



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 28th March 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports a state of emergency and a curfew have been declared in Alice Springs following violent scenes yesterday, while Coalition Senator Jacinta Najimpa-Price has accused the government of not valuing Indigenous lives. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [ABC Online](#)
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports Sport Integrity Australia will assess the AFL's drug policies following league concessions doctors are encouraged to remove players ahead of matches if they are likely to test positive for illicit substances. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [The Australian](#), [The Age](#), [Canberra Times](#)
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports Queensland Health will not appeal a Supreme Court ruling that COVID vaccine mandates were illegal, leaving it at potential risk of "thousands" of compensation claims.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports disability advocates, the Greens and state government ministers are claiming new NDIS legislation has advanced without enough consultation, warning efforts to better define services available under the scheme may harm the self-

management of plans. *Also reported by:* [Australian Financial Review](#), [Canberra Times](#), [ABC Online](#)

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 5) reports the federal government should fund and manage a national hotel quarantine system in future pandemics, NSW government officials have told an inquiry, arguing states were forced to act beyond their constitutional remit during COVID.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 5) reports SA Health chief executive Dr Robyn Lawrence has rejected claims she put off announcing delays to elective surgery over Easter till after the Dunstan byelection. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#), [ABC Online](#), [9News](#)
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (online) reports UNSW's newly launched Centre for Sex and Gender Equity in Health and Medicine will focus on better health outcomes for women and the LGBTQIA+ community and fight what Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney labelled "medical misogyny". *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#)
- [The Guardian](#) (online) reports over 1,500 cases of Ross River fever have been recorded in Queensland, and health experts are warning people travelling to regional areas to protect against mosquitoes over the Easter long weekend.

MINISTER BUTLER

New Precision Care Clinic to transform cancer healthcare

Weekly Times, General News, 27/03/2024, Page 8

Cancer patients will receive more personalised and tailored care through the new Precision Care Clinic at Randwick's Prince of Wales Hospital supported by Macquarie University. The Precision Care Clinic has brought together a team of Australian experts with international recognition to lead this game-changing research program. [...] "The opening of this new facility is a major step towards changing the way we approach cancer diagnosis, treatment, and prevention," Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said.

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

The smoking gun of future problems

My Weekly Preview, General News, 28/03/2024, Page 8

Experts warn that today's vaping menace among young Australians will lead to tomorrow's major health issues if left unchecked. Young Australians are being lured by big tobacco companies to take up vaping, doctors warn, as the federal government introduces new legislation with tough penalties to combat a growing national health crisis. Health Minister Mark Butler says the bill he brought to the house recently will stop the importation, manufacture, supply and commercial possession of disposable, single-use and non-therapeutic vapes.

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

The cost of care

The Monthly, General News, 01/04/2024, Russell Marks, Page 26

Pressures on our public hospitals can result in long waits for treatment and elective procedures. But, asks Russell Marks, is the answer to allow more privately insured patients to pay to jump the queue? [...] Neither the responsible state minister nor the federal health minister, Mark Butler, responded to requests for comment.

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

Half of Australia's aged care residents experience depression. It's clear how their mental health could be improved

ABC Online, Other, 27/03/2024, Anna Kelsey and Barbara Heggen

Helen* describes moving into an aged care residence last year as "a very sudden trauma". There's nothing wrong with the institution itself or the people there – both are "very nice", Helen, a 90-year-old

former clinical psychologist, tells ABC RN's Life Matters [...] The Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, and the Minister for Aged Care and Sport, Anika Wells, were approached for comment.

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Labor to ensure Australians have access to 'high quality affordable healthcare'

Sky News Australia, Other, 27/03/2024

Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler says Labor has no higher priority than ensuring every Australian is able to access "high quality affordable healthcare". Mr Butler said Labor wants Australians to have access to high quality healthcare "no matter where they live, no matter what their income".

[Read More](#)

New Precision Care Clinic at NSW's Prince of Wales hospital

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 27/03/2024

Precision Care Clinic has been set up at the Prince of Wales Hospital in New South Wales to provide personalised and tailored care to Australians with cancer. The initiative is part of a 5-year commitment from the federal government to establish multiple precision care clinics across the country through a \$5. [...] Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said, "This innovative cancer clinic will combine genomic research and implementation science to ensure the benefits of precision medicine are effectively translated into improved health outcomes for people with cancer across Australia."

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PM greets lawnmower trek but no change in Motor Neurone Disease monitoring planned

Region Riverina, Other, 27/03/2024, Oliver Jacques

The Federal and NSW Labor governments appear to have rejected a push to improve monitoring of Motor Neurone Disease (MND), despite a face-to-face plea to the Prime Minister from an MND sufferer himself. Former truck driver Warren 'Woz' Acott made an 800 km trek on a ride-on lawnmower from Toollen (near Bendigo) in Victoria to Parliament House in Canberra to raise awareness of the fatal illness that weakens the nervous system and muscles. [...] The NSW Health Minister is Ryan Park and his federal counterpart is Mark Butler.

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MINISTER WELLS

Secret drug tests a real sorry saga

West Australian, General News, 28/03/2024, Jake Santa Maria and Jackson Barrett, Page 6

The AFL is in damage control after its chief executive said he was "unapologetic" about secretive drug tests that gave club doctors the power to prevent players from testing positive on game days. [...] Sports Minister Anika Wells was contacted for comment.

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

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Half of Australia's aged care residents experience depression. It's clear how their mental health could be improved

ABC Online, Other, 27/03/2024, Anna Kelsey and Barbara Heggen

Helen* describes moving into an aged care residence last year as "a very sudden trauma". There's nothing wrong with the institution itself or the people there – both are "very nice", Helen, a 90-year-old former clinical psychologist, tells ABC RN's Life Matters [...] The Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, and the Minister for Aged Care and Sport, Anika Wells, were approached for comment.

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Leaders summit 2024 in pictures special

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/03/2024, Ian Horswill

The leaders summit 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Sydney attracted more than 500 executives in the ageing sector to hear 43 CEOs and industry leaders talk about the optimism permeating through the retirement living and aged care sector.[...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells , who had to attend Parliament in Canberra, gave a short address via video to update Leaders Summit on the progress of the Aged Care Act and the intentions of the Government going forward.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Politics Now, 26/03/2024, Tom Connell, Kieran Gilbert, Andrew Clennell and Ashleigh Gillon

Pre-recorded interview with Anika Wells, Sports Minister, and Aged Care Minister. Gilbert says there's a lot of controversy around the venues for the Olympic Games after an about-turn by Qld Premier Steven Miles. Wells says this means that they need to renegotiate and sign the intergovernmental agreement because formerly the Federal Government ticks off on all venue selections, but it doesn't affect what their budget allocation is for the Olympics.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

New Hills health service

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 28/03/2024, Page 30

Mount Barker will get a new \$20m mental health service under a joint state-federal initiative to be announced today. The free Head to Health service will open later this year after Summit Health was selected through an open tender. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride said expanding the Head to Health network will improve access to care and support.

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Wyong ALP Branch celebrates centenary

Coast Community News, Other, 27/03/2024, Wyong Alp

Labor party members, supporters, members of parliament, unionists and party officials gathered at the Royal Hotel Wyong on Saturday, March 23, to celebrate the 100th year of the Wyong ALP Branch. The branch was established in 1924 following the introduction of compulsory voting. [...] Federal Member for Dobell Emma McBride joined the Wyong branch in 1992 and State Member for Wyong David Harris joined the branch in 1993, after being a member of the ALP since 1987.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

PM: I'll leave it to the experts

Herald Sun, General News, 28/03/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 6

Anthony Albanese has rejected pressure to personally intervene in bombshell claims about secret AFL drug testing, as a host of federal MPs demand that documents containing the explosive allegations be made public. [...] Fifteen crossbench MPs voted in favour of Mr Wilkie's motion, which was defeated on Wednesday afternoon.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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Jen was in the grip of a heart attack. A nurse dismissed it as stress

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/03/2024, Megan Gorrey

Central Coast mother-of-two Jen O'Neill, 44, was in a hospital bed after her second of three heart attacks in six years when she overheard a nurse talking to a colleague about her condition. "She thinks she's had another heart attack, but it's probably just stress or a panic attack," O'Neill heard the nurse say. [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said much of this gender bias originated in research, and the new centre represented a "large step forward in fighting what I call medical misogyny".

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

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National centre to tackle gender inequity in medicine

Canberra Times, Other, 27/03/2024, Samantha Lock

Challenging Australia's predominantly "male-centric approach to medical care" will be top of the agenda for a new national research centre that pledges to tackle gender inequity in medicine. From dismissing women's pain to understanding the impact of gender bias in medical research, the initiative hopes to deliver better health outcomes for all. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney welcomed the centre as part of Australia's more inclusive health and medical research industry.

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

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Grants to fund LGBTIQ+ health projects at Deakin

Geelong Times, Other, 27/03/2024, Angus Smith

Researchers at Deakin University have landed more than \$2.75 million in the latest Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) grants round. The researchers aim to boost health and wellbeing for LGBTIQ+ people with this funding. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney said the disparities should not be tolerated.

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It's official: Abortion now decriminalised in every state and territory

Women's Agenda, Other, 27/03/2024, Angela Priestley

Today marks an important milestone for Australia as offences related to abortion access are officially removed from Western Australia's criminal code. [...] Federally, Ged Kearney has declared "tackling medical misogyny" as a key mission, establishing the National Women's Health Council last year.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship shifts to Indigenous community control

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/03/2024, Callan Morse

A scholarship named in honour of a significant leader in Indigenous health and wellbeing, Dr Arnold 'Puggy' Hunter, is set to transition to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care and Yanyuwa woman, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said she was sure Dr Hunter would be proud that the scholarship scheme named in his honour will soon be Indigenous led.

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DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

CORONAVIRUS

Push for national hotel quarantine system in future

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/03/2024, Megan Gorrey, Page 5

The Commonwealth should fund and manage a national hotel quarantine system for any future pandemics, senior NSW government officials have said. A submission to the federal COVID inquiry from the Minns government's Cabinet Office says the absence of national quarantine arrangements meant states and territories had to fund and deliver border control measures "beyond their constitutional remit".

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Pocock supports inquiry into why more Australians are dying than usual

Canberra Times, Other, 27/03/2024, Karen Barlow

Independent ACT senator David Pocock has again backed UAP senator Ralph Babet's quest to investigate excessive deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic, this time securing a Senate inquiry that will report back in April. In what the anti-vaccine senator claims "appears to be a world-first inquiry for what is a global issue", the Coalition, One Nation, Lidia Thorpe supported a Babet motion co-sponsored by Senator Pocock and senator Jacqui Lambie.

Also reported by: [Koondrook & Barham Bridge \(Barham\)](#).

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ATAGI scraps prior infection rule for Covid boosters

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/03/2024, Anthony Klinkatsis

Eligibility criteria for accessing a Covid-19 vaccine booster will no longer require a six-month gap between a positive test and getting a shot.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Follow Australia's lead to fix ageing crisis, says Fink

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 28/03/2024, Elizabeth Knight, Page 28

Opining about the world's largest economic challenges is now an annual endeavour for Larry Fink, the founder of the world's largest investment firm, BlackRock. This year, his crisis de jour has moved from climate change to funding the ageing population.

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

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Crunch time for care

West Australian, General News, 28/03/2024, Katina Curtis, Page 13

Politicians were reminded this week by their leaders that no matter what goes down in Canberra, the only thing voters care about right now is cost of living. Liberal deputy Sussan Ley told Coalition MPs readying to disperse across the country over the Easter holidays that the people they spoke to wouldn't be talking about "some of the things that are discussed in this building and particularly this week things like border security or religious discrimination or vaping".

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Sitting is not so pretty

Spending less time sitting could help reduce blood pressure in people over 60, according to an Australian and international study. The study, involving researchers from the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute and Deakin University split about 280 people with high blood pressure into two groups.

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Nurses join protest

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/03/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 9

Hunter aged care nurses joined a delegation of about 60 workers from across the country in Canberra yesterday to address "ongoing failures" among providers. The group is standing together to call out providers who they say are not lifting the standard of care for elderly Australians.

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

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Resources to live up, and age how you want to live

Shepparton Adviser, General News, 27/03/2024, Page 22

Designed to help you stay independent and socially connected as you get older, LiveUp is a free online healthy ageing guide funded by the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care. Research shows that older people fear losing their independence more than death, with 78 per cent of Australians over the age of 50 increasingly finding it more difficult to perform simple everyday tasks, according to research from LiveUp.

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

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Empowering families: new initiative to support end-of-life decision-making

Shepparton Adviser, General News, 27/03/2024, Page 38

In a significant stride towards enhancing the quality of care for seniors in residential aged care, Palliative Care Victoria has unveiled a new initiative called 'Dignified and Respectful Decisions.' The project, jointly funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and the Victorian Government Department of Health, aims to empower families making end-of-life decisions for their loved ones, improving how they live and die in aged care.

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

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Growing up: the case for IT maturity in aged care settings.

Aged Care Insite, Other, 27/03/2024

Could IT maturity be the answer to today's opportunities and tomorrow's challenges in the aged care sector? Aging. It comes to us all. But as Australia's population continues to boom – recently hitting 27 million, 18 years earlier than predicted – it is clear aging is coming for more of us. Come 2050, it's projected that nearly a quarter of Australians (23%) will be aged 65+

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ITAC recognises innovation

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/03/2024, Christopher Kelly

Smart glasses, IOT devices and robotics were among the developments to win an ITAC award. There were so many deserving candidates for the excellence in technology award at last night's ITAC ceremony, that multiple winners took home the prestigious gong.

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Integrating digital health into aged care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/03/2024, Natasha Egan and Christopher Kelly

Technology needs to be maximised in clinical health settings, delegates at the ITAC conference hear. Care outcomes will improve as a result of the use of integrated technology, delegates hear at an

industry event on Tuesday.

[Read More](#)

To dip or not to dip?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/03/2024, Amin Javanmard

A program delivered by pharmacists has seen positive results around reduction of unnecessary urine dipstick testing in aged care homes Pharmacist-led education to support behaviour change around urine dipstick testing has seen a significant increase in appropriate antibiotic prescribing for UTI among nurses and carers, a study has found.

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Deaf Connect launches home care-first for Perth seniors

Australian Seniors News, Other, 27/03/2024

A significant milestone in accessibility for Deaf seniors in WA has been marked with the launch of the state's first Auslan-delivered home care package by Deaf Connect last week. The 'Ageing Well' package is an approved provider of in-home care for seniors – funded under the Federal Government's Home Care Package program – which delivers essential aged care services and support to Deaf, deafblind, and hard-of-hearing Australians.

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Pensioner rate relief considered for city council budget

In Daily, Other, 27/03/2024

The Adelaide City Council will investigate reinstating rate rebates in its upcoming budget to give property owners on an aged care or disability support pension some cost-of-living relief. Mar 27, 2024 , updated Mar 27, 2024 Adelaide City councillor Phil Martin wants to reinstate an axed rate rebate for aged and disability pensioners in the upcoming budget to help with the cost of living crisis.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Empowering the next gen to be healthy

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/03/2024, Rosie Nash, Page 57

At a time when online health information and advice is abundant, but overwhelming and often inaccurate, the importance of child health literacy cannot be overstated. It builds a generation equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions about health and wellbeing.

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Migraine misunderstood and under-diagnosed, experts say, and women are most at risk

ABC Online, Other, 27/03/2024, Daniel Miles

Natalie Oh remembers every excruciating detail of the car crash that changed her life forever. That is, right up to the point of impact. It was 2005, and she was studying at Sydney's Macquarie University library for a Year 10 exam, alongside her older brother and some of his friends. When it came time to leave, the sedan her brother was driving became overloaded with passengers wanting a lift home.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 27/03/2024, Joel Rheinberger

Interview with Jemma O'Hanlon, Senior Nutritionist, Heart Foundation. Rheinberger points out that some service stations seem to serve food that is not nutritional. O'Hanlon points out that some service stations offer up fruit bowls in the front counter and she believes that this is a great opportunity to have healthier snacks for kids while on the road. O'Hanlon believes that these fruit bowls are quite heart-friendly as well.

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

The power of a cancer diagnosis

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/03/2024, Jill Margo, Page 22

This year began as an annus horribilis for the royal family, writes Jill Margo, but compassion, coupled with a respectful fear of cancer, has changed the narrative. The word "cancer" carries enormous power.

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An athlete to the end

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/03/2024, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 29

Benjamin Mitchell, 38, had no telltale signs he was suffering from cancer. The Clare vineyard manager had been battling shoulder pain for the last year, but was hoping scheduled surgery this year would help relieve the constant ache. "Throughout November and December, the pain in his shoulder got worse and ended up causing pain in his back," his wife of 10 years Johanna Mitchell told The Advertiser.

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Australian-first screening clinic to focus on prevention

Canberra Times, General News, 28/03/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 3

Canberra Hospital's cancer centre is usually focused on treating people who have the disease. But a new clinic will be focused on making sure people don't need treatment in the first place. In an Australian-first, the clinic will be screening people for genetic changes, which can lead to illnesses such as cancer and heart disease, and educating people on how they can manage their risk and, ultimately, prevent disease.

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

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Kailah still inspiring

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/03/2024, Zizi Averill, Page 5

A Darwin family who felt they were kept in the dark about their daughter's "silent scary illness" have lit a purple beacon in order to raise awareness for epilepsy in the Territory. Nineteen-year-old Kailah May was among the 300 Australians who lost their lives due to epilepsy in 2022, after drowning in her family pool.

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Roller coaster ride

Ballarat Courier, General News, 28/03/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Lola Fennell's short life has been a rollercoaster that will likely end with her having a liver transplant, possibly before the end of the year. The 16-month-old spent the first week of her life at home with her first-time parents Jasmine Meier and Luke Fennell before showing the first signs that something was wrong.

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Hard work pays off for Ballarat mum

Ballarat Courier, General News, 28/03/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 6

If the Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program had tested for Spinal Muscular Atrophy when baby Bella Tuddenham was born, her short life would have been different. Bella died at just 20 days old from the genetic condition - just five days after doctors had finally diagnosed the condition. That was in 2021. Today, newborns are screened for SMA as part of what is known as the "heel prick test" conducted after birth.

Painful journey to endometriosis discovery for actress

Canberra Times, Other, 27/03/2024, Savannah Meacham

Christie Whelan Browne always had debilitating periods. But it took an ovarian cyst rupture at the age of 26 for doctors to finally diagnose the cause of her pain - endometriosis. "It literally took something bursting inside me to investigate what was going on," the now 42-year-old Melbourne-based actress told AAP. However, before surgery, Whelan Browne was still anxious that maybe all the pain was in her head.

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

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Young Melbourne woman Teish Ward's brutal warning after teenage years spent 'baking in the sun' were followed by a horror diagnosis

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/03/2024, Pranav Harish

A young Aussie has issued a brutal warning after she was diagnosed with melanoma aged just 20. Teish Ward, who lives in Melbourne, underwent surgery in 2019 to remove the skin cancer and 11 lymph nodes to try and cure her of the disease.

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

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Australia's chronic pain divide — and the people getting left behind

SBS, Other, 27/03/2024, Deborah Groarke

Major changes to restrict access to opioids in Australia appear to be working, new research suggests. And while that's been welcomed, the struggle of some chronic pain sufferers has sparked calls to address "the crisis of misuse versus appropriate use".

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Australian fitness influencer Ashy Bines diagnosed with brain aneurysm after losing vision

7news.com.au, Other, 27/03/2024, Warren Barnsley

The young mum went for scans at hospital after symptoms developed last week. Australian fitness influencer Ashy Bines faces regular health checks due to an aneurysm on her brain found after she lost her vision. The 35-year-old mum-of-two went to Gold Coast University Hospital on Sunday, having momentarily lost her vision three times last week.

[Read More](#)

New women's health app aims to bridge diagnosis gap for endometriosis

9News, Other, 27/03/2024

Australian health professionals have launched an app aimed at simplifying the pathway to diagnosing women's health issues. Charli Health uses AI, telehealth and self-logged data to pick up on conditions like endometriosis.

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Study shows gap

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/03/2024

Individuals with drug-resistant epilepsy experience lower quality of life and face reduced employment opportunities compared to those newly diagnosed. These were some of the findings revealed in The Florey's latest study on Purple Day for Epilepsy yesterday.

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New concussion clinic to give patients a head start

Age, General News, 28/03/2024, Henrietta Cook, Page 18

Hundreds of patients who have had knocks to the head are inundating Victorian emergency departments, prompting one major hospital to open the state's first public concussion clinic. Alfred Health has opened a concussion clinic at Caulfield Hospital to offer specialised support to patients severely impacted by concussion who previously had nowhere to go for help after being discharged from the emergency department.

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How the RCH saved my daughter's life

Herald Sun, General News, 28/03/2024, Shannon Deery, Page 13

Jacinta Allan knows intimately the importance of Victoria's world-class Royal Children's Hospital. It was there she spent her first Good Friday as a mum, beginning a two-year journey that saved her daughter's life. Days earlier, she'd been deprived the chance of a cuddle with her new baby, who needed to be rushed to the hospital after the birth.

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

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Elective surgery cuts 'not political'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/03/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 5

SA Health chief executive Dr Robyn Lawrence has bluntly rejected claims that Saturday's Dunstan by-election caused her to delay publicly declaring the department was cancelling elective surgeries. At least 33 surgeries were cancelled on Wednesday and a similar number is expected today before the traditional Easter elective surgery shutdown starting on Good Friday.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [In Daily \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Seek the right care at Easter

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/03/2024, Judy Augustine, Page 17

Tasmanians are urged to consider the urgency of their medical needs, and whether they should choose an urgent care centre over a hospital emergency department, ahead of the Easter long weekend. General practitioner at Your Hobart Doctor, Mark Baldock said more incidents were expected over the weekend.

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Hospitals code yellow

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/03/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 14

Surging patient demand and staff shortages have led to code yellows, denoting an internal emergency, being declared at Royal Darwin and Palmerston Regional hospitals. In a statement on Wednesday, NT Health said the hospitals were experiencing "a peak in demand due to an increase in patient occupancy, combined with ongoing staffing pressures".

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

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MP's shot at governments over hospital

Border Mail, General News, 28/03/2024, Xavier Mardling, Page 3

Helen Haines has accused the federal, Victorian and NSW governments of pigheadedness in forging ahead with the \$558 million Albury hospital redevelopment. The independent member for Indi, speaking in federal Parliament on Tuesday, March 26, said "these three governments are planning on spending more than half a billion dollars on a hospital, sorry a 'clinical services building', which they already know will not meet the health needs of our community".

Illawarra Women's Health Centre wants to expand north

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 28/03/2024, Natalie Croxon, Page 4

The Illawarra Women's Health Centre (IWHC) is seeking \$10 million from the state government to expand to a second site as an increasing number of women look for help from the service. In a 2024-25 pre-budget submission, the IWHC outlines a request for funding over three years to establish another centre in the northern Illawarra, plus recurrent operational funding, including a larger workforce.

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Work starts on \$530m expansion of hospital

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/03/2024, Chris Burns, Page 1

The ceremonial sod has been turned to mark a \$530m expansion of the Townsville University Hospital, with the first stage to start immediately. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman said construction was scheduled for completion by late 2026, which is aimed to cater for population growth in North Queensland.

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

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Surgery wait 'inhuman'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/03/2024, Natasha Emeck, Page 20

The Townsville University Hospital finds itself grappling with a spike in emergency surgeries, leaving some patients languishing in pain and fasting for over a week as they await long-delayed elective procedures. A mum of four, known by the pseudonym Jessica to preserve her anonymity, said she spent most of last week confined to a hospital bed, fasting and grappling with excruciating pain caused by a gallstone lodged in her common bile duct.

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

Eye surgery waste recycling project at Southern Cross Christchurch Hospital

Sustainability Matters, General News, 01/03/2024, Page 24

The Southern Cross Healthcare team is continuously looking across their business for ways to reduce their environmental impact. The team is excited to have successfully launched an initiative at Southern Cross Christchurch Hospital in partnership with Johnson & Johnson.

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

Audio from Perth cancer patient Carol Parker emerges before she undergoes voluntary assisted dying

West Australian, Other, 27/03/2024, Monique Dirks

A cancer sufferer who waited five months to undergo voluntary assisting dying wants lawmakers to hear her final moments. Carol Parker's application to undergo voluntary assisted dying took five months to be approved and now she wants lawmakers to hear her heartbreaking thoughts in the hours before she died.

[Read More](#)

Former hospital CEO warns against south-west health services merger

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 27/03/2024, Jessica Greenan

South-west patients "will get lost" in a merged health system, a former hospital CEO warns. Less transparency and high travel costs are former Portland District Health Service chief executive officer Chris Giles' top fears in response to the ever-increasing likelihood of public health services amalgamating as part of the state government's Health Plan.

[Read More](#)

Rise in referrals, new FIFO services bring critical health care to regional

and rural Queensland

ABC Online, Other, 27/03/2024, Meghan Dansie

At 72, Darrell Ziebell can't make the two-hour drive to his closest major hospital for specialist heart check-ups. He has Parkinson's disease and is not allowed to drive long distances. "I can only drive a certain distance from home, which means I can't even reach Rockhampton for services," he said.

[Read More](#)

DoHAC opens review into after-hours primary care

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/03/2024, Laura Woodrow

The department has called on GPs, non-vocational doctors, nurses, allied health practitioners, Indigenous health workers and PHNs to contribute. The Department of Health and Aged Care has opened a public review into after-hours primary care policies and programs.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 27/03/2024, Kate Freebairn

Dr Robyn Lawrence is under fire over the timing of snap cancellations of elective surgeries in the lead-up to Easter. It comes as dozens of procedures have been postponed as public hospitals struggle to cope with demand. SA Health has denied playing political gains on the matter.

[Play Now](#)

5AA, Mornings, 27/03/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Pantelis points out that elective surgery has been postponed in Adelaide's public hospitals in the lead-up to Easter. He states that the health system is suffering from overwhelming demand, which he believes is perhaps a sign of the pressure the system is under. Pantelis says this has been decided by SA Health Chief Dr Robyn Lawrence and he plays a quick excerpt of her. Lawrence mentions that the decision was made after a discussion with CEOs, as well as adding that they have let the community and patients know that they are talking these steps.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 27/03/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Doctors union SASMOA says postponing elective surgery in public hospitals indicates a health system potentially in crisis. SA Health has postponed category two and three elective surgeries at Adelaide's hospitals from today until midnight on Thursday. SASMOA's Bernadette Mulholland says postponing surgery is a short-term solution.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Minister urges big tech to do better

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/03/2024, Clare Armstrong, Page 6

Social media platforms such as Meta have to lift their game and take more responsibility for protecting kids from online harms, Labor has warned, stopping short of backing calls for a trial of age verification technology. Communications Minister Michelle Rowland is facing renewed calls to implement a trial of age verification to stop children accessing online pornography that could also be extended to blocking younger kids from accessing social media, but Michelle the federal Rowland.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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

Mental health order appealed

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/03/2024, Zizi Averill, Page 22

An Alice Springs man is fighting for a say in his own medical treatment after being denied access to an interpreter during his Mental Health Tribunal hearing. The 30-year-old man who suffers from schizophrenia and epilepsy has launched a stay application ahead of his Supreme Court appeal against a six-month community management order.

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

Grads making a difference to mental health in the bush

Daily Liberal, General News, 28/03/2024, Orlander Ruming, Page 2

Growing up in Warren, Shaana Daley found there weren't a lot of places to get support for your mental health. She's one of 13 Aboriginal people who graduated from Marathon Health's Youth Outreach Project with a Certificate IV in Mental Health. The trainees were employed by Marathon Health for the 12 months while they completed their studies.

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

Jailed teenagers at risk

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/03/2024, Page 10

Teenagers and young adults who have been involved with the criminal justice system are at high risk of a psychiatric hospitalisation once they leave supervision, according to Australian research. This group is known to be at risk of mental health problems, so researchers from the Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, The University of NSW, The University of Newcastle, The University of Sydney and National Drug Research Institute used survey data from 1556 justice-involved people aged 14-22 to look at how frequently they ended up in hospital due to psychiatric problems.

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

ADF chief to appear at veteran suicide Royal Commission

Canberra Times, Other, 28/03/2024, Holly Hales

The chief of the Australian Defence Force is expected to give evidence as part of the final public hearing day for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. General Angus Campbell will be the sole witness to appear at the commission on Thursday which is set to conclude in Sydney.

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

[Read More](#)

Over-scheduling impacts teenagers' sleep and mental health, so how busy should they be?

ABC Online, Other, 27/03/2024, Lucy Robinson and Cale Matthews

High schooler Michelle's weeks are a delicate balancing act of part-time work and practice for at least two different bands, four choirs, symphony orchestra and netball. That's on top of 30 hours of school, plus homework, but the 16-year-old from Adelaide finds joy in her many commitments.

[Read More](#)

'Everybody has a breaking point': how the climate crisis affects our brains

The Guardian, Other, 27/03/2024, Clayton Page Aldern

In late October 2012, a category 3 hurricane howled into New York City with a force that would etch its name into the annals of history. Superstorm Sandy transformed the city, inflicting more than \$60bn in damage, killing dozens, and forcing 6,500 patients to be evacuated from hospitals and nursing homes. Yet in the case of one cognitive neuroscientist, the storm presented, darkly, an opportunity.

[Read More](#)

Royal commission prods Greg Moriarty for secretaries board intel

The Mandarin, Other, 27/03/2024, Melissa Coade

The awareness of the powerful secretaries board was brought into question yesterday, as the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide sought to draw from the Defence boss if he had briefed his fellow department heads about Australia's devastating rates of suicide among current and former ADF personnel.

Hospitals and Hijabs: One Woman's Mission to Raise Death Literacy in Her Community

SBS, Other, 27/03/2024, Nadine Cohen and Anthony Levin

Have you had a near-death experience? Was there a bright light? A shadowy figure? Did your life flash before your eyes? A terrifying near-death experience changed Mariam Ardati's whole perspective and led her to her life's great purpose - educating her community about the practicalities of death and dying as a death doula, funeral director and educator. A former personal trainer, Mariam Ardati now spends her time caring for the dying, the dead, and their loved ones, advocating for family-led death care, and educating her community about the practicalities of death and dying.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Payouts open for 'no jab' workers

Courier Mail, General News, 28/03/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 3

Queensland Health has ruled out appealing a landmark Supreme Court ruling on mandatory Covid vaccines, leaving it open to thousands of potential compensation claims. Queensland Health has not committed to compensating employees stood down for failing to comply with the jab orders that were found to be "ineffective" and "unlawful".

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

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

UTAS training site to boost health staff

Burnie Advocate, General News, 28/03/2024, Libby Bingham, Page 3

The University of Tasmania (UTAS) will open a new rural health training site at East Devonport. The tertiary initiative will help bolster the region's medical staff and resources. The training site will be established at the East Devonport Recreation and Function Centre, previously used as a COVID clinic during the pandemic.

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

Vexatious anonymous complaints are never punished — a lawyer explains why

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/03/2024, Heather Saxena

Lawyer Gemma McGrath says AHPRA's default stance should be to reveal a complainant's identity. A slew of complaints against doctors expressing views on the Israel–Gaza conflict has reignited concerns that AHPRA complaints are being weaponised especially anonymous complaints.

[Read More](#)

Another state expected to ditch COVID-19 vaccine mandate for healthcare workers

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/03/2024

'It's time to get back on with life,' says NSW Minister for Health Ryan Park as key players discuss the move. The COVID-19 vaccine mandate for doctors and other health workers may be scrapped across

NSW within weeks. State Minister for Health Ryan Park said while "COVID-19 is still around", it was important to "get back on with life".

[Read More](#)

Action required to combat rural workforce crisis

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/03/2024

Access to primary healthcare in rural areas is set to get worse in the coming years, if steps are not taken to encourage practitioners to go to the bush.

[Read More](#)

ANZCAP reaches 1,000 milestone

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/03/2024

The Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP) has celebrated the 1,000th pharmacist to complete its pharmacy recognition program (PD 24 Nov 2023). Sydney-based GP pharmacist Christopher Thornton (pictured), who has more than a decade of experience in various healthcare settings, including community pharmacy, was the 1,000th pharmacist recognised by ANZCAP.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 27/03/2024, Mark Gibson

A range of business and industry groups in WA have joined forces to call for payroll tax relief. The Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies the Australian Hotels Association the Tourism Council, and the Australian Medical Association are among the organisations calling for relief in the upcoming State Budget.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Win for small pharmacies

Shepparton News Online, Other, 27/03/2024, Jared Loughnan

Mulwala Pharmacy owner Abbey Hammon welcomed the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement which will assist small pharmacies following changes to the PBS last year. A new \$3 billion in funding for Australian pharmacies will help soften the blow from recent changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), which included 60-day dispensing.

[Read More](#)

'April Fool's day' for pharmacists and patients as Continued Dispensing ends next week

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 27/03/2024, Chloe Hava

The Easter long weekend is a notoriously busy time of year for pharmacists. But 2024 could be the busiest one yet, as a major policy change is set to occur. [...] When the temporary federal instrument National Health (Continued Dispensing – Emergency Measure) Determination 2023 ceases at the end of this month, the number of PBS medicines available via Continued Dispensing will reduce to 150 in the jurisdictions that adopted the legislation, including: However, there are some jurisdictions that the change won't affect, including: The only state to permanently enact full Continued Dispensing is Tasmania.

[Read More](#)

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Anger over NDIS reform plan limiting 'choice and control'

The Australian, General News, 28/03/2024, Sarah Ison and Stephen Lunn, Page 5

Disability advocates, Labor premiers and the Greens have raised alarm about the level of secrecy surrounding the design of Labor's landmark NDIS legislation, raising concerns with changes that are posed to ban certain items being funded by the scheme. The Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Bill Shorten, unveiled his planned reforms for the scheme on Wednesday, with participants set to be given a set budget and no longer being able to obtain automatic top-ups after they've spent their original plan.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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

Stung by private health charge

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 28/03/2024, Anthony Keane, Page 47

More than half a million Australians are paying the Medicare Levy Surcharge through their tax returns when many could be buying private hospital insurance for about the same cost. Ahead of an average 3.03 per cent rise in health fund premiums from April 1, an analysis of Australian Taxation Office data shows the number of people paying the surcharge jumped dramatically in recent years.

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

We've got to get the culture right for the APS to deliver

Canberra Times, Other, 27/03/2024, Patrick Gorman

This month i engaged with more than 2700 Australian public servants. Hearing their questions and their hopes for their work. [...] Whether that is delivering Centrelink payments, tax returns, Medicare rebates or pension support payments.

[Read More](#)

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor facing new allegations

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/03/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 27

New allegations have surfaced against a respected Northern Territory doctor who fell from grace when he was busted picking up more than seven grams of methamphetamine disguised in soup packets from a post office. Dr Timothy James Blake (pictured), a senior doctor at Gove District Hospital, was arrested in December 2020 after he went to pick up a delivery of 7.96g of methamphetamine disguised as tom yum soup packets at Nhulunbuy Post Office.

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

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

Missed opportunities led to mum's 'preventable' death

Canberra Times, Other, 27/03/2024, jacob shteyman

When a young mother complained to paramedics she was suffering chest pains, cold sweats and her lips were going black, she was told to take Panadol and follow up with a GP. Within 48 hours, she was dead. On Wednesday, a South Australian coroner found Jennifer Collins, 30, would likely still be alive if not for a series of missteps by those overseeing her treatment.

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

[Read More](#)

Urologist Daryl Stephens hit with restrictions by Queensland health ombudsman

ABC Online, Other, 27/03/2024, Tobi Loftus

A Queensland urologist who allegedly blew his nose on a surgical curtain has had a number of practice conditions imposed on him by the state's health regulator. The Office of the Health Ombudsman had

been investigating Daryl Stephens over allegations made in 2022 while he was working at Mackay Base Hospital. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) shows the surgeon's registration began in 1974 and is current until September 2024.

[Read More](#)

Boy's methadone death was in 'high-risk' circumstances

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/03/2024, Megan Haggan

A pharmacist who dispensed methadone to parents of a boy who died from ingesting the drug has suggested a "better system" for informing employee pharmacists, especially when owners are absent – and a coroner agrees Deputy state coroner Carmel Forbes has released her findings in relation to the August 2018 death of a six-year-old boy

[Read More](#)

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Abortion off criminal code

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 28/03/2024, Page 6

Abortion has officially been removed from WA's criminal code, as sweeping reforms improve access to healthcare for women across the State. The new laws that came into effect on Wednesday remove clinically unnecessary barriers and bring WA into line with other jurisdictions.

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

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Unhealthy lack of genetic testing laws

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/03/2024, Isabel Bird, Page 15

A Tasmanian doctor says the benefits of a life-saving medical technology are being stalled by inadequate regulations which allow health insurance companies to discriminate. Genetic testing looks at an individual's genes to discover any medical conditions that they and their families might be prone to, but the Australian Medical Association (AMA) said people are refusing the tests due to a fear of insurance discrimination.

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

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

'I've been called a whore by a GP': Calls to repeal mandatory sex worker health testing

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/03/2024, Courtney Kruk

When Eva* sat in her GP's office, the last thing she expected to feel was unsafe and uncomfortable. "I've personally been called a whore by a GP," Eva*, a Brisbane-based sex worker, said. "Stigma and discrimination is a major barrier to healthcare for sex workers."

[Read More](#)

Disability scheme overhaul transforms access to support

Canberra Times, Other, 27/03/2024, Kat Wong

The way Australians with disabilities access support could be transformed under the government's plan to contain budget blowouts and maintain the sustainability of its once world-leading scheme. As part of the government's attempts to address recommendations made by an independent 2023 review, the 660,000 Australians covered by the National Disability Insurance Scheme would undergo an assessment and receive a plan and budget based on those support needs.

[Read More](#)

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Splash out on a new pool, Titmus urges

The Australian, General News, 28/03/2024, Robert Craddock and Todd Balym, Page 6

Ariarne Titmus has delivered a rallying call for Brisbane Olympic organisers after she was shocked to find she would be going back to the future ahead of this year's Paris Games. Titmus said the fact this year's Olympic swimming trials would be held in the Chandler pool built for the 1982 Commonwealth Games highlighted the need for urgent attention to update legacy structures in the countdown to the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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Aussie swimmers get high-tech togs for Paris

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/03/2024, Nick Wright, Page 3

Already the golden girl of Australian swimming, Emma McKeon has vowed to bring a more ruthless approach to her preparations for Paris, knowing it will be needed to keep performing at the level that cemented her place in Olympic folklore.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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NRL clubs can't test for drugs

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 28/03/2024, Michael Chammas, Page 42

The NRL's drug policy prohibits clubs from doing inhouse testing, protecting rugby league from a similar scandal to that engulfing the AFL. The AFL has been rocked by allegations made under parliamentary privilege by federal MP Andrew Wilkie that the league empowered club doctors to remove players from matches if they were at risk of testing positive on match day.

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Drug agency to check on the AFL's testing of its players

Age, General News, 28/03/2024, Peter Ryan and Michael Gleeson, Page 1

Sport Integrity Australia says it will assess allegations around illicit drug tests in the AFL as the league admits it empowers club doctors to remove players from matches if they are at risk of testing positive on match day. SIA confirmed yesterday it had commenced an assessment of allegations made in Parliament by federal MP Andrew Wilkie.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Shepparton News \(Shepparton\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Trans soccer stoush

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/03/2024, Clarissa Bye, Page 25

Concerns have been raised about a Sydney women's soccer team which includes five transgender players, after they blitzed the pre-season Beryl Ackroyd Cup and won the \$1000 grand final 4-0 at

Macquarie Park on Sunday. The team, called the Flying Bats FC, won every game they played during the four-week competition with some victories coming by huge margins with one trans player scoring six goals in a 10-nil match.

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

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'G set for cricket extravaganza

Herald Sun, General News, 28/03/2024, Peter Rolfe, Page 25

Cricket fans are jumping for joy with an Australia-India Boxing Day showdown and historic women's day-night Test set for the MCG this summer. The traditional Boxing Day Test will be staged before massive crowds, after confirmation India will take on the Aussies as part of the 2024-25 international cricket schedule.

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'No stadium' locals plan action

Burnie Advocate, General News, 28/03/2024, Libby Bingham, Page 2

Residents opposed to the site of a \$60 million Devonport Stadium say it will "ruin the iconic Bluff" and are planning action to stop it. "We will hold a big protest through Devonport if we need to," said impassioned North Fenton Street resident Doula Pappas who lives across the road from the stadium entrance.

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

ABC News, ABC National News, 27/03/2024, Joe O'Brien

The AFL has been forced to admit that some players are being kept off the field when they test positive for illicit drugs. It made the admission after Federal MP Andrew Wikie used parliamentary privilege to accuse the league of a cover-up and fraud. But the AFL is unapologetic about its secretive testing regime, saying it's protecting the health and confidentiality of its players.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 27/03/2024, Sandra Sully

The AFL has defended its illicit drugs policy following some shocking allegations that the Melbourne Football Club has made players fake injuries to cover up positive tests. Federal MP Andrew Wikie aired the accusations under the protection of parliamentary privilege, and claims that his evidence includes signed statements from the Demons' former club doctor.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 27/03/2024, Max Fitcher and Sharyn Ghidella

The AFL has defended its testing programme after Independent MP Andrew Wilkie claimed in Parliament that players have went off-the-books testing for illegal drugs. According to the League, player privacy is crucial. Wilkie outlined an alleged systematic attempt by the AFL to subvert its own illicit drugs policy.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 27/03/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

The AFL's been rocked by bombshell accusations of off-the-books drug testing this morning. That could have major repercussions across the league. Federal MP Andrew Wilkie made the shock claims while under parliamentary privilege in Canberra.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 27/03/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Interview with Qld Premier Steven Miles, about the recent Brisbane 2032 Stadium bungle. Stefanovic asks Miles whether he'll take responsibility with the matter of the discontinuing of a Brisbane 2032 Stadium construction. Miles says he believes he was responsible for the Olympics infrastructure before he was Premier and now that he's Premier, he needs to make decisions based on the best interests of

the Queenslanders. He states that he could not justify spending billions more on a brand new stadium when they're already investing in a concert hall, the new Brisbane arena venue, and when they already have a world-class stadium in the form of the Suncorp Stadium.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 27/03/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Bombshell claims of secret illicit drug testing have been launched at the AFL. Federal MP Andrew Wilkie told Parliament overnight that a former Melbourne Football Club doctor admitted to conducting off-the-book drug tests allegedly authorised by the AFL to help players evade match-day detection.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 27/03/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Bombshell claims have been levelled at the AFL this morning. A former demons doctor alleged he was asked by the league to carry out off-the-book drug testing for players to avoid game-day detection. This was revealed in Parliament last night by Federal MP Andrew Wilkie.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 27/03/2024, Laura Jayes

Federal Parliament has been told of secret drug tests for AFL players allegedly authorised by the AFL's top medic. Now, it's understood players were given secret tests before games if they had reported taking drugs.

[Play Now](#)

5AA, Mornings, 27/03/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Now turning to five AA sports, the AFL's yet to address allegations of clubs using the codes illicit drug policy to avoid testing by Sports Integrity Australia. A former Melbourne doctor claimed players who'd used illicit drugs would have the AFL-sanctioned tests completed, and if they came back positive, they'd fake an injury to miss the weekend's game.

[Play Now](#)

6PR, Mornings, 27/03/2024, Gary Adshead

Adshead plays an excerpt of Federal MP Andrew Wilkie late yesterday wherein he revealed that the AFL holds illegal drug testing to keep players in their games. He believes that this questions the integrity of the AFL because it is the biggest sporting code in the country. Adshead adds that the AFL needs to have a basis of people believing that it has everyone's best interest at heart.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 27/03/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

The SANFL says players in the Adelaide Crows and Port Adelaide squads will be exempted from the league's concussion protocol while it's adopted the Australian Institute of Sport's recommendation for a 21-day recovery period from concussion injuries.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Healing hopes for injuries

Herald Sun, General News, 28/03/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 25

Something the body produces naturally in healthy people could be harnessed to help heal chronic wounds and acute muscle injuries faster. A discovery led by Melbourne researchers has shown success in delivering a molecule derived from sensory neurons directly into wounds on animal models.

The treatment resulted in wounds healing up to 2.5 times faster, with nearly double the rate of muscle regeneration.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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

The new team tackling climate change and health

Canberra Times, Other, 27/03/2024, Lucy Bladen

Climate change is not just producing more intense droughts, severe fires, rising sea levels and water scarcity. The warming planet also presents a number of health risks. It can affect cardiovascular health, metabolic health, reproductive health, asthma and can even result in cancers. A new institute at the University of Canberra will be specifically dedicated to research these risks and, hopefully, find solutions. The Healthy Environment and Lives, known as HEAL, centre was launched on Tuesday.

[Read More](#)

Deakin researchers look at the benefits of sugarcane extract

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/03/2024, Robyn Riley

Natural compounds extracted from sugarcane will be tested in a Victorian-led study to see if they can help improve the gut, heart and mental health. Study participants on the six-month Deakin University trial will be asked to take two pills daily with half receiving a placebo and the other a polyphenol extract from sugarcane. Polyphenols are natural products found mainly in plant foods such as richly-coloured fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices, tea, and even dark chocolate. These foods are some of the main sources common to the Mediterranean diet.

[Read More](#)

A research blackhole? Australia's gender clinics and their patient outcomes

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/03/2024, Paul Smith and Rachel Carter

It was the angry fallout of a research paper looking at so-called 'desistence' rates among paediatric patients who had presented with gender-related distress at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney. It included the observation in the abstract that that 22.1% had "desisted" treatment. The critics waded in taking aim at its methodology, the way the statistics were presented and the conceptual mud which seemed to smother the researchers use of desistence as their main outcome measure.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Alice anarchy sparks night-time lockdown

The Australian, General News, 28/03/2024, Liam Mendes, Page 1

Children under 18 in Alice Springs will be forced off the streets under an extraordinary curfew aimed at stopping the riots and violence that have plagued the red centre for months, as the besieged Northern Territory Labor government tries to stave off calls for a federal takeover. After more than 100 people rioted in Alice Springs and cornered one of the town's most popular pubs on Tuesday, which police say they did not have the resources to control, Chief Minister Eva Lawler will send 58 more officers to clear kids into homes or government facilities between 6pm and 6am.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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Disabled woman died after bath

Central Western Daily, General News, 28/03/2024, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 4

A disability support provider faces a \$1.8 million fine over the death of a young Indigenous woman who was severely burnt when poorly trained carers gave her a bath. Kyah Lucas suffered burns to 35 per cent of her body when she was bathed at her home in Orange by two workers from NDIS provider LiveBetter on February 2, 2022.

World's first justice institute for First Nations women opens at ANU

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/03/2024, Dechlan Brennan

A new institute in Canberra will advance the voices of First Nations women and girls to help improve the policies shaping the lives of Indigenous people. The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute for First Nations Gender Justice at the Australian National University (ANU) is the first of its kind and brings together First Nations researchers to help develop initiatives to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls.

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Yamatji researcher honoured

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/03/2024, Giovanni Torre

A researcher from the University of Western Australia's WA Centre for Rural Health (WACRH) has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to Indigenous cancer care in the regions at a prestigious international Indigenous cancer conference recently held in Naarm/Melbourne.

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Peak Indigenous health body slams Queensland ban on First Nations health groups owning pharmacies

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/03/2024, Joseph Guenzler

The Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) has expressed disappointment over the exclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled health organisations from owning pharmacies under new business ownership laws. QAIHC Public Health Medical Director, Associate Professor Sophia Couzos, criticised new pharmacy ownership laws as anti-competitive and limiting, proven successful models of care essential for culturally appropriate health care for Queensland's Indigenous people.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Grim predictions for a tough flu season

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/03/2024, Blair Jackson, Page 15

The early cold and flu season is bringing tens of thousands of confirmed cases across the country. The latest NSW Health data shows almost 10,000 confirmed influenza cases so far this year, up about 60 per cent on this time last year; however, the agency says flu activity is low.

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

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Pharmacy key to boosting kids flu vaccination rates

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/03/2024

Community pharmacies need to be promoted as destinations where children aged five years and older can access flu shots, Professor Kristine Macartney, the director of the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS), says.

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Ross River virus: more than 1,500 cases recorded in Queensland as mosquito numbers spike

The Guardian, Other, 28/03/2024, Aston Brown

Holiday makers planning to head to the regions this Easter long weekend have been warned to cover

up to avoid mosquito bites as Ross River virus cases surge, with more than 1,500 cases recorded in Queensland alone. Nine per cent of mosquito traps in Queensland, most of which were located in the state's south-east, have tested positive for the virus, which causes swollen and painful joints, fever and rash.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

The smoking gun of future problems

My Weekly Preview, General News, 28/03/2024, Page 8

Experts warn that today's vaping menace among young Australians will lead to tomorrow's major health issues if left unchecked. Young Australians are being lured by big tobacco companies to take up vaping, doctors warn, as the federal government introduces new legislation with tough penalties to combat a growing national health crisis. Health Minister Mark Butler says the bill he brought to the house recently will stop the importation, manufacture, supply and commercial possession of disposable, single-use and non-therapeutic vapes.

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Beeswax; unexpected hero of new natural joint health and wellbeing solution

Canberra Times, Other, 27/03/2024

Fortunately, a pioneering new product called Abexol offers a natural, virtually side-effect-free solution derived from an unexpected source: beeswax. Abexol is Australia's only beeswax-alcohol-based product registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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Flu, RSV and COVID cases are set to rise soon, so when should you get vaccinated?

ABC Online, Other, 27/03/2024, Paige Cockburn

Cooler weather is on our doorstep and it's bringing some very unwanted house guests — their names are COVID, influenza and RSV. Some experts are predicting a particularly bad flu season and there's concern vaccine uptake will remain low and, in turn, hospitalisations will increase. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) last year approved a drug called Nirsevimab, which is a long-acting antibody that's been shown to reduce infections by about 75 per cent for up to five months.

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Insomniacs to test new CBD capsule as potential sleep remedy

9News, Other, 27/03/2024

A new pill based on a cannabis compound could be the key to a good night's sleep for chronic insomniacs. A clinical trial by Melbourne biotech company Avecho is recruiting Australians starved of shut-eye to test the bedtime capsule. [...] The company will then seek approval from the medicine's regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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Channel 7, Seven News, 27/03/2024, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

There is a surge in the nasty and potentially deadly virus RSV during winter. Interstate, preventative jabs are already being presented, however, there are no programmes currently in place to protect South Australian children. There was no vaccine then, but now the TGA is not only approved jabs for the elderly and pregnant women, there's also an injection for babies under 2yos.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 27/03/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

A new pill based on a cannabis compound could be a key to a good night's sleep. It comes as Australian biotech company Avecho is inviting Australians to be part of a clinical trial. Dr Paul Gavin, CEO, Avecho, says the new pill is not an oil and it is not medicinal cannabis. Gavin adds that before they seek approval from the medicines regulator, the TGA, the company will conduct one of its largest-ever clinical trials of a CBD medication in the treatment of episodic insomnia.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

'Working class drug': Push to end cannabis prohibition amid unfair laws

Newcastle Herald, Other, 27/03/2024, Damon Cronshaw

The push to will be examined in a new inquiry, with regional hearings to be held this year including in Newcastle. A NSW Upper House committee will examine cannabis regulation, including the effects of the laws in regional areas and disadvantaged communities.

[Read More](#)

Street drug use up

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/03/2024

In a stark warning from the University of South Australia, experts have observed a 75% increase in the detection of the synthetic stimulant pentylone, known as "bath salts", across the country. This rise is part of findings from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, which also identified 19 other novel psychoactive substances in wastewater samples throughout the country.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 27/03/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

A new pill based on a cannabis compound could be the key to a good night's sleep. Australian biotech Avecho now recruiting locals starved of shut-eye to be part of a clinical trial.

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

Parents warned of asbestos in oval debris dump

Age, General News, 28/03/2024, Adam Carey, Page 16

Asbestos is feared to have been found on a freshly redeveloped school oval in Melbourne's outer east after state railway corporation VicTrack used the site as a temporary car park. An oval on the site that is home to both Upwey High School and Upwey Primary was used as a construction site and spillover public car park for months last year while VicTrack built a multi-deck car park at nearby Belgrave station.

Prepared by Isentia

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