



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 24th April 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 1) reports health experts are urging Australian consumers to become better informed about products containing PFAS chemicals due to fears of their unchecked health risks. *Also reported by:* [The Age](#)
- [The Age](#) (page 1) reports Victoria's government has cancelled a planned second safe injecting room for Melbourne's CBD, instead launching a \$95 million package for opioid replacement therapy and drug support services. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [The Age](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Herald Sun](#), [The Guardian](#)
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 1) reports funding options for IVF healthcare have become an election issue in the ACT, with the Liberal party offering cover for medically infertile patients, while the Labor government says it is examining broader coverage options.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 1) reports a South Australian coronial inquest has begun into the deaths of three patients who died while ramped at the state's hospitals. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [ABC Online](#)
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 2) reports older Australians are increasingly inflating the value of their assets as it can afford them better aged care options under current means testing.

Also reported by: [The Age](#)

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 2) reports Health Minister Mark Butler says the seizure of a record 500,000 vapes in Melbourne shows a proposed ban on non-prescription vapes is critical. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#)
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 3) reports NSW Health has agreed to pay almost \$230 million in compensation to junior medical officers employed under unreasonable workplace conditions over the past decade.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 3) reports children under the age of five are most at risk of accidental nicotine poisoning from vapes or e-cigarettes, new research by Kidsafe SA has found. *Also reported by:* [ABC Online](#)
- [The Australian](#) (page 4) reports older Australians are waiting up to 12 months to secure home aged-care services despite government pledges to speed service rollouts after the 2022 election.
- The [Northern Territory News](#) (page 5) reports proposed Northern Territory laws would allow locals using medicinal marijuana to drive with THC in their system, but road safety experts say progress must be cautious and science-based.

MINISTER BUTLER

ASIO, AFP focus in on tech companies

Canberra Times, General News, 24/04/2024, Dana Daniel and Miriam Webber, Page 1

Australia's top security officials say tech platforms must combat the proliferation of "extremist poison" online, as Prime Minister Anthony Albanese spars with X's Elon Musk over his refusal to remove violent content. Addressing the National Press Club on Wednesday, Australian Federal Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw will call out "social media platforms [for] refusing to snuff out the social combustion on their platforms." [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told reporters in Melbourne: "This government won't be bullied by the antics of this tech billionaire."

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

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Half a million vapes seized

Herald Sun, General News, 24/04/2024, Stephen Drill, Page 2

An alleged organised crime syndicate's secret stash of 500,000 vapes has been busted in Australia's largest ever seizure. Police raided a warehouse in Melbourne following suspicions it was being used to store illegal smokes that have fuelled firebombings across the city. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration and ABF have seized more than 1.5 million vapes since the ban came into force on January 1.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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MP in push for care clinic

Lilydale Star 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.

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Free flu vaccines for aged care

The Albanese government's announcement that community pharmacists will be able to provide free flu vaccinations in aged care facilities under the National Immunisation Program is welcomed. The move will see pharmacists able to provide off-site flu vaccinations and other vaccines under the National Immunisation Program Vaccination in Pharmacy program from Monday. [...] The guild is pleased that Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler has acknowledged our concerns over recent months.

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Half a million vapes seized in biggest ever haul

Canberra Times, Other, 23/04/2024, Adrian Black

Almost 500,000 illegal vapes have been seized in the largest single operation of its kind in Australian history. The joint operation by Victoria Police and the Therapeutic Goods Association has disrupted the supply of vapes worth an estimated \$15 million on the streets. "While the investigation is ongoing - this is the largest identification of suspected unlawful vapes we've seen to date," federal health minister Mark Butler said.

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

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Why the vape ban will cost Australians

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/04/2024

Australia's new vape laws are risking a looming budget blowout, as more than half a million seized devices need to be destroyed by hand. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, who brought in the new laws, said the ABF was seeking a tender to find a supplier to dispose of the vapes.

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We reap what we sow with mental health services provision!

Australian Health Information Technology, Other, 23/04/2024, Natasha Bitá

Psychotic and suicidal patients are being turned away from short-staffed public hospitals, as the nation's health ministers work to plug gaping gaps between medical treatment and NDIS support for the mentally ill. [...] "He wanted a girlfriend, and he's got no social skills, and he was frustrated out of his brain," Andrew More Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who met state and territory health ministers in Brisbane on Friday, said they were still analysing the "unmet need for mental health services for people with particularly severe and chronic mental health".

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Mark Butler announces NHMRC funding for six telehealth research projects

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 23/04/2024

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. Telehealth emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic as a significant platform to deliver patient services. [...] "The expansion of telehealth services, during the early days of COVID, has been described as '10 years of change in 10 days' and that is not an exaggeration," said Health Minister Mark Butler.

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The Health Wrap: a big diabetes investigation, questions for the Treasurer, primary care reforms, and the benefits of crochet

Croakey, Other, 23/04/2024, Melissa Sweet

Tackling the growing problem of diabetes requires action on many fronts, including ensuring that Indigenous communities have affordable access to healthy foods and priority access to essential medicines that are currently in short supply, according to the column below by Associate Professor Lesley Russell. [...] Australia's diabetes epidemic hits the most disadvantaged Since May 2023 the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport has been conducting – at the request of the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler – an inquiry into diabetes.

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NIPVIP program expansion improves vaccine accessibility

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 21/04/2024

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed the Albanese Government's expanding funding for the National Immunisation Program Vaccination in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) program in aged care and disability homes from 29 April 2024, actioning one of PSA's key recommendations in its 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission. Ahead of World Immunisation Week beginning 24 April 2024, the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Hon Mark Butler MP, has announced that pharmacists will be funded to deliver National Immunisation Program vaccines to some of Australia's most vulnerable priority population groups.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 23/04/2024, Sandra Sully

A huge police raid on a warehouse has uncovered a secret stash of some 500,000 illegal vapes. The haul, worth \$15m, is being hailed as Australia's largest bust since the importation of the devices became illegal in January. Health Minister Mark Butler says they are serious about stamping out this public health menace.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 23/04/2024, Peter Mitchell

Half a million vapes have been seized from a West Melbourne warehouse in the biggest haul of its kind in Australian history. Police allege the Lennon St property was being used by an organised crime syndicate to traffic the products. Health Minister Mark Butler says there were vapes disguised as a USB stick and highlighter pens.

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Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 23/04/2024, Dougal Beatty

Almost 500,000 vapes have been seized by Australian authorities in the nation's largest bust in history. Police located \$15m worth of illegal e-cigarettes at a facility in West Melbourne last week as part of a nationwide operation targeting cargo. Health Minister Mark Butler says just in April, they already seized more than 1.5 million illegal vapes taken out of the hands of young Australians and put into warehouses like this for ultimate disposal.

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2MCE, 14:00 National Radio News, 23/04/2024

The Federal Government is hailing what it says is the largest seizure of illegal vapes in Australian history. More than 500,000 vapes have been seized in an operation led by Victorian Police and the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Health Minister Mark Butler says it is the largest such operation and comes as the government attempts to drive home legislation banning the commercial sale of the devices.

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2CC, 08:30 News, 23/04/2024

There could be a reprieve in Canberra's low rate of bulk billing practises if authorities get their way in the upcoming Federal Budget. Latest figures show a slight rise in available bulk billing options in Canberra since the Federal Government introduced a new incentive program. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler wants to further increase bulk billing opportunities.

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2SM, 10:00 News, 23/04/2024

Nearly half a million vapes have been seized in a single police operation. The TGA and Victoria Police have nabbed the massive haul, worth an estimated \$15m. Once sold through retailers, the import of vapes has been banned since the start of the year, with Border Force seizing over 4000 consignments since. Health Minister Mark Butler says the large identification sends a clear message to those seeking to supply vapes.

ABC Radio Melbourne, 12:00 News, 23/04/2024

Authorities have seized almost half a million illegal vapes in what's being hailed as the largest single operation of its kind in Australian history. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler states the uptick in raids is the first step in banning vape products.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Mornings , 23/04/2024, Raf Epstein

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister, regarding vapes and the proposal to have a second supervised injecting room. Butler says they have been working closely with Victoria and other state governments around the pharmacotherapy and indeed, they put those treatments, buprenorphine, which are injections, and methadone, which are taken orally on the PBS several months ago. He adds it means people dealing with opioid dependence have gone from having to pay maybe \$150 or \$200 a month for that treatment to paying PBS prices. Butler says today, he will talk with the Border Force and the Therapeutic Goods Administration which are the federal bodies charged with policing the federal bans about another seizure of illegal vapes in Melbourne.

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MINISTER WELLS

Long wait: elderly plead for urgent aged-care help at home

The Australian, General News, 24/04/2024, Jess Malcolm, Page 4

Former Australian rules footballer Lester Ross used to walk along Middleton Beach on the south coast of South Australia's Fleurieu Peninsula every day until he had a heart attack in January last year. The 87-year-old says he was "as fit as an old bugger like me could be" until the heart incident, combined with the death of his wife, slowed him down. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells attacked the Morrison government's "rush-job on home care" and promised to "get inhome care back on track" soon after Labor took office in 2022.

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

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WADA's double standards exposed

Herald Sun, Sport, 24/04/2024, Allan Hird, Page 54

Why were swimmers treated differently to Dons? Are Chinese swimmers valued more highly than Essendon footballers? Interesting question. The answer would be yes. Certainly, they are by their respective government agencies for drugs in sport and sporting bodies. And certainly, they are by the World AntiDoping Agency. [...] Surely, SIA and our Minister for Sport, Anika Wells, would have a view?

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Wait times for aged care support blow out under Labor

CathNews, Other, 23/04/2024, Rebecca Comini

Older Australians are waiting for up to 12 months for home aged care services as the sector accuses Labor of taking its foot off the pedal ahead of the Budget. Source: The Australian. [...] 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.

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"The Acting Inspector-General of Aged Care does not commonly issue statements" but..

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/04/2024, Caroline Egan

The Acting Inspector-General of Aged Care (AIGAC) Ian Yates AM has issued a Statement highlighting the Aged Care Taskforce's omission of any details about a "needs-based framework" for aged care services in its Final Report. The Statement outlines the parallels between the Aged Care Taskforce's Final Report and the IIGAC's Progress Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety , which was prepared at the request of the Aged Care Minister Anika Wells to help the Taskforce in its deliberations.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Gawler to get in the right headspace

Bunyip, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 10

Gawler's mental health services will be boosted by the end of 2025 with the Federal Government planning to expand a national network into the town. The Federal Government has announced a new headspace service will be coming to Gawler within the next 18 months. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride said there was a lot of demand for extra mental health services.

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Mental health reform for children

Launceston Examiner, General News, 24/04/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 1

Tasmanian children will have access to free mental health services later this year under a federal and state government partnership to fund three Head to Health Kids Hubs. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Emma McBride said the government had seen an increase in distress among young children and families in Tasmania and across Australia.

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

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Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 23/04/2024, Kim Millar

Help is on the way for families struggling with a concerning rise in mental health issues among children. State and federal governments are teaming up to establish three centres dedicated to early intervention and support. Federal Assistant Mental Health Minister Emma McBride says they have seen an increase in distress amongst young children and families in Tas, across Australia and around the world.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Decarbonising health care: Australia joins US, UK statement

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 23/04/2024

The National Health Service in England and the United States Department of Health and Human Services are leading the public statement initiative, and other countries that have signed include Ireland and Norway. Green procurement [...] Australia needs a health system that is prepared for these challenges," said Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney MP.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 23/04/2024, Greg Jennett

Panel discussion with Ged Kearney, Assistant Health Minister and Angie Bell, LNP Frontbencher, regarding anti-vaping laws. Health Minister Mark Butler is talking up seizures at the borders and he says 1.5 million vapes have been seized since the start of this calendar year. Kearney says it is brand

new legislation and they are still working through all the various tranches of legislation that they need to pass. She adds there is a very important one coming up in the next parliamentary sitting and they hope that they will get that legislation through because it will be the last bit where people will not be able to buy vapes at retail or convenience stores.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Why are people inflating wealth for better aged care?

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 24/04/2024, Rachel Lane, Page 2

The cost of aged care is means tested so it defies logic that you would artificially inflate your wealth, but it is happening everywhere. Why? Mostly because people want a higher standard of aged care accommodation. Under the aged care means test, if you are classified as a low-means resident you cannot be charged the market price for accommodation. Rather, you pay a contribution, with the government paying a "top-up" of up to \$68 a day.

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

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Our rights don't diminish with age

West Australian, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 22

Advocare is a leader in addressing the rights of older people and elder abuse. For more than 25 years, it has assisted older Western Australians to access the right supports, information and protections available to them. "Advocare is a not-for-profit organisation, independent of aged care providers," Advocare CEO Louise Johnstone Forster said.

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Making a cool and caring connection

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/04/2024, Jessica Belzycki, Page 18

Helping preschoolers create paper poppies, aged care residents are stepping back in time. Every Thursday for the past five weeks, an intergenerational program has brought together Anglican Care Scenic Lodge Merewether residents and Montessori Academy preschoolers at Marketown shopping centre.

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Quirindi Care Services

Quirindi Advocate, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 4

Entry to residential aged care can be a time that brings about many different emotions for the person and their family and friends. Emotions can range from sadness, fear, anger, loss, guilt and in some cases, relief. Often, the decision comes at a time of crises and urgency. There can be many roadblocks and speed humps that can be so frustrating for all involved. We often have people ask us why it takes so long or why is it so hard to find out what to do and how to do it. Good questions.

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Campaign for change

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/04/2024, Jessica Klein, Page 9

There wasn't a dry eye among the more than dozen filled seats of Newtown Hall as Kim Sutton bravely detailed her father's agonising death. [...] In March 2021, a final report was released by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety returning 148 recommendations across different areas of the service.

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Age pension rules confusion hits many nearing retirement

The Australian, Other, 23/04/2024, Anthony Keane

More than three out of five Australians approaching retirement do not understand whether they will be eligible for an age pension. This potentially leaves them working longer than they need to, or worrying unnecessarily that their nest egg is too small, retirement saving specialists warn.

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Labor urged to do more in the aged care sector

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/04/2024

The federal government is being criticised for current shortcomings in aged care. There has been a rapid increase in wait times for older Australians getting into aged care services. It's been revealed there is now a 12-month wait for aged care facilities. There are growing concerns it could lead to more elderly deaths as a result.

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One in five Australians wrongly believe dementia is 'normal part of the ageing process', survey shows

The Guardian, Other, 24/04/2024, Natasha May

Dementia is the leading cause of premature death in older Australians, but fewer than one in three people are confident they know how to reduce their risk of it, a first-of-its-kind survey has shown. The Dementia Awareness Survey released Wednesday by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) is the largest nationally representative survey of its kind measuring knowledge of dementia risk factors and common misconceptions.

Also reported by: [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

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Wait times for home care services blow out under Labor

2GB, Other, 23/04/2024, Chris O'Keefe

Aged care packages backlog leaves families waiting for essential home services, with concerns mounting over funding and wait times. Heartbreaking stories of families struggling to access home care packages emerge, revealing more bureaucratic hurdles and delays.

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Only in Saturday: the virtual hub bridging the aged care nursing gap

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/04/2024, Caroline Egan

Regional and rural aged care homes report that they are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on agency staff and it can take 12 to 18 months to register internationally qualified staff to practise as

nurses in Australia. NSW regional provider McLean Care, has developed a solution - virtual healthcare hub iAgeHealth - that could radically reshape the way aged care is delivered in Australia.

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National Aged Care Advisory Council on Aged Care Taskforce Final Report and new Aged Care Act

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/04/2024, Caroline Egan

The Department of Health and Aged Care has published the National Aged Care Advisory Council (NACAC)'s communique from its 25 March meeting, the Council's first meeting since the Government released the Aged Care Taskforce Final Report. [...] NACAC was established in 2021 in response to a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety .

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IHACPA seeks additional costing data from providers on top of QFS and ACFR

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/04/2024, Caroline Egan

The Independent Hospital and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA), which provides the Government with evidence-backed advice on the cost of delivering aged care services, is requesting that aged care providers involved in costing studies provide them with additional costing data to the Aged Care Financial Report (ACFR) and Quarterly Financial Reports (QFR), which provide a significant portion of the data.

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Juniper CEO Russell Bricknell appointed Chair of the Aged Care Workforce Remote Accord

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/04/2024, Caroline Egan

Russell Bricknell, CEO of WA's largest Not For Profit aged care provider, Juniper, has been appointed Chair of the Aged Care Workforce Remote Accord, a group of aged care employers and experts trying to help solve the aged care worker shortage in remote and very remote areas of Australia.

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Leader brings “the voice of aged care” to ARIIA board

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/04/2024, Caroline Egan

Government-funded Not For Profit Aged Care Research & Industry Innovation Australia (ARIIA) has appointed Veronica Jamison, CEO of Shepparton Villages, and A/Prof Corey Tutt, founder of DeadlyScience, to its board. ARIIA was formed in 2021 as part of the then Government's aged care workforce strategy.

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St Vincent's Care Services Kew aged care chefs shine against the world's best

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/04/2024, Caroline Egan

Food in residential aged care has a bad reputation yet chefs David Martin and Harry Shen, of St Vincent's Care Services Kew, a luxurious new aged care home 5km east of the Melbourne CBD, have shone the torch for the sector against some of the world's top chefs from London's The Dorchester, London Marriott Hotel Park Lane, Harrods, Hilton London Bankside, and French hotel Auberge du Lac. [...] Food has been derided in aged care, with the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety citing research showing some providers were spending as little as \$6 per bed per day on food, resulting in the Morrison Government introducing a \$10 Basic Daily Fee Supplement (which became the Hotelling Supplement) which was intended to improve nutrition in aged care.

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Aged care training provider Altura Learning appoints Paul Goudie CEO

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/04/2024, Caroline Egan

Aged care training provider Altura Learning, which is owned by Australia's largest independent Not For

Profit aged care provider, Bolton Clarke, has appointed education and technology expert Paul Goudie as its new CEO, effective 5 April 2024. Paul has more than 20 years' experience, with a strong background in educational product development, executive leadership, and quality improvement programs.

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How living to 100 changes Australia's future

Your Life Choices, Other, 24/04/2024, Andrew Gigacz

I've been playing club cricket for 40 years and although my forte is bowling, I consider myself at least handy with the bat. Despite this, I've never managed to make 100. At least not yet. I haven't given up hope, but the odds are against it. However, according to the latest numbers, my chances of living to 100 are rising.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 23/04/2024, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Brigid Wilkinson, Acting CEO, Council of the Ageing and Damien Jacobs, CEO, Glenview Residential Aged Care regarding wait times for category 3 or 4 aged care packages blowing up. Wilkinson says she doesn't think they have seen much change since before because people are still waiting for months. Jacobs says what they try and do is make sure that they can connect them up with other lower care services that are provided by the Commonwealth in the meantime.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Nicotine dangers increase for kids

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/04/2024, Agnes Gichuhi, Page 3

Children under the age of 5 are at the highest risk of accidental nicotine poisoning found in cigarettes, e-cigarettes and nicotine replacement therapies, with poisoning cases increasing to almost 50 per cent, a new study has found. The number of calls made to our state's Poison Information Centre (PIC) for accidental exposure to nicotine products has increased by 47 per cent, according to Kidsafe SA.

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

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Essential to protect young from vaping

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/04/2024, Abby Smith, Page 21

As Tasmanians, we have a duty to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our young people. The impending debate on the Therapeutic Goods Vaping Reforms Bill 2024 is an opportunity for Tasmanian federal senators to take decisive action on the escalating public health crisis posed by the increasing use of vapes by young people.

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Telethon Kids Institute program rolled out nationally to boost physical activity in young Australian children

West Australian, Other, 23/04/2024, Claire Sadler

Australia has a poor report card in terms of children's physical activity but a WA-developed program is aiming to fix this by helping childcare centres across the country get more kids moving. Only one in 10 children aged between three and five are getting the recommended three hours of physical activity a day, which includes one hour of energetic play — play including hopping, jumping, and running.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 23/04/2024, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

There's a serious health alert tonight amid a spike in South Australian babies and children getting their hands on vapes. The Poisons Hotline has seen an alarming rise in kids accidentally smoking and drinking nicotine, with doctors fearing we could soon see a fatality.

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6PR, Afternoons, 23/04/2024, Julie-anne Sprague

Sprague reports new statistics out today from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 23% of younger people aged between 18 and 24 are reporting alcohol abstinence because they're spending time at gyms.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Label put on alcohol about cancer risk

The Nightly, General News, 23/04/2024, Ted Alcorn, Page 17

Beginning in 2026, containers of beer, wine and liquor sold in Ireland will be required by law to bear a label in red capital letters with two warnings: "THERE IS A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND FATAL CANCERS" and "DRINKING ALCOHOL CAUSES LIVER DISEASE." The law, signed last year, is backed by decades of scientific research and goes further than any country has in communicating the health risks of alcohol.

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Noise around vets' hearing

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 20

Defence Force personnel have among the noisiest jobs in the world and veterans are being urged to address hearing loss to help their wellbeing. "Military personnel are at a higher risk of noise-induced hearing loss because they're exposed to high-level noise such as gunfire, explosives and machinery," Hearing Australia principal audiologist, Karen Hirschausen said.

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

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Women's heart health - symptoms to seriously consider

ABC Online, Other, 23/04/2024

What is the latest in understanding the causes of heart disease and what are the best strategies to avoid heart attacks? Nightlife sought out leading research cardiologist, Dr Nikki Bart. Currently in Boston as a visiting academic at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School where she is working on research in cardiac genetics.

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

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Channel 9, Nine News, 23/04/2024, Michael Thomson

Prostate is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia, and last year it was identified in more than 25,000 Aussie men. That's around 70 a day. While the disease kills ten men every day early detection through a PSA test can save lives. PSA stands for prostate specific antigen, which is a chemical in the body that's produced. It can be an indicator about changes in your prostate gland.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Region's 'dire' situation

Daily Liberal, General News, 24/04/2024, Sarah Falson, Page 1

"We are in dire need". Narromine's Dr Niro Wickramasinghe says she has run out of options when referring children for specialist paediatric appointments. The GP at Narromine Shire Family Health Centre said the situation had become serious 18 months ago when paediatricians left Dubbo Hospital and weren't replaced.

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

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Health system shake-up

Ballarat Courier, General News, 24/04/2024, Ben Silvester and Jessica Greenan, Page 1

Victoria's regional health services are bracing for forced amalgamations across the state hospital system as the opposition and current and former hospital CEOs criticise a lack of consultation and transparency. An independent expert advisory committee is in the final stages of a Health Services Plan to radically reform the system.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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Children forced to wait years for help as crisis deepens

Western Advocate, General News, 24/04/2024, Riley Krause, Page 6

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. Mrs MacInnes is a co-director at Orange's Seed Paediatric Services which specialises in therapeutic intervention for neurodiverse children between the ages of zero and 12.

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Ageing population sees hospitals "at breaking point" and it is going to get worse: AMA

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/04/2024, Caroline Egan

The ageing population is a significant factor putting pressure on hospital emergency departments and surgery waiting lists, according to the 2024 Public Hospital Report Card, an annual report that uses data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to pinpoint areas of concern in Australia's public hospital system.

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

[Read More](#)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

We must never give up hope

Herald Sun, General News, 24/04/2024, Grace Baldwin, Page 17

Last week, I attended the funeral of a friend. While we weren't especially close, she was always warm and vibrant. After enduring a painful, valiant battle with bipolar disorder, she took her own life at the age of 27. I found out on Facebook. Journalists spend a lot of time on the periphery of trauma. We regularly engage with people at rock bottom and translate their pain into words, pictures and stories.

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Carers' social media fears

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 10

Social media is the most common issue of concern for parents and carers across Australia. It topped the list of key issues of worry for parents in a ReachOut survey at 59 per cent, followed by the future (56 per cent), school, study and exam stress (52 per cent) and mental health (50 per cent).

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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

The fight now is to save our veterans

Courier Mail, General News, 24/04/2024, Iwan Jones, Page 11

A veteran with suicidal thoughts is calling emergency services every 16 hours in Queensland prompting calls for a purpose-built support facility in Brisbane. The report by the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research released this month as part of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide showed 1625 Queensland veterans had contact with police or paramedics over three years and had 24 per cent higher odds of having suiciderelated contact with emergency services than civilians.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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Disability distress

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 16

Australian adults with disability experience psychological distress at almost three times the rate of those without disability. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows that in 2020-21, 33 per cent of adults with disability experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress compared with 12 per cent of those without disability.

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

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Fundraiser sparks discussion

Border Watch, General News, 24/04/2024, Melanie Riley, Page 9

The Shaka Project and local high school student Harmony Kennett have teamed up to try and tackle the stigma of mental health. Ms Kennett became a brand ambassador for The Shaka Project at the beginning of 2023, to help spread the brand's message, being that mental health awareness is close to her heart.

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New suicide prevention training boost

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 24/04/2024, Natalie Croxon, Page 4

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.

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The stats are a cause for concern

Canberra Times, Other, 23/04/2024, Crispin Hull

A rather alarming statistic turned up in the Australian Council of Social Services annual wealth and income snapshot last week. Not even the authors appreciated its significance. The ACOSS report ; the UN human development index ; and the World Happiness report all came down last week. They show that Australians are reasonably happy but we are getting more miserable. Young people especially are getting more miserable. They show the rich are getting richer and the poor getting poorer. Not new, but still true.

[Read More](#)

'Bloody hard work': Meet the doctor behind Australia's first public ketamine clinic

The ketamine treatment clinic at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital is the first of its kind in Australia. There is no denying that ketamine has captured psychiatry's attention. Once confined to the dusty shelves of the 1970s, research into the anaesthetic and illicit party drug's potential as a mental health treatment has exploded over the last two decades. In Sydney, this comeback culminated in the first-of-its-kind public clinic for patients with treatment-resistant depression.

[Read More](#)

Calls to Lifeline up

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/04/2024

Financial pressures, unemployment and housing insecurity are increasingly becoming the source of many Australians' distress, according to new data from Lifeline. Lifeline revealed this week that around 15% of calls to the mental health service each day are related to cost-of-living related issues, and it expects to receive more than a million calls for support this year.

[Read More](#)

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

IVF costs become an ACT election issue

Canberra Times, General News, 24/04/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 1

Fertility treatments can cost people thousands and thousands of dollars. These high costs can often present an insurmountable barrier for people wanting to have children. But the cost of fertility treatments in Canberra will form a part of the October election with the opposition promising payments of up to \$2000 towards the cost of treatments.

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

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Oh, baby

Cairns Post, General News, 24/04/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 1

Wrangling two cheeky boys and managing a busy job makes leaving home difficult at the best of times for longterm Weipa resident, Elizabeth Weidman. So, when the western Cape York mum, who's expecting her third child in July, learned that birthing services would be reestablished at Weipa Hospital soon, she felt a sense of relief. "At 36 weeks (pregnant) you are required to leave Weipa," Ms Weidman said.

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

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Supporting your loved one to breastfeed starts by valuing it as work

ABC Online, Other, 23/04/2024, Kellie Scott

Whenever Elizabeth Mansfield was breastfeeding and her husband was home, he kept busy. "Very early on he realised that when I was sitting down feeding, I was working," the 34-year-old from Brisbane/Meanjin says. "If I was feeding, he was up and doing housework or things for the baby. "I don't really know how you would do the journey without that kind of support, because it is a lot of work. It's around the clock."

[Read More](#)

'Delivered by women, led by men': Female nurses face major barriers to advance into leadership roles

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 23/04/2024, Anmj Staff

Comprehensively reviewing decades of data, researchers identified the collective sociocultural, professional, organisational, and individual barriers that hold female nurses back from being considered, applying for, or accepting leadership positions. Published in The Lancet's EClinicalMedicine, the international review, part of a large-scale National Health and Medical

Research Council funded initiative to Advance Women in Healthcare Leadership (AWHL), reveals healthcare systems and organisations limit women nurses in skill acquisition, motivation and opportunities in healthcare leadership, due to inequitable policies, practices and bias.

[Read More](#)

New SA initiative to enhance maternal and child health through midwives

Nursing Review, Other, 23/04/2024, Arshmah Jamal

New research could see South Australian midwives taking on an even more crucial role in supporting pregnant women to address alcohol and other drug use. A new initiative between Flinders University, the University of Adelaide, and the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN) is set to explore the potential of midwives in promoting vital public health messages and providing support for abstinence during pregnancy.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Doctors awarded \$230m for unpaid overtime

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/04/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 3

More than 20,000 doctors will receive hundreds of millions of dollars in unpaid overtime and entitlements after the NSW government settled the largest underpayment claim in Australian history. After a four-year battle in the Supreme Court, NSW Health has agreed to pay \$229.8 million to resolve a class action launched on behalf of junior medical officers employed by the department at any point between December 2014 and March 2024.

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

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Next gen of health workers

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 1

Benu Prasad Khanal, Laxmi Regmi and Krishna Kala Khanal at the 2024 graduation ceremony held at Charles Darwin University.

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Addiction specialist says doctor shortage will make Labor's drug treatment plan difficult

ABC Online, Other, 23/04/2024

A prominent addiction doctor has welcomed the state government's commitment to inject funding into the sector, but fears the severe shortage of specialists will make access to treatment difficult. Dr Andrew Taylor works with drug-dependent patients at Frankston Healthcare and told Ali Moore there are "very few GPs" with those working in addiction hoping to retire but "can't get away".

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

GP with chronic migraine pushes for greater power to prescribe Medicare-subsidised medication

ABC Online, Other, 23/04/2024, Daniel Miles

It took Andrew Leech more than a decade to find relief from debilitating chronic migraine that threatened to derail his medical career. His search for a cure took him through countless medications and painfully long waits for specialist help before eventually finding respite in the injectable migraine

preventer Ajovy. [...] That drug has since been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), but can only be prescribed by a neurologist.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Ramped to death

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/04/2024, Eva Blandis, Page 1

The harrowing impact of the state's ramping crisis has broadened with the revelation that three more people have died after waiting in ambulances. An inquest on Tuesday heard Anna Vincenza Panella, 76, Bernard Anthony Skeffington, 89, and Graham Henry Jessett, 64, were all let down by the health system. "Each turned to the health system at their time of most need ... each was made to wait on the doorstep of a hospital," the inquest heard.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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Code of conduct not yet proclaimed

Launceston Examiner, General News, 24/04/2024, Isabel Bird, Page 3

Laws to better protect Tasmanians using cosmetic, massage, fitness, wellness and other alternative or general health services are still being looked at, five years after the government first considered them. While adoption of the national code of conduct for unregistered health workers could provide better regulatory protections, legislation to adopt the code in Tasmania has not yet been proclaimed. This has left gaps in current state laws that put the public at risk.

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

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Woman's hospital death from over-sedation 'preventable'

Canberra Times, Other, 23/04/2024

The death of a Tiwi Island mother in hospital was preventable, a coroner has been told. Following days of sedation in the Royal Darwin Hospital emergency department and high-security Joan Ridley Unit, Pukamani Alimankinni stopped breathing while sleeping in a bean bag on August 8, 2021.

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

[Read More](#)

Peter Johnathon Rex Bolton inquest: Man knocked back for NDIS funding before fatally self-harming

West Australian, Other, 23/04/2024

A 36-year-old involuntary mental health ward patient was knocked back for NDIS funding to support him being discharged from hospital just before he took his own life, an inquest has been told. The coronial investigation into the November 2022 death of Peter Johnathon Rex Bolton at St John of God Hospital Midland was mandatory because he was a person held in care.

[Read More](#)

Rockingham mum Amy O'Meagher pushing for WA inquiry into birth trauma in public hospital system

West Australian, Other, 24/04/2024, Rachel Fenner

When Amy O'Meagher had her first baby in 2020, she planned for a stress-free homebirth but says she was left traumatised after "cruel treatment" from medical staff. "I felt like I was being tortured," Ms O'Meagher said when describing the birth process at Fiona Stanley Hospital. Ms O'Meagher says she was bullied throughout her pregnancy about her weight and then during labour when she was forced into using synthetic hormones to stimulate the birth.

[Read More](#)

Cancer treatment delays took away precious time and worsened palliative care, Dalrayne Meikle's family says

ABC Online, Other, 23/04/2024, Jasmine Hines

Trevor Kuskopf agonises every day over whether he could have pushed health professionals harder over delays to his wife's terminal bladder cancer treatment. He said after 45 years together he watched her die in pain because by the time she did receive care she was too weak for radiotherapy to ease her symptoms.

[Read More](#)

Margaret Faux's rorts report accused GP researchers of 'normalising fraud' — here is their response

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/04/2024, Heather Saxena

University of Sydney researchers deny claims they identified fraud and excused it. GP researchers have responded to the new Medicare rorts report, which cited their study when accusing GPs of "stealing from the government". Four Corners had commissioned the report from lawyer Dr Margaret Faux (PhD) and UK medical billing company Kirontech for a story accusing spinal surgeons and anaesthetists of rorting Medicare.

[Read More](#)

GPs billing for point-of-care HbA1c tests risk breaking Medicare rules: RACGP

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/04/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

GPs have claimed thousands of rebates for point-of-care HbA1c tests even though no GP practice has met a mandatory accreditation rule, the RACGP says. The college warned members on Friday that the Department of Health and Aged Care had identified a "compliance risk" for MBS item 73812, which can be claimed three times a year per patient. Medicare restricts the item to GP practices accredited against the RACGP's standards for point-of-care testing (PoCT).

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 23/04/2024, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Ambulance ramping is under the microscope with an investigation starting today into the deaths of three South Australians forced to wait outside hospitals. An inquest has heard they were let down by a health system when they needed it most.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

'Deprivation of liberty': broken Bulldog puts club on trial

The Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs have been accused of the "deprivation of liberty" and "unlawful corporal punishment" of one of the club's most prodigious talents in a landmark \$4m lawsuit that alleges the young player was forced to wrestle "30 to 35" teammates as punishment for being late to training. Lawyers for former Bulldogs rising star Jackson Topine a onetime schoolboy captain of NSW and Australia claim the 16-game first-grader was "detained" and subjected to "assault" and "battery" and "humiliation" at the orders of the club's head trainer, Travis Touma.

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'The end is coming': league legend warns on head injuries

The Australian, General News, 24/04/2024, Jess Malcolm, Page 6

Rugby league legend Wally Lewis has warned the future of the code is at risk unless the NRL takes a harder stand against head injuries, backing a ban on tackling during training for children and amateurs. In an address to the National Press Club in Canberra, the Queensland great warned that young players are turning away from contact sports "at an alarming rate" amid rising incidence of head trauma, and he encouraged clubs to ensure children were taught how to tackle safely.

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

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Questionable time for transparency

The Australian, Sport, 24/04/2024, Julian Linden, Page 23

What we now know about the biggest doping scandal that will dominate this year's Paris Olympics. The latest Chinese doping scandal has divided the sports world ahead of the Paris Olympics, with investigators defending their decision not to take any action, while rival athletes and critics are demanding a fresh inquiry.

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

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Probe over footy death

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 24/04/2024, Michael Warner, Page 5

The tragic death of former Melbourne and Fremantle footballer Harley Balic has emerged as a focus of Sport Integrity Australia's probe into the AFL's contentious illicit drugs policy. Balic died in January 2022, just four days after turning 25, following a battle with drug addiction. During his three-year playing career, Balic was placed into the AFL's "medical model", enabling him to take drugs repeatedly without penalty.

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

Mystery in footy pub fall tragedy

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/04/2024, Dylan Hogarth, Page 1

West Adelaide Football Club has shed new light on the injuries to footballer Sam May, amid fears he could have been lying grievously hurt for hours. The Bloods senior player remains in intensive care after it is believed he fell through a roof at Port Lincoln's Pier Hotel. SafeWork SA has announced that it is investigating to see if any work health and safety obligations were breached.

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Grim record for lifesavers

Herald Sun, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 2

Life Saving Victoria is warning Victorians to stay alert around water as the volunteer patrol season comes to a close after the worst summer for drowning deaths the state has ever recorded. As the red and yellow flags come down at beaches across the state this weekend, the lifesaving body officially marks the deadliest summer since 2000, with 26 deaths.

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Clubhouse leader

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/04/2024, Simon Mcguire, Page 1

A remote Tasmanian golf course on an island with less than 2000 people has been named the best in Australia. Conducted by Australian Golf Digest (AGD) every two years, Cape Wickham on King Island has been crowned the number-one spot in the publication's top 100 courses. Since the list was first published 40 years ago, only three courses have held the top spot. Kingston Heath ranked number one in 2010, but on every other list, Royal Melbourne's West course has been on top.

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'AFL does not need to change'

West Australian, General News, 24/04/2024, Glen Quartermain, Page 17

Former Collingwood defender Nathan Murphy says the bump and tackle should remain part of the game, despite a series of concussions forcing him into an early retirement. The AFL premiership player instead wants better education on tackling technique, particularly at a youth level, amid a polarising national debate over penalties for head knocks and the time players should sit out with concussion.

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New chairman for horse trace taskforce

Border Watch, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 43

Victorian biosecurity specialist and former Queensland Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Ron Glanville will lead the National Horse Traceability Implementation Taskforce as its new Chair. The newly established Taskforce will focus on implementing a national horse traceability system, continuing the work of the National Horse Traceability Working Group which provided final recommendations to Australia's Agriculture Ministers in 2022.

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Greyhounds green light

Central Western Daily, General News, 24/04/2024, William Davis, Page 1

A new multi-million dollar greyhound track in Orange is to go ahead. The contract to buy the old Highlands Paceway has been signed. Greyhound, Breeders and Trainers Association (GBOTA) CEO Daniel Weizman met Orange City Council staff this week to finalise the deal. "We are now a step closer to reintroducing world-class greyhound racing and creating a world-class greyhound centre of excellence in Orange," Mr Weizman said in a prepared statement.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#).

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Hopes for slamdunk

Western Advocate, General News, 24/04/2024, Amy Rees, Page 1

It's a nervous wait for Bathurst Goldminers members hoping their leaky stadium's roof will receive funding for full repairs. The club is hanging on the outcome of a state government funding application, which, if successful, would combine with federal funding to get the job done. "We can't guarantee we'll get it, but we've put everything we can into securing it," Basketball NSW chief executive officer Maria Nordstrom said.

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Trainers charged over horses testing positive to breast cancer drug

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/04/2024, Danny Russell

Trainers at five Victorian stables have been charged over their horses testing positive to a breast cancer drug that Racing Victoria revealed is not legally available for human use in Australia. Racing Victoria stewards announced a total of 12 charges on Tuesday following a 12-month investigation.

[Read More](#)

Ezra Mam open to meeting with Spencer Leniu over racist slur, but eager to move on with Brisbane Broncos' NRL season

ABC Online, Other, 23/04/2024

Brisbane five-eighth Ezra Mam has no regrets about calling out Spencer Leniu's racial slur in Las Vegas and says he is prepared to meet with the Sydney Roosters prop when the time is right. Mam, a

proud Torres Strait Islander, spoke for the first time on Tuesday since Leniu called him a monkey in the round-one clash in Las Vegas.

[Read More](#)

Cronulla Sharks veteran Dale Finucane retires from footy effective immediately - and the reason why will have the NRL on edge

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/04/2024, Jasper Bruce and Andrew Prentice

Cronulla enforcer Dale Finucane has announced his immediate retirement from the NRL on medical advice. The Sharks co-captain, 32, was told by doctors to hang up his boots due to repeated head knocks across his decorated career. Finucane confirmed the development on Tuesday alongside coach Craig Fitzgibbon. The dual-premiership winner with the Melbourne Storm is contracted at the Sharks until the end of 2025 - but has been scuppered by injuries in recent times.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Sniffing out Covid loss

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 14

You may feel as though Covid-19 left you with a lingering loss of taste, but US research suggests it may actually be a lost sense of smell that is to blame. The Sensonics International and University of Pennsylvania research used objective measures of taste and smell in people a year after Covid-19 infection and compared them with

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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King Wally tells of CTE battle

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/04/2024, Eleanor Campbell, Page 11

Rugby league legend Wally Lewis has called on the federal government to pour more funding towards dementia and brain injury research after revealing the stark realities of living with a debilitating brain disorder. The former Maroons captain, nicknamed "The King", spent three decades honing an extraordinary elite sporting career that saw him win a record eight Man of the Match awards at State of Origin and spearhead Queensland's dominance over NSW in the 1980s and 90s.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Shepparton News \(Shepparton\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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AI used to detect disease

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 7

The current method of measuring heart disease risk leaves many women undiagnosed, according to US Researchers who used AI to find better ways to detect heart disease in women. Using AI models, a Stanford University team found that women are underdiagnosed twice as often as men for certain heart conditions.

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

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Childhood dementia research gets funding boost from SA government and Little Heroes Foundation

ABC Online, Other, 23/04/2024, Stephanie Richards

Renee Staska's seven-year-old daughter Holly dreams of one day captaining the Port Adelaide women's football team. But time is not on the side of the avid AFL fan, who alongside her five-and nine-year-old brothers, lives with a terminal illness. "They think they're the fastest, the strongest, they have

huge dreams," Ms Staska said. "I don't want to be the one that takes the wind out of their sails and tells them that something is really wrong here.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Help, we're now a town under siege

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/04/2024, Douglas Smith, Page 8

Almost 30 business owners from Ceduna in the state's far west have written letters raising concerns about widespread public anti-social behaviour plaguing the coastal town for the past two years. [...] Meanwhile, federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney told the Advertiser the CDP program was "broken" and no longer "fit for purpose", and said the Albanese Government was rolling out better version of work-for-the-dole, called the Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program (RJED), that will create 3000 jobs in remote communities.

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

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Critical health report delay

Cairns Post, General News, 24/04/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 5

The release of a critical report into the healthcare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in remote Far North communities has been delayed for a third time by investigators. But Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has defended the lag, arguing the external clinicians are "taking their time to get it right".

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Working together for a healthy, strong and proud Aboriginal community

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 23

The local Coomealla Aboriginal Community had, for some time, recognised a need for an Aboriginal Health Service to be established in Dareton, the centre of the Aboriginal population, to provide services to the Wentworth Shire. Health services have been provided to the Indigenous community in Dareton since 1972 when the first Aboriginal Health Worker (AHW) was employed to provide sewing and cooking classes for young girls.

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

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney tells WA government to make child protection a top priority

West Australian, Other, 23/04/2024, Katina Curtis

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney has put the WA government on notice that it must make fixing child protection services a top priority in the wake of a 10-year-old boy taking his own life while in the care system. The federal minister has spoken with WA's Child Protection Minister Sabine Winton about the case, which she said was a "tragic, sad situation".

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

[Read More](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 23/04/2024, Sally Sara/ Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Linda Burney, Minister for Indigenous Australians, regarding the devastating suicide of a 10yo Aboriginal boy in kinship care in WA last Friday that has reignited a debate about the practice of child removals and the suitability of out-of-home care. Advocates say Closing the Gap targets to reduce the rates of suicide and the number of Indigenous children in out-of-home care is worsening. Burney says the important point for her is the work that needs to be done and the work that's being done, particularly at the federal level in terms of keeping children safe. She adds the Closing the Gap target, which is 12, is not on track and the number of Aboriginal children in care is growing.

OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Flu cases spike early prompting vaccination push

Canberra Times, Other, 23/04/2024, Anna McGuinness

An early spike in flu cases has prompted a vaccination push from health authorities. More than 4700 people have been diagnosed with influenza in the past four weeks in NSW, a 16 per cent increase compared with 2023. And hospital admissions from influenza-like illness are nearly double that of the same period last year. Nine children aged under 16 were among 39 people who died from the flu in Australia in 2023.

Also reported by: [beaundesertbulletin.com \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 23/04/2024, Davina Smith

Interview with Alison McMillan, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Department of Health, on the importance of getting a vaccine ahead of the 2024 flu season. Already, the number of patients with the flu is about 16% from this time last year. McMillan says flu is very different to the common cold and it can cause quite significant disease and hospitalisation and sadly, death even in people who are generally very well. She adds now is the time to get vaccinated so that the people are protected.

[Play Now](#)

5AA, 08:00 News, 23/04/2024

Chief Medical Officer Prof Paul Kelly is urging South Australians to get the flu vaccine with a special call for vulnerable groups, including young children, to be protected. Last year, the highest notification rates for influenza in Australia were among children under 14 years of age, where vaccination uptake was also concerning low. Kelly says now is the time for action in Australia.

[Play Now](#)

5RM, 07:30 News, 23/04/2024

People are urged to get vaccinated against the flu as Australia heads to winter. Chief Medical Officer Prof Paul Kelly says the call is important for vulnerable groups and young children.

[Play Now](#)

SEN, 07:00 News, 23/04/2024

People are being urged to roll up their sleeves and get the flu vaccine, especially the vulnerable. Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly says children are at high risk of catching influenza but the vaccination rate is worryingly low.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Star agent for Stacia

Courier Mail, General News, 24/04/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 1

Former Queensland premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has hired colourful celebrity agent Max Markson as she plots her post-politics career. It is understood Ms Palaszczuk's enlistment of Mr Markson could

entail events on the speaking circuit and potentially a book deal. [...] During Covid-19 Mr Markson had a run-in with authorities resulting in \$26,000 in fines from the Therapeutic Goods Administration after his website spruiked an expensive medical device and claimed it could prevent Covid-19.

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

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Half a million vapes seized

Herald Sun, General News, 24/04/2024, Stephen Drill, Page 2

An alleged organised crime syndicate's secret stash of 500,000 vapes has been busted in Australia's largest ever seizure. Police raided a warehouse in Melbourne following suspicions it was being used to store illegal smokes that have fuelled firebombings across the city. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration and ABF have seized more than 1.5 million vapes since the ban came into force on January 1.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Things you may not know about Made in Australia, and ASX stocks manufacturing right here

The Australian, Other, 23/04/2024, Eddy Sunarto

In an ultra-competitive world, with plenty of economic challenges rearing their heads, the Australian-made campaign is a national priority. In fact a recently launched federal government program is pushing the crusade beyond the retail sphere. [...] The Braeside site is a 30,000sq m soft-gel capsule manufacturing facility that employs 265 workers and is licensed to produce medicines by Australia's TGA as well as international regulators.

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Terrifying new nicotine trend parents won't even notice

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/04/2024, Dominique Birouste

A new nicotine craze is sweeping through the younger generation, and you probably had no idea about it. These sneaky nicotine pouches, known as Zyns, snus, or little lip pillows, have become the latest sensation, thanks to social media. [...] In 2022, the Therapeutic Goods Administration reported confiscating just under 110,000 units of nicotine pouches.

Also reported by: [Mamamia \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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NRL team tapes over cannabis clinic logo on jerseys amid legal stoush

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/04/2024, Carmel Sparke

A legal stoush between the TGA and medicinal cannabis company Montu has reached the jerseys of players for the Dolphins NRL team. The Brisbane-based Dolphins used white tape to cover up their front-of-jersey sponsorship for Alternaleaf, Montu's telehealth clinic, during their game in Darwin on Friday night. But the remedy came unstuck as humid conditions caused the tape to unpeel from some players' jerseys by the end of their round seven game against the Parramatta Eels.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Second injecting room axed

Age, General News, 24/04/2024, Rachel Eddie, Kieran Rooney and Cara Waters, Page 1

Premier Jacinta Allan has declared Victoria will never get a second injecting room under her

leadership, after the government failed to identify a CBD location that would not hurt the city's shopping strips and stigmatise vulnerable drug users. Allan abandoned the four-year-old policy yesterday, against the recommendations of former police commissioner Ken Lay's report, which the government requested in 2020 when it promised to open a safe injecting room in the CBD.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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Let us drive on 'high' gear

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/04/2024, Fia Walsh, Page 5

Territorians using medical marijuana or other prescription drugs would be allowed to legally drive with trace amounts in their system under proposed reforms. Elle (not her real name) works in alcohol and other drugs services in a remote Territory community, and has a medical cannabis prescription to manage period pain. While she does not use often and then only before bed Elle knows she's "running the gauntlet" by driving with trace amounts of THC in her system.

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

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Thousands of Australians use medicinal cannabis. Some say drug testing hasn't caught up

SBS, Other, 23/04/2024, Rania Yallop

Some experts believe Australia's zero-tolerance drug policy fails to account for whether a person is impaired by illicit substances. Key Points The Victorian government is exploring the possibility of a more nuanced approach to cannabis testing.

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ABC News, ABC Evening News, 23/04/2024, Joe O'Brien

Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan has axed plans to set up a second safe injecting room in Melbourne. Instead, a new \$36m community health hub will be built in Flinders St and there will be better access to overdose medication.

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FOOD STANDARDS

The bush superfood growing in our backyard for over 140 million years

9News, Other, 23/04/2024, Adam Vidler

A culturally significant Australian nut dating back to the Jurassic period could have a big future on the global food stage after new research confirmed its substantial health benefits. Queensland University's Dr Jaqueline Moura Nadolny, from the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, said the bunya nut was an energy and nutrient-rich bushfood with huge commercial potential.

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AICIS

The toxic chemicals we live with every day

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/04/2024, Carrie Fellner, Page 1

You may never have heard of them but you're intimately acquainted with them. They're in the doona you cast aside on a winter's morning, they keep your smartphone free of pesky fingerprints and are likely in your makeup, shaving cream, contact lenses, bottled water, clothing and even toilet paper. [...]

"Whenever you see that word 'stain-resistant' or 'water-resistant', immediately think in your mind, could that be PFAS?"

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

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Rockingham councillors advocating for investigation into PFAS contaminated groundwater below Millar Road tip

West Australian, Other, 24/04/2024, Rachel Fenner

A City of Rockingham councillor is calling for an independent investigation into a local landfill facility due to concerns about groundwater contamination and the handling of hazardous materials. [...] PFAS are found in common household products including non-stick cookware, surface treatments for fabrics, furniture and carpet stain protection applications, and food packaging, and are also used for a range of industrial activities.

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Logan River residents brace for test results after state's largest sewage waste leak washes into river systems

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 23/04/2024, Judith Kerr

Prawn farms on the Logan River have ceased operations and remain under a state government suspension after one of the largest sewage leaks in the state's history. Clean-up and maintenance operations were underway along the river on the weekend after the significant sewage leak left local businesses and residents concerned about potential health risks and environmental impacts. Millions of litres of PFAS synthetic chemicals, which can cause health defects, were released into the waterways as a result of a "significant" sewage spill from a Gold Coast treatment plant this month.

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