



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 17th May 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the Australian Medical Association says it is seeking urgent meetings with MediSecure to understand who may have been affected after the company yesterday announced data had been stolen by hackers who are now seeking ransom. *Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Canberra Times](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- The **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 5) reports an early start to flu season has seen Sydney's emergency department presentations for COVID and flu jump 40 and 30 per cent respectively in the week till May11, NSW Health data has shown.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports five Australian scientists elected to the UK's Royal Society have warned experts are leaving Australia due to difficulties gaining funding for research projects.
- The **[Northern Territory News](#)** (page 7) reports NT Primary Health Network and the Territory government will invest \$300,000 extra to tackle rising suicide rates, which ABS data says are almost double the national average.
- The **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 9) reports Chemist Warehouse has criticised the end of a \$1 discount for medications announced as part of Tuesday's federal budget and agreed by the

government as part of moves to appease the Pharmacy Guild. Also reported by: [The Age](#), [7news.com.au](#)

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 11) reports the government will spend \$9.5 million to better assist women who have suffered a miscarriage, with \$5.5 million to be spent on counselling services and a further \$1.5 to better educate healthcare workers.
- The [Canberra Times](#) (online) reports Victoria's nurses and midwives will begin industrial action from 7am on Friday, with one in four unoccupied beds to go unfilled and one in four elective surgeries to be cancelled.
- [The Guardian](#) (online) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has disagreed with the AMA and RACGP's criticism of more funding for urgent care clinics in Tuesday's budget, saying existing clinics have had 400,000 visits since June 2023.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Discount on medicines to be phased out

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/05/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 9

Discount pharmacy chain Chemist Warehouse will be stripped of its ability to give its customers \$1 off their medicines, under an Albanese government policy to appease the influential Pharmacy Guild in tense negotiations over the next five years of pharmacy funding. [...] Tuesday's policy marks a victory for the guild, which has been locked in negotiations with the federal government since Health Minister Mark Butler last year raised its ire by introducing 60-day prescriptions, halving the frequency at which people on 325 common medicines needed to visit a chemist.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#).

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### Free mental health hubs set to fail without more investment

West Australian, General News, 17/05/2024, Page 26

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists has said the Federal Government's ambitious cash splash for 61 free mental health centres will fail without targeted investment into the mental health workforce. On Tuesday the Government unveiled its \$27.6 million bid to create a network of 61 mental health services - dubbed "Medicare mental health centres" - to be operational by mid-2026. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said each centre would have its "clinical capability upgraded to ensure every centre has psychiatrists, psychologists and GPs on call".

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### New clinic sparks change

Murray Valley Standard, General News, 16/05/2024, Kaitlyn Gibbons, Page 12

One Murray Bridge resident has stepped up to meet the growing demands of mental health support in the region. Lyn Tebbutt has lived in Murray Bridge for more than 20 years and during her time she has watched the town grow, but also mental health facilities decrease. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said the government's decision to change from 20 to 10 sessions was twofold.

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### 'Don't hesitate to reach for support'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 17/05/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

A free mental health clinic has opened in Muswellbrook, the third in the Hunter Region under the federal government's Head to Health program. Free clinics also operate at Warners Bay and Cessnock. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said they would be renamed as "Medicare Mental Health Centres" to lift their profile.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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## Peak body for doctors says reform in private healthcare insurance was needed in Budget

West Australian, Other, 16/05/2024, Gabrielle Becerra Mellet

The powerful doctors' lobby group has lamented missed opportunities in the Federal Budget, warning it's likely to mean States have to chip in more as private health services decline. The Australian Medical Association's calls follow the shock closure of St John of God Health Care's Bunbury maternity ward which will shut its doors over staff shortages and an overall decline in demand for private services. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said on Thursday the Government would spend \$90 million over three years to expedite measures for foreign doctors and nurses to work in Australia.

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## Limestone Coast to hold medical trial

Border Watch, Other, 16/05/2024, Charlotte Varcoe

The Limestone Coast Local Health Network (LCLHN) will take part in the new Single Employer Model (SEM) which will support up to 60 additional general practitioners throughout regional South Australia. [...] Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton and Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler agreed there was a need for more regional general practitioners with the trial remaining a success.

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## Investigations ongoing into explosives devices in Wangaratta

Wangaratta Chronicle, Other, 16/05/2024

Aged care is in better shape following a raft of improvements in the 2024-25 Federal Budget, with Wangaratta's St Catherine's Hostel CEO appraising the newly announced benefits. Minister for Aged Care Mark Butler announced measures that will improve the quality of life for older Australians following Tuesday night's budget delivery and key incentives to entice more aged care workers and registered nurses to the sector.

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## Low-intensity digital mental health service promised in federal budget falls short of what's needed, psych groups say

ABC Online, Other, 16/05/2024, Courtney Gould

Mental health groups say the government did not go far enough in its commitment to create a digital platform for people with simpler mental health needs, and funding for more workers was more urgently needed. The federal government says it will spend \$588 million over eight years to set up a "low intensity digital mental health service", which the government says will be designed to fill the gap for the 150,000 experiencing temporary periods of distress. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the new digital platform would be "filling the gap" for Australians who experience temporary periods of distress.

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## The Budget's big health measures

ABC Online, Other, 16/05/2024, Sabra Lane

The budget contained some big measures for health including new Medicare Urgent Care clinics, more home care packages for aged care and a freeze on PBS co-payments. But it also flagged half a billion over 8 years to set up a new digital health platform, to deliver mental health service. Sabra Lane discusses this with the Minister for Health and Aged Care is Mark Butler.

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## Labor spending millions more on urgent care clinics without evidence they work, experts say

The Guardian, Other, 17/05/2024, Natasha May and Melissa Davey

Doctors and health policy experts have questioned the federal government's decision to fund an extra 29 urgent care clinics in the absence of strong evidence that they work. [...] The federal health minister, Mark Butler, told Guardian Australia he respectfully disagreed with the college's criticisms for the

clinics, adding: "Since the first Medicare UCC started operations in June 2023, there have been over 400,000 visits to clinics across the country."

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## **Patrick McGorry urges government to move faster on mental health after federal budget boost**

The Guardian, Other, 16/05/2024, Josh Butler

The youth mental health champion and former Australian of the year Patrick McGorry has welcomed the federal budget's new investment in psychology, saying upgrades to existing structures are required to address a "surge" of need, especially among younger people. [...] Only 20 of a planned 61 centres have opened, but the health minister, Mark Butler, said more would open soon.

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## **InteliCare anticipates positive impact from increased Budget spending on aged care**

Stockhead, Other, 16/05/2024

The Federal Budget's \$2.2 billion injection into the aged care sector will provide a vital boost to the provision of home care services according to the CEO of SaaS company InteliCare Holdings (ASX:ICR) . This significant investment includes the provision of 24,000 new home care places and a substantial focus on improving digital and ICT capability in the sector. [...] Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the new rights-based Aged Care Act is a once-in-a-generation reform.

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## **Budget '24: \$2.2bn invested into aged care**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 16/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

The 2024-25 Federal Budget was revealed by Treasurer Jim Chalmers on Tuesday night, with aged care cited as a 'winner' for funding. Mr Chalmers has discussed the Budget as "a better, stronger aged care", announcing \$2.2bn to be invested. [...] In a joint statement, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells and Health Minister Mark Butler said the funding would enhance the capability of ACQSC and was in response to the Independent Capability Review – a review by the Department of Health and Aged Care that assessed if the regulator had the resources, workforce, and skills to operate.

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## **Mark Butler establishes a place in history by ruling out new PBS savings measures**

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 16/05/2024

The research-based sector can leave Budget Week in Canberra reassured that the minister has ruled out the controversial 'cost reduction' pathway proposed in the HTA Review options paper or any new PBS savings measure for the foreseeable future.

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## **When the ambition for mental health reform exceeds the Federal Budget's funding allocation, how to respond?**

Croakey, Other, 16/05/2024, Melissa Sweet

The Federal Budget has created some "grand opportunities" for mental health reform despite funding constraints, according to policy analyst Dr Sebastian Rosenberg. A question now is how to marshal the mental health sector to ensure effective, constructive responses, he writes below. [...] In this respect, I feel for Minister Mark Butler, who has returned to the Health portfolio after a decade where, despite some much larger increases in funding being provided, the Coalition Government had shown little interest in sustained mental health reform.

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## **Health portfolio ministers face (some) questions on the budget**

Croakey, Other, 16/05/2024, Melissa Sweet

The Department of Health and Ageing hosted a post-Budget webinar on Wednesday, attended by five

health portfolio ministers. "The portfolio ministers will participate in a Q&A session with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care, Blair Comley PSM," said the invitation. [...] The session — hosted by Department of Health and Aged Care Secretary, Blair Comley — also included Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney, the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride, and Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health.

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## Quality focus in record aged care spend but gaps remain, leaders say

Healthcare Channel, Other, 16/05/2024, Ritchelle Drilon

The federal government is putting a lot of money into improving aged care services for older Australians. Since last year's budget, total investments in aged care have gone up by 30%, which is a huge increase. "We have put nurses back into nursing homes, given residents more time with their carers, lifted wages in the sector and improved transparency and accountability," Health Minister Mark Butler said in a media release.

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## Billions to spur on and streamline medical research

Oncology Republic, Other, 16/05/2024, Penny Durham

Women's health, cancer, chronic pain and health inequities are among several new focus areas for the Medical Research Future Fund. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said better alignment and coordination of the MRFF and NHMRC would strengthen Australia's world-leading research capability, while the National One Stop Shop would remove red tape and help end the "postcode lottery in access to clinical trials".

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## Budget commitment to virtual elimination of HIV welcomed

OUTinPerth, Other, 16/05/2024, Graeme Watson

Health organisations says the Albanese Government has made a strong stride towards the virtual elimination of HIV transmission with a \$43.9 million budget commitment. [...] The Budget allocation reflects the findings of the HIV Taskforce, which was led by Health Minister, the Hon Mark Butler and the Assistant Health Minister, the Hon Ged Kearney.

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## Longer appointments are just the start of tackling the gender pain gap. Here are 4 more things we can do

OverSixty, Other, 16/05/2024

Ahead of the federal budget, health minister Mark Butler last week announced an investment of A\$49.1 million to help women with endometriosis and complex gynaecological conditions such as chronic pelvic pain and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). From July 1 2025 two new items will be added to the Medicare Benefits Schedule providing extended consultation times and higher rebates for specialist gynaecological care.

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## Mental health body to be moved after culture review

The Mandarin, Other, 16/05/2024, Tess Ikononou

The National Mental Health Commission will be folded into the Health Department after an independent investigation found evidence of a poor workplace culture. Moving the commission's functions and funding to the department was included in the 2024/25 federal budget handed down on Tuesday. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler pledged to strengthen the commission after a review in 2023 found the workplace culture there to be very poor and discovered operating losses.

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

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## Opinion: there is still hope for the Aged Care Taskforce's

## recommendations – if the Govt and Opposition can come to a deal now

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/05/2024, Lauren Broomham

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has signalled that the Aged Care Taskforce's recommendations are not dead in the water – but a bipartisan agreement is needed now to ensure that the Government can deliver on its promise of a sustainable, and quality, aged care system. [...] No measures directed at sustainability in the Budget The statement from Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler reads: "The new Aged Care Act will put older people at the centre of aged care.

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### ABC Far North, Breakfast, 16/05/2024, Charlie McKillop

McKillop says Federal Member for Leichhardt Warren Entsch's efforts to secure a prime piece of real estate in Cairns for a local cancer charity has come under some scrutiny. She states that The Australian newspaper wrote about this yesterday, revealing that the Federal Health Department had no oversight of the Morrison government's decision to purchase a two-hectare rainforest-bound block to build accommodation for cancer patients right next door to the Couch Wellness Centre. McKillop added that This was about five years ago and Health Minister Mark Butler says that his department is continuing to work with couch on options to deliver remote, patient and carer accommodation, but there was no money allocated in the federal budget yesterday.

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### ABC Radio Canberra, AM, 16/05/2024, Sabra Lane

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler says the new digital health service is aiming to provide early help to a range of people but its primarily targeted at people with relatively mild levels of mental illness or might just be experiencing temporary distress. He states that at times when people just need a bit of support to get back on the rails, it was identified as a real gap in our system by the Productivity Commission's review of mental health a few years ago, and it's quite common overseas.

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### ABC Radio Melbourne, 12:00 News, 16/05/2024

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the Government has yet to determine how the new \$588m digital mental health service will work. The program isn't set to begin until 2026. Butler says the program will aim to assist those with mild mental health illnesses and temporary distress.

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### ABC South West WA, Country Hour (WA), 16/05/2024, Belinda Varischetti

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the government is yet to determine how a new multi-million dollar digital mental health service will work. Tuesday's budget sets aside nearly \$600 million for the programme which is not set to commence until 2026. Butler says details of what type of support will be offered and how it will operate have not been finalised, and Bureau of Statistics data shows Australia's headline unemployment rate rose to 4.1% in April.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Helping hand for aged care

Whyalla News, 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. The \$17.2 million Federal Government funding boost was officially announced on Thursday, May 9, by Helping Hand chief executive Chris Stewart, and Whyalla City Council Mayor Phill Stone. [...] Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the government was committed to supporting aged care services in regional Australia.

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## I'm not scared of ageing' Maggie Beer

Australian Women's Weekly, General News, 01/06/2024, Sophie Tedmanson, Page 26

As Australia's most lovable (and busiest) cook prepares to turn 80, she's launching a TV series to mark her proudest achievement to date - a decade of transforming food in aged care homes. [...] It was launched last year by the Aged Care Minister, Anika Wells - who also features in Maggie Beer's Big Mission - and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

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## New Aged Care Act will be introduced to Parliament “as soon as we humanly can”

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/05/2024, Caroline Egan

The Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells reassured aged care sector attendees of the Department of Health and Aged Care's post-Budget briefing webinar on Wednesday that the Department is working busily behind the scenes on its response to the Aged Care Taskforce's recommendations and to finalise the new Aged Care Act and get it introduced to Parliament. As mentioned in DCM Group Editor Lauren Broomham's Opinion piece, the Minister said the team is working on the Aged Care Taskforce recommendations "day and night" and will release a "full response" in the "near future".

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## Opinion: there is still hope for the Aged Care Taskforce's recommendations – if the Govt and Opposition can come to a deal now

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Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has signalled that the Aged Care Taskforce's recommendations are not dead in the water – but a bipartisan agreement is needed now to ensure that the Government can deliver on its promise of a sustainable, and quality, aged care system. [...] No measures directed at sustainability in the Budget The statement from Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler reads: "The new Aged Care Act will put older people at the centre of aged care.

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## Sector can't plan ahead: aged care sector expresses Budget frustration

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/05/2024, Caroline Egan

Despite one report last week the Federal Government would not address the Aged Care Taskforce's recommendations in the Budget, the absence of progress on that front, in particular on funding measures, has been met with frustration and disappointment by leaders in the sector. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells on Budget night.

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## 2SM, 12:00 News, 16/05/2024

A residential aged care service in central west New South Wales will be closed. The Salvation Army is divesting its residential aged care services in the region, with residents of Rose Synnot in Parkes to be displaced. Federal member for Riverina Michael McCormack says he's spoken to Minister Anika Wells, about the situation.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### A "cost of living" budget

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 16/05/2024, Terry Collins, Page 1

An energy rebate for every household, tax cuts for all and an increase in Commonwealth rent assistance are the big takeaways from this week's Federal Budget for Central Coast residents. Member for Robertson Gordon Reid said the region was set to benefit through targeted cost-of-living relief that would help ease price pressures on singles, students, families, pensioners and self-funded retirees. [...] Member for Dobell Emma McBride said the Government knew that people on the Central Coast are doing it tough.

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### Nominate a Medicare champion

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 16/05/2024, Page 28

Nominations are open for the Australian Government's Stronger Medicare Awards and Member for Dobell Emma McBride is encouraging Central Coast entries. There are just under two months left to submit a nomination for the awards which recognise the contributions of people working in Australia's primary care sector.

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### ABC Western Plains NSW, Breakfast, 16/05/2024, Jess McGuire

Pre-recorded interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride, about a service for Dubbo announced at the Federal budget. McBride says the Government is rolling out 61 Medicare mental health centres building on the previous head-to-health model, and this will include a new centre which is due to begin operating in Dubbo later this year. She adds that mental health centres will mean that somebody can walk in without an appointment, without a referral and be able to access free, quality mental health care and support.

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Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride has welcomed a new plan by the federal government to provide 61 Medicare mental health centres across Australia. McBride, who is also the Member for Dobell, says Tuggerah and West Gosford will both be getting clinics. She adds that they are making sure that every centre has boosted clinical capability through an investment of \$29.8 million, so every centre can provide access to a psychologist, psychiatrist and GP on call.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### Help for women in baby trauma

Herald Sun, General News, 17/05/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 11

Women who have suffered the trauma of miscarriage will receive better support under a \$9.5m federal investment. The Australian-first package includes \$5.5m in grants for counselling and bereavement support services, as well as \$1.5m for education and awareness for people and health professionals supporting families affected by the loss. [...] "Having a miscarriage can be one of the darkest and most traumatising moments of a woman's life," Assistant Minister Ged Kearney said.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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### Have you been gaslit by your doctor? You are not alone

Australian Women's Weekly, General News, 01/06/2024, Genevieve Gannon, Page 38

We've all heard of gaslighting of being made to feel like we're irrational, unstable and not credible. And it's long been a problem for women's health. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney, who Health Minister Ged Kearney started her working life as a nurse, says gender bias is deeply ingrained in the health care system, which was designed by men, for men.

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## Malarndirri McCarthy says budget is helping Indigenous communities in the NT

National Indigenous Times, Other, 16/05/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Federal Senator Malarndirri McCarthy says the funding in both the federal and Northern Territory budget will help First Nations communities, as well as the wider NT population, in health and housing. The NT senator and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health and Indigenous Australians told ABC Darwin the 270 houses a year in the \$4 billion joint investment with the NT government was "critical".

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## DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

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## CORONAVIRUS

### COVID silence raises concern

Southern Highlands Express, General News, 15/05/2024, Page 1

NSW has scaled back on COVID surveillance: PCR testing has slowed down; the community no longer receives daily case data; and weekly forecasting has ended. However, a group of public health professionals say this is a "critical time" to review disease monitoring. They propose an "integrated model" that considers multiple respiratory viruses as well COVID-19.

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### Concerns about the World Health Organization's pandemic treaty reforms

Canberra Weekly, General News, 16/05/2024, Page 16

Most Australians are likely unaware of the proposed new World Health Organization's (WHO) Pandemic Treaty or the 2005 International Health Regulations (IHR) Amendments which are currently being discussed in Geneva and are due to be voted upon, in the week of 27 May.

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

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### New chief at Boandik Lodge

Border Watch, General News, 17/05/2024, Page 9

Boandik Lodge has announced a new chief executive officer - Dr Pamela Alde. Ms Alde joined the organisation in October 2022 and has been the interim chief executive for the past three months

following the resignation of Glenn Rappensberg.

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## **Pets of Older Persons helping support elderly and disabled Busselton residents to keep four-legged friends**

West Australian, Other, 17/05/2024, Sean van der Wielen

A Busselton volunteer group is helping the city's elderly and disabled residents to keep their beloved four-legged friends at home. Pets of Older Persons provide fee-free pet care, with a mission of keeping people and pets together.

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## **Historic church to play key role in Kilkivan, Qld, aged care dream**

Gympie Times, Other, 17/05/2024, Scott Kovacevic

A decade-long dream of allowing a Qld town's residents to grow old in the place they love is one step closer to reality with the purchase of an historic church. For a century the historic Catholic Church of St Kevin served as a religious hub for residents of the regional town of Kilkivan.

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## **Highly anticipated Ascot racecourse retirement village reaches next milestone**

NEWS.com.au, Other, 16/05/2024, David Bonaddio

One of Australia's first vertical retirement communities built within a racecourse precinct is coming to life in Brisbane's northeast and is already 50 per cent sold. The highly anticipated second building in Keyton's Bernborough Ascot's retirement community, Poinciana House, has topped out with the roof slab. As Australia's over-55 population continues to grow, the 53 architecturally designed independent living apartments add to the already completed Fig Tree House at Bernborough Ascot.

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## **Show me the money! Peak body's campaign encourages cash use**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 16/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

A peak body's campaign to ensure cash remains accessible and accepted across Australia is being "enthusiastically" responded to. The National Seniors Australia (NSA) 'Keep Cash' campaign encourages retailers to display the peak body's 'We accept cash' stickers to combat the digitalisation of payments.

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## **Provider's home care package includes new art program**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 16/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Older people living at home and accessing the Home Care Packages (HCP) are enjoying one-on-one professional art sessions under an innovative program to boost well-being and social connections. HammondCare's HCP program HammondCare At Home is offering clients art lessons under the Arts on Prescriptions at Home program.

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## **CHSP providers urged to shape own future**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 16/05/2024, Natasha Egan

An expert advises against sitting back and passively waiting to see what the government dishes up. The home support sector should be working together in a positive way to design the future that it believes will better meet the needs of older people, says an expert.

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## **Deaths in residential aged care from COVID-19 have kept rising: Greg Hunt, former Health Minister**

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/05/2024, Caroline Egan

Since 19 May 2022, when the Labor Government came into power, until 21 March 2024, deaths from COVID-19 in residential aged care increased 163%, or 3,947, according to a submission to the Commonwealth Government COVID-19 Response Inquiry by former Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt.

[Read More](#)

## **Budget allocation for home care may compound pressure on waiting lists**

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/05/2024, Caroline Egan

The Government's allocation of \$531.4 million for 24,100 additional home care packages in 2024-25 will not the pressure on the home care waiting list, which already has some older Australians waiting more than 12 months to receive the level of care they are assessed as needing.

[Read More](#)

## **Helping Hand upgrades Whyalla aged care homes with \$17.2M Gov grant**

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/05/2024

South Australian aged care provider Helping Hand has upgraded two aged care homes Copperhouse Court and Yeltana in regional Whyalla, 400km north west of Adelaide, with the support of \$17.2 million in Federal Government grants. "With the support of the Albanese Government we will be able to upgrade all shared rooms to individual rooms with private ensuite bathrooms and increase capacity at our Yeltana residential care home," said Helping Hand CEO Chris Stewart

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## **\$444,000 Inspector-General of Aged Care job readvertised**

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/05/2024, Caroline Egan

The Inspector-General of Aged Care (IGAC) role, which is currently being filled in an Acting capacity by Ian Yates AM, has been readvertised. The creation of the IGAC role, which is a five-year term with an annual salary of more than \$444,000, was a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and was announced in the May 2021 Federal Budget

[Read More](#)

## **Kimberley Attenborough appointed CEO of home care provider Suncare Community Services**

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/05/2024, Caroline Egan

South-east Queensland-based home care provider Suncare Community Services has appointed former Feros Care executive Kimberley Attenborough as its new Chief Executive Officer. An Occupational Therapist, Kimberley has owned and operated her own allied health company for almost a decade.

[Read More](#)

## **Able Australia pulls out of Commonwealth Home Support Programme**

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/05/2024, Caroline Egan

Not For Profit Able Australia, which is based in Victoria and has operations across the eastern states, has made the "difficult decision" to transition out of services in South East Queensland funded under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme, the Active Living Program for Seniors, and emergency relief at the end of September 2024.

[Read More](#)

## **Aged care sector is 5,300 beds short - what now?**

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/05/2024, Caroline Egan

Global property group Colliers' 'Aged Care 2024' report states there is a strong case to invest in the sector due to the aged care bed "supply gap", but an uncertain legislative and funding future and slow development approvals may continue to constrain investment so growth must come elsewhere.

[Read More](#)

## City of Whittlesea Council latest to expand into Home Care in Victoria

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/05/2024, Caroline Egan

The City of Whittlesea Council, which is in the north of Melbourne, has announced it will expand its Ageing Well Program to include Home Care Packages. The Council notified the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission for Council of its decision in March, and now will notify the Federal Government of its intention.

[Read More](#)

## Aged care fees to be reviewed next week

Your Life Choices, Other, 16/05/2024, Andrew Gigacz

Services Australia will next week conduct a review of aged care fees, in what has now become a monthly event. These reviews were formerly conducted quarterly, but the Australian government last October announced an increase in the frequency of reviews.

[Read More](#)

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Seeking silence

Australian Financial Review, Life and Leisure, 17/05/2024, Luke Benedictus, Page 4

Having considered all manner of remedies and devices, Luke Benedictus stops snoring with the aid of a DIY fix. It's a measure of her desperation that my wife implores me to call my ex-girlfriend.

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

### Why your sleeping position could shorten your lifespan

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/05/2024, Mia Erickson, Page 36

Front, back or side . the way you slumber can have consequences It's no secret our go-to sleeping positions say a lot about us. Whether you drift off to sleep in a foetal position, a starfish or with the help of a big (or little) spoon, each and every one of us rests differently. But as it turns out, your sleeping habits could say more about your health than they do about your personality. In fact, studies show back pain from an uncomfortable slumber is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to sleep posture.

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

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### Heart help at stations

Herald Sun, General News, 17/05/2024, Page 23

Victorians now have access to automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at every staffed station across Melbourne's train network. There are now an extra 71 devices across the Metro Trains network, taking the total to 112 AEDs helping to provide live-saving support to passengers in case of an emergency.

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### Exercise is better for your brain than sleep. A sleep expert explains

ABC Online, Other, 16/05/2024

If you're feeling sluggish, are you more likely to try and sleep in or would you set your alarm early to wake up to go for a jog? Early research on mice suggests that exercise is better than sleep for flushing toxins out of your brains, according to scientists from the Imperial College London's UK Dementia Research Institute (UKDRI).

[Read More](#)

### Australian workplaces rated as 'menopause friendly' on flimsy grounds, inquiry told

The Guardian, Other, 17/05/2024, Melissa Davey and Natasha May

Companies are accrediting workplaces as "menopause friendly" without using any strong evidence in their processes, according to leading women's health organisations and doctors who say women must have input into any changes aimed at helping them. A Senate inquiry has been established by the Greens senator Larissa Waters to investigate the health and economic impacts of menopause on Australian women, including its effects on workforce participation and productivity.

[Read More](#)

## Over-65s push up hospital stays

Medical Forum, Other, 16/05/2024

Hospitalisations in Australia increased by almost 5% in 2022-23, with patients spending almost 33 million days in hospital. The latest report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on public and private admittance shows that people aged 65 and over accounted for 44% of hospitalisations and 51% of patient days, and the number of hospitalisations has increased from 9.

[Read More](#)

## How to make friends as an adult, according to relationships experts

Prevention, Other, 16/05/2024, Madeleine Haase

Even if your life is full, there are many reasons you might feel lonely. Friendships shift, family dynamics can be complicated, and it may feel harder and harder to meet new people. So when the places you once made connections have changed but your desire to be social hasn't, you can feel increasingly isolated, says social worker Hope Kelaher. [...] In fact, just over 1 in 6 (16%) Australians were experiencing loneliness in 2022, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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# CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

## Blood pressure check can save life

Herald Sun, General News, 17/05/2024, Page 22

With one in three people experiencing high blood pressure, Australians are being urged to visit their doctor or pharmacist to make sure they aren't at risk of stroke. Each May, Stroke Foundation promotes the importance of blood pressure tests as part of Australia's Biggest Blood Pressure Check campaign, which coincides with World Hypertension Day on May 17.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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## Funding call hits raw nerve

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/05/2024, Sue Bailey, Page 14

There's been a call for more funding to try to find a cure for neurofibromatosis, or NF, an incurable genetic condition affecting about 300 Tasmanians. The call comes as a report shows 23 per cent of patients waited more than four years for a diagnosis. Children's Tumour Foundation CEO Leanne Dib said the report revealed the true scale of the impact of people living with NF-related tumours, their carers and families.

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## New group helping the deaf

Daily Mercury, General News, 17/05/2024, Estelle Sanchez, Page 13

An Airlie Beach resident who went completely deaf in one ear had to face his struggle alone, and now he wants to make sure anyone with hearing impairments has a place to turn to closer to home. Lindsay Creighton, 69, has had his fair share of responsibility to bear throughout his adult life, having worked as an underground mine rescuer and a firefighter, but one thing he never had control over was his hearing.

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

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## Could a plant-based diet be the key to dodging prostate cancer?

The Courier Mail, Other, 16/05/2024, Mia Erickson

The diet already has so many benefits Behind the scenes with Tayla Harris A new study from the University of California San Francisco has found evidence that a nutrient-packed plant-based diet could prevent prostate cancer worsening in diagnosed patients. was not to uncover the preventative or curative potential of plant-based foods when it comes to cancer, but rather to highlight the diet's positive effect on slowing down serious progression.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

## Education campaign in Victorian schools aims to help close gaps in knowledge about pelvic pain

ABC Online, Other, 16/05/2024, Olivia Sanders

Pelvic floor physiotherapist Jess Fishburn has been going into schools to talk about menstrual health and pelvic pain since 2019. Based in Hamilton in western Victoria, she said she had often had women arriving in her clinical room and asking why no-one had ever told them about the issue.

[Read More](#)

## Volunteer Rose Graham beats cancer while dedicated to helping others at Mater Hospital

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 16/05/2024, Judith Kerr

When Mater Hospital volunteer Rose Graham found out her pancreatic cancer had returned her workplace turned into her lifeline. Now she is helping hundreds of others. [...] According to Cancer Council, more than 4500 people were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2023.

[Read More](#)

## Bunbury family thanks community after \$14,000 raised for 4yo daughter's medical costs after home destroyed

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 16/05/2024, Lee-Anne Petchell

A Bunbury family whose four-year-old daughter is dealing with debilitating seizures and memory loss are still living with friends, unable to return to their home after it was destroyed in Friday's tornado. Alan and Tia Bondarczuk's unit in Withers was destroyed in the freak weather event, but the family was fortunate to have survived the storm unscathed.

[Read More](#)

## Dr Richard Scolyer faced 'certain death' – now he's cancer-free

NEWS.com.au, Other, 16/05/2024

An Australian doctor who was told he faced "certain death" from a brain tumour is cancer-free thanks to a first-of-its-kind treatment he helped to develop. Richard Scolyer, a professor at the University of Sydney, was diagnosed with glioblastoma after suffering a seizure last June.

[Read More](#)

## NBCSP test age lowered

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 16/05/2024

The Australian Government has lowered the age of eligibility for its free National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) to 45, unlocking access to the test kits to more than 1.6 million Australians. These amended guidelines now allow people aged 40-44 to gain access to testing kits through their GP prior to receiving their first invitation to join the NBCSP once they reach the age of 45. [...] Bowel Cancer Australia (BCA) said it is "thrilled that six years of intensive lobbying had finally come to fruition".

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### In missing a chance, Allan has created a problem

Age, General News, 17/05/2024, Annika Smethurst, Page 22

Could it make economic sense for the state government to begin some amalgamations or mergers of Victoria's hospitals? Almost certainly. But you won't hear Labor MPs use those words when discussing the growing problems facing the state's health sector and how the Allan government is planning to solve them. Despite making some economic sense, Labor is aware of the political risk in talking about amalgamations or mergers - which is why you won't those words uttered.

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### Docs and wineries in \$35m bush aid

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/05/2024, Lachlan Leeming, Page 11

Vineyards and other rural businesses, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and parents starved of childcare are set to be the big winners of a \$35 million cash splash focused on the bush. The Daily Telegraph can reveal Premier Chris Minns will announce the first tranche of funding from the Regional Development Trust today at a winery in Orange.

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

### Healthcare centre boon for remote community

Cairns Post, General News, 17/05/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 16

The tender to build a vital healthcare service in Western Cape York has been approved with works expected to start within months, Member for Cook Cynthia Lui says. WIP Construction has been awarded the tender to build the Pormpuraaw primary health care centre as part of a \$1bn program aimed at improving rural and remote health facilities across Queensland.

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### Mildura hosting major health summit

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 17/05/2024, Allan Murphy, Page 3

The many benefits of working as a doctor in country communities will be highlighted during a conference for Victoria's rural doctors in Mildura this weekend. Hosted by the Rural Doctors Association of Victoria, key topics at the Victorian Rural Health Conference include ensuring a viable future for rural obstetric services in the state, training the next generation of rural doctors and eliminating bullying and harassment in the medical sector.

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### Who is voting against voluntary assisted dying in the ACT

Canberra Times, Other, 16/05/2024, Lucy Bladen

People who lose decision-making capacity after being approved for voluntary assisted dying may still be able to access assisted death in the ACT, with a Labor backbencher to consult on possible amendments to the laws. An emotionally-charged debate on the ACT's voluntary assisted dying bill began on Thursday afternoon, with five members revealing they would vote against it.

[Read More](#)

### Construction begins at the new Bundaberg hospital

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/05/2024, Lexa Smith

Construction has started on the new Bundaberg Hospital, marking a milestone for the \$1.2b project. The facility will feature an additional 121 beds, expanded emergency and operating spaces and enhanced outpatient services. Queensland Premier Steven Miles, joined by other ministers, turned the sod on Wednesday to mark the beginning of construction, with a finish date expected to be late 2027.

[Read More](#)

### Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson says lack of aged, primary care adding to Geraldton Health Campus stress



WA Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson says a lack of aged care facilities in Geraldton is contributing to an increased number of patients at Geraldton Health Campus, which she described as one of regional WA's busiest hospitals. Ms Sanderson was asked in Parliament on Wednesday about record numbers of patients at Geraldton Health Campus and if anything was being done to make regional health a priority.

[Read More](#)

## Regional leaders left 'disappointed' by State Budget as hospital projects stall

West Australian, Other, 16/05/2024, Olivia Ford

Regional leaders waiting on stalled projects for local healthcare services have lambasted the WA State Budget, calling out the Cook Government for having "total disregard" for those living in the bush. The Budget, announced early May, boasted cash injections for a series of new and ongoing rural healthcare projects and services.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### \$300k for NT suicide programs

Northern Territory News, General News, 17/05/2024, Sierra Haigh, Page 7

Suicide prevention projects are set to receive \$300,000 as the Territory's suicide rates soar above the rest of nation. The Territory's suicide rate of 20.5 deaths per 100,000 people in 2022 is almost double that of the national average, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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### Pedal power

Ballarat Courier, General News, 17/05/2024, Melanie Whelan, Page 1

Children with autism are learning to ride in a safe, fun and inclusive environment through the Power2Pedal program held in Victoria Park. Having received special attention to help her become confident on her bike, Hazel Mabilia is now gearing up to ride to school.

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

### Autism assessments hope

Border Watch, General News, 17/05/2024, Melanie Riley, Page 7

A mount Gambier/Berrin counsellor has welcomed the introduction of a \$330,000 tender that will enable up to 100 eligible school students to access autism assessments at no cost to their families. Autism assessments will now be made easier with the initiative, which follows the introduction of the Autism Inclusion Teacher program, which has already seen an investment of \$28.8 million to provide access to an autism inclusion teacher in every public primary school, including Reception to Year 12 schools.

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### She's got the power

Australian Women's Weekly, General News, 01/06/2024, Alison Ratcliffe, Page 74

In women's sheds, members are learning more than how to handle power tools. They're sharing knowledge, forging friendships and building confidence that changes lives. [...] The 30-year-old men's shed movement is well known. It was begun with the idea of bolstering male retirees' mental health. It boasts steady funding, a peak body and sheds across Australia bristling with expensive tools. Few of the women's sheds that have cropped up over recent years enjoy such benefits. And there's another important difference.

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## Debbie Childs: Why haven't we seen more done about Australia's mental health crisis?

West Australian, Other, 17/05/2024, Debbie Childs

As Australia grapples with a mental health crisis of unprecedented proportions, the recent Federal and WA State budgets stand as missed opportunities to adequately address the pressing needs of our communities. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese rightly acknowledges that: "We can always do better when it comes to mental health".

[Read More](#)

## Watchdog warns doctors to limit psychotropics in people with intellectual disability

Australian Doctor, Other, 16/05/2024, Rachel Carter

The medications should also only be used after a trial of non-medication strategies has failed, according to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Psychotropic medications should only be prescribed as a "last resort" for behaviours of concern in patients with intellectual disability, according to a new clinical care standard.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### NSW nurses stand firm on pay boost demand

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/05/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 17

Health reporter Nurses in NSW are refusing to rule out widespread industrial action over their demand for a pay boost from the state government. The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association's list of demands for an improved pay deal, finalised last week, include a 15 per cent pay rise across the board, a new 30 per cent penalty rate for night shifts, and boosting sick leave to 20 days.

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### 'It took a toll': Families need better support after a baby dies

Launceston Examiner, General News, 17/05/2024, Isabel Bird, Page 55

Walking through a busy maternity ward after experiencing the death of a baby is a heavy burden for families, says a Launceston mother, who is calling for improved mental health supports. An inquiry into maternity and reproductive services in Tasmania has exposed a need for dedicated bereavement and mental health supports for families experiencing a paediatric death.

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### Salute to our terrific nurses

Shepparton News, General News, 17/05/2024, Page 23

Once again, i have been smelling the aroma of hospital soap. For seven days, I was on the blankets of a bed at the GV Health hospital with the same problem as before. A blockage of the small intestine might not sound much, but it hurts like hell and can have serious repercussions. There was a 5mm diameter plastic tube fed through my nose into my small bowel to drain the offending organ, which was not fun.

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### Nurses close beds as industrial action deepens

Canberra Times, Other, 17/05/2024, Rachael Ward

Hospital beds will be closed and surgeries cancelled as Victorian nurses and midwives step up industrial action over stalled enterprise agreement talks. Thousands of Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation members are taking part in protected action from 7am on Friday as they fight for better pay and conditions.

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

## Under-pressure emergency departments get more nurses

Canberra Times, Other, 16/05/2024, Samantha Lock and Jack Gramenz

A major overhaul of how NSW hospitals are staffed is underway as more nurses are added to under-pressure emergency departments. Extra frontline healthcare workers will deliver one-on-one patient care and lift minimum staffing levels on shifts as two major Sydney hospitals recruit dozens of new staff.

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

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## St John of God Health Care confirms Geraldton maternity service will continue despite Bunbury closure

West Australian, Other, 17/05/2024

Geraldton's private hospital says the future of its maternity ward is stable, despite closures in other areas of the State. On Tuesday, St John of God Health Care released a statement, announcing it would close its Bunbury maternity ward next month, due to ongoing issues regarding private obstetric care.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News First, 16/05/2024, Sandra Sully

Nurses aren't ruling out industrial action as they prepare to fight for a 15% pay increase, but the workforce today was celebrating another major win, a dramatic increase in staffing levels. After a decade of repeating the same chant, nurses and midwives have finally been heard. Nurse to patient ratios that will see one nurse to every three patients in emergency departments are being rolled out first at Royal North Shore and Liverpool hospitals, each hospital to receive 35 extra staff, saying this type of staffing reform is going to make just such an incredible difference to the work lives of nurses.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 16/05/2024, Mark Ferguson

Hard-working nurses and midwives have launched a campaign for a new pay rise, and they're not ruling out industrial action to get it. It comes as the State Government deals with another crisis a serious lack of frontline workers. The NSW Nurses & Midwives Association is back at the negotiating table, wanting a 15% pay rise to match other states. The claim that we've put forward is based on evidence it is well justified and it's time to see nurses supported, not ruling out industrial action.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

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

Daily Advertiser, General News, 17/05/2024, Jeremy Eager, Page 2

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.

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### Call for end to solo-paramedic shifts for patient safety

Launceston Examiner, General News, 17/05/2024, Benjamin Seeder, Page 7

Ambulance Tasmania is so short of staff it has begun sending solo paramedics out to calls - a practice that is unsafe for patients and stressful on workers, according to Greens politician Cecily Rosol. The newly elected Bass MHA said in Question Time in state parliament on Thursday that ambulance

officers working solo shifts experienced more danger and stress, and that at least one paramedic has told her they were quitting because of it.

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

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## COVID-19 vaccine mandate scrapped for healthcare workers in NSW

7news.com.au, Other, 16/05/2024, Molly Magennis

The change was made following consultation with staff and unions. Healthcare workers in NSW will no longer have to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The state's health department updated its rules on Thursday, following a consultation process with staff and unions back in March. Vaccination against COVID-19 for all health workers is now "strongly recommended" rather than required.

[Read More](#)

## Doctors' concern over pharmacists using registrar, resident and consultant titles sparks review

Australian Doctor, Other, 16/05/2024, Sarah Simpkins

Both public hospital pharmacy directors and the AMA expressed concerns over the use of the titles. A pharmacy group will review its guidelines for pharmacists calling themselves registrars, residents and consultants after the AMA alleged that some patients had been misled.

[Read More](#)

## 'Disheartened' med students excluded from govt's \$320-a-week placement support

Australian Doctor, Other, 16/05/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

'Placement poverty' is forcing some medical students to skip meals or healthcare, the Australian Medical Students' Association say. Medical students who are struggling financially say they are shocked that a \$427 million budget investment to pay students during placements will not include medicine.

[Read More](#)

## Hospital pharmacists respond to misleading titles query

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/05/2024, Megan Haggan

The Australian Medical Association has reached out to the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, claiming it is concerned about "the use of misleading titles by some hospital pharmacists".

[Read More](#)

## 'Real close' to 8CPA deal: Guild

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/05/2024

Following Tuesday night's Federal Budget pharmacy owners are being urged to get ready for an announcement on the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA).

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Chemist Warehouse to lose discounted price of prescription medicine after Albanese government caves to pharmacy pressure

7news.com.au, Other, 16/05/2024, Gemma Acton and Sarah Keszler

Chemist Warehouse will soon be stripped of its ability to give customers discounts. The price of prescription medicine is set to rise after the influential Pharmacy Guild won a bid to strip Chemist Warehouse of its ability to offer customers \$1 off medicines.

[Read More](#)

## Wesfarmers Health supports Federal Budget's 'cheaper medicine' moves

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/05/2024, Kate Cowling

Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) owner Wesfarmers Health has welcomed measures in Tuesday's Federal Budget aimed at making medicines more affordable.

[Read More](#)

## Removing dollar discount 'a backward step': CWH

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/05/2024

Government plans to phase out the dollar discount on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed products, are "an anti-competitive backward step", a spokesperson for Chemist Warehouse (CWH) claims.

[Read More](#)

## Tax write-offs

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 16/05/2024

Pharmacies with a turnover of less than \$10 million will be able to continue to claim the \$20,000 instant asset write-off, as announced in the Budget. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia explained that the 12-month extension given to claim tax benefits is only for newly-purchased assets in use or installed already in pharmacies by 30 Jun 2025.

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# MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

## MediSecure? Data breach says it's not

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 17/05/2024, Jared Lynch and Joseph Lam, Page 3

An Australian healthcare information service that provides electronic prescriptions and a prescription-monitoring service has become the latest victim of a largescale data breach. The attack on MediSecure, which the company claims came from a third-party service, is being dealt with at the highest levels of government, including the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Signals Directorate and the Australian Cyber Security Centre. [...] "MediSecure is actively assisting the Australian Digital Health Agency and the National Cyber Security Coordinator to manage the impacts of the incident.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Police look into major healthcare data hack

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/05/2024, David Swan and Jessica Mcsweeney, Page 3

Federal police are investigating after healthcare business MediSecure was targeted in a largescale ransomware data breach. MediSecure's website and phone hotline were offline yesterday and the company confirmed in a statement it had fallen victim to a cyberattack. [...] The company said it was assisting the Australian Digital Health Agency and the National Security Coordinator to manage impacts resulting from the breach, and had notified regulators including the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner: "MediSecure understands the importance of transparency and will provide further updates as soon as more information becomes available."

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

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## Company hacked in major data breach

Canberra Times, General News, 17/05/2024, Tess Ikonomou, Page 3

Federal police are investigating a largescale hack at electronic prescriptions provider MediSecure. In a statement on Thursday, MediSecure confirmed it identified a cyber security breach involving the personal and health information of individuals. It did not confirm how many people had their sensitive information stolen. "We have taken immediate steps to mitigate any potential impact on our systems," the statement reads on its website that was otherwise empty on Thursday afternoon.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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## Electronic prescriptions company hacked in major ransomware breach

Australian Financial Review, Other, 16/05/2024, Nick Bonyhady and Euan Black

The Australian cyber security co-ordinator has confirmed it is managing the fallout from a serious hack and extortion attempt on a healthcare information company. The Australian Financial Review can reveal the company that has had data stolen is MediSecur...

[Read More](#)

## Another cyber-attack on Australian healthcare company

ABC Online, Other, 16/05/2024, Rachel Mealey

There's been another large-scale ransomware data breach of an Australian company...this time at an e-script provider named Medi-Secure. Medi-Secure is a prescription exchange service, which offers electronic prescribing and dispensing of prescriptions. It's not yet known how many data records have been accessed, but experts warn that many Australians might not even know their details were on that company's database.

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## Health department makes a major change inside critical division

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 17/05/2024

The Department of Health and Aged Care has made a major change for its Technology, Assessment and Access Division. ...

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## Prescriptions provider MediSecure hit by ransomware attack

ITWire, Other, 16/05/2024, Sam Varghese

Electronic prescriptions provider MediSecure says it has identified a cyber-security incident affecting the personal and health information of individuals. According to the national cyber security co-ordinator, the company has suffered a ransomware attack. [...] "MediSecure is actively assisting the Australian Digital Health Agency and the National Cyber Security Co-ordinator to manage the impacts of the incident.

[Read More](#)

## PD breaking news – Large scale data hack at MediSecure

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 16/05/2024

Government investigating ransomware attack on script provider. MediSecure, a prominent e-script provider, has been identified as the victim of a significant ransomware attack, which was disclosed by the National Cyber Security Coordinator earlier today, revealed the Australian Financial Review. [...] The company is now working closely with the Australian Digital Health Agency and the National Cyber Security Coordinator to manage the aftermath of the incident.

[Read More](#)

## MediSecure confirms it is the centre of cyber security incident

Pulse+IT, Other, 16/05/2024, Kate McDonald

Electronic prescription exchange MediSecure – which no longer acts as one of the national prescription delivery services for electronic prescriptions – has confirmed it has been identified in a cyber security incident affecting the personal and health information of individuals. In a statement today, MediSecure

said it was "actively assisting the Australian Digital Health Agency and the National Cyber Security Coordinator to manage the impacts of the incident".

[Read More](#)

## **NCSC warns of 'large-scale ransomware data breach incident'; MediSecure the victim**

WEB Cyber Daily, Other, 16/05/2024, David Hollingworth

Australia's National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) has said it is working on a "whole-of-government response" ransomware attack on e-prescription firm MediSecure. [...] MediSecure is actively assisting the Australian Digital Health Agency and the National Cyber Security Coordinator to manage the impacts of the incident.

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## **NCSC warns of "large-scale ransomware data breach incident" at Australian healthcare org**

WEB Cyber Daily, Other, 16/05/2024, David Hollingworth

Australia's National Cyber Security Coordinator has said they are working on a "whole-of-government response to this incident". The National Cyber Security Coordinator, Lieutenant General Michelle McGuinness, has released a statement warning of a major ransomware attack and data breach involving an unnamed Australian healthcare provider.

[Read More](#)

## **MediSecure hit by cyber security breach**

WEB IT News Australia, Other, 16/05/2024, Eleanor Dickinson

Electronic prescription provider MediSecure has revealed that "personal and health information of individuals" may have been caught up in a cyber security breach. [...] MediSecure said it is working with the Australian Digital Health Agency and the National Cyber Security Coordinator, and has also notified the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner and "other key regulators".

[Read More](#)

## **Australia investigates major medical data breach involving country's largest online prescription service**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 16/05/2024, Maroosha Muzaffar

Police in Australia are investigating a "large scale" data breach of a major healthcare business following a ransomware attack on Thursday. Melbourne -based company MediSecure's website and hotline were offline following the breach, a statement from the electronic prescription service provider confirmed. [...] "MediSecure is actively assisting the Australian Digital Health Agency and the national cyber security coordinator to manage the impacts of the incident."

[Read More](#)

## **ABC News, ABC News Hour, 16/05/2024, Kathryn Robinson**

Melbourne software company MediSecure, which provides the technology behind electronic prescriptions, has been identified as the health organisation at the centre of the large scale ransomware data breach. The company has released a statement saying it has identified a cyber security incident impacting the personal and health information of individuals.

[Play Now](#)

## **ABC News, ABC News Afternoons, 16/05/2024, Lorna Dunkley**

Dunkley is joined by Elise Worthington, National Reporter, ABC. Dunkley says the electronic script provider, MediSecure, has been confirmed as the health organisation at the centre of a large-scale ransomware data breach that was announced by the National Cyber Security Coordinator later on today. Worthington says the National Cyber Security Coordinator is now working with agencies across the Government, States, and Territories particularly the AFP and has informed Minister for Cyber Security Clare O'Neil on the matter.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 7, Seven News, 16/05/2024, Sharyn Ghidella and Max Fitcher**

The personal details of thousands of Australians are at risk in a major cyber attack on national health company MediSecure. The hackers are threatening to publish personal information on the web. They have issued a statement saying early indicators suggest the incident originated from one of our third-party vendors.

[Play Now](#)

## **ABC Gold Coast, Drive, 16/05/2024, Julie Clift**

Clift is joined by Elise Worthington, National Health Reporter, ABC. Clift confirms that electronic script company MediSecre is the health organisation at the centre of a large-scale ransomware data breach announced by the National Cyber Security Coordinator yesterday. Worthington says the National Cyber Security Coordinator has reached out with the AFP on investigation on the perpetrators and have also reached out with Minister for Cyber Security Clare O'Neil on the matter. She states that MediSecure is one of two providers that had tenders from the Department of Health and Aged Care to provide electronic scripts to patients.

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## **ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 16/05/2024, Liz Trevaskis**

Medical provider MediSecure has been revealed as the health organisation at the centre of the large scale ransomware data breach announced by the National Cyber Security Coordinator today. The company's website has been pulled and the company has posted a statement saying a cyber security incident has affected the personal and health information of individuals. It says it's working with the Australian Digital Health Agency and the National Cyber Security Coordinator to manage the incident overseas.

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## **2GB, Drive, 16/05/2024, Chris O'Keefe**

O'Keefe points out that Australian care company MediSecure was targeted in a large-scale ransomware data breach. He states that MediSecure provides electronic prescription services to healthcare professionals. O'Keefe says MediSecure confirmed in a statement that the attack has impacted the personal and health information of individuals.

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## **ABC Radio Brisbane, Evenings, 16/05/2024, Rebecca Levingston**

The Australian Medical Association says it's seeking an urgent briefing on a large-scale ransomware data breach of a health company that provides scripts online. MediSecure is the health organisation at the centre of the breach announced by the National Cyber Security Coordinator today. AMA President Professor Steve Robson says there needs to be a thorough and transparent investigation into what's happened. He says electronic systems are now integral.

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## **ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 16/05/2024, Samantha Donovan**

The Australian Medical Association says it's seeking urgent briefings to understand what's happened, and wants to see a thorough and transparent investigation. It says this is critical to maintaining community trust in the electronic systems that are now integral to the functioning of our health system.

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## **BENEFITS INTEGRITY**

### **Ex-cop granted hospital access**



A former police officer can now return to the hospital of the doctor and staff he allegedly threatened to "kill", following a variation of his bail conditions. "I'm going to do that thing that happened in Sydney at the church. I'm going to kill that doctor, his family, his kids and his staff," Dragutin Rajak allegedly said last month about Canberra Hospital workers.

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## Mental health unit 'failed us'

Courier Mail, General News, 17/05/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 16

A Brisbane man has slammed the care his wife with active suicidal ideations received at The Prince Charles Hospital Mental Health Service, as an independent review has been ordered into the unit following three patient suicides there in 16 months. Steven Morris said he has no faith in the mental health facility and claims his complaints were fobbed off when he spoke out that his wife had not completed her treatment and he had deep fears she could take her life.

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

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

## New laws to punish privacy breaches

West Australian, General News, 17/05/2024, Dylan Caporn, Page 8

West Australians will be able to apply for up to \$75,000 in compensation if their personal data is breached by the Government, under a privacy overhaul introduced on Thursday by Attorney General John Quigley. [...] One of the drivers of the revamp was the absence of measures to protect personal data from national medical trials, leaving other jurisdictions reluctant to share health details with WA.

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

## Coroner urges change after a tragic loss

Border Mail, General News, 17/05/2024, Local News, Page 3

A coroner has urged several changes be made by Albury Wodonga Health following the death of an involuntary mental health patient, with an inquest told the man should have been safe at the facility. Roger Schnelle died on April 30, 2021, two days after suffering self-inflicted injuries at Nolan House.

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

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

## Manager role for cover-up nurse

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 17/05/2024, Tamara McDonald, Page 9

A controversial nurse, found to have led an aged care death cover-up, was set to step into in a management position at Barwon Health. 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. The death was passed off as a heart attack but the elderly woman had been face down in the water for 50 minutes before being found.

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## Monash Health fined \$160k over patient's death

Canberra Times, Other, 16/05/2024, Tara Cosoleto

Monash Health has escaped conviction after admitting it failed to ensure one of its most vulnerable patients was not exposed to risk of harm. Rebecca Victoria Poke died by suicide at Casey Hospital in Melbourne's southeast in September 2015 after being voluntarily admitted to the hospital's mental health inpatient unit.

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

[Read More](#)

## Point Clare: GP practice manager Claudia Natasha Jeffrey pleads guilty to defrauding Medicare benefits by \$338k

Central Coast Express Advocate, Other, 16/05/2024, Richard Noone

A Central Coast practice manager, who worked for two Sydney doctors, fraudulently claimed hundreds of thousands of dollars in Medicare benefits using their provider numbers, a court has heard. Claudia Natasha Jeffrey, of Point Clare, faced Gosford Local Court on Tuesday where she pleaded guilty to two counts of obtaining financial advantage by deception.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### 'He's gonna kill you'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/05/2024, Lauren Novak, Page 1

"He's gonna kill you." This was the chilling warning Tammy Simpson gave her eldest daughter during one of the last conversations they had. A few months later 25-year-old Eden Kennett was beaten to death by her violent boyfriend. [...] Ms Simpson gave permission for her daughter's organs to be donated and was told parts of her heart saved the lives of babies.

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### The system failed Raymond

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 17/05/2024, Natalie Croxon, Page 4

A leading Illawarra homelessness service has called for an inquiry as it says the alleged murder of a rough sleeper highlights the failures of the housing and health systems. Raymond McCormack, 68, died between Friday, May 10 and Sunday, May 12 in the Wollongong station car park, the place he usually sheltered.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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### Doctors looking for more in Budget

ABC Online, Other, 16/05/2024, Alexandra Humphries

The federal budget includes \$8.5 billion dollars in new funding into health, but some doctors have lamented missed opportunities to ease the pressure on key areas, including rural healthcare and mental health. Promises include a swathe of new Urgent Care Clinics to be delivered across the country, and a new free digital mental health platform.

Also reported by: [Medical Forum \(Online\)](#).

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### 2CC, Canberra Live, 16/05/2024, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Kerrie Aust, ACT Branch President, AMA. Delaney says Aust and her colleagues at the AMA are still working through the fine detailing regards the Federal budget results for healthcare. Aust says they are still working out the finer details of what the Federal budget has delivered, but from what they have seen, they aren't seeing any funding opportunities that the patients wanted and needed, like better alignment of Medicare rebates back to what it costs to attend a doctor. She states that what they are seeing more is investments in medical technology. bit they're also at the same time seeing them scrap items like the Mental Health Care Plan.

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## SPORT

### Olympic champ led charge to remove portrait

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/05/2024, Eryk Bagshaw and Linda Morris, Page 1

An Olympic gold medallist and one of the top officials in Australian swimming led the charge against the National Gallery hanging a portrait of mining billionaire Gina Rinehart, labelling the artwork

"offensive to a great Australian". Rio Olympic gold medallist Kyle Chalmers and Swimming Queensland chief Kevin Hasemann coordinated a group of 20 elite Australian swimmers to campaign against the portrait of Rinehart by Archibald Prize-winning Indigenous artist Vincent Namatjira.

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

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## Lets us have our sport hub

Herald Sun, General News, 17/05/2024, Peter Rolfe, Page 18

Pressure is mounting on the state government to clear the way for a \$50m sporting hub in Melbourne's fast growing southeast that would also help ease the state's housing crisis. Developers hoping to build a grassroots facility with much needed footy, soccer, cricket and netball facilities at Bangholme have promised a 71ha hub similar to Casey Fields at Cranbourne.

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## AFL's activism in name only won't advance unity

Herald Sun, General News, 17/05/2024, Rita Panahi, Page 31

The sheer absurdity of the AFL never ceases to amaze. With the exception of the Australian Greens or the Queers for Palestine movement, one would struggle to find a more conflicted, wildly hypocritical pack of moral-posturing pretenders than the men and women at league headquarters.

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

## 1 billion to shrink Gabba

Courier Mail, General News, 17/05/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 1

The state government's alternative plan for the Gabba could cost \$1.1bn and cut its capacity by about 4000 seats. It can be revealed early discussions among stakeholders indicated the "crazy" spend was necessary to reach code compliance and prevent the cracked and rusty stadium from further deteriorating.

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

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## Stadium GST snub 'unfair'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/05/2024, Rob Inglis, Page 1

A Tasmanian senator has called out the "unfair" decision to exempt Brisbane Olympics sporting infrastructure from GST calculations while the Macquarie Point stadium proposal is not afforded the same treatment. Senator Jonathon Duniam said the move was a "crippling blow" to Tasmania's finances, with GST being the state's biggest source of revenue.

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## Aquatics plan 'progress' despite new bid

Border Mail, General News, 17/05/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 3

Albury councillor Darren Cameron has voted against a draft master plan that includes an aquatic centre at the Lauren Jackson Sports Centre. The blueprint was endorsed by eight of the nine councillors at their meeting on Monday and is now on public exhibition for 28 days to receive community feedback. In the recommendation it was described as the "Lauren Jackson Sports Centre and Aquatics Facility Stage 2 Preliminary Design project".

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## Female sports get grants

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 17/05/2024, Phoebe Doyle, Page 11

Women and girls in the Sunraysia region could have increased access to sporting opportunities at some local community clubs following the announcement of grant recipients. Part of the 2023-24 Change Our Game Community Activations Grants Program, up to \$10,000 to community sport and recreation clubs was on offer to encourage and continue female participation in sports.

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## Bad sports aren't rare

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 17/05/2024, Page 15

Homophobia is still rife across community sport in Australia, new research has found. Swinburne University of Technology research, looking at LGBTIQ+ young people, found three-in-four gay men witness homophobia and 63 per cent of gay men experience it first hand.

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## NRL player arrested at training amid major drug raids

The Senior, Other, 16/05/2024, Anna Houlahan

An NRL player has been arrested during a training session as police round up alleged major drug traffickers and freeze \$10 million in assets over a suspected narcotics supply scheme. Officers arrested the former Wests Tigers player Brandon Wakeham at a Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles training at Brookvale Oval in Sydney at 1.20pm on May 15.

[Read More](#)

## Australia announced as host country for 2026 Women's Asian Cup

ABC Online, Other, 16/05/2024

The Matildas will get another chance to thrill local football fans on home soil with Australia named as the host nation for the 2026 Women's Asian Cup. The decision was confirmed at a meeting of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) executive committee in Bangkok on Wednesday, after Australia was the only member nation to submit a bid to host the tournament.

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

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## Australian Olympian Brendan Kerry to appeal lifetime US ban amid sexual misconduct allegations

ABC Online, Other, 16/05/2024

An Australian Winter Olympics flag-bearer will appeal a lifetime ban in the United States for sexual misconduct involving a minor. Brendan Kerry, a triple Olympian figure skater who was Australia's joint flag-bearer at the Beijing Winter Games in 2022, has been permanently banned by the US Center for SafeSport

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

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## FIFA to discuss possible Israel expulsion as Palestine women's team plays 'solidarity friendly' in Ireland

ABC Online, Other, 16/05/2024, Samantha Lewis

Less than a week after the United Nations passed a resolution favouring Palestinian membership, FIFA is the next global governing body set to enter the discussion as they address a proposal to expel Israel from international football. The proposal was formally submitted by the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) in March for discussion at FIFA's 74th annual Congress in Bangkok, where member nations and the executive committee have been gathered since Wednesday to vote on a number of key issues.

[Read More](#)

## Australian Olympic marathon runner Liam Adams believes qualification rules changed, leaving him out of Paris Games

ABC Online, Other, 16/05/2024

Australian marathon runner Liam Adams has said he "was in complete shock" when he discovered he had not qualified for this year's Paris Olympic Games. Adams, 37, who competed at Olympic Games in Rio and Tokyo believed he had qualified for this year's event.

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## Senator slams women's soccer team that won comp while fielding five

## trans players - and claims Aussie sport bosses are happy for the issue to drive women out of sport

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/05/2024, Ollie Lewis

Senator Claire Chandler has waded into a transgender row, with the liberal politician claiming that the inclusion of biological men in female sport damages 'fairness for women'. Women's football team The Flying Bats has courted controversy this year, with their team - which comprises five transgender women - dominating a pre-season tournament in Sydney. The team won every game of the competition, including a 10-0 rout in which one trans player scored six goals.

[Read More](#)

## FIFA members to vote on the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/05/2024

The FIFA Congress will pick from a winnowed field of two candidates to host the 2027 Women's World Cup at its meeting in Bangkok this week. A joint bid by the United States and Mexico was pulled late last month, and South Africa withdrew its candidacy in November.

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## Dual Olympian named as Athletics Australia's new CEO

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/05/2024

Dual Olympian Simon Hollingsworth aims to advance track and field after being appointed Athletics Australia's new chief executive officer. Hollingsworth, an Olympic hurdler and vastly-experienced administrator in sport, politics and business, will start the role in July.

[Read More](#)

## Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young joins the battle to keep major sporting events free Aussies

7news.com.au, Other, 16/05/2024, Caleb Taylor

Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young has joined the fight to ensure major sporting events remain free to watch for all Australians, rather than being locked behind paywalls by the big streaming companies. The Albanese government is currently attempting to pass amendments to anti-siphoning laws through the Prominence and Anti-Siphoning Bill — which has been heavily criticised for being too relaxed.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 16/05/2024, Steve Austin

Interview with Peter Luxton, Chief Operating Officer for Asia Pacific Region, ASM Global. Austin says Luxton was recently named on Billboard's International Power Players List for the second consecutive year, under ASM Global, which holds Suncorp Stadium, the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre and the Brisbane Entertainment Centre. Luxton confirms that the Gabba is expected to be torn down and receive a new facelift and rebuilding and this has been confirmed to have been given the green signal for the next Olympic games in Brisbane.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Our giants of science sound alarm on research funding

The Australian, General News, 17/05/2024, Natasha Bitá, Page 7

Trailblazing Australian scientists newly elected to the prestigious Royal Society have vented their fears over shortfalls in research funding. Five Australians are among 94 eminent scientists elected to the world's oldest scientific academy, the Royal Society in the UK joining the likes of physicists Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein, and naturalists Charles Darwin and Joseph Banks.

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

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## Covid and cold clot link found

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/05/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 10

Flinders University researchers have discovered a link between rare but potentially deadly Covid vaccine blood clotting complications and a rare blood clot disease caused by the common cold. Antibodies in both cases carry identical molecular "fingerprints." They believe the work will help with identifying genetic risk factors and the scientific understanding of vaccine-induced immune thrombocytopenia and thrombosis (known as VITT), or blood clotting problems.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#)

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## Surprise finding to help babies

Courier Mail, General News, 17/05/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

Queensland researchers have discovered the reason more baby boys than girls are stillborn and have serious neonatal health problems could be dysfunction in the placenta. The Mater Research team examined placental tissue samples from women across Australia who gave birth to smaller than average newborns.

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## At-risk can take heart

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/05/2024, Page 20

The 60,000 Australians diagnosed with heart disease each year could soon be helped by a non-invasive sensor system for the early detection and improved management of the serious condition. By developing the sensor system called SaiiV, researchers are looking to reduce hospital admissions and readmissions of patients with heart failure.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#)

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## New study links low testosterone in men with early death

ABC Online, Other, 16/05/2024, Tina Quinn

A major new study led by researchers at the University of Western Australia has found that low testosterone in men is associated with higher mortality and an elevated risk of death from cardiovascular disease.

[Read More](#)

## Almost 20% increased risk for antidepressant prescription among GLP-1 RA users: study

Australian Doctor, Other, 16/05/2024

Patients taking glp-1 receptor agonists face a greater risk for later being dispensed antidepressants, an Australian study shows. Researchers from the University of Notre Dame in Perth found a 19% increased chance for antidepressant prescription among previously naive adults in those prescribed GLP-1 receptor agonists (RAs).

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Indigenous helpline 13YARN inundated with racism-related calls post referendum

National Indigenous Times, Other, 16/05/2024, Brendan Foster

More than a quarter of calls to the First Nations-led national crisis support service -13YARN – have been from Indigenous people citing racism post the Voice to Parliament referendum. When the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum was defeated in October, the result caused widespread pain and rupture in many First Nations communities.

## Inquest into death in custody of young Noongar man reveals "critical need for system reform"

National Indigenous Times, Other, 16/05/2024, Giovanni Torre

The legal organisation supporting the family of Ricky-Lee Cound, a Noongar man who died in custody in Western Australia aged 22, says the coronial inquest into his death reinforces "the critical need for considerable system reform in WA prisons", which "must come into action as soon as possible to prevent further Aboriginal deaths in custody".

[Read More](#)

## ABC, ABC News, 16/05/2024, Lydia Feng

There have been additional pressures that are put to many First Nations families who are trying to pay bills and keeping the lights on with some disappointed in Tuesday's budget saying the failed Voice Referendum is making the Government shy away from investing in treaty and truth-telling. While the budget offered energy relief for every household, there are extra cultural and health obligations. First Nations people carry a higher burden of disease than other Australians which can lead to a shorter life expectancy and the Government's allocated \$2.4 billion to make what it calls tangible differences to the lives of First Nations Australians, and there's a big focus on housing.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Bug soup: Five things making Sydney ill this winter

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/05/2024, Megan Gorrey, Page 5

Urban affairs reporter Influenza and COVID-19 are spreading rapidly in NSW, triggering an early spike in people visiting emergency departments at the start of the flu season. The latest NSW Health data, published yesterday, showed a 40 per cent jump in COVID cases and a 30 per cent increase in influenza cases both accompanied by a rise in emergency department presentations in the week to May 11.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Learn how you can help someone using AOD

Border Watch, General News, 17/05/2024, Melanie Riley, Page 4

Family Drug Support will hold an education session, and Q&A for families and friends who are supporting someone using alcohol and other drugs. The not-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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### Investment vital to reduce drugs harm

Launceston Examiner, General News, 17/05/2024, Jackie Hallam, Page 59

Programs that reduce alcohol and other drug-related harm are something that everyone agrees is a good idea for government 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 peer worker funding for the alcohol and other drug community sector.

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## 'Test for heroin': MP calls for roadside testing of deadly opioid

Canberra Times, Other, 16/05/2024, Carla Mascarenhas

A NSW MP has called for police roadside testing to include heroin after growing concerns about the link between opioid use and road accidents A Transport for NSW spokesperson said mobile drug testing (MDT) only detects the presence of four illegal drugs. Those are ecstasy, cannabis, cocaine and methamphetamine (including speed and ice).

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Scrutiny of Indian spice imports in contamination claim

Canberra Times, Other, 16/05/2024, Rishika Sadam

Britain's food watchdog has applied extra control measures on all spice imports from India, it says, becoming the first to ramp up scrutiny of all Indian spices after contamination allegations against two brands sparked concerns among global food regulators. Hong Kong in April suspended sales of three spice blends produced by MDH and one by Everest, saying they contained high levels of a cancer-causing pesticide ethylene oxide.

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

[Read More](#)

### Dietary protein intake and sources for different ages and stages

Australian Doctor, Other, 16/05/2024

In this practical education module, learn why it is important to vary protein sources, how much protein the average person needs, and how to tailor your dietary advice to meet the individual needs of your patients. Protein is a key part of the diet but not all protein packages are created equal.

[Read More](#)

### Travellers warned to avoid dangerous milk trend after worrying disease detected

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 16/05/2024, Michael Dahlstrom

Travellers to the United States who may be tempted to drink a health food delicacy are being warned doing so poses a serious disease risk. Raw milk has been embraced by celebrities including Manchester City striker Erling Haaland and actor Gwyneth Paltrow and converts have raved about its purported health benefits.

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## AICIS

No relevant coverage

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