



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 6th April 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports psychologists say that decreasing mental health and increased isolation are among reasons for figures showing Victorian high school students missing almost 30 school days a year.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 1) reports that Li Cunxin AO has criticised the Queensland government's decision to focus on QSAC instead of building a "truly spectacular" long-term legacy for the Brisbane Games.
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 2) reports that COVID-19 lockdowns are having "long-term effects" on aged-care residents, according to submissions from industry groups and aged-care advocates to the federal government's COVID-19 inquiry.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 2) reports the \$465 million QEII Jubilee Hospital expansion will add 112 beds, newly-released plans show.
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 3) reports medical clinics are charging membership fees for patients seeking bulk-billed care in contravention of the Health Insurance Act and Department of Health and Aged Care guidelines.

- The [Northern Territory News](#) (page 3) reports Royal Darwin and Palmerston hospitals have issued their second 'code yellow' alert in eight days to manage extreme demand.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 7) reports peak health groups including the Cancer Council have called for stiffer penalties on vape sellers and suppliers.

MINISTER BUTLER

We need to discuss national priorities in Commonwealth-State health reform

Croakey, Other, 05/04/2024, Stephen Duckett

The prospects for significant health reform looked good at the end of 2023. A mid-term review of the main Commonwealth-state agreement – the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) – had recommended that the focus of a new agreement, due mid-2025, should be broader than public hospital funding. [...] But what big picture reforms should we be looking for? Commonwealth Health Minister Mark Butler has nominated mental healthcare and primary care as his two priorities, and these seem logical places to start.

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Movers & shakers

The Mandarin, Other, 05/04/2024

[...] The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has welcomed the appointment of Professor Christine Kilpatrick as board chair for a five-year term. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler confirmed Kilpatrick's appointment as Chair, effective 1 April 2024, and a number of other board members, including...

Also reported by: [Hospital and Healthcare \(Online\)](#).

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Radio National, Breakfast, 05/04/2024, Sally Sara

Interview with Victorian Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas. [...] But, Sally, the most important thing is to see our primary care system fixed, because the pressure that our hospitals are under is as a consequence of the failures of our primary health system. Now, I want to give Federal Minister Mark Butler his due. He has a strengthening Medicare package that he is looking to, uh, implement. But we had almost a decade of neglect.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 05/04/2024, Rick Hind

Interview with Charles Darwin University Vice-Chancellor Scott Bowman. [...] Did you get into the ear of the federal health minister, Mark Butler, when he was in Darwin for cabinet just a couple of weeks ago? – No, I didn't get to see him. We couldn't align the diaries, but I am speaking to him, I think, next week.

[Play Now](#)

Triple M Central Coast, Breakfast, 05/04/2024, Paddy Gerrard and Maz Compton

Canberra is open to the idea of more urgent care clinics opening in NSW, hopefully here on the coast. We already have 14 running seven days a week, including two in Umina and Lake Haven offering bulk-billed walk-in care. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he's open to the idea of a further expansion before the year is out. [audio: Minister Butler]

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MINISTER WELLS

Date shift for new Aged Care Act

Local Government Focus, General News, 05/04/2024, Page 8

The peak body for aged and community care providers in Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide continued input into the creation of the new Aged Care Act after confirmation the commencement date has been changed. The new Aged Care Act was slated to come into effect from 1 July 2024. However, the Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells announced on 3 April the Government was considering the extensive feedback provided by the sector and the community, in order to refine and finalise the draft legislation before it is introduced to Parliament.

Also reported by: [Cairns Local News \(Cairns\)](#).

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Aged Care Act delayed — who will be impacted?

Aged Care Guide, Other, 05/04/2024, David McManus

Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells confirmed that the scheduled delivery of Australia's new Aged Care Act will be 'updated' to reflect feedback from the public upon the delivery of the legislation exposure draft. "We heard strong feedback that the proposed new Aged Care Act is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for systemic reform that we must get right," Wells said.

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Aged care act reforms potentially delayed, gov't vows to "get it right"

Healthcare Channel, Other, 05/04/2024, Ritchelle Drilon

Reports suggest a delay in the implementation of the highly anticipated new Aged Care Act, a pivotal piece of legislation aimed at transforming the aged care sector. While the initial commencement date was set for 1 July 2024, the government has acknowledged the need for further consultation and refinement to ensure the legislation meets the needs and expectations of all stakeholders. Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells emphasised the importance of getting the new Act right, stating, "We heard strong feedback that the proposed new Aged Care Act is a once in a generation opportunity for systemic reform that we must get right."

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Wealthy Australians called on to pay more for their aged care

Local Ipswich News, General News, 04/04/2024, Page 17

Richer Australians could soon pay more for their aged care in order to relieve budget pressure and allow the government to support those with limited means. Wealthier Australians are being urged to pay more for aged care so the government can help older people with lesser means access residential and in-home services. [...] The task force, chaired by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, made 23 recommendations which are being considered by the government.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

DEPARTMENT

Patients sluggish for bulk billing

Weekend Australian, General News, 06/04/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

Patients are being charged upfront "membership fees" of up to \$170 to access bulk-billing medical clinics as the primary care crisis deepens, increasing the cost burden of seeing a doctor on those who can least afford it. [...] "An annual administration or registration fee is not permitted to guarantee bulk-billed services to patients," a federal health department fact sheet says.

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

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Funds granting sporting equality

Local Government Focus, General News, 05/04/2024, Page 8

Applications for the Federal Government's \$200 million Play Our Way program are now open, supporting local governments and community, not-for-profit and sporting organisations to deliver projects that make sport more welcoming and equitable for women and girls. [...] Play Our Way grant applications will be assessed through an impartial and transparent process led by the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Australian women continue to pay more for basic healthcare – it's time to stop Medicare's gender bias

The Guardian, Other, 05/04/2024, Nisha Khot

Women have always known that we pay a "pink tax" on many products and services, from haircuts to clothing and accessories. The fact that we also pay a pink tax for healthcare services is less recognised or discussed. [...] The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists made a submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care highlighting several MBS items as having a distinctly gendered bias.

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A policy maker, a GP and a pharmacist walk into a bar

The Medical Republic, Other, 05/04/2024, Jeremy Knibbs

A surprising amount of collegiality emerges between key stakeholders in the scope of practice debate when you sit them together to chat. With legislation introduced last week into federal parliament to expand the scope of practice of nurse practitioners, the Medical Software Industry of Australia ran a timely panel on the topic featuring a prominent GP, policy maker and pharmacist. [...] Enter the policy (bridge) maker, Daniel McCabe, first assistant secretary of Medicare and digital health at the Department of Health and Aged Care, whose job it is to navigate an increasingly distressed workforce problem via some sort of meaningful truce between what are traditionally warring tribes.

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CORONAVIRUS

Lockdown 'crippled aged-care sectors'

Weekend Australian, General News, 06/04/2024, Jess Malcolm, Page 2

Older persons' advocates and the residential aged-care sector have blasted state and commonwealth government handling of the Covid pandemic, saying the tough and protracted lockdowns had crippling and long-lasting effects on the elderly. In submissions to the Albanese government's Covid-19 inquiry,

Older Person's Advocacy Network and Council on the Ageing said state-sanctioned lockdowns caused older people deep distress, with the policy continuing to have long-term impacts on people in aged care.

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

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Keep borders open in next pandemic: Woolies

AFR Weekend, General News, 06/04/2024, Tom McLroy, Page 4

State and federal governments must facilitate consistent freight movement in future national emergencies, supermarket giant Woolworths has told the COVID-19 inquiry, venting frustration that border closures blocked critical supply chains during the ...

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

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How to prepare for the next pandemic

Canberra Times, General News, 06/04/2024, Ian Ring, Page 35

What might we expect from the COVID inquiry? By most measures, Australia fared relatively well with COVID. However, it is likely that more deaths could have been averted with better preparation in the early stages.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Federal Government supports aged care workers

Coast Community News, Other, 05/04/2024

Federal Member for Dobell Emma McBride has praised her government's record on its unprecedented support for aged care workers. McBride, who is Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health and Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, said since coming to office the Albanese Government had shown it valued aged care workers.

[Read More](#)

How an Illawarra aged care provider harnesses AI to keep people safe

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 05/04/2024, Natalie Croxon

Each day in NSW over 100 older people are admitted to hospital because of a fall, but an Illawarra aged care provider is working to prevent this using the power of artificial intelligence. IRT has developed an AI falls predictor system, which uses data about clients - such as medications, sleeping habits, their health and their physical environment - to assess their risk of a fall.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 05/04/2024, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

It's one of the toughest decisions you'll ever have to make: moving a loved one into aged care. Tonight, we reveal the expert advice to avoid the common traps that can cost you hundreds of thousands of dollars.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Difference in genes an adult obesity risk

Scientists have discovered rare gene differences that can cause a sixfold increase in risk of obesity. The study identified variants in two genes that have some of the biggest impacts on obesity discovered to date.

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

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Illegal vapes sold like 'lollies'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/04/2024, Eleanor Campbell, Page 7

Retailers are still taking advantage of a loophole to boost illicit vape sales despite a crackdown on vaping, a state health inquiry has been told. Peak health groups and experts have urged the state government to toughen up penalties on vaping suppliers and sellers to help curb rising rates of nicotine addiction.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Get serious about vaping for 11-year-old Lola

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 06/04/2024, Dr Sandro Demaio, Page 14

I've witnessed the damaging impact of vaping on the youngest members of our community while travelling through regional Victoria this year. Just recently, I sat down with Lola, an 11-year-old, who shared her observation of vaping's presence in shops, on social media, and among her peers.

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

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GP defends prescribing vapes for \$40 based on an online questionnaire

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/04/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

A GP offering \$40 email consultations to prescribe nicotine vapes has defended her telehealth website, arguing that the alternative is more deaths from smoking. Melbourne GP Dr Carolyn Beaumont 'sees' about 15 patients a day through her MedicalNicotine website.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 05/04/2024, Michael Usher and Angela Cox

A state parliamentary inquiry into vaping has been told the nation is on the brink of a full-blown health crisis among young people. Experts say the vaping industry is doing all it can to addict children to nicotine and current laws just aren't tough enough.

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New AI tool spotting heart attack signs

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 06/04/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 4

A Wollongong heart clinic has become the first in Australia to start using a revolutionary new AI tool to predict which patients are at higher risk of a heart attack. For Illawarra patients, clinicians say that means earlier detection of heart disease and more targeted treatment, especially for those who have limited symptoms.

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Refugee kids flourish with targeted health diagnoses

Canberra Times, Other, 05/04/2024, Farid Farid

Imam Hossain spent years in hiding as a political activist in Bangladesh but one of his biggest worries nowadays is affording medication for his son Ibrar's ADHD condition. Mr Hossain sought asylum in Australia in 2019 with his young family, and for eight-year-old Ibrar it has been a tough adjustment period. [...] An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report in November found that about nine in 10 refugees had a GP consultation in 2021, with almost all the sessions bulk-billed.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Grim forecast for prostate cancer cases

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 06/04/2024, Page 37

Prostate cancer cases are expected to double worldwide between 2020 and 2040, new analysis suggests. The data suggests annual prostate cancer cases are projected to rise from 1.4 million in 2020 to 2.9 million in 2040.

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

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A centre to change lives

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 06/04/2024, Christine Schindler, Page 1

When Susan Neighbour found out she had stage 3 breast cancer mid-last year, she turned from her profession as a nurse and had to become the patient. "At the beginning of your journey, I think you're all in shock, so you read what you need to read to get through the days," she said. In late December 2023, suffering from neuropathy after four operations, rounds of chemotherapy and radium therapy, a friend suggested she reach out to Hope Horizons, a cancer wellness centre, for support.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospital's \$465m plan adds 112 beds

Courier Mail, General News, 06/04/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 2

The first look at what Brisbane southside residents can expect from the \$465m expansion on the QEII Jubilee Hospital has been unveiled. The artist's impressions show a new five-level building. The state-of-the-art project, which is due to begin within months, will increase the hospital's capacity by 112 beds and add a bigger intensive care unit and more operating theatres.

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Ambos get reinforced

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/04/2024, Page 29

Almost 150 new trainee paramedics and emergency call takers have been welcomed into the NSW Ambulance ranks. The 133 graduate paramedics and 16 trainee emergency medical call takers were inducted at a ceremony at Sydney Olympic Park on Friday.

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Disease left my doctors baffled

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/04/2024, Madeleine Achenza, Page 34

After months of lost appetite and chronic pain, a 29-year-old woman was diagnosed with a rare disease that her medical team had never heard of. Ruby Munsie suffers from a condition that affects less than 0.3 per cent of the world's population.

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Hospitals' code yellow

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/04/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 3

The Royal Darwin and Palmerston hospitals have again been plunged into a code yellow signifying an internal emergency. It is the second time in eight days the drastic step has been taken and, according to CLP health spokesman Bill Yan, the eighth in approximately 12 months.

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Primary Health Network chief departs

Central Western Daily, General News, 06/04/2024, Grace Dudley, Page 3

The chief executive officer of the region's Primary Health Network has had his time in the position "concluded". Andrew Coe, the former CEO of the West NSW Primary Health Network, ceased leadership responsibilities as of last week after three years in the role.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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Healthy development

Daily Advertiser, General News, 06/04/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf, Page 1

Hundreds of multiple sclerosis patients are set to benefit from in-person treatment as the Murrumbidgee Local Health District welcomes a new neurologist in a state-first arrangement. Dr Christina Nitz, pictured with Dr Jennifer Massey and Professor Martin Jude, will deliver specialised care to Wagga patients after a deal was struck between the MLHD and St Vincents Hospital in Sydney.

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

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Radios silenced

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 06/04/2024, Jessica Howard, Page 1

Paramedics were unable to access their communication system for 12 hours after a Warrnambool man deliberately interfered with their radio network. It was the longest dispatch outage that has occurred, with Ambulance Victoria (AV) staff having to use their mobile phones due to the absence of the usual dispatch frequency.

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Health service named one of state's best

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 06/04/2024, Anthony Brady, Page 2

Recognition at a state level will help recruit and retain staff, according to Terang Mortlake Health Service's (TMHS) CEO Julia Ogdin. Terang Mortlake has been named as one of Victoria's top-five best performing health services.

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Hospital helipad left idle

Weekend Post, General News, 06/04/2024, Catherine Duffy, Page 3

Regional Queensland one-man ambulance stations are bearing the brunt of emergency transport since the Innisfail Hospital helipad closed two years ago, staff say. The helipad stopped operations in 2022 after a woman was knocked over by the down draught of a helicopter during a patient transfer.

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Online ads promote 'simple' access to super to pay for healthcare, despite strict rules

The Guardian, Other, 06/04/2024, Melissa Davey

Advertisements offering patients "simple" access to their superannuation to pay for medical treatments have been described by the peak consumer health body as a "worrying trend" amid the cost-of-living crisis. The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) approved 37,400 individuals to access their superannuation early on compassionate medical grounds in 2022-23, releasing a total of \$730m.

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Central Queenslanders caught up in state's elective surgery crisis

Alarming details about Central Queenslanders caught up in the state's elective surgery crisis have come to light as the state's peak medical body enters crisis talks with surgeons. Speaking in Rockhampton on Friday, LNP Opposition Leader David Crisafulli said the Australian Medical Association Queensland had exposed just how bad surgery waiting lists had blown out.

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Sunshine Coast Health and Hospital Service launches Queensland's first publicly funded home births

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 05/04/2024, Madeline Grace

The Sunshine Coast will provide Queensland's first publicly funded home birth program, giving women the opportunity to have babies in their own homes safely with the support of a medical team. A team of obstetricians, midwives, medical staff and maternity patients is preparing for the start of the new publicly funded homebirth service on the Sunshine Coast.

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AMA WA accused of leadership failures as its vice president quits over stoush with Federal AMA

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/04/2024, Paul Smith and Rachel Carter

AMA WA vice-president Dr Simon Torvaldsen has quit the board saying he is frustrated by the "glacial" actions of the state organisation to settle its ongoing dispute with the federal AMA. A month ago, the federal AMA sent an email telling 5000 WA members that they had been expelled from the national organisation and were no longer represented by it.

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Doctors have lost the battle over pharmacist prescribing and diagnosing, says top GP

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/04/2024, Sarah Simpkins

High-profile GP Dr Bruce Willett has warned that governments seem set on allowing pharmacists and nurse practitioners to "virtually operate as GPs in the very near future". "I don't think the majority of our GPs and people working in the health industry do have a clear sense of how likely this is," the former RACGP vice-president tells 6minutes.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 05/04/2024, Samantha Heathwood

Top doctors are tonight on the verge of crisis talks to deal with the thousands of Queenslanders still waiting for elective surgery. The state's peak medical group is calling for an urgent action plan to fix ballooning wait lists.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 05/04/2024, Loretta Ryan and Joel Spreadborough

Patients in regional and rural Queensland are facing alarming wait times for elective surgery. In response, the Australian Medical Association Queensland has launched its first surgical wait list roundtable. So what is that all about? Dr Maria Bolton, GP and president of AMAQ, good morning to you.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 05/04/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

An IT outage has caused chaos at a Queensland hospital after Ipswich Hospital was placed under what's called a code yellow, which saw patients diverted. The incident came just hours after it was revealed the hospital is facing the worst ambulance ramping in the state. Tech issues disrupted the ability to upload images from a CT scanner, sparking that code yellow. The issue has since been resolved.

2CC, Breakfast, 05/04/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Australia's pathology sector is under significant cost pressure, threatening the viability of collection centres in regional and remote areas. The report 'Protecting Pathology Services and Jobs' from the independent Pragmatic Policy Group reveals the sector is grappling with an immense cost burden as Medicare rebates for pathology have been frozen for 24 years. Paul Anderson is the CEO of Healius and joins us now.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 05/04/2024, Dave O'Neil

The problem with e-scooters, there's been injuries, and right now it's time to talk to Dr Sarah Whitelaw, emergency medicine representative of the Australian Medical Association. Good morning, Dr Sarah Whitelaw.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Parents are best-placed to nurture troubled kids ... not drugs or therapy

Weekend Australian, General News, 06/04/2024, Virginia Tapscott, Page 24

At a busy playground on any given day there is likely to be a parent explaining a child's behaviour with a diagnosis. Oppositional Defiance Disorder, Anxiety, Sensory Processing Disorder, Autism or ADHD, to name just a few. Following a child's tantrum or a noticeable behaviour, even just a certain disposition, a parent can be heard earnestly explaining the medical condition causing it and the drugs or therapy required to treat it.

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

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My grieving is not a disease

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/04/2024, Sue Dunlevy, Page 26

When Jaymee Williams was struggling to cope with the shock early death of her mother she was prescribed antidepressants instead of being offered grief counselling. The 30-year-old is one of many women who support group Motherless Daughters Australia (MDA) claim are having their natural grief "pathologised" as a mental illness.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Students go AWOL

Herald Sun, General News, 06/04/2024, Suzan Delibasic, Page 1

The average Victorian secondary student will skip nearly a year's worth of high school, with experts blaming a decrease in mental health and feelings of isolation among teenagers. A Saturday Herald Sun analysis of Department of Education figures shows an average high school student missed 163 days of class from years 7 to 12 the equivalent of more than three terms.

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Suicide risk men can't ignore

Herald Sun, General News, 06/04/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 17

Tendencies to suicide, particularly in young men, could be influenced by relationship breakdowns at higher levels than first thought, with a top youth mental health body now investigating the issue. While suicide is complex and typically not linked to a single event, Orygen researcher Michael Wilson said the role of breakups in suicide was "definitely" underestimated.

FOMO sleep health risk

Herald Sun, General News, 06/04/2024, Page 34

Intense and problematic social media use is linked to sleep difficulties in adolescents. A University of Queensland study highlighted a fear of missing out triggered by the constant availability of social media and notifications could lead to increased night-time awakenings to check and then difficulties falling back asleep.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Sex ed info not checked

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/04/2024, Lauren Novak, Page 21

The head of the Education Department has revealed staff at a Riverland school did not check the content of a sex education presentation before it was delivered to a group of year 9 girls without a teacher present. The hour-long session at Renmark High School, on March 22, was run by an outside speaker engaged by Headspace Berri, with students saying they were exposed to the concepts of incest and bestiality.

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Police-killings pattern: coroner

Canberra Times, General News, 06/04/2024, Kat Wong and Belad Al-Karkhey, Page 24

Instead of guiding Todd McKenzie through his mental health crisis, police launched a flawed operation that aggravated the situation and led to a fatal confrontation. But Mr McKenzie is not the only person with mental health needs to be killed by police and a coroner says law enforcement must re-examine its approach.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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Exercise can be more effective than antidepressants

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/04/2024, Holly Berckelman, Page 35

The mental benefits of exercise have been drilled into our heads for years, but it turns out those suggestions do have science's tick of approval. A new study, which reviewed more than 200 randomised trials, analysing over 14,000 people with clinical depression, found that exercise has a considerable impact on the treatment of depression.

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

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Mental health has never been as sexy as diabetes: Dr Saker

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 06/04/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 4

A Newcastle psychiatrist says following the money will highlight issues behind Hunter New England's shocking suicide statistics. Dr Stuart Saker said mental health inquiries often led to calls for more government money. But he says this money doesn't always end up where it's most needed.

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New role for chair

Local Government Focus, General News, 05/04/2024, Page 8

Beyond Blue has welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement that Sam Mostyn AO, the chair of Beyond Blue, will be Australia's next governor-general. Ms Mostyn is a prominent thought leader and advocate for mental health, equality, sustainability, and corporate governance across business, sport, climate change, the arts, policy and not-for-profit sectors.

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How young Aussies are being urged to break-up with 'toxic, gaslighting, narcissistic' parents

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/04/2024, Mandy Squires

Young adults are being urged to identify "toxic", "narcissistic" or "gaslighting" behaviours in their parents by social media therapists and influencers, who also encourage them to "set firm boundaries" with their mums and dads, or break up with them for good. Instagram and TikTok is awash with advice from therapist influencers and life coaches listing what they says are abusive behaviours to watch out for in parents — but a leading Victorian clinical psychologist has warned about advising kids to sever ties with their families.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Jobs plan delivers

Courier Mail, General News, 06/04/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 23

The government's plan to recruit more midwives to service the new and safer patient ratios will aim to ensure there is no drain from regional hospitals to the city. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman introduced midwifery ratio legislation at the end of last year that mandates one midwife to every six patients including babies.

Also reported by: [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Healthy development as international nurses touch down

Border Mail, General News, 06/04/2024, Madilyn McKinley, Page 7

A change of climate, increased pay and a love for healthcare are just some of the reasons a nurse from England has decided to bring her skills to the Border. Four international nurses have joined Albury Wodonga Health, from England and New Zealand, as part of a program enhancing patient care and bringing diverse knowhow to the region.

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SA nurses and midwives petition for rural and remote incentives

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 05/04/2024, Natalie Dragon

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) South Australian Branch has launched a public petition calling for urgent rural and remote incentives for nurses and midwives to address the staff shortage that is putting regional country hospital services under threat of closure. The SA government reached an agreement with the ANMF SA Branch in 2022 to address the shortage of regional nurses and midwives by improving relocation allowances, increasing assistance with removal costs, and offering greater support with HECS-HELP repayment options, these changes have yet to be implemented.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Gambling doc in bills fraud

Herald Sun, General News, 06/04/2024, Imran Ali, Page 38

A doctor has been reprimanded and had his registration suspended for fleecing private health insurers of \$24,005 to pay his gambling debt. Alex Chu took home copies of patients' clinical records from his workplace at Jessie McPherson Hospital and used that information to bill insurers for services he had not provided over 10 months from January to October 2018.

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Union boss complaints dismissed

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 06/04/2024, Page 20

WA's nursing union boss says complaints against her alleging a shocking breach of patient trust have been dismissed. Australian Nursing Federation WA secretary Janet Reah was at the centre of complaints made to Federal regulator AHPRA alleging she shared sensitive X-rays and medical records on a social media page called "ILikeToFart" while working in a hospital.

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

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Standing with the victims

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 06/04/2024, Mark Murray, Page 12

A woman who alleged in court she was sexually assaulted by a now-jailed Geelong doctor, only for her case to be dismissed during a five-day trial, has spoken out for the first time about her traumatic experience. [...] Chirawu, who was employed at the Ryrie St Geelong City Medical Clinic, has been suspended by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, meaning he is barred from practising medicine in Australia.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Top cardiologist denies sexually harassing woman he allegedly bombarded with thousands of texts

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/04/2024, Carmel Sparke

Professor Chris Semsarian has been stood down from his role at the Centenary Institute in Sydney following allegations of sexual harassment by a young female employee. Jennifer de Jongh, 28, has accused the prominent cardiologist of sexually harassing her through thousands of texts, uninvited visits and unwanted touching.

[Read More](#)

'How much and when do u need it by?'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 05/04/2024, Megan Haggan

The Pharmacy Board of Australia has issued a statement about a South Australian pharmacist after he

faced the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal over his conduct at two Adelaide pharmacies. The tribunal heard allegations ...

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Dopey idea, but backers insist it's Games on.

Weekend Australian, General News, 06/04/2024, Greg Bearup, Page 3

As athletes from around the world are preparing to fly to Paris for the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad, a team of venture capitalists in London, backed by some of the world's richest people, is preparing to spark a torch beneath the Olympics. Billionaire tech investor Christian Angermayer tells The Weekend Australian that some of those Paris-bound Olympians have been in serious talks about joining the Enhanced Games.

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Faster, higher, stranger

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 06/04/2024, Greg Bearup, Page 10

James Magnussen wanders down to the North Bondi cafe with a towel slung over one of his enormous shoulders. He's an impressive specimen – two metres tall, 104kg and ripped. Two women chatting at a table outside fall silent to ogle.

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

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A matter of perspective

The Saturday Paper, Sport, 06/04/2024, Martin McKenzie-Murray, Page 31

While Andrew Wilkie's recent speech to parliament suggests the AFL employs secretive and sinister policies to cover up drug use among players, the public outrage is overblown.

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

Drug test policy cries out for a fix

Weekend Australian, Sport, 06/04/2024, Julian Linden, Page 41

Former federal sports minister Richard Colbeck has slammed the AFL's illicit drugs policy, adding his voice to the growing chorus of officials calling for a full and independent investigation into the sport's secretive drug-testing operations. In a hard-hitting column that will resonate with the sport's disillusioned fan base after the shocking details of the alleged cover-up were exposed last month, the Liberal senator from Tasmania says the AFL's policy is no longer fit for purpose because it goes against the principles of fair and clean sport.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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AFL's illicit drug policy is not fit for purpose

Herald Sun, General News, 06/04/2024, Richard Colbeck, Page 63

The afl has a big problem. The act of deliberately avoiding a drug test is a breach of the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) Code - it must be. Therefore, the act of giving a test to determine the presence of drugs to avoid game day testing and the risk of testing positive must be a breach of the WADA Code - it is an act of avoidance, a deliberate one.

Cops drop charges against controversial biochemist

Herald Sun, General News, 06/04/2024, Mark Buttler and Miles Proust, Page 11

Police have dropped drug trafficking charges against Essendon supplements scandal figure Shane Charter. Charter hit out after the withdrawal of all but three of 78 charges laid against him after a high-profile 2022 raid of his Fitzroy clinic by organised crime detectives.

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Minns blows whistle on Accor dream

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/04/2024, Michael Koziol, Page 16

Premier Chris Minns has all but killed off the prospect of installing a roof on Sydney's 83,000-seat Accor Stadium in Olympic Park, dismissing it as a "nice-to-have, not a need-to-have" at a time when the budget is stretched. The premier's resistance to a roof is in stark contrast to advocacy from stadium body Venues NSW, which is finalising a business case for the \$300 million-plus project.

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

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Show some Games vision

Courier Mail, General News, 06/04/2024, Kylie Lang, Page 1

A leading cultural figure has declared it is "inexcusable" for politicians to have a "small vision" for Queensland's 2032 Games, urging them to build something "truly spectacular". Li Cunxin AO, who as artistic director of Queensland Ballet sat on an influential committee that backed Brisbane's bid, said the state must "avoid white elephants" and instead embrace a long-term, legacy vision.

Editorial: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#)

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Protecting the Olympic brand out-pointed a legacy stadium for Brisbane, says Graham Quirk

ABC Online, Other, 05/04/2024, Jessica-Van

John Coates and Graham Quirk have very different ideas on sporting venues for the 2032 Brisbane Games, but they seem to agree the ongoing debate has been "damaging". Mr Quirk, former lord mayor of Brisbane, has revealed a conversation he had with veteran International Olympic Committee member John Coates during his review into Olympic and Paralympic venues.

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Uni to study benefits of sports events to community

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/04/2024, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 10

Flinders University is partnering with the SANFL to investigate the long-term social and cultural benefit and lasting legacy events such as Gather Round brings to South Australia, in a new three-year study. It will also help identify sporting infrastructure needs across regional SA.

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Clubs spoil for fair rub of the home turf

Newcastle Herald, General News, 06/04/2024, Simon McCarthy, Page 35

A proposed \$30-million basketball stadium planned to transform two of Newcastle's suburban sporting fields into an eventual 12-court indoor precinct has raised concerns among local sports codes about the availability of green spaces in the city as community sports experience a boom in the post-COVID years.

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Emotional rescue for the pain

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/04/2024, Sarah Berry, Page 40

Though the number of Australians suffering from pain is rising, there are still no effective treatments available. However, according to the authors of a study published this week, a new approach could transform a person's experience of pain.

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

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Researcher shows how to walk the talk

Newcastle Herald, General News, 06/04/2024, Jessica Belzycki, Page 34

University of Newcastle's Rachel Sutherland is putting research into action, and the world is watching. Dr Sutherland, who has completed her PhD on effective school-based physical activity programs, has been recognised in the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) 15th edition of its '10 of the best' publication.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

The phone call that changed Aaron's life is a lesson for the nation

ABC Online, Other, 05/04/2024, Bridget Brennan

As office workers and school kids stepped onto his morning train in Perth's outer south-western suburbs, Aaron Taylor would stare out the window, wondering what might have been. "I used to cry on the train on the way to court looking at all the people dressed in suits going to work," he says. Two decades into a drug addiction that had stolen his youth and many of his relationships, the Wadjuk/Balardong Noongar man made his way to court, lamenting the decision to give up on high school in his teens.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Alert on whooping cough outbreak

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/04/2024, Page 3

We are facing a whooping cough outbreak. Some 2799 cases were recorded in the first three months of 2024. Cases are highest in NSW and Queensland, with more than 1000 recorded in each state.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Dangerous ground

The Saturday Age, General News, 06/04/2024, Rachael Dexter, Page 1

Asbestos has been discovered at three more parks in the Hobsons Bay council area as the industry warns the regulations enforcing safe disposal of the cancer-causing material are not being prosecuted. Late yesterday, the Hobsons Bay Council confirmed three other parks had been contaminated with asbestos after it was first found at a Spotswood park over Easter.

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Measles warning after second case in two weeks

A second case of measles has been reported in quick succession with South Australian health authorities warning at-risk individuals to be on alert amid a potential wider outbreak. A 17-year-old boy from Adelaide is in a stable condition in hospital after being exposed to an infected infant who became ill after returning from overseas.

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

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What you need to know about the new range of flu vaccines this year

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/04/2024, Allen Cheng

Influenza is a common respiratory infection. Although most cases are relatively mild, flu can cause more severe illness in young children and older people. Influenza virtually disappeared from Australia during the first years of the COVID-19 pandemic when public health restrictions reduced contact between people.

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

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This is the best time of year to get your flu shot

The Courier Mail, Other, 05/04/2024, Shona Hendley

While it can be common to hear people brush off the flu (otherwise known as the Influenza virus) as a minor illness, the reality can be much different. "The flu can be deadly," says Acting Chief Health Officer, Dr David Lister.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Ross River fever: Mosquito-borne virus causes spike in disease numbers

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 05/04/2024, Cameron Bates

There has been a spike in the number of cases of Ross River fever spread by North Queensland's bush mosquito population. There have been 133 cases of the disease, caused by the mosquito-borne Ross River virus, recorded in the Townsville Health and Hospital Service district so far this year.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 05/04/2024, Paul Gough

Interview with Immunisation Coalition chair Dr Rod Pearce regarding the increasing incidence of whooping cough.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

TGA urges caution over unsolicited compounding offers

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 05/04/2024, Emma Anastasi

Prescribers are being warned by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) not to be "duped" by advertising campaigns promoting compounding services. Following a raid on the residence of an individual suspected of being involved in the manufacture and sale of ...

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CKD drug listed

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/04/2024

Jardiance (empagliflozin) is now listed on the PBS for Australian patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) with or without diabetes. The listing comes off the back of the recent new indication granted by the TGA (PD 23 Feb).

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 05/04/2024, Ursula Heger

A first-of-its-kind menopause drug is now available to women across Australia. The non-hormonal treatment has been developed to treat hot flushes and night sweats.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Epilepsy patient Khali Peek calls for exemptions for medicinal cannabis vapes in smoke-free areas

ABC Online, Other, 05/04/2024, Kenji Sato

When Khali Peek is overcome with a feeling of dread and her heart begins to race, she knows that an epileptic seizure is not far away. Ms Peek says she can "almost always" stop her seizure with a medicinal cannabis vape that her doctor prescribed her, but if she uses it at her TAFE she will be breaking the law.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Urgent recall for popular frozen meal

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/04/2024, Page 35

Popular frozen meals are being urgently recalled at supermarkets across Australia over a major error on the packaging. [...] Food Standards Australia issued the recall on Thursday over fears the packaging could melt as the meal is cooked.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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AICIS

Incinerator to table

The Saturday Paper, General News, 06/04/2024, Manuela Callari, Page 29

A planned waste incinerator has opened a new front on community resistance to green energy projects, as local farmers fear its toxins will poison the produce they sell.

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'They all asked, 'has PFAS done this to me?''

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/04/2024, Michael Evans, Page 28

For nearly 10 years, investigative reporter Carrie Fellner has been reporting on the unfolding

environmental and health crisis of the impacts of "forever chemicals" known as PFAS. From Williamtown near Newcastle in NSW to Minnesota in the US, regional military airports around Australia and the Indigenous community of Wreck Bay on the NSW South Coast, Fellner has pursued the story of contamination, cancer, coverup and corporate malfeasance.

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Silver lining in foam menace

Daily Telegraph, Business News, 06/04/2024, Tim Boreham, Page 67

There's something nasty in our water and soil that hangs around forever and can make us very ill. The better news is that two ASX-listed companies are up to the vast remediation task. Dubbed the "new asbestos", PFAS is the collective name for a group of man-made chemicals - per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances - used in industrial and applications, notably firefighting foam.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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