



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 8th April 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Australian heart institutes are pushing for weight-loss drugs such as Ozempic and Mounjaro to be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme once supply levels rise after a study found the drug reduced the risk of cardiovascular death, heart attack and stroke.
- **[The Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the Environment Protection Authority has ordered the Hobsons Bay City Council in Melbourne to conduct widespread testing of its parks after asbestos was discovered in the mulch of four reserves.
- The **[Daily Telegraph \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the NSW pill-testing pilot will begin today at the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) in Kings Cross, and will run for one day a week for four months.
- **[The Age \(page 2\)](#)** reports that a submission into a Senate inquiry has called for menopause treatments to be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, as 85 per cent of women who experience bothersome menopause symptoms do not receive evidence-based care.
- **[The ABC \(online\)](#)** reports that the WA police union suicide rate per 100,000 has more than doubled over ten years, from 6.5 in 2014 to 15.8 in 2023, surpassing the rate of the general

population.

- **The Guardian (online)** reports that some donor-conceived Queenslanders are pushing for access to the records of their biological fathers after it was found that a clinic received 325 donations from a single donor across five years.

MINISTER BUTLER

Dire shortfall in bone marrow donors

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 08/04/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 7

Tahlee Bearham knows what it's like to watch a loved one suffer from leukaemia. First the heartbreak, then a sliver of hope a matched bone marrow donor will be found. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has previously acknowledged Australia was falling behind and has promised to work with state and territory counterparts to enable more funding.

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

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How to manage now private health insurance costs are (seriously) rising

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 07/04/2024, Victoria Devine

Australia is undoubtedly the lucky country when it comes to our public health system, but for the 14.7 million Australians who do have private health insurance, you might have received a letter in the mail this month reminding you that, just like clockwork, your fees are going up by an average of 3.03 per cent. [...] But federal Health Minister Mark Butler rejected this, citing the current cost-of living crisis affecting millions of Australians as a major factor in reducing the increase.

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

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Laws to remove penalties for nicotine-containing vapes in ACT on cards

Canberra Times, Other, 07/04/2024, Lucy Bladen

The ACT's Population Health Minister is working on laws to remove penalties for the personal possession of single-use, nicotine-containing vapes. [...] The federal government has been cracking down on the importation and sale of non-prescription vapes Federal Health Minister Mark Butler introduced legislation in Federal Parliament last month banning the sale of single-use and non-therapeutic vapes.

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

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'Budget for \$500': The travel expense many Australians don't expect

SBS, Other, 07/04/2024, Charis Chang

Many travellers will book a flight to destinations such as Bali thinking it's just like visiting another part of Australia. They don't set aside time or money for one important step. [...] Without vaccination, an estimated one in three Australians would develop shingles in their lifetime, according to Health Minister Mark Butler.

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The Flogging of this dead horse is really getting silly!

Australian Health Information Technology, Other, 07/04/2024

The Australian government recommends the universal adoption of My Health Record by the aged care sector. [...] Earlier this year, Health Minister Mark Butler promised an overhaul as part of the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce.

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Delays in aged care reform, Urgent Care Clinics, health workforce inequities and private health insurance premiums

Croakey, Other, 07/04/2024, Melissa Sweet

The Government finally bowed to the inevitable on 3 April, when Aged Care Minister Anika Wells acknowledged that the new Aged Care Act would not take effect on 1 July this year. [...] Ministers and government Minister Mark Butler held a media conference on 4 April to announce that 250,000 patients had now attended Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs), and the number was growing by 10,000 a week.

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MINISTER WELLS

'I am concerned': Anne Ruston slams Labor and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells for delaying 'signature' Aged Care Act reforms

Sky News Australia, Other, 07/04/2024, Laurence Karacsony

Shadow health and aged care minister Anne Ruston has expressed her frustration at the Labor government for derailing the reforms to protect elderly residents in the aged care system. [...] According to The Australian, government sources have said Labor would try to amend the laws by the end of the year after Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the government needed to "update the commencement date" of the legislation.

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

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Sky News Live, Sunday Agenda, 07/04/2024, Andrew Clennell and Cheng Lei

Interview with Shadow Health and Aged Care Minister Anne Ruston. Clennell points out that the Government has promised that the overhaul of the Aged Care Act would be done by 1 June, but the Ministers have indicated that it won't be ready in time. Ruston admits that she's rather disappointed as they are not yet aware of when the changes will occur. Clennell says they have seen Aged Care Minister Anika Wells present that report on aged care which talked about the possibility of people contributing capital funds to their aged care.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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DEPARTMENT

The APS' most featured ministers

Canberra Times, General News, 08/04/2024, Miriam Webber and Justine Landis-Hanley, Page 12

If you're looking for a portrait of King Charles III on the walls of your public service office, you could be hard-pressed to find one. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has begun a process to rename its Woden office, after concerns were raised about its association with the First Fleet.

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Flu shots starting to take stock at local pharmacies

Wangaratta Chronicle, General News, 08/04/2024, Bailey Zimmermann, Page 7

Wangaratta and district residents are being reminded not to forget about their annual COVID vaccinations as flu vaccinations begin to roll out. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia urged all eligible Australians to get their flu shots early this year with an "alarming" number of flu cases reported across the country. [...] "The Federal Health Department think it's going to be a bad flu year."

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Submission highlights the success of 'first population-level vaccination rollout'

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 08/04/2024

The Department of Health and Aged Care has used its submission to the COVID-19 inquiry to explain the pandemic's longer-term impact on health decision-making and highlight the current over-supply of vaccine doses.

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'No one is coming to save us': The fight to make life better for autistic Australians

NEWS.com.au, Other, 07/04/2024, Eleanor Campbell

The federal government has unveiled a draft of its new national autism strategy as part of a bid to better support autistic Australians at every stage of their lives. [...] Life expectancy rates of autistic people in Australia are 20 years less than the general population and they are nine times more likely to die by suicide, according to the federal health department.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Sound Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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CORONAVIRUS

Fiscal long Covid is beginning to leave its mark across the ditch

The Australian, General News, 08/04/2024, Nick Cater, Page 11

When The Guardian goes into rhetorical overdrive, we can be confident the person, party or policy railed against will finish on the right side of history. In March 2020, The Guardian lectured Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven on his "Russian roulette-style" Covid-19 strategy.

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Why we must keep using the term 'long COVID'

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 08/04/2024

The first International Long COVID Awareness Day on 15 March prompted many of us to reflect on progress made in our understanding of this syndrome. It is almost four years since the condition known

as post-coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) condition or long COVID was first identified by consumers, and we are constantly discovering more about its symptoms and impact on daily life. However, progress in understanding and treatment remains frustratingly slow for patients and clinicians alike.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Father's problem prompts a sibling solution

The Australian, Business News, 08/04/2024, Giuseppe Tauriello, Page 16

Motivated by the challenges they faced when caring for their late father during the depths of Covid-19, Zachary Bailey and sister Fiona Symons emerged from the pandemic with a mission to transform the way aged care residents communicate with their loved ones. The result is CareWindow an iPad-sized video calling device they've developed specifically for aged care residents suffering with cognitive or mobility issues.

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Illawarra aged care provider use AI to help prevent falls

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 08/04/2024, Natalie Croxon, Page 8

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.

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Aged care services 'viable'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 08/04/2024, Andrew Thomson, Page 1

Local Government Warrnambool A NEW report has recommended Warrnambool City Council continues providing aged and disability services to up to 1400 people. [...] "The Commonwealth's aged care reform agenda, especially since the publication of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety Report 2021, mandates a shift towards more integrated, quality-focused service provision.

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Dementia on the rise in Australia

Your Life Choices, Other, 08/04/2024, Andrew Gigacz

The world's population is ageing. In 2018, for the first time , there were more people in the world aged over 64 than under five. And as the population ages, so too does the incidence of health issues that affect older people. For many, the age health issue that springs to mind first is dementia.

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POPULATION HEALTH

New approach to diagnosing heart disease hailed as potential 'game changer'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/04/2024

A clinical trial that saw high resolution scanning technology used to identify heart disease has been hailed as a potential game changer for cardiac treatment. A team at the University of Galway used CT-scan imagery to pinpoint coronary artery disease and blockages as an alternative to traditional angiographs – an invasive procedure that involves the puncturing of blood vessels, insertion of cables and use of dyes.

Support for managing osteoporosis

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 08/04/2024

About 2300 Australians die of osteoporosis each year, but it's hoped an updated management guide will help GPs with early diagnosis and bone health management. [...] Impact of osteoporosis People with osteoporosis or osteopenia had about double the rates of reporting poorer health, higher psychological distress and more severe bodily pain compared with people without the conditions after adjusting for age, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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Australia has the means to end HIV transmission

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 08/04/2024

Molecular epidemiology of HIV is indispensable for guiding evidence-based interventions, improving health outcomes, and ultimately working towards ending HIV transmission. New human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) diagnoses in Australia declined by 46% between 2013 and 2022 thanks to sustained community-led responses in combination with public health efforts in implementing prevention measures.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Australia leads the way with new style cancer protocols

Australian Financial Review, General News, 08/04/2024, Jill Margo, Page 11

A major international report on prostate cancer has warned the world to start preparing for a surge in cases as the global population ages and more middle-aged and older men enter the risk zone for the disease.

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Is eating a matter of courses?

Age, General News, 08/04/2024, Nikki Campo, Page 17

Food in order helps a particular group with health, writes Nikki Campo. It's a popular internet health hack: eat foods in the "right" order vegetables first, proteins and fats second, carbohydrates last and you'll significantly reduce your resulting spike in blood sugar, which can reduce cravings, fatigue and health risks like type 2 diabetes, proponents say.

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

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Prostate cancer to soar

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 08/04/2024, Page 19

The number of new prostate cancer cases globally will more than double in the next two decades as poorer countries catch up with the ageing of richer nations, according to a Lancet report. "Our findings suggest that the number of new cases annually will rise from 1.4 million in 2020 to 2.9 million by 2040," said the medical journal, based on a study of demographic changes.

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

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Sydney woman Ruby Munsie is diagnosed with super rare disease that not even her doctors had heard of - these were her troubling symptoms

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/04/2024, Madeleine Achenza

After months of lost appetite and chronic pain, a 29-year-old woman was diagnosed with a rare disease that even 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. Superior Mesenteric Artery Syndrome (SMAS) occurs when the small intestine is compressed between two arteries causing a partial blockage - making it incredibly painful to eat.

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Young Aussie diagnosed with cancer twice before 30: 'Testicular cancer ended up saving my life'

7news.com.au, Other, 07/04/2024, Olivia Scott

'It changes the way you look at adversity.' From the outside, 32-year-old Adelaide man Hugo Toovey appears to be a typical everyday young Australian. However, the past 10 years of his life have been anything but normal. Hugo is a two-time cancer survivor — and the founder of what he calls a "global youth movement", known as 25stayalive.

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PRIMARY CARE

Healthscope calls in McGrathNicol in \$1.6b debt deal

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 08/04/2024, Aaron Weinman, Page 20

Healthscope's lenders have appointed McGrathNicol to help restructure about \$1.6 billion in debt they refinanced for the hospital operator a year ago.

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

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Welfare role for stadium project

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/04/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 3

An experienced Australian welfare advocate has been chosen to lead the social and community arm of the proposed Mac Point 2.0 stadium project, with responsibilities for affordable housing, Indigenous reconciliation, and sustainability at the entertainment hub. Resolutions Won's new chief executive Drew Beswick said the stadium would also honour Tasmania's veteran community by integrating an RSL museum and visitor experience into the development.

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Healthy development

Border Mail, General News, 08/04/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

A NSW investigation into health funding could be coming to Albury. Upper House Greens MP and former Albury deputy mayor Amanda Cohn wants the Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding to sit on the Border, so that issues peculiar to the region can be canvassed before it.

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Hospital chief is grilled by residents

Border Mail, General News, 08/04/2024, Ted Howes, Page 5

More than 300 people flocked to Albury hospital's new emergency department on Saturday morning when it was opened up for public scrutiny. Albury Wodonga Health chief executive Bill Appleby, who led several tours, was grilled by patients who had experienced the old ED, and by people curious to see how part of the \$558 million joint funding to redevelop the hospital was being spent.

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Clinic reducing wait times

Cairns Post, General News, 08/04/2024, Catherine Duffy, Page 2

In less than four months, a new urgent care clinic has diverted more than 2000 patients from the Cairns Hospital emergency department. Cairns South Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, which opened in

Edmonton in December last year, has already diverted 2100 patients from long wait times at the Cairns emergency department, providing much needed relief to the region's health sector.

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Free health care for everyone is possible

Shepparton News, General News, 08/04/2024, Robert McLean, Page 6

A misfiring heart allowed me to personally and directly compare experiences between Shepparton's GV Health and what benefits patients enjoy in Melbourne's hospitals. Yes, chest pains and clammy skin saw me trundled off to GV Health by ambulance a few weeks ago and then, a few days later, to Sunshine Hospital, a part of Melbourne's Western Health.

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Cost of ramping 161,000 hours

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 08/04/2024, Stephanie Bennett, Page 7

Paramedics lost more than 161,000 hours waiting to transfer patients into overflowing Queensland hospitals last year, taking 44 ambulance crews out of action every day. The shock findings can be revealed days after Health Minister Shannon Fentiman faced criticism for not handing over the state's total lost ambulance data and instead would only provide an average time saying the total could be calculated using "simple grade five math".

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Shocking euthanasia decision

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 08/04/2024, Page 12

A physically healthy woman has decided to get euthanised after suffering from crippling depression. Zoraya ter Beek, 28, from Twente, a region in the east of the Netherlands, is scheduled to die in May after being told her condition will "never get better". Ms Ter Beek once aspired to become a psychiatrist but couldn't finish her studies because she was struggling with depression and autism, reported The Sun.

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Dozens of people were conceived from the same Queensland sperm donor. Now two half-sisters hope to unravel their 'family' secret

The Guardian, Other, 07/04/2024, Andrew Messenger

Alexandra Eccles and Lyndal Bubke were conceived from Donor 59'. But the information available to them is scant and they want that to change Every six months or so, Alexandra Eccles discovers a new half-sibling. The Ancestry.com family tree icon pings as another person is drawn into the knowledge that half of their life is a lie. After more than two decades, Eccles believes she has 32 siblings and counting.

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GPs urged to consider the benefits of generative AI

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 08/04/2024

Now is the time for "futurists" to start dreaming and for general practice to engage with generative AI. It is no secret that Australia is facing a growing shortage of general practitioners (GPs), particularly in rural and remote communities and in underserved outer metropolitan populations.

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4BC, Weekend Breakfast, 07/04/2024, Olympia Kwitowski

Kwitowski points out that 44 ambulance crews are out of action of everyday because they're losing time. She clarifies that they are losing 161,000 hours a day waiting to transfer patients.

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Disability or identity: The autism divide

The Australian, General News, 08/04/2024, Stephen Lunn, Page 7

The Albanese government's national autism strategy has reignited a highly charged debate over the nature of autism as a disability or simply part of a person's identity. Some key figures in Australia's autism community warn the draft strategy released last week is ideologically skewed toward those who promote the "autism identity" approach, potentially putting at risk future support programs for higher-needs autistic people.

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Suicide risk men can't ignore

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 08/04/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 19

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.

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Miscarriage shouldn't be a taboo topic

Western Advocate, General News, 08/04/2024, Orlander Ruming, Page 15

Every year, more than 103,000 pregnancies in Australia end in miscarriage. It's a lot right? One in four pregnancies will end in a miscarriage before the 10 week mark. And yet, it's something we don't seem to discuss. Somewhere it's become ingrained in society that when you fall pregnant you shouldn't speak of it until the 12 week mark.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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Advocates want more of a conversation on the mental health impact on frontline police

ABC Online, Other, 07/04/2024, Harvey Biggs

On January 8, a police officer took her own life at the Port Adelaide Police Station. Her suicide was the third by a serving officer in South Australia in the past six months, and is part of a growing toll within police ranks. This year, there have been three other deaths by suicide within the force across Australia – two in Victoria and one in Western Australia.

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Greens say old Maitland hospital could be a mental health space

Newcastle Herald, Other, 07/04/2024, Chloe Coleman

Greens MP Dr Amanda Cohn has pledged she will inquire after plans for the old Maitland Hospital site in parliament and get the community some answers. It has been more than two years now since the new Maitland Hospital at Metford opened, and the community is yet to hear what will be done with the old hospital site.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

'Bully knocked on my door'

Herald Sun, General News, 08/04/2024, Mitch Clarke and Regan Hodge, Page 6

A former Ambulance Victoria worker has slammed the organisation's complaints process, saying he was confronted at home late at night by a colleague he had accused of bullying him relentlessly at work. The worker, speaking anonymously to detail his "traumatic" experience, said the way Ambulance Victoria dealt with his complaint, which involved a year-long investigation, exacerbated his mental health injury.

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Ambo maintenance crews walk off job

Herald Sun, General News, 08/04/2024, Lucy Crock, Page 8

Geelong ambulance maintenance crews are among those across regional Victoria walking off the job due to a pay dispute that has already lasted 14 months. Ambulance fleet maintenance officers (FMOs) from regional stations in Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Morwell, Shepparton and Wangaratta will be striking for 24 hours on Monday, as they demand increased pay due to the cost-of-living crisis.

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

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Regional ambulance mechanics go on 'historic' strike

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/04/2024

More than 700 regional Victorian ambulances will be without maintenance workers as they take "unprecedented" strike action after a breakdown in contract negotiations. About 23 fleet maintenance officers, responsible for servicing ambulances across regional Victoria, will walk off the job for 24 hours on Monday after long-running pay negotiations stalled.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

2GB, Healthy Living, 07/04/2024, Dr Ross Walker and Ned Green

Walker discusses the drug Ozempic which has become a blockbuster drug, which focuses on the management of type-two diabetes. He states that the drug Ozempic is covered by the PBS for type two diabetes, but you have to pay about \$140 a month on average to get Ozempic for weight loss if you're not a diabetic.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Public take message to heart

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/04/2024, Jackie Epstein, Page 5

The extraordinary impact of Shane Warne's legacy heart checks continues with a new daily record hit over Gather Round in Adelaide. In a single day on Saturday 2360 screenings were conducted, with almost 9000 fans expected to be tested across the week. Jackson and Brooke Warne, the eldest children of late cricket great Shane Warne, said they were blown away by how the message was resonating.

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

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

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 08/04/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 7

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

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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SPORT

Don't be so dippy near water

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 08/04/2024, Elissa Doherty, Page 19

Olympic swimmer Lisa Curry has expressed her deep sadness at the country's devastating spate of drownings and pledged to lead more water safety awareness. The champion athlete revealed how she struggled to sleep after learning of the tragic Easter Sunday deaths of a Melbourne father and grandfather in a Gold Coast pool.

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There's a growing backlog of swimming classes in Australia and it's already proving deadly

ABC Online, Other, 07/04/2024, Natalie Whiting

"Everybody grab a kickboard," Ramzi Hussaini calls out to the group of children excitedly bobbing in the shallow end. He has the Australian twang and the bright rash shirt you'd expect from a swim coach at the local pool, but Ramzi's not your average instructor. He was 16 when he had his first swimming lesson.

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Women's leadership in sports sends positive message

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/04/2024

More women undertaking roles in coaching and officiating in community sport can positively influence childhood gender perceptions. A Victoria University study involving a survey of 75 children and their parents, has found kids are overwhelmingly coached by men. The four to 17-year-olds played sports including Australian rules, basketball and swimming.

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

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Channel 9, Nine News Late, 07/04/2024, Mark Burrows

An AFL investigation is underway after Port Adelaide forward Jeremy Finlayson admitted to using a homophobic slur. It happened during his side's gather round win over Essendon.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Deadly trek on a lifesaving mission

Launceston Examiner, General News, 08/04/2024, Rudi Maxwell, Page 8

Rheumatic heart disease is a preventable condition that disproportionately affects First Nations people. There's nothing funny about this topic, yet these children are filled with laughter as they learn about 'cheeky' at a pop-up clinic in Alice Springs. The Deadly Heart Trek is visiting to check them for possible signs of acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease, which has been all but eliminated everywhere in Australia except in Aboriginal communities.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Antennas up: Expert's staph study saved her friend's life

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/04/2024, Sherryn Groch, Page 15

Troy Michael had just got home to Melbourne from a trip through Thailand when he noticed the little red dots on his shoulder. At first, he shrugged them off as a spider bite. But the next day, he was exhausted and he could barely raise his arm. "I was normally at the gym every day," he says. "Still, the GP brushed me off. He told me to just go home, have an aspirin, and a nap. So, I did what you did then: I had a rant on Facebook about it."

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

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Pill testing pilot is just 'research'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/04/2024, Jessica Wang, Page 1

The first drug-checking pilot in NSW will begin in Sydney today at the Kings Cross injecting centre, where operators have classed the practice as "research". The program, colloquially known as pill testing, will run one day a week for about four months at the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC), and will take samples from 100 volunteers.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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Tenants trapped in a mould nightmare

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/04/2024, Tamaryn McGregor, Page 10

Sydneysiders are living in dangerous mould-infested homes amid the city's rental crisis, forking out

thousands of dollars to manage the mess themselves, with no help from their landlords. Locals are living in harmful, mouldy homes, with the tight rental market seeing many choose to stay instead of joining the struggle to find another property.

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Council ordered to act over asbestos dangers

Age, General News, 08/04/2024, Sherryn Groch, Page 1

Victoria's environmental regulator has ordered a local council to hand over records and bring in experts to conduct widespread testing in its parks after the discovery of asbestos in mulch at several reserves in Melbourne this month. The EPA wants Hobsons Bay City Council to commission a hygienist to inspect all council-managed parks and gardens that had received mulch in the past 18 months.

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Nobody wants a nuclear waste dump

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/04/2024, Page 16

One would think, given the Australian continent is second only to Antarctica in terms of low population density, it would be easier to develop a nuclear waste dump here than almost anywhere else. Unfortunately, due in large part to a series of hubristic decisions by former governments, that is not the case.

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Be prepared: Flu on early March

Western Advocate, General News, 08/04/2024, Alise McIntosh, Page 3

Flu season is upon us earlier than ever according to Bathurst pharmacist Sam Forbutt, and he is encouraging everybody to get the jab as soon as possible. Mr Forbutt, who is the owner of Forbutt's Pharmacy, said he has already seen an increase in influenza cases in the Bathurst region, with several people presenting at the chemist with flulike symptoms.

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Highly contagious, potentially deadly, and on the rise: Behind Australia's measles cases

SBS, Other, 07/04/2024, Abbie O'Brien

Australia has already seen more measles cases than it did all through 2023 despite the disease having been technically eliminated here. This is where they're coming from. Australians are being urged to check their vaccination records as cases of measles continue to surge across the globe. Measles is one of the world's most contagious diseases and, thanks to immunisation, it was technically eliminated in Australia in 2014.

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Disease X: Preparing for the next pandemic

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 08/04/2024

As world health authorities stay alert for the next pandemic-causing pathogen, the term "disease X" is making headlines again. Disease X — the hypothetical placeholder term for "the next big disease" — is a concept designed to allow global governments and health organisations to focus their disease-prevention efforts, both locally and globally, on preparing the world's response to future diseases.

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2GB, Weekends, 07/04/2024, Michael McLaren

Interview with Dr Nick Coatsworth, Clinical Associate Professor, Australian National University Medical School, about the rising number of whopping cough. Coatsworth says the symptoms of whopping cough vary whether a person is an adult or a young infant. He states that infants who've yet to be immunised are those that are most feared to suffer the most detrimental symptoms.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Weight-loss drugs the 'new statins'

The Australian, General News, 08/04/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Top Australian heart institutes are preparing for a future in which taking weight-loss drugs such as Ozempic may be as common as taking a statin for those at risk of heart attacks. Heart doctors are hailing the drugs as likely to open up major opportunities to slash the death rate from heart disease, following the US Food and Drug Administration's move recently to approve the drug semaglutide for treatment of heart disease.

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

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Menopause treatments too costly, inquiry told

Age, General News, 08/04/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 2

Hormone therapies for women experiencing menopause are too expensive and inaccessible, and doctors aren't confident managing the condition, say a range of submissions to a Senate inquiry looking at how menopause shapes women's health and careers. [...] "While some women are being inappropriately denied therapy, others are being treated with excessive doses that lack established safety, or compounded hormones that are not [Therapeutic Goods Administration]-approved."

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Covid jab compo \$7m

Herald Sun, General News, 08/04/2024, Alex White, Page 13

The cost of WorkCover claims related to the Covid-19 vaccine continues to skyrocket in Victoria with more than \$6.8m paid to workers who suffered reactions after getting the jab. [...] The case is arguing negligence on behalf of the Therapeutic Goods Administration, which approved the use of multiple vaccine brands during the pandemic.

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Wegovy eases heart failure symptoms

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 07/04/2024

Wegovy, the blockbuster weight-loss medication from Novo Nordisk, eased heart failure symptoms for patients with diabetes in the latest large trial to support use of the drug to treat health conditions linked to obesity. Patients who took Wegovy reported less fatigue, less leg swelling, were less short of breath and were able to walk further in six minutes than those who got a placebo, researchers reported on Saturday in the New England Journal of Medicine. The Wegovy patients also reported fewer serious medical problems.

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