



Friday, 3rd May 2024

Minister Butler | Minister Wells | Assistant Minister McBride

| Assistant Minister Kearney | Assistant Minister McCarthy | Department

| Coronavirus | Ageing and Aged Care | Population Health

| Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions | Primary Care

| Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

| Health Workforce | Technology Assessment and Access

| Medicare Benefits and Digital Health | Benefits Integrity.

| Health Systems Strategies | Sport | Health Economics and Research |

First Nations Health | Interim Australian CDC | Therapeutic Goods Administration

| Office for Drug Control | Food Standards | AICIS

## LINKS

Click here to view full print articles in this report

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The <u>Herald Sun</u> (page 1) reports Commonwealth Games Australia said in its annual report that it seemed Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews "was attempting to trash the brand" when he cancelled the state's hosting of the 2026 Games. *Also reported by: <u>Courier Mail</u>, <u>Adelaide</u> <u>Advertiser, Daily Mail Australia</u>*
- The <u>Herald Sun</u> (page 1) reports a woman died waiting for admission at Maroondah Hospital's overcrowded emergency department on Wednesday.
- <u>The Australian</u> (page 3) reports personalized mRNA vaccines have shown promising results in glioblastoma patients in a University of Florida trial. *Also reported by: <u>The Australian</u>*
- The Australian (page 4) reports federal and state governments are negotiating a new deal that would see an additional \$18 billion directed to public hospitals. Minister for Health Mark Butler said the commonwealth's revised offer was "substantial", with the first year's funding increase raised from 13 to 13.5 per cent. *Also reported by: The Australian*
- The <u>Courier Mail</u> (page 4) reports a panel of independent vape store owners have urged the government to protect legitimate users in its new vaping legislation, telling the senate's inquiry that e-cigarettes had been a "miracle" in their own smoking cessation. *Also reported by:* <u>NEWS.com.au</u>, <u>Yahoo! News Australia</u>

- The <u>Courier Mail</u> (page 4) reports Ross River virus was detected in a record number of mosquito traps in Queensland this summer, with 2065 cases recorded in humans so far this year. Also reported by: <u>Townsville Bulletin</u>
- The <u>Herald Sun</u> (page 6) reports the wife of senior state Liberal MP Richard Riordan was a key player in Colac Area Health's use of hospital staff to fake a crowded urgent care centre for a ministerial visit last year.

## MINISTER BUTLER

## Labor's 'substantial' \$18bn cash splash for hospitals

The Australian, General News, 03/05/2024, Jess Malcolm, Page 4

Anthony Albanese will be on the hook for an extra \$18bn if the states sign off on a new deal to increase commonwealth spending by 13.5 per cent in the first year of a new hospital funding agreement, a \$5bn blowout compared what the federal government predicted at the end of last year. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Thursday confirmed the government has offered to more than double a funding cap on hospital spending but that he had not yet landed a deal with premiers and chief ministers.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

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## 'We want our fair share': Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan responds to 'landmark' federal health funding offer

Sky News Australia, Other, 02/05/2024, Patrick Hannaford

Premier Jacinta Allan has insisted Victoria must receive its "fair share" as part of the national health funding agreement currently being negotiated between the Xommonwealth and state governments. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Commonwealth had committed to putting in an additional \$13 billion into health over the next five years, but the final agreement was "still subject to negotiations between states, territories and the Commonwealth".

### Read More

## Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 02/05/2024, Alice Monfries

The federal government is facing pushback over its offer to boost Australia's hospital funding by \$4 billion next year. Live to Canberra and politics reporter Claudia Vrdoljak. [...] On a tour of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne today, Health Minister Mark Butler announced nearly \$2 billion for medical research into cancer, reducing health inequities, women's health, chronic pain, alcohol and other drug treatment, as well as funding clinical trials across the country.

#### Play Now

# Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 02/05/2024, Jerrie Demasi

The states and territories are playing hardball when it comes to hospital funding. They say the pressure on hospitals is increasing with overrun emergency departments, overcrowded wards and long surgery waiting lists.Canberra is offering the states more than \$34 billion boost in a five year agreement. NSW and Victoria want more. [...] The federal health minister says the talks are continuing, but a deal needs to be done by July 1st.

### Play Now

## Channel 7, Seven News Vic First at 4pm, 02/05/2024, Rebecca Maddern

The federal government is planning on injecting billions of dollars into our public hospitals to try to fix ambulance ramping and crippling waiting times. Live now to political reporter Isabelle Mullen. [video: Minister Butler]

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## 4BC, 12:00 News, 02/05/2024

Hospitals could soon receive a multi-billion dollar funding boost under a new deal between Commonwealth and state governments. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says it's now up to the states to sign on. [audio: Minister Butler]

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## Senate inquiry hearing on vaping bill

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 02/05/2024, Page 1

The Senate's Community Affairs Legislation Committee is holding a two-day inquiry into the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024, which is currently under discussion in Federal Parliament. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler underscored the bill's goals during his speech in Parliament, aligning it with Australia's public health objectives to reduce adult smoking rates from 11% down to 5% by 2030.

Also reported by: Pharmacy Daily (Online)

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# Pregnant women struggle to access blood pressure medications, with doctors raising concerns

ABC Online, Other, 02/05/2024, Claudia Long

Pregnant women are struggling to access essential medicines, according to doctors, with health department officials meeting today to discuss what to do about the problem. [...] RANZCOG (where Professor Henry and Dr Clare are state councillors) will meet today with the TGA and health department officials to discuss what can be done to address the issue. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney said a recent senate inquiry into access to reproductive and sexual health care would help inform how that commitment would be reached.

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## ABC News, ABC News Day, 02/05/2024, Ruby Cornish

Doctors say pregnant women are struggling to access essential medicines. Health Department officials are meeting today to discuss what to do about the problem. Patients are reportedly having trouble getting blood pressure, medications, drugs that delay early labor, and medicines for issues like autoimmune diseases. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney both said that they were waiting on a Senate inquiry looking at reproductive and sexual health care access in Australia to formulate their response.

Also reported by: ABC Radio Sydney (Sydney)

Play Now

# Patients will be given immediate access to pathology and diagnostic imaging results, officials confirm

Australian Doctor, Other, 02/05/2024, Rachel Carter

The seven-day delay before pathology and diagnostic imaging results posted on the My Health Record can be viewed by patients will be scrapped, health officials say. Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler had called the delay "a barrier to good clinical practice [that caused] untold frustration for Australians" as he launched the consultation on scrapping it last year. [...] This week, the Department of Health and Aged Care said there would be some exceptions if a delay was clearly needed to protect patients.

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### General use items decision welcomed by the industry

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 02/05/2024

The federal government has announced that general use items (GUIs) will no longer be removed from the Prescribed List on 1 July. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said, "The government has listened to the concerns about the pressure removing general use items would have caused and decided that this achieves the best outcome for patients."

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## Health research 'One Stop Shop' funded ahead of national plan

InnovationAus, Other, 02/05/2024, Brandon How

A new National Health and Medical Research Strategy will be developed by the federal government as it commits \$19 million to streamline regulatory processes through a 'National One Stop Shop'. The new initiates, revealed Thursday, are in a bundle of other health and medical research commitments announced by Health minister Mark Butler, as the "Health Research for a Future Made in Australia" package.

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## Billions to spur and streamline medical research

The Medical Republic, Other, 02/05/2024, Penny Durham

A shakeup in medical research aims to keep Australia competitive as a research destination while improving patient access to clinical trials and boosting work in new priority areas, including a "10-year mission" to reduce health inequities. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said today that better alignment and coordination of the MRFF and NHMRC would strengthen Australia's world-leading research capability, while the National One Stop Shop would remove red tape and help end the "postcode lottery in access to clinical trials".

Read More

## Channel 9, Nine News, 02/05/2024, Peter Overton

A new arrangement to guarantee more money for our under-strain hospitals is tonight a step closer. The Albanese government is promising extra cash for the states to bring an end to lengthy negotiations. With 12 days until the budget, the health minister in the lab to announce almost 2 billion extra dollars for medical research and clinical trials. [video: Minister Butler]

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 02/05/2024, Peter Mitchell

Sick children with hard-to-treat conditions will soon have access to more clinical trials. Health Minister Mark Butler met with scientists at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute to announce \$62 million for clinical trials in the upcoming federal budget. [video: Minister Butler]

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## RACGP's view on Hospital in the Home draws strong reaction

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/05/2024, Caroline Egan

Hospital in the Home (HITH) arrangements are "hindered" by red tape, a heavy administration burden, and billing "nightmares", the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has claimed in a letter to the Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler. The peak body for GPs is calling on the Federal Government to issue consistent national rules to State and Territory health departments and hospitals on GP involvement in patient admission, referrals, and billing practices following a HITH admission.

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## MINISTER WELLS

# Opinion: the three big aged care questions the Federal Budget must answer

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/05/2024, Lauren Broomham

With the Federal Budget now just 12 days away, there remains several unanswered questions that are weighing on boards and executives across the aged care sector. Despite the Aged Care Taskforce, chaired by the Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, handing its Final Report to the Government in December – and the Report being released in March – the Albanese Government has yet to respond to its 23 recommendations.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

# Pregnant women struggle to access blood pressure medications, with doctors raising concerns

ABC Online, Other, 02/05/2024, Claudia Long

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Also reported by: ABC Radio Sydney (Sydney)

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### Government program to help nurse burnout

Aged Care Insite, Other, 02/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

A \$25.2m government program for nurses and midwives is being funded in hopes of combatting burnout, stress, and abuse that leads them to leave the industry. The Nurse Midwife Health Program Australia is in its first phase with a support service through telehealth (1800 001 060) and a website where nurses and midwives can seek advice and referrals when needed. [...] Data from the Department of Health and Aged Care shows that since 2016, there has been a 60 per cent increase in nurses and midwives who have taken an extended leave of absence.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

# Malarndirri McCarthy says Aboriginal-controlled health organisations crucial to Closing the Gap

National Indigenous Times, Other, 02/05/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy has hailed Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations as essential partners in Closing the Gap. Speaking to the WA Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector in Fremantle on Wednesday, the Yanyuwa senator said the government was committed to the

sector, announcing three new four-chair renal dialysis units for two sites for the Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance in Tom Price and the Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service in Wiluna.

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## Calls for better access to health prompts historic gathering of Torres Strait Islander doctors on Waiben

SBS, Other, 02/05/2024, Carli Willis

Thirty years ago, there were no Torres Strait Islander doctors. Now, the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) has taken a group of Torres Strait Islander doctors from the mainland to the islands for the first time. [...] Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said applications had closed on the thirty, four-chair dialysis units that the federal government had promised. However, she said she was working closely with the Badu tribal Elders to secure one four-chair unit for the Torres Strait.

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## DEPARTMENT

# Pregnant women struggle to access blood pressure medications, with doctors raising concerns

ABC Online, Other, 02/05/2024, Claudia Long

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Australian Doctor, Other, 02/05/2024, Rachel Carter

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# One in 10 aged care homes spend over \$52 per resident per day on food

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/05/2024, Caroline Egan

St Vincent's Care Services Kew aged care chefs David Martin and Harry Shen were recently awarded medals and commendations at the 2024 International Culinaire Salon in London, the Weekly SOURCE

# reported last Thursday. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care told The Weekly SOURCE about 3.5% of all aged care homes (92 homes) spend more than St Vincent's Care Services Kew.

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## North Nowra Meals on Wheels connecting generations

949 Power FM, Other, 02/05/2024, Peter Andrea

North Shoalhaven Meals on Wheels has received almost \$100,000 in additional annual funding (from 2024 – 2027) from the Department of Health and Aged Care. It means the 'Meals Together' program will be extended and expanded throughout the Shoalhaven to assist more residents in need, with more events, meals and participants taking part more regularly.

## <u>Read More</u>

## ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 02/05/2024, Sarah MacDonald

Interview with Triple P Parenting founder Professor Matt Sanders. [...] One of the things that the surveys enable us to do, because there's a national rollout funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care of the Triple P online system, there's, a range of evidence-based online parenting programs that can speak to some of the concerns identified in the survey.

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## CORONAVIRUS

## Booster call to tackle new winter COVID threat

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/05/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 14

Experts are urging Australians needing a COVID-19 booster to get one ahead of a potential winter wave, warning a monovalent vaccine targeting the dominant JN.1 variant is unlikely to be ready in time for the colder months. The latest NSW Health respiratory surveillance report released yesterday shows the JN.1 variant now accounts for almost all COVID-19 cases in NSW.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald (Online).

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## Aged care COVID-19 deaths highest since post-Christmas surge

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/05/2024, Caroline Egan

COVID-19 cases and deaths are rising again as Australia heads into winter. In the week to 25 April 2024, there were outbreaks of the virus in 222 aged care homes, 8% of all homes in Australia, and 11 more homes than the previous week During the week, 1,205 residents contracted the virus, 57 more than the previous week.

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# AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Labor's aged care promises when elected - how have they done?

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/05/2024, Caroline Egan

When Anthony Albanese's Labor Government came to power in 2022, they did so, in part, on the promise of fixing Australia's aged care system. In the wake of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and a Coalition Government that had been in power for over a decade and was blamed for many of the aged care system's woes, Labor saw it as a weak spot with former Aged Care Minister Richard Colbeck constantly lambasted for his performances.

## Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission and Office of the Inspector-General sign MOU

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/05/2024, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner Janet Anderson PSM and the Acting Inspector-General of Aged Care Ian Yates AM have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) detailing how the two organisations will share information. The purpose of the non-binding MOU is to:

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# Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains to exit home care

#### The Weekly Source, Other, 02/05/2024, Caroline Egan

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains (CCWSBM), which has operated as a Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) provider for 30 years, has revealed plans to exit home care as increasing regulation and impending reforms make delivery of the service increasingly difficult. "It is with great sadness, that at this time, CCWSBM has had to make the difficult decision to withdraw from the CHSP," a spokesperson of Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains told The SOURCE.

#### Read More

## One Victorian council exits home care while another chooses to expand

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/05/2024, Caroline Egan

Two Victorian councils have come to very different conclusions about the future of their home care services in the face of future reforms to the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), which will transition to Support at Home from 1 July 2027. Victoria's Wyndham City council's 700 home care clients will have to find a new provider as the council, based in the outer south western suburbs of Melbourne, will stop delivering home care from 31 December 2024.

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# POPULATION HEALTH

## Ex-smokers laud merits on vaping

Courier Mail, General News, 03/05/2024, Ellen Ransley, Page 4

Former heavy smokers have told a senate inquiry how switching to vaping was a "miracle" that helped them curb their deadly habit, as they pleaded for greater protections for legitimate e-cigarette users. With legislation currently before the parliament seeking to crack down on the disposable vape black market by making e-cigarettes prescription-only, senators on Thursday heard from a panel of independent vaping store owners.

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## Vaping reforms: Australian National University Professor Emily Banks makes shock admission at parliamentary inquiry

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/05/2024, Lisa Edser

An anti-vaping professor has been grilled during a senate inquiry to provide examples of e-cigarette deaths before she eventually admitted the only known deaths is when vape batteries exploded. Professor Emily Banks was questioned at the senate inquiry for the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill on Wednesday.

#### Read More

# Prescription vape manufacturers call for flavoured products as senate hears of heart risk levels

Sky News Australia, Other, 02/05/2024, Ellen Ransley

Fruit-flavoured prescription-only nicotine vapes for adults wanting to move away from cigarettes should

be made available, manufacturers have told senators, as they throw their support behind new legislation aimed at stamping out the black market. After new laws came into effect in March that banned the importation of unlicensed vapes, the parliament is now considering the next tranche of legislation that would limit access to e-cigarettes to prescription only.

#### Read More

## Vapers plan to kick habit

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/05/2024, Page 16

The majority of Australians who vape plan to stop or reduce the amount they vape in the next three months. The Quit and Cancer Council survey shows that almost three in four (73 per cent) survey respondents who vape at least once a week and more than two in three (68 per cent) survey respondents who vape monthly plan to stop or reduce the amount they vape in the next three months.

Also reported by: <u>Daily Telegraph (Sydney)</u>, <u>Cairns Post (Cairns)</u>, <u>Townsville Bulletin (Townsville)</u>, <u>Geelong</u> <u>Advertiser (Geelong)</u>

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### Channel 7, Seven News, 02/05/2024, Sharyn Ghidella and Max Futcher

The majority of Australians who vape want to quit, according to new Cancer Council research. A survey found three quarters of vapers want to wind back the habit in the next three months.

#### <u>Play Now</u>

## Channel 10, 10 News First, 02/05/2024, Kate Freebairn

Startling new data shows three quarters of Australians who vape actually want to quit. Health campaigners have urged the federal government to pass legislation which would dramatically restrict their availability to recreational users.

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### Nanny state vaping rules an insult to free choice

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/05/2024, Sen Tammy Tyrrell, Page 43

Public health menace. That's how the Labor Government describes vaping. Labor wants to stamp out vapes because of rising rates of vaping in schools. And I get that - I don't want to see kids with vapes either. But if Labor gets their way, an adult wouldn't be able to buy a vape if they wanted to.

Also reported by: <u>Cairns Post (Cairns)</u>, <u>Toowoomba Chronicle (Toowoomba)</u>, <u>Townsville Bulletin (Townsville)</u>, <u>Gold Coast Bulletin (Gold Coast)</u>

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### Scary new alcohol warning for Aussies

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/05/2024, Page 18

A couple of beers after work or a half-bottle of wine at dinner is a beloved Aussie tradition, but new findings from a leading eye vision organisation suggests that second glass of booze could put Australians at greater risk of suffering serious health issues. The Macular Disease Foundation says consuming more than 12g of alcohol a day, which is less than one large glass of wine or a large beer, is linked to a larger risk of age-related macular degeneration or irreversible vision loss.

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#### Facebook vape ads exposed

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/05/2024, Sue Dunlevy, Page 34

Facebook is controversially allowing lobbyists to push petitions calling for vaping bans to be scrapped, without disclosing the post's sponsor. The advertisements, which appear to be in breach of Meta's own guidelines, can be revealed after the social media giant was forced to shut down pages openly and illegally advertising vapes for sale.

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## Dog bite hospital admissions in Broome Regional Hospital spike way

### above national average

ABC Online, Other, 02/05/2024, Mya Kordic

A tourist town in Western Australia's far north has recorded seven times the national average of hospital admissions from dog bites, new research has found. The project was conducted by four researchers from Broome Regional Hospital. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported the number of dog bites requiring hospital admission was 20 per 100,000, while in Broome the research showed 142 bites per 100,000.

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## New AI tool to help homes be "more efficient"

Aged Care Insite, Other, 02/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

A PhD candidate's research will aim to train AI to identify frailty and forecast health outcomes to make aged care homes "more efficient". James Cook University researcher Jonathan Kong will train his AI to identify declining strength in older individuals and predict how long they'll stay in an aged care home once admitted. [...] According to AIHW, older people make up 16 per cent of Australia's population, with around 456,000 using aged care services, including home care and residential care.

#### Read More

# How patients are harmed by the invisible impact of events thousands of kilometres away

#### Australian Doctor, Other, 02/05/2024, Vicki Kotsirilos

In April, Forest Fire Management Victoria conducted planned burns to help reduce bushfire risks to the local towns. It is not unusual during these times for GPs to have more presentations of patients of all age groups with respiratory problems, including asthma, bronchitis and respiratory symptoms — cough, shortness of breath, chest tightness, irritation of eyes and sinus congestion. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2019-2020 bushfire report demonstrated the serious impact it had on human health: increased hospitalisations , emergency department visits, prescriptions and purchases of asthma medication, mental health services and GP visits.

#### Read More

# Experts are calling for the mammogram screening age to be brought forward

#### The Courier Mail, Other, 02/05/2024, Mia Erickson

Fresh from an expert panel in the US, the guidelines around when – and how often – women should undergo screening for breast cancer have been placed under review. Here's why. [...] Similar to the US guidelines, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners adopts a fairly conservative approach to breast cancer screening.

#### Read More

# Women live more years in ill-health than men, finds gender health gap study

#### The Guardian, Other, 02/05/2024, Andrew Gregory

Women live longer than men but experience more years in poor health, according to a global gender health gap analysis that experts say underlines an urgent need for action to boost women's health. Globally, there are substantial differences between women and men when it comes to health, with limited progress in bridging health gaps over the past three decades, according to the study examining the impact of the world's 20 leading causes of disease.

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# CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Vaccine hope for defeating cancer

The Australian, General News, 03/05/2024, Eleanor Hayward, Page 3

A vaccine has shown promise at treating an incurable type of brain cancer in a groundbreaking clinical trial. The vaccine was tested on four adult patients with glioblastoma, the most common and deadly type of brain tumour.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

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## PRIMARY CARE

## Brookfield in talks with NorthWest over hospitals performance

The Australian, Business News, 03/05/2024, Bridget Carter, Page 14

Speculation is mounting in the market that Brookfield has started working in a co-operative way with landlord NorthWest Healthcare to address challenges with underperforming hospital assets within the Healthscope portfolio. DataRoom understands that early talks have been unfolding in which NorthWest may convert some of the Healthscope hospital sites for other use, such as aged-care facilities.

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## Advent Partners buys stake in emergency care specialist

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 03/05/2024, Page 16

Mid-market private equity investor Advent Partners has snapped up a stake in Brisbane-based Private Emergency Health Australia, betting more hospitals will outsource their emergency departments during a sector-wide cost crunch. Street Talk can reveal ...

Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online).

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### Dead waiting in ED

Herald Sun, General News, 03/05/2024, Shannon Deery, Page 1

A patient has died while waiting for a bed at one of Melbourne's major hospitals, with staff warning Victoria's health system is in crisis. The Herald Sun can reveal the female died while waiting in the emergency department of Maroondah Hospital in Melbourne's east on Wednesday.

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### Lib's wife did fake patients

Herald Sun, General News, 03/05/2024, Mitch Clarke, Page 6

The wife of a senior Liberal MP has been unveiled as a key player in a fake patient scandal that has rocked Victoria's health system. The Herald Sun can reveal Polwarth MP Richard Riordan's wife Catherine, who works at Colac Area Health in a community engagement and communications role, asked healthy staff to pose as sick patients during a ministerial visit in order to make the hospital look busy.

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## Fund opts for health

Courier Mail, General News, 03/05/2024, Ben Wilmot, Page 57

Funds house Real Asset Management has settled the acquisition of a new healthcare facility in the inner suburb of Nundah showing the strength of the healthcare market. RAM paid \$51.25m for the health precinct spanning more than 1ha, which is anchored by a 58-bed private mental health hospital on a new 25-year lease to operator iMH, a joint venture between Aurora and Medibank's Amplar Health.

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### New lens lets surgeons get up close and optical

West Australian, General News, 03/05/2024, Claire Sadler, Page 18

Private health customers in Western Australian will now have access to a state-of-the-art microscope to

help diagnose and treat eye conditions. The Zeiss Opmi Lumera 700 Rescan microscope has been installed at the St John of God Subiaco Eye Hospital.

Also reported by: West Australian (Online)

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### A kick in the kidneys

Border Mail, General News, 03/05/2024, Ted Howes, Page 1

A plan to introduce dialysis treatment chairs at Albury hospital earmarked in the 2021 Albury Wodonga Health master plan appears to have been scuttled. A lack of dialysis facilities was highlighted last week when a top North East renal doctor revealed many Albury-Wodonga patients were forced to get dialysis treatment at Wangaratta and Melbourne.

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#### Hospital's clean bill of health

Border Watch, General News, 03/05/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

A hygienist has tested an area within the Mount Gambier and District Hospital almost two months after a burst pipe caused significant flooding. On March 10 there was significant flooding due to a burst pipe at the local hospital prompting swift emergency services, staff and contractor responses.

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#### Help is far away for children in Moree

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 03/05/2024, Lydia Roberts, Page 2

When Moree mum Katherine McLane realised her son Jacob needed specialist care, she didn't think she'd have to wait a year and drive to the Gold Coast to see a paediatrician. "We noticed at an early age Jacob had some learning difficulties," said Ms McLane.

### Read Plain Text Read More

## Major shake-up for boss of Sydney Local Health District Teresa Anderson

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/05/2024, Natalie O'Brien

The chief executive of the trouble plagued Sydney Local Health District (SLHD), Teresa Anderson , has been moved following a controversial year of complaints about bullying by other staff, cost cutting and massive X-ray backlogs within two hospitals and a staff vote of no confidence in her management. The SLHD has confirmed Dr Anderson will be heading up a new medical records system known as the Single Digital Patient Record Implementation Authority after thirteen years in the job.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online)

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# Mothers who breastfeed can save the planet, so support them: ANU study

#### Canberra Times, Other, 02/05/2024, Bageshri Savyasachi

Melissa Mann did not know how to breastfeed her newborn son before she was discharged from hospital, like many new mothers in the region. She said she didn't have support from doctors or midwives after giving birth, and felt like a failure because she struggled to feed her baby.

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# Mental health 'crisis response teams' the latest measure to divert patients from hospitals

West Australian, Other, 02/05/2024, Josh Zimmerman

Roaming "crisis response teams" will be dispatched to the homes of West Australians experiencing mental health episodes in the latest measure to divert patients from hospital emergency departments. The new model – which pairs a paramedic with a qualified mental health practitioner – headlines \$154.6 million in new spending to drive down ambulance ramping that will be contained in next week's State Budget.

## Maternity services at Margaret River Hospital take a hit despite Midwifery Group Practice showing growth

West Australian, Other, 02/05/2024, Warren Hately

Local doctors have lost their fight to retain onsite obstetricians at Margaret River Hospital — a move they say means more women will be forced to travel to give birth. While low-risk pregnancies continue to be supported by the Midwifery Group Practice, all other maternity services will be transferred to Busselton and Bunbury hospitals.

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# Fifth of patients say they are resorting to telehealth services to get prescriptions

Australian Doctor, Other, 02/05/2024, Paul Smith

A fifth of patients say they are using online telehealth services to obtain prescriptions as a cheaper alternative to seeing their doctor. The finding comes from the Patient Experience Insights Report produced by CommBank and published yesterday.

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## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 02/05/2024, Manny Tsigas

The West Australian government has announced more funding to ease pressure on hospital emergency departments. It will be spent on expanding the state's virtual emergency department, a telehealth system aimed at reducing avoidable presentations.

Play Now

## Channel 7, Sunrise, 02/05/2024, Larry Emdur and Kylie Gillies

A major funding boost could be on the way for hospitals across the country, with the government offering to spend an additional \$4 billion next year. Let's go live now to Ben Downey in Canberra.

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# MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

## AFL is Ahead of the Game in mental health

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/05/2024, Dasha Havrilenko, Page 18

An AFL initiative set to benefit young South Australian footballers in their mental health journey has been launched across the state. Ahead of the Game is a free program which aims to change attitudes towards mental health by teaching players, parents, coaches, umpires and volunteers to build resilience in both sport and life.

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# Finance Minister Katy Gallagher reveals taking antidepressants after personal tragedy

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/05/2024, Olivia Ireland

Finance Minister Katy Gallagher says she took antidepressants and had "serious psychiatric interventions" after the death of her fiance while she was pregnant in the 1990s. Speaking on former prime minister Julia Gillard's A Podcast of One's Own, Gallagher is the first politician currently in office to talk about taking medication for her mental health after Scott Morrison revealed he took anti-depressants while he was prime minister in 2021.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

## Healthcare crisis deepens

Shepparton News, General News, 03/05/2024, Kady Hadjab, Page 14

Starting May 7, Victoria's public sector nurses and midwives will start industrial action after negotiations with the Victorian Government over wages and working conditions reached a deadlock. "The nursing and midwifery workforce is the backbone of the public health system, but it's fractured," Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Victorian branch secretary Lisa Fitzpatrick said.

Also reported by: Shepparton News Online (Online)

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# Meet the GP registrar who led junior doctors to victory in \$230 million class action

Australian Doctor, Other, 02/05/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Dr Amireh Fakhouri did not expect to lead a junior doctor class action against NSW Health when her union first emailed about allegations of wage theft more than four years ago. "It just so happened that I was one of the doctors who had the most written evidence, such as emails and text messages, to prove that I had worked unpaid overtime," Dr Fakhouri told AusDoc.

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### Fast-track for overseas specialists

Medical Forum, Other, 02/05/2024

A new way to fast-track urgently needed overseas-trained medical specialists into the Australian health system has moved a step closer. The issue, which dominated the latest annual meeting of the Medical Board of Australia, is initially prioritising GPs, anaesthetists, obstetricians and gynaecologists, and psychiatrists.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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# **BENEFITS INTEGRITY**

### Health sector loopholes to shut

Burnie Advocate, General News, 03/05/2024, Isabel Bird, Page 7

Tasmanians using unregistered health services will be safer following the Attorney-General's promise

to increase the protective powers of the health complaints' watchdog by the end of 2023. Laws to protect the public from dodgy or unsafe health services and workers in unregistered health sectors have been delayed for five years, leaving Tasmanians without the same regulatory protections as other states. [...] An unregistered health worker is anyone who provides a health service that does not require registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

Also reported by: Launceston Examiner (Launceston)

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# 'Monster': Rape survivor of Shafiul Milky speaks of 'heavy burden' of keeping horror secret from family

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 02/05/2024, Mark Murray

The survivor of a rape at the hands of a "monster" has revealed she kept the crime inside a medical practice secret from her own family and friends. Sarah – not her real name – has spoken for the first time after being raped by a former Geelong doctor, Shafiul Milky, at the Peninsula Family Medical Practice in 2018. [...] Sarah said the ongoing saga "prevented any closure for victims" before blasting the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), which is still yet to ban him permanently from practising in Australia.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online), The Mercury (Online), Northern Territory News (Online).

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# HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

### Dan's 'trash' game

Herald Sun, General News, 03/05/2024, Matt Johnston, Page 1

Commonwealth Games Australia has accused Daniel Andrews of trying to "trash the brand with the Australian public" for political benefit after tearing up a contract to host the 2026 event. The sporting body's annual report, released this week, shows almost \$32m of the \$380m Victorian taxpayers forked out to kill off the 2026 contract with the Commonwealth Games Federation went to CGA to help its athletes who will now compete overseas.

Also reported by: <u>Courier Mail (Brisbane)</u>, <u>Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide)</u>, <u>Geelong Advertiser (Geelong)</u>. Similar coverage: <u>The Senior (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Mail Australia (Online)</u>

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## Rebuilt Gabba is not part of plan

Courier Mail, General News, 03/05/2024, Stephanie Bennett, Page 10

Consultation on a revamped Woolloongabba precinct with 14,000 new dwellings and a central park has been thrown open to local residents – but a rebuilt Gabba stadium has been officially dumped from the plans. The proposed \$2.7bn stadium was the centrepiece of the 2023 priority development area plan unveiled by the state government to transform the corner of the city ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Games.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 02/05/2024, Sharyn Ghidella and Max Futcher

The future of the Gabba has been revealed as the government plans to revamp the Woolloongabba precinct. Anna McGraw joins us in the studio and Anna, it doesn't include a stadium rebuild.

Play Now

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

## You need to be fit at 55

Herald Sun, General News, 03/05/2024, Page 19

A study of more than 10,000 Australian women showed a significant link between regular exercise during mid-age and physical health later in life, even when the exercise routine was not started until their mid-50s. "Ideally, women should increase their activity levels to meet the guidelines by age 55," lead author Dr Binh Nguyen from The University of Sydney said.

Also reported by: <u>Courier Mail (Brisbane)</u>, <u>Cairns Post (Cairns)</u>, <u>Geelong Advertiser (Geelong)</u>, <u>Gold Coast</u> <u>Bulletin (Gold Coast)</u>

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#### Prostate cancer breakthrough

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 03/05/2024, Abe Maddison, Page 21

An Australian-developed process that accurately identifies prostate cancer in low-risk patients "at point zero" could revolutionise detection. The process, developed by University of South Australia researcher Jessica Logan, has been fully validated and implemented into clinical practice in the US.

Also reported by: <u>Bendigo Advertiser (Bendigo)</u>, <u>Border Mail (Albury-Wodonga)</u>, <u>Northern Daily Leader</u> (<u>Tamworth</u>), <u>Burnie Advocate (Burnie</u>), <u>Warrnambool Standard (Warrnambool</u>), <u>Launceston Examiner</u> (<u>Launceston</u>), <u>Canberra Times (Online</u>), <u>West Australian (Online</u>), <u>The Senior (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Mail Australia</u> (<u>Online</u>)

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# How long you should spend sleeping, standing, sitting and exercising each day

The New Daily, Other, 02/05/2024, Parker McKenzie

New research has laid out the ideal day for optimal health, detailing how many hours a person should spend sitting, standing, sleeping and exercising. An international team of researchers, including from Swinburne University and the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, analysed the behaviour of more than 2000 people across 24 hours to establish how much time should be spent on sitting, standing, sleeping, light physical activity and moderate or higher physical activity.

#### Read More

# Nearly half of patients die within 10 years of AF hospitalisation: Aussie study

Australian Doctor, Other, 02/05/2024, Kemal Atlay

Nearly half of patients hospitalised for AF or flutter die within a decade post-discharge, according to Australian analysis of public and private hospital data. Their study also suggests that re-hospitalisation is "exceedingly common", with more than 40% of patients readmitted for AF or flutter within 10 years of the initial discharge.

Similar coverage: Medical Forum (Online)

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### Rhyme and reason for RSV

Medical Forum, Other, 02/05/2024

Telethon Kids Institute is seeking healthy babies for a clinical trial of two vaccines to prevent serious illness caused by respiratory syncytial virus and human metapneumovirus. The two-year Telethon-supported trial is looking to enrol 120 babies between five to eight months of age to test the best vaccine to reduce infant hospitalisations and deaths globally, caused by an RSV or hMPV infection.

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## Glaucoma research grants funding opens

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/05/2024

Glaucoma Australia has announced that applications for its annual 'Quinlivan' research grants are now open, with recipients to be revealed on World Sight Day on 10 Oct. The grants, named after the late benefactor Marcus Quinlivan, are aimed at advancing medical and social research into glaucoma.

#### Read More

## Cardio cuts death by 20%

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/05/2024

A new study from the University of South Australia has discovered that an increased cardio-fitness level will reduce risk of death from any cause by nearly 20%. Published in BJSM, the research found that for every one metabolic equivalent (1-MET) increase in cardiorespiratory fitness (CRF) - the amount of energy used for quiet sitting - a person can reduce their risk of death by 11-17%, and specifically, their risk of heart disease by 18%.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Movember has pledged \$59.5 million to Indigenous men's mental health

SBS, Other, 02/05/2024, Madison Howarth

The Movember Institute of Men's Health has announced funding of \$17.6 million for First Nations communities and organisations in Australia to support the social and emotional well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and boys. Indigenous men and boys experience higher rates of chronic disease, mental ill-health, mortality, and substance misuse.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### WHO's focus solely on global health, not a secret power grab

The Australian, General News, 03/05/2024, Ashley Bloomfield, Page 11

Last week the 194 member states of the World Health Organisation completed a week of negotiations in the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Amendments on the International Health Regulations. The working group discussed proposals to ensure future global responses to disease outbreaks are fairer, so all countries can access the funding and health products they need to protect their people.

#### Read Plain Text Read More

### Warning as Ross River Fever hits record

Courier Mail, General News, 03/05/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 4

The debilitating Ross River virus is running rampant in Queensland with record numbers of detections in samples taken from mosquito traps. And Queenslanders are being urged to protect themselves from bites all year round to escape symptoms like joint pain and fatigue that can last for months.

Also reported by: Townsville Bulletin (Townsville)

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## Health warning for Bali

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/05/2024, Emma Kirk, Page 34

Travellers heading to Bali have been issued with a health warning after a surge of people return home to Australia with dengue fever. Western Australia has recorded 138 cases of dengue fever this year, twice the number of cases compared to the same time last year.

#### Professor calls for Australians to get their flu vaccination

Yea Chronicle, General News, 01/05/2024, Prof Paul Kelly, Page 6

World Immunisation Week (April 24 to 30) is a timely reminder for everyone in Australia to book their annual flu vaccination. Free vaccines are now available for people most at risk of complications through the Australian Government's National Immunisation Program.

#### Read Plain Text Read More

#### Qld pharmacists can offer RSV vax

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/05/2024

Queensland has expanded the role of pharmacists now by allowing them to administer respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines to residents over the age of 60. This change follows the inclusion yesterday of the vaccine in the Extended Practice Authority - Pharmacists V5, positioning Queensland alongside New South Wales and Victoria in empowering pharmacists with this capability.

#### Read More

# A new form of mpox that may spread more easily found in Congo's biggest outbreak

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 02/05/2024, Maria Cheng and Christina Malkia

Congo is struggling to contain its biggest mpox outbreak, and scientists say a new form of the disease detected in a mining town might more easily spread among people. Since January, Congo has reported more than 4,500 suspected mpox cases and nearly 300 deaths, numbers that have roughly tripled from the same period last year, according to the World Health Organization.

Also reported by: Daily Mail Australia (Online).

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

#### Logo goes up in smoke

Courier Mail, Sport, 03/05/2024, Peter Badel and Travis Meyn, Page 78

Controversial Dolphins sponsor Alternaleaf has disappeared from the club's jersey. The medicinal cannabis company has been in the spotlight following suggestions the sponsorship could be in breach of Therapeutic Goods Administration guidelines.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph (Sydney)

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#### Vaping laws on right path to limit use

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/05/2024, Becky Freeman and Christina Watts, Page 37

The vaping industry is running an expensive campaign to oppose the government's vaping laws, Targuing 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.

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## McCarthy takes Streisand's Ozempic query as a compliment

The New Daily, Other, 02/05/2024

Melissa McCarthy has responded to Barbra Streisand asking whether she has taken the drug Ozempic, as demand for the drug surges among those who want to lose weight. Musical star Streisand has deleted her comment below the Bridesmaids star's social media post, following an online backlash.

[...] In Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved Ozempic as safe to use to treat type 2 diabetes but it has not yet been approved for weight loss.

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# Johann Hari discovered 12 'disturbing' risks to using Ozempic. He's still using it.

Mamamia, Other, 02/05/2024, Isabella Ross

Johann Hari has opened up about his personal experience of using the drug Ozempic. Hari has been takin the drug for the past year, and says it has changed his life. For better and for worse. [...] Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration has listed Ozempic on its medicine shortage reports database with a predicted date of 31 December 2024 before any change is likely to occur in its "limited availability" due to "unexpected increase in consumer demand".

#### Read More

## Philips will pay \$1.1billion to people who said company's \$1,600 sleep apnea machines gave them cancer

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/05/2024, Cassidy Morrison

Electronics giant Philips has reached a \$1.1 billion settlement deal with patients who claim the firm's sleep apnea machines caused their cancers and other diseases. The Dutch company will shell out the money to settle over 700 lawsuits brought forward by more than 58,000 Americans who say they were affected.

#### Read More

## Vyvanse still scarce

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/05/2024

Securing supplies of various strengths of ADHA medication, Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine dimesilate) is continuing to challenge pharmacists despite the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) declaring that shortages have been "resolved". Capital Chemist Group general manager, Andrew Topp, told the AJP that ...

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# OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

# Researchers urge more Australian pharmacies to stock anti-opioid overdose drug naloxone

The Guardian, Other, 02/05/2024, Sharlotte Thou

Just 60% of pharmacies stock naloxone, a life-saving medication that rapidly reverses the effects of an opioid overdose, as concerns grow about the danger posed by synthetic opioids. A survey of 530 pharmacies across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia, led by researchers from Monash University, found 321 pharmacies have naloxone in stock.

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# FOOD STANDARDS

## Health bar recalled

Daily Mercury, General News, 03/05/2024, Page 10

A health bar has been recalled from Woolworths stores nationwide over fears about the presence of plastic. Food Standards Australia issued a recall on Wednesday for 28GO Go Bar triple choc protein 55g energy bars.

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## Australia-made instant noodle pulled over undeclared allergen

NEWS.com.au, Other, 02/05/2024

A popular brand of instant noodles has been urgently recalled over fears an undeclared allergen could cause an allergic reaction. Food Standards Australia issued a recall notice on Tuesday for Mr Lees Noodles Henking Coconut Chicken Laksa 65g.

Also reported by: <u>The Australian (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)</u>, <u>The Courier Mail (Online)</u>, <u>Adelaide Now (Online)</u>, <u>The Mercury (Online)</u>, <u>Northern Territory News (Online)</u>, <u>West Australian (Online)</u>

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## AICIS

## The hidden words exposing 3M's cancer deception

Age, General News, 03/05/2024, Carrie Fellner, Page 14

After 3M learnt that one of its best-selling chemicals had contaminated the blood of the general population, it was what the company's internal documents didn't say that was most incriminating. It was April 1979 and the Wall Street giant's top executives hopped in the company jet and flew from their headquarters in Minnesota to San Francisco for secretive talks with two world-leading scientists to gauge their opinion on a pressing issue.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald (Online)

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## **EPA order after PFAS find**

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/05/2024, Matthew Kelly, Page 1

The state's environmental watchdog has stepped in to oversee the multimillion-dollar clean-up of legacy toxins buried at the former Munmorah power station site. The Environment Protection Authority's contaminated land declaration comes after PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) associated with a former firefighting training area, as well as hydrocarbons were detected at the site.

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