



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 16th May 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports Health Minister Mark Butler says his department is working with the Cairns Organisation United for Cancer Health to deliver a patient accommodation centre promised but left undelivered for five years by Liberal MP Warren Entsch.
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports an independent expert will lead a review of the mental health unit at Brisbane's Prince Charles Hospital following three patient suicides over the past 16 months. *Also reported by:* [ABC Online](#)
- The **[Northern Territory News](#)** (page 3) reports NT Health has lost more than 800 workers over the past two years leaving the Territory with its smallest health workforce since 2021.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports older couples are increasingly seeking joint homecare packages, with Ryman Healthcare Australia chief executive Cameron Holland saying his business is adopting a more flexible approach to allow couples with differing needs to stay together.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports aged care sector leaders have criticised the government for not responding to the recommendations of its sector taskforce and called for more homecare package funding to reflect booming demand.

- [The Australian](#) (page 6) reports 35 per cent of aged care workers may leave the sector if pay rises announced by the FWC are held back, a new survey by the Health Services Union says.
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 6) reports Tasmanian MP David O'Byrne has questioned why the state government has intervened to prevent the closure of some GP clinics but ignored others on the east coast whose closure he says will leave thousands without access to care.
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 10) reports voluntary assisted dying legislation is expected to pass in the ACT, with government and Greens' MPs signalling they will support the bill as debate begins on Thursday.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 11) reports a business case for WA's planned \$750 million cancer centre will not be completed until "later this year", prompting the state opposition to accuse the Cook government of "dragging its feet".
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 13) reports the National Mental Health Commission and National Suicide Prevention Office will be amalgamated into the Health department from October.

MINISTER BUTLER

Minister takes aim at 'all-talk Entsch'

The Australian, General News, 16/05/2024, Sarah Elks, Page 2

Health Minister Mark Butler says Warren Entsch is "all announcement and no delivery" after the LNP MP secured a taxpayer-funded grant for a cancer charity to buy land to build patient accommodation - only for it to be left vacant for five years. An investigation by The Australian has found Mr Entsch successfully lobbied the Morrison government to pay \$1.3m in 2019 to the Cairns Organisation United for Cancer Health (COUCH) charity to buy land already owned by one of its directors - an LNP donor and "dear friend" of the veteran Queensland MP.

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

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Mental health body to be moved after review

Canberra Times, General News, 16/05/2024, Tess Ikonomidou, Page 13

The National Mental Health Commission will be folded into the health department after an independent investigation found evidence of a poor workplace culture. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler pledged to strengthen the mental health commission after a review in 2023 found the workplace culture there to be very poor and discovered operating losses.

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

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Mixed response to GP incentive plan

Mount Barker Courier, General News, 15/05/2024, Joseph Moore, Page 4

Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie has welcomed the Federal and State governments' decision to expand a GP employment model that could attract more doctors to rural and regional areas. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, State Health Minister Chris Picton and Premier Peter Malinauskas announced earlier this month that they were expanding the Single Employer Model (SEM) following a trial period in the Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network.

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New trial to attract regional doctors

The Bunyip, Other, 15/05/2024

Barossa residents could soon find it easier to see a doctor under a new trial announced by the Federal and State Governments. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said this initiative will make it easier for regional communities to have access to a doctor.

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Riverland health model on the big stage

Murray Pioneer, Other, 15/05/2024

A program responsible for a 25 per cent increase in the number of doctors across the Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network (RMCLHN) has drawn the attention of the nation. [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler said "we want to attract more doctors to regional South Australia and this innovative approach will help to retain the doctors we need to continue to provide essential primary healthcare services to South Australians".

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What do pharmacists need to know about this year's budget?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 15/05/2024, Chloe Hava

Cheaper medicines, expanded vaccination services and clarity on pharmacist programs and agreements were central to the 2024–25 federal budget handed down last night in Canberra. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler MP actioned this request in April via a \$0.9 million investment in a NIPVIP program expansion.

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Ophthalmic sector highlights from Federal Budget 2024/25

Insight, Other, 15/05/2024, Myles Hume and Pada Smith

Funding to implement most of the recommendations from a major review of optometry Medicare items, including greater coverage for visual field testing, are among the major highlights in the Federal Budget 2024/25 that also included several measures to support independent small business owners. [...] "So, medicines stay cheaper, instead of rising with inflation," Federal Health Minister Mr Mark Butler said.

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Budget 2024 targets cost of living, health, aged care and tertiary students

Law Society Journal, Other, 15/05/2024, Cat Woods

Treasurer Jim Chalmers' third federal budget reflects many of the same priorities as last year's budget while also addressing global geopolitical concerns through increased defence spending. [...] This does not require referrals and Health Minister Mark Butler says it will "ensure people can access support before their distress escalates to needing higher-intensity services like a mental health treatment plan, acute inpatient service or crisis line."

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Confusion reigns after 'insipid and uninspiring' budget

The Medical Republic, Other, 15/05/2024, Holly Payne

If last year's budget was just enough to stop a riot, the Health Minister might want to watch out for pitchforks. General practice did not get much love in the federal budget this year, with the heftiest funding packages going toward pharmacy, aged care and walk-in clinics. [...] What went to primary care Health Minister Mark Butler was disconcertingly quiet in the weeks leading up to budget night, but did announce a \$227 million package to deliver another 29 new urgent care clinics last week.

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Helping cancer patients to rebuild their lives

PH News, Other, 15/05/2024

A hospital's innovative new laboratory is using 3D printing technology to help cancer patients recover from head and neck reconstructive surgery. The first-of-its-kind Integrated Prosthetics and Reconstruction (IPR) Laboratory officially opened at Sydney's Chris O'Brien Lifehouse in April 2024.

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Budget 2024: \$1.4 billion promised for "significant" aged care tech, \$1.2 billion for Strengthening Medicare

Pulse+IT, Other, 15/05/2024, Kate McDonald

\$1.4 billion in "significant technology and platform maintenance and enhancements" was allocated for

critical aged care digital systems in the yesterday's Australian budget but the exact details of what the funds will be spent on remains unclear. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said that since the 2022-23 budget, investment in aged care had increased by 25 per cent.

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Reactions to Australian Budget

WEB Daily Straits, Other, 15/05/2024

The Australian Budget, delivered by Treasurer Jim Chalmers in Parliament, has sparked a range of reactions. Different stakeholders have expressed varying opinions on the budgetary measures, reflecting diverse perspectives on its effectiveness and implications. [...] Orr praised the budget's comprehensive approach, which includes funding for key HIV organizations and aligns with the recommendations of the HIV Task Force led by Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 15/05/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Treasurer Jim Chalmers handed down his third Budget last night and it included an aid for pensioners who will have PBS medicines capped at \$7.70 per script for the next five years while for everyone else, prices will stay at \$31.60 until at least 2026. Health Minister Mark Butler says it is a cost of living relief from the Treasurer for life-changing medicines.

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 15/05/2024, Laura Jayes

Interview with Professor Patrick McGorry, psychiatrist, on the \$361m that will be used to establish a free digital support program for 150,000 Australians. Money will also go towards more nurses, social workers and counsellors to meet demand. McGorry says Health Minister Mark Butler is aware of the problem and he had very positive discussions with him around the blueprint that Australia need to address it. He adds if they are going to put more money in, it has to be into evidence-based programs that would work and improve outcomes for, the 5 million Australians with mental illness.

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ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 15/05/2024, Scott Levi

Interview with Dr Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson, on the latest data collected by the Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand revealing just 1 in 10 students graduating from medicine degrees last year wanted to become GPs. Reid says it is something that he has continually raised with Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister for Regional and Rural Health Emma McBride. He adds one of the big things that they committed to in the previous election was making sure that they make the entire Central Coast Region a distribution priority area to open up the available pool of doctors to come to the region.

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2SM, 14:00 News, 15/05/2024

The Federal Government is investing \$2.2b into new home care packages and technology system upgrades to ensure aged care is safer and of higher quality. Around \$1.2b of the fund will go towards improving and sustaining critical aged care digital systems to ensure they comply with the New Aged Care Act. In addition, \$531m will fund 24,000 extra home care packages from 2024 to 2025, providing more options for older Australians to remain in their homes for longer. In a statement, Health Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells say the investment will strengthen aged care and create stronger links between aged care and the rest of the health system.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 15/05/2024, Leon Compton

Interview with Julie Collins, Minister for Housing and Small Business, on the promised additional 29 urgent care clinics. Collins says Minister Mark Butler is in discussions with states and territories and the

primary health networks across the country about the best place to locate those UCCs based on need. She adds Tas already has a much higher proportion of UCCs than its population but rest assured, she will be fighting for Tas for more urgent care clinics.

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MINISTER WELLS

Package deals for couples growing in popularity

The Australian, General News, 16/05/2024, Page 6

Seniors Garry Nixon is quick to recall his wedding day to fellow teacher Bev. It was December 19, 1965, in Melbourne, the day Ronald Ryan escaped from Pentridge Prison. [...] The government's aged-care taskforce, chaired by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, has noted that Australians prefer to age in their own homes, and is building its reform agenda around that.

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

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Helping hand for aged care

Port Pirie Recorder, General News, 16/05/2024, Sam Lowe, Page 2

Whyalla has received a multimillion dollar boost to upgrade and expand residential care facilities to provide more quality care for local residents. [...] Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the government was committed to supporting aged care services in regional Australia.

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Budget 2024: \$1.4 billion promised for “significant” aged care tech, \$1.2 billion for Strengthening Medicare

Pulse+IT, Other, 15/05/2024, Kate McDonald

\$1.4 billion in "significant technology and platform maintenance and enhancements" was allocated for critical aged care digital systems in the yesterday's Australian budget but the exact details of what the funds will be spent on remains unclear. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said that since the 2022-23 budget, investment in aged care had increased by 25 per cent.

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Channel 9, Today, 15/05/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Interview with Dr Nick Coatsworth, Today medical expert, regarding the Federal Budget. Coatsworth says expanding urgent care clinics and freezing the payment for prescriptions are positive measures. He says, however, that what's not in the Budget has got aged care workers up in arms because they were due for somewhere between a 7% to 28% pay rise in this Budget and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells and Treasurer Jim Chalmers indeed has delayed that and split it in half.

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STAR FM 104.5, 10:00 News, 15/05/2024

The Federal Government is trying to sell its Budget to Australians with a big cash splash set to ease cost of living pressures. Households will receive a one-off \$300 payment towards their power bills, while there'll be a freeze on the cost of prescriptions for pensioners and concession holders for five years. Member for Dobell Emma McBride has welcomed the inclusions and says there's also big news in her portfolio of mental health. McBride says she is pleased to announce a new national early intervention service so every Australian can access free high-quality evidence-based therapy from professionals.

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ABC Riverina, Breakfast, 15/05/2024, Sally Bryant

Pre-recorded interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, regarding the Federal Budget. McBride says they are launching a new national early intervention service and it will be a service that anyone can access without a diagnosis or a referral for free. She adds in the Riverina, she is pleased to announce an upgrade to the Head to Health centres. McBride says there will be Medicare mental health centres with extra clinical capacity.

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ABC Western Plains NSW, Breakfast, 15/05/2024, Jess McGuire

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, on how the Budget will benefit the mental health sector. McBride says they are launching a new national early intervention service. She adds the service will mean that people can access free, high-quality, evidence-based therapy from trained professionals without needing a referral or having to wait for a diagnosis.

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ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 15/05/2024, Scott Levi

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, on how the Federal Budget will help the Central Coast that is struggling with mental health. McBride says they are launching a new national early intervention service where people, including those on the Central Coast, will be able to access free, high-quality, evidence-based therapy from trained professionals. She adds it will mean that people in distress will be able to get free support either referred by their doctor or self-referred. McBride says they are also rolling out 61 Medicare mental health centres, including two on the Central Coast, building on the Head to Health model of the former government.

Interview continues on: [ABC Central Coast \(Erina\)](#).

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ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 15/05/2024, Scott Levi

Interview with Dr Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson, on the latest data collected by the Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand revealing just 1 in 10 students graduating from medicine degrees last year wanted to become GPs. Reid says it is something that he has continually raised with Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister for Regional and Rural Health Emma McBride. He adds one of the big things that they committed to in the previous election was making sure that they make the entire Central Coast Region a distribution priority area to open up the available pool of doctors to come to the region.

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The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) welcomes the Albanese Government's 2024-25 federal budget, making healthcare more accessible to Australians through cost-of-living relief and expanded pharmacy programs. [...] "I sincerely thank Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney MP for her continued advocacy for women's health.

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Reactions to Australian Budget

WEB Daily Straits, Other, 15/05/2024

The Australian Budget, delivered by Treasurer Jim Chalmers in Parliament, has sparked a range of reactions. Different stakeholders have expressed varying opinions on the budgetary measures, reflecting diverse perspectives on its effectiveness and implications. [...] Orr praised the budget's comprehensive approach, which includes funding for key HIV organizations and aligns with the recommendations of the HIV Task Force led by Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

Mind the gap: Indigenous funding in focus after voice

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/05/2024

Tackling entrenched inequality experienced by First Nations Australians has become a priority after the Albanese government lost its bid for an Indigenous voice. [...] Instead, Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney and Senator Malarndirri McCarthy have insisted in a joint statement the government is focused on working with First Nations communities to deliver better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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Koori Radio, Blackchat, 15/05/2024, Lola Forester

Forester reports there was a media release that was brought out by the Minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney and Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health. She adds one of those things that they're talking about is the \$770.4m program that will be implemented in partnership with First Nation people to build skills and experience and deliver services that communities want.

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DEPARTMENT

APS a Budget big winner with 9000 contractors to become public servants

PS News, Other, 15/05/2024, Chris Johnson

Most agencies will see an increase in funding and staffing levels and a reduction in the use of external consultants, contractors and labour hire following the Budget last night. [...] "Further, investments in the Department of Health and Aged Care support the government's efforts to strengthen Medicare and increase bulk billing rates, and progress critical reforms in aged care to provide quality, safer and more accessible aged care for all Australians who need it."

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Federal Budget 2024: Nick Coatsworth during the pandemic blasts Anthony Albanese's bizarre \$1.6billion splurge on Covid drugs

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/05/2024, Padraig Collins

One of Australia's leading infectious diseases expert has questioned the worth of the \$1.6billion allocated to fighting Covid-19 in Tuesday night's Federal Budget, both for its medical use and value for money. Dr Nick Coatsworth said Molnupiravir - which is sold under the brand name Lagevrio and is one of the two Covid drugs covered by the Budget - 'has a very dubious evidence base'.

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Covid vaccine policy affecting thousands finally scrapped

NEWS.com.au, Other, 15/05/2024, Heath Parkes-Hupton

Rules mandating Covid-19 vaccinations for health staff in NSW are set to be scrapped this week, after almost three years and a series of failed challenges in court. Health officials and workers have in recent weeks been in negotiations to amend the policy, which has remained in place since August 2021.

Also reported by: [2GB \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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AstraZeneca COVID vaccine withdrawn worldwide

SBS, Other, 15/05/2024

AstraZeneca's covid-19 vaccine has been withdrawn globally after the company admitted it could cause adverse side effects. Dr Janani Thirumurugan explains the reason and what it means for Australia.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

How an ageing population shapes property market

The Australian, Commercial Property, 16/05/2024, Simon Kuestenmacher, Page 1

Even Baby Boomers will eventually see their health decline to a point where unassisted living is impossible. It's obvious who will be left out and looking after the poorer third of our elderly will be a huge task. Using demographic data, few things are easier to predict than the rate at which we increase our elderly population. We don't import older people from overseas, nor do Australians move overseas in large numbers to retire.

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'No aged-care reform, too few homecare packages'

The Australian, General News, 16/05/2024, Stephen Lunn, Page 6

Aged-care advocates have rebuked the Albanese government over the pace of reform after Tuesday's budget offered no response to the recommendations of its own taskforce. There was also disappointment that only 24,100 additional homecare packages were funded, far lower than expectations given the ageing population and growing demand for older Australians to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

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

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Union warns pay rise delay will create staff crisis

The Australian, General News, 16/05/2024, Ewin Hannan, Page 6

Unions have attacked the government's attempt to stagger pay rises for aged care workers over two years, warning the delay would plunge the sector into quicksand. The Health Services Union released

a new survey of workers that found 35 per cent would consider quitting the aged care sector if the increases were held back.

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

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Able's replacement vow

Beauresert Times, General News, 16/05/2024, Jeremy Cook, Page 5

Able Australia have pledged to take "every opportunity" to help find a replacement for their aged care services ahead of the September shutdown date. The not-for-profit announced in early May it would be shutting down its Commonwealth Home Support Programme, Active Living Program for Seniors and emergency relief services on 30 September due to inadequate funding and increased costs.

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Families fight to save special cafe

Burnie Advocate, General News, 16/05/2024, Libby Bingham, Page 1

The familiar words to Save the Last Dance for Me, and laughter filled the air at Devonport's Reflections Cafe. Applause rang out inside the senior citizens' club where people with dementia and their carers were having a good time in a safe environment. "It relieves stress and anxiety; this is where people come to connect and celebrate," Chris Mead from creative engagement provider Creature Tales said.

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Cathy Condon acting in Barwon Health aged care management role

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 15/05/2024, Tamara McDonald

Barwon Health has appointed a controversial nurse, who was found to have led an aged care death cover-up, to act in a management position. Catherine Gerardine Condon was a registered nurse and facility manager at an aged care home in Melbourne when a resident with dementia was found dead in a fountain in 2011.

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No 'golden ticket' for reducing risky meds harm

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/05/2024, James Tsaoucis

Polypharmacy and the use of potentially inappropriate medicines (PIMs) in aged care residents present "a complex problem" that requires multifaceted solutions, with embedded pharmacists at the forefront, say experts.

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Budget delivers trifecta for older Australians

Australian Seniors News, Other, 15/05/2024

National Seniors Australia says the Federal Government has delivered a "trifecta" for older Australians with three key cost-of-living measures announced in the 2024 budget overnight. These include a \$300 energy bill relief payment, a 10% increase to Commonwealth Rent Assistance and a freeze on deeming rates for a further 12 months.

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Dementia Australia welcomes Budget support for sufferers

Australian Seniors News, Other, 15/05/2024

Dementia Australia has welcomed a \$2.2 billion investment in ongoing aged care reform announced in last night's Federal Budget, including a range of dementia specific initiatives. Dementia Australia Executive Director Services, Advocacy and Research, Dr Kaele Stokes said the Budget outcome was an important step forward to improving the quality of care for people living with dementia, their families and carers.

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OPAN doubles down on call for new Aged Care Act

The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) has welcomed the Federal Government's 2024 Budget but doubled down on its call for an expedited new Aged Care Act. OPAN CEO, Craig Gear says he was pleased to see an additional \$2.2 billion in funding for aged care, but urged the Federal Government to "get moving" on its election commitments.

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Budget a good start, but older Australians need more, experts say

Your Life Choices, Other, 16/05/2024, Brad Lockyer

Treasurer Jim Chalmers delivered his third Federal Budget on Tuesday, and it was packed with cost-of-living relief measures, many of which benefits older Australians in particular. But like any public policy, there are those who love it – and those who feel they or the group they're advocating for have been let down.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 15/05/2024, Peter Overton

Aged care workers are furious that their hard-fought battle for a pay rise has been delayed for up to two years. It is despite the Fair Work Commission ruling two months ago, that their work had been undervalued and the Albanese Government promising they'd be properly paid for.

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2CC, Breakfast, 15/05/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Chris Grice, CEO, National Seniors Australia, regarding the Federal Budget. Grice says they are pleased in the scheme of things in terms of several things that are targeted at seniors in particular around the cost of living. He adds they also welcome further investment in about \$2.2b that's gone into aged care as a continuation of Royal Commission reforms.

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Radio National, AM, 15/05/2024, Sabra Lane

The budget includes \$500m to release another 24,100 home care packages. It means more older people can get support at home rather than go into a residential aged care facility.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Little sister's tragic death a warning to all

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/05/2024, Abby Walter, Page 11

A Corio mum hopes sharing the story of her late little sister can help raise awareness about the measures parents need to know to prevent children from being strangled by household items. Kandace Lane was eight when her oneyear-old sister Tahlee Strachan died at their family home in Lara in 2003. Ms Lane said Tahlee was playing outside with her two year-old brother when the toddler became stuck in a frayed towel drying on the line and asphyxiated.

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

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Ward stats

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/05/2024, Page 12

Hospitalisations increased by 4.6 per cent in Australia in 2022-2023. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report says people aged 65 and over accounted for 44 per cent of hospitalisations and 51 per cent of patient days.

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Inside Australia's hidden homelessness crisis

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/05/2024

Sponsored by Mission Australia Sleeping rough is the most visible form of homelessness, but according to Mission Australia, it's only the tip of the iceberg. 94 per cent of homelessness in Australia is hidden — otherwise known as "insecure accommodation". [...] In the next hour, 3000 Australians will reach out to homelessness services like Mission Australia for help, according to statistics gathered from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Aussies chipping away at their super for dental work

Canberra Times, Other, 16/05/2024, Melissa Meehan

The amount of superannuation withdrawn for dental treatments has jumped more than 370 per cent in five years. The figure has the Dental Board of Australia concerned about growing reports to authorities of practitioners actively encouraging patients to access retirement funds to pay for their care.

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A Mediterranean diet could ease symptoms of stress and anxiety

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/05/2024, Mia Erickson

Is there anything this diet can't do? Behind the scenes, with Georgina Burke As new research suggests, the health benefits of the Mediterranean diet extend to our mental well-being as well. Here's what you need to know. It's no secret we're living in an age of burnout, often prioritising our careers, relationships and day-to-day responsibilities over our mental health and self-care.

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Australia's housing crisis in 10 graphs, from the federal budget

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2024, Gareth Hutchens

The Albanese government knows Australia has a housing problem. It says the country is suffering from "historic underinvestment" in housing that's created a significant supply shortage. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) defines public housing as rental housing that state and territory governments provide and manage.

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Three patients die by suicide inside a secure Brisbane public mental health unit

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2024, Janelle Miles and Emma Pollard

Three people have taken their own lives inside a locked mental health unit at The Prince Charles Hospital in the past 16 months, triggering an independent review. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed 18 people died by suicide in an acute psychiatric unit in 2020-21, up from 15 the year before.

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A parent's no-BS guide to managing your kid's eczema.

Mamamia, Other, 15/05/2024, Elissa Ratliff

At 25 weeks pregnant I went a little crazy buying baby things. Singlets. Onesies. Stupid little socks for their stupidly cute little feet. And skincare products. Yes, I purchased an entire drawer of designer bath oils, bubble baths, hair wash (because my baby was going to have a full set of hair, ha) and soap. It all smelt delicious and I couldn't wait to lather my little one in it all.

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Performative acts won't save us: Domestic violence survivors demand real change

Shepparton News Online, Other, 15/05/2024, Kady Hadjab

It's just that they have nowhere else to go." This is the message from Emra, a victim-survivor and domestic violence advocate. "Until governments understand and actively address that, women will

keep being killed by their partners. It's that simple," she said. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveals a grim reality: in 2020-21, a woman was killed by her partner every 15 days.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Checklist to beat cancer

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/05/2024, Bella Fowler, Page 18

Australian Army major and new dad Hugo Toovey is leading the charge for early cancer detection in a bold new plan. At 32, he's battled cancer twice crediting his fight against testicular cancer at 21 for saving his life against bowel cancer at 26. "If it wasn't for testicular cancer, I probably wouldn't be here today and that's just the honest truth," Mr Toovey said.

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No cash for centre meant to save lives

West Australian, General News, 16/05/2024, Jake Dietsch, Page 11

WA's "world class" cancer centre appears to be on shaky ground. No money has been allocated in the State Budget, and an already late business case is still months away. The \$750 million Comprehensive Cancer Centre was announced in the dying days of the Morrison Government, which committed half of the cost without a business case ahead of the 2022 Federal election.

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

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

Loving care lights the cancer darkness

Daily Liberal, General News, 16/05/2024, Page 4

When Venessa Pearce was diagnosed with breast cancer at 37, the mum-of-three wasn't too surprised. Her mum had also had it and Venessa had steeled herself, knowing it could also happen to her. But what made their experiences vastly different was how treatment has evolved over the last three decades. With Mother's Day and International Nurses Day coinciding on May 12, Venessa has reflected on her experience and that of her mother, and the theme of 'the power of care' which has been so vital to her journey.

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Needle not as painful

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/05/2024, Page 13

A new penicillin injection for rheumatic fever could help young people stick with the recommended 10-year treatment period. The new treatment uses a smaller needle into the stomach that patients described as less painful overall. The new injection also needs to be done three times less often than the current one. Treatment via the injections helps to reduce the risk of rheumatic heart disease which can develop.

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Addison Kemp family pleads for bone marrow donors

The Australian, Other, 15/05/2024, Duncan Evans

For five-year-old Addison Kemp, a simple nosebleed can be catastrophic and instead of going to school or playing with friends, she spends her days in a hospital getting blood transfusions to stay alive. Addison suffers from a rare health condition called severe Aplastic anaemia, which means her body's bone marrow does not produce enough new blood cells to do fundamental things like carry oxygen, control infections or heal after an injury.

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

[Read More](#)

‘Biggest challenge’: MP Emma Vulin details motor neurone disease fight

The Australian, Other, 15/05/2024, Blair Jackson

Emotional scenes have broken out in Victorian parliament as a first-term MP detailed her motor neurone disease fight. Emma Vulin, the Labor MP for Pakenham, on Melbourne's southeast edge, revealed her MND diagnosis last month. But on Wednesday the Legislative Assembly was a sea of blue pom-pommed beanies in support of disease sufferers, their families and research.

[Read More](#)

What happens when cancer research funding is cut?

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2024, Nic Healey

The Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance (VCCC) discovered last week it would have less money to fund its research due to cuts announced in the state government's budget. This is the second consecutive year that funding toward medical research has been reduced in Victoria.

[Read More](#)

Australian of the Year Richard Scolyer cancer-free one year on from seizure which prompted brain cancer diagnosis

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2024, Holly Tregenza

Australian of the Year Richard Scolyer has confirmed his latest scans reveal no recurrence of brain cancer, a year on from his initial diagnosis. Professor Scolyer, 57, was diagnosed with glioblastoma IDH wild-type last year and became "patient zero" in a pioneering immunotherapy approach developed by his own research on melanoma, which has produced remarkable results.

[Read More](#)

Bunbury child suffering debilitating health condition dealt new blow as tornado destroys family home

7news.com.au, Other, 15/05/2024, Bryce Luff

A WA family anxiously waiting for specialist advice for their daughter who is enduring ongoing seizures and memory loss has been delivered a cruel new blow after their home was destroyed by a tornado. More than 100 properties were damaged when the twister ripped through Bunbury , 170km south of Perth , on Friday afternoon.

[Read More](#)

Bowel cancer screening age lowered amid surge in young onset cases

9News, Other, 15/05/2024, Sarah Swain and Emily McPherson

The federal government has lowered the eligibility for free bowel cancer screening from 50 to 45, confirming the news in last night's federal budget. From 1 July 2024, an extra 1.6 million Australians aged 45-49 will be eligible to request a screening test from the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. [...] Bowel Cancer Australia has also been advocating for the screening age to be lowered for the past six years, since 2018.

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

[Read More](#)

The stigma of stomas

Medical Forum, Other, 16/05/2024

One of the procedures that many people, including doctors, shy away from is the thought of completely losing the ability to go to the bathroom normally. The thought of having to use a bag, strapped to their abdomen, to collect their waste can jolt potential patients into shock or dismay.

[Read More](#)

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Voluntary assisted dying debate begins

Canberra Times, General News, 16/05/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 10

Voluntary assisted dying is set to become legal in the ACT with all government members expected to support the bill when debate begins today. All Labor and Greens members have confirmed they will vote in favour of voluntary assisted dying with no plans, at this stage, to move amendments but the Liberals have refused to confirm their positions.

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

MPs raise concerns over budget spending

Border Mail, General News, 16/05/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 5

Member for Indi Helen Haines said there was no increased funding for two key programs, Growing Regions and Regional Precincts and Partnerships. [...] Dr Haines suggested an increase from 40 to 45 per cent in the Commonwealth's contribution to public hospitals via the National Health Reform Agreement could benefit a Border hospital.

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Independent MPs can shine a 'spotlight'

Central Western Daily, General News, 16/05/2024, Riley Krause and Andrew Mangelsdorf, Page 4

Orange MP Phil Donato has ramped up calls for better paediatric services in the lead up to a meeting between independent MPs and the NSW health minister. Murray MP Helen Dalton confirmed on May 10 she has locked in a meeting with minister Ryan Park, independents Dr McGirr, Roy Butler and Mr Donato to lobby for funding before the June budget and to endorse a campaign by Royal Far West to establish two clinics in western NSW.

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Eva Lawler puts NT Health on notice after department budget blows out by \$200 million

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2024, Roxanne Fitzgerald and Matt Garrick

Executives of the Northern Territory's beleaguered health department have been put on notice after its annual budget blew out by more than \$200 million. The figures were laid bare in the latest NT budget, which showed the substantial overspend by the health department taking its costs to nearly \$2.2 billion for 2023-24.

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

[Read More](#)

Mum praises Royal Flying Doctor Service for saving her two-year-old son after holiday accident

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2024, Mark Gibson

Perth mum Emma Galloway never thought she would need the Royal Flying Doctor Service until her son was run over. The family had been holidaying in Esperance when, then two-year-old, Parker was run over twice by a four-wheel drive.

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

[Read More](#)

National Centre for Farmer Health has \$900k funding cut in Victorian budget

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2024, Emma Field, Warwick Long and Angus Verley

Funding for the National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) has been cut in the Victorian state budget in a move the director says could cost lives. The centre, which is based in Hamilton, south-west Victoria, runs a series of preventative programs to improve farmer physical and mental health, improve workplace safety, and conduct research.

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Interview with Andrew McKellar, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Professor Steve Robson, President, Australian Medical Association, on Australia's health sector receiving a major boost in last night's Budget, with new funding on the way for 29 urgent care clinics and extra financial support for student health care workers. Robson says they had a sense of disappointment with the Budget last night because a lot of patients will want to know that they can get an appointment to see a GP that they can afford, that all of the hundreds of thousands of Australians who are waiting for planned surgery around the country can have their operations done, and people with chronic problems like mental health will get support. He adds he doesn't think they have seen a lot of funding going to any of those in the Budget last night.

Interview continues on: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 15/05/2024, Peter Overton

Wait times for overdue elective surgeries at NSW's two largest children's hospitals have been slashed by a staggering 92%. Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick and the Children's Hospital at Westmead reduced the number of children exceeding recommended wait times to below 100, down from 1000.

The NSW Government is attributing the drop to a special task force.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental health tracking in a flash

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/05/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

A digital symptom tracker for mental health and wellbeing is being created at Hunter Medical Research Institute. The tracker, named the MindPulse Project, would be similar to the successful FluTracker project - also created in the Hunter.

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

'Affordable' psych

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/05/2024, Amaani Siddeek, Page 12

A new Gold Coast psychology clinic offers clients access to services at a fraction of private practice costs. Bond University's new psychology clinic aims to provide "affordable" mental health services. Clinic director Will Drotsky said it is operated by 30 postgraduate Master of Psychology students and overseen by "highly-qualified clinicians".

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

It's okay to say no

The Farmer, General News, 01/06/2024, Sue Wallace, Page 8

Sober in the Country (SITC) is a grassroots not-for-profit pioneering radical change and social impact across rural Australia by shifting the narrative around booze in the bush. During her younger years in corporate agriculture, Shanna Whan, founder, CEO and advocate of Sober in the Country, says she had a "bit of a reputation for being wild".

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

Rise in prevalence of mental illness in young people

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/05/2024

Psychiatrist Professor Patrick McGorry says there has been a "50 per cent rise in the prevalence of mental illness" in young people over the last 15 years. Mr McGorry says "two out of five" young people "now need help".

[Read More](#)

Measures in the budget targeted towards mental health

Labor has announced some measures in the budget targeted towards mental health. \$361 million will be used to establish a free digital support program for 150,000 Australians.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 15/05/2024, Mark Gibson

Mental Health Australia says the government needs to invest more in health services, given that four out of ten young people have a mental health condition. The government has announced that those experiencing mental health distress will soon be able to get access to support, free of charge and without a referral. It will inject around \$588m into the service and provide nearly \$72m over four years on primary health networks.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Indebted Victoria faces nurse, paramedic strike

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/05/2024, Patrick Durkin, Page 4

Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas has vowed to stick to his 3 per cent wages policy as he seeks to head off industrial action by nurses and paramedics and negotiate new pay deals with firefighters and police. The wage dispute comes as Liberal shadow treasure...

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#)

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More nurses for NSW hospitals in staffing boost

Canberra Times, Other, 16/05/2024, Samantha Lock

More frontline healthcare workers in NSW hospitals will deliver better one-on-one patient care and improve minimum staffing levels on shifts. A state government initiative to provide improved safe staffing levels is under way with two major Sydney hospitals recruiting dozens of new nurses and midwives.

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

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

MP calls for GPs to be spared

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/05/2024, Blair Richards, Page 6

Independent MP David O'Byrne has expressed frustration that the state government can save some Tasmanian general practices but not others, in the wake of the Eastern Shore losing two clinics. As Tasmania's GP crisis deepens, the state government has stepped in to rescue several clinics at risk of closure.

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Health staff still heading for the door

Northern Territory News, General News, 16/05/2024, Zizi Averill, Page 3

NT Health continues to hemorrhage staff with the hospitals and clinics losing more than 800 workers in two years. Last week the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment released the September and December quarterly data on staffing numbers across 12 NT government departments. It showed NT Health had recorded a negative staffing numbers for the eighth quarter in a row, falling from 8122 fulltime employees in December 2021, to 7296 in December 2023.

'We still need people to do the job': Riverina GPs disappointed in budget

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 15/05/2024, Jeremy Eager

Riverina health professionals have been left disappointed in this year's federal budget, critical it doesn't do enough to fix the workforce issues plaguing the sector across regional NSW. Treasurer Jim Chalmers delivered the 2024/25 budget on Tuesday night, where a total of \$112.7 billion was allocated to health. Within this, \$1.2 billion has been pledged to continue strengthening Medicare, with \$227 million allocated to the creation of a further 29 Medicare urgent care clinics in regional and rural areas.

[Read More](#)

Hospital surgical teams with more women improve patient recovery, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 15/05/2024, Andrew Gregory

Hospital surgical teams that include more female doctors improve patient outcomes, lower the risk of serious complications and could in turn reduce healthcare costs, according to the world's largest study of its kind. Studies show diversity is important in business, finance, tech, education and the law not only for equity but for output. However, evidence supporting the value of sex diversity in healthcare teams has been limited.

[Read More](#)

Collapsing visitors assisted by doctor-turned-MP Scamps

The Mandarin, Other, 15/05/2024, Tom Ravlic

A former general practitioner turned politician has revealed she has been asked to assist visitors who have collapsed in Parliament House — a building that currently has no onsite GP available. Dr Sophie Scamps was elected to Parliament in 2022 in the teal wave, and since her election, she has been approached by members of parliament and senators seeking prescriptions and management of acute conditions.

[Read More](#)

Students struggling to survive as they miss out on government payments for unpaid work placements

NEWS.com.au, Other, 15/05/2024, Alex Turner-Cohen

Jamie* gets up at 4.15am and begins the hour-long commute to work at a Sydney hospital where he makes the most of the free time by studying on the train. [...] Despite the long hours, he lives on the poverty line. That's because he's a medical student and doesn't receive a cent for his time at the hospital. The weekend work is what keeps a roof over his head.

[Read More](#)

NSW Government makes UTI pharmacy trial permanent

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 15/05/2024

The NSW Government has announced from June 1 all pharmacists with suitable facilities and the required training will be able to provide consultations and prescriptions for UTIs. This follows the success of the state-wide community pharmacy trial that more than one thousand pharmacies participated in and has helped more than 16,000 women in the year the trial has taken place.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Demise of dollar discount 'goes against the grain'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/05/2024, James Tsaoucis

Experts from the Grattan Institute are questioning the government's decision to phase out the dollar discount as part of the federal Budget.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Guild of Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Appeal knocked back after cannabis

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/05/2024, Megan Haggan

A young person has escaped conviction after they stole more than \$200,000 worth of medicinal cannabis from a pharmacy. The Courier Mail reports that alongside six other people armed with machetes and baseball bats, the 15-year-old went to a pharmacy while disguised with masks and hoodies in December 2022.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

MBS item for reviewing mental health care plans to be scrapped

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/05/2024, Paul Smith

The measure was tucked away in Services Australia's budget papers. The \$78.95 MBS item for reviewing a mental health care plan will be scrapped next year, AusDoc has learnt. [...] Under a measure described as "improving the Better Access scheme", the papers state: "GPs will be able to use standard consultation items to review mental health treatment plans and deliver mental health care, instead of having to use dedicated GP mental health Medicare items."

[Read More](#)

NIPVIP payments to be indexed to MBS

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/05/2024, James Tsaoucis

Fees paid to pharmacists for administering vaccinations through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) will be indexed in line with those paid to other providers from 1 July.

[Read More](#)

WA gears up for a digital world

Medical Forum, Other, 16/05/2024

Government and private West Australian healthcare providers are taking the leap to modernise their digital systems in a bid for greater efficiency as well as safety. The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) has joined the South Metropolitan Health Network and St John of God Subiaco in adopting the Charm Evolution laboratory information management system (LIMS), which allows clinicians remote access and streamlines clerical tasks. This software recently became the first oncology system to integrate with My Health Record.

[Read More](#)

Seven-day MHR delay: DoHAC remains 'committed to collaboration'

The Medical Republic, Other, 15/05/2024, Cate Swannell

The 2024 deadline has disappeared and in its place is a clinical reference group, with no stated timeline for change. Fun and games. [...] "The Australian Digital Health Agency, as the MHR system operator, has established a clinical reference group to provide clinical safety and quality advice on any future changes to the current seven-day consumer access delay policy.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Things have to change'

Courier Mail, General News, 16/05/2024, Toby Crockford and Madura McCormack, Page 3

A major Brisbane hospital's mental health unit has been rocked by three patient suicides, with an independent review ordered into the crisis. The patients took their own lives in The Prince Charles Hospital's 60-bed unit over the past 16 months. The ABC reported two further patients had attempted self-harm, one as recently as last month. Unit director Dr Hitesh Joshi pledged to review all areas.

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

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Former LGH manager to face further investigating

Launceston Examiner, General News, 16/05/2024, Matt Maloney, Page 1

A former Launceston General Hospital manager who was alleged to have signed off on deaths that should have been referred to the state's coronial division will be investigated by the coroner's office and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. The state's Health Department in February instigated an independent review into allegations from two LGH nurses at a parliamentary health inquiry that a senior doctor once employed at the hospital altered patient records to avoid their deaths being assessed by a coroner.

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

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Concussion expert in new plagiarism scandal as BMJ retracts more papers

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/05/2024, Carmel Sparke

High-profile Australian neurologist and concussion expert Associate Professor Paul McCrory is embroiled in a new plagiarism scandal, with The BMJ retracting six more of his articles. The publisher began investigating Professor McCrory two years ago, amid allegations he had plagiarised another researcher's work in a 2005 editorial while he was editor-in-chief of the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Regional Australia ignored: Nationals

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 16/05/2024, Page 10

The federal budget has failed Australians living in rural communities, Nationals leader David Littleproud declared on Wednesday, calling it a targeted assault on the regions. [...] Rural health care received a modest lifeline in the budget, with modest boosts or continuations of previously announced programs.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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DAA – a win for patients and small businesses alike

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Other, 15/05/2024

In a move aimed at strengthening community pharmacies and ensuring improved medication management for patients, the recent Budget announcement has allocated significant funding towards Dose Administration Aids (DAAs). This investment totals \$151.1 million over five years, with an additional \$45.

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Dr Chalmers' health cheque

Better help if your internal plumbing is a bit iffy. Less chance of being murdered by your partner. That's the promise to women under the Albanese Government. Getting women into well-paying jobs or paying them more for the one they already do helping them leave violent relationships and making it easier to get gynaecological and maternity help are the cornerstones of this year's budget for women.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Guild of Australia \(Online\)](#).

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From NDIS cost revisions to a new employment program, here's what's in the 2024 federal budget for disability

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2024, Evan Young

Between significant revisions to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and new employment initiatives, disability was a key part of this year's federal budget. But now the dust has settled, the standout questions, particularly regarding the NDIS, don't centre on the specifics that were in the papers, they're about those that weren't.

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

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Federal Budget Lacks Long-term Health Investment says AHHA

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 15/05/2024

Despite establishing Australia's first national wellbeing framework and increasing expenditure on health and aged care, the Government's spending reflects little investment in a sustainable health system for the future says the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association following the release of the federal government's budget.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 15/05/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, regarding the Federal Budget. Higgins says the Federal Budget provides little or no relief for Australians struggling to afford essential health care and won't help the cost of living crisis. She adds they need to think about where the bang for the buck is and unfortunately for healthcare and for patients to be able to see their GP especially chronic disease and mental health, there hasn't been any support.

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SPORT

US 'child sex' ban for Aussie Olympian

The Australian, General News, 16/05/2024, Julian Linden, Page 3

Australian Olympic figure skater Brendan Kerry has been given a lifetime ban from coaching in the US over an alleged sexual misconduct of a minor. Kerry, 29, who carried Australia's flag at the Opening Ceremony for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, was issued with a permanent ineligibility sanction by the US Centre for SafeSport.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#). [Age \(Melbourne\)](#). [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#). [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#). [ABC Online \(Online\)](#). [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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FIFA to vote on Israel

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/05/2024, Page 3

Australia's peak soccer body is refusing to say how it plans to vote if a motion to expel Israel from the World Cup goes ahead in Bangkok later this week. In April, the Palestinian Football Association submitted a petition to FIFA's Congress calling for Israel to be booted from the World Cup for its alleged human rights and humanitarian law violations in the Gaza Strip.

Starter's orders for open infield

Herald Sun, General News, 16/05/2024, Peter Rolfe, Page 3

Moonee Valley Racing Club has confirmed plans to activate the middle of The Valley by building sports parks and community spaces such as walking tracks. The club will on Thursday announce an expression of interest campaign inviting organisations to help deliver a new world-class sports and entertainment complex at its Moonee Ponds headquarters.

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Stadium still not certain

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/05/2024, Luke Griffiths, Page 7

The future of an Armstrong Creek indoor sports stadium handed \$6m in the federal budget remains uncertain because of the need for millions of dollars of additional funding. Corangamite MP Libby Coker made the funding commitment in the weeks leading up to the 2022 election and Tuesday's budget allocated the entirety of the \$6m for the 2024-25 financial year.

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Is it time for the AFL to introduce independent doctors? They've been used in the NRL since 2022, here's how that's working...

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2024, Jo Trilling

The latest AFL Players' Association survey has revealed some players are admitting to hiding concussions! 12 per cent of AFL respondents, and 10 per cent in the AFL-W, did not report diagnosed or potential concussions. So is it time the AFL had independent doctors on the sidelines, to increase the scrutiny of potential head knocks and their impact? The National Rugby League has used independent doctors since 2022.

[Read More](#)

Australia, Uzbekistan to host next two editions of Women's Asian Cup

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/05/2024

Australia will organise the 2026 edition of the Women's Asian Cup with Uzbekistan hosting the following event three years later after the decision to award the two nations the rights was confirmed by the Asian Football Confederation on Wednesday. The AFC announced the move after the governing body's executive committee met in Bangkok ahead of the confederation's congress on Thursday.

[Read More](#)

Aussie Olympic hero Steven Bradbury officially recognised for amazing act of bravery

7news.com.au, Other, 15/05/2024, Laine Clark

He was teaching his son how to surf when he thought he saw a log in the water. He then realised it was a human head. The term "doing a Bradbury" has taken on a whole new meaning. Steven Bradbury became synonymous with unexpected success after a shock 2002 Winter Olympic victory. Now the former speed skater is being hailed for his bravery after saving four girls in Queensland's Sunshine Coast surf.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Just about everyone can use a good hug

The Nightly, General News, 14/05/2024, Joanne Silberner, Page 19

A hug, a handshake, a therapeutic massage. A newborn lying on a mother's bare chest. Physical touch

can buoy well-being and lessen pain, depression and anxiety, according to an analysis of published research released in the journal Nature Human Behaviour. Researchers from Germany and the Netherlands reviewed years of research on touch, strokes, hugs and rubs. They also combined data from 137 studies, which included nearly 13,000 adults, children and infants.

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Booster for bionics

Herald Sun, General News, 16/05/2024, Page 11

Creation of lifesaving medical implants and wearable devices - including the bionic eye - will be fast-tracked in Victoria. Minister for Economic Growth Tim Pallas will today announce a new \$5m investment to medtech company Neo-Bionica to boost development of innovative new implantable and wearable medical device prototypes for clinical trials.

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Time to test the pressure

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/05/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 16

High blood pressure is a condition that stalks many Australians, putting sufferers at risk of life-threatening medical episodes such as heart attack and stroke. In an attempt to educate Tasmanians about ways to protect themselves against what is a highly preventable ailment, the Menzies Institute for Medical Research will use World Hypertension Day on Friday to offer free blood-pressure testing at 10 locations.

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Blood proteins 'could warn of cancer before diagnosis'

Canberra Times, Other, 15/05/2024, Nina Massey

Researchers have discovered proteins in the blood that could warn people of cancer more than seven years before it is diagnosed. The scientists identified 618 proteins linked to 19 types of cancer including bowel, prostate and breast cancers. Some 107 of the proteins were found in a group of people whose blood was collected at least seven years before diagnosis. It is hoped the proteins could one day be targets for cancer prevention, instead of detection, and with further research lead to drugs to help stop the disease before it starts.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Young children with persistent severe obesity could have half average life expectancy, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 15/05/2024, tobi thomas

Children who are severely obese could have just half the average life expectancy if they don't lose weight in adulthood, according to a study. Research suggests that a severely obese four-year-old boy has a life expectancy of 39, half that of a boy the same age with a healthy weight in the UK. Life expectancies give the further number of years a person can expect to live on average given the age they have attained.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 15/05/2024, Sharyn Ghidella and Max Futchter

The manufacturers of Ozempic say they've uncovered new health benefits linked to the controversial weight loss drug. They've just completed a three-year trial and claim it can reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke by 20 per cent.

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Documenting funding concerns for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and other important programs

Croakey, Other, 15/05/2024, Melissa Sweet

In an article published last week, I suggested that spending on health functions and programs should grow by a combination of price growth and population growth, together with an allowance for utilisation growth due to ageing. However, the last Budget showed that only three health and aged care programs (MBS, public hospitals, and aged care) were growing faster than price and population growth.

[Read More](#)

Study explores Aboriginal intergenerational trauma and youth well-being

National Indigenous Times, Other, 15/05/2024, Joseph Guenzler

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has allocated over \$3.6 million to the third phase of a study focusing on intergenerational trauma in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth. On Friday, May 10, the NHMRC announced the allocation of \$3,666,252 to the Aboriginal Families Study (Wave 3).

[Read More](#)

NACCHO welcomes budget but warns closing the gap remains priority

National Indigenous Times, Other, 15/05/2024, Dechlan Brennan

The peak body of Aboriginal-controlled health organisations has commended parts of the 2024 federal budget but also stresses that lasting structural reform is needed to help close the gap in health outcomes for First Nations people. The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) said they welcomed some of the key aspects of the budget which impacted Indigenous people across the country.

[Read More](#)

Closing the Gap payments

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/05/2024

Affordable healthcare for more Australians was highlighted in yesterday's Federal Budget, with funds allocated to services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Budget confirmed an \$8.5 billion healthcare package which included key commitments such as \$1.2 billion to bolster Medicare and \$137.3 million to improve medicine access and aged care services for First Nations people.

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SHPA welcomes wins for First Nations people and older Australians

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 15/05/2024

The Society for Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) have welcomed the Federal Government's Budget saying it is a win for improved access to medicines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people leaving hospitals as well as a boost to medicines affordability and access to healthcare.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 15/05/2024, Adam Steer

National Suicide Prevention and Trauma Recovery Project's Megan Krakouer has criticised the government's allocation for First Nations-specific funding as a drop in the bucket. Around \$12m has been set aside to extend Morrison-era Indigenous suicide prevention programs in a dozen communities. Krakouer says she is extremely concerned, disappointed and upset that their people continue to pass away at rates like never before.

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Worst outbreak in years

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/05/2024, Christine Schindler, Page 1

A second Toowoomba school has fallen victim to a whooping cough outbreak within the week, as cases continue to surge past numbers not seen for a decade. On Tuesday afternoon, parents with children at Rangeville State School received an email stating the school had "met the criteria for an outbreak" and was reducing some cross-year activities and as a result cancelled this week's parade.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

'Begging for more vaccines': Budget reveals half a billion dollars for more Covid jobs

NEWS.com.au, Other, 15/05/2024, Frank Chung

The federal government will spend nearly half a billion dollars on Covid vaccines over the next four years, even as booster rates hover below 4 per cent for under-65s. [...] Pfizer's Omicron vaccine for children aged six months to five years has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) but is not yet available for use.

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TGA issues SSSI for abatacept

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/05/2024, Ajp Staff

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) in response to shortages of both the Orencia (abatacept) 125mg/mL ClickJect autoinjector for subcutaneous injection and prefilled syringe products.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Laws bring tougher stance on impaired driving

Canberra Times, General News, 16/05/2024, Peter Brewer, Page 7

Canberra drivers will be roadside tested for cocaine impairment from January 1 next year under a raft of new road safety laws passed in the ACT Assembly. Queensland introduced roadside cocaine testing in mid-2023 and recorded hundreds of positive tests within the first few months of operation.

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

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Alcohol, drug support cash injection vital

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/05/2024, Jackie Hallam, Page 25

Programs that reduce alcohol and other drug related harm are something that everyone agrees is a good idea for governments to invest in. At the same time, the community is calling for reform and better access to health care. Frontline services are critical to reducing harm, but they are not adequately funded, and there is no better example than that of peerworker funding for the alcohol and other drug community sector.

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Support for families

Border Watch, Other, 15/05/2024, Melanie Riley

Family Drug Support is soon holding an education session, plus Q&A for families and friends who are supporting someone using alcohol and other drugs. The non-for-profit is funded by SA Health through

Drug and Alcohol Services SA (DASSA) and offers evidence-based support and information to families and carers who are supporting a loved one with drug and alcohol issues.

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Simone had her drink spiked at a bottomless brunch. Now she struggles to walk.

Mamamia, Other, 15/05/2024, Charlotte Begg

Simone White was out with friends at a bottomless brunch when she began to feel strange. The 43-year-old from Bristol, England, put it down to having several drinks in a short period before collapsing and being rushed to hospital. A week on from the incident and Simone still cannot walk or speak properly. "I don't want anyone to go through what I have gone through," she said in a Facebook video earlier this week.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Warning issued over common food mistake among pregnant women

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/05/2024, Grace Ellen Macpherson

Answering most asked questions with paralympic swimming legend. A number of popular food items can lead to serious illness and even death in one particularly vulnerable group of people, prompting an expert to issue a warning. [...] Food Standards Australia New Zealand sets the national framework, however, each state and territory enforces its own food legislation.

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New Zealand looking into Indian spice brands over contamination

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/05/2024

New Zealand's food safety regulator on Wednesday said it is investigating possible contamination in spice products of top Indian brands MDH and Everest after they faced scrutiny in other countries. The United States and Australia have been looking into contamination after Hong Kong last month suspended sales of three spice blends of MDH and one of Everest, saying they contained high levels of a cancer-causing pesticide, ethylene oxide.

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

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