



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 23rd April 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has said the former government's "rush job" on home aged care services policy contributed to delays in access for some older Australians and that, "Over 284,000 people now have access to a Home Care Package, more than ever before." *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#)
- **[ABC News \(online\)](#)** reports Health Minister Mark Butler has expressed concern that the benefits from improving bulk-billing incentives could be lost if state treasurers implement payroll tax changes that force medical practices to increase fees. *Also reported by:* [ABC News](#), [ABC Radio Adelaide](#) (1), [ABC Radio Adelaide](#) (2), [ABC Radio Eyre Peninsula](#), [Executive Career](#)
- **[Aged Care Insite \(online\)](#)** reports Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler announced a new flu vaccination initiative across aged care homes will commence on 29 April providing expanded access to the proactive health measure. *Also reported by:* [Star Weekly](#).
- **[InnovationAus \(online\)](#)** reports the National Health and Medical Research Council has announced \$5 million in grants will be shared among six telehealth research projects, while Health Minister Mark Butler said, "The Albanese Government is committed to unlocking

telehealth's potential, while also ensuring its safety and quality for patients." *Also reported by:* [2SM](#)

- **[The Launceston Examiner \(page 3\)](#)** reports Federal Assistant Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Minister Emma McBride has committed to funding a new headspace facility on Hobart's eastern shore following the expansion of the service's Launceston location. *Also reported by:* [ABC Radio Hobart](#), [LAFM](#), [Tasmanian Times](#), [WIN Orange](#)
- **[The Australian \(page 5\)](#)** reports advocacy group Australians for Mental Health has called for "reform and investment" into the nation's mental health treatment system in an open letter to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, which also says, "The contrast with the rest of the health system, notably cancer care, could not be more stark."
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 1\)](#)** reports eight out of 10 young Australians are seeking health advice on TikTok alarming medical professionals who assessed only 2.1 per cent of nutrition content on the platform as accurate. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#)
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 4\)](#)** reports the TGA has confirmed all strengths of Vyvanse, used to treat ADHD and binge eating disorder, will return to normal supply by 30 April following manufacturing delays.
- **[The Hobart Mercury \(page 2\)](#)** reports hospital staff, the AMA and the Greens have criticised early implementation of Tasmania's ambulance ramping ban, which commenced on Monday, saying that hospitals required more resources to support patients. *Also reported by:* [Burnie Advocate](#), [ABC News Online](#), [ABC Radio Hobart](#)
- **[The Canberra Times \(page 2\)](#)** reports Canberra Hospital's new 48-bed intensive care department will open in August with an initial 36 beds in operation and the potential to expand to 60 beds.

MINISTER BUTLER

MP in push for care clinic

Ranges Trader Mail, General News, 23/04/2024, Callum Ludwig, Page 4

Casey MP Aaron Violi has started a petition to push for an Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) to be established in his electorate, specifically in the Yarra Ranges. [...] A spokesperson for Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said it's fantastic that Liberals like Aaron Violi recognise the value Urgent Care Clinics are making to communities around the country.

Also reported by: [Mountain Views Mail - Healesville \(Melbourne\)](#)

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Federal bulk-billing push being 'killed off' by states increasing tax take on GP clinics, doctors warn

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2024, Jake Evans

The federal government's \$3.5 billion attempt to revive bulk billing rates is being "killed off" by states pocketing the money instead, doctors have warned. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has expressed his fears that the state tax take could undo efforts to improve bulk billing.

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What the billionaire said about the bishop in the free speech bar

AdNews, Other, 22/04/2024, Chris Pash

Billionaire Elon Musk and Australia are on a collision course over what constitutes free speech. [...] The federal government is up for a court battle, according to health minister Mark Butler. "Australia is not going to be bullied by Elon Musk or any other tech billionaire in our commitment to making sure social media is a safe space," he said.

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Free flu vaccines announced for aged care homes

The Health and Aged Care Minister announced a new initiative to expand access to flu vaccinations across aged care homes. Speaking to the press on Saturday, Mark Butler emphasised the importance of proactive health measures following a surge of flu cases across Australia.

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NIPVIP payments to be indexed

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 22/04/2024, Megan Haggan

The health minister has announced that pharmacists will be funded to provide free flu and other NIP jabs in aged care and disability homes And the NIPVIP payments for pharmacists are set to be indexed in line with MBS indexation, he says. The National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy Program (NIPVIP) ensures more Australians have

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Mark Butler announces NHMRC funding for six telehealth research projects

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 22/04/2024

The Albanese Government has announced that \$5 million will be invested by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in six research projects focused on telehealth. ...

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Nation's health ministers seek strong anti-vaping laws

CathNews, Other, 22/04/2024, Rebecca Comini

Legislation was introduced last month to stop the importation, manufacture, supply and commercial possession of disposable single-use vapes, making the e-cigarettes only accessible via prescription at pharmacies. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the bill was not about prohibition but regulation and returning the devices to what they were originally sold as – therapeutic products.

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State changes in bill fight

Executive Career, Other, 22/04/2024

A federal-state tug-of-war over bulk billing is unlikely to leave any patients better off. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has voiced his apprehension about the situation, noting the risk of losing the \$3.5 billion investment to state coffers rather than seeing it improve patient affordability.

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\$5m spotlight on telehealth research

InnovationAus, Other, 22/04/2024, Brandon How

Six telehealth research projects will share in more than \$5 million in grants to build an evidence-base for how the service can be best used, after broad uptake during the COVID-19 pandemic. [...] Health minister Mark Butler said the expansion of telehealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic crammed "10 years of change in 10 days".

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Pharmacists to boost flu protection in aged care

Star Weekly, Other, 22/04/2024

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the Federal government's announcement this week that community pharmacists will be able to provide free flu vaccinations in aged care facilities, including those in the northern suburbs, under the National Immunisation Program (NIP). [...] "The Guild is pleased that (Health) Minister Mark Butler has acknowledged our concerns over recent months."

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The trouble with Hospitals in the Home

The Medical Republic, Other, 22/04/2024, Holly Payne

Patients admitted under HITH programs are still technically inpatients, meaning they cannot access MBS rebates for GP consultations through that time. Something has to give. [...] In a letter to Health Minister Mark Butler this week, RACGP president Dr Nicole Higgins requested the removal of restrictions on HITH patients claiming MBS items to make the process more "straightforward".

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Vamoose, vaping

The Squiz, Other, 22/04/2024

New data shows a sharp uptick in the number of Aussies trying to put down their vapes once and for all [...] To combat that, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced new legislation on Friday that would ban the sale of non-prescriptive (aka recreational) vapes.

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ABC News, ABC News Day, 22/04/2024, Jeremy Fernandez

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and his Coalition counterpart have shared concerns that the billions of dollars being tipped into Medicare to lift bulk billing rates could be lost to state taxes. Several states are lifting their tax takes on GP clinics, and doctors are warning that will make it harder to bulk bill.

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ABC Riverina, 06:30 News, 22/04/2024

HealthStats NSW says there's been an increase in vaping every year since 2016, in the 16 to 24 age group. Health Minister Mark Butler introduced the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to Parliament last month, which aims to reduce the widespread availability of vapes by controlling the supply chain. NSW Cancer Council Tobacco Cessation Coordinator Dimity Betts says vaping is an emerging area for the organisation.

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2CC, 08:30 News, 22/04/2024

The ACT Government has moved to support the Commonwealth's new vape legislation. The laws will ban all non-therapeutic vapes with hefty fines for importing, manufacturing, distribution and sale. Health Minister Mark Butler has rejected claims by the Greens and the Nationals that it is nothing more than prohibition.

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2SM, 17:00 News, 22/04/2024

Telehealth is set for a funding boost as research into improving Telehealth efficiency and effectiveness will receive \$5m in federal grants. Health Minister Mark Butler says the government wants to unlock Telehealth's potential, while also ensuring its safety and quality for patients.

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ABC Eyre Peninsula and West Coast, 07:30 News, 22/04/2024

Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston says the Federal Government should stand up to state governments that are pocketing a \$3.5b federal investment into bulk billing. Health Minister Mark Butler has expressed his concern federal efforts to improve bulk billing may be lost to states increasing their tax. Ruston says the benefits of more Medicare spending are being taken away by the states.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, 12:00 News, 22/04/2024

SA Health Minister Chris Picton says he'll continue consulting doctors about a decision to enforce a payroll tax on GPs from July. His federal counterpart, Mark Butler, has warned that the Commonwealth's efforts to improve bulk billing would be lost unless the states back away from the tax changes. Picton says the government is not imposing any new taxes on general practice.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, 10:00 News, 22/04/2024

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is warning that early signs show the Federal Government's \$3.5b investment into bulk billing is being eaten away by states increasing their tax take. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has expressed his fear that efforts to improve bulk billing may be lost after states imposed new payroll tax rules on medical practices which now count GPs for tax purposes. RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins says Butler should lean on the state premiers to soften the changes.

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

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MINISTER WELLS

Elderly dying before receiving help

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 23/04/2024, Jess Malcolm, Page 1

Older Australians are waiting up to 12 months for home aged care services in some cases more than twice as long as when the Coalition was in office as the sector accuses Labor of taking its foot off the pedal ahead of the budget. [...] The delay in people receiving help at home comes despite Labor's pledge to fix the aged care sector, with Aged Care Minister Anika Wells attacking the Morrison government's "rush-job on home care" and promising to "get in-home care back on track" soon after Labor took office in 2022.

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

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Aged care needs better oversight

The Australian, Editorials, 23/04/2024, Editorial, Page 10

Most older Australians want to remain living in their own homes rather than move to residential aged care, as the final report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety confirmed in March 2021. [...] The Albanese government has prioritised social policy and funding, with Aged Care Minister Anika Wells announcing in July 2022 that Labor had listened to older Australians and was "getting reforms to the in-home care program back on track".

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Headspace bigger, better in new space

Launceston Examiner, General News, 23/04/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 3

"headspace changed my life." Launceston's Reede Adams-Becket said that he'd like others to feel the same. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride said there were four headspace facilities in Tasmania, and the federal government had committed funding to establishing a new headspace on the eastern shores of Hobart.

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Assistant Minister for Mental Health visits Ipswich Headspace

Ipswich News Today, Other, 22/04/2024

The Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride visited headspace Ipswich earlier this month with Blair MP Shayne Neumann to see first-hand the valuable work they are doing in youth mental health. The Assistant Minister and Mr Neumann met with headspace Ipswich's

staff and Ipswich youth reference group, and had an opportunity to talk about current issues in youth mental health and what services were working in the local community.

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Launceston Headspace Moves to Larger Premises

Tasmanian Times, Other, 22/04/2024

Young people living in northern Tasmania are enjoying better access to free mental health support following the relocation of Headspace Launceston to new, larger premises. Australian Government funding provided through Primary Health Tasmania (Tasmania PHN) has seen the centre move to a new site which almost doubles the area available for support activities. The new site on the first floor of 24 Wellington Street was officially opened today by the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride MP.

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WIN Orange, WIN News Central West, 22/04/2024, Jared Constable

Young Australians are being encouraged to seek mental health support at the first sign of symptoms rather than delaying seeing someone until it becomes even more severe. Headspace is expanding its footprint across the country and not just in heavily populated areas. Federal Assistant Mental Health Minister Emma McBride says there are now 160 headspaces across the country, with a commitment to grow that to 173 by 2025-2026.

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WIN Wollongong, WIN News, 22/04/2024, Bruce Roberts

News Young Aussies are being encouraged to seek mental health support at the first sign of symptoms, rather than delaying seeing someone until things become more severe. Headspace is expanding its footprint across the country and not just in heavily populated areas.

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LA FM, 13:00 News, 22/04/2024

More young people in Launceston will now have access to free mental health services at the expanded headspace centre. The centre has also relocated and is being opened today on Wellington Street. Assistant Minister Emma McBride says there's an ever-increasing need for mental health services for young people.

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LA FM, The Richard Perno Show, 22/04/2024, Richard Perno

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, regarding the new headspace centre in Launceston. McBride says they are seeing an increasing distress across the community, particularly amongst young people. She adds recent ABS data has suggested that young people aged 16 to 24 are experiencing the highest rates of mental ill health of all Australians, which is why the government is investing in expanding and strengthening the headspace network.

Interview continues on: [LA FM \(Launceston\)](#).

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 22/04/2024, Leon Compton

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, regarding the challenges of ramping a Tasmania's hospitals. McBride says ambulance ramping is a problem in Tas and right around the country and different jurisdictions have tried and introduced different measures to try to reduce wait times safely. She adds she wishes the Tasmanian Government well with their 60-minute time limit to 'end ambulance ramping' approach.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

Generations step out as one for memory walk

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 23/04/2024, Chelsea Bunting, Page 7

Lara grandmother Sue Seel went from "never missing a beat" to forgetting little things. [...] Those living with dementia are typically diagnosed when they are aged 65 or older, according to the Department of Health.

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

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Agreement breakthrough in 8CPA

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2024, Page 7

After six months of solid negotiations, The Pharmacy Guild reached an historic Heads of Agreement in March with the Albanese Labor Government to secure Australia's 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA). [...] The next phase is for the Guild, the government and the Department of Health to negotiate the finer details of the agreement.

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Parents warned of a new illegal nicotine trend getting young Aussies hooked

A Current Affair, Other, 22/04/2024

As the Australian Government continues its crackdown on vapes, the latest product from the tobacco industry has emerged on Aussie shores, and it's already hit our schools. [...] So far this year the federal health department said some 5.1 million units were currently under assessment for seizure, in addition to 168,000 tins of pouches already seized.

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'Invisible threat': Nicotine pouches taking over schools

The Australian, Other, 22/04/2024

As the fight against vaping continues, a new nicotine product is becoming increasingly popular with young people and parents will not be able to tell if their child is using it because they are basically invisible. [...] So far this year, the federal health department said about 5.1 million units were under assessment for seizure, as well as 168,000 tins of pouches already seized.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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The synthetic drug 50 times stronger than fentanyl

Nitazenes are a powerful type of opioid, and they appear to have entered the Australian market. [...] Adverse reactions to opioids include being unconscious, unable to talk, small pupils, slow or stopped breathing, bluish purple skin, and a limp body, according to the Department of Health.

[Read More](#)

NIPVIP expands into aged care homes

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/04/2024

In a proactive move to combat what the Guild called the "worst flu season on record", community pharmacists will be administering free flu vaccinations at aged care facilities from 29 Apr under the National Immunisation Program (PD Sat breaking news). [...] This development is important given the Department of Health's report indicates a 40% increase in flu cases this year compared to the same period last year.

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How computer modelling can help improve bone health and reduce osteoporotic fractures

SaxInstitute, Other, 22/04/2024

Osteoporosis affects around two in three Australians over 50. [...] Twenty-nine are now operating in Australia and a major initiative of the Federal Health Department's 2019 National Strategic Action Plan for Osteoporosis is to increase this number to a hundred.

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DoHAC warns over 'possibly non-compliant' PoC HbA1c billing

The Medical Republic, Other, 22/04/2024, Laura Woodrow

Thousands of mbs items for HbA1c tests have been claimed by GPs over recent years, despite a lack of accredited clinics. The Department of Health and Aged Care has raised concerns with the RACGP over potentially uncompliant Medicare billing of item numbers for HbA1c testing in general practice.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 22/04/2024, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

South Australians are pleading for cheaper access to a life-saving new vaccine against RSV. Only those over 60 are eligible to get the vaccine but it comes at an eye-watering price. While a free trial is currently underway for babies in WA, Qld and NSW, there's still no protection for babies in SA at all but SA Health says it's trying to change it. Meanwhile, the Federal Health Department says a different RSV vaccine has been registered for over 60 pregnant women and newborns but at this stage, a subsidy is only being considered for mothers and babies.

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CORONAVIRUS

'Overwhelming' need for royal commission into Covid pandemic response in Australia, Senate committee finds

The Guardian, Other, 22/04/2024, Karen Middleton

The Senate committee that has been examining Australia's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic has recommended the establishment of a royal commission, arguing the case for a full-blown inquiry with investigative powers is "overwhelming". In a report tabled out of parliamentary session on Friday, the Senate's legal and constitutional affairs committee said a royal commission should be created to examine the key elements of the pandemic's emergency phase.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

LGBTQIA+ seniors have limited choices for aged care. Julie Peters went searching for options

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2024, Julie Peters

In 2017, when I was at an LGBTQIA+ ageing conference, I learned that as many elder queer people go into retirement homes, particularly those run by faith groups, some feel as if they have to go back into the closet. That they can't be their authentic selves.

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Bula! Bolton Clarke welcome new Fijian workers

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/04/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Residents and staff at Bolton Clarke have welcomed a group of Fijian aged care workers at its Rowes Bay and Glendale homes in Townsville, Queensland. Under the Australian Government's Aged Care Expansion Program (ACE), the group will be employed across 17 regional QLD and NSW homes.

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Aged care regulator to increase audits for home care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/04/2024, Arshmah Jamal

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) is increasing audits after the latest report found one in every three home care services failing to comply with all eight standards. The latest ACQSC report revealed that despite home care compliance improving from 52 per cent to 66 per cent, the regulator will increase the number of quality audits and education for the sector.

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Have you used My Aged Care? Your feedback could influence change

HelloCare, Other, 22/04/2024, Jakob Neeland

My Aged Care, the Government's gateway website for accessing aged care services, is currently under review by the Acting Inspector-General of Aged Care Office. The review is led by Ian Yates AM, the Acting Inspector-General of Aged Care, who is calling for public feedback and input about the website.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Hunger shame

Herald Sun, General News, 23/04/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Five young Victorian children including two known to child protection died from malnutrition and neglect in just 17 months during the pandemic. Since this spike in deaths the worst in 20 years at least one more child known to child protection has died in similar circumstances, with an independent watchdog warning the system is "under extreme pressure".

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Liberals promise money towards IVF

Canberra Times, General News, 23/04/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 7

The Canberra Liberals have promised to pay up to \$2000 towards the cost of IVF or other assisted reproductive technology treatments if they win the ACT election in October. The rebates will be available to all ACT families undergoing fertility treatment with an accredited provider, with Opposition Leader Elizabeth Lee saying cost was a major barrier to treatment.

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Dear Jim, let's make the gym a deduction

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/04/2024, Barrie Elvish, Page 29

Dear Mr Treasurer, As a gym-goer, you appreciate the value of regular exercise; how it improves workplace productivity; you know the 3000 staff and MPs in Canberra can access a wonderful facility in Parliament House heavily subsidised by the taxpayer. AUSactive, the peak body for the exercise sector, is asking you to extend these benefits to ALL working Australians in the Budget by exempting employer-provided gym memberships from Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT), and/ or provide a tax deduction for those who join a gym or take up physical activity under the supervision of a qualified exercise professional.

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Yogies won't miss a beat

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/04/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 12

Rock star turned yoga guru Tommy Kende is helping scientists understand the rhythm of the heart. Kende, who opened for rock bands including Nickelback, played with Motley Crue's Tommy Lee and Slash from Guns N' Roses and was a regular at LA's famous Viper Room, is part of a world-first Victorian study to see if yoga can help irregular heart rhythms.

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

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Planning urged as hazy shade of autumn lingers

Border Mail, General News, 23/04/2024, Jodie Bruton, Page 2

Border residents are being urged to take precautions this week as smoke from burn-offs lingers throughout regional Victoria. About 16 fuel reduction burns on public lands, as well as private burn-offs, have created hazy conditions over much of Victoria and the southern Riverina.

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Are we over-medicalising menopause?

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2024, Page 10

In a series of four papers published in The Lancet, it's suggested that "a more balanced conversation about menopause" is needed, and that "commercial companies with vested interests have over-medicalised menopause". In the series, combining opinion and analysis of past research, a group of Australian researchers asserts that commercial organisations position menopausal hormonal therapy (MHT) as a way to empower women to regain control of their bodies while downplaying risks, which "further endorses the framing of menopause as a disease".

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Transforming the children's vaccination experience

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2024, Krystel Tresillian, Page 35

Ensuring the smooth administration of vaccinations, particularly for children, is a paramount concern in Australia's public health landscape. However, the apprehension and unease often associated with the vaccination process, especially for younger patients, can present a barrier to achieving optimal vaccination rates.

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NSW residents urged to get vaccinated ahead of worrying flu season

The Australian, Other, 22/04/2024, Lauren Ferri

NSW residents are being urged to protect themselves against serious illness as cases of influenza spike. The latest respiratory surveillance report has revealed more than 4700 people across the state have been diagnosed with the flu over the past four weeks, a 16 per cent increase compared with this time last year.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

Being a mother really does age you, new study finds

Australian Financial Review, Other, 22/04/2024, Sarah Knapton

Exasperated mothers often warn that their children "will be the death of them", and a new study suggests there may be some truth in the admonishment.

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'Really low for Australian history': Our fertility rate is dropping steadily amid cost of living crisis

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/04/2024, Alex Blair

Australia's birthrates are at startling lows two decades on from the Liberal Party's baby bonus, prompting concerns from demographers who say our nation must prepare for population decline. The current birthrate for Australia in 2024 is 11.939 births per 1000 people, a 1.21 per cent decline from 2023. Fertility figures have dropped by about 1.3 per cent year on year since 2020.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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H5N1 bird flu has now spread to every continent except Australia. How can we prepare?

SBS, Other, 22/04/2024, Caroline Riches

The H5N1 bird flu strain is in flight. It's infected more and more animal species, has now passed from a cow to a human, and has been detected in raw cow's milk. It's also reached new territories for the very first time, including South America and Antarctica.

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'Finding it impossible': homelessness services see 14% jump in employed Victorians seeking help

The Guardian, Other, 23/04/2024, Benita Kolovos

The number of working Victorians seeking support from homelessness services has grown by 14% in the past two years, a new report has shown, with women disproportionately affected. [...] In total, 12,150 employed people sought homelessness assistance in 2022-23, an increase of 14% since 2020-21, according to the report, which used data provided by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Top tips for the 2024 influenza season

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 22/04/2024, Chloe Hava

Influenza is one of the most common vaccine-preventable diseases in Australia. While reported cases are significantly higher than what they were this time last year, vaccination rates are slipping.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Please don't Google it, this disease is horrific

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/04/2024, Emily Olle, Page 15

When proud mum Renee Staska's youngest son Austin was eight months old, she was told he likely wouldn't live to see his fifth birthday. A few short months later, Austin's two siblings Hudson, 9, and Holly, 7 were diagnosed with the same terminal condition.

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

Aspirin may slow cancer

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 23/04/2024, Page 4

Long-term daily use of aspirin could help slow and prevent the progression of colorectal cancer, according to international researchers. A Veneto Institute of Oncology team in Italy looked at tissue samples of 238 patients who underwent surgery for colorectal cancer.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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'Ripple effect of positive change'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 23/04/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 3

A home-grown program for helping patients with Type 2 diabetes will soon inform nationwide policy after years of success in smalltown communities. The health and lifestyle program "Too Deadly for Diabetes" was developed by Gomeroi man Ray Kelly with the hopes of reversing diabetes in local Indigenous communities.

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

Pharmacists' crucial role in endometriosis

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2024, Page 41

Endometriosis is an inflammatory disease where tissue, similar to that lining the uterus, is found in other parts of the body, mainly in the peMs and reproductive organs. During the menstrual cycle, this tissue behaves like the tissue inside the uterus, causing inflammation and pain that can severely affect quality of life.

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

Childhood dementia research gets funding boost by SA government

7news.com.au, Other, 22/04/2024, Jacob Shteyman

Childhood dementia kills almost as many kids as cancer but frustratingly little is known about what causes or how to treat the debilitating condition. The South Australian government on Monday announced a \$250,000 funding boost for researchers in the hope of changing that.

[Read More](#)

Groundbreaking childhood dementia research receives \$500,000 boost

9News, Other, 22/04/2024

The South Australian government and the Little Heroes Foundation have joined forces to provide a \$500,000 grant to a childhood dementia research group at Flinders University. The funding aims to accelerate the search for a cure for the disease, which is a devastating disorder affecting approximately 2500 children across Australia.

[Read More](#)

Boost for children struck down by 'horrific' disease

Canberra Times, Other, 22/04/2024, Jacob Shteyman

Childhood dementia kills almost as many kids as cancer but frustratingly little is known about what causes or how to treat the debilitating condition. The South Australian government on Monday announced a \$250,000 funding boost for researchers in the hope of changing that.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#) and syndicated widely across Australian Community Media regional online

[Read More](#)

Childhood cancer is 'gruelling' for those battling it, but siblings can be the 'silent warriors'

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2024, Olivia Mason

At just seven months, Evelyn Tuckerman was diagnosed with an extremely rare and aggressive form of bone cancer called Ewing sarcoma. [...] Siblings of children with cancer often experience emotions such as sadness, fear, anxiety, resentment, anger, jealousy, and guilt, according to the Cancer Council.

[Read More](#)

Multiple Sclerosis specialty centre to open in Adelaide

In Daily, Other, 22/04/2024

A Wellness Centre to provide support to nearly 3000 people living with multiple sclerosis in South Australia and the Northern Territory is set to open in Adelaide next month. [...] Data released last year in a report commissioned by MS Australia showed the number of Australians living with MS is increasing significantly.

[Read More](#)

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PRIMARY CARE

Libs to ban trans drugs for kids

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2024, Paul Garvey, Page 7

A pledge by Western Australia's Liberal leader to ban the use of puberty blockers in children could be the start of a nationwide political battle on the issue, with party leaders in other states confirming they were scrutinising practices in the wake of a landmark United Kingdom review. Libby Mettam on Monday declared that the Liberal Party, if elected, would ban the use of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormone treatments and surgical intervention for children under 16 for the purpose of gender transition.

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

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

Critics lash ramping protocol on day one

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/04/2024, Tia Ewen, Page 2

Critics of the government's new ambulance ramping ban voiced their frustrations on the first day of the waiting period protocols at the state's public hospitals. Hospital medical staff, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Greens have all delivered a scathing assessment of the new system, which aims to hand over all ambulance patients within one hour.

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

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Hospitals on a collision course with paramedics over ban

Burnie Advocate, General News, 23/04/2024, Benjamin Seeder, Page 5

Paramedics, hospital-based nurses, and doctors appear to be on a collision course after they took opposing sides in a fight over the implementation of the government's new 60-minute ambulance transfer of care protocol, which began on Monday. In threats that could disrupt healthcare in the state, separate unions representing nurses and paramedics have said they would resort to legal and industrial action if their demands over the procedure are unmet.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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

Tasmania's new ramping 'ban' is due to start today. Staff are still divided on it.

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2024, Lucy Macdonald

A new policy to transfer patients from ambulance to hospital staff within 60 minutes comes into effect in Tasmania's public hospitals today. The Liberal Party took the policy, which it said would "ban ramping" to the state election, but has since agreed to make it a target, not a mandate.

Canberra's expanded ICU to have 48 beds

Canberra Times, General News, 23/04/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 2

The new intensive care department at Canberra Hospital will have room for more beds, but not all beds will be in action from its first day. The unit will initially open with 36 beds in operation but there will be 48 beds altogether fitted out in the department.

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

Puberty blocker ban based on kids' experiences not ideology: Mettam

West Australian, General News, 23/04/2024, Josh Zimmerman, Page 8

Liberal leader Libby Mettam has denied ideology played a part in her election pledge to ban gender transitions for children, insisting she had heard from WA families who "regretted" beginning treatment. Ms Mettam has committed a prospective Liberal government to outlawing puberty blockers, hormone therapy and surgical intervention for kids under 16.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#).

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State reaches record surgery-wait times

Border Mail, General News, 23/04/2024, Ben Silvester, Page 6

Alan Rundell has been taking double the maximum dose of powerful opioid painkillers as he battles "excruciating" pain while waiting for long-overdue hip surgery. He is one of thousands hoping for a surgery date as new data from the Australian Medical Association (AMA) reveals Victoria has hit fresh records for elective procedure wait times.

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

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

'Children are being left undiagnosed': \$6M plan for clinics

Daily Liberal, General News, 23/04/2024, Laurie Bullock and Riley Krause, Page 2

"There is a shortage of paediatricians in regional areas and children are being left un-diagnosed with behavioural issues until they are adults." Those words were published by the Daily Liberal in July 2023, when Royal Far West (RFW) CEO Jacqueline Emery and Regional Education Commissioner Fiona Nash visited a school in Narromine in an effort to highlight their concerns with an alarming shortage of paediatric appointments state-wide.

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

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

Lifesavers in call for help

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/04/2024, Nadine Morton, Page 1

With 58 drownings and counting, many of them at isolated and unpatrolled beaches, South Coast lifesavers believe one piece of equipment could be vital in saving lives. But their call for more resources is yet to be answered.

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

'Don't close Batemans Bay Hospital' petition nears 18,000 signatures

The Courier Mail, Other, 22/04/2024, Tom McGann

A petition aimed at saving a town of 20,000 from becoming the largest in NSW without an emergency department is set to be presented to the state opposition tonight as it nears 18,000 signatures. A petition to save a south coast regional town from becoming the largest centre in NSW without an emergency department [ED] is set to be presented to parliament after gathering a staggering number of signatures.

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

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Doctor says new children's clinic would end years-long wait for help

Canberra Times, Other, 22/04/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf

A doctor has called on the NSW government to fund a new clinic to treat children in the region amid soaring demand that's forcing some families to wait years for treatment. Children's charity Royal Far West (RFW) is lobbying the state government ahead of this year's budget for a new paediatric clinic in the city and Wagga paediatrician Theresa Pitts has thrown her weight behind the push.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), and syndicated widely across Australian Community Media regional online

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Rising demand and lack of graduates putting health system 'at crisis point'

Canberra Times, Other, 22/04/2024, Riley Krause

Sarah MacInnes' heart breaks having to watch children wait years to get the help they need. But with a growing demand for paediatric care and a lack of university graduates to go around, that's the reality she lives in.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Small-town shame preventing loved ones of people battling addiction from getting support

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2024, Olivia Sanders

Every month for the last decade, regional Victorian woman Ginnie has attended a local support group for friends and family of people battling addiction. In the 20 years her son has been dependent on cannabis and methamphetamine, Ginnie's marriage broke down, her son was diagnosed with schizophrenia, and she spent five years paying his rent.

[Read More](#)

'Another nail in the coffin for gender equity': The debate over paid period leave

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/04/2024, Heather McNamee

I recently had reason to ponder (once again) the differences between women and men — this time in relation to their reaction to reproductive health issues, and in particular, the taking of sick leave. One of my medical abortion patients recently had a horrendous experience (rare, thankfully).

[Read More](#)

Streamline program

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/04/2024

The Royal Australian College of GPs is pressing the Federal Government to streamline the 'Hospital in the Home' program to better serve patients and reduce GP confusion. President Dr Nicole Higgins highlighted issues like inconsistent policies and confusing billing practices that complicate the process of the acute care program.

[Read More](#)

ABC, Late Night ABC News, 22/04/2024, Jade Barker

News The cost of seeing a GP has become cheaper for some patients, but more expensive for others. Doctors say that's because federal funding to improve bulk billing is being eaten away by changes to some states payroll taxes.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 22/04/2024, Leon Delaney

ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith has provided an update on the new intensive care unit that

will be part of the critical services building in the Canberra Hospital expansion project. The ICU will be expanded to provide 48 beds, including four that are specifically designed for children. This latest piece of positive government spin comes against the backdrop of last week's hospital report card issued by the AMA, which yet again identified Canberra emergency department waiting times as the worst in the country.

[Play Now](#)

5AA, Mornings, 22/04/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Dr John Williams, SA President, Australian Medical Association, regarding elective surgery waiting times. Williams says it's surgery that needs to be done, it's essential and it affects people's lives. He adds moving the scheduled surgery affects people's quality of life and the health of the population in general.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 22/04/2024, Ryk Goddard

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation says no additional resources have been put into emergency departments in Tasmanian hospitals to support the government's so-called ambulance ramping ban. Paramedics now have an hour to transfer patients into the care of hospital staff, although the protocol is not mandatory. While paramedics have welcomed the change, nurses are concerned they will struggle to meet the new target without compromising patient care.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 22/04/2024, Ryk Goddard

The Health and Community Services Union says Tasmanian hospitals may need to put on more staff, as a 60-minute transfer of care protocol is implemented. From today, patients arriving at a hospital in an ambulance will need to be transferred from the care of paramedics to hospital staff within an hour. HCSU's Robbie Moore says paramedics welcome the protocol, but more resourcing may be needed, particularly at the Royal Hobart Hospital. Premier Jeremy Rockliff says the government will ensure hospitals are resourced adequately.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Treat mental health as we do cancer: expert

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2024, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 5

An underfunded and disorganised mental health system makes sick people "prove" they are suicidal or dangerous before they can get treatment, a leading psychiatrist says, as advocates call for mental illness to be treated more like cancer. Australians for Mental Health, founded by former Australian of the Year Patrick McGorry AO, has written an open letter to Anthony Albanese, as well as the premiers and chief ministers, warning the country's "neglected" mental health system is "weakening our society and undermining community safety" as the "tragic events of the past week have shown".

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

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Scrolling for health tips 'harmful'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/04/2024, Isabella Holland, Page 1

Social media Top medical professionals including GPs, psychologists and nutritionists are warning young Aussies to stop following advice on social media, saying it's putting their health at risk. Shocking new data has revealed eight out of 10 young Australians are turning to TikTok for medical advice and experts say social media is worse than going to "Dr Google" for advice.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin](#)

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Dr Social is not a doctor

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 23/04/2024, Editorial, Page 20

Medical professionals have long been hostile to "Dr Google". Since the dawn of the internet, people have used search engines to self-diagnose various gripes, maladies and full-blown illnesses.

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The stats are a cause for concern

Canberra Times, General News, 23/04/2024, Crispin Hull, Page 17

Recent numbers show that Australians are becoming unhappier. This is down to public policy.

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

New hotline for work burnout

Herald Sun, General News, 23/04/2024, Carly Douglas, Page 7

Injured Victorians seeking a return to work will be able to access a new mental health support hotline as the state government attempts to clean up its "broken" WorkCover scheme. Return to Work Victoria will be launched on Tuesday to assist injured and burnt out Victorians in making their way back to their workplaces.

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Local mental health help

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 22/04/2024, Page 3

A long overdue adult mental health service is on its way to Mildura. As part of Victorian Government mental health reform, the Mildura Mental Health and Wellbeing Local will offer free support to all adults in Mildura aged 26 and over experiencing mental health concerns, psychological distress or co-occurring substance use issues, with additional support services available for family members and caregivers.

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Direct mental health efforts to how we care for patients with schizophrenia

The Australian, Other, 23/04/2024

The events at Bondi Junction have prompted a necessary debate about mental health. But the term mental health is too broad; the real issue at hand is how we care for patients with schizophrenia.

[Read More](#)

Queensland DNA lab victims 'desperate' for help as hotline disconnected

The Australian, Other, 22/04/2024, Lydia Lynch

A government hotline set up for victims of has been disconnected as advocates warn those affected by botched forensic testing are not receiving the support they need and are being ignored when they ask for help. Murder victim mother, Vicki, said victims had borne the brunt of negligence at the state-run laboratory and were now left to find and fund their own professional trauma support outside basic counselling.

[Read More](#)

Poppy Project: A lifeline for first responder kids

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/04/2024, Natasha Emeck

The daughter of a retired police officer has launched a project in Townsville that gives the children of first responders a safe space to openly talk about the challenges they face. See what inspired her mission.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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The new suicide prevention training plugging a gap in the Illawarra

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 22/04/2024, Natalie Croxon

It's not uncommon for people experiencing issues with alcohol or other drugs to encounter suicidal thoughts or ideation, yet those who do can find themselves shuffled between services and in the worst instances, falling through the cracks. This problem is why the Illawarra Shoalhaven Suicide Prevention Collaborative has partnered with education provider SafeSide Prevention to develop a training program for the alcohol and other drugs sector.

[Read More](#)

Alarm sounded on 'deep fake' health misinformation

West Australian, Other, 22/04/2024, Rachael Ward

Australia must do more to address health misinformation before artificial intelligence makes it harder to call out, leading experts say. Former Victorian chief health officer Brett Sutton believes it's only going to get harder to stamp out falsehoods as technology evolves, pushing for a "step up" in regulation and a wider discussion about trusting sources of information.

Also reported by: [The Mandarin \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#) and syndicated widely across regional online

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Hope for remote births

Courier Mail, General News, 23/04/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 13

Babies are to be born at Weipa Hospital for the first time in nearly three decades, with the state government confirming the reopening of birthing services in the remote community after several false starts. Expectant mothers will be able to have their babies in Weipa, one of Queensland's northernmost towns, from May 22, after the recruitment of an obstetrician to the role of medical services director and a new midwifery head.

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

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Please no labor pains

Cairns Post, General News, 23/04/2024, Page 12

The cries of a precious newborn may finally echo through the dormant Weipa birthing suite next month. As anyone living in the Far North knows, getting the funds to run critical services in remote communities is one thing, but finding the staff and appropriate levels of support to keep them is an entirely different challenge.

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'I still breastfeed my nine-year-old, I won't stop until she says she's ready'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/04/2024, Alexandra Feiam

When it comes to breastfeeding, there are plenty of debates about the correct age to start weaning your child away from the nip. While some love breastfeeding their children for a few years, other mums can't wait longer than six months to begin introducing a bottle.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Song and dance act has care at its art

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/04/2024, Jane Albert, Page 28

A performance to help hospital staff feel safe, happens tomorrow writes Jane Albert. Last December, artist Lauren Brincat ran a makeshift cafe outside the Royal Hospital for Women in Randwick for 24 hours, offering free barista-made coffee, a relaxing tea blend and nourishing snacks, including her mother's Greek biscuits and spanakopita.

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Reunited with lifesavers

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 23/04/2024, Georgina Sebar, Page 1

A Bendigo mother who spent four weeks in a coma after a road accident is on a mission to reunite with everyone involved in saving her life. Astrid Zegers had not even left her street on her motorbike when she was hit by and trapped under a mini-van.

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Vital resource for pharmacists: APF26 out now

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2024, Page 6

The 26th edition of the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary (APF) handbook and updated APF digital version are now published, with printed copies arriving in February 2024. The APF has long been regarded as an indispensable resource for pharmacists, facilitating quick and informed decisions in their practice.

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Rockhampton nurse Natalie Rowan studying to be breast cancer nurse

Cairns Post, Other, 23/04/2024, Geordi Offord

Natalie Rowan knows firsthand the vital support provided by Central Queensland's breast cancer nurses to their patients, with the work of one in particular inspiring her to become a nurse herself. Ms Rowan, who works in the cancer day unit at Rockhampton Hospital, is halfway through her study to become a qualified breast cancer nurse after receiving a \$10,000 MooGoo Postgraduate Cancer Nursing Scholarship.

[Read More](#)

AHPRA will publish all serious sexual misconduct findings on public register: health ministers

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/04/2024, Antony Scholefield

Health ministers have backed publishing criminal sex offences or professional misconduct involving sexual boundaries "in perpetuity" on doctors' AHPRA listings. The plan is one part of draft reforms drawn up in January following a Four Corners exposé on doctors who kept practising after sexual misconduct findings.

[Read More](#)

Lockdown closures led to PBS cancellation

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 22/04/2024

A pharmacy owner has taken her appeal against a decision to cancel her PBS approval to the Federal Court – and been knocked back. She had closed her pharmacy, located in inner-city Sydney, after a

significant drop in customer traffic thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic. The pharmacy was approved to supply pharmaceutical benefits in late

[Read More](#)

PSA celebrates top WA pharmacists

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/04/2024

Four outstanding pharmacists were honoured at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Western Australia Excellence Awards in Perth (PD Sat breaking news). Susan Shipway received the WA Pharmacist of the Year award for her telehealth services for heart failure patients in regional areas, significantly enhancing patient management at home.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Putting pathology bulk-billing to the test

In Daily, Other, 22/04/2024, Stephen Duckett

For many people, the term “bulk billed” refers to a GP visit they don't have to pay for out-of-pocket. But another form of bulk billing is in the news ahead of May's federal budget – bulk billing of pathology testing, such as blood tests. This relates to the fees pathology companies receive from Medicare to perform out-of-hospital laboratory tests, the type your GP might order to help diagnose or monitor disease.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 22/04/2024, Yvonne Yong

News The cost of seeing a GP has become cheaper for some patients, but more expensive for others. Doctors say that's because federal funding to improve bulk billing is being eaten away by changes to some states payroll tax.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

In annals of dodgy policy, you can't go past NDIS

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2024, Judith Sloan, Page 11

The special GST deal for Western Australia initiated by the Morrison government and extended by the current government is singled out by some economists as the worst public policy mistake of the century. While the deal is bad, it's a stretch to award it the wooden spoon; there have been much worse.

Chalmers firm on GST funds row with NSW

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/04/2024, Samantha Hutchinson, Page 5

Treasurer Jim Chalmers has stared down a NSW threat to hold out on key joint funding agreements in protest over the GST carve-up, arguing that all governments are feeling financial pain from global instability and persistent inflation pushing down revenue...

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GST rip-off means 'nice to have' projects will go on hold

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/04/2024, Daniel Mookhey, Page 20

As I prepare our state budget the second in nine months I remain focused on our plan to rebuild essential services, help families with the cost of living, and rebalance the state's finances. The budget due in June is the next opportunity to take a big step towards building a better NSW.

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Treasurer puts brakes on stadium roof

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/04/2024, James O'Doherty, Page 8

A roof on Accor Stadium would be "nice to have" but will "have to wait," as the state budget stares down an almost \$12 billion revenue hit caused by unprecedented cuts to our GST share. In his first major preview of the June budget, Treasurer Daniel Mookhey said he would keep pushing Canberra to get a better deal for school and hospital funding.

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

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NSW's GST hit would be 'worse than COVID-19'

Canberra Times, General News, 23/04/2024, Samantha Lock, Page 7

NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey says his state will lose \$12 billion in the latest GST carve-up, jeopardising major federal school and hospital funding agreements. Budget shortfalls due to the upcoming GST carveup will hit NSW harder than the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state's Treasurer says.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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

NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey warns of tough budget due to \$11.9 billion GST hole

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2024, Nick Dole

New South Wales is facing a budget shortfall that's worse than the shock experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic due to an \$11.9 billion GST hole, according to the state treasurer. In a speech on Monday, Daniel Mookhey will warn that the revenue gap will "almost certainly" mean the state loses its AAA credit rating, potentially pushing up the cost of borrowing.

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SPORT

The how, who, what, why and what next for Chinese swimming's latest doping scandal ahead of Paris

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 23/04/2024, Tom Decent, Page 36

The story that broke on the weekend involving nearly two dozen Chinese swimmers testing positive to a banned substance before the Tokyo Olympics has rocked world sport. It is a complex issue.

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Anti-doping campaigner takes swipe at WADA

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 23/04/2024, Tom Decent, Page 40

Mack Horton, the retired Australian swimmer who campaigned for clean sport throughout his career and famously called out rival Sun Yang, says he is infuriated by the latest Chinese doping scandal and believes Australian athletes have been let down by a "failed system". The sporting world is reeling from news that 23 Chinese swimmers tested positive for a banned substance, trimetazidine (TMZ), before the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

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Legends team up for greatest goal

Herald Sun, General News, 23/04/2024, Jackie Epstein, Page 1

Footy greats Mark Maclure, Wayne Carey and Ken Hunter have banded together to form a new foundation helping struggling past players. "There are too many gaps and for a long time in the AFL there's not enough support for people beyond the game when they're finished," Hunter said.

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Young Vics step up to the mark

Herald Sun, General News, 23/04/2024, Peter Rolfe, Page 12

Victoria's brightest junior athletes are set to hop, skip and jump to glory at the Australian Little Athletics Championships this weekend. A team of 105 boys and girls from throughout the state will travel to Adelaide for the pinnacle of junior athletics.

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Political fighting makes Games job harder

Courier Mail, General News, 23/04/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 3

Political skirmishes and speculation over Olympic and Paralympic Games venues has made planning harder Brisbane 2032 supremo Andrew Liveris has said. But the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games president affirmed he was confident all three levels of government would be able to pull through and get started on the venues needed this year.

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WADA standing by decision to clear Chinese swimmers

Shepparton News, General News, 23/04/2024, Page 19

The World Anti-Doping Agency says after reviewing a television documentary and newspaper reports that it stands by its decision to clear 23 Chinese swimmers to compete at the Tokyo Olympics. WADA issued a statement yesterday following the release of a documentary by German broadcaster ARD on the cases, who tested positive for a banned heart medication..

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Victoria snubbed for Matildas' homecoming 2026 Women's Asian Cup tournament

7news.com.au, Other, 22/04/2024, George Clarke

The FIFA Women's World Cup was a huge success across Australia but one key player won't be involved in the sequel. The Matildas' route to potential Asian Cup success is a step closer to being finalised after Football Australia revealed the host states for matches at the 2026 edition of the tournament.

[Read More](#)

World Anti-Doping Agency stands by ruling on Chinese swimmers who tested positive to same banned substance

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2024, Amanda Shalala

A documentary from German broadcaster ARD, plus reports from the New York Times and News Corp, have revealed 23 Chinese swimmers tested positive to the same banned substance seven months before the Tokyo Olympics. While World Anti-Doping Agency and World Aquatics were informed at the time, the news wasn't publicly released and the athletes weren't punished.

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Rugby league legend backs call to fund CTE research

Australian Seniors News, Other, 22/04/2024

Rugby league legend Dementia Australia Ambassador, Wally Lewis AM will address the National Press Club in Canberra tomorrow to share his experience of living with probable CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy) and to call on the Australian Government to invest \$18 million to fund CTE awareness, research and support programs recommended by the Concussion and CTE Coalition.

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Australian Olympic legend Mack Horton unloads on Chinese swimming dopers amid drug scandal that has rocked the sport

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/04/2024, Ollie Lewis

An exasperated Mack Horton has been left infuriated by the Chinese doping scandal, with the Australian Olympic legend insisting his teammates have been let down by a 'failed system'. Shockwaves were sent through swimming after it emerged that 23 Chinese swimmers tested positive for trimetazidine (TMZ), a banned substance, before the Olympics in Tokyo three years ago.

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Sweet deal: Wallaroos land six-year sponsorship

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/04/2024

Feeling the national governing body has finally listened to its female players, Wallaroos captain Piper Duck is ready to let the rugby do the talking. The nation's women's rugby union team have won their bid for improved working conditions after Rugby Australia (RA) on Monday announced a landmark six-year sponsorship deal with confectionary company Cadbury.

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Olympics-Australian coach defends Chinese swimming amid doping furore

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/04/2024

Australian swimming coach Denis Cotterell has rejected allegations of orchestrated doping in Chinese swimming, saying the east Asian nation is adamant about clean sport. Cotterell is working with China's top swimmers in the lead-up to the Paris Olympics and previously coached 1,500 metres freestyle world record holder Sun Yang, who is now suspended for a doping offence.

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Shayna Jack lawyer Tim Fuller slams China doping situation

Adelaide Now, Other, 22/04/2024, James Dampney

Shayna Jack's lawyer is outraged by the decision to allow 23 Chinese swimmers to compete at the Tokyo Olympics despite positive tests for doping. It emerged on Saturday that before the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, which was confirmed by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#)

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"It's on the field, it's in the grandstands": Nicky Winmar healing ceremony returns to Vic Park to fight racism

National Indigenous Times, Other, 22/04/2024, Jarred Cross

A leading figure in Naarm's Aboriginal sport community says a gathering recognising Nicky Winmar's iconic stand at Victoria Park sends a powerful and necessary message 31 years on, with racism still

rearing its head in local footy. On April 21, Collingwood's old home ground played host to the second Ngarrá Jarra Noun Healing Ceremony sparked by the St Kilda champion's enduring moment.

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Lydia grew up playing AFL in the desert. Now the Matilda is inspiring the next generation of soccer players

SBS, Other, 22/04/2024, Rachael Knowles

After almost two decades in the sport and an incredible World Cup season for the Matildas, Williams is preparing for her third Olympics. She is Australia's longest-serving Matilda, competed in two Olympic Games and five World Cups but Lydia Williams still gets nervous walking out onto the field.

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Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 22/04/2024, Charlotte Goodlet

Sports Report Just months out from the Paris Olympics, there are calls from leading athletes for the world Anti-Doping agency to be dismantled. It comes after revelations 23 Chinese swimmers tested positive to drugs in the lead up to Tokyo.

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ABC, Late Night ABC News, 22/04/2024, Jade Barker

Sports Report The world Anti-Doping agency is standing by its ruling that more than 20 Chinese swimmers who tested positive to the same banned substance are not guilty of doping. A German documentary has revealed more details about the allegations, which happened in the lead up to the Tokyo Olympics.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 22/04/2024, Yvonne Yong

Commentary The world Anti-Doping agency is standing by its ruling that more than 20 Chinese swimmers who tested positive to the same banned substance are not guilty of doping. A German documentary has revealed more details about the allegations, which occurred in the lead up to the Tokyo Olympics.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Channel 9, Nine News, 22/04/2024, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

Ground-breaking research that could help cure childhood dementia has tonight received a massive boost. It's a deadly disorder that isn't widely known about but affects thousands of Australian kids and there's hope experts in SA could one day find a cure. Today, the SA Government and Little Heroes Foundation are partnering to provide \$500m which will go towards a research group at Flinders University.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Indigenous teen's family say system failed him before fatal car crash near Parliament House

The Guardian, Other, 23/04/2024, Christopher Knaus and Nino Bucci

Relatives of a dead 15-year-old Indigenous teenager with a significant cognitive impairment say they were not alerted to the fact he had left his residential care facility days before a shocking fatal car crash

outside federal Parliament House. The case has prompted a public intervention by the ACT's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner, Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts, who has called for a major overhaul of the out-of-home care system, saying it is failing Indigenous Australians.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Rosedale State School parents told to spend hundreds for books, uniforms after asbestos clean-out

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/04/2024, Taylah Fellows

Parents of students at asbestos-plagued Rosedale State School will have to replace all school items discarded by staff during a contamination clean-out, it can be revealed. Outraged parents received an email on Monday from the Department of Education informing them they would only be reimbursed \$150 a child, despite having to replace hundreds of dollars of school gear, including a \$250 stationery pack, books and uniform items.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Autism pill hope

The Nightly, General News, 22/04/2024, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 23

A biopharmaceutical development company says it has the potential to provide the world's first approved cannabinoid drug therapy for neurological disorders such as autism in children. [...] The company plans to speak with the Therapeutic Goods Administration to discuss the results of its clinical trials.

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

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ADHD drug returning

Herald Sun, General News, 23/04/2024, Page 6

All strengths of one of the most commonly prescribed ADHD drugs are expected to be back to "normal supply" by next week. [...] But the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said in a statement that 20mg, 30mg, 50mg and 70mg strengths of Vyvanse have returned to normal supply, with the 60mg and 40mg strengths expected to return to normal supply by April 30.

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

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TGA approves first non-hormonal menopause drug for hot flashes

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/04/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

GPs can now prescribe the non-hormonal menopause drug fezolinetant to women with moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms, following TGA approval of the first-of-its-kind treatment.

[Read More](#)

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

'You'll get rolled': Inside Australia's dark and dangerous crystal meth supply chain

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2024, Mahmood Fazal and Mayeta Clark

In a suburban Melbourne kitchen, a man with his face obscured by two hoodies and sunglasses pulls out a glass pipe, crumbles in a white mixture and heats it. Smoke swirls out and he inhales sharply.

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Ring-leader of money laundering and drug operation run out of Courgette restaurant in Canberra jailed for more than seven years

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2024, Elizabeth Byrne

A scheme involving a Lamborghini, a hatted restaurant, 21kg of cannabis and hundreds of thousands of dollars in laundered money came to a crashing end today when the ring-leader was jailed for more than seven years. Mohammed Al Mofathel, 31, pleaded guilty to six charges in the ACT Supreme Court including money laundering, procuring someone to commit perjury, general dishonesty and drug trafficking.

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Can't arrest our way out of drug crisis, say health experts

SBS, Other, 22/04/2024, Gareth Boreham

Health experts are warning of new super-strength synthetic opioids making their way into Australia with deadly consequences. They're up to fifty times stronger than fentanyl and have already been linked to a string of fatal heroin overdoses.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 22/04/2024, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

There is a warning tonight about a new class of drugs that have been detected in Australia. Cytosines are synthetic opioids that are 100 times stronger than fentanyl and are being used to cut heroin and MDMA. Experts who gathered in the CBD today are calling for interventions such as drug checking and increasing supervised consumption to help reduce harm.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Food plan call to limit supply shocks

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2024, Charlie Peel, Page 6

Food and agriculture organisations have called on the Albanese government to establish a national food plan to cast the industry in terms of national security and permanently address supply chain issues, prevent shortages and ensure Australians have access to affordable, quality produce. A national food plan was a key recommendation of a federal inquiry in December, which found it could help to stabilise food price fluctuations during supply chain disruptions.

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Food safety red tape holding up approvals

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/04/2024, Kathryn Bermingham, Page 6

Small businesses say they are losing out on thousands of dollars because state government red tape is delaying approval of food safety plans. Industry groups and business owners say the accreditation

process was previously taking about 10 days to complete, but the time has now blown out to up to a year.

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

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Here's some food for thought: Get out of the way!

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 23/04/2024, Editorial, Page 16

Food safety is of utmost importance and the consequences of a lax approach can be serious, even deadly but a balance must be found when bureaucracy is crippling small businesses during a cost-of-living crisis. Industry groups and business owners say wait times for the state government's food safety accreditation process, which was previously taking between 10-12 days to complete, have blown out to upwards of 12 months.

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If Australia has reached 'peak milk', what does that mean for our food security?

The Guardian, Other, 23/04/2024, Gabrielle Chan

If the last thing you remember about Australian dairy farmers is the \$1 milk price war, it is worth thinking a little more deeply about the white in your flat white and what it signifies for food producers. Last year, the standing committee on agriculture's final report into food security, chaired by Labor MP Meryl Swanson, recommended a National Food Plan.

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