



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 25th April 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 4\)](#)** reports Mental Health Australia chief executive Matt Berriman has stepped down from his position while urging the federal government to continue to improve mental health services policy and funding. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said, "The Albanese government is committed to strengthening Medicare and providing equitable access to ensure all Australians receive the care they need - including mental health support." *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Daily Telegraph](#)
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 2\)](#)** reports Aged Care and Sport Minister Anika Wells has backed rugby league legend Wally Lewis's call for more funding toward dementia and brain injury research. Ms Wells said, "Dementia is the second leading cause of death in Australia. It is something that we need to know more about and something that we need to do more about."
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 13\)](#)** reports NSW Health has agreed to settle a \$229.8 million underpayment claim with junior doctors, with similar action expected to be brought against Victorian health authorities. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Canberra Times](#), [7news.com.au](#)
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 2\)](#)** reports the family of former AFL footballer Harley Balic, who died following a battle with drug abuse, has criticised the AFL's drugs policy, which they say

prevented their full understanding of Mr Balic's issues. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [The Age](#), [West Australian](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [7news.com.au](#).

- **[The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 10\)](#)** reports a South Australian paramedic has told a Deputy State Coroner's inquest into the deaths of three people while waiting for hospital beds that ramping was the worst part of his job and placed immense pressure on health workers. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [ABC News](#), [Channel 7](#), [Channel 9](#)
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the family of a mentally ill woman who allegedly threatened strangers with a knife had attempted to warn the state's chief psychiatrist after urging doctors to keep her in hospital, to no avail.
- **[ABC News \(online\)](#)** reports a Senate committee inquiry into the government's response to Covid-19 has concluded that "there is an overwhelming case for the establishment of a COVID-19 royal commission."
- **[The Age \(page 2\)](#)** reports researchers from Melbourne's Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute have called for increasing the rate of testing children for high cholesterol.
- **[The West Australian \(online\)](#)** reports that the Productivity Commission has conducted an assessment of costs and treatment outcomes and found that Australia's healthcare system delivers "some of the best value for money of any in the world."

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Frustrated mental health boss quits

The Australian, General News, 25/04/2024, Jess Malcolm, Page 4

The head of Australia's peak mental health body has resigned citing a "lack of traction" from the Albanese government despite a national crisis. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler cut back rebated sessions to 10, sparking criticism from psychologists and Labor MP Josh Burns, who urged the government to reconsider the decision.

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

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### Mental Health chair quits in frustration

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 25/04/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 5

The chair of Mental Health Australia has quit his position at the peak body, citing his frustration with the Albanese government's inaction on mental health. [...] Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler have faced questioning over their investment in mental health services after two highprofile stabbings in Sydney this month.

*Also reported by:* [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#).

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### Mental health boss quits due to 'inaction' from Albo

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/04/2024, Matthew Benns, Page 7

The chair of the nation's peak body for mental health has stepped down with immediate effect out of frustration at Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's lack of action. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler thanked Mr Berriman for his work but said that mental health reform "would not happen overnight".

*Also reported by:* [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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### Junior doctors win pay war

Herald Sun, General News, 25/04/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 13

Victorian hospitals could be on the hook for a multimillion-dollar payout to junior doctors, after a record settlement in a similar case involving the same law firm interstate. [...] "To echo the words of federal Health Minister Mark Butler, it's time the Victorian government resolved these cases and soon.

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

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## Welcomed flu relief

Leader - Barossa Valley, General News, 24/04/2024, Jennifer Minns, Page 2

As flu season approaches, it comes as a welcome announcement that community pharmacists will now be able to provide free off-site flu vaccinations in residential aged care and disability homes, as of Monday April 29, under the National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, The Hon Mark Butler MP shared, "Community pharmacists play a vital role in our healthcare system and they will play an even bigger role by administering free, lifesaving vaccines to eligible patients living in aged care homes and disability homes."

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## Boorowa LHAC Share Summary Of Health Talk

Hilltops Phoenix, Other, 24/04/2024, Staff Writer

The inaugural Meals on Wheels and Community Transport Meet and Eat event was a huge success. Christmas lunch in July is on the agenda next. [...] LHAC supports the Boorowa UHA resolutions and has sent letters to the Minister for Health NSW, Ryan Park, Federal Minister for Health, Mark Butler and Steph Cooke.

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## Aged Care Minister Mark Butler's big change for residential aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/04/2024, Caroline Egan

The Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has announced that pharmacists will be funded by the Government to go into residential aged care homes and deliver vaccines to residents for free, a measure that was previously only available to GPs. With the flu season start in Australia, the Minister said pharmacies will now be paid the same amount as GPs to deliver vital vaccines in residential aged care.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Heat on Wells to call for inquiry

The Australian, Sport, 25/04/2024, Julian Linden, Page 22

The Australian government has been dragged into the Chinese doping scandal that has rocked the sports world and is threatening to boil over at the upcoming Paris Olympics. [...] Australian taxpayers' money is used to help fund WADA and the current federal Sports Minister, Anika Wells, is on the WADA foundation board.

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

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### Wally's win for brains

Herald Sun, General News, 25/04/2024, Eleanor Campbell, Page 2

The federal government will direct more funding into dementia and brain injury research in the May budget after an impassioned plea from rugby league legend Wally Lewis. [...] Aged Care and Sport Minister Anika Wells pledged to back the 68-year-old sporting immortal's call.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Northern](#)

[Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## ‘Back him’: Wally wins dementia boost

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 24/04/2024

The federal government will direct more funding into dementia and brain injury research in the May budget following an impassioned plea from rugby league legend Wally Lewis. [...] Aged Care and Sport Minister Anika Wells pledged to back the 68-year-old sporting immortal's call on Wednesday.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, 14:00 News, 24/04/2024

Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells has indicated there'll be more funding for dementia and concussion-related injuries in next month's Budget. Yesterday, rugby league legend Wally Lewis spoke at the National Press Club about his experiences with CTE, caused by repeated head knocks during his stint. He called for more funding for research into the condition.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### New services to help Tasmanian children's mental health

The Sector, Other, 25/04/2024, Freya Lucas

Tasmanian children will be supported to get the early intervention and mental health support they need with the announcement of three Head to Health Kids Hubs in Burnie, Bridgewater and East Tamar. The Head to Health Kids Hubs were announced by Tasmania's Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, and Tasmanian Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Guy Barnett.

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## LA FM, 08:30 News, 24/04/2024

Launceston is one of three locations across the state where a mental health hub for children will be rolled out. The Head to Health hubs are part of a \$24m Tas and Federal Government joint project. 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

No relevant coverage

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

### Relief arrives for flood-stranded Yarralin community

National Indigenous Times, Other, 24/04/2024, Giovanni Torre

The federal and Northern Territory governments have been collaborating to support food security in the remote NT community of Yarralin, covering the cost of a number of flights carrying food and other essentials to the local store. [...] Visiting Yarralin on Wednesday, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and NT senator Malarndirri McCarthy said the Commonwealth's \$50,000 package is contributing to flights into Yarralin and providing much-needed relief to the community.

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## DEPARTMENT

### Headspace service announced for Gawler

Leader - Barossa Valley, General News, 24/04/2024, Page 9

A decision by the Federal Government to fund a new Headspace service at Gawler is good news for the wider area's youth, but is also being seen as a "missed opportunity" by advocates for a facility located in the Barossa. [...] The network is set to increase to 173 services by 2025-26, including Headspace Gawler, according to a statement from the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care.

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### Peninsula Villages bolsters specialist care

Coast Community News, Other, 24/04/2024

Leading Central Coast aged care provider Peninsula Villages at Umina Beach has proactively embraced the introduction of mandatory care minutes in aged care. The initiative, arising from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, sees the Department of Health and Aged Care establish minimum staffing targets for direct resident care every three months.

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### The importance of inclusive care for LGBTI older people

agedhealth.com.au, Other, 24/04/2024

Many LGBTI older people are fearful of engaging with the aged care system and may delay or avoid contact with services. [...] A complete list of the criteria is on the Department of Health and Aged Care website .

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### Breaking news: For Purpose Investment Partners' aged care platform buys Graeme Croft's Signature Care

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/04/2024, Lauren Broomham

For Purpose Aged Care Australia (FPACA), the aged care provider established by social impact investment vehicle For Purpose Investment Partners (FPIP), is moving forward on its vision of reaching 5,000 beds, acquiring 14 aged care homes – eight on the ground and six in development – from Graeme Croft, the founder and director of private residential aged care operator Signature Care. [...] The transaction is contingent on receiving the necessary approvals from the Department of Health and Aged Care with FPIP advised by Gilbert + Tobin and PwC, and Signature Care advised by K&L Gates, Madgwicks Lawyers and Deloitte.

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### Star 101.9, 06:30 News, 24/04/2024

There is a push for Mackay locals to get the flu jab as cases continue to climb above average. There have been more than 330 cases of influenza in the Mackay Hospital and Health Service this year, with children particularly at risk. Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly says 39 people died from the flu in Australia last year and of these, nine were children younger than 16 years.

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### 4RO, 08:30 News, 24/04/2024

It's been revealed that kids under 14 have the highest flu rates in the country. Central Queensland has already seen 400 cases this year which is more than triple the average and it comes as vaccination rates decrease. Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly is urging eligible people to get their free flu jab.

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## CORONAVIRUS

### **Damaging Covid rule demands more than token inquiry**

The Australian, General News, 25/04/2024, Peta Credlin, Page 11

Next month, the World Health Organisation is expected to finalise a new pandemic treaty that, once ratified, would become legally binding on Australia and potentially subject us to even more draconian rules than under Covid. Far more people were negatively impacted by the rules to deal with Covid than by the disease itself.

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### **A Senate committee has called for a royal commission into Australia's COVID response. Here's why it's not happening**

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024, Chantelle Al-Khoury

A Senate committee has recommended a royal commission to examine Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on the community, including of lockdown and quarantine measures. It recommended the scope also include contact tracing, the procurement of vaccines and medical supplies, and the capacity of a range of systems to respond — including health, aged care, housing and domestic violence services.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### **How to create genuinely caring cultures in health and aged care**

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024, Erica Vowles

Psychiatrist Duncan McKellar's life changed when he began looking into problems associated with the Oakden Older Persons' Mental Health Service in Adelaide. [...] These events paved the way for the Royal Commission into Aged Care and prompted Duncan to investigate how to create caring health cultures that place patients at the centre.

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### **Wollongong pensioner evicted as housing insecurity grows among older people**

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 24/04/2024, Natalie Croxon

A North Wollongong pensioner says he and his wife will have nowhere to go once they are forced to leave their apartment after their landlord decided against renewing their rental agreement. The situation facing Geoff Beasley and his wife is symptomatic of a wider problem that is pushing a growing number of older people into housing stress and homelessness.

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### **IG largely welcomes taskforce findings**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/04/2024, Christopher Kelly

In a rare statement, the Acting Inspector-General of Aged Care Ian Yates has welcomed the final report of the aged care taskforce released last month. Released on Monday, the statement featured a summary analysis of the taskforce findings in which Mr Yates highlights fair consumer contributions,

safety nets, simplicity and transparency of fees, refundable accommodation deposits, and promoting investment and growth as proposals that "closely align with the principles and observations" found in the Interim Inspector-General's progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the aged care royal commission.

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## **Multiple \$10,000 project grants available**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/04/2024, Staff Writer

Early career researchers and practitioners across the multidisciplinary field of ageing – including aged care – can apply for a grant to undertake a new project or support an existing one. The grants are available under the 2024 RM Gibson program of the AAG Research Trust and include up to three grants of up to \$10,000 each for projects up to 18 months in duration.

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## **Whiddon completes \$13M upgrades**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/04/2024

New South Wales and Queensland not-for-profit aged care provider Whiddon has finished a two-year multimillion-dollar upgrade project across multiple sites. A total of \$13 million has gone towards the development and upgrade work with more than half of that going to Whiddon homes in rural and remote NSW.

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## **Project gifts people with dementia a song**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/04/2024

An industry-first partnership has produced music inspired by the life stories of people with dementia. The music-based intervention has been developed by not-for-profit independent medical research body Neuroscience Research Australia and creative development program the Talent Development Project.

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## **Low vaccination rates may have impacted death rates in residential aged care**

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/04/2024, Caroline Egan

A lack of vaccination data in residential aged care is making it difficult for RMIT researchers to assess if delays in the vaccine rollout in residential aged care led to higher death rates in aged homes at the height of the pandemic. Data for the period 8 August 2021 to 9 July 2022, which includes the beginning of the Omicron outbreak that began in January 2022, clearly shows that aged care residents had higher rates of death than the general 70-plus population.

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 24/04/2024, Sharyn Ghidella and Max Futch**

A program connecting older Queenslanders with kindergarten kids has become so successful it's expanding. The original Grandfriends initiative started at Prince Charles Hospital and now, eight new locations are seeing the benefits. The program aims to combat loneliness as the latest research has found many people are. Around 35% of Queenslanders reported being lonely while social isolation was felt by around half of those aged 45 to 74 and the impacts include a higher risk of chronic disease, depression, anxiety and poor wellbeing.

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## **POPULATION HEALTH**

### **Sugar tax a sweet deal for public health**

The Nightly, General News, 24/04/2024, Jeni O'Dowd, Page 17



There's an unspoken rule in our house: we don't say the F-word. Nope, not the four-letter one you're probably thinking of I'm talking about the word "fat".

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## Healthy breakfast gives students food for thought

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 25/04/2024, Christopher Harris, Page 3

Teenagers who gorge on sugary and highly processed junk food for breakfast score lower in academic tests than their peers who consume healthy, nutritious foods before school. Skipping breakfast has long been associated with lower academic performance and increased anxiety among school students, but University of NSW research has also found an unhealthy first meal of the day is just as detrimental as having nothing at all.

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

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## Lessons of war are easy to forget amid the sabre-rattling

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 25/04/2024, Page 18

'[...] The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide was launched in 2021 and completed its final day of hearing last month. There were 1677 certified deaths by suicide among current and past defence force personnel between 1997 and 2021, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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## Debate over testing kids for high cholesterol

Age, General News, 25/04/2024, Aisha Dow, Page 2

It's a health issue usually associated with middle and older age. Testing for it typically doesn't begin until Australians reach their 40s.

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## Area on the eastern foreshore of the Acton Peninsula closed after asbestos found

Canberra Times, General News, 25/04/2024, Page 6

Asbestos has been found on the Acton Peninsula eastern foreshore. The National Capital Authority has closed the area as a precautionary public safety measure so the site can be remediated.

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## New RSL boss will fight for younger vets

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/04/2024, Matthew Benns, Page 13

For a former commando used to sleeping on his own body bag on tour in Afghanistan, "ruffling a few feathers" as the youngest president of RSL NSW should be a walk in the park. [...] Between 1997 and 2021 the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found there were 1677 deaths by suicide among serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force.

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## Logan's foul prawn cocktail

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 25/04/2024, Judith Kerr, Page 6

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 Gold Coast's history. Clean-up and maintenance operations were under way along the river on the weekend after the leak left local businesses and residents concerned about health risks and environmental impacts.

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## Australia's healthcare system delivers value for money

West Australian, Other, 24/04/2024, Staff Writer

Australia's healthcare system delivers "some of the best value for money of any in the world", a federal



government research body says. The Productivity Commission's conclusion is based on its assessment of how much it costs to treat a disease and treatment outcomes.

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

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## Ex-servicewoman says RSL clubs are 'more than pints, parmies and pokies'

Canberra Times, Other, 24/04/2024, Anna Houlahan

Cherisa Pearce rides the waves wearing fluoro neoprene in early morning sunshine surfing with like-minded returned servicepeople and friends on Queensland's Gold Coast. [...] Suicide among defence force personnel remains a major concern , a 2023 report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

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## A long flu season ahead as Adelaide numbers grow

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024, Jules-Schiller

Covid-19 may have wiped out one of the B strains of influenza globally, but in Adelaide flu numbers have peaked post-pandemic. 2,227 cases of flu have been reported in Adelaide as of April 20.

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## Australians most in need of heart resus education

Medical Forum, Other, 24/04/2024

Researchers have found the Australian regions most in need of education about cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The Monash University-led project, funded by the Heart Foundation and conducted by the Australian Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium, identified regions with high incidence of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest and low rates of bystander CPR.

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## Strengthening support for veterans

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 24/04/2024

This anzac day the nation will pause to remember those who have fallen. For those who have served and are currently serving the transition from military service to civilian life can be challenging, particularly those in regional and rural areas. La Trobe University expert Dr Kylie Carra, Senior Lecturer In Occupational Therapy calls for more funding for support services military personnel need.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 24/04/2024, Michael Rowland and Stephanie Ferrier

Interview with Melanie Dunford, Spokesperson, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, regarding a new survey revealing only a third of people are confident to know the ways to reduce the risk of dementia. Around 400,000 Australians live with dementia, a number that's expected to double by 2058. Dunford says dementia is a significant public health issue in Australia and it has a profound impact on the person living with dementia, their friends, families and carers. Dunford says they found that generally, Australians knew little about dementia and one-third of people mistakenly believed that dementia was a normal part of the ageing process.

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## How the Leukaemia Foundation is combatting cancer related fatigue

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 24/04/2024

It's the number one challenge of people with cancer in Australia, yet 'cancer related fatigue' is the often-unspoken side effect that drains and debilitates thousands of Australians every day. With approximately one in two cancer patients reportedly experiencing moderate to severe fatigue during treatment, and for many in the years following, the Leukaemia Foundation believes the prevalence of cancer related fatigue could be much higher.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Queues 'worst part of the job'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/04/2024, Eva Blandis, Page 10

A paramedic has described the immense pressure ramping puts on the workforce as the Deputy State Coroner hears an inquest into the deaths of three people who died after waiting for extended periods of time in an ambulance. The inquest, investigating the deaths of Anna Vincenza Panella, 76, Bernard Anthony Skeffington, 89, and Graham Henry Jessett, 64, started this week where it was revealed they all suffered medical complications after being ramped.

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### Ramped pleas: 'I can't breathe, sit me up'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/04/2024, Lucy Rutherford and Eva Blandis, Page 10

A woman who died while being ramped told a paramedic she couldn't breathe shortly before going into cardiac arrest, an inquest has heard. The inquest which is investigating the deaths of Anna Vincenza Panella, 76, Bernard Anthony Skeffington, 89, and Graham Henry Jessett, 64 started this week, where it was revealed they all suffered medical complications after being ramped at hospitals for an extended period.

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

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### Hospitals brace for amalgamation

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 25/04/2024, Ben Silvester and Jessica Greenan, Page 2

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. [...] Albury Wodonga Health's principal campus is in NSW, but the hospital is run by the Victorian Health Department.

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### Dialysis services lacking

Border Mail, General News, 25/04/2024, Ted Howes, Page 1

Border kidney patients who can't get local access to dialysis treatment are instead choosing to "let nature take its course" and dying, a top renal specialist says. [...] When contacted by The Border Mail, Albury Wodonga Health forwarded the enquiry to the Victorian Department of Health.

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### My Clinic East GPs ready to fill the void

Burnie Advocate, General News, 25/04/2024, Libby Bingham, Page 6

Dr Subhasree Datta expressed her disbelief at learning the East Devonport Medical Centre (EDMC) closed in January after serving the community for 50 years. "It was quite sad to hear they were closing it; I couldn't believe it," she said.

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## Tasmania 'needs' increased protections in unregistered health settings

Burnie Advocate, General News, 25/04/2024, Isabel Bird, Page 9

The highly personal, one-to-one interactions between unregistered health workers and their clients means Tasmania needs to increase protections, says an advocate. Last week ACM reported on the issue of massage sexual assault after the state's health watchdog received a complaint about a Launceston masseuse.

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

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## Batemans Bay Hospital petition meeting 'sh-tshow' as politicians walk out

The Courier Mail, Other, 24/04/2024, Tom McGann

An event presenting a petition with nearly 18,000 signatures calling to keep a south coast hospital open has been labelled a "sh-tshow", after local elected members left early. The meeting – held at the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club on Monday evening – was organised by community group "Don't Close the Batemans Bay Hospital", a campaign created after the revelation the bay hospital would close once the new level four Eurobodalla Hospital was constructed nearly 30km south of the town.

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

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## South Australian paramedics allegedly held at gunpoint while supporting patient in Adelaide

7news.com.au, Other, 24/04/2024, Sowaibah Hanifie

A 33-year-old man has been charged with threatening two paramedics in Adelaide with a firearm when they were called to provide medical support. The ambulance officers were called to a home at Evanston Park at 7.20pm on Sunday, April 14 to treat the 33-year-old man.

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## Can you still access voluntary assisted dying laws if you've been living elsewhere for a decade or more?

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024

What does it mean to be a resident somewhere? Could you, for example, still be a resident of Western Australia if you've spent more than a decade mostly living elsewhere? It's a curly issue WA's State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) has been trying to unpick in a trio of voluntary assisted dying (VAD) cases that could reverberate around the country.

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## Catholic Church takes Victorian government to VCAT over the acquisition of land for the new Melton Hospital

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024, Danny Tran

Victorian taxpayers could be on the hook for an \$8.5 million compensation bill over the state's newest public hospital, with the Catholic Church claiming it was severely shortchanged when it gave up the land. Church lawyers have taken the government to the state's highest planning tribunal over the new Melton Hospital, claiming it is worth almost double of what it was paid.

[Read More](#)

## Anna Vincenza Panella: Heartbreaking final words of woman who died after being forced to wait outside Royal Adelaide Hospital for almost an hour

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/04/2024, Pdraig Collins

Inquest hears of three deaths that followed ramping Patients suffered medical complications in ambulances A woman who was forced to wait almost an hour in an ambulance outside a hospital before she died told paramedics: 'I can't breathe.' Anna Vincenza Panella, 76, went into cardiac arrest

moments later on April 2019 and was then finally taken inside Royal Adelaide Hospital and into the resuscitation room.

[Read More](#)

## **GP: Paediatrician wait times have 'parents pulling their hair out'**

Canberra Times, Other, 24/04/2024, Ben Carr

Amid surging patient wait times for paediatric care across NSW, one South Coast GP has been investigating ways to provide families with the services they desperately need. Batemans Bay GP Dr Michelle Hamrosi said her Surf Beach practice had experienced constant roadblocks when trying to find paediatricians who were available, timely and affordable.

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

[Read More](#)

## **Most women undergoing hysteroscopy can be managed as outpatients and avoid GA: study**

Australian Doctor, Other, 24/04/2024, Kemal Atlay

Rapid-access outpatient hysteroscopy could save the healthcare system \$64 million a year, doctors say. Two-thirds of women who attended a rapid-access hysteroscopy clinic avoided having the procedure under general anaesthetic and were managed entirely as outpatients, Sydney doctors report.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 24/04/2024, Michael Rowland and Stephanie Ferrier**

Ambulance ramping continues to be a massive issue in South Australia. A coronial inquest into the deaths of three people affected by ambulance delays kicked off in Adelaide yesterday.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 10, 10 News First, 24/04/2024, Kate Freebairn**

Construction has begun on the new SA Ambulance Service headquarters as an inquest continues into the ramping deaths of three South Australians. Paramedics hope the facility in Adelaide's Inner West will go some way towards solving the ramping crisis, with a new program already making inroads.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 7, Sunrise, 24/04/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington**

A coronial inquest into the deaths of three South Australians forced to wait outside hospitals is underway in Adelaide. Ambulance ramping is under the microscope and the inquest is hearing each patient made it to the doorstep of the hospital but lost their lives while waiting outside. Paramedics, doctors and triage nurses will give evidence over the next fortnight.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 9, Nine News, 24/04/2024, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins**

The SA Government has denied playing politics during a landmark inquest into the deaths of three South Australians. They died after being forced to wait outside a hospital in the back of an ambulance. But as harrowing details emerged in court, Health Minister Chris Picton was selling a good news story.

[Play Now](#)

## **ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 24/04/2024, Ryk Goddard**

There are renewed calls for CPR training and cardiovascular education following research that maps rates of cardiac arrest and life-saving first aid skills in towns throughout Australia. Data from Monash University shows the local government areas where cardiac arrest is most common and where receiving CPR from a bystander is least likely. Ambulance Victoria Medical Director David Anderson says if more bystanders tried CPR, lives could be saved.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Social media to blame for 'every problem we face'

The Australian, General News, 25/04/2024, Rhiannon Down, Page 1

Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil says "just about every problem" in society is being caused or made worse by social media, declaring it is unacceptable for tech giants to make billions wreaking social havoc and leaving governments to "pick up the pieces". Her attack on social media companies came as lawyers representing X Corp said the bishop attacked in an alleged terrorist stabbing in western Sydney supports footage of the incident being available, during a legal challenge launched by the online safety watchdog to remove the video.

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

### ADF 'too macho' for women to be equals

The Australian, General News, 25/04/2024, Grace Baldwin, Page 6

Women in the defence forces and female veterans experience gender disadvantages due to a "highly masculinised culture", new research has revealed. A study from Flinders University has found the experiences of women in the ADF are "largely invisible", with researchers calling upon Anzac Day commemorations to specifically acknowledge the contributions of women.

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

### Move to Improve Memory, Mood and More

The Nightly, General News, 24/04/2024, Dana G Smith, Page 22

Growing up in the Netherlands, Henriette van Praag had always been active, playing sports and riding her bike to school every day. Then, in the late-1990s, while working as a staff scientist at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego, California, she discovered that exercise can spur the growth of new brain cells in mature mice.

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### Revenge porn hits young kids

Herald Sun, General News, 25/04/2024, James O'Doherty and Clare Armstrong, Page 6

Almost 1000 kids under 16 were victims of revenge porn last year, with 230 more young children falling victim to "image-based abuse" in just the first three months of 2024. The Herald Sun can reveal the shocking statistics amid calls to increase the age at which children are allowed onto social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and X (Twitter).

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

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

### The system failed her

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/04/2024, Kathryn Bermingham, Page 7

The family of a mentally ill woman, who allegedly threatened strangers with a knife hours after she was sent home from hospital, say they pleaded with doctors to not release her then tried to warn the state's chief psychiatrist. Lisa Bowes' husband, Nick, says the incident 'could have been a disaster'.

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

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### Age limit push for kids online

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/04/2024, Clare Armstrong And James O'Doherty, Page 7

Australia is "actively" considering age limits on social media to ensure children are not exposed to harmful content as the nation's top police and spy bosses warn of a "growing number" of minors

involved in counter-terror cases. Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said the government was considering an "age assurance" pilot to ensure young people were not able to access pornography.

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

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## Teacher attacks surging

Courier Mail, General News, 25/04/2024, Toby Crockford, Page 5

Queensland teachers are being stabbed with pencils and having desks thrown at them by students, as compensation payouts top half a billion dollars over the past decade. New data reveals WorkCover claims paid to teachers and other school staff for physical and psychological injuries reached a high of \$81.5m in the 2022-23 financial year.

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## Mental health boss quits

Courier Mail, General News, 25/04/2024, Page 10

The chair of the nation's peak body for mental health has quit out of frustration at PM Anthony Albanese's lack of action. Mental Health Australia chair Matthew Berriman said he was stepping down after three years due to "a lack of traction at the Australian government level".

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

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

## Happy news on grief

Cairns Post, General News, 25/04/2024, Page 11

Australian research has found that people with prolonged grief disorder may benefit more from cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) than mindfulness programs. In a randomised clinical trial of 100 adults with prolonged grief disorder, researchers from the University of NSW, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research and The University of Queensland found that while both types of therapy reduced grief severity, those who received the grief-focused CBT showed greater improvements than those who had grief-focused mindfulness therapy.

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## Online children a social dilemma

Hobart Mercury, General News, 25/04/2024, Ellen Ransley, Page 12

The Australian government is considering steps to ensure children don't use social media amid pressure to make tech companies play their part in protecting young people. After months of lobbying from the Coalition, Communications Minister Michelle Rowland on Wednesday said age verification was a "very live issue" being worked on by the Albanese government with the eSafety commissioner.

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

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## Veterans hit hard in house shortage

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 25/04/2024, Iwan Jones, Page 5

At least 50 veterans across Queensland will reach out for help to have a roof over their head as the defence community comes together on one of the nation's most sacred days. As Queenslanders face cost of living and youth crime crises, there are many unique challenges impacting the defence community on top of these, including veteran homelessness and suicide.

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## Out of a warzone, yet Rick and his mates faced bigger battles at home

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 25/04/2024, Cameron Bates, Page 10

A survivor of Australia's final combat engagement of the Vietnam War says veterans of the Southeast Asia conflict struggled for decades to gain acceptance from the public. Retired Hinchinbrook bus driver Rick Butler, who still suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder 50 years after the conflict, said he was "dumped" back in Australia after his tour of duty that included the Battle of Nui Le in September 1971, that claimed the lives of five soldiers from the 4 RAR/NZ (Anzac) Battalion.

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## Mother of child with eating disorder calls for hospital system reform after 25 admissions in past year

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024, Natasha Schapova

When Vanessa's child, Haven, began cutting their food portions in half, she never thought it would turn into a long-term, life-threatening eating disorder. Haven, who uses they and them pronouns, began experiencing anorexia-like symptoms at 11 and soon after was diagnosed with avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID).

[Read More](#)

## Social media companies 'pouring accelerant on the flames' of misinformation and extremism, top cop warns

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024, Monte Bovill

Social media companies have been slammed by Australia's top police officer for "pouring accelerant on the flames" of misinformation and extremism on their platforms, while the boss of ASIO has raised concerns encrypted chat services are a "safe room for terrorists and spies". The conduct of social media giants has been in the spotlight in recent weeks, following the spread of confronting, graphic and false posts in the aftermath of two stabbing attacks in Sydney.

[Read More](#)

## Trial age verification to block children from social media, Coalition argues

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024, Matthew Doran

The federal opposition is urging the government to trial age verification on social media, wanting to block young Australian children from accessing platforms and being exposed to harmful images and videos. The calls have ramped up in the wake of the latest legal stoush between the federal government and tech billionaire Elon Musk, over demands for his platform X to block access to a video of a stabbing at a Sydney church last week.

[Read More](#)

## Warnings kids are exposed to 'extremist poison' online

Canberra Times, Other, 24/04/2024, Andrew Brown, Dominic Giannini and Kat Wong

Australian children are being exposed to "extremist poison" on the internet, Australia's federal police commissioner has said, amid reignited calls for online age verification. Whether graphic content should remain on social media has become the subject of heated debate as X, formerly Twitter, fights an edict from the eSafety Commissioner to remove content of a stabbing at a Sydney church.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 24/04/2024, Peter Mitchell

A free online platform is being launched to help 1 in 5 young people struggling with mental health. The website offers immediate assistance for families facing long waits to see a psychologist. The \$5m federally funded program has been developed by mental health experts from around the country for children aged 7 to 12.

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## The proposal to double leave for half pay – is it a good idea? How does it work?

The New Daily, Other, 24/04/2024, Scott Riches

Last week the AFR reported that the ACTU and employer groups are close to reaching a consensus on introducing terms in modern awards that would allow employees to take twice as much annual leave, at half pay. [...] Representatives for the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, whose members were able to access a similar scheme during the COVID-19 pandemic, supported the proposed new changes to allow twice as much annual leave to be taken but at half pay,

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Historic wage theft settlement gives junior doctors hope

Canberra Times, General News, 25/04/2024, Bageshri Savvasachi, Page 3

Junior doctors suing the ACT government and private hospital operator, Calvary, for alleged underpaid wages are hoping they will negotiate after a similar class action suit in NSW has led to a \$229.8 million payout. "I think this is fantastic news for the New South Wales doctors, and this is very encouraging for us to proceed with our case in ACT as well," Dr Betty Ge said.

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

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### From student nurse to hospital boss

Ballarat Courier, General News, 25/04/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 2

Maria Noonan started her career at St John of God Hospital Ballarat as a student nurse more than 40 years ago. Now she is the hospital's chief executive officer, leading the hospital and its multi-million dollar new development into the future to serve a growing Ballarat and its ageing population.

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### NSW Health to pay \$230m following settlement of junior doctor underpayment class action

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/04/2024, Liam Beatty

A class action brought on behalf of junior doctors in one state has ended with the largest underpayment settlement in Australia. NCA NewsWire Junior doctors who worked in NSW will collectively receive almost \$230m from the state's public health system after an agreement was reached to end a four-year legal battle.

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

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### NSW Health settles 'record' underpayment class action case brought by junior doctors

7news.com.au, Other, 24/04/2024, Samantha Lock and Jack Gramenz

A culture of long hours of unpaid overtime for junior doctors will need to change following a multimillion-dollar underpayment settlement, believed to be the biggest in Australian history. More than 20,000 junior doctors could share in a \$229.8 million settlement pending NSW Supreme Court approval for a class action against the state's health department.

[Read More](#)

### Settlement for underpaid junior doctors 'largest ever'

More than 20,000 junior doctors could share in a multimillion-dollar settlement, believed to be the largest payout for underpayment in Australian history. The NSW Supreme Court still needs to approve the \$229.8 million settlement for a class action against the state's health department for the underpayment of junior doctors.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Junior doctors win \$230 million settlement after wage-theft class action

Australian Doctor, Other, 24/04/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Lawyer Hayden Stephens says he thought the case was going to trial before a last-minute breakthrough. More than 25,000 junior doctors can apply for a share of \$230 million after NSW Health agreed to Australia's largest payout in a wage-theft class action.

[Read More](#)

## Man accused of threats to 'kill doctor, his family and his staff' over elderly mother's care: court

Australian Doctor, Other, 24/04/2024, Carmel Sparke

Dragutin Rajak allegedly threatened staff from Canberra Hospital, where his mother had been treated. A man accused of threatening to kill a doctor who treated his elderly mother, his family and other hospital staff was "likely to attempt to inflict serious harm", police allege.

[Read More](#)

## New boss for WA Health

Medical Forum, Other, 24/04/2024

Well-known Perth doctor Shirley Bowen is WA's new Director-General of Health. Currently chief executive of the North Metropolitan Health Service, Dr Bowen has worked in leadership roles across both public and private health services and will take up the position of Health DG next month.

[Read More](#)

## Settlement for underpaid junior doctors 'largest ever'

West Australian, Other, 24/04/2024

More than 20,000 junior doctors could share in a multimillion-dollar settlement, believed to be the largest payout for underpayment in Australian history. The NSW Supreme Court still needs to approve the \$229.8 million settlement for a class action against the state's health department for the underpayment of junior doctors.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Drug site's big push off

Herald Sun, General News, 25/04/2024, Shannon Deery and Mitch Clarke, Page 3

The Allan government could face a renewed parliamentary push to move the state's only supervised injecting room from its current North Richmond site. The Herald Sun can reveal the state opposition is considering moving a motion in parliament next week calling for an immediate review into the suitability of the site.

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### Roll up your sleeves to help protect your community from flu

West Australian, General News, 25/04/2024, Paul Armstrong, Page 32

With the winter influenza season approaching, getting the flu jab is the best protection West Australians can have from this potentially serious illness. Influenza is the most common vaccine-preventable disease in Australia.

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### Tasmanians urged to get vaccinated amid worst-ever flu season

Burnie Advocate, General News, 25/04/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 7

Tasmanians are urged to get their flu vaccination early this year following the worst national March quarter on record for influenza cases. According to The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, 26,836 flu cases were listed in the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) from January 1 to March 25 - around 10,000 higher than last year.

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

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### Crucial support for vaping reforms

Burnie Advocate, General News, 25/04/2024, Abby Smith, Page 15

Protecting tasmanian youth Safeguarding the health and wellbeing of our young people AS TASMANIANS, we have a duty to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our young people.

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

### Canberra Liberals commit to introducing rebates of up to \$2,000 for fertility treatments to increase accessibility if elected

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024, Patrick Bell and Charlotte Gore

After turning 30 within days of each other the Googong couple decided to start trying to get pregnant. But after struggling they went in for fertility tests which confirmed they would need help conceiving, and decided to start the process of in vitro fertilisation (IVF).

[Read More](#)

### Qld pharmacists have started independently diagnosing and prescribing for 17 conditions

Australian Doctor, Other, 24/04/2024, Antony Scholefield

AusDoc has confirmed with pharmacists in Queensland that the pilot has begun. The Queensland Government's pharmacy prescribing experiment is finally a reality.

[Read More](#)

## Queensland commences shift towards ‘fuller scope of practice’

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 24/04/2024, Kay Dunkley

Pharmacist prescribers at four Queensland pharmacies can now provide treatment for 22 conditions under a pilot program Queensland's Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot is now underway with trained pharmacists authorised to treat a range of common conditions. The trial, which will be rolled out across the state over the coming month was launched by state

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## Queensland scope of practice pilot launches

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 24/04/2024, Georgia Clarke

Queenslanders are set to have greater access to high-quality, primary healthcare services from today (24 April 2024) under the state government's Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot. Under the Pilot, trained pharmacists will be able to prescribe for a range of common conditions and better support patients with medication management through therapeutic adaptation and substitution, and continued dispensing.

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## Rare disease network to transform lives

Medical Forum, Other, 24/04/2024

A new network of Western Australian and international rare disease experts has been formed to develop precision medicines for the trickiest – and sometimes undiagnosed – cases across our hospital system. Affecting around 500,000 children in Australia, rare diseases are the biggest killer of children in developed countries, with 95% of the 7000 known rare diseases not having an approved therapy.

[Read More](#)

## RSV and whooping cough hit regional WA

Medical Forum, Other, 24/04/2024

With more than 100 cases of respiratory syncytial virus in the Kimberley over the past month, Broome Health Campus has begun rolling out the region's first immunisations under the State Government's new program. WA Country Health Service Executive Director Clinical Excellence Dr Helen Van Gessel said it was important communities were aware of how serious RSV could be for babies and young children.

[Read More](#)

## PD breaking news – Queensland pharmacies scope of practice pilot expanded

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 24/04/2024

Twenty-two additional health conditions added to Queensland pilot. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President Chris Owen announced that several community pharmacies have started providing enhanced healthcare services as part of the Queensland Community Scope of Practice pilot.

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## SPORT

### Bulldog's dismissal 'unlawful, improper'

The Australian, General News, 25/04/2024, Greg Bearup and Jessica Halloran, Page 1

Phil Gould's sacking of young Bulldogs player Jackson Topine, and his refusal to pay Topine's ongoing medical bills while he was suffering "psychological injuries" as a result of a club punishment, was "improper ... and contrary to law", the player's lawyers claim. Gould, the NRL club's football manager, sent an email to Topine's manager last October stating the club would no longer pay him.

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## \$4m-plus 'wasted' on Olympic consultants

The Australian, General News, 25/04/2024, Lydia Lynch, Page 4

More than \$4m in taxpayer money has been spent on external advice for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games, some of which was ignored, in a move the opposition has condemned as "wasteful". The consultancy spend, revealed in parliamentary question on notice from LNP Treasury spokesman David Janetzki, comes after former Queensland University of Technology vicechancellor Peter Coaldrake warned that the state's public service was being "hollowed out" by use of external consultants.

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## Lyon baulks at clubs' duty after Balic tragedy revelations

The Australian, Sport, 25/04/2024, Russell Gould, Page 24

Harley Balic was labelled a "special young man" by an emotional St Kilda coach Ross Lyon as the former Fremantle and Melbourne player's death becomes the focus of an investigation into the AFL's illicit drugs policy. Balic, who died aged just 25 after a long battle with drug addiction, played his four AFL games at Fremantle when Lyon was coach of the Dockers and the pair spent a lot of "one-on-one" time together.

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

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## Trindall's loophole to dodge NRL strike

The Australian, Sport, 25/04/2024, David Riccio, Page 24

Sharks player Braydon Trindall will avoid carrying a crucial NRL strike against his name for illicit drug use because his failed test wasn't conducted by official antidoping agency WADA. That's the opinion of respected Brydens Lawyers principal Lee Hagipantelis, who offered his expert advice surrounding the Trindall case, which has led to the 24-year-old being stood down from training and playing.

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

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## The unravelling of Balic

Age, Sport, 25/04/2024, Michael Gleeson, Page 40

The grieving father of Harley Balic arrived unannounced at AFL House seeking a meeting with then chief executive Gillon McLachlan in the days that followed the exfootballer's death. According to two sources with knowledge of the visit, who would not be named because of the sensitivities of the case, an emotional and angry Eddie Balic felt the AFL should own some responsibility for how his son's life had spiralled.

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## 'AFL said nothing on Harley's state'

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 25/04/2024, Michael Warner, Page 2

The father of ex-Melbourne and Fremantle footballer Harley Balic, who died after a battle with substance abuse two years ago, has broken his silence to reveal he blames the AFL and its illicit drugs policy for the tragedy. It came as an emotional St Kilda coach Ross Lyon also opened up about Balic's need for "support and medical attention" after the Herald Sun revealed the 25-year-old's tragic death in 2022 would be a focus of Sport Integrity Australia's probe into the contentious policy.

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

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## Sorrow for tragic balic

Adelaide Advertiser, Sport, 25/04/2024, Page 53

An emotional St Kilda coach Ross Lyon outlined the personal relationship he had with Harley Balic, whom he labelled a "special young man", as the former Fremantle and Melbourne player's death has become the focus of an investigation into the AFL's illicit drugs policy. Balic, who died aged just 25 after

a long battle with drug addiction, played his four AFL games at Fremantle when Lyon was coach of the Dockers and the pair spent a lot of "one-on-one" time together.

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## Kitchen theory is hard to swallow

Courier Mail, Sport, 25/04/2024, Robert Craddock, Page 58

A former netballer who founded a company that tests for banned drugs has branded China's "kitchen cock-up" excuse as "very unusual". Former Queensland Firebird Karen Brown is at the frontline of drug prevention for athletes in her role as the founder of Batch Tested, a company that many AFL, NRL and Olympic athletes employ as a third-party safety net to test supplements for banned drugs.

*Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Freo drugs bombshell

West Australian, General News, 25/04/2024, Jackson Barrett, Page 1

The AFL's under-fire drug policy is in the spotlight again after bombshell claims from the father of former Fremantle player Harley Balic the league could've done more to save his son. Balic died in 2022 after a years-long substance abuse battle with a report alleging he witnessed fellow Dockers players using illicit drugs just days after he was drafted to the club in 2015 as a teenager.

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## Ross Lyon still feels the pain of former Fremantle player Harley Balic's premature death

The Australian, Other, 24/04/2024

An emotional St Kilda coach Ross Lyon outlined the personal relationship he had with Harley Balic, whom he labelled a "special young man", as the former Fremantle and Melbourne player's death has become the focus of an investigation into the AFL's illicit drugs policy. Balic, who died aged just 25 after a long battle with drug addiction, played his four AFL games at Fremantle when Lyon was coach of the Dockers and the pair spent a lot of "one-on-one" time together.

*Also reported by:* [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Emotional St Kilda coach Ross Lyon fights back tears remembering 'special young man' Harley Balic

7news.com.au, Other, 24/04/2024, Ben Sutton

St Kilda coach Ross Lyon has fought back tears when discussing the death of former Fremantle and Melbourne player Harley Balic, who he remembered as a "special young man". Balic was 25 when he died two years ago after a long battle with drug addiction and mental health issues.

[Read More](#)

## Ross Lyon remembers late Harley Balic as 'a pretty special young man'

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024, Tom Wildie

Saint Kilda coach Ross Lyon says he can only assume former player Harley Balic was receiving medical treatment and support for illicit drug use while playing, after Balic's father hit out at the AFL's illicit drug policy. Balic died in 2022, aged 25, after battling drug addiction.

[Read More](#)

## Calls for greyhound racing inquiry recommendation to be implemented following two deaths in 10 days

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024

An anti-greyhound racing group says the "unnecessary" deaths of greyhounds will continue while the South Australian government waits to appoint an independent commissioner for the sport. It comes

after two greyhounds died in 10 days at the Mount Gambier race track in the state's south-east.

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## **Wearing the wrong bra could put you at a greater risk of a knee injury, study suggests**

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024, Paige Cockburn

Bras and knees. You might not think they have much to do with each other.

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## **Wally Lewis opens up on the moment he wet himself on live TV as footy great reveals how he copes with CTE nightmare**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/04/2024, Ollie Lewis

Wally Lewis has opened up on 'the most belittling moment' of his life, with the rugby league legend eager to raise awareness about living with his debilitating disorder. The former Maroons captain, dubbed 'The King', spent three decades at the top of his sport, which saw him win a record eight Man of the Match awards at State of Origin level, spearheading Queensland 's dominance over NSW during the 1980s and 90s.

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## **Harley Balic: Father of footy star who was found dead during his drug addiction battle reveals why he blames the AFL for his son's tragic end**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/04/2024, Andrew Prentice

The shattered father of former footy star Harley Balic has blamed the AFL 's controversial policies on illicit drug use for his son's tragic death. Balic was just 25 when he died in a Melbourne hotel room in January 2022 , falling victim to his ongoing drug addiction

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## **Jackson Topine: Footy star hits his team with \$4million lawsuit for allegedly making 35 of his teammates 'assault' him in shocking punishment for a minor breach of club rules**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/04/2024, Shayne Bugden

Ex-Bulldogs player has launched bombshell legal action Lawsuit brought over alleged incident in July last year Jackson Topine alleges deprivation of liberty by club Ex-Bulldogs star Jackson Topine has hit the NRL club with a bombshell \$4million lawsuit alleging he was assaulted by up to 35 of his teammates and was deprived of his liberty during a brutal punishment handed out in July last year.

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## **Goalkeeper Daniel Lopar fails to win contract payout after leaving Sydney Wanderers Football Club**

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 24/04/2024, Aisling Brennan

Former Western Sydney Wanderers goalkeeper Daniel Lopar has failed in his bid to be paid out nearly \$500,000 for a failed contract after he was forced to go back home to Switzerland during the Covid pandemic. Lopar had been contracted to play for the A-League club during the 2019-20 season and was anticipated to sign on for two more seasons.

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## **Wollongong pensioner evicted as housing insecurity grows among older people**

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 24/04/2024, Natalie Croxon

A North Wollongong pensioner says he and his wife will have nowhere to go once they are forced to leave their apartment after their landlord decided against renewing their rental agreement. The situation facing Geoff Beasley and his wife is symptomatic of a wider problem that is pushing a growing number of older people into housing stress and homelessness.

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## Wally Lewis calls for \$18M CTE investment

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 24/04/2024

Australian sporting legend, and Dementia Australia Ambassador, Wally Lewis AM addressed the National Press Club of Australia (NPC) in Canberra to share his experience of living with probable CTE, and to call on the Australian Government to invest \$18M to fund CTE awareness and support programs recommended by the Concussion and CTE Coalition.

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## Darren Weir found not guilty of Melbourne Cup corruption charge

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 24/04/2024, Danny Russell

Darren Weir has been found not guilty of three charges of engaging in conduct to corrupt the outcome of a race, including the 2018 Melbourne Cup. The Victorian Racing Tribunal returned on Wednesday to announce their ruling in favour of Weir, who was banned from training for four years in February 2019 for possession of jiggers.

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## ABC, Late Night ABC News, 24/04/2024, Jade Barker

News AFL coach Ross Lyon has become emotional while speaking about a former player who died after struggling with substance abuse. Harley Belak's death has thrown the league's controversial illicit drug policy back into the spotlight.

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## Channel 10, 10 News First, 24/04/2024, Kate Freebairn

Sport Integrity Australia will look into the death of AFL player Harley Balic in 2022 as part of its investigation into the AFL's controversial illicit drugs policy. Balic played four games for Fremantle before developing a drug addiction. In a statement, his father, Eddie, says the AFL failed in its duty of care to help his son overcome his addiction.

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## Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 24/04/2024, Jerrie Demasi

Sports Report Now, the AFL insists its illicit drugs policy is a welfare model predominantly, and it is out to support the welfare of the players. It's currently being reshaped as part of its review process.

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## Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 24/04/2024, Jerrie Demasi

Commentary Jerry Holly Ballack's story is being investigated by Sports Integrity Australia as part of its wider probe into the AFL's illicit drugs policy. The former Docker and Demon retired from the AFL in 2018 and died in 2022, aged just 25.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Bold bid to find solutions to problems

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 25/04/2024, Tegan Guthrie, Page 3

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder will undertake a research project looking for solutions to address antisocial behaviour and Aboriginal homelessness in the city. City CEO Andrew Brien will lead the project, which will examine successful strategies in other parts of the country, while looking to understand the challenges faced locally and explore how the community can work towards more effective, targeted and culturally sensitive solutions.

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## **Emotional scenes outside court as family of Pukumani Alimankinni perform tribute on final day of inquest**

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024, Olivana Lathouris

The family of a Tiwi Islands woman who died at an acute mental health facility have performed an emotional tribute to their much-loved family member on the final day of a coronial inquest into her death. Pukumani Alimankinni, as she is known for cultural reasons, died in August 2021, about a day-and-a-half after she was admitted to Royal Darwin Hospital's (RDH) secure mental health ward, the Joan Ridley Unit (JRU).

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## **Health services in 'crisis' and relying too heavily on fly-in locums in Broken Hill, Far West NSW**

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2024, Sarah McConnell

The chair of a parliamentary committee examining health services in Far West New South Wales has warned the health system is in crisis and relies too heavily on fly-in locums. The committee visited health outlets including the Broken Hill Base Hospital, Maari Ma Aboriginal Health Cooperation in Wilcannia, and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

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## **Like many Aboriginal kids we've lost too soon, this child was loved by his family, not by the state**

Crikey, Other, 24/04/2024, Benjamin Abbatangelo

Tragic. Harrowing. Unforgivable. These are some of the strongest words to describe the devastating suicide of a 10-year-old Aboriginal boy in Western Australia last week. But despite their potency, they still fall short.

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## **Linda Burney says fixing child protection system must be top priority for WA government**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 24/04/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney has told the Western Australian government that correcting any issues in the child protection system are paramount in the wake of the apparent suicide of a 10-year-old in state care. The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, died earlier this month in Perth while under the care of the WA's Department of Communities.

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

National Indigenous Times, Other, 24/04/2024, Amanda Parkinson

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.

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## **Horses are medicine – they're helping give young Aboriginal people the love and support they need**

The Guardian, Other, 24/04/2024, Juli Coffin

I have seen horses soothe even the most troubled of souls, with cognitive and neurological issues, to be able to be completely still for the first time in years. I have seen the smile of many from receiving the

unconditional love a horse can provide, the comfort and nurturing that is so often needed but that we sometimes can't see ourselves.

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## **Pressure and Release: horse therapy for young Indigenous Australians**

The Guardian, Other, 24/04/2024, Jodie Bell, Sam Emery and Pete Ward

The Kimberley region of Western Australia is a beautiful place. But it is home to communities in crisis – devastated by a pattern of suicides among young Aboriginal people.

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## **OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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## **THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION**

### **Blowing smoke on vape crisis**

Herald Sun, General News, 25/04/2024, Becky Freeman and Christina Watts, Page 19

The vaping industry is running an expensive Tcampaign to oppose the government's vaping laws, arguing that vapes should be "regulated like tobacco". [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration permits nicotine vapes to be prescribed by doctors, but these vapes must be purchased from a pharmacy.

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### **Alleged unlawful advertising**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 24/04/2024, Megan Haggan

The TGA has made a statement about proceedings it has commenced against one supplier regarding its advertising. The TGA is pursuing Montu Group Pty Ltd, its subsidiary Alternaleaf Pty Ltd and their common director Christopher Strauch in the Federal Court of Australia, for alleged unlawful advertising of medicinal cannabis on websites and social media.

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### **Meet standards on cannabis: TGA**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 24/04/2024, Megan Haggan

Regardless of the origin of medicinal cannabis products, they must comply with quality standards, says the TGA. The Therapeutic Goods Administration says that it has become aware of media reports about "questionable" medicinal cannabis products being supplied in Australia. "The TGA would like to confirm that regardless of whether cannabis oil or cannabis flower medicine

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