



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 10th April 2024

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports NDIS Minister Bill Shorten has warned against the service becoming "a dumping ground" for criminals following interventions to remove convicted murderer Wayne Wilmott from the scheme. *Also reported by:* [West Australian](#), [The Nightly](#)
- The **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports private health insurers are offering a wide range of benefits and incentives to attract new customers, but experts warn they are making it harder to assess if the products offer value for money. *Also reported by:* [The Age](#), [The Australian](#)
- The **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports the architect of Canberra's Sirius Building has expressed dismay it may be renamed by a Department of Health staff vote due to concerns over the current name's link to the First Fleet.
- The **[Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports colleagues have paid tribute to veteran SA Ambulance clinician Stuart Brand for his service to the community after his tragic death in a shooting incident in Outer Harbor in Adelaide's north. *Also reported by:* [Daily Mail Australia](#)
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports staff at Gold Coast University Hospital were sent a list of "extreme" measures to keep the hospital operating during an expected Easter surge, including

discharging patients waiting for aged care and the NDIS, postponing procedures and calling in casual staff.

- The [\*\*West Australian\*\*](#) (page 1) reports the mother of a 21-year-old suicide victim has called for more mental health resources for WA's Pilbara district, saying the current six-week wait times are leaving locals at severe risk.
- The [\*\*West Australian\*\*](#) (page 1) reports the Australian Federal Police Association has called for a feasibility study for a civilian "national guard" able to enforce health restrictions to be mobilised in the event of future pandemics.
- The [\*\*Adelaide Advertiser\*\*](#) (page 2) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has called on parliament to pass anti-vaping laws, describing them as a "once-in-a-generation opportunity and responsibility to act to safeguard the health of young Australians". *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#)
- The [\*\*Herald Sun\*\*](#) (page 7) reports Health Minister Mark Butler says a feasibility study on ways to limit "unhealthy food marketing" is in progress, following revelations Coca Cola increased the amount of sugar in soft drink product Fanta by 60 per cent. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#)
- The [\*\*Adelaide Advertiser\*\*](#) (page 7) reports almost 20,000 at-risk South Australians are not getting sufficient mental health care, Mental Health Coalition of SA executive director Geoff Harris has warned, while calling for a significant expansion of state services.

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## MINISTER BUTLER

### 'Sense of freedom': Printer able to save face for cancer victims

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 10/04/2024, Megan Gorrey, Page 14

Mark Robinson missed biting into an apple after an aggressive skin cancer marching swiftly across his face meant surgeons had to remove his nose and part of his jaw. Robinson, 69, of Jamberoo, says the drastic surgery to banish the squamous cell carcinoma initially robbed him of the ability to eat solid food and left hollows in his face he had to cover with masks. [...] His reconstructed face is a product of the team at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse's Integrated Prosthetics and Reconstruction laboratory, which Federal Health Minister Mark Butler will open today.

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

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### Fanta's a fizzer on sugar pledges

Herald Sun, General News, 10/04/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 7

Teaspoons added back in Coca-Cola has quietly increased Fanta's sugar content by 60 per cent just a few years after reducing it during the fierce sugar tax debate. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said a feasibility study on options to limit "unhealthy food marketing" was under way.

*Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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### Schools join program to puff out vaping scourge

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2024, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 2

Australian high schools are signing up in droves for a federal government program aimed at stopping the vaping epidemic of youth. The OurFutures Vaping education program is already full with Education Minister Jason Clare saying teachers were overwhelmingly concerned about vaping. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler called on parliament to vote in favour of Labor's vaping legislation later this year.

*Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#)

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### The Nationals help pharmacists obtain \$3 billion in 'peace deal' with

## Labor

Oakey Champion, General News, 10/04/2024, Page 5

The Nationals have successfully helped to obtain an extra \$3 billion in funding for Australian pharmacies, in a deal struck between pharmacists and the Labor Government, following changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), which included 60-day dispensing. The Federal Government and Pharmacy Guild of Australia have reached a Heads of Agreement for an 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA). [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the negotiations included concessions to community pharmacies.

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## Kennedy promises MRI licence fight

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, Sutherland Shire Edition, 10/04/2024, Murray Trembath, Page 5

A renewed application by Sutherland Hospital for an MRI licence, allowing for all scans to be covered by Medicare, has been knocked back by the federal government. This means MRI use continues to be free only for hospital inpatients. [...] Comment was sought from the office of federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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## Bulk-billing tax 'threat'

Wyndham Star Weekly, General News, 10/04/2024, Cade Lucas, Page 8

Werribee MP and state treasurer Tim Pallas has been warned that bulk billing within his own electorate will disappear if Victoria's GP payroll tax isn't changed. Last year, Victoria's State Revenue Office ruled that doctors working in GP clinics were employees and therefore liable for payroll tax. [...] Despite a growing campaign from GPs and even the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler expressing concern about the payroll tax, the state government has so far resisted calls to change it, though Treasurer Pallas has previously said he would intervene to prevent GP clinics from closing.

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## The chronic pain sufferers living with the impacts of failed spinal cord stimulators and surgery

ABC Online, Other, 09/04/2024, Adele Ferguson and Chris Gillett

A Four Corners investigation has exposed the harms spinal cord stimulators, a treatment for back pain, have caused some people Private Healthcare Australia is calling for the immediate recall and suspension of the stimulators, pending a review by the TGA. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says he has requested an "urgent update" on the TGA review.

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## Mark Butler says 179 listings with additional funding in 22 months

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 09/04/2024

Health Minister Mark Butler says the Albanese Government has added 179 listings to the PBS since July 2022 involving approving extra funding.

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## Calls for further type two diabetes support

In Daily, Other, 09/04/2024

Type two diabetes patients are calling for more support from the federal government, after a glucose monitoring system subsidy for those with type one diabetes was delivered in 2022. Patients with type one diabetes have been able to access subsidised CGM devices since 2022. [...] Allerton said she had contacted federal Health Minister Mark Butler's officer to seek more support for those with type two diabetes, and was told the government would "continue to monitor the operation of the scheme".

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## The Water Cooler: comings, goings, grants and consultations

PS News, Other, 09/04/2024, James Day

Canberra-raised Samantha Mostyn named next Governor-General Prominent businesswoman and

gender equity advocate Samantha Mostyn , who grew up in Canberra, will be Australia's next Governor-General [...] Professor Christine Kilpatrick appointed as Chair of Safety and Quality in Health Care Commission Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, has confirmed Professor Christine Kilpatrick as Chair of Safety and Quality in the Health Care Commission.

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**ABC, ABC News, 09/04/2024, Guy Stayner**

While medical device companies spruik their products as safe and effective, independent research is far from positive. [...] The federal health minister has asked his department to urgently investigate, saying in a statement I'm deeply concerned about the revelations aired in the Four Corners episode.

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

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**ABC Radio Brisbane, 15:00 News, 09/04/2024**

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he is concerned by issues raised in a Four Corners report into Australians struggling to cope with chronic pain. The Health Department has been asked to urgently investigate. Butler also requested an update on a review by the TGA into spinal cord stimulators.

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**MINISTER WELLS**

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**DEPARTMENT**

**'You cannot be Sirius': dismay at rename plan**

Canberra Times, General News, 10/04/2024, Steve Evans and Miriam Webber, Page 1

Government plans to rename a big departmental headquarters because its current name is associated with the First Fleet have been greeted with dismay. And changing the name of the huge Sirius Building may need approval by the ACT government because the lease specifies the existing name. The

Department of Health is giving staff at the Sirius Building a vote on what the new name should be so that it "would be better aligned with the department's purpose".

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## CORONAVIRUS

### National COVID guard

West Australian, General News, 10/04/2024, Dan Jervis-Bardy, Page 1

Standing up a "national guard" made up of civilians but with powers to enforce health restrictions should be considered to ease the workload on police during the next pandemic, a major union has recommended. The Australian Federal Police Association has called for a feasibility study into the concept in its submission to the Commonwealth's inquiry into COVID-19.

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### Belmont mum proud to lead way in Covid compo fight

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2024, Imran Ali, Page 9

A Geelong single mum given the green light to apply for compensation for damage to her immune system from Covid hopes others still impacted by the virus will follow suit. "I am happy to take responsibility and go first to support others that are also suffering from symptoms of Covid," said Angie Shrimpton, of Belmont.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Report offers solutions to better retirement village care

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 10/04/2024, Rachel Lane, Page 4

Did you know that where you call home can affect what you can spend your home care package funds on? A new report commissioned by the Retirement Living Council, Shared Care, could help iron out some of the unfairness in the system. Residents of retirement villages pay a weekly or monthly service charge that often includes things like home modifications, gardening and transport to medical and social appointments.

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

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### Yaraandoo changes for better

Burnie Advocate, General News, 10/04/2024, Jess Flint, Page 7

If you asked Laney Summers last year if she would ever move into Somerset's Yaraandoo aged care facility, she would have been appalled by the thought. More than a year since Ms Summers first raised the alarm about the "neglect" that she witnessed when visiting her brother at Yaraandoo, she said she would now be first in line for a room at the centre.

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### Cobram Regional Care receives funding boost for Home Care

Cobram Courier, General News, 10/04/2024, Barb Love, Page 12

Cobram Regional Care has received significant recurrent funding of \$249,000 towards its Home Care program. The funding is available annually, but will have to be applied for each year. This has been made possible by the Federal Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Yarrawonga Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cobram Courier \(Online\)](#).

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## **Robinson supports next generation of carers**

Barrier Truth, Other, 09/04/2024, Dylan Stone

Robinson College has continued to create career pathways for a further 10 local students, who last month enrolled for Certificate III in Individual Support (Aged Care and Disability). The 14- week course provides a blended delivery of face to face/classroom, online, and on-the-job learning to students.

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## **New CEO for SA aged care provider**

Australian Seniors News, Other, 09/04/2024

South Australian not-for-profit aged care services provider, ACH Group has announced the appointment of Linda Feldt as its new Chief Executive Officer. Ms Feldt, who joined the organisation in 2015, has been interim CEO for the past five months.

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## **Aged care AINs and PCWs secure 23 per cent pay rise**

Nursing Review, Other, 09/04/2024, Arshmah Jamal

An increase to award wages for Certificate III aged care workers has "finally" been secured. The Fair Work Commission ordered pay increases of 23 per cent for assistants in nursing (AINs) and personal care workers (PCWs) with a Certificate III qualification.

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## **ADHA on track for August release of aged care clinical information system standards**

Pulse+IT, Other, 09/04/2024, Kate McDonald

The Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) has completed the first draft of its aged care clinical information system (CIS) standards project and is on track to release a final version by August, along with an implementation roadmap.

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## **With little retirement living development taking place in NSW, these four people are fighting for change**

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/04/2024, Chris Baynes

The Retirement Living Council states there will be a shortfall of 49,000 seniors housing independent living units (ILUs) just to keep up with the current penetration rate by 2030. With only low levels of construction for seniors housing underway, The SOURCE understands that the NSW Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure (DPHI) is continuing to monitor and review the seniors housing provisions of SEPP (Housing) 2021 to ensure it is incentivising seniors housing as intended to increase supply.

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## **This BlueCare development was approved 14 years ago yet the site sits idle**

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/04/2024, Ian Horswill

The agency of UnitingCare Queensland was given approval in 2010 to build a total of 320 dwelling units, including 202 independent living units, 48 serviced apartments and 70 aged care beds on a site in Kawana, a suburb of Rockhampton, in central Queensland. Now the Not For Profit, which posted a "total comprehensive loss" of about \$54 million in 2023 and said last month it was laying off around 350 workers , has received a two-year extension to the long-existing approval.

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## **Home Care Packages now part of a retirement village's value proposition: DCMI Masterclass**

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/04/2024, Ian Horswill

DCM Institute's latest Home Care and Retirement Living Masterclass has heard how the care

landscape is continually evolving for Village Managers and head office staff. Kylie Johnson, Home Care Operations Manager at Living Choice , and Bev Smith , Executive General Manager - Self Managed Division, myHomecare Group , told the Masterclass that retirement living operators now ensure residents can access Home Care Packages and Commonwealth Home Support Services (CHSP).

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## **ARQRV receives \$139,000 to inform prospective clients of retirement villages**

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/04/2024, Ian Horswill

Judy Mayfield, President of the Association of Residents of Queensland Retirement Villages (ARQRV), said her organisation has been funded by the Queensland Government to provide advice to prospective clients. "We have a grant for \$139,000 to tell prospective residents about the need to take legal advice on a retirement living or land lease contract," Judy said.

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## **POPULATION HEALTH**

### **Secret to living a happy, healthy life**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/04/2024, Dr Michael Kelly, Page 17

People with strong relationships live longer and are happier and healthier. In the longest study ever conducted about the key to human happiness, Harvard University scientists concluded, after 85 years of research, that our relationships with other people provide us with our greatest happiness. Healthy relationships based on trust, respect, open communication, care and equality are key to improving physical and mental health.

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### **Better access something to smile about**

Launceston Examiner, General News, 10/04/2024, Luke Cameron, Page 17

Good oral health is so important to our overall health and wellbeing, but for too many Tasmanians, affordable and accessible dental care is becoming out of reach. Tasmania is at a disadvantage when it comes to oral health access. While we are fortunate to have some exceptional dentists practicing in Tasmania, we have fewer dentists than we should - a staggering 25 per cent lower than the national average. Dental clinics tend to be clustered in cities, forcing regional Tasmanians to travel for a check-up.

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### **Consumers caught out by private health insurance not covering total hip replacement surgery**

ABC Online, Other, 09/04/2024, Tegan Taylor

Linda McIver is, objectively, a pretty smart person. She's a computer scientist, an author, has a PhD and runs an organisation that helps gets kids involved in data science. [...] The most recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows people waiting an average of around six months for a total hip replacement — which is eight weeks longer than it was five years ago.

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## **CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

### **Healing down to a fine art**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/04/2024, Mikaela Wilkes, Page 3

Model Lisa Seiffert is on a mission to bring some art and soul to hospital wards after experiencing the

inescapable dreariness of clinical settings during her own cancer battle. The 41-year-old, who is now in remission, was visiting family in Queensland in 2022 when doctors found a 1cm lump in her breast during a routine check-up.

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## Another milestone in battle

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 17

Joint Australian of the Year Professor Richard Scolyer's extraordinary battle against his brain cancer using experimental methods he developed to fight melanoma has taken another significant step forward. He posted on social media that he was now up to dose eight of 10 treatments and apart from a sore arm was feeling good.

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## Socking it to cancer

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/04/2024, Simon McGuire, Page 1

At recent rowing meets, the Fahan School team has stood out with its bright teal long socks. But there is a purpose behind the vibrant attire. The team wore the socks to raise awareness for gynaecological cancers before selling them to raise money for S.H.E. a support group for those suffering from those conditions. S.H.E. chair Scott Harris said that each year 7000 people were diagnosed with gynaecological cancers, including hundreds of Tasmanians.

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## Makeup brush tip for sun lotion

Border Mail, General News, 10/04/2024, Taylor Dodge, Page 9

Riverina woman Shannon Ratahi and her mother Lyn Kirwan - a three-time melanoma survivor - are combating skin cancer one beauty brush at a time. Ms Kirwan, a mother of five who currently lives in Darwin, was diagnosed with her first melanoma in her 30s when Mrs Ratahi was just three years old.

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## Opening up on breast cancer

Border Watch, General News, 10/04/2024, Caroline Hammat, Page 6

As the mobile BreastScreen SA van prepares its biannual visit to Millicent two local women have spoken to SA Today encouraging others to book for their scans. In 2022 Karen Duncan had booked in early for her mobile van scan and was one of the first to have her appointment before heading off with her husband Scott for a holiday. [...] During her treatment Ms Werchon and her mum stayed at the Cancer Council' Greenhill Lodge which the MCSG has donated funds to for accommodation upgrades.

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## Rehab service on move

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2024, Abby Walter, Page 2

A special clinic that has been helping heart and cancer patients for the past seven years is leaving its base at Kardinia Park as the Cats prepare for an expansion at the ground. Barwon Health's Sunrise Centre was part of the Brownlow Stand built in 2017 during stage four of the GMHBA Stadium redevelopment. The centre, which provides exercise and education programs to cardiac and oncology patients, will move to the McKellar Centre precinct North Geelong later this year. Neither Barwon Health nor the Cats have detailed the reason for the shift, but the Cattery is undergoing a multimillion-dollar refurbishment of its high-performance football department and planning on further expansion of training facilities.

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## Love ya, sis

Western Advocate, General News, 10/04/2024, Alise McIntosh, Page 1

While most families spent their long weekend celebrating the arrival of the Easter bunny, Cody Palmer was preparing for two of her children to undergo life-changing surgery. Ms Palmer's middle daughter, Skyla Howarth, will be donating her bone marrow to her 10-year-old sister, Piper Howarth. Piper suffers



from Diamond Blackfan Anaemia - a rare blood disorder that only affects approximately 800 people worldwide.

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## Menopause may be putting you at risk of heart disease

The Australian, Other, 09/04/2024, Eleanor Hayward

Danger for women accelerates with hormone changes, researchers said Women's risk of suffering heart attacks and strokes increases rapidly after the menopause and catches up with that of men, research suggests. [...] Professor Vijay Kunadian, of the British Heart Foundation, said: "The menopause can cause changes to a woman's body that increase the risk of developing cardiovascular disease, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and an increase in abdominal fat storage, often through no fault of the woman herself.

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## Doctors, nurses and midwives warn of public health risk from Middle Arm development

Northern Territory News, Other, 09/04/2024, Fia Walsh

A group of Territory healthcare workers have gathered at the steps of parliament to protest potential toxic health risks of the Middle Arm gas and green energy development. It comes ahead of public hearings being held in Darwin on Wednesday and Thursday as part of a senate inquiry into the proposed industrial precinct 6km south of the city. Darwin pediatrician Louise Woodward, one of 17 nurses, doctors, and midwives at Tuesday's protest, said the medical community was deeply concerned about the expansion of gas projects and petrochemical manufacturing near people's homes.

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## Women across Mid West urged to get checked for breast cancer as mobile clinics return

West Australian, Other, 10/04/2024, Matthew Paddick

Women in the Mid West are being encouraged to check themselves for cancer when BreastScreen WA's mammogram service returns to Geraldton. From Wednesday, May 8, women aged 40 and over who don't display symptoms will be able to to have a free screening at the mobile clinic at Geraldton Regional Hospital.

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## Little Juni was crying and lethargic. A deadly condition was the cause

7news.com.au, Other, 09/04/2024, Ailish Delaney and Jackie Quist

'That was the start of the nightmare.' When little Juni Sleight was crying and lethargic, her parents had no idea a deadly cause was lurking. Geelong mum Sarah Hackett-Sleight called for help when she realised the then 23-month-old could not move the right side of her body and was falling down.

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## Aldo's sudden heart attack highlights need for mandatory heart checks

The Senior, Other, 09/04/2024

Everyone laughed when Aldo nearly rode his motorcycle into a letterbox, unaware it was a precursor to a fatal heart attack that night. His daughter Marina Speziale, 56, of Cairns, Queensland, shares her family's stories about the need to get a heart check, as the federal government is called upon to help fund a national cardiovascular screening program in the 2024-25 budget. Under the Heart Foundation's proposed program, GPs would formally ask at-risk patients to go in for a heart health check, rather than have people voluntarily ask for one.

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## Channel 7, Sunrise, 09/04/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview Prof Jason Kovacic, CEO, Victor Chang Institute, on weight loss drugs like Ozempic that are being hailed as revolutionary new tools to help prevent heart disease. It comes after the US Food and Drug Administration approved the medications for cardiovascular patients. Kovacic says it's a really

important development because almost two-thirds of Australian adults are now overweight or obese, and a significant proportion of them will develop heart attack, stroke or cardiovascular disease.

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## 2GB, Mornings, 09/04/2024, Ray Hadley

Interview with Prof Marion Saville, Executive Director, Australian Centre for Prevention of Cervical Cancer, regarding a huge uptake in the number of women collecting their swabs for cervical cancer screening with the traditional Pap test fast becoming a thing of the past. People who've done the test, which searches for HPV, have said it's a revolution in pain reduction and has the potential to save many lives. About 315,000 women have now carried out self-tests and of those, 33% were testing for the first time, and 40% had not tested for many years. Saville says self-collection is indeed more comfortable, and most typically it's undertaken in a health service setting.

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## 3AW, 09:00 News, 09/04/2024

New data from the Federal Health Department reveals that 23% of Australian women opt-in to collect their swabs for cervical cancer screening.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 09/04/2024, Leon Compton

Interview with Lalla Mackenzie, CEO, Family Planning Tasmania, regarding endometriosis with figures suggesting that it affects around 1 in 9 women in Australia. More money is being put into raising awareness and also potential treatments for endometriosis. Mackenzie says she agrees that there's greater awareness of endometriosis at the moment because there are so many more people who are talking about it and so many more people who are taking the time to tell their journey and their story as well.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Hospital in chaos

Courier Mail, General News, 10/04/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

Gold Coast University Hospital is under unprecedented pressure, with staff ordered to find patients who could be discharged - including from acute wards and those waiting for NDIS or aged-care support. The healthcare workers have also been told to use virtual health programs, postpone surgeries and medical procedures, prioritise scans and mobilise casual and weekend staff -and executives are blaming the mayhem on school holidays.

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### Wait too long for surgeries

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 10/04/2024, Page 14

As the backlog of elective surgeries continues, frustrations among Apatients and healthcare providers mount. Delays in these procedures, which are often deemed non-urgent but essential for quality of life, can have profound consequences. Patients experience prolonged pain, decreased mobility and worsening conditions, leading to decreased quality of life and increased healthcare costs in the long term.

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### Department claims situation has improved

Launceston Examiner, General News, 10/04/2024, Nick Clark, Page 6

The management of trauma patients has been improved as a result of a Department of Health examination of procedures following the death of 17-year-old Kane Mathew Leary in 2021. Mr Leary

died at the Launceston General Hospital on May 30 after a motorcycle crash at Newnham on May 27, 2021. Coroner Robert Webster found that the missing of a carotid artery dissection by an offsite radiology service meant that Mr Leary missed the chance for a lifesaving operation.

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## How this place for healing is helping children

The Australian, Other, 10/04/2024

Hospitals United for Sick Kids is helping children in hospitals get home to the things they miss. Waalbiirninny Waabiny Boodja feels a world away from the raised beds, stiff curtains and sterile hallways of a typical hospital ward. And that's the whole point. What was once an exposed patch of grass on the northern end of Perth Children's Hospital is now a space in which staff, patients and families can get much-needed respite.

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## Canberra Health Services spending \$1.5 million on rebranding in bid to attract staff, make services more accessible

ABC Online, Other, 09/04/2024, Harry Frost

Canberra's public health system is getting a makeover with \$1.5 million being spent on rebranding, in a bid to make services more accessible and to bolster staff recruitment efforts. The pandemic, along with a growing, aging population, has put health services in Australia and around the world under increased strain — and they're competing for the same pool of health workers.

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## SA ambulance ramping hits near-record levels

Nursing Review, Other, 09/04/2024, Arshmah Jamal

South Australian public hospitals have reached near-record ambulance ramping levels, with the government citing "extreme pressure on the health system". According to figures provided by SA Health, patients spent 4,095 hours on the ramp in March – almost reaching November's 4,285 hours.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 09/04/2024, Catherine Murphy and Lisa Millar

Public health provider Canberra Health Services has embarked on a \$1.5m overhaul of its branding, standardising logos, signage, uniforms and information material across its hospitals and other facilities. The organisation hopes it will not only make it easier for patients to find and access the care they need, and help them bolster recruitment efforts to ease staffing pressures.

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 09/04/2024, Dave O'Neil

Victorian emergency crews have participated in a simulated rescue exercise in the state's north, modelled on recent incidents, including the deadly 2023 Hunter Valley bus crash in NSW. 91st responders from the CFA, SES Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police took part in the exercise outside Seymour, which was designed to test and improve how crews work during major emergencies.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Call to expand crisis services

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 7

Mental Health Coalition of SA executive director Geoff Harris has called for a significant expansion of services across the state to help people dealing with a mental health crisis. He said almost 20,000

people with complex mental illness needs were not getting appropriate support and called on the government to increase funding and resources.

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## NW mental health crisis

West Australian, General News, 10/04/2024, Jake Dietsch, Page 1

A grieving mother whose 21-year-old son took his own life on February 1 is now campaigning for better mental health resources in the Pilbara, believing he would still be alive if he had received the care he needed. Karratha man Machlan Felix was described by loved ones as a popular and outgoing young man who loved music and art and was dedicated to his mechanical fitting trade.

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

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

## Touching moments

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2024, Page 9

Physical touch from both humans and animals reduces pain, feelings of depression and anxiety in both adults and children, according to international researchers. Researchers, including a Ruhr University Bochum team in Germany, found strong evidence of health benefits for adults who engaged in touch.

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

## 'Amazing' build begins

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 10/04/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 1

Tamworth carers are thrilled with excitement as main works finally begin on a new mental health unit the community has been demanding for seven years. Long-time carers Di and Don Wyatt from the Tamworth Mental Health Carers' Support Network each let out a big cheer as the first sod was turned on the new Tamworth Mental Health Unit on Tuesday, April 9. The support network pushed hard for the inclusion of an adolescent and children's treatment centre in the new unit, so kids in crisis will no longer be shipped to Newcastle in their time of need.

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

## ADF members and veterans need help every four hours

Canberra Times, Other, 09/04/2024, Rachael Ward

One veteran or serving member of the Australian Defence Force has suicide-related contact with police or paramedics every four hours. That's according to new research conducted for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide by the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research.

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

[Read More](#)

## More Australians experiencing mental distress and loneliness in 2024

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/04/2024

More Australians are experiencing mental distress and loneliness in 2024 and are having difficulty accessing support services. It has emerged in the latest Mental Health Monitor – which has been tracking Australia's mental health trends – that 40 per cent of Australians have poor or very poor mental health.

[Read More](#)

## Veterinary workforce shortage threatens lives and livelihoods

The Mandarin, Other, 09/04/2024, Dan Holmes

A shortage of Australian vets is threatening prosperity and food supplies in regional Australia, a NSW parliamentary inquiry has heard. The veterinary workforce shortage in New South Wales inquiry was kicked off in response to reports that vets were leaving the industry and committing suicide at an alarming rate.

[Read More](#)

## Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 09/04/2024, Laura Jayes

Interview Chris Gambian, Executive Director, Australians for Mental Health, on more Australians experiencing mental distress and loneliness in 2024, as well as difficulty accessing support services. It's a worrying trend and it's emerged in the latest Mental Health Monitor, which does track mental health and wellbeing. Gambian says 40% of people said that their mental health was either very poor or poor and those numbers get much worse when you look at some of the more specific demographic groups.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Postnatal depression and the struggle to avert its worst tragedies

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/04/2024, Heather Saxena

Dr Ka-Kiu Cheung says GPs are best placed to engage with mothers as well as their partners to detect early warning signs. When a young mother, known only as 'Ms S', reported suicidal ideation, anxiety and insomnia to her GP, she was referred to ED for urgent care. But 10 days later, she was found dead in her home in Brisbane, having taken her own life during a brief 25-minute window when her husband was out of the house.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Tears for a hero

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2024, Andrew Hough and Emily Olle, Page 1

An emergency services worker has been remembered as a dedicated, highly regarded ambulance officer after his shock death in a shooting incident near a popular Adelaide suburban lookout. Stuart Brand, 48, had been a deeply respected SA Ambulance clinician for the past 16 years before his death at Outer Harbor, in Adelaide's northwest, on Monday night.

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

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

### Clinic owner: 'We get abused due to MAFS'

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 10/04/2024, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 3

A Gold Coast business and its staff are copping the brunt of online trolls after Sunday night's episode of Married at First Sight (MAFS). The Coastal Clinic Southport and Varsity Lakes opened in 2022, boasting a string of positive five-star reviews online. Practice owner and plastic surgeon Dr Drew Cronin said all that changed within hours of the MAFS episode airing on channel 9.

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

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

### Workers who care for loved ones struggle to strike balance due to 'cumbersome' leave requirements

ABC Online, Other, 09/04/2024, Nicole Hegarty

Workers employed under awards, who also provide care to loved ones with ongoing conditions, say a "cumbersome and burdensome" leave process has left them struggling to get basic entitlements. Under the awards system of base pay and conditions, employees are required to provide evidence to their employer each time they apply to take one of their 10 days of personal or carer's leave each year.

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

[Read More](#)

## **‘We accept some doctors are not happy with what we've done': Dr Anne Tonkin**

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/04/2024, Anne Tonkin

General practice is tough right now. Workforce shortages are biting, and many dedicated, experienced doctors are working longer and harder than they would like in order to provide high-quality care for their patients. In addition, the Medical Board of Australia has made changes to CPD standards that affect all doctors, leaving some GPs really concerned.

[Read More](#)

## **Evidence for the CPD reforms? Here's the medical board's response**

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/04/2024

The changes introduced to CPD last year — those that have caused much angst and frustration for many doctors — are meant to be based on robust evidence. And there is indeed a global academic industry surrounding CPD. Last month, during our interview with the chair of the Medical Board of Australia, Dr Anne Tonkin, we asked for the references to the research underpinning the specific reforms adopted for doctors in Australia.

[Read More](#)

## **New database to support evolution of pharmacy**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/04/2024

As the profession evolves FIP is introducing a new database to support the expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice The International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP's) Impact Database was launched on Sunday (7 April) to support member organisations to advocate for the profession to provide a greater range of services.

[Read More](#)

## **Board issues identity theft warning**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/04/2024, Michael Kent

Concerns about websites selling counterfeit certificates of registration are behind calls from the Pharmacy Board of Australia for new pharmacists not to share photos of their registration certificates.

[Read More](#)

## **Unprecedented ANZCAP demand sees fast-track Foundation Program extended.**

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 09/04/2024

The Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP) has announced an extension to the Foundation Program for Australian pharmacists to the end of June, ensuring equitable access for more practitioners amid unprecedented interest and a rapidly climbing number of recognised pharmacists.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 7, Seven News, 09/04/2024, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon**

There's new hope tonight for Perth parents who are desperate to get a medical appointment with a specialist for their children. The WA Government is splashing the cash to recruit 100 new staff to take the pressure off its child development service. WA Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson says the \$39m investment will uplift the staff by around 100 staff across the service, both in metropolitan and regional areas.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 9, Nine News, 09/04/2024, Michael Thomson**

A hands-on training program has been launched in Perth to better prepare future frontline workers, A first-of-its-kind collaboration between ECU and UWA brings student nurses and doctors together in a specialised simulation ward.

[Play Now](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Lengthy use underscores need for early assessment

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/04/2024

Discharge from hospital is a common reason for initiating oxycodone, study finds, but a proportion of people were still taking the drug 12 months later.

[Read More](#)

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### NDIS cost shifting criminal: Shorten

The Australian, General News, 10/04/2024, Christine Middap, Ellie Dudley and Stephen Lunn, Page 1

Ndis Minister Bill Shorten has warned the states should not use the disability scheme as a dumping ground to fund support for violent criminals as more cases reveal prisoners with mild intellectual disabilities are accessing the system for housing and help with positive behavioural management. His new hardline stand comes after The Australian on Tuesday revealed one of the country's worst serial sex offenders who was involved in the brutal 1980s abduction, rape and murder of Janine Balding, is set to be released from jail with the help of an NDIS support package.

Also reported by: [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#)

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

### Beware health insurers bearing 'free' sign-up gifts

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 10/04/2024, John Collett, Page 1

Health insurers are now offering a raft of sign-up incentives, as well as rewards for meeting fitness goals such as Apple watches, airline points and discounted cinema tickets making it harder for customers to discern if they're receiving real value for money on their cover. While the most popular sign-up incentives continue to be no premiums for the first several weeks and cashbacks, rewards points can be redeemed for a wider range of things.

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

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### Practices charging 'membership' fees for bulk billing

The Medical Republic, Other, 09/04/2024, Laura Woodrow

More than 6% of clinics across the country that bulk bill for standard adult consults are charging "membership" fees for these services, a new Cleanbill report finds, despite the law clearly stating that GPs cannot levy additional charges on patients when bulk billing. The new report, one of a series of analyses by Cleanbill on data from general practices across the country, found 98 practices that "bulk bill all of their non-concession adult patients [for a standard consultation], provided these patients pay some sort of membership fee to access the clinic".

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Doctor sorry for treatment of child who later died

Age, General News, 10/04/2024, Erin Pearson, Page 3

A regional doctor who discharged 19-month-old Noah Souvatzis from an understaffed emergency

department says he is devastated by Noah's death and wishes he had escalated the toddler's care. Paul Nicholas Bumford told a coroner investigating Noah's death it was his first-ever locum shift at Wangaratta hospital when Noah arrived on December 29, 2021, and he believed the boy had gastro.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

## Prescription: sex with me

Herald Sun, General News, 10/04/2024, Aneeka Simonis, Page 16

A doctor offered to buy medicinal cannabis for a female patient in exchange for sex, a tribunal has heard. Dr Attila Danko, general practitioner and renowned vaping advocate, had his medical registration suspended following an Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency investigation in 2020.

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

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## Rudeness risks lives

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2024, Page 9

Rudeness and discourtesy between health workers is endangering patients, according to James Cook University research. PhD candidate Benjamin Freedman, who led research analysing 41 global studies, said it revealed nearly one in four hospital healthcare workers experienced workplace incivility.

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

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## Guilty of misconduct

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 10/04/2024, Vanda Carson, Page 5

A Townsville doctor who had sex with three patients and threatened to kill one is set to face disciplinary action after he was found guilty of professional misconduct and to be not "fit and proper" to be registered as a doctor. According to a Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal decision handed down on Monday by retired family court judge Peter Murphy, Praveen Kumar was found to be "an unreliable witness" and to have violated multiple boundaries with patients, with the similarities in his misconduct toward women described as "disturbing".

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

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## Suspended doctor Deepak Puri charged with raping woman in Braidwood

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/04/2024, Blake Foden

Initially charged with sexual touching offences, a suspended doctor is now also accused of raping a woman in country NSW. Blake Foden Canberra Star Prosecutors have upgraded the charges levelled at a suspended doctor, who is now accused of raping a woman in country NSW. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency general database shows Puri's registration has been suspended and states he cannot currently practise in Australia.

[Read More](#)

## Zara Mulheran's health records removed days after her death at Queensland Children's Hospital

7news.com.au, Other, 09/04/2024

A grieving Queensland mother has demanded answers after she lost access to her daughter's medical records days after her death at Queensland Children's Hospital. Twenty-month-old Zara died last Wednesday days after her mother Carly Mulheran invoked Ryan's Rule, which required the hospital to review her treatment and seek a second medical opinion.

[Read More](#)

## Anaesthetists hit back after Four Corners and Margaret Faux accuse



## them of Medicare rorts

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/04/2024, Heather Saxena

The report stated that 87% of anaesthetists claiming a particular MBS item were overcharging. Anaesthetists have accused the ABC of tarnishing their reputation and unnecessarily alarming patients after a Four Corners report alleged that most anaesthetists were exaggerating the time involved in spinal surgeries to milk Medicare.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 09/04/2024, Peter Mitchell

Dr Paul Bumford from Wangaratta Hospital has admitted he should have escalated the case of a sick toddler who died after being discharged. The family of 19-month-old Noah Souvatzis say his death from meningitis could have been prevented if he was given adequate care. Souvatzis' parents are seeking justice, blaming a series of decisions made by staff at Ambulance Victoria, Wangaratta. Myrtleford and the Royal Children's Hospital.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Queensland Health's new guidelines for phone use

The Courier Mail, Other, 09/04/2024, Jackie Sinnerton

Queensland Health will issue a best-practice position statement on clinical use of mobile phones, in the wake of one patient's horror experience. Nikkole Southwell spoke with Sky News Australia on her horrific experience at Ipswich Hospital after having a miscarriage, pointing out the massive maternity crisis in Queensland.

[Read More](#)

### Would a government \$8 no-show fine encourage patients to turn up to appointments?

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/04/2024, Carmel Sparke

The French Prime Minister has proposed fining patients who don't turn up, but doctors don't think it will work. Fed up with millions of doctor appointment 'no-shows' a year, the French Government has proposed fining patients who fail to turn up without a good excuse.

[Read More](#)

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## SPORT

### Free sport broadcasts on the line

The Nightly, General News, 09/04/2024, Sarah Blake, Page 8

Australian TV viewers will be robbed of access to free major sporting events unless the Federal Government overrules recommendations in a Senate report into media laws released on Tuesday. Communications Minister Michelle Rowland is considering changes to anti-siphoning legislation that guarantees free-to-air broadcasters the first option to bid for the rights to events such as the Olympics, the AFL, NRL and cricket tests, ahead of pay-per-view and streaming services.

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

### The Premier made a mark in successful footy round

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2024, Jeff Kennett, Page 15

Another successful weekend for the AFL but the biggest winner was South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas. For a few shekels he secured the whole AFL and the media to SA and gave his

community a massive confidence boost. No doubt the state will continue building on the event in every passing year.

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

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## It's a very sorry state of affairs at the WACA

West Australian, General News, 10/04/2024, Ben Harvey, Page 10

The WA Cricket Association will issue an embarrassing apology to a board member who was suspended after an investigation into his alleged abusive behaviour. The apology to Paul Collins will be issued despite the association banning him from emailing staff; an investigation by Cricket Australia which documented numerous occasions when he had abused workers; and an ongoing WorkSafe inquiry.

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

## Experts share marathon training tips

Ballarat Courier, General News, 10/04/2024, Melanie Whelan, Page 4

Tapering, along with all the niggles starting to emerge, are the biggest concerns for runners across the city right now, allied health workers say, three weeks out from the inaugural Ballarat Marathon festival. Stawell Women's Gift winners Grace O'Dwyer and Holly Dobbyn fine-tune their games for sprinting, but the principles are similar.

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

## Finding the next era of Aussie champs

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 10/04/2024, Nat Medhurst, Page 8

A new Diamonds cycle has begun, for (hopefully) a defence of the Commonwealth Games gold medal in 2026 and then the Netball World Cup title on home soil in 2027. We had Nations Cup Tests in January, where young Giants shooter Sophie Dwyer got another chance at international level.

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

## 'Time to make an example': The damaging history behind Finlayson's ugly homophobic slur

The Australian, Other, 09/04/2024, Thomas Wilson

The AFL has been urged to "make an example" of Port Adelaide forward Jeremy Finlayson and suspend him for the homophobic slur he used against an Essendon player. Power president David Koch has also come under fire for how he compared Finlayson's slur to other instances, while the AFL has also been criticised for "very little evidence of them doing anything meaningful" to stamp out homophobic language at all levels of the game.

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

[Read More](#)

## \$200 million grant to give women in sport a fair go

Ipswich News Today, Other, 10/04/2024

The \$200 million Play Our Way sports grant program has now opened for applications to support local government, community, not-for-profit and sporting organisations in making sport more equitable for women and girls. Blair MP Shayne Neumann said that for every two men who play sport only one woman does, and would like to see more women and girls feel welcome to participate in sports.

[Read More](#)

## Women's soccer clubs are told they'll be punished for 'discrimination' if they forfeit games against Aussie side with five trans players

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 10/04/2024, Shayne Bugden

The furore surrounding a Sydney women's football team featuring five trans players has taken another turn after it was revealed that rival clubs have been told they'll be punished for discrimination if they refuse to play the side. The Flying Bats team took out the Beryl Ackroyd preseason tournament in

Sydney on March 24, winning every game they played and running out 4-0 victors in the grand final, with one trans player scoring six goals in a 10-0 romp on their way to the title.

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

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## Burgess quits as WAIS pole vault coach

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/04/2024

Reigning pole vault world champ Nina Kennedy faces a major coaching shake-up just three and a half months before the Paris Olympics after her coach Paul Burgess quit his role at the WA Institute of Sport. Burgess - who also coached two-time Commonwealth champ and 2023 world championships bronze medallist Kurtis Marschall - handed in his resignation as WAIS pole vault head coach, effective immediately, on Tuesday.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Salt swap a lifesaver

Herald Sun, General News, 10/04/2024, Page 7

Using a salt substitute could be a simple, effective way to reduce deaths associated with high salt consumption, according to Aussie researchers. Researchers from Bond University, the Australian National University, University of Queensland, University of Sydney, George Institute for Global Health and the University of NSW looked at 16 studies of people using regular table salt or salt substitutes for at least six months.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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### New test is child's play

Herald Sun, General News, 10/04/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 15

Almost a third of concussed children have a delayed recovery but doctors had no way of knowing whose symptoms will be ongoing until now. New Melbourne research has paved the way for a simple blood test that could detect these at-risk children, after scientists found kids whose concussions lingered for more than two weeks also had a lower level of specific blood protein.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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

### Fibre fights hypertension

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/04/2024, Page 12

Dietary fibre plays an undervalued role in managing hypertension and reducing cardiovascular disease, a new study suggests. A review led by Monash University scientists sheds light on the importance of dietary fibre in blood pressure management and calls for the inclusion of fibre in clinical guidelines for hypertension.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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### Supporting intersex care

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 10/04/2024, Christine Schindler, Page 6

The journey of learning empowerment through her body has led Bonnie Hart, 45, to become one of the researchers contributing to groundbreaking models of care for people with innate variations in sex characteristics (IVSC) also known as intersex. As an intersex woman, Ms Hart a University of Southern

Queensland researcher said she received medical interventions as a child to make her sex characteristics more female and her family did not have the support or the followup care needed.

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

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## PHA welcomes back pain investigation

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 09/04/2024, Page 2

Following ABC Four Corners' investigation last week that revealed the fraud within the chronic pain industry, Private Health Australia (PHA) is welcoming an examination of their own health funds. "PHA will immediately ask payment integrity experts within our health funds to investigate allegations of fraud, waste and abuse in spine surgery for back pain," said PHA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Rachel David.

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

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## Urine test could cut need for 'dreaded' cystoscopy to check for bladder cancer recurrence

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/04/2024

Only 44% of patients who took the urine test needed a follow-up cystoscopy. A new urine test could spare many bladder cancer survivors a follow up cystoscopy to check for recurrence, researchers report. The test looks for genetic markers of bladder cancer and may more than halve the number of cystoscopies needed to follow up with high-risk patients, the authors report.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News First, 09/04/2024, Sandra Sully

Australian researchers have discovered why it's critically important for premature babies to cuddle with their mother at birth. Skin-to-skin care has long been used as a way for parents to connect with their babies and now a new study has shown that there are far more potentially life-saving benefits.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 9 Darwin, Nine News, 09/04/2024, Paul Murphy

Australian researchers say replacing table salt with a substitute can reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease by about 17%. The Bond University study says reduced sodium and increased potassium substitutes are good alternatives.

[Play Now](#)

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### \$44m to close the gap for children

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2024, Rebecca Whitfieldbaker, Page 13

National statistics show Indigenous children are almost 12 times more likely to be placed in out-of-home care or connected to the child protection system. But it's hoped a major new community initiative will help reverse the shocking trend.

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

### 'I've been patient': teen's tragic plea

West Australian, General News, 10/04/2024, Rebecca Le May, Page 5

The most senior officer on duty when Cleveland Dodd fatally selfharmmed had already been in trouble for spending time on social media and watching movies for hours while on shift. The revelation came on Tuesday as another youth custodial officer, Nina Hayden was grilled on the stand by Steve Penglis, the barrister representing Cleveland's mother Nadene Dodd in the inquest.

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

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## Mum will 'continue to fight' after inquest

Border Mail, General News, 10/04/2024, Ciara Bastow, Page 6

A mother of an Indigenous man who died while in police custody says there will be no change to the system until police are held accountable. After a seven day coronial inquest in November 2023 into the death of Brandon Rich, a recommendation has been made to the NSW Police Force commissioner that police need more domestic violence training.

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

## Health focus on 1000 days

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 10/04/2024, Chris Burns, Page 2

A new program for First Nations families in the Townsville area is being used to reduce health inequities and improve maternal and child health. The program also aims to help locally based medical personnel within communities such as Palm Island, and plans to offer prenatal and antenatal care, nutrition education, immunisation campaigns and mental health support.

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

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## Share what matters most

Surf Coast Times, Other, 10/04/2024, James Taylor

To mark National AdvanCare Planning Week, Advance Care Planning Australia (ACPA) has urged everyone to share what matters most and communicate their preferences and wishes for future health care. Advance care planning promotes care that is consistent with an individual's values, beliefs and choices.

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

[Read More](#)

## More than 1100 children charged under new bail laws in Queensland

National Indigenous Times, Other, 09/04/2024, Dechlan Brennan

More than 1100 children and young people have been arrested and charged in Queensland through new youth bail laws, in a revelation that further undermines the state's commitment to closing the gap. In data obtained by National Indigenous Times, the "high visibility" police operation Whiskey Unison, which has been heavily promoted by the Queensland Government as a solution to youth crime, has seen 1,144 children - aged 10-17 - arrested on 8,464 charges between March 22, 2023, and March 11, 2024, for breaches of bail.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Get your flu vaccination now

Northern Territory News, General News, 10/04/2024, Amanda Sheppeard, Page 12

The official start to flu season is still more than a month away, but experts are urging all Australians to roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated now. The number of flu cases has been rising steadily around the country in recent weeks, pointing to an early start to the season, which typically begins in mid-May. Combined with low vaccination rates, this could lead to a tough few months.

Also reported by: [Lilydale Star Mail \(Melbourne\)](#), [News Of The Area \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Riverine Herald \(Echuca\)](#).

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## Parents warned as whooping cough cases rise in Goldfields

West Australian, Other, 10/04/2024, Tegan Guthrie

Goldfields parents are being urged to ensure their children's whooping cough vaccinations are up to date amid a rise in cases of the highly infectious disease in the region. WA Country Health Service on Tuesday revealed there had been 14 cases of whooping cough recorded in the Goldfields — including two infants — so far this year.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### MoneyTalks: Brokers see risk, rewards and resilience in two health care stocks

The Australian, Other, 09/04/2024, Eddy Sunarto

Taylor Collison has slapped an Outperform rating on Percheron Therapeutics ( , with a price target of 15c (versus its 8.9c price on Tuesday morning), noting however that it's a "speculative investment". [...] Key attractions include world-class TGA licensed facilities, proven experience in advanced contract manufacturing/packaging and increased capacity.

[Read More](#)

### Imported medicinal cannabis sold without testing for Australian standards, industry warns

ABC Online, Other, 09/04/2024, Tyrone Dalton and Else Kennedy

When Terry Russell faced crippling, chronic back and leg pain he was prescribed a debilitating dosage of opioids. "I was on so much OxyContin at one stage, I couldn't string two thoughts together," he said. [...] But under rules enforced by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), medicinal cannabis products sold to Australian consumers can be grown anywhere in the world.

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

[Read More](#)

### Antibiotic shortage to continue

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/04/2024, wilson tan

Pfizer Australia has advised the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) that stocks of its Bicillin L-A (benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate) prefilled syringes for injection (600,000 units per syringe and 1.2 million units per syringe) will remain in short supply until "mid-2024".

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Tasmanians agree treatment or education is the best way to address impact of drugs

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/04/2024, Jackie Hallam, Page 16

It appears that Tasmanians are not as conservative as we are often portrayed, particularly when it comes to illicit drug policies. We already knew from research conducted last year that about 70 per cent of those who responded did not believe that the possession of cannabis or marijuana for personal use should be a criminal offence.

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### Premier grilled after drug injecting room report leak

Canberra Times, Other, 09/04/2024, Callum Godde

There is urgency in preventing drug overdoses in the Melbourne CBD despite the Victorian government sitting on supervised injecting room report for almost a year, Premier Jacinta Allan says. The premier swatted away questions on former Victoria Police boss Ken Lay's report on Tuesday after some of its contents were leaked.

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

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## Is drug testing a good or bad idea?

4BC, Other, 09/04/2024, Mike Jeffreys

Mike discusses drug testing with Nicole Lee, Adjunct Professor at Melbourne's National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, following the announcement that the first drug checking pilot in NSW will begin operating Monday. Located at the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) in Kings Cross, the program will run once a week for four months, sampling from 100 registered MSIC users.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 09/04/2024, Catherine Murphy and Lisa Millar

The use of medicinal cannabis in Australia continues to grow, with about 1.2 million Australians using it last year. Supplying that boom has helped the medicinal cannabis industry expand to be worth an estimated \$400 million. But 80% of that cannabis is imported, with doctors raising concerns about its origins and quality. Australian Medical Association President Steve Robson says they are certainly hearing stories about quality issues and adverse responses, and it should trigger concern in the community.

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## Radio National, Life Matters, 09/04/2024, Hilary Harper and Beverley Wang

The Australian Medical Association says it has great concern about a big growth in patients being prescribed medicinal cannabis. About 1.2 million Australians accessed medicinal cannabis last year, up from 19,000 in 2019. Local medicinal cannabis growers say imported cannabis is putting patients at risk and threatening the tightly regulated local industry. AMA Federal President Steve Robson says doctors don't have enough information on the quality of product coming into Australia, or the rigour of testing.

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

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Brekkie food Pulled

Cairns Post, General News, 10/04/2024, Page 10

A breakfast product has been recalled from a supermarket over an allergy concern. Frisp oats peanut butter 150gm jars were recalled from all Woolworths stores nationally on Monday after it was discovered the packaging lacked a warning that the product contained a milk allergen. [...] Food Standards Australia and New Zealand said consumers who had a milk allergy or intolerance might have a reaction if consumed.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Drinking water safe from PFAS: study

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 10/04/2024, Page 8

The first study to quantify the environmental burdens of 'forever chemicals' has found Australian drinking water remains safe, but the same may not apply globally. Per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, which are commonly referred to as PFAS, are man-made chemicals heavily used since the 1940s for their resistance to heat, water, grease and stains.

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

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## 'Forever chemicals' of the modern world that will not go away

The Mandarin, Other, 09/04/2024, Melissa Coade

Scientists are warning that the environmental impact of a group of more than 14,000 human-made chemicals known as Per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) has been seriously underestimated and likely surpass the limits for safe human consumption. PFAS are known as 'forever chemicals' because they do not degrade. They have been widely used since the 1950s for common applications where heat resistance or water, grease, and stain resistance is called upon.

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