



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 27th April 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Adelaide Advertiser**](#) (page 1) reports South Australia's ambulance union is concerned that a triage system being trialled by SA Police, intended to reduce callouts for welfare checks, could deprive ambulance officers of police protection in dangerous situations. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Now](#)
- [**AFR Weekend**](#) (page 2) reports hundreds of millions of dollars in retirement savings are being drained by companies helping consumers access superannuation for medical procedures. *Also reported by:* [Australian Financial Review](#)
- The [**Adelaide Advertiser**](#) (page 3) reports a \$140 million private hospital development planned for Adelaide's Repat Health Precinct has been scrapped as financially unviable.
- The [**Weekend Australian**](#) (page 4) reports mental health advocates have praised former PM Scott Morrison for helping to reduce stigma and promote discussion by admitting that he sought treatment for anxiety while in office. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [West Australian](#), [Saturday Age](#), [NEWS.com.au](#)
- The [**Northern Territory News**](#) (page 5) reports a survey of Territory partygoers revealed almost three quarters supported pill testing at music festivals.

- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 6) reports a family has called on the state government to address ambulance ramping after their 75-year-old mother spent five hours waiting for emergency care at Flinders Medical Centre. *Also reported by: [Adelaide Now](#)*
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 7) reports a Sydney parent has described how the story of mentally-ill knife attacker Joel Cauchi made her fear for her own acutely unwell son, denied care for years in a "broken" mental health system. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

Hospitals in intensive care

Weekend Australian, Business News, 27/04/2024, John Durie, Page 36

The first two rules of insurance are don't pay and don't rush, but if you are a private hospital and your financial survival depends on insurance payments the tensions are great. Covid flipped the balance between private hospitals and insurance with the latter enjoying a resurgence in profit margins at the expense of the hospitals. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and some state colleagues are acutely aware of the problems and Butler is considering some sort of inquiry by the ACCC or Senate to look at the plight of the sector.

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

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Out-of-pocket price hike: why C-sections and pacemakers will cost you more

Canberra Times, Other, 26/04/2024, Ben Silvester

Private patients across the country could be slugged thousands of dollars more for life-changing surgery from July 1, according to Catholic Health Australia. Nearly 500 items will be removed from the federal prostheses list, which mandates coverage, and sets the prices insurance companies have to pay private hospitals for various medical devices. [...] ACM contacted federal Health Minister Mark Butler but did not receive a response by deadline.

Also reported by: [The Senior \(Online\)](#), and syndicated across Australian Community Media websites

[Read More](#)

Free onsite flu jabs for aged care residents

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 26/04/2024

From Monday, community pharmacists will be able to provide free influenza vaccinations in aged care homes. [...] "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," said Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler.

Similar coverage: [Inside Ageing \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 26/04/2024, Patricia Karvelas

Australia is in the midst of a mental health crisis, with many unable to afford support or even find support. And with clinics and hospitals facing severe workforce shortages, the government has been under pressure to reform the mental health sector. But that pressure peaked yesterday when the chair of Mental Health Australia, Matt Berriman, quit, saying the Prime Minister was, quote, doing nothing to address the crisis. Joining us this morning is Dr Ruth Vine, Deputy National Chief Health Officer for Mental Health and the Victorian chair of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Dr Simon Stafrace. [...] Dr Vine, the minister, Mark Butler, still hasn't responded to the majority of the findings of the Better Access review. Is that good enough?

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Sky News Live, Newsday, 26/04/2024, Kieran Gilbert

Interview with outgoing Mental Health Australia chair Matt Berriman. [...] I wasn't able to get in touch with the Prime Minister. I was unable to secure meetings with the Prime Minister. And although Mark Butler had huge ability as health minister and we had a very close relationship, it is an all-of-government issue.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Drive, 26/04/2024, Chris O'Keefe

Interview with outgoing Mental Health Australia chair Matt Berriman. [...] I absolutely think they're not doing enough. The fact that he would not take meetings or have direct correspondence on the matter, which I think is an absolute crisis point, just gave an indication that as a leader and as leader of this country, if he didn't feel it important enough to sit down and have a conversation about it, then I can understand why it's hard for some of his ministers, especially Mark Butler, to do his job properly.

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6PR, Mornings, 26/04/2024, Gary Adshead

Interview with outgoing Mental Health Australia chair Matt Berriman. [...] So had you sat down in front of the minister responsible or the Prime Minister, Mark Butler, as I said, to talk about, you know, where you thought the government should be going on mental health? –

Yeah, plenty of times with Mark. I have great relationship, I've got a huge amount of respect for Mark. But I think it's an all-of-government approach.

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MINISTER WELLS

King tide threatens to mark the end of sport's 'she'll be right' era

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 27/04/2024, Peter FitzSimons, Page 59

The great English winger Willie Waggle-Dagger, out of Stratford-upon Avon, put it well: "There is a tide in the affairs of men, Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune. Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries." [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells is already on board.

While not yet committing to the \$18 million that Lewis was seeking for CTE prevention, care and research, Wells is at least committing to finding as much as she can.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Supporting youth mental health

Castlemaine Mail, General News, 26/04/2024, Page 10

Headspace has been supporting the young people of Bendigo and surrounds for 12 years, providing vital access to mental health services. [...] Bendigo MP Lisa Chesters invited Assistant Minister McBride to meet with local young people to see first-hand the impact of the boost in funding, including reduced waiting times, and improved access to services.

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Gawler to get in the right headspace

The Bunyip, Other, 26/04/2024

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.

Ministers visit for mental health

Star Weekly, Other, 26/04/2024

Mental health has been on the agenda in Kyneton, with a recent gathering of ministers at Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health to hear about the access challenges faced in the town. Bendigo MP Lisa Chesters and Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and Rural and Regional Health Assistant Minister Emma McBride visited the office in Kyneton to hear from staff delivering mental health supports to local people.

[Read More](#)

ABC Northern Tasmania, Breakfast, 26/04/2024, Andre Leslie

While Australia is experiencing a huge demand for more GPs in rural and regional areas, Tasmania is experiencing a particularly acute shortage at the moment and with fewer and fewer medical graduates choosing to specialise in the area of general practice it's only going to get worse. But there is some good news. A new rural medical school programme is being run at the University of Tasmania in Burnie, and the government is contributing \$8.5 million to the university. [audio: Assistant Minister McBride]

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

Farmers fume at fresh food tax

Hamilton Spectator, General News, 27/04/2024, Patrick Mackarness, Page 20

At the senate in Canberra, farmer groups have been adamant in their objection to the Federal Government's Agriculture (Biosecurity Protection) Levies Bill 2024. This legislation will, if passed by the Senate, come into effect on July 1. [...] Another complaint which has been raised is that funds raised by the Levy will be added to General Revenue and not sent directly to the end users who are the Department of Health and Aged Care and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

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The Wild West of medicinal cannabis

Australian Doctor, General News, 19/04/2024, Carmel Sparke, Page 1

Doctors have flagged concerns over the quality, safety and efficacy of medicinal cannabis products, alleging most suppliers are bypassing TGA scrutiny. [...] The AMA says it is alarmed, as the watchdog does not routinely test unregistered imported or domestic medicinal cannabis products. In fact, the most recent testing occurred in 2022-23, to check if a number of cannabis oil products had been adulterated with delta-8 THC, according to a spokesperson from the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Demand for a shingles vaccine is high in Canberra, but some say they are struggling to access it

ABC Online, Other, 26/04/2024, Isaac Nowroozi

Paul Dowden was in his 40s when he got shingles for the first time. "It was just really painful ... pretty much the worst pain I [have] experienced I would say," he said. Around Easter this year, Mr Dowden got shingles for the third time — but this time he was fully vaccinated.

Also reported by: [ABC News Breakfast](#), [ABC Radio Canberra](#)

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 26/04/2024, David Bevan

Why can't they get a GP to fill the gaps at Reynella Family Care? What is this bureaucratic loophole that's causing a problem for them? In a moment, we'll talk to Sian Goodson, she is with the College of General Practitioners. [...] Dr Goodson, can you explain to us what's going on at the Reynella Family Clinic? – So, the Rinella Family Care Clinic wants to recruit a doctor who's overseas trained. And unfortunately, the area that the clinic is in isn't considered an area of workforce shortage by the Department of Health.

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Chance to celebrate Medicare Champions

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, Other, 26/04/2024

2024 marks the 40th Anniversary of Medicare, and to celebrate the occasion the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care is honouring local 'Medicare Champions' with the Stronger Medicare Awards. Medicare Champions are individuals and practices that go above and beyond to benefit patients.

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CORONAVIRUS

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

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POPULATION HEALTH

Catastrophic failure

Weekend Australian, General News, 27/04/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 17

On an unseasonably warm late April night, candles flicker in the dark on the grassy slopes that frame Sydney's Bondi Beach. Hundreds of locals sit quietly on the ground, many weeping, still shellshocked from the massacre at their local Westfield Bondi Junction a designer mecca so familiar to almost everyone that it's simply known in the well-to-do eastern suburbs as WBJ. [...] It has been estimated by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare that as many as 20 per cent of Australians will suffer a mental health problem each year.

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

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Border Force's big blow to vapes

Australian Border Force officers have seized more than 200,000 vape products in Queensland since tough new import restrictions came into effect this year. The ABF in Queensland stopped almost 180,000 vape devices and 25,000 vape products from entering Australia since January 1, in a major blow to the illicit smoking trade.

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

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No-one should face this alone

Western Advocate, Letters, 27/04/2024, Maree McCabe, Page 9

Research commissioned by Dementia Australia and undertaken by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2023 shows that the number of Australians living with dementia is expected to nearly double by the year 2054. In 2024, it is estimated there are more than 138,200 people living with all forms of dementia in NSW.

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Urgent call for basic safety standards to be introduced for temporary housing for homeless

ABC Online, Other, 26/04/2024, Erin Somerville

After a close call with a fire in their motel room, a couple experiencing homelessness says some short-term accommodation sites are failing to meet basic safety expectations, putting lives at risk. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare figures show 40 per cent of people experiencing homelessness are in that circumstance due to the housing crisis, 38 per cent have financial difficulties, and 35 per cent are women and children escaping from domestic violence.

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More than 43,000 kids under 10 seek homeless support a year – what's being done for them?

ABC Online, Other, 26/04/2024, Margaret Paul

Joal Presincula has several tattoos, but two in particular are very special. The 37-year-old has her two daughters' initials on her wrist and her foot. She got the tattoos when she secured housing, after several periods of homelessness. [...] The most recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) shows in 2022-23, about 274,000 people sought help from specialist homelessness services nationally, about 1.1 per cent of the population.

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2CC, Breakfast, 26/04/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

One in five Australians, apparently wrongly, believes that dementia is a normal part of the ageing process. This is according to the dementia awareness survey released on Wednesday by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. It's the largest nationally representative survey of its kind measuring knowledge of dementia risk factors and common misconceptions. To talk to us about this, Mel Dunford is the head of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Dementia Data Improvement Unit.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

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PRIMARY CARE

NIB symptom app 'like a triage nurse'

Weekend Australian, Business News, 27/04/2024, Jared Lynch, Page 26

Health insurer NIB has developed an app that it says is almost the equivalent of a triage nurse, thanks to artificial intelligence. The ASX-listed company has partnered with Polish software company Infermedica, which uses AI to deliver "efficient, safe and reliable care" to patients.

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

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Medical costs draining savings in 'super scam'

AFR Weekend, General News, 27/04/2024, Hannah Wootton, Page 2

A boom in companies promising to help customers access their superannuation savings for a slew of dental and medical procedures online is draining hundreds of millions of dollars from Australians' retirement pools, prompting warnings from Labor of a ...

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

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Same day ops rule for women

Daily Telegraph, General News, 27/04/2024, Natalie O'Brien, Page 18

Women who've undergone mastectomies and hysterectomies are to be pushed out of hospital beds just hours after their surgery to meet "aspirational benchmarks" for patient discharge numbers, leaked documents from NSW Health show. In a memo which has been widely circulated among medical staff across the Sydney Local Health District health administrators revealed they want high-volume procedures treated as same day surgery by "default" unless "clinically indicated otherwise".

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

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Cops cut callouts

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 27/04/2024, Elizabeth Henson, Page 1

Police are cutting back on the types of call-outs they attend in an attempt to free-up resources to allow officers to focus on more serious jobs. [...] SA Ambulance Employees Association general secretary Leah Watkins said she hoped the new policy would not put ambulance officers at risk. "I can appreciate the rationale for needing to go through this review process and triage process and I would hope that any changes that flow don't put any additional onus on our crews to enter potentially hazardous or dangerous situations without SAPOL attendance," she said.

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

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Repat private hospital plans axed due to costs

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 27/04/2024, Kathryn Bermingham, Page 3

Plans for a \$140m state-of-the-art private hospital at the revamped Repat Health Precinct have been scrapped because of increased costs. In 2022, Nexus Hospitals and SA Health reached an agreement to build the medical facility, which was to include a hospital and health centre.

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Sick mum at 'death's door' outside hospital

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 27/04/2024, Eva Blandis, Page 6

A family has expressed their outrage at the health system after their elderly mother, who they say was "at death's door", was ramped outside Flinders Medical Centre for five hours. Gillian Lane, 75, who was suffering from influenza A, pneumonia and pulmonary embolisms in her lungs needed oxygen to help her breathe after she was stranded in an ambulance earlier this month.

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

The dog-tor is in the house for patients

Northern Territory News, General News, 27/04/2024, Fia Walsh, Page 5

A paw-fully cute staff member has joined Katherine Hospital, ready to be unleashed on her mission to cheer the spirits of patients having a ruff day. Dog-tor Daisee the therapy poodle is now qualified to bring joy, reduce anxiety and assist patients in their recovery after completing her training at Palmerston Regional Hospital last month.

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No respite

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 27/04/2024, Carla Mascarenhas, Page 1

The Minns Labor government has refused to commit to funding two new regional paediatric assessment clinics. The development comes despite Health Minister Ryan Park saying he recognises families in the bush face "challenges" getting an appointment with a paediatrician.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

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Cape on life support

Weekend Post, General News, 27/04/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 1

A dilapidated southern Cape York hospital must receive a massive ninefigure funding injection, or risk losing more staff and services in the coming months, a Far North mayor says. Leaky roofs, a lack of clinicians and limited facilities at Cooktown's multipurpose health centre has led to at least one critical service shutting down, with expectant mothers forced to either travel to Cairns or have home births following the closure of its birthing suite in 2022.

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Bureaucrats must butt out of our health

Border Mail, General News, 27/04/2024, Editorial, Page 59

Clearly there is no beast more remote from the communities they are paid to serve, albeit indirectly, than a government bureaucrat. Examples of the species under the control of Spring and Macquarie streets appear to be even more disconnected from reality. The 250,000-plus residents of the wider Border region clearly want a new hospital.

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Hospital plan healthiest option?

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 27/04/2024, Editorial , Page 16

The state government is preparing an unprecedented overhaul of Victoria's health services. The Standard flagged the move back in February, putting the issue on the minds of south-west residents. This week it became real with news a draft plan is preparing to slash the state's health services from 76 to 12 through a series of forced amalgamations.

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Mobile dental fills school community gap

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 27/04/2024, Carwyn Monck, Page 3

A mobile dental van is helping to fill the gaps left by the WA Government's school dental service in the Goldfields. Goldfields Family Dental's mobile clinic has serviced Kambalda, East Kalgoorlie and O'Connor primary schools since it launched in February and will be based at North Kalgoorlie Primary School next week.

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'Let my girl die'

Australian Doctor, General News, 19/04/2024, Heather Saxena, Page 1

A court has ordered a teenage girl with developmental disabilities to undergo leukaemia treatment

involving dozens of general anaesthetics, despite the objections of her mother and paediatrician. The 14-year-old, who has a developmental age of 16-18 months, was diagnosed with preB-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in March.

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'What I would choose': I'm not the only doctor ready to talk about dementia and VAD

Australian Doctor, Other, 26/04/2024, Paul Nisselle

I was astonished to see how many comments were made about my opinion piece on dementia and dying with dignity. As of this week, 51 have been published. I need to declare that I have 'skin in the game' — a bad family history of Alzheimer's disease and one ApoE gene.

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Qld Pilot delivers

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 26/04/2024

Several community pharmacies have begun providing services to patients under the Queensland Community Scope of Practice Pilot (PD breaking news Wed). The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Qld President Shane MacDonald welcomed the announcement, saying, "the 2020 election commitment to work with PSA, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, and other stakeholders to implement this pilot is finally being realised".

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Channel 9, Today, 26/04/2024, Alex Cullen and Sarah Abo

Over 86,000 hours have been wasted by South Australian ambulance workers due to ramping, equating to \$5.2 million in paramedic wages, those figures recorded since the election of Premier Peter Malinauskas, who campaigned on fixing the state's health system. With a ramping inquest still underway over the deaths of three patients, more resources have been allocated to resolve the state's crisis.

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Channel 9, Today, 26/04/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Nearly half of all Queensland's nurses and midwives are considering quitting within the next 12 months due to working conditions. A poll has found around 20,000 workers are part of a new campaign now putting pressure on the state government ahead of the budget, pitching 40 recommendations to recruit new nurses, including free nursing and midwifery study, embattled nurses stressing just how dire the situation is.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 26/04/2024, Georgia Styne

We have been tackling affordable dental care, we're talking about shortages of Shingrex, I also want to talk about generally about affordability because on the text line, we're getting lots of texts, people talking about GPs, they're trying to pack everything into one visit just because of affordability issues, but also specialists as well. So, Dr Kerrie Aust is president-elect of the ACT AMA and joins us.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental health admission 'shows it doesn't discriminate'

Weekend Australian, General News, 27/04/2024, Jess Malcolm and Sarah Ison, Page 4

Coalition MPs, leading psychologists and mental health advocates say Scott Morrison's admission he suffered from anxiety and was medicated while in office show psychological issues "don't discriminate", calling on the government to ensure help is equitable and affordable. But former Victorian Liberal

premier and Beyond Blue founder Jeff Kennett said it was "unusual that Morrison is saying this now" despite welcoming his efforts to reduce stigma around mental health.

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

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'Brave' Scomo's anxiety admission reduces stigma

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 27/04/2024, Claire Sadler, Page 7

Scott Morrison has been praised for being "brave" after speaking out about his debilitating anxiety during his prime ministership which made him struggle to get out of bed and "dread the future". Mr Morrison revealed on Thursday the anxiety that began to overwhelm him with each new challenge in the top job.

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Whose business is a PM's mental health?

The Saturday Age, General News, 27/04/2024, Neil Mitchell, Page 1

Two-and-a-half years ago, in October 2021, a source told me the prime minister of Australia was suffering significant mental health problems and was "in a bad way". The call provoked an intense ethical dilemma for me. Mental health is a private issue. But surely whether a leader is fit to lead is in the national interest.

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Scott Morrison reveals he was prescribed anxiety medication during prime ministership

NEWS.com.au, Other, 26/04/2024, Frank Chung

Scott Morrison has revealed he was placed on medication to cope with "debilitating and agonising" anxiety during his tumultuous prime ministership as he navigated the Covid pandemic and Australia's showdown with China. Speaking to The Australian ahead of the release of his new book, Plans for Your Good: A Prime Minister's Testimony of God's Faithfulness, the former PM said that without medication he would have fallen into a serious depression during his time in The Lodge from 2018 to 2022.

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Battling with a health system 'set up to fail'

Weekend Australian, General News, 27/04/2024, Joanna Panagopoulos and Natasha Robinson, Page 7

Parents have described begging doctors in the public health system to help their acutely mentally unwell children for years and being repeatedly told there was nothing they could do, as overloaded hospitals are turning the sickest patients away and some of the country's most senior psychiatrists describe a broken system. Vanessa Kenny, whose 17-year-old son has been diagnosed with anxiety, autism, Tourettes, and a mood disorder, says the family home in Sydney, which she also shares with her partner and two young children, has been a "war zone" for the past decade.

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

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 26/04/2024, Monique Wright and Matt Shirvington

The federal government's approach to mental health has been thrown into the spotlight again this morning. It comes after the boss of Mental Health Australia made the bold decision to quit his role due to inaction from the Prime Minister. Matt Berriman says that Anthony Albanese has done nothing to help the 5 million plus people living with mental health issues in Australia. His resignation follows the Bondi Junction tragedy, which saw six people die at the hands of a man who had a history of mental illness. And Matt Berriman joins us now.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Sick system revealed

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 27/04/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 6

Nearly half of Queensland Health's nurses and midwives are considering leaving their jobs in the next 12 months amid insurmountable burn out, a staggering new survey has revealed. The dire result has prompted the Labor-aligned Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union to demand the government and the Opposition commit to funding 11,800 extra frontline staff by mid-2029.

Similar coverage: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor who assaulted security guard, partner banned from practising medicine

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 26/04/2024, Natalie Croxon

A former Wollongong Hospital doctor who injured a security guard and his partner in separate assaults has been struck off the register. Paul Labana has not practised in four years but he is now formally banned from working in healthcare for at least two years after the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) found him guilty of professional misconduct and unsatisfactory professional conduct.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Murky waters

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 27/04/2024, Chip Le Grand and Tom Decent, Page 25

The lenient treatment of 23 Chinese swimmers exposes the 'disgraceful inconsistency' of drug testing and punishment, write Chip Le Grand and Tom Decent.

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

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Pioneers of protest

Daily Telegraph, General News, 27/04/2024, Julian Linden, Page 32

Australian swimmers have never spoken of the first time they, and a brave coach, risked all to take a public stand against Chinese drug cheating. Until now.

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

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A price to play

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/04/2024, Blair Richards, Page 1

The state government has spent \$14.4m on consultants for the state's two major stadium projects, before a sod has been turned on either project. Mercury analysis of preconstruction tenders awarded for the Launceston UTAS Stadium redevelopment and the proposed Macquarie Point stadium in Hobart shows consultancy firms and specialist agencies have been paid multiple, sizeable contracts.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

How to make a day of it

Herald Sun, General News, 27/04/2024, Page 35

A research team has determined the amount of time we should spend sitting, sleeping, standing and being physically active in a 24-hour period for optimal health. After analysing more than 2000 people's behaviours, the researchers including scientists from the Swinburne University of Technology and the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute found the ideal daily balance was six hours of sitting, five hours and 10 minutes of standing, eight hours and 20 minutes of sleeping, two hours and 10 minutes of light-intensity physical activity, and two hours and 10 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Don't buy pain myth

Herald Sun, General News, 27/04/2024, Page 36

People living in wealthier neighbourhoods may be no less likely to develop lower back pain or arthritis, according to Australian and international research. A team including researchers at the University of Sydney looked at the prevalence of lower back pain and arthritis among identical twins from a US registry.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Eyes on the prize

Herald Sun, Weekend, 27/04/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 1

Doctors Dineika Chandrananda and David Speakman are among the large and committed cohort of researchers, supporters and volunteers at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre working tirelessly to help people living with cancer and discover new ways to fight the insidious disease in all its devastating varieties. As the Peter Mac celebrates 75 years of incredible work, we highlight some of the breakthroughs and future plans, and the beautiful community behind the centre.

Study targets treatment for IBS

Newcastle Herald, General News, 27/04/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 8

Anna Davidson spends longer in the bathroom than most people, which can be hard to explain to others. "Sometimes people say 'why were you taking so long in there'," Miss Davidson said. She spoke about this with a laugh, but her condition is a tough one to live with. She was diagnosed with IBS (irritable bowel syndrome) at age 12 and chronic constipation at 17.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Indigenous youth suicide is an appalling blot on our national conscience

The Guardian, Other, 27/04/2024, Karen Middleton

A 10-year-old Indigenous child dies in apparent suicide in Western Australia. Family and community are devastated and the incident is so utterly awful the child so young that it catches national attention. It happens in March and a month later, when it's made public, everyone says something must be done. This wasn't March this year. It was March 2016.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 26/04/2024, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan

First Nations mental health organisations say extra funding is urgently needed to support children in state care. It follows the suicide of a ten year old boy in Western Australia. Dr Clinton Schultz is a Gamilaroi-Gomeri man and he's also the director of First Nations partnership and strategy at the Black Dog Institute. He joins us now from Brisbane.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Experts urge all to get vaccinated

Burnie Advocate, General News, 27/04/2024, Libby Bingham, Page 4

Experts are urging people not to let vaccination fatigue stop them from getting flu jabs and COVID boosters this flu season. Parents are particularly encouraged to ensure their children are vaccinated against the flu. It comes after more children continued to miss out on getting vaccines and were disproportionately impacted by the flu in 2023.

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AMA urges vaccinations amid rise in 'vaccine fatigue'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 27/04/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 23

It's no surprise that many are tired of getting jabbed following the COVID pandemic. Despite this rise in "vaccine fatigue", the Australian Medical Association (AMA) urge Australians to keep up to date with their flu shots, as well as COVID-19 boosters, amid a worst-ever predicted flu season.

Similar coverage: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

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Inmates in wing of Bathurst Jail isolated

Inmates in one wing of Bathurst Correctional Centre were isolated for 24 hours this week, it has been confirmed. The Western Advocate contacted Corrective Services NSW after being made aware of concerns in the community that there had been a communicable disease outbreak at the jail.

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

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Assumed you were immune to measles and chicken pox? Think again

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/04/2024, Vivienne Pearson

Despite being science-literate and deeply appreciative of modern medicine, it wasn't until I recently started a new job in healthcare that I realised I had no immunity to measles, a nasty and vaccine-preventable disease that's having a worldwide resurgence. Victoria Hanlon, 44, a Melbourne-based freelance copywriter, was similarly surprised during routine blood tests, when she was pregnant with her now eight-year-old twins, that she was not immune to chickenpox.

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Bird flu found in one in five US milk samples: FDA

Canberra Times, Other, 27/04/2024

One in five commercial milk samples tested in a United States-wide survey contained particles of the H5N1 virus, the US Food and Drug Administration says, suggesting the outbreak of bird flu is more widespread than previously thought. The agency said there is no reason to believe the virus found in milk poses a risk to human health.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

'You have to earn the right to an opinion'

AFR Weekend, General News, 27/04/2024, Sam Buckingham-Jones, Page 41

Even seated, Ita Buttrose has an imposing presence. She is described as the most celebrated female journalist in Australian history, and the only one to be awarded the nation's highest honour Australian of the Year. She stepped down as chairwoman of the ... [mentions TGA]

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

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Implant Dr being sued

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 27/04/2024, Vanda Carson, Page 20

A Brisbane cosmetic doctor has been sued for negligence by an ex-patient claiming she was given breast implants not approved by the nation's medicines watchdog and he earlier "reused" implants. [...] She has pleaded 21 particulars of negligence related to her postoperative care after the first surgery, Dr Chinsee's decision to reuse her implant in a second surgery, her post-operative care after the second surgery, using the non Therapeutic Goods Administration implants in the fourth surgery and not referring her to an appropriately qualified and trained medical specialist.

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Smokes signal the right path on future vaping laws

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 27/04/2024, Becky Freeman and Christina Watts, Page 74

The vaping industry is running an expensive campaign to oppose the government's vaping laws, arguing that vapes should be "regulated like tobacco". With the success of tobacco control, on the surface this seems like a "commonsense" response to the youth vaping crisis. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration permits nicotine vapes to be prescribed by doctors, but these vapes must be purchased from a pharmacy.

TGA accused of semaglutide fail

Australian Doctor, General News, 19/04/2024, Sarah Simpkins, Page 11

A doctor who received warm 'compounded' semaglutide through the post that she refused to inject says it is disappointing it took an ABC expose to jump-start a TGA investigation into the pharmacy. The Queensland doctor, who asked not to be named, was prescribed compounded semaglutide by her GP.

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The TGA is cracking down on cosmetic injectable ads. Will this protect vulnerable Australians or 'blanket' information?

ABC Online, Other, 26/04/2024, Siobhan Marin

Forty-nine-year-old Jennei Hart is at a crossroads. The mother of two lost nearly 200 kilograms between 2004 and 2006. But there's another side effect she's still grappling with. [...] But after the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) tightened its guidelines earlier this year, much of the information Jennei is searching for — including whether a clinic offers specific services — now constitutes "illegal advertising".

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MAFS star Brent Vitiello slams haters for 'kicking him when he's down' as his sea moss brand comes under fire for failed deliveries

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/04/2024, Kate Dennett

Married At First Sight star Brent Vitiello has slammed haters for 'kicking him when he's down' after his business came under fire over delivery issues. The reality star launched Mos x Daily last year to sell jars of sea moss, a superfood rich in vitamins and minerals which has recently gained popularity in the industry [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) - Australia's medicine and therapeutic regulatory agency - claimed Mos x Daily is not listed in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods and is investigated the cancer-related claims made by Brent.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

The end of the road

The Saturday Age, General News, 27/04/2024, Sophie Aubrey and Cara Waters, Page 31

"We need it. Too many of us are dying." Sophie Aubrey and Cara Waters visit the city's laneways to talk with those most affected by the state government's decision to abandon plans for a safe injecting room in the CBD.

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Injecting site rebuff fails most vulnerable

The Saturday Age, Editorials, 27/04/2024, Page 38

Injecting even a mildly higher-than-usual dose of heroin can cause instant death. The drug immediately lowers the heart rate and respiratory rate, and without medical attention, can proceed to end a life. It is probably a horrible, lonely death — in a city car park, laneway or public toilet in the freezing cold — and yet, this is how it happens for someone every month in Melbourne's inner city.

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NT partygoers show 'strong support' for pill testing

Northern Territory News, General News, 27/04/2024, Harry Brill, Page 5

The majority of partygoers want pill testing for Territorian music festivals, a study has found. Ahead of Darwin's Bassinthe grass festival, the Menzies School of Health Research released a study, conducted in 2022 but released this month, in which a survey was taken at a Territory-based event to explore local insight into drug-related behaviours.

Australia-first cannabis club opens in Goodna with aim of helping medicinal users

Queensland Times, Other, 26/04/2024, Brendan O'Malley

Australia's first legal cannabis club, a safe space for medicinal users to seek quality advice and friendship, already has 400 members after officially opening in Goodna on the weekend. The club, open only to people registered to use therapeutic cannabis for health reasons, was founded by student social worker Aaron Spencer after he watched his father Peter's struggles.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Tackling the booze bootleggers

The Saturday Age, General News, 27/04/2024, Page 42

Fake alcohol is making its way into our entertainment venues. Police have uncovered a billion dollar liquor substitution racket that blends dangerous industrial alcohol into whisky, vodka and other top-shelf spirits.

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Udderly ridiculous

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 27/04/2024, Mark Murray, Page 1

Residents in a Highton court are up in arms over what they say seems like a raw milk trade in their street. Up to 30 cars have been seen near the address each fortnight with "customers" carrying white buckets.

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AICIS

'None of us had a choice in this': How these man-made chemicals will affect us for generations

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/04/2024, Michael Idato

When the legal settlement from manufacturer 3M over water pollution by so-called "forever chemicals" hit the headlines last month, the payout figure of \$US10.3 billion (\$16 billion) might have made it seem like the issue had reached its reckoning point. But the makers of a new documentary about the extent and impact of global contamination by toxic man-made chemicals describe the issue as a generational one.

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