



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 14th May 2024

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| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports the government has expanded the number of rural GP training places to meet surging demand, Health Minister Mark Butler says, but new data shows the number of Australian medical graduates who want to become GPs has dropped to its lowest level in over a decade.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports Victoria's hospitals have been warned they will receive no extra funding beyond an extra \$8.8 billion pledged in last week's state budget, prompting concerns of job losses and service amalgamations. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [Herald Sun](#)
- The **[Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 4) reports QIMR Berghofer Research Institute has joined a global effort to measure the mental health impact of excessive internet use amongst teenagers. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [Hobart Mercury](#)
- The **[Herald Sun](#)** (page 5) reports strike action by Victoria's nurses and paramedics planned for Friday will be unavoidable unless the state government begins to act "with a sense of urgency", unions have warned. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#)
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 5) reports chronic kidney disease medication Korsuva has been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

- The [Australian Financial Review](#) (page 7) reports aged care providers have called on the government to phase in planned pay rises for sector workers, warning an immediate, unfunded pay rise could lead to service closures.
- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports a Senate committee has recommended draft nuclear safety laws should be amended to more clearly say Australia will not accept nuclear waste from other AUKUS pact countries. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#), [The Guardian](#)
- [ABC Online](#) reports Tuesday's budget will have multiple measures to support women's health including MBS-funded consults for complex gynaecological conditions, endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics, and upskilling measures for nurses and midwives. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#), [Sky News](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Surplus of \$9.3b, then a sea of red ink

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/05/2024, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

Today's federal budget will forecast a surplus of \$9.3 billion for this financial year, after which the bottom line will plunge into successive deficits that will be larger than expected six months ago. The surplus for 2023-24, which is a...

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

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Graduates shun the life of GPs

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/05/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 1

The number of medical graduates wanting to enter general practice has tumbled to its lowest level in more than a decade, prompting doctors to question how the federal government will staff dozens of urgent care clinics. One in 10 graduates last year said they wanted to become GPs, the latest data collated by the Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand reveals. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government had agreed to expand the number of rural GP training places to meet the "welcome surge in demand" for pursuing a general practice career outside a major city.

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Diary of a Flood Survivor

Northern Rivers Times, General News, 09/05/2024, Page 17

When we were unpacking many of the items we'd saved from the flood, as they had to be stored away while we were living elsewhere, it was a little like Christmas. Possessions we hadn't seen for seven months came to light and we were able to put them back where they belonged. [...] Recently the federal government, via the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler (pictured), has provided Southern Cross University with \$3.8 million to help us locals affected by the floods.

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

New plan to attract rural docs

SE Voice, General News, 14/05/2024, Page 2

The Federal and State Governments are making it easier for South Australians to see a doctor by attracting and retaining more doctors in regional and rural South Australia - including in the Limestone Coast. The new Single Employer Model (SEM) will support up to 60 additional GP and rural generalist registrars training in the community at any one time - potentially quadrupling the state's existing cohort as the program scales up over time. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government wanted to attract more doctors to regional South Australia.

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'Wrong priorities' for health budget

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 13/05/2024, Page 10

Health Minister Mark Butler has rejected claims from a peak medical group that a budget funding boost

to urgent care clinics was a "missed opportunity" for broader health reform. The federal government unveiled a \$227 million package ahead of tomorrow's federal budget that would see an extra 29 urgent care clinics set up.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#).

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Cheaper drugs for cancer, kidney disease patients

Canberra Times, Other, 13/05/2024, Kat Wong

Australians with endometrial cancer or chronic kidney disease will benefit from new government subsidies for key drugs. Dostarlimab, which is used in combination with chemotherapy to treat endometrial cancer, and Difelikefalin, which is offered to Australians undergoing haemodialysis who experience itching, will both be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from May 1. Health Minister Mark Butler says this will aid about 3000 patients across the country.

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

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Townsville mum Kristen Samuel suffering from chronic kidney disease itch excited after first treatment added to PBS

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 13/05/2024, Caitlan Charles

A debilitating itch during treatment for chronic kidney disease made Townsville mum Kristen Samuel want to run a knife over her arms. The relentless itch, which hits many patients during dialysis, was so consuming it was often all Ms Samuel could think about. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said adding the drug Korsuva to the scheme would give thousands of Australians that live with CKD-itch "targeted treatment for the first time".

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One of tomorrow's budget papers will be all about women. Here's what you need to know

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2024, Claudia Long and Tom Crowley

For the fourth consecutive year, the pile of budget papers deposited on the desks of journalists on Tuesday afternoon will contain a booklet dedicated exclusively to women. Inflation is making everything more expensive, including essentials women can't avoid buying. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said a recent Senate inquiry into access to reproductive and sexual healthcare would help inform how those commitments would be reached.

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Sunrise vax scare

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2024

And staying with Seven, let's cross to some vaccine alarmism on Sunrise, with this question from host Matt Shirvington: MATT SHIRVINGTON: The side effect that's seen AstraZeneca withdrawn from sale around the world. So, was it ever safe? [...] And let's not forget, as Health Minister Mark Butler said on Nine: MARK BUTLER: It protected hundreds of millions of people across the world and saved millions of lives, and I thank AstraZeneca for that - Nine News (Sydney), 8 May, 2024 Sunrise didn't have time to mention that.

[Read More](#)

Treatments for endometrial cancer and chronic kidney disease associated itching added to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

Sky News Australia, Other, 13/05/2024

Thousands of Australians are expected to benefit from the listing of two new medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Health Minister Mark Butler on Monday confirmed the first-time additions of Dostarlimab (Jemperli) and Difelikefalin (Korsuva) to the PBS from this month.

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Riverland medical program leading the way

A program developed in the Riverland to attract and retain doctors is now set to be rolled out further across the state. Under the Single Employer Model (SEM) an additional 60 GP and rural generalist registrar training places will be funded, which follows the success of the Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence (RACE) initiative led by the Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network. [...] The additional places are being supported through a Federal & State government funding partnership, with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler saying he looks forward to working collaboratively with the Malinauskas Government to make training and working in rural general practice a more attractive option for young doctors.

Also reported by: [Magic 93.1 \(Online\)](#).

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\$227 million window dressing? Govt to fund 29 more urgent care clinics in the Federal Budget

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/05/2024, Antony Scholefield

Mark Butler claimed it was 'not clear' why the RACGP was critical of urgent care clinics. A \$227 million pledge to fund 29 more urgent care clinics has increased GP concerns about how the universal bulk-billing clinics funded directly by taxpayers compete with private GP practices.

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About bloody time – News.com.au campaign secures win for endometriosis sufferers

B & T Online, Other, 13/05/2024, Fredrika Stigell

News.com.au has secured new specialist help for the more than one million Australians suffering from endometriosis, a condition that causes chronic pain and infertility. Two months after the launch of news.com.au's 'About Bloody Time' campaign, the Federal Government will announce a \$49. [...] Health minister Mark Butler said he was "deeply moved by the women who spoke about their experience with endometriosis during the About Bloody Time campaign".

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Pre-Budget announcements keep coming for Health Minister Mark Butler

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 14/05/2024

The pre-budget announcements continue for the Albanese Government, with Health Minister Mark Butler reconfirming the 1 May listing of medicines for endometrial cancer and a condition associated with chronic kidney disease.

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Urgent care clinics a 'PR stunt' and 'Band-Aid' solution

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/05/2024, Laura Woodrow

Federal priorities are out of whack, says the RACGP, after the announcement of \$277m for 29 new UCCs. Tassie, meanwhile, wants more. [...] Yesterday, at a press conference in Adelaide, Mark Butler announced a \$277 million package to open 29 extra urgent care clinics over the coming year, ahead of tomorrow's federal budget.

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Federal Budget 2024: \$20,000 tax break on top of cost of living relief and Centrelink boost for pensioners

Yahoo! Finance Australia, Other, 13/05/2024, Stewart Perrie

Australians want to know what the federal budget will do to address the cost-of-living crisis. Here's what we know. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the subsidised longer appointments would aim to allow more women to receive a quicker diagnosis.

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Pedler

Pedler reports SA Health and Wellbeing Minister Chris Picton teamed up again with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride and announced a big expansion in their funding for mental health and suicide prevention services in SA. She adds it is going to see an expansion of \$26m to the services that are already offered. Pedler says it includes \$13.8m for suicide prevention services, \$9.2m for critical aftercare services following an attempt or during a crisis, \$2.5m towards bereavement support for families and communities after someone in their community has taken their life in that way and \$2.1m to trial a new model of care to prevent suicide behaviour.

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MINISTER WELLS

Albanese confirms funding for AIS

Architecture & Design, Other, 13/05/2024, Jarrod Reedie

The Albanese Government has confirmed that it will invest nearly \$250 million into the redevelopment of the Australian Institute of Sport in the lead up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The funding provided by the federal government will see an architect design an accessible, multi-storey accommodation facility, an all weather multi-sports dome, and a new high-performance training and testing centre. [...] Minister for Sport, Anika Wells, believes the upgrades will assist in ensuring Australia builds on its incredible 2020 Tokyo Games successes.

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Bigger and better facilities for Australian Institute of Sport

Inside Construction, Other, 13/05/2024, Ashley Grogan

In the 2024-25 Budget, the Federal Government is set to allocate \$249.7 million towards enhancing the facilities of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) located in Bruce, ACT. This investment comes as Australia prepares for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, ensuring the facility is modern and fit-for-purpose for Australia's elite and aspiring athletes. [...] Australian Minister for Sport, Anika Wells, underscored the importance of investing in sports now for the success of the 2032 Games, noting that it can take up to eight years to adequately prepare an athlete for the highest level of competition.

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“End this uncertainty”: aged care sector implores Govt to act on Taskforce recommendations

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/05/2024, Caroline Egan

Aged care operators from around the country say the recommendations from the Aged Care Taskforce are needed urgently to provide not only certainty for forward planning, but also to ensure the future financial sustainability of the sector. Last week, The Australian reported that aged care will not be a major feature of the Federal Budget tomorrow night, confirming industry's concerns that recent silence from the Aged Care Minister Anika Wells could signal a lack of progress.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Sky's the limit for Central Coast graduates

Central Coast Business Review, General News, 01/05/2024, Page 7

New nurses, teachers and food scientists were among those poised to make a difference on the Central Coast and beyond, following a celebration of their study achievements at the University of Newcastle Ourimbah graduation in early April. More than 450 graduates were congratulated by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alex Zelinsky, AO, for their significant commitment and dedication to their

educational aspirations. [...] Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, as well as the Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, delivered the occasional speech.

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ABC Eyre Peninsula and West Coast, Breakfast, 13/05/2024, Emma Pedler

Pedler reports SA Health and Wellbeing Minister Chris Picton teamed up again with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride and announced a big expansion in their funding for mental health and suicide prevention services in SA. She adds it is going to see an expansion of \$26m to the services that are already offered. Pedler says it includes \$13.8m for suicide prevention services, \$9.2m for critical aftercare services following an attempt or during a crisis, \$2.5m towards bereavement support for families and communities after someone in their community has taken their life in that way and \$2.1m to trial a new model of care to prevent suicide behaviour.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

One of tomorrow's budget papers will be all about women. Here's what you need to know

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2024, Claudia Long and Tom Crowley

For the fourth consecutive year, the pile of budget papers deposited on the desks of journalists on Tuesday afternoon will contain a booklet dedicated exclusively to women. Inflation is making everything more expensive, including essentials women can't avoid buying. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said a recent Senate inquiry into access to reproductive and sexual healthcare would help inform how those commitments would be reached.

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Toowoomba woman Krystal Fanning to apply for federal government scholarship to become endorsed midwife

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 13/05/2024, Tom Gillespie

Just 1000 other people are in the position Toowoomba's Krystal Fanning hopes to achieve — that's one for every 26,000 Australians. Now her dreams have been given a big government boost: The role that midwife Krystal Fanning hopes to become is one shared by just 1000 other people in Australia — and that dream has received a huge boost. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney says the new payments for student teachers and nurses were "greeted with a round of applause".

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

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Sceptics push paper

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Heather Saxena, Page 1

Politicians and bloggers who believe the use of COVID-19 vaccines constitutes a criminal act are claiming an article in the RACGP's house journal has exposed the 'truth' that the vaccines can cause long COVID. The 1300-word paper was published in the Australian Journal of General Practice (AJGP) last month with the title 'Long COVID: Sufferers can take heart'.

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Paxlovid not for low risk: study

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 8

Nirmatrelvir-ritonavir is no better than placebo for resolving symptoms in patients who are at low risk for severe COVID-19, suggest results from a Pfizer-funded study. The phase II/III trial showed no significant difference between nirmatrelvir-ritonavir (Paxlovid) and placebo for time to symptom alleviation in patients with confirmed COVID-19.

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What's next that AstraZeneca would no longer be available in Australia

...

SBS, Other, 13/05/2024, Sri Dean

Now the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine has been withdrawn globally after admitting these adverse side effects. For those who have received it, do we still need to worry about these side effects?

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COVID FLiRT strains: What we know about the new subvariants in Australia

SBS, Other, 13/05/2024

A subvariant that quickly became the leading COVID-19 strain in the United States was recently detected in Australia. Key Points Highly transmissible COVID subvariant KP.2, which quickly spread through the US, was recently detected in Australia.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care providers want pay rises delayed

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/05/2024, David Marin-Guzman, Page 7

Aged care employers have backed the government's proposal to stagger pay rises over two years due to fear of closures if the sector is forced to pay unfunded increases, clashing with unions that are demanding the full rise by July 1.

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

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Female-dominated industries need larger rises

Daily Advertiser, General News, 14/05/2024, Ray Goodlass, Page 12

A very welcome announcement the Secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) has said that women with jobs in sectors like early childhood education and home care deserve a bigger pay rise than other workers because they have been undervalued and underpaid for too long.

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Elder abuse soars across state

This week, a County Court judge will hand down a sentence in one of the most shocking Geelong crimes this decade. In the early hours of August 15, 2021, Shane Huici broke into a St Albans Park nursing home and attempted to orally rape a 90-year-old resident. Hours before the crime, Huici was partying at a 21st birthday party at the Bush Inn in central Geelong.

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Friendships that heal

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/05/2024, Christine Schindler, Page 1

Every second Wednesday, surrounded by paintings in the front sunroom of 85year-old Arno Riddel's Newtown home, Margi Travers stops by for an hour to chat with him, share some of her baking, and have a laugh over a cup of tea. The duo have been meeting for almost a year now, and the bond they have created abounds in joy as they share milestones in life, having birthdays, Easter and Christmas celebrations in the hour they meet.

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SA retirement villages accused of unconscionable fee gouging

Adelaide Now, Other, 12/05/2024, Paul Ashenden

Residents of South Australian retirement villages have urged state and federal governments to crack down on operators' "unconscionable" price gouging they say is costing families hundreds of thousands of dollars. SA Retirement Village Residents Association president Roger Adamson said SA's 26,000 retirement village residents were frustrated by a lack of action in cracking down on practices they described as rorts.

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New dementia care program launches

Geelong Independent, Other, 13/05/2024

Barwon Health will now offer specialised residential care as part of a new aged care dementia service. The new service at Blakiston Lodge at the McKellar Centre in North Geelong, which launched on Friday, May 10. Funded through the federal government's Specialist Dementia Care Program (SDCP), the program has nine beds dedicated to transitional care.

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Budget to include “multi-billion dollar” investments for wage increases

Aged Care Insite, Other, 13/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Ahead of the Federal Budget tomorrow, Treasurer Jim Chalmers is setting aside billions of dollars for wage increases in the aged care sector. Mr Chalmers revealed on Sunday there would be a "multibillion-dollar provision in the budget for better wages in the care economy" alongside \$1.

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Retirement council calls on Govt to unlock more age-friendly housing

Australian Seniors News, Other, 13/05/2024

Australia's Retirement Living Council (RLC) has repeated its call for improved conditions to unlock more age-friendly housing supply ahead of this week's Budget. "Australian Governments past and present have known about our nation's rapidly changing demographic landscape for years, alongside the associated challenges with accommodation and care," said RLC Executive Director, Daniel Gannon.

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Should there be a visual identifier for people living with dementia out in public?

HelloCare, Other, 13/05/2024, Jakob Neeland

Three years ago, my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and vascular dementia. At the young age of 63, her journey with dementia began, subtly at first, but gradually becoming more

pronounced with each passing day. It's been a rollercoaster of emotions for our family, filled with both moments of joy and challenges we never anticipated.

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Older Australians Must Be A Priority In This Week's Federal Budget

HelloCare, Other, 13/05/2024, Jakob Neeland

Ahead of the Federal Budget, Anglicare Australia has called on the Government to deliver on promised aged care reforms. "Everyone deserves quality care as they get older. All of us should be able to get quality care, with dignity, when we need it," said Anglicare Australia Executive Director Kasy Chambers. "Yet across the country, people are struggling to get the care they deserve.

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Australia's aged care crisis will worsen

In Daily, Other, 13/05/2024

Regular readers of this column will know me to be very optimistic about the future of Australia. There are, however, a few things I am pessimistic about. As things stand right now, we are heading towards an aged care catastrophe. It will take a massive overhaul of the way we deliver aged care, a bucketload of skilled migrants, strategically utilised technology, and a collectively much healthier elderly population to ensure our nation ages in dignity and good health.

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The Long Goodbye

Mamamia, Other, 13/05/2024

The first time Keri Kitay's mother Terry forgot where she parked her car, she was surprised and annoyed. But she wasn't alarmed. It wasn't until years later that she would realise it was one of the first signs of early onset Alzheimers which would slowly dismantle her mother's life. There are around 15 Australians per 1,000 living with dementia and a tiny percentage of those are relatively young. This is the story of one person and the way her family said their long goodbye.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Look after your foot soldiers

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/05/2024, Trisha Pasricha, Page 28

Our feet can change shape and size in a single day, writes Trisha Pasricha. We stop growing in height in our teens to early 20s, but our feet usually keep growing. Even in a single day, our foot size fluctuates expanding as much as a half size according to the Royal College of Podiatry.

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

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Can a liquid diet reverse type 2 diabetes?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/05/2024, Maria Lally

A landmark study says yes, suggesting soups and shakes could help fast-track fat loss. But is it safe or sustainable? [...] Given the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates 1.2 million Aussies live with type 2 diabetes – which can cause heart disease, stroke, nerve damage, blindness and kidney failure – it's no wonder experts have lauded the results.

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Aboriginal legal services in crisis as demand doubles

West Australian, Other, 13/05/2024, Kat Wong

First Nations Australians are at risk of increased family violence and unjust incarceration as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal organisations struggle with surging demand. [...] They make up 33 per

cent of all prisoners according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics and more than half of those in youth detention, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has found.

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10,000 puffs — how vapes got the next generation hooked on smoking

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2024, Natasha Mitchell and Claire-Slaterry

Through sinister marketing and loose regulation, the tobacco industry has hooked a whole new generation of kids on smoking. How did it come to this, and will the federal government's new laws to crack down on vaping actually work?

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Budget 2024: Disability advocacy funding doubled over next four years

The Mandarin, Other, 13/05/2024, Melissa Coade

Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth has stressed it is her paramount concern the rights and freedoms of people with disability are at the centre of government efforts. "The rights of people with disability must be maintained and valued, and people with disability deserve to have a say on the policies and programs that affect their lives," Rishworth said in a statement.

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Nadia Bokody: Scary detail about dating men

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/05/2024, Nadia Bokody

There's a foreign hand under my skirt. It's moist with overfamiliarity and sweat. This is the third time tonight it's found its way onto my thigh. I want to swat it like a cockroach before it crawls any further toward my underwear. Instead, I twist my face into a smile and say, "Stop being cheeky!" [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare confirms 75 per cent of domestic violence is perpetrated by men.

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Researchers call for translation tools for CALD community

Aged Care Insite, Other, 13/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

New research has found the need for translated aged care assessment tools for CALD communities, which is crucial for effective evaluation of social engagement and quality of life in older people. Researchers from Western Sydney University (WSU) revealed that cultural appropriateness significantly impacted the delivery of questions within the assessment tools. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare , 33 per cent of Australians accessing aged care services were born overseas.

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Dental Board worries too many patients are accessing super to fund dental care

Bite Magazine, Other, 13/05/2024

The Dental Board of Australia is concerned about growing reports of dental practitioners encouraging patients to access superannuation to fund dental care. Patients may apply for early release of superannuation on compassionate grounds if they meet certain eligibility criteria.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

How women can slash the risk of breast cancer

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/05/2024, Jill Margo, Page 8

A simple system developed in Australia can help many women use medication that has the potential to reduce their risk of breast cancer by up to 50 per cent. While the science is sound, it is not widely

known that "anti-hormone" drugs can reduce breast can...

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

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MAHA's big heart

Courier Mail, Business News, 14/05/2024, Glen Norris, Page 27

We hear Springfield City Group chairman Maha Sinnathamby enticed Heart Foundation CEO David Lloyd to town last week to discuss a partnership. The meeting, held during national Heart Week, was the first step in a long-term vision to provide Australia with a longitudinal study aimed at reducing the rate of heart disease. Springfield continues to develop its Health City, including the Mater Hospital precinct, in a region that has welcomed more than 53,000 residents since construction began 32 years ago.

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A warrior princess

Border Mail, General News, 14/05/2024, Georgia Smith, Page 1

Piper Wakley-Keighran's family has always known she's a warrior. But now the brave sixyear-old has the award to prove it. Little Piper's world changed on December 18 last year when the unimaginable occurred. After becoming unresponsive, Piper was rushed to Albury Base Hospital where it was discovered the newly graduated preschool student had suffered a stroke.

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Condition led Geoff to make a change to his career

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 14/05/2024, Page 8

One moment, 24-year-old economics graduate Geoff Lester was refereeing a social basketball game in Brisbane with friends while making plans to move to London. Two hours later, he was going under the knife for 12 hours of open-heart surgery to fix a catastrophic aortic dissection that could have killed him. [...] For Heart Week 2024, Australian Heart Foundation ambassador Dr Lester has joined calls for people to get their tickers checked out to avoid the unthinkable happening to them or their loved ones.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

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Why health experts are pushing for a ban on wood-fire heating

3AW, Other, 13/05/2024, Tom Elliott

Asthma Australia has called to ban wood-fires in new housing developments over concerns they have negatively impact asthmatics. Policy manager at Asthma Australia, Angela Cartwright, says asthmatics have ended up in hospital after their neighbours used their wood fires.

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Ali took a trip to the GP. Within 4 hours, she was sitting across from a medical team.

Mamamia, Other, 12/05/2024, Ali Moore

A trip to the GP for a young woman is often one filled with anxiety, with the worst-case scenario almost always being the C word. In August 2023, at 28 years old, that fear was realised for me. I sat in the medical room with my very kind GP as she walked me through the details she knew from the biopsy , as my boyfriend jumped in a taxi from work. I had breast cancer While you're here, watch the story of Lea, an international exchange student who at 21 years of age was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma.

[Read More](#)

New cancer centre

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/05/2024

The University of NSW, Sydney, and Cancer Council NSW have partnered in a 10-year agreement to create the Australian Research Centre for Cancer Survivorship. With a combined investment of \$40

million, the centre aims to enhance care and wellbeing for cancer survivors.

[Read More](#)

New online tool to support people with metastatic breast cancer

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 13/05/2024

A new online support tool aiming to guide people through the psychological impact of their advanced/metastatic breast cancer diagnosis has now entered the testing phase, with those living with the disease invited to take part and trial the free program. Developed by researchers at Flinders University with support from Breast Cancer Network Australia and Cancer Council SA, Finding My Way – Advanced is designed to support people through stage 4, also known as advanced metastatic breast cancer, which is a treatable but currently incurable form of the disease.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 13/05/2024, Sharyn Ghidella and Max Futchter

At the NRL's Magic Round this weekend, there'll be free blood glucose tests as well as detection for one of our biggest killers. Cardiovascular disease causes 1 in 4 deaths in Australia, that's one every 12 minutes or 120 people a day. The risk is significantly higher in men as they're 40% more likely to die from CVD than women.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 13/05/2024, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

Asthma experts have launched a campaign to have wood heaters banned in all new homes. Sufferers are backing the call, arguing smoke in the winter months aggravates their condition. Asthma Australia says one wood heater can cause almost \$4,000 in health costs a year, adding up to \$3.4b nationally and with 1 in 9 Australians living with the condition, it wants governments to take action.

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospitals won't get any top-up funding

Age, General News, 14/05/2024, Broede Carmody, Page 1

Victoria's hospitals won't have their funding topped up if they run over budget as the debt-ridden state government tries to save money, prompting fears among health leaders that jobs will be at risk or services amalgamated. The Allan government has written to the state's health services to spruik the \$8.8 billion in spending contained in last week's budget, but also to warn that hospitals have a role to play in reining in rising cost blowouts.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

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

Victoria pleads for bounties from feds

Herald Sun, General News, 14/05/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 7

Schools, hospitals, srl on wishlist More money for the controversial \$216bn Suburban Rail Loop, public hospitals and schools is top of the Victorian government's wishlist ahead of today's federal budget as it demands its "fair share".

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

After hours GPs in north

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/05/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 4

Health Minister Guy Barnett says the state government has reached an agreement to deliver after-hours primary care for Hobart's northern suburbs. It comes after the Mercury reported the closure of the After Hours Doctor in Derwent Park, owned by national company Better Medical, which will see its last patients on May 31, with staff to move to the Rosny Doctors and After Hours.

Tassie's wish list out of budget

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/05/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 5

State Treasurer Michael Ferguson has issued his Canberra counterpart with a last-minute wish list ahead of Tuesday's federal budget, with funding sought for health, education, transport, and agriculture initiatives. Imploring federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers not to leave Tasmanian "off the map", Mr Ferguson said his biggest ask was \$350 million towards the Launceston General Hospital Masterplan, as well as further support for the provision of general practitioners.

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

Independents in paediatric clinic push

Daily Advertiser, General News, 14/05/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf, Page 3

Wagga MP Joe McGirr is set to join forces with other independent members of parliament to lobby the state government for better child health services across the Riverina. Murray MP Helen Dalton confirmed she has locked in a meeting with Health Minister Ryan Park, independents Dr McGirr, Roy Butler and Phil Donato next week to lobby for funding before the June budget, and to endorse a campaign by Royal Far West to establish two clinics in western NSW.

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

Two healthy offerings

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/05/2024, Peter Farago, Page 10

A Geelong private hospital operator is offloading parts of a landmark CBD medical centre as the medical sector continues its hot streak in the commercial property market. St John of God Healthcare is selling the ground floor tenancies within its Granada Medical Centre building at the corner of Moorabool and Myers streets. The two tenanted investment properties are at Lots 2-3 and Lot 4/88 Myers St, Geelong.

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

Hospital doors set to open

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 14/05/2024, Luke Mortimer, Page 3

The new \$723.3m Tweed Valley Hospital at Cudgen will open its doors on Tuesday a project six years in the making. Protests raged for years over the hospital being built on what was state significant farmland including rallies sensationally attended by then-Tweed Shire Council mayor Katie Milne. But the hospital was ticked off by the state and has risen a stone's throw from the Kingscliff CBD.

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

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More IMGs to fix crisis?

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Paul Smith, Page 1

Something of both symbolic and real-world importance was announced by the Medical Board of Australia last month. It came in a media release that talked of a plan to fasttrack doctors from overseas to work as specialists as a fix for the country's medical workforce crisis. Overseas GPs are first on the list, followed by anaesthetists, O&Gs and psychiatrists.

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

Queensland doctors demand answers over end-of-life care funding

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/05/2024, fraser barton

Queensland's government is being urged to make further investments in palliative care amid uncertainty over the allocation of previous funds. The Australian Medical Association's Queensland branch has made 14 priority submissions to the Miles government ahead of the June state budget.

[Read More](#)

After a year, it's time to wrap up Calvary hospital takeover talks

Canberra Times, Other, 13/05/2024

A year on from the ACT government's dramatic announcement it would forcibly acquire a public hospital from its Catholic operators, the focus must now be on finishing off that process. The territory is still negotiating with Calvary over the full extent of the compensation owed as a result of the takeover .

[Read More](#)

State Government to fight Federal Government for share in 29 urgent care clinics

The Mercury, Other, 13/05/2024, Tia Ewen

A plan to expand urgent care clinics nationally has been described as 'too little too late' with those on the frontline saying Hobart's clinic is at capacity, regularly turning people away. The State Government said it would fight the Federal Government to ensure Tasmania gets its fair share of new urgent care clinics.

[Read More](#)

Revealed: private program slashed Hunter's 8620 elective surgery backlog

Newcastle Herald, Other, 13/05/2024, Damon Cronshaw

The NSW government spent \$74 million over four years on hospitals doing elective surgeries for the public sector in the district. The money was spent to reduce the , which ballooned in the pandemic when services were suspended with resources directed to The funding, issued through the government's "collaborative care" program, ended on December 31 last year.

[Read More](#)

Two-year wait for Broome sobering-up centre as alcohol-fuelled crime and violence skyrocket

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2024, Mya Kordic

The only dedicated sobering-up facility in a West Australian town crippled by high rates of alcohol-fuelled crime is yet to reopen nearly three years after it was shut. The Walangari Shelter in Broome's centre closed in 2021 due to structural and asbestos issues.

[Read More](#)

'I wish I'd told my wife I loved them more': Palliative care nurses share laments of the dying and what makes a 'good' death

9News, Other, 13/05/2024, Emily McPherson

Peter Jenkins has worked as a palliative care nurse for almost 30 years and it's taught him a lot about death, but also about life. It's often said that there is nothing like the prospect of dying to help a person realise what is important in their lives, and also perhaps reflect on opportunities missed.

[Read More](#)

Elective surgery target slashed by Victorian government

The Senior, Other, 13/05/2024, Callum Godde

A key target for 240,000 Victorians to go under the knife for elective surgery each year is no more, with the state government quietly moving the goal-posts. In 2022, the Andrews Labor government boldly set itself a target to carry out 240,000 elective surgeries a year by 2024, as part of a \$1.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Drive, 13/05/2024, Chris O'Keefe

Coffs Harbour Base Hospital Director of Emergency Medicine Dr Alan Tankel is warning that there is an acute shortage of beds and nurses are complaining about a compromise for the safety of patients. He says that there's just nowhere near enough beds so there are patients with acute abdominal pain and serious cardiac issues, as well as critically ill children that have been left waiting for hours in the emergency department of the hospital. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says 61 beds have been delivered throughout CHH since 2018, but they're working on getting some more beds into that facility.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 13/05/2024, Nadia Mitsopoulos

The Australian Medical Association WA says the WA Government needs to prioritise funding health care to help bridge service gaps in the regions. In the state's most recent Budget, there was no funding towards a radiotherapy service to be based in Geraldton, despite promises in 2022. A WA Government spokesperson says they are advocating for the federal government to fully fund a radiation oncology service in Geraldton.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Bullying, screen time take heavy toll

West Australian, General News, 14/05/2024, Page 3

Bullying and too much screen time are a major cause of mounting mental health issues among children, sparking alarm for parents already struggling with cost-of-living pressures. More than half of Australian parents are seriously concerned about their children's mental health, a study has found.

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Demand high for students reaching out

Ballarat Courier, General News, 14/05/2024, Nieve Walton, Page 3

Anxiety and school attendance are some of Ballarat high school students' biggest challenges, but there is one way teachers are trying to help. Georgia Gregor has been a mental health practitioner at Ballarat High School for the past two years. She was attracted to the role because of the preventative focus which ensures students are able to notice "warning signs before they happen".

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

Victorian mental health data hits five-year high

The Australian, Other, 13/05/2024, Rachel Baxendale

Mental health-related presentations to Victorian emergency departments have surged to a five-year high, as has the state's suicide rate, amid shows the to implementing the recommendations of a is faltering. The annual report on mental health, alcohol and other drug treatment services in Victoria, released last month by government body the Victorian Agency for Health Information, shows that for the most recent four-week period, an average of 2184 Victorians sought help at emergency departments for mental health conditions – a higher number than at any other four-week period over the past five years.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Grieving mother builds youth centre in Hamilton 12 months after fatal Bochara car crash

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2024, Lexie Jeuniewic and Daniel Miles

Lee-Ann Elmes's two-storey red brick warehouse isn't much to look at from the outside. Weathered sheets of timber cover most of the downstairs facade, while faded white paint peels away from the windows that mark much of the second level. But inside, it's the start of a dream for Ms Elmes.

[Read More](#)

Male suicide and mental health

In Daily, Other, 13/05/2024

More than half of mental health clinical interventions lack evidence of efficacy despite being widely used. A new Suicide Prevention Fellowship will identify better strategies to stop thousands of men dying each year.

[Read More](#)

Menopause and mental illness – it is a thing!

Medical Forum, Other, 14/05/2024

Hormone replacement therapy and controversy seem to go hand in hand. HRT has been one of the most common menopause treatments for women faced with debilitating symptoms such as mood swings and hot flushes, but it has faced a bumpy road. Back in 2002, a big US study of women triggered a huge rethink of HRT, when the Women's Health Initiative uncovered an apparent link between the risk of breast cancer, venous thromboembolism and coronary heart disease in women taking oral oestrogen plus progestogen.

[Read More](#)

Territory grants open to support suicide prevention projects

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/05/2024, Giovanni Torre

The Territory government and Northern Territory Primary Health Network will jointly invest \$300,000 to support community-led activities that raise awareness and support suicide prevention across the NT. Applications for the seventh round of the Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Community Grants opened on the weekend.

[Read More](#)

Radio National, AM, 13/05/2024, Sabra Lane

Report on a grieving mother in Victoria's Western District who is turning her profound loss into something concrete and positive to help the region's youth. 12 months ago, Lee-Ann Elmes lost her son Joshua in a terrible road crash at Bochara near Hamilton and she's now setting up a drop-in centre for youth. The tragedy has brought the town's lack of mental health care into sharp focus but now, plans to open a new headspace building with dedicated counsellors are nearly complete. Royal Australian New Zealand College of Psychiatrists NSW Branch Chair Dr Angelo Virgona says Australia's mental health care system is at a tipping point, with practitioners only able to treat half the patients in need.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nothing on offer placates nurses

Herald Sun, General News, 14/05/2024, Carly Douglas, Page 5

The Allan government has failed to give any assurances that long-awaited pay deals with frontline health workers will be reached in time to stop major industrial action. Frustrated nurses and paramedics are among tens of thousands of frontline workers participating in or threatening industrial action as major unions lock horns with the government.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#)

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

Nurses inducted into nurse and midwifery honour roll

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/05/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 4

The vital work of Tasmanian nurses was recognised on Sunday, International Nurses Day, as the government reaffirmed their commitment to "significant grants" to attract and retain nursing staff in the state. Health Minister Guy Barnett said nurses comprised 60 per cent of the healthcare workforce. "The work of nurses and midwives is so important in supporting the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians in all parts of the state," Mr Barnett said.

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

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Channel 7, Seven News, 13/05/2024, Peter Mitchell

Victoria's paramedics are on the verge of escalating industrial action as they fight for better pay and

conditions. The Allan Government is now locked in disputes with four emergency service unions. Nurses are also pleading for a better deal and they're threatening to shut 1 in 4 public hospital beds, and they could cancel up to a quarter of elective surgeries.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 13/05/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Hospital chaos is looming in Victoria as paramedics threaten to ramp up industrial action. Thousands of ambulance workers will vote in the coming weeks, many frustrated over an ongoing pay battle with the Vic Government. Alongside them, nurses are also threatening to intensify strikes which could shut up to a quarter of public hospital beds.

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2CC, Breakfast, 13/05/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Karen Grace, Australian College of Nursing, regarding the ACN celebrating International Nurses Day and urging governments to work with the nursing profession to deliver significant health reforms that will keep nurses in nursing to ensure that all Australians continue to have access to quality, affordable healthcare, no matter where they live and no matter their means. Grace says there are about 450,000 of them across the country who are currently registered nurses and midwives, but not all of those are working within the profession at the moment. She adds they have seen since Covid quite a significant decline in being able to retain the nurses in the profession.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Two years of unpaid work taking a toll

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 14/05/2024, Ben Silvester, Page 3

Casey McRae works five days a week - often starting at 7.30am and clocking off after 5pm - for no pay. When she gets home there are assignments to do, or she tries to find time for a shift at the local pharmacy to make ends meet. This is her life for the next 20 months.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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New fears over indemnity costs

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Rachel Carter, Page 2

There are new concerns about medical indemnity premium hikes, with some specialties seeing increases of 20-40% year-on-year. Neurosurgery, bariatric surgery and obstetrics were worst affected. AMA NSW president Dr Michael Bonning said while private practitioners could "probably stomach" two years of a 20% increase, they would not be able to sustain this longer-term.

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Alarm over stop-napping directive

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Carmel Sparke, Page 9

Hospital bosses have apologised after ordering doctors-in-training to stop napping on night shifts. Executives from Manning Hospital in Taree, NSW, sent a stern email last month informing doctors that they should be helping out in ED or in other wards should they find themselves with no further duties overnight.

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

Australia's oldest GP retires aged 96

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Rachel Carter, Page 11

"When i talk to medical students about iron lungs, they look at me like I'm on another planet." Iron lungs were once clinical reality for Dr John Wiseman. As you may guess, Dr Wiseman is one of Australia's

older practitioners who recently decided to hang up his stethoscope 72 years after graduating from the University of Melbourne. "I want to hand it over to the next generation," he says.

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

Why you can't measure GPs using CPD audits

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Dr Louise Stone, Page 14

Three months ago, AusDoc published its interview with the chair of the MedTical Board of Australia, Dr Anne Tonkin, about the mass disquiet among doctors with the new mandatory CPD regime. Dr Tonkin justified the board's approach on a series of different levels, stressing its primary purpose was to keep everybody practising safely.

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Pushing back on the new world order

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Page 15

QLD pharmacists have started independently diagnosing and prescribing for 17 conditions "We, the willing, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. "We have done so much, for so long, with so little, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing."

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

Is exploitation on the verge of extinction?

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Page 15

Overtime was seen as training back in the day. Of course, junior doctoring was paper-monkey stuff along with replacing cannulas. We stayed back for hours to write the discharge summaries, finish notes, do patient reviews and check pathology and radiology for the following day.

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

Permanent move to allow NSW pharmacists to treat uncomplicated UTIs

The Australian, Other, 13/05/2024, Jessica Wang

NSW women will be able to bypass their GPs and head straight to the pharmacy to get treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs), following the completion of a successful trial. From June 1, the measure will be made permanent, with more than 1000 pharmacists and 16,000 patients using the service since June last year.

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

[Read More](#)

Rural Clinical School of WA brings medical students to Port Hedland

West Australian, Other, 13/05/2024, Natasha Clark

Six medical students from the Rural Clinic School of WA will dive into the distinctive challenges of healthcare in regional areas through diverse placements in Port Hedland. They are spending the entire second last year of their UWA, Notre Dame and Curtin University medical degrees living in town and working at the Hedland Health Campus and local GP practices.

[Read More](#)

CDU granted \$24.5m for med school

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/05/2024

Charles Darwin University (CDU) will now establish a medical school to help address the Northern Territory's increasing demand for doctors, thanks to a \$24.5 million grant from the Federal Government. The funding will allow the university to operate the CDU Menzies Medical Program from 2026, with 40 Commonwealth supported medical places.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 13/05/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, on the

RACGP welcoming 61 new fellows to the general practice profession at a fellowship ceremony in Canberra. Higgins says there's a lot of hard work that went into it because it takes just under 20,000 hours at least to become a specialist GP which is about 11 years. She adds for a lot of the doctors who were there, their journey was a lot longer and many of them brought their families all around the world to join them.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Kidney drug on PBS

Courier Mail, General News, 14/05/2024, Page 5

The first approved treatment for moderate-to-severe pruritus associated with chronic kidney disease (CKD) in adults undergoing haemodialysis has been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Korsuva (difelikefalin) is now available for CKD associated pruritus, also referred to as CKD associated itch, a persistent itch related to chronic kidney disease a common condition that results in the loss of normal kidney function over time.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Practices offering up to 90% of billings

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Sarah Simpkins, Page 3

Searching GP job advertisements these days turns up dozens of offers for GPs to keep 80% of their billings or more, even up to 90% in rare cases. Some involve a drop down to 75-80% of billings after two or three months but certainly not all of them. Isn't this good news despite the various forces attempting to dismantle the specialty?

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Stable income trumps MBS messiness

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Page 15

I have been looking for a new GP for the past few months: my practice is busy, and we are turning away new patients. However, as a small practice, guaranteeing a minimum income of \$150-\$180 an hour for the first three months puts a huge burden on practice finances.

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

New \$170 Medicare consult item for endometriosis a good start, say gynaecologists

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/05/2024, Heather Saxena

The longer consultation items need to be backed up by higher rebates for diagnostics, surgery and PBS listings, says vice-president Dr Nisha Khot. Gynaecologists have welcomed Medicare items for longer consultations for endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain, which they say have the potential to reduce waiting lists for appointments.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Sick medic exposed

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/05/2024, Lucy Rutherford, Page 14

An Adelaide doctor who sent two female medical students nude photos and claimed one of them was for therapeutic reasons, has been found guilty of unprofessional conduct. Shamyal Hamoon Jamil had disciplinary proceedings brought against him by the Medical Board of Australia in the SA Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT).

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

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

GP accused of racism wins reprieve

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Heather Saxena, Page 12

A GP accused of making racist and homophobic comments to patients has won his case to have supervision requirements lifted, with a tribunal finding they were the "equivalent of a suspension". The GP, who runs a solo bulk-billing practice in regional Victoria, came to the attention of AHPRA following two complaints.

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

Why this AHPRA safety review is not reassuring

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Paul Smith, Page 40

Across the vast uni verse of healthcare, there are some obscure planets which have remained largely unexplored. [...] As a result of some of the publicity, Professor Ron Paterson, a law academic and famed patient safety expert from New Zealand, was asked by AHPRA to conduct a review.

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'Disgusted': Woman's cancer surgery fight with hospital

The Australian, Other, 13/05/2024, James Dowling

A skin cancer patient has allegedly been denied surgery from Goulburn Hospital in NSW because she is too old for the operation, but the facility says she was merely referred somewhere else. Appearing on A Current Affair, 90-year-old great-grandmother Alicia detailed her experience dealing with melanomas on her head and hands.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Big idea will 'blow out the budget'

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Antony Scholefield and Heather Saxena, Page 5

Nurses and pharmacists accessing GP-level Medicare rebates and "cashing out" GP incentive programs to pay for multidisciplinary care are among the suggestions from the Federal Government's Scope of Practice Review. Last month saw the release of its 120-page issues paper, which also suggests MBS funding for allied health referrals direct to specialists, bypassing GPs in the process.

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NAPSA pushes for Prac Payments

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/05/2024

In an effort to push for Prac Payments, the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) is dispatching letters to every Member of Parliament in the House of Representatives ahead of tomorrow's Federal Budget. The peak body wants the government to financially support pharmacy and other allied health students during their mandatory placements (PD 07 May).

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SPORT

Doctors open for help

Herald Sun, Sport, 14/05/2024, Jon Ralph, Page 47

The powerful AFL Doctors Association says it supports the introduction of independent medicos to help rule when a player is concussed. AFL Doctors Association boss and Gold Coast club doctor Barry Rigby believes an independent doctor could work in conjunction with the club medicos to safeguard players as long as they did not overrule the club doctor's decisions.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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NT in need

Northern Territory News, Sport, 14/05/2024, Ed Bourke, Page 40

Jy Simpkin says the AFL needs to improve its player pathways in the Northern Territory to help arrest a concerning decline in Indigenous players at the elite level. The North Melbourne co-captain said he supported a 20th team being introduced in the NT as AFL inclusion manager Tanya Hosch said the league was "not alarmed" by the drop in players.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#).

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Why sport fans face getting the boot

West Australian, Business News, 14/05/2024, Caleb Taylor, Page 20

Nationals MP Barnaby Joyce has made an impassioned plea for Australians to be able to watch major sporting and cultural events for free ahead of the introduction of amendments to anti-siphoning laws in Federal Parliament. Viewers could have to pay to stream sport or major cultural events if the Government does not protect digital rights for free-to-air networks, he said.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Western Sydney Wanderers supporter banned for Nazi salute

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2024

A prominent Western Sydney Wanderers supporter who was captured on camera performing a Nazi salute at an A-League Men game has received a two-year ban from Football Australia. Network Ten's broadcast coverage showed vision of the fan performing the gesture at the end of last month's Sydney derby at the Sydney Football Stadium.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

NRL investigating alleged racism to South Sydney stars Latrell Mitchell and Cody Walker

7news.com.au, Other, 13/05/2024, Scott Bailey

It's been claimed a man repeatedly used racial taunts, but was able to leave the ground. The NRL is looking into claims Latrell Mitchell has again become a target of racial abuse, after a crowd member allegedly vilified the South Sydney star and teammate Cody Walker.

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

[Read More](#)

Ten Network, alongside Seven and Nine, have launched a combined advertising campaign to amend changes to the Anti-siphoning Bill that aims to keep sport free for viewers at home. The three major networks want to keep sport on free-to-air television but also wish for the laws to recognise the large number of Australians who watch via free streaming platforms and on mobile device devices.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Unis do well in global rankings, but research output drops alarmingly

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/05/2024, Julie Hare, Page 8

Three Australian universities have made the top 100 on a major international list, with Melbourne maintaining its top spot despite dropping five places on last year. The Centre for World University Rankings placed the University of Melbourne at 62 in a li...

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

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BGH Capital may look to refinance healthcare business ForHealth rather than put it up for sale

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

BGH Capital may sell its primary healthcare business this year, but one thing is for sure: it will do it within two years, unless it opts to refinance the business instead. That's judging by its accounts, which shows its ForHealth business, as it has been branded, has at least \$280m of debt that is due to be paid back by 2026.

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

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Study of internet impact on young

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/05/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 4

Australian scientists are part of the world's largest international study into problematic internet use in young people, including excessive social networking, gaming, gambling, shopping, pornography viewing and cyber-bullying. QIMR Berghofer is the only Australian participant in the five-year European-based project, dubbed BootStRaP.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#). [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Centre for cancer help

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/05/2024, Page 5

A new research centre focused on improving the care and wellbeing of cancer survivors will be established as part of a new 10-year partnership between UNSW Sydney and Cancer Council NSW. The Australian Research Centre for Cancer Survivorship will inform practice, services and policy in the survivorship space across NSW and act as a model for other jurisdictions.

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AF 'may be an adverse consequence' of above-average testosterone levels

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/05/2024, Kemal Atlay

Researchers say the risk of incident AF could be considered when prescribing testosterone therapy. Circulating testosterone within the high-normal range is associated with a higher risk of incident AF in older men, according to Australian researchers.

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Antibodies to predict peanut allergies

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/05/2024

New research has revealed how and when children with peanut allergies are likely to grow out of them, thanks to changes in antibody levels over time. According to the study led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), a third of kids with peanut allergies will outgrow them by the age of 10, although most will do so by the age of six.

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What is antimicrobial resistance and how big a problem is it?

The Guardian, Other, 13/05/2024, Kat Lay

It kills millions every year, with a potential impact in the near future that could dwarf that of the Covid-19 pandemic but AMR, or antimicrobial resistance, remains a little-known problem outside specialist circles. Experts say it is vital that we get a grip on it, with action needed across sectors from health to agriculture.

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Rethink that second drink: Alcohol linked to irreversible blindness

The Senior, Other, 13/05/2024, Eileen Wood

Even low levels of alcohol have been linked to irreversible vision loss prompting a warning from Macular Disease Foundation Australia Partnering with The University of Sydney, MDFA uncovered research that showed consuming more than 12g of alcohol per day (equivalent to less than one large glass of wine or large beer) is enough to increase the risk of developing early age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Indigenous Marathon Project runners shed light on health of First Nations people as they train for New York Marathon

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2024, Anthea Moodie

Yorta Yorta man Koolyn Briggs is training almost every day for the New York Marathon as part of the Indigenous Marathon Project. But his lifestyle hasn't always been this healthy. "Eight years ago, I was 130 kilos," he said. "I was drinking five, six times a week, I wasn't eating healthy, I wasn't working out."

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Running to change health outcomes for First Nations Australians

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2024, Anthea Moodie

Run clubs are taking Australia by storm, but one particular program is trying to change the lives of first nations Australians. The Indigenous Marathon Project is taking a team of 12 to the New York Marathon in November, and each of those athletes is hoping to take their community along with them for the life changing run.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

AUKUS nuclear waste laws row

The Australian, General News, 14/05/2024, Ben Packham, Page 7

A bipartisan Senate committee has recommended the government amend draft nuclear safety laws to make it clear that Australia won't accept high-level nuclear waste from the US and UK under the AUKUS submarine pact. The move came as the Greens issued a dissenting report on the proposed

bill, calling for changes to require the consent of Indigenous groups and local communities before nuclear waste sites were selected.

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

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Downloads College implements whooping cough regulations

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 13/05/2024, Christine Schindler

A letter from a Toowoomba private school over whooping cough has put parents on full alert, with one parent questioning why it got so "out of hand" and whether more schools need to take it seriously. Details: One parent is concerned a highly contagious and potentially life-threatening illness is "out of hand" after a private school sent out new, stricter requirements for students who present with the disease.

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NSW's flu season is on track to arrive early. But who's at risk, and should we be concerned?

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2024, Joseph Hathaway-Wilson

New South Wales health authorities are urging people to protect themselves against influenza, with the latest data indicating an early flu season is imminent. Respiratory surveillance reports published by NSW Health indicate approximately 5,160 people across the state were diagnosed with influenza in April, an increase of more than 20 per cent from the same time last year.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Endometriosis drug green-lit

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 4

A new endometriosis treatment has been given the PBS green light just months after it was approved by the TGA. The once-daily combination pill Ryego, which contains the gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonist relugolix 40mg, oestradiol 1mg and norethisterone 0.5mg, was initially indicated for uterine fibroids.

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Cellular therapies in haematology

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Dr Patrick Tunney and Professor John Gibson, Page 19

Cellular therapies are treatments where human cells are infused into a patient following conditioning therapy. [...] In 2018 the TGA approved the first CAR T-cell, tisagenlecleucel (an anti-CD19 CAR T-cell), for patients with relapsed B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and relapsed/refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (see figures 5 and 6).

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Constipation in older people

Australian Doctor, General News, 10/05/2024, Page 29

Constipation is a common gastrointestinal disorder in the older population. [...] -receptor opioid antagonists are novel medications that have an increasing role in treating opioid-induced constipation; an example of this is methylnaltrexone bromide, which is TGA approved.³⁶ Lifestyle and dietary Adequate fluids, and dietary and lifestyle modifications such as active lifestyle (avoidance of sedentary lifestyle) can be trialled, although these are not always feasible in older patients.

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Nitrous oxide or 'nang' abuse is on the rise. Here's why health

professionals are worried

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2024, Antonia O Flaherty and Claudia Williams

Nitrous oxide is known as "laughing gas", but with health effects ranging from severe nerve damage to death, its abuse is no joke. An ABC investigation has heard cases of teenagers as young as 16 presenting to hospital with paralysis and other serious health issues because of misusing nitrous oxide. [...] In 2022, it was reclassified by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) as a Schedule 6 poison, which means its label must contain warnings and safety directions when sold in Australia.

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Expert dismisses calls for Moderna and Pfizer to follow AstraZeneca and withdraw COVID vaccines

7news.com.au, Other, 13/05/2024, Bryce Luff

There are calls for major COVID vaccine drugmakers to also withdraw their jabs after AstraZeneca withdrew its vaccine from the market last week. An Australian infectious disease expert has dismissed suggestions Pfizer and Moderna should follow the lead of AstraZeneca after the Anglo-Swedish drugmaker withdrew its COVID-19 vaccine [...] AstraZeneca was approved by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in February 2021 before 14 million doses were rolled out.

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How to identify the most accurate RATs

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 13/05/2024, Chloe Hava

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) have become the first step for diagnosing COVID-19, with PCR tests primarily now used in high-risk individuals who test negative on a RAT. There are currently 87 COVID-19 RATs approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for use in Australia.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Fears for 300 recovering addicts

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 14/05/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 7

Andrew had a heroin habit by the time he was 18, with the drug "rampant" while he was at school and university in the final years of the Vietnam war. Since then, he has battled the "full-tilt disease" of addiction. But for nearly 30 of those years, he has been a patient at Wollongong's Denison Clinic, with judgment-free methadone treatment allowing him to live a stable, ordinary life.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Fear or flavour: the lowdown on food additives

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Food, 14/05/2024, Susie Burrell, Page 6

Ingredients such as emulsifiers, thickeners, stabilisers, colours and flavours are an essential part of modern-day food. But are there some we should steer clear of? Food additives are a controversial topic at the best of times. They are often considered unnatural, unnecessary and even dangerous. But the reality is that without food additives, many everyday supermarket food products would not exist.

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

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Eschewing the fat on yoghurts

West Australian, Today, 14/05/2024, Katie Hampson, Page 1

WA researchers have uncovered the shocking truth about yoghurt and why it's not always as healthy

as people think. After analysing more than 90 yoghurts sold at major WA supermarkets, they found many varieties were hiding such high amounts of fats and sugars that they were a problem rather than a healthy choice.

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

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Ultra-processed foods linked to increased risk of early death

The New Daily, Other, 13/05/2024, Ash Cant

A new 30-year study has confirmed what many health experts have been screaming from the rooftops for years: Ultra-processed foods are associated with a slightly higher increased risk of an early death. On Wednesday, the population-based correlation study was published in the British Medical Journal and found that certain types of processed foods have a "particularly strong associations with mortality".

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