, Page 1

A mental health advocate has cast the spotlight on a lack of support services across the Riverina amid rising demand as a health funding inquiry entered day two of proceedings at the Wagga Courthouse this week. Murrumbidgee Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Alliance chair Robyn Manzies raised concerns about practitioners overloaded with mental health, drug and alcohol cases as she addressed the Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding on Tuesday.

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Creating mentally healthy workplaces

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Samantha Crawford, Page 76

As healthcare professionals, pharmacists spend their time looking after others, but they should also make sure they look after themselves. Research indicates that stress, pressure, and burnout affect pharmacists' mental health and wellbeing.

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

Tackling depression in aged care and reducing early births

ABC Online, Other, 19/03/2024, Hilary Harper

People in aged care face some of the highest risks of depression in our community. But new Australian research shows there may be simple solutions with enormous potential to help, if they're properly implemented.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses plus pharmacists collaborating to enhance patient care

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Melody Mugari and Natalia Ochodnicka, Page 46

As pharmacists assume expanded roles in patient care, investigating the factors influencing collaboration with other healthcare professionals, particularly nurses, becomes imperative. We explore the potential impact of the symbiotic relationship between collaborating pharmacists and nurses on patient outcomes, addressing various aspects of medication management and healthcare efficiency.

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

Australian program Every Week Counts says it has helped to prevent about 4,000 preterm and early births each year since 2021

ABC Online, Other, 19/03/2024, Charlotte Gore

Sheree Walsh's twins Heidi and Connor weighed a combined 1250 grams when she delivered her babies at just 25 weeks gestation. The mother only realised she was at risk of a premature birth after she had concerns over a lack of movement and went to the hospital for a check-up.

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

[Read More](#)

Women traumatised after being denied pain relief during childbirth as

experts bemoan system 'failure'

ABC Online, Other, 19/03/2024, Alison Branley

After nearly 12 hours of labour with her first child, Samantha Burgess reached a point where she knew she could no longer cope with the pain. Up since 3am, she'd spent all day dealing with intense contractions brought on by medication given to induce labour.

[Read More](#)

'Death and destruction': RN recounts her time in Palestine

Nursing Review, Other, 19/03/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Tasmanian registered nurse and aid worker Carol Nagy has recently returned from a six-week stint as an emergency medical coordinator with Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) for their Palestine medical program. She has worked with MSF for 23 years and in Occupied Palestinian Territory since 2010.

[Read More](#)

Radio National, AM, 19/03/2024, Sabra Lane

Report on birth trauma linked to lack of pain medication. There are concerns some women are being denied access to pain relief during childbirth. For some, the experience of being unable to access timely pain relief has left them deeply traumatised. Figures show that 80% of women giving birth have some form of pain relief including gas epidural or spinal blocks and opioid medications while 20% have no pain relief at all, but it's unclear how much is by choice.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

'Ambos deserve a life too'

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 20/03/2024, Jonathon Magrath, Page 1

There's frustration in Bendigo paramedic Rick Morton's voice as he describes the working conditions he and his colleagues face every day. Increased workloads, wage disputes and a "risk-adverse" dispatch system led to Victorian paramedics starting industrial action on Monday, March 18. Mr Morton, who has worked in Bendigo as a paramedic for 13 years and a mobile intensive care ambulance paramedic for five years, said recommendations for change had fallen on "deaf ears".

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Podcast series focuses on paramedics' challenges

Border Mail, General News, 20/03/2024, Jodie Bruton, Page 2

When Rob Bear became a paramedic three decades ago, it was a completely different ballgame. Although he was switching out of a nursing career, his new colleagues had little to no medical backgrounds. Training was on the job and jobs were plentiful enough.

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

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GP spending must be on budget hit list

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 20/03/2024, Page 19

The federal budget in May will be a huge one for health. The shortage of GPs is expected to be firmly on the radar of the Albanese government. So it should be. People in the Illawarra, and elsewhere, are finding it increasingly difficult to see a GP.

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

GPs pushing for better pay, conditions

Newcastle Herald, General News, 20/03/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

The pay and conditions of GPs must improve or the health system will continue to deteriorate and

collapse, chair of the Hunter General Practitioners Association says. "That's the elephant in the room," Dr Fiona Van Leeuwen said. Her comments came in response to the Australian Medical Association [AMA] releasing its pre-budget submission for general practice.

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

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

Hospital gets needed boost

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 20/03/2024, Jessica Greenan, Page 7

More than 105 doctors-in-training have started at South West Healthcare this year. They're learning the systems and processes used at both the Warrnambool and Camperdown hospitals. Executive director of medical services Kate McConnon said there was a mix of Victorian, interstate and overseas medical staff.

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

Our budget call to grow the workforce

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 10

The Pharmacy Guild has lodged its pre-budget submission with strategies on how to address the workforce shortage. The shortage was raised in the submission along with aged care reform, PBS prescribing and medicine affordability.

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The rising appeal of recognition under ANZCAP

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 12

This month, SHPA continues to welcome ever-increasing interest in the Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP), which will support pharmacists and technicians from all practice settings to be 'recognised' by tracking and planning their career towards resident, registrar and consultant recognition. All Australian pharmacists with general registration under the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) are eligible to access the ANZCAP platform, either via SHPA membership (free) or through direct ANZCAP membership (with an annual fee).

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

Bringing full scope services to life in your pharmacy

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Sara Kemp, Page 14

We recently ushered in a new year and for most of us a new hope that 2024 would be bring a reversal of fortunes for community pharmacy after it was dealt a blow in 2023 with the introduction of 60-day dispensing. Revenue and profit projections took a huge downward turn and community pharmacy is feeling the pinch and pain.

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Pharmacy accessible health care

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Brenton Hart, Page 52

With more than 6000 community pharmacies across Australia, pharmacists and pharmacy assistants can play a vital role in helping Australians manage their healthcare in areas such as medication fulfilment and management, vaccinations, treatments for common minor ailments, and much more. Of course, community pharmacy can also play a role in preventative healthcare and help support patients with screening tools that support better health outcomes.

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Albanese government 'supporting pharmacists' to deliver more primary care services

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 19/03/2024

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese claims his government is "supporting pharmacists" to deliver more primary care services. Mr Albanese said this was something the Opposition spoke about but "never delivered".

[Read More](#)

Local doctor Sara Armitage wins WA Rural Health Excellence award for specialist of the year

West Australian, Other, 20/03/2024, Anna Cox

A Geraldton doctor came out on top at the WA Rural Health Excellence Awards on Saturday, named specialist of the year. Dr Sara Armitage, an obstetrician and gynaecologist practicing at St John of God Geraldton, took out the prestigious category at the 2024 awards.

[Read More](#)

Health system at crossroads, as sickness runs deep and GP futures at stake

Newcastle Herald, Other, 19/03/2024

The should be firmly on the radar of the Albanese government at the federal budget in May. People in the Hunter, and elsewhere, are finding it increasingly And the cost of seeing a doctor is rising in a crisis. Coinciding with this is a long-term rise in GPs treating more chronic diseases like obesity, diabetes, mental health conditions and cardiovascular disease.

[Read More](#)

GP payroll tax changes would be hardest on those 'most vulnerable', patient warns

ABC Online, Other, 19/03/2024

If going to the doctor becomes more expensive for Colin Dent, it wouldn't necessarily deter him from making an appointment. But the 74-year-old from Adelaide's southern suburbs worries that paying more for GP consultations is a luxury not everyone can afford.

[Read More](#)

Trial offer opportunities for pharmacy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 19/03/2024

Dr Amy Page, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA's) Victorian branch president, talks about the state's pharmacy pilot and the opportunities it provides pharmacists In the latest edition of the AJP podcast, our host, Carlene McMaugh, speaks to Page about the expansion of pharmacists'scope of practice in Victoria and around the country.

[Read More](#)

8CPA heads of agreement provides 'relief' for CAPS

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 19/03/2024

A heads of agreement pledging "up to \$8 billion" in additional funding for the community pharmacy sector is being welcomed by the Community and Pharmacy Support Group (CAPS).

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 19/03/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

The Greens will this week move a motion in SA Parliament calling on the government to rule out applying payroll tax to GPs. This comes as the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners warns that a state payroll tax being charged from July will end bulk billing and put pressure on hospitals.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 19/03/2024, Leon Compton

The head of a new doctors clinic on East Coast Tasmania says they can't employ more than one GP due to a lack of housing options. In October last year, the Tas Government announced Ochre Health would establish a permanent general practice in Saint Marys following the resignation of the region's sole GP.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Key focus for pharmacy operators

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Frank Sirianni, Page 36

As I write, the ongoing impact of 60-day dispensing (60DD) varies dramatically depending on location and business focus. However, it continues to increase in impact and many pharmacy owners remain anxious as to where to go. [...] The bottom line is that although we've come to rely on the PBS for fair remuneration, the time has come to reconsider moving away from a primary reliance on government funded programs.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Let GPs claim higher ECG rebates again: second govt review

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/03/2024, Antony Scholefield

The MBS item for performing and reporting on a 12-lead ECG was restricted to non-GP specialists in 2020. A second review of ECG rebates cuts has once again called on the Federal Government to let GPs claim better paid MBS items for performing and interpreting ECGs.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Breakfast, 19/03/2024, Ben Fordham

Fordham reports former Defence personnel are missing out on critical medical care. He adds veterans, advocates and medical bodies have joined forces today to call for change and they're urging the Federal Government to increase the amount they pay veterans to access medical services. Fordham adds the Australian Medical Association has told The Australian newspaper that doctors are losing money when they treat veterans and many practitioners simply can't afford to take them on as patients.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Professor apologises over Israeli mental health expert's ban

The Australian, General News, 20/03/2024, John Ferguson, Page 5

A mental health expert has apologised for his industry's banning of an Israeli trauma expert because of a virulent campaign waged by the proPalestine lobby. Professor Philip Morris has issued a grovelling apology to Dr Moshe Farchi and the Israeli community after the Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Association blocked his appearance at a Queensland conference this month.

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

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Cairns nurse hit with work ban

Cairns Post, General News, 20/03/2024, Vanda Carson, Page 5

A Far North Queensland nurse has been banned from working in the fields of mental health and acute care or late at night, the health watchdog has announced. Amon Emmanuel Nteziryayo, from the Cairns suburb of Bentley Park, was slapped with the restrictions by the state's Office of the Health Ombudsman on Tuesday, March 12, according to an announcement posted on their website this week. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency website states that Mr Nteziryayo was first registered in the nursing profession in this country in October 2016.

NT coroner examines death of mental health patient Pukumani Alimankinni at Royal Darwin Hospital

ABC Online, Other, 19/03/2024, Melissa Mackay

Nurses at Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH)'s secure mental health facility conducted observations of a schizophrenic patient via CCTV instead of physically checking on her for nine hours before she was found unresponsive, the Northern Territory coroner has heard. Pukumani Alimankinni, as she is known for cultural reasons, died at the Joan Ridley Unit (JRU) at RDH about a day and a half after she was admitted with increasing symptoms of schizophrenia.

[Read More](#)

Grandfather's death sparks family demand for action

Canberra Times, Other, 19/03/2024, Savannah Meacham

Hospital staff shortages and wait times contributed to the unexpected death of a Brisbane grandfather, says his family who are seeking answers from the government. Russell Bates was rushed to Logan Hospital after fainting and falling at his son's home south of Brisbane on December 30 2023.

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

[Read More](#)

Ten years, five inquests, six lives: A troubled hospital exposed

Canberra Times, Other, 19/03/2024, Allison Hore

Vulnerable patients not being checked up on and being discharged without planning. Doctors not taking notes. Procedures being ignored. These were just some of the failings of Dubbo Base Hospital revealed in a recent NSW inquest into the death of 36-year-old Kamilaroi Dunghutti man Ricky Hampson Jr after being discharged from the hospital in 2021.

[Read More](#)

Daniel Thomas Wright: Child safety officer breaks down in tears at inquest for two-month-old baby's death

The Courier Mail, Other, 19/03/2024, Patrick Billings

A baby who died 11 days after being discharged from hospital 'appeared sick' and was in a home with an 'overpowering smell of cat urine' when child safety officers came to investigate, an inquest has heard. A child safety officer has broken down in tears as she discussed the case of a baby whose death is being probed by a coroner.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 19/03/2024, Max Fitcher and Sharyn Ghidella

Qld Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has been slammed over the death of Russell Bates, a grandfather at Logan Hospital. Bates died in January after a minor fall, which has sparked a coronial investigation. His family claims they were misled by doctors following a series of errors revealed by Seven News.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Vape laws to get far tougher

Herald Sun, General News, 20/03/2024, Suzan Delibasic, Page 13

Health authorities are calling for bipartisan support on new vaping legislation expected to be introduced by the federal government later this week. The new legislation will prevent domestic manufacture,

advertising, supply and commercial possession of non-therapeutic and disposable single-use vapes.

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

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C'mon 18- to 35-year-olds, let's step up and try save a life!

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 20/03/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 13

If you asked many 18- to 35-year-olds about their knowledge around blood stem cell, or bone marrow, transplants they would likely say "not much". I would know because until recently I was one such 18- to 35-year-old who had very little knowledge of this. I didn't know the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry was in desperate need of 18- to 35-year-olds.

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

Victorian inquiry aims to close the gender pain gap

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Samantha Crawford, Page 51

The Victorian government will launch Australia's first inquiry into women's pain to address what it describes as "a systemic gender pain gap". The inquiry is aimed at improving services and care for women and girls in the state by hearing about women and girls' experiences of pain and the challenges they've faced when seeking care and support for their pain.

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

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Govt plan for 100 fracture clinics will provide little benefit at high cost: study

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/03/2024, Antony Scholefield

Adding 71 new clinics would prevent just 0.22% of all minimal trauma fracture by 2031, the study found. Launching dozens more fracture liaison services in hospitals would prevent fewer than 1% of an estimated 2.4 million fractures over a decade, a modelling study shows. The Federal Government's National Strategic Action Plan for Osteoporosis has suggested expanding the number of fracture liaison services (FLSs) to 100, so more patients hospitalised with a fracture are immediately referred for preventive treatment.

[Read More](#)

Prisoners in palliative care are still being shackled to their hospital beds

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/03/2024, Paul Smith

Doctors want the restraint of terminally ill patients to end. Eric Whittaker spent the final hours of his life lying unconscious shackled to his hospital bed with leg cuffs. The 35-year-old Indigenous man was an inmate at Parklea Correctional Centre in NSW for alleged parole breaches but had been transferred to hospital having had what turned out to be a ruptured cerebral artery.

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SPORT

Big glass box holds hopes of Aussie squash fans

Australian Financial Review, General News, 20/03/2024, Samantha Hutchinson, Page 3

Warwick Negus is in a hurry. It's 8am on a busy Tuesday morning and the Dexus chairman and non-executive director has a board meeting in an hour.

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Olympics supremo's big surprise

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 20/03/2024, Jamie Walker and Lydia Lynch, Page 1

Olympics powerbroker John Coates blindsided the independent review of venue options for Brisbane

2032 when he went public with the plan to repurpose a near 50-year-old stadium as the Games' athletics hub. Former Brisbane lord mayor Graham Quirk, who led the venues review, said he thought it "odd" that Mr Coates had mentioned the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre plan only in passing if at all during a session with panel members.

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

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Luxury fits women to the power of F1

The Australian, General News, 20/03/2024, Annie Brown, Page 14

Motorsport is courting the growing number of female fans and, while elite brands have long been associated with the high-octane racing game, there are now even more opportunities. Make-up mogul Charlotte Tilbury's decision to enter the revved up world of race car driving last month was always going to send certain pockets of internet commenters into a tizz.

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

New fear over contact sport harm

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 20/03/2024, Angus Thomson and Billie Eder, Page 1

Four more former rugby players have been diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) after death, adding to the growing body of evidence supporting the link between contact sport and the degenerative brain disorder. Scientists, however, have warned against diagnosing the condition during life when other conditions such as Alzheimer's disease could be at play.

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

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Devils are flying high

Hobart Mercury, General News, 20/03/2024, Jon Tuxworth, Page 1

Tasmania Football Club chair Grant O'Brien has declared people power has spoken and sent a message the team "shouldn't be stopped" as attention now turns to the state election voting booths on Saturday. But he said the responsibility is now squarely on the club to deliver what they've promised, including a Macquarie Point stadium the AFL continues to insist is a non-negotiable.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Training and braining experience

Daily Liberal, General News, 20/03/2024, Tahlia Sinclair, Page 20

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

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

Bowls clubs set to reap \$5.4 million

Launceston Examiner, General News, 20/03/2024, Benjamin Seeder, Page 7

Pork barrelling has reached sky-high levels in the state again, with both Labor and the Liberals confirming they will shower sports, bowls and community clubs with grants totalling over \$19 million if elected. Labor on Monday confirmed promises to more than 100 clubs, councils and other organisation totalling \$19.1 million - a similar amount to the promises made by the Liberals and announced a fortnight ago.

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'Doesn't pass the pub test': public weighs in on centre demolition

The hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel will need to weigh up the views of almost 20 speakers at a public meeting, as it prepares to rule on the future of Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre. The panel will rule on a \$2.8 million development application to flatten the site after its abrupt closure in 2019 due to concerns about the risks Eraring Power Station's coal ash dam posed in the event of a 5.7 magnitude earthquake.

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Motorsport vision

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 20/03/2024, Matt Taylor, Page 1

Mildura Council has put its foot to the floor with a new national-first strategy to transform Sunraysia into a prime international motorsport destination. The 2024-28 Mildura Regional Motorsport Strategy is a blueprint for bringing all facets of motorsport together to attract more state, national and international events to the region.

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Grassroots grants

Western Advocate, General News, 20/03/2024, Amy Rees, Page 1

Providing members and the wider community with a physical and social outlet is important to all Bathurst sporting clubs, two of which are now able to improve their services. New equipment for the courts, including upgrading the nets, is what Eglinton Tennis Club will be able to provide members after receiving funding from council.

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Cricket Australia postpones Afghanistan Twenty20 series over Taliban's restrictions on women

ABC Online, Other, 19/03/2024

Cricket Australia has announced it will not be going ahead with a Twenty20 series against Afghanistan in August, postponing the three-match contest over human rights concerns in the country. In January last year, Australia's men's team withdrew from an ODI series against Afghanistan that was scheduled to be played in the United Arab Emirates in March 2023 due to the Taliban's "restrictions on women's and girls' education and employment opportunities, and their ability to access parks and gyms".

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Swimming legend Kieren Perkins hits out at Enhanced Games and warns 'someone will die'

ABC Online, Other, 19/03/2024

Olympic swimming legend and Australian Sports Commission boss Kieren Perkins has warned that "someone will die" if a multi-sport event that allows athletes to use banned substances goes ahead. The Enhanced Games have been proposed by Australian entrepreneur Aron D'Souza, with Australia's dual world champion swimmer and triple Olympic medallist James Magnussen the first athlete in the world to publicly pledge to compete at the 2025 event.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Make public research free

The Australian, Higher Education, 20/03/2024, Tim Dodd, Page 25

Australia's research funding agencies must act to reduce the high price of publishing and accessing

academic papers that cost universities and other research bodies up to \$1bn a year, according to the Australia Institute. In a new paper, the institute says the large global academic publishing houses generate profits of up to 40 per cent of income on par with tech giants such as Apple and Google but "perverse incentives" in research grants forced researchers to continue publishing in costly prestige journals.

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

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Government yet to give out majority of funding pledged...

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 19/03/2024

More than half of the money the Government pledged to fund brain cancer research in honour of Dame Tessa Jowell is yet to be "deployed", a charity has said. Dame Tessa, a former Labour cabinet minister, dedicated the final years of her life to raising awareness around brain cancer before dying from a brain tumour in 2018.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

\$3.5m for O'Donoghue foundation

The Australian, General News, 20/03/2024, Paige Taylor, Page 5

The Albanese government has donated \$3.5m to the foundation that honours the late Indigenous leader Lowitja O'Donoghue. While the Lowitja Institute was established more than 20 years ago to drive Indigenous health research, the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation was set up shortly before her death to help young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who had chosen a career in nursing or the public sector.

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

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The rigours and rewards of remote retailing

Retail World, General News, 01/03/2024, Lorna Gloria, Page 12

Retailing in remote communities and regions is one of the industry's most complex, costly and interesting sectors, says Community Enterprise Queensland CEO Michael Dykes, speaking to Retail World. A not-for-profit organisation, CEQ provides goods and essential services to Torres Strait, Northern Peninsula Area, Palm Island and mainland Aboriginal remote communities through the now 29 stores it is responsible for.

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Potter defends handling of PALI training as criticism mounts

Northern Territory News, Other, 19/03/2024, Fia Walsh

The largest Aboriginal health organisation in Central Australia has criticised the sudden removal of bottleshop cops, saying the government has "opened the floodgates" to alcohol harms. It comes as Police Minister Brent Potter on Tuesday announced 20 additional officers would be sent to Alice Springs. Thirty-two Police Auxiliary Licensing Inspectors were removed from bottle shops in Alice Springs and Katherine last week to begin a four month training course fast tracking them to become constables.

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Help inform the future of aged care for First Nations people

My Aged Care, Other, 19/03/2024

The Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner, Andrea Kelly, is engaging with First Nations older people, families, communities and stakeholders to: inform the role of the permanent Commissioner help ensure older First Nations people can access quality, culturally safe aged care.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Health authorities sound warning for 'early, severe' flu season with cases up almost 30 per cent

9News, Other, 19/03/2024, Lara Pearce

Health experts are warning Australians to get their flu shots as early as possible this year, ahead of what is looking like will be a severe and unusually early influenza season. There have already been 24,019 laboratory-confirmed cases of the flu across Australia so far this year, according to official Department of Health figures.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 19/03/2024, David Bevan

Interview with Elizabeth Miller, Deputy CEO, Immunisation Coalition, regarding the importance of getting the influenza vaccine. Miller says it's vital that all Australians understand the importance of the upcoming influenza season and the importance of getting the flu vaccine. She adds we're up 29% more cases compared to this time last year which is quite concerning.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Neon tiger fights hangovers

Food & Drink Business, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 56

Newcomer Australian wellness brand, Neon Tiger has released Recovery Shield +, a new Australian-made and TGA-listed hangoverprevention supplement, made from traditional Asian medicinal ingredients. Neon Tiger founder Martin Matthews explained the key to the formula was an extract of the Japanese Raisin Tree (*Hovenia dulcis*).

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Today's ways to quit smoking and vaping

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Cat Woods, Page 66

More than 3.5 million Australians aged over 14 smoke or vape regularly. While traditional cigarettes still outweigh vapes as the drug of choice for smokers, both forms of smoking are deleterious to health in the short and long term, and both are highly addictive, expensive habits. [...] While NVPs seem to be effective, other treatment options should be trialled first. NVPs require an SAS/TGA approval form." Bupropion, varenicline and some forms.

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Gearing up for Australia's biggest year for smoking cessation

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 69

With the Government's new laws closing down the illicit vaping market, up to 450,000 new patients could seek assistance from their doctors in achieving nicotine abstinence using nicotine vaping products (NVPs) from pharmacies. Is your pharmacy prepared?

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MHT shortages forcing patients to ration patches, says leading GP

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/03/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Shortages of multiple oestrogen patches have been extended due to manufacturing issues. Shortages of oestrogen patches continue to "frustrate" doctors prescribing menopausal hormone therapy, according to a leading GP who says many patients have been forced to ration patches or switch to gels. [...] While limited supply of 75µg oestradiol (Estraderm) patches returned last week, and the TGA had approved some alternative products, Hobart GP Dr Karen Magraith told AusDoc it was "hard to keep up".

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Minns' political platitudes do not pass the drug test

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 20/03/2024, Page 16

Premier Chris Minns' observation that it would be far better if young people did not take drugs before they went to music festivals feels like a simplistic statement. Meanwhile, the government inexplicably continues to drag its feet on finding a more holistic answer to the broader problem, which could be through Labor's preelection promise of a drug summit.

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Healthcare groups back drug checking

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 16

In recent years, drug checking (also referred to as pill testing) has gained significant policy attention in Australia. In July 2022, the ACT government rolled out drug-checking services, with the CanTEST pilot¹, following which the Queensland government will introduce pill testing across that state,² and calls have been made for similar services to be implemented in other states.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Is your (artificial) sweet tooth killing you?

ABC Online, Other, 20/03/2024, Norman-Swan, Shelby-Traynor and Tegan-Taylor

Did you know that we're evolutionarily predisposed to seek out sweet treats? Simple carbs were harder to come by in caveman times than they are today. Now, the consensus is we all need to cut down our sugar intake. One way people are doing that is by replacing their sucrose with non-sugar sweeteners. Norman and Tegan explore whether this is actually a healthy alternative.

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