



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 29th April 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 4\)](#)** reports that new data released by the Department of Health has shown that bulk-billing rates have risen 2.1 per cent from October last year to March, to a total of 77.7 per cent. Health Minister Mark Butler said that tripling the bulk bill incentives is a “game changer”.
- The **[Northern Territory News \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has confirmed a \$55 million funding extension to the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre in the Northern Territory.
- **[The Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the Victorian Victims of Crime Commissioner and the RACGP are calling for mandatory medical checks for older drivers after 145 deaths and 7080 injuries were caused by drivers over 65 in the last five years.
- The **[Sydney Morning Herald \(page 1\)](#)** reports that two Jervis Bay sisters developed brain tumours despite 1 in 1.5 million odds, sparking concerns that the tumours could have been caused by PFAS contamination.
- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the Maple Leaf House clinic in Newcastle has not been keeping a register for the prescription of hormone drugs to older teenagers, according to a FOI

request by NSW Labor MP Greg Donnelly.

- The **Sydney Morning Herald (page 2)** reports that the Australian Council of Trade Unions are calling for a 9 per cent pay increase for feminised occupations, including disability workers and child care educators.
- The **West Australian (page 9)** reports that Health Services Union WA may undertake industrial action in order to bargain for a 12 per cent pay rise over two years, with actions likely being half-hour work stoppages and imposing strict rules on start and end times.
- The **Herald Sun (page 13)** reports a Deakin University study has called on Australian supermarkets to implement a range of policies that encourage Australian shoppers to improve their diets, including implementing annual reporting on healthy food sales targets and providing clearer information on healthy product options.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Relief for patients as GPs shift back to bulk billing

The Australian, General News, 29/04/2024, Clareese Packer, Page 4

More general practitioners are making the shift back to bulk billing after the government tripled incentives in November, new data has revealed. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the decision was clearly a "game changer".

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

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### New hope for early-stage breast cancer

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/04/2024, Page 11

Australians who live with a high risk of recurrence after early-stage breast cancer will soon pay as little as \$7.70 per prescription for a treatment that could halt the disease from spreading. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said thousands of Australian women get a life-changing breast cancer diagnosis every year.

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

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

### Funding secured

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/04/2024, Zizi Averill, Page 1

The 'shining light' of Australia's elite emergency response unit has been granted a three-year \$55m lifeline, after almost falling off a funding cliff. On Sunday Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed the funding extension to the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre.

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### Gold cover will cost a family \$10k in brass

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 29/04/2024, Sue Dunlevy and Annabel Flemming, Page 12

The price of top cover health insurance policies has cracked \$10,000 a year for a family, even as providers' profits soar. [...] The premium rise on this policy is five times higher than the "average" 3 per cent increase Health Minister Mark Butler said he had approved.

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

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### Working together

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 29/04/2024, Chris Went, Page 46

Health services across Australia are under pressure and North Queensland is no exception. [...] Mater has joined forces with other private and not-for-profit hospitals to ask Federal Health Minister Mark

Butler to throw his weight behind a fairer funding deal for our sector.

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

## Cost of living crisis affecting GPs

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 29/04/2024

As the cost of living crisis continues, more Australians are delaying their own health care due to cost, and the decline is affecting GP clinics. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler conceded that the system was in trouble.

[Read More](#)

## Slight increase to bulk-billing rates after incentives

West Australian, Other, 29/04/2024, Dominic Giannini

Almost a million extra trips to the GP have been bulk-billed since further incentives for doctors came into effect. The bulk-billing rate rose 2.1 per cent to 77.7 per cent in March, according to government data. More Australians did not have to pay for an estimated 950,000 extra trips to the doctor in the past five months, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## New hope for Aussies battling early stage breast cancer

West Australian, Other, 28/04/2024, William Ton

Australians who live with a high risk of recurrence after early breast cancer will soon pay as little as \$7.70 for an expanded treatment that could halt the disease from spreading. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said thousands of Australian women get a life-changing breast cancer diagnosis every year.

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## Drug offers new hope for Australians with breast cancer

SBS, Other, 28/04/2024, Biwa Kwan

Patients at high risk of their breast cancer returning will soon have access to a treatment that could prevent just that. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says the oral tablet was previously only available on the PBS to advanced breast cancer patients.

[Read More](#)

## Bulk-billed GP visits rise following introduction of incentives for doctors, data shows

The Guardian, Other, 29/04/2024, Josh Butler

The federal government's bulk billing changes have helped more Australians see a GP, but peak doctors' groups say the reforms are only a "down payment" on what they want to see in next month's budget to help reduce healthcare costs. New data from the health minister, Mark Butler, released overnight, shows 77.7% of all visits to general practitioners were bulk billed in March, a 2.1% rise since the Albanese government's moves last November to triple incentives for doctors to take bulk billed appointments.

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## The listing will 'benefit thousands of Australian women', says Mark Butler

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 29/04/2024

Health Minister Mark Butler has announced that the PBS listing of Lilly's VERZENIO will be expanded on 1 May to include an invasive form of early breast cancer.

[Read More](#)

## 4BC, 14:00 News (Weekend), 28/04/2024

From next month, high-risk breast cancer patients will have a key drug covered under the

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Verzenio helps tackle the most common form of recurring breast cancer in women. Until now, it would cost patients \$100,000 a year to access the drug. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says extending its place on the PBS will make it more accessible.

Similar content in: [6PR \(Perth\)](#).

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Saudis' soft power win as Adelaide LIV goes off

Australian Financial Review, General News, 29/04/2024, Myriam Robin and Mark Di Stefano, Page 40

If there's a bad word to say about the LIV Golf Adelaide tournament that took place over the weekend, we haven't heard it.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Old drivers should 'face mandatory health tests'

Age, General News, 29/04/2024, Madeleine Heffernan and Henrietta Cook, Page 1

Older motorists have been responsible for at least 145 road deaths and more than 7000 injuries over

the past five years, with the state's rapidly ageing driver population prompting calls for mandatory medical checks. Unlike NSW, Queensland, Western Australia and the ACT, Victoria does not require drivers aged 75 and over to have an annual medical assessment to keep their licence.

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## Mosley to address dementia conference

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/04/2024, Page 29

Expert international practitioners including renowned British medical television presenter Dr Michael Mosley will join people with powerful stories of lived experience at this year's International Dementia Conference. Co-ordinated by research, education and consultancy body The Dementia Centre, the theme of the Sydney forum to be held on September 5-6 is "In the Arena".

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## Financial abuse on rise

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/04/2024, Amber Wilson, Page 3

Financial elder abuse is on the rise in Tasmania, according to the Public Trustee, with adult sons and daughters stealing from their ageing parents in a phenomenon dubbed "inheritance impatience". The Public Trustee currently has administration over the finances and affairs of 1150 vulnerable Tasmanians, with the legal orders to do so made by the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

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## A 'longevity revolution' is coming. Here's how those over 100 are making the most of their lives

The Guardian, Other, 28/04/2024, William J Kole

Life at it's essence is about time and by 2050, nearly 3.7 million people are expected to live up to 100. What can we do to get the most out of our bonus years? Loneliness. Ageism. Physical limitations, cognitive decline and, increasingly, elder poverty.

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## Rental affordability hits crisis point

Your Life Choices, Other, 29/04/2024, Andrew Gigacz

Older Australians are finding it harder than ever to secure rental properties, according to an alarming new report. Anglicare Australia has released its 2024 Rental Affordability Snapshot, and it paints a worrying picture for older Aussies looking to rent.

[Read More](#)

## Retirement villages increases rents despite being labelled 'unreasonable'

Your Life Choices, Other, 29/04/2024

Rent rises at one of Australia's largest providers of independent living units for seniors have been found to be "unreasonable" by a state regulator – but the company plans to continue with them anyway. Eureka villages can be found in outer suburbs and regional communities across Australia, claiming that they offer "affordable rental housing" to independent seniors.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### It's junk marketing

Herald Sun, General News, 29/04/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 13

Supermarkets are being urged to make healthy foods cheaper and limit price promotions on junk food to improve the health of Australians. These are among recommendations of a Deakin University report

on supermarket practices that says they are doing too little to improve population diets and calls for "much more substantial action".

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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## 'Bulk up' trend a body blow

Herald Sun, General News, 29/04/2024, Sarah Perillo, Page 16

A new phenomenon around body image and gym culture has led to teenagers as young as 15 injecting themselves with illegal drugs in a trend doctors say is dangerous and potentially life threatening. While in past decades distorted ideas of body image led to a glorification of women being underweight, experts say there is now an "over celebration of muscle size" in society.

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## You're not alone

Daily Advertiser, General News, 29/04/2024, Page 12

You're not alone Research commissioned by Dementia Australia and undertaken by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2023 shows the number of Australians living with dementia is expected to nearly double by 2054. In 2024 it is estimated there are more than 138,200 people living with all forms of dementia in New South Wales.

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## Prepare for the flu season

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 29/04/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 1

Tamworth residents are being warned to prepare for a severe cold and flu season. The region has been identified as one of Australia's top 10 hotspots for respiratory illnesses. The Codral Cold and Flu Forecast put Tamworth at number eight for towns most likely to be affected by cold and flu symptoms, including nasal congestion, coughs, pain, and fever. After last year's spike in flu-related hospitalisations, early indications suggest the virus may hit even harder in 2024.

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## Boundaries for kids' screen time 'critical'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 29/04/2024, Jami Roberts, Page 3

A Townsville paediatrician is urging parents to keep a closer eye on their children's screen time after a study showed that 85 per cent of primary schoolage kids are spending too much time in front of devices. Townsville University Hospital paediatrician Dr Jason Yates said clear boundaries were vital in children's safety and mental wellbeing.

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## Amount seeking alcohol, drug treatment on rise

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 29/04/2024, Monique Patterson, Page 2

Health Region more south-west residents have sought treatment for drug and alcohol dependence in the past 10 years, according to WRAD Health chief executive officer Mark Powell. This trend is in line with figures released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, which show the number of people seeking help is the highest it has been in the past decade.

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## Family seeks answers after 28yo woman dies by suicide in Sydney's Liverpool Hospital

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2024, Bridget Rollason

Two days before 28-year-old Florence Le died, her family picked her up from the mental health facility she was staying in to celebrate the last day of Chinese New Year. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, obtained by the ABC, shows while recent rates are lower than 10 years ago, there was a slight increase in the number of inpatient suicides in the latest figures.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Push to stamp out HPV

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/04/2024, Page 10

The state government has teamed up with Cancer Council SA to encourage students and their parents to play their part in eliminating the human papillomavirus and its link to cervical cancer. There has been a 5 per cent drop in HPV vaccine coverage for males and a 3.2 per cent drop for females.

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### Stairway to better health

West Australian, General News, 29/04/2024, Page 9

It may be tempting to take the lift, but choosing the stairs really can help you live longer. Scientists investigated whether climbing stairs could play a role in reducing the risks of cardiovascular disease and early death.

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### Teens hit hard in asbestos cancer fight

West Australian, General News, 29/04/2024, Claire Sadler, Page 10

Cody Bartell and Jarni Greatorex aren't former workers who have fallen ill in their later years they were diagnosed with mesothelioma as teenagers. Mr Bartell was diagnosed with the terminal cancer, which affects the mesothelial cells that cover most internal organs, when he was only 19.

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### Help with a frightening diagnosis

Burnie Advocate, General News, 29/04/2024, Sarah Fittock, Page 1

Kindred grandmother Lindy Earl-Cooper's life was rocked in 2022 when she was diagnosed with early breast cancer. "I went to my GP expecting a positive outcome and then he handed me the report ... and the only words I could see were 'malignant invasive carcinoma'," she said.

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### Ann has cancer on the run

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 29/04/2024, Peta Meachern, Page 1

One of Toowoomba's oldest runners who is gearing up for the Toowoomba Marathon event in May, said it wasn't for the social sport she never would have survived her cancer journey. Retired dairy farmer, Ann Guyatt, 79, said she first fell in love with running when she took her children to a fun-run, and competed in her first marathon after they laughed at her for entering.

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### Community is Team Parker as he battles rare tumour

Shepparton News Online, Other, 28/04/2024, Emily Donohoe

Since Parker Finn was diagnosed with juvenile nasopharyngeal angiofibroma in November 2023, there have been many highs and lows in his battle against the condition. At the end of last year, Parker, 9, had an appointment with an ENT to have his tonsils removed, but during checks his specialist found a lump up his nose.

[Read More](#)

### Scott Cam takes up cancer fight as two-thirds of Aussies to be hit

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 28/04/2024, Carla Mascarenhas

Two-thirds of Australians will develop skin cancer before 70, with outdoor workers and tradies among those at greatest risk, according to new research. The research by global technology company highlights the growing problem of adequate sun protection on job sites in Australia.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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## Push to increase prostate cancer testing

NEWS.com.au, Other, 28/04/2024

A prominent Melbourne squash coach has praised his student for recognising an unusual sign of prostate cancer which has prolonged his life. New research suggests prostate cancer cases will double in Australia in two decades, prompting calls for more men to get tested.

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

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## New research reveals Australian regions at higher risk of cardiac arrest

SBS, Other, 28/04/2024, Hannah Kwon

New research from Monash University has identified the Australian Local Government Areas with the highest rates of cardiac arrest and lowest rates of bystander CPR. Experts say it calls for a targeted educational approach, as survival is doubled when C-P-R is given by bystanders. [...] Professor Gary Jennings is a cardiologist and chief medical adviser to the Heart Foundation.

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## Melbourne father-to-be fighting incurable bowel cancer pushing to raise awareness

9News, Other, 28/04/2024

A Melbourne father-to-be who's fighting incurable bowel cancer is pushing to raise awareness about the disease. Luke Johnson is warning young Australians to be on the lookout for symptoms as oncologists label its early onset an "epidemic". [...] Bowel Cancer Australia has been calling on the federal government to lower that screening age to 45.

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## Addressing comorbid conditions in older people with type 2 diabetes

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 29/04/2024

As diabetes care continues to grow and evolve, understanding of comorbidity patterns can help inform the design of future health services. Although there have been considerable improvements in diabetes care in Australia in recent years, the prevalence of significant comorbid conditions in older people with diabetes can add to the complexity of care needed.

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## Understanding and Addressing Challenges in Gastric and Oesophageal Cancers

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 29/04/2024

Gastric and oesophageal cancers are becoming more prevalent in Australia. [...] Whilst this gap is currently being addressed by services such as PanCare, OCAGI, and support services through Cancer Council Australia, further investment in supportive care resources is necessary to integrate supportive care equitably through healthcare services across Australia.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Gender clinic's lack of hormone therapy records 'a scandal'

The Australian, General News, 29/04/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

A public gender clinic claims it has no data on how many children it is putting on hormone therapy or



what their sexes were at birth, despite taking in the vast bulk of NSW teenagers who want to change gender. Maple Leaf House in Newcastle received 443 new referrals in 2023, and saw 983 patients.

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## **Rebate stuck in the '80s**

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 29/04/2024, Sue Dunlevy, Page 12

Want to know why your health insurance is such poor value for money and why you are paying huge gap fees when you use it? Blame Medicare. It sounds counterintuitive but the nation's public health insurer Medicare plays a huge role in funding your care when you are a private patient in the hospital system.

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

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## **Timely health check**

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 29/04/2024, Page 4

Following on from the successful launch of last year's inaugural Future Townsville summit, the Townsville Bulletin has partnered with even more local leaders and health professionals to illuminate the path forward for the city's health care in some of its most challenging areas. Last year's instalment of the hugely successful event focused on the years ahead for Townsville and painted an aspirational picture of what upgrades, service improvements and changes the local health sector could expect by 2040.

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## **Pill testing 'essential' for saving lives**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 29/04/2024

Despite the success of pill testing trials in Australia, there continues to be ideological opposition to a practice that could save lives. Pill testing (often called "drug checking") is designed to simultaneously prevent people from using drugs in such a way that it causes them harm, while also sampling and monitoring a rapidly fluctuating drugs market in real time.

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# **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

## **Healthy city**

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 29/04/2024, Page 4

We're proud to bring you stories about the great work being done around mental health As Australia's first mentally healthy city, Townsville has all the right ingredients to support our residents when they need help. The next step, and continued challenge, is ensuring we know how to access that help.

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## **Why women of colour are being left behind due to delays in autism diagnosis**

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2024, Zena Chamas

Khadija Gbla first found out they had autism and ADHD at the age of 34 after their five-year-old son, Sammy, was diagnosed with both conditions. Sammy's diagnosis was a light-bulb moment for Khadija.

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## **Eating disorders are not a choice, they are a disease – I wish more people knew how treatable they are**

The Guardian, Other, 29/04/2024, Xavier Mulenga

Recovery can be a lengthy process, but I see more people get better when they engage with treatment than not. Emily is a 24-year-old single female with anorexia nervosa and depression who was referred for an assessment due to restricting food intake, being underweight with some alcohol abuse.

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## How the rise of autism and ADHD fractured Australia's schools

The Guardian, Other, 29/04/2024, Sarah Martin

Every morning before school, Emerson Cook would ask his mum to check the weather. If it was raining, she knew her then five-year-old would be anxious. "He was always worried about rain," says Alicia Cook, Emerson's mother. "And if the weather forecast was rain, I would be anxious too."

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Unions call for 9% pay boost for wage equity

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/04/2024, Angus Thompson, Page 2

Early childhood educators, disability workers and hairdressers are among workers the union movement says should get a 9 per cent pay rise in this year's annual wage decision in a fresh push for pay equity for people working in industries dominated by women. The Australian Council of Trade Unions is calling for the significant pay boost to be applied to awards in largely feminised occupations.

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

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### Recruitment blitz in health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/04/2024, Page 5

The Tasmanian Health Service has launched a call for new doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health professionals to join its ranks, in what the government has labelled the state's biggest ever recruitment blitz. On Sunday, Minister for Health Guy Barnett said the campaign would eventually help double the capacity of the Launceston General Hospital Emergency Department.

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### Paramedic joins team

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/04/2024, Genevieve Holding, Page 13

Cygnat Family Practice is leading the way for urgent and after-hours primary care in the state by adding a qualified community paramedic. The Huon Valley clinic became the first general practice in Australia to implement an urgent and after-hours service in April last year, run solely by nurse practitioners. It has now added a former ambulance paramedic to the team.

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### Pay strike for health workers on table

West Australian, General News, 29/04/2024, Jake Dietsch, Page 9

Tens of thousands of critical health workers could go on strike if their union's pay and conditions demands are not met. It is the latest headache for the State Government as it deals with industrial action erupting across the public sector. Health Services Union WA State secretary Naomi McCrae said "everything's on the table", up to and including full-day strikes, if the Government did not produce an acceptable offer.

## Blitz begins

Launceston Examiner, General News, 29/04/2024, Joe Colbrook, Page 1

Heralded as the largest recruitment drive in Tasmania's history, the state government has officially launched its campaign to recruit more full-time doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. The extra staff were promised as part of Premier Jeremy Rockliff's re-election campaign, with a target of 44 doctors and 25 nurses for the Royal Hobart Hospital and additional staff for the Launceston General Hospital.

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

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Funding for cancer drug

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/04/2024, Page 2

Australians at high risk of their breast cancer returning will soon have affordable access to a medicine that could stop that happening. The federal government will fund Verzenio through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from May 1 for the estimated 1800 patients affected.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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### Breast cancer help

West Australian, General News, 29/04/2024, Page 12

Australians with a high risk of recurrence after early breast cancer will soon pay as little as \$7.70 for an expanded treatment to halt the disease spreading. The Federal Government is expanding subsidies for abemaciclib (Verzenio) for an additional 2400 Australians living with early-stage breast cancer that has not yet spread beyond the area but has a high risk of doing so.

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### Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend), 28/04/2024, Chris Bath

The Government has expanded subsidies for an aggressive form of breast cancer. Patients will now have access to an advanced treatment that could dramatically improve their prognosis. The two-year course treatment will be funded through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme with Health Minister Mark Butler saying if it's not part of the PBS, an average Australian will have to pay about \$100,000.

[Play Now](#)

### Channel 7, Seven News (Weekend), 28/04/2024, Mark Ferguson

Many breast cancer victims are about to be given a financial break, with a key drug called Verzenio going on the PBS. It will save them tens of thousands of dollars a year. Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler says this is the first listings for early forms of common breast cancer, accounting for about 70% of all breast cancer cases.

[Play Now](#)

### Channel 9, National Nine News (Sunday), 28/04/2024, Peter Overton

There's new hope tonight for thousands of Australian women suffering from breast cancer. A costly treatment has been listed on the PBS, bringing peace of mind for those diagnosed with an illness that traditionally has a high chance of recurring. The drug, funded through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from 1 May, will give new hope for those women, a new sense of security, that they will be able to live a long life and share all of those usual milestones with their families and with their children.

## 4BC, Weekend Breakfast, 28/04/2024, Olympia Kwitowski

Australians grappling with a particularly aggressive form of early breast cancer will soon receive access to a new drug through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. It's the first time in 15 years a new treatment has been subsidised for the particular strain, which has a 1 in 3 chance of recurring. Medical oncologist Professor Fran Boyle says eligible patients will benefit a significant cost relief for women who've been paying for that themselves.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Students propel health program

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 29/04/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 3

Students from Newcastle University are primed and ready to teach Tamworth's kids how to be healthy, but there's a money problem threatening to cut class short. Without a new source of funding, this will be the last year children in our region benefit from Students As LifeStyle Activists (SALSA), an program which improves kids' health through peer-led nutritional education.

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## SPORT

### ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 28/04/2024, Johanna Nicholson and Fauziah Ibrahim

Last Wednesday, Cronulla Sharks star Dale Finucane announced his immediate retirement from the NRL because of concussion. It comes after Collingwood premiership defender Nathan Murphy was medically retired from the AFL citing panic attacks and anxiety caused by recurrent head knocks.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Under-the-radar I-MED is fighting fit after 20-year PE job

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 29/04/2024, Anthony Macdonald, Page 28

Making money in Australia's healthcare system ain't what it used to be. Our population is growing and getting older, but labour costs, sluggish revenue growth and big fixed cost bases have earnings and

balance sheets under pressure.

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

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## BGH preparing for \$1bn medical centre sell-off

The Australian, Business News, 29/04/2024, Bridget Carter, Page 14

Private equity firm BGH Capital is believed to be preparing to bring its primary healthcare business to market in the coming months, and with strong earnings some believe the price tag could be north of \$1 million. ForHealth operates more than 80 large-scale, multidisciplinary medical centres, providing critical primary care services, including general practitioners, dental, specialist, diagnostic imaging, pathology, allied health and pharmacy services.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Healthy share

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/04/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 1

The Top End's largest Aboriginal community controlled health organisation has hosted Timor Leste's Health Minister, who is keen to implement aspects of the model in her own country. Limited resources including chronic understaffing, with health clinics that are supposed to have five staff making do with one or two.

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

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### Study to look into stillbirth

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 29/04/2024, Leighton Smith, Page 3

Bringing down the alarmingly high stillbirth rate for Indigenous mothers will be the goal of a landmark study at Townsville University Hospital, which is backed by a record-high research grant. Despite major advances in neonatal and obstetric care, and the overall health of women to reduce Australia's overall perinatal mortality rate, the stillbirth rate among Indigenous mothers is almost double the non-Indigenous rate.

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### Yoorrook truth-telling inquiry told of ongoing dispossession of water rights for Indigenous groups

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2024, Emile Pavlich

Brendan Kennedy's people have cared for Margooya Lagoon in Australia's inland river system for thousands of years. But the Tati Tati and Wadi Wadi Traditional Owner says his rights to his ancestral lands and waters have withered away since European settlement.

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### After 25 years, birthing suite available for mothers in far north Queensland

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/04/2024, Savannah Meacham

Expectant mums in Queensland's far north have been forced to travel more than 800km to the nearest birthing suite for more than two decades. For 25 years, women in Queensland's Cape York Peninsula have travelled more than 800km in their last month of pregnancy to access maternity services.

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## Critical asset

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 29/04/2024, Page 12

Our trauma facility is one to be proud of and should be funded for many years to come One of the Territory's crowning jewels will be able to continue to shine with a funding commitment from the federal government. Darwin's National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre has been promised \$5.5m over the next three years, allowing it to continue its lifesaving work that benefits all Australians.

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## 'Many people eligible for a free vaccine'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 29/04/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 4

"The high volume of people moving through Tamworth increases the chances of cold and flu symptoms appearing," Mr Anantham said. "This has been confirmed by our data as well, with Tamworth consistently ranked within the top 20 cold and flu zones in Australia over the last three years, and within the top 10 cold and flu zones in NSW."

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## Health unit call to protect yourself this flu season

Shepparton News, General News, 29/04/2024, Georgia Tacey, Page 3

The Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit is reminding the community to get vaccinated ahead of this year's flu and winter virus season. As COVID-19, influenza and other respiratory illnesses continue to pose a risk in the community, the GVPHU is reminding the community about the importance of getting your vaccinations to protect not only yourself, but protect those around you.

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## Aussie woman reveals common symptoms hiding disease which almost killed her

The Mercury, Other, 28/04/2024, Blair Jackson

Claudia Gill had fatigue and ringing in her ears after coming home from holiday. When she got to hospital, doctors told her she would have died if she'd been any later. Claudia Gill was only 18 when she came within hours of death as meningococcal attacked her body.

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

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## From RSV to meningococcal B, we must ensure equitable access to childhood immunisations

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 29/04/2024

As we look towards the peak season for respiratory viruses, the announcement of new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation programs for children in a number of Australian states is welcome news. Last month Western Australia became the first Australian state or territory to announce a state government-funded immunisation program against RSV.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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## FOOD STANDARDS

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## AICIS

### Sisters' tragedy in a poisoned paradise

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/04/2024, Carrie Fellner, Page 1

Skye Sturgeon was told to call off her 21st birthday celebrations when her tumour returned. Instead, she spent the milestone learning to walk, talk and eat again after surgeons carved away the growth wrapped in nerves on her brain stem. [...] "They'll look at me again and be like, 'Do you know about PFAS?"

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

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