



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 19th May 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Daily Telegraph \(page 1\)](#) reports that some psychologists are starting a campaign to restrict the use of social media for children until they reach the age of 16, saying that a youth mental health crisis has been caused by excessive social media use.
- The [Sun Herald \(page 1\)](#) reports that a review of NSW's mental health care system has found that 58,000 people with severe mental health needs do not have access to care within the state.
- The [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(page 5\)](#) reports that the Queensland government has announced the "Making Healthy Happen 2032" plan to prevent and reduce obesity. There are 2.7 million obese adults and 210,000 obese children in Queensland.
- The [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(page 11\)](#) reports that Queensland has reached a 45.5 per cent ramping rate despite a \$764 million investment from Health Minister Shannon Fentiman.
- [The Age \(page 23\)](#) reports that Australia's only specialist benzodiazepine dependency treatment program Reconnexion will have its funding cut by the Victorian state government, with the clinic set to reduce its number of specialist clinicians from ten to three.
- [The ABC \(online\)](#) reports that a shortage of specialist paediatricians in Australia has seen the waitlist for specialist paediatricians reach up to three years. The Royal Australasian College of

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Illegal cigarette and vape market to slice \$12.5bn off federal budget

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/05/2024, James Campbell

The booming illegal smokes and vapes market is cutting a swath through the federal government's budget, with tax revenue from tobacco set to fall by \$12.5 billion over five years. [...] This drop comes despite Health Minister Mark Butler promising in January the Government would spend \$188.5 million over the next four years cracking down on illegal nicotine.

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### Psychiatry peak body says Government's Medicare Mental Health Centres will fail without workforce investment

Albany Advertiser, Other, 18/05/2024, Hannah Cross

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. [...] 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".

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

[Read More](#)

### More GPs for Melton, Bacchus Marsh

Star Weekly, Other, 18/05/2024

GP practices in Melton and Bacchus Marsh can now recruit overseas-trained doctors after the federal government ruled that the region should become a distribution priority area. [...] In a joint statement, Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler and Hawke MP Sam Rae said the Melton and Bacchus Marsh region has recorded a rapid population increase of 14 per cent in the past four years.

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## MINISTER WELLS

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### Funding package to help women who suffer miscarriages

Hawkesbury Gazette, Other, 17/05/2024

Women who experience miscarriage will receive bereavement support and boosted follow-up care through \$9.5 million in new federal government funding. The support package will also address gaps in data to understand more about miscarriage, Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney announced on Friday.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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## DEPARTMENT

### Life-saving health service gets cut

Sunday Age, General News, 19/05/2024, Amber Schultz, Page 23

When Steph Seymour tried to stop taking her prescribed antianxiety medication, it almost cost her life. [...] A spokesperson from the Department of Health and Aged Care said state and territory governments were responsible for funding drug and alcohol treatment services.

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

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

### COVID WA: Aged care residents dying needlessly due to vaccine complacency, health advocates warn

West Australian, Other, 18/05/2024, John Flint

Aged care residents in WA are dying needlessly from COVID because of complacency and the lowest immunisation rate in the nation, outraged health advocates complain. [...] "As at 2 May 2024, there have been less than six COVID-related deaths reported in the current outbreak at Rosewood Care in West Perth," a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said.

Also reported by: [Kimberley Echo \(Online\)](#), [Manjimup-Bridgetown Times \(Online\)](#), [Busselton Dunsborough Times \(Online\)](#).

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## CORONAVIRUS

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Boomers are loving life in the village

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 19/05/2024, Kathryn Welling, Page 29

The youngest of the baby boom generation turn 60 this year and they're determined to do retirement differently from their parents. In Rooty Hill, a group of keen home brewers are making their own drop.

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### Shining a light on a hidden issue

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Supplements, 19/05/2024, Page 10

A national forum in Adelaide later this year will shine a spotlight on the growing but still largely hidden issue of elder abuse. To be co-hosted by Elder Abuse Action Australia and the Aged Rights Advocacy

Service (ARAS), the 2024 Australian Elder Abuse Conference next month follows soon after World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, on June 15.

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## Setting the stage

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Supplements, 19/05/2024, Lynn Cameron, Page 14

It's not all about the number - the ageing process also involves our physical and mental capacity Aged care provider ECH is reclassifying the ageing process into three stages which take into account an individual's physical and mental capacity rather than the number of candles on their birthday cake. "Sometimes older adults are put into the same bucket," chief executive Claire Scapinello says.

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## Plea for minister to support ageing state

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 19/05/2024, Sue Bailey, Page 2

In the wake of the latest population projections, the Council on the Ageing Tasmania has renewed calls for a dedicated minister for ageing in line with other states. COTA chief executive Brigid Wilkinson said it was time for the government to "step up and create a better future and ageing journey for us all".

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## 'A failure of leadership'

Sunday Times, Edition Changes, 19/05/2024, John Flint, Page 23

Aged care residents in WA are dying needlessly from COVID because of complacency and the lowest immunisation rate in the nation, outraged health advocates complain. There were outbreaks of the disease at 35 aged care homes across WA last week. They coincide with another wave of infection to slam the State.

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## First ni-Vanuatu PALM scheme aged-care workers graduate in Port Macquarie

ABC Online, Other, 18/05/2024, Emma Siossian

Aged-care resident Edith Milne smiles as she holds the hand of ni-Vanuatu worker, Malikon Joe, who is singing a traditional song from her Pacific Island home. "They are all happy and lovely and it's been such a blessing for all of us to have them here," Edith says.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### 'Disorders of consciousness': The grey areas casting shade on coma

Sun Herald, General News, 19/05/2024, Jackson Graham, Page 38

One night, Fiona McKay didn't show up for dinner with her friend Mandy Odlin. Mandy started to feel uneasy. It wasn't like Fiona to miss a catch-up or be late. Mandy asked her husband to check on Fiona at home while she waited in case her friend turned up.

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

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### State bid to trim fat as obesity crisis looms

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 19/05/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 5

The Queensland government has released a plan to tackle the state's alarming obesity rates after research found children born in the decade from 2023 would see their life expectancy reduced by more than five years. According to Queensland Health, 2.7 million Queensland adults (69 per cent) and 210,000 children (25 per cent) are overweight or obese.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The](#)

[Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#)

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## Crocodiles and sharks may be one of the least deadly animals in Australia, but humans fear them the most

The Courier Mail, Other, 18/05/2024, Evan Morgan

You might be more likely to end up in hospital after crossing paths with a dog, but it is crocodiles and sharks that strike fear in humans. [...] In July last year the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released its report 'Injury in Australia: Contact with Living Things' causing 28,000 hospitalisations in the country with 27 deaths for the period 2021-2022.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#)

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## Get moving on homelessness DAs, say Greens council candidates

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 19/05/2024, Glen Humphries

Approving development applications to expand homelessness services should be sped up to cater for their growing need, Greens candidates for Wollongong City Council said. Ward 2 candidate Kit Docker, who is a volunteer at the Wollongong Homeless Hub, said recent figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed Wollongong city had seen a sharp increase in people accessing homelessness services in NSW.

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## Determined medical trials teams a pioneering force

Newcastle Herald, Other, 18/05/2024, Soozy Smith

What if every breast cancer diagnosis came with a treatment? If you could safely avoid radiotherapy and its side effects? If you knew which treatment would work best for your specific type of breast cancer? Clinical trials have been a part of the medical landscape for more than 277 years.

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## How beating your coffee addiction could improve alertness and save money

ABC Online, Other, 18/05/2024, Tim Wong

Improved mental health, better sleep and an extra \$3,600 in the bank. These are some of the benefits Jesse Downes hopes to enjoy from breaking a decades-long coffee addiction. Three months in and the 48-year-old from Eudlo on Queensland's Sunshine Coast said he was noticing some early health improvements.

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## Testing and treatment for underactive thyroid is increasing in Australia. Why?

The Guardian, Other, 18/05/2024, Lydia Hales

"Sends shivers down my spine, body's aching all the time" – Freddie Mercury (probably) wasn't singing about thyroid dysfunction, but the lyrics fit the bill. As with the other symptoms of an underactive thyroid – including lethargy, brain fog, weight gain, and low mood – feeling cold and having aching muscles and joints are unpleasant and can impact a person's quality of life, but have myriad possible causes.

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## Early blood sugar control for type 2 diabetes 'can lead to fewer deaths'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 18/05/2024

Treating type 2 diabetes patients as early as possible by controlling blood sugar with insulin and drugs can prolong life and reduce the risk of future complications such as heart attacks, kidney failure and vision loss, according to long-running research. Scientists from the Universities of Oxford and

Edinburgh analysed data spanning more than four decades from the UK Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS) – one of the longest type 2 diabetes clinical trials.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### No benefits from budget divide

Sun Herald, Business News, 19/05/2024, Victoria Devine, Page 42

For financial nerds like me, budget week is like the AFL grand final. Questions such as who will be winners, who will be losers, and what new policies will be unveiled are hot topics. [...] The newly announced Medicare rebates for endometriosis and other complex gynaecological issues experienced by women are also great in so far as additional money is going back in to our pockets.

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### Sydney woman survives five cancers with 11 organs removed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/05/2024, Brielle Burns

Gayle has survived cancer five times and had 11 organs removed in the process. Doctors say she's a "medical miracle." [...] "Numerous doctors have told me they have not known anybody to have five different very serious cancers and have survived them," Mrs Dean told news.com.au ahead of Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea next week.

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

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### A GP guide to hand osteoarthritis

Australian Doctor, Other, 18/05/2024, David J Hunter

This update reviews the evidence and international guidelines for treatment of hand osteoarthritis. Need to know: One in two women and one in four men develop symptomatic hand osteoarthritis by age 85 years. The current approach for hand OA management is to alleviate symptoms and optimise hand function, using a multidisciplinary, shared decision-making approach and an individualised plan according to sites affected, severity and comorbidities.

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### I've always been diligent with my health so when I had a scan on a whim at 39 I never expected the grim diagnosis that followed: 'I was fit and healthy, there were no symptoms'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 18/05/2024, Shania Obrien

Lisa Seiffert had no symptoms when she impulse-booked a mammogram at David Jones while shopping - only for her split-second decision to reveal a sinister diagnosis. The model, then 39, used to regularly get breast cancer screening tests as the illness ran in her family, but the pandemic meant she was slightly behind.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Ambos hit new high for ramping

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 19/05/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 13

Ambulance ramping has hit unprecedented highs, with 45 per cent of patients waiting more than half an hour to be admitted to emergency departments following record-breaking hospital presentations.

Despite Health Minister Shannon Fentiman announcing a \$764m investment to tackle ramping when she took over the portfolio last year, latest figures show 45.5 per cent of patients were waiting beyond the 30-minute mark, with ambulances losing an average of 17 minutes per trip two minutes higher than in the previous quarter.

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

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## Life and death of Narooma's daredevil

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 19/05/2024, Victoria Silk, Page 15

Gerry Gauslaa had a reputation for living life to the full, and as his brother Kris put it, "never taking a backward step". This was an attitude to life that saw Gerry move seamlessly between his life as a logger in Narooma to stunt man of blockbuster films such as Mad Max and Mad Max II. It was also an attitude that carried him through his long battle with cancer, illness and pain, through to his life's end. Gerry was the first person in the Eurobodalla to take part in the Voluntary Assisted Dying Program.

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## New 24-bed medical ward to be built at Hervey Bay Hospital

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 18/05/2024, Carlie Walker

A 24-bed 'modular' ward will be built at the Hervey Bay Hospital to help meet the needs of a growing population. A new 24-bed modular medical ward is set to be constructed at Hervey Bay Hospital as the state government prepares for the community to grow by about 20 per cent in the next decade.

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## Ambulance ramping hits record high in Queensland, exclusive data reveals

9News, Other, 18/05/2024

In the March Quarter of 2024, 45.5 per cent of Queensland patients spent more than 30 minutes waiting on the ramp before being taken into the hospital. This figure surpasses Queensland's highest previous mark of 45 per cent. Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman said that emergency department presentations were up by 5.7 per cent, which was a record demand and caused the increase.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 17/05/2024, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

There are more questions than answers tonight over another big data breach and this time it involves e-prescriptions sent to phones. It comes as a day after the alarm was raised and cyber officials are still working on what's been leaked and to whom. Professor Steve Robson, AMA, says the stolen data were huge and often personal.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Mum's plea after Bondi Junction tragedy

Sun Herald, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 19/05/2024, Mary Ward, Page 1

A grieving mother whose daughter died in last month's Bondi Junction attack says more must be done to support the state's vulnerable, after a review estimated 58,000 people with severe mental health needs are missing out on care. The NSW Community Mental Health Services Priority Issues Paper, a state government-led gaps analysis of the mental health sector, found the stretched system needed more money, more workers and better processes for dealing with people in crisis.

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## Why Bear Grylls wants men to cry more

Sunday Telegraph, Body and Soul, 19/05/2024, Nick Harding, Page 1

For a seemingly fearless adventurer and former SAS soldier tough enough to survive a back-breaking parachute accident and then climb Mount Everest just 18 months later, Bear Grylls OBE is surprisingly candid about his emotions. "The last time that I cried? Last night watching the Bradley Cooper movie, Maestro," he offers. "I cry a lot, and I cry more as I've gotten older."

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#).

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## Taunted to death

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 19/05/2024, Julie Cross, Page 1

These are the faces of some of the hundreds of teens lost to the scourge of social media. Their families say death threats and bullying on social platforms contributed to their premature deaths and they want to stop it before it claims more lives.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## Tears for teens taunted to death

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 19/05/2024, Julie Cross, Page 12

Tilly Rosewarne was "a ball of joy" with a "very big giggle". Courtney Love enjoyed drawing and playing soccer. Allem Halkic was planning to travel during a gap year. Jessie Tolhurst wanted to be a zookeeper. James Boyd-Gergely loved riding his motorbike on the farm.

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## How we process emotions during sleep may change our mental health

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 18/05/2024, Sarah Berry

A longstanding piece of advice when it comes to processing difficult things and making big decisions is to "sleep on it". It's widely acknowledged that the dawn of a new day tends to provide us with a new perspective. As American author E. Joseph Cossman said: "The best bridge between despair and hope is a good nights sleep." But why? Well, researchers are one step closer to understanding.

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## Young man took own life after leaving chaotic, noisy Peel hospital 'thoroughfare' unnoticed, coroner finds

West Australian, Other, 18/05/2024

A young man who was "begging" for help with his mental health gave up waiting after languishing in a chaotic emergency department where a meth user was going berserk, slipping out unnoticed and taking his own life. Devan Beau Ginbey had been at the Peel Health Campus ED for almost 24 hours and in its "flight deck" area for more than 12 hours on January 13 last year when he walked out of the secure entrance — which requires a PIN or access swipe — as paramedics wheeled in a patient.

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

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## Man's 'shock' death stirs call for mental health review

Ballarat Courier, Other, 16/05/2024, Belad Al-karkhey

A man's death in a mental health facility has sparked a NSW coroner's call to review the care and management of patients acting at a high risk of self-harm. Roger Frederick Schnelle died on April 30, 2021 from self-inflicted head injuries, 20 days after he was admitted as an involuntary patient to Albury Wodonga Health's high-dependency mental health unit.

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## Firebrand Aussie senator exposes the silent epidemic killing some of Australia's most essential and trusted workers



Former veterinarian-turned-MP calls for an inquiry into silent epidemic Rates of suicide among vets is four times higher than average An outspoken Australian senator and former veterinarian has put a spotlight on the alarming number of vets who are taking their own lives.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Labor promises 800 extra health workers for Canberra if re-elected

Canberra Times, Other, 18/05/2024, Lucy Bladen

Labor has promised to employ an extra 800 health workers if it wins the ACT election, making its first commitment ahead of the October poll. The extra staff will be needed in the expanded Canberra Hospital , a new planned northside hospital and in new services at walk-in centres.

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### Families forced to wait up to three years to see paediatric specialists, or pay hefty costs for city appointments

ABC Online, Other, 18/05/2024, Liz Rymill

Jack Anderson is about to turn four. Like his little brother Ripley, he was born prematurely. For three years Jack was on a waiting list to be assessed for autism and ADHD, conditions for which, according to Autism Awareness Australia, early intervention and access to timely, specialised support is crucial.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Gels not a patch on HRT options

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 19/05/2024, Madeline Crittenden, Page 30

From headaches to anxiety, depression, rage and muscle aches, Naomi Weatherburn Reeves' menopause symptoms were at times so bad she struggled to leave home or go to work. But when she started to lose her train of thought and experienced bouts of brain fog, she knew she needed to see her doctor.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#)

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### Medicare cards 'do not need replacing'

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 18/05/2024, Page 30

Australians do not need to worry about replacing their Medicare cards following the hack of electronic prescriptions provider MediSecure, and are being urged to continue getting their medication. MediSecure on Thursday confirmed it identified a cybersecurity breach involving the personal and health information of individuals.

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**Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 18/05/2024, Chris Bath**

Business groups are using the cost-of-living relief measures that are included in this week's Federal budget to try to limit an increase in the minimum wage by almost \$3m for Australia's lowest-paid workers. The Federal budget includes stage three tax cuts for all workers, energy rebates for every household, a price freeze on PBS, prescriptions, a lift in Commonwealth rent assistance and a slight widening of JobSeeker eligibility. Employers claim putting even more money in people's pockets will fuel inflation and lead to job losses.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Online prescription provider MediSecure suffers large-scale ransomware attack

Cairns Post, Other, 16/05/2024, Eleanor Campbell

A small e-prescription company says a major data breach was likely caused by one of its third-party vendors. Digital prescription company MediSecure has shut down its website and phone lines after falling victim to a large-scale ransomware attack.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Licence suspended

Sunday Examiner, General News, 19/05/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 1

A former Launceston General Hospital manager who allegedly signed off on deaths that should have been referred to the state's coronial division has had his medical licence suspended. [...] Recently, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's has updated Dr Renshaw's registration status to 'suspended', which means he cannot practise medicine in Australia.

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### Perth psychologist barred from practising for starting sexual relationship with female client Claire Sadler

West Australian, Other, 18/05/2024, Claire Sadler

A Perth psychologist who specialised in post-traumatic stress disorder has been barred from practising for four years after starting a sexual relationship with a client. [...] Dr Brewer was contacted by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency a month later asking for him to respond to allegations he had an inappropriate sexual relationship with his client.

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

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### Former LGH head Dr Peter Renshaw's medical practitioner registration suspended amid allegations of falsifying death certificates

ABC Online, Other, 18/05/2024

The former boss of Tasmania's second-largest hospital has had his medical practitioner registration suspended after an investigation was launched into allegations he falsified several death certificates. [...] In a statement, a spokesperson for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) said the National Board only has the "power to suspend a practitioner using interim, 'immediate action' powers, while it undertakes an investigation or other process".

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### Veteran psychologist who had sex with a female client, 26, in his office learns his fate

A veteran psychologist who specialised in post-traumatic stress disorder has been barred from practising for four years for having a sexual relationship with a patient. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) contacted Dr Brewer in December 2021, asking for his response to allegations he had an inappropriate sexual relationship with the woman.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### State steps in to reverse a drought

Sunday Age, General News, 19/05/2024, Henrietta Cook, Page 11

To help hundreds of patients wanting to start a family, the Allan government has launched a campaign to encourage people to donate sperm and eggs to the country's first such public bank. About 350 patients are waiting up to two years for sperm and eggs from the bank, which opened at the Royal Women's Hospital in July as part of the new Public Fertility Care service.

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## SPORT

### Aqua aerobics popular among over-50s as water-based exercise helps people keep fit during retirement

ABC Online, Other, 18/05/2024, Amelia Walters

At 6 feet 2 inches tall, retired sheriff court officer Brett Rogers isn't the sort to get intimidated easily. Not even, it would seem, when he's thrown into a situation which, for many, would be out of one's comfort zone. The 70-year-old is the only bloke in his aqua aerobics class, and he's proud to admit he never felt fazed by that.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Risk of 'genetic discrimination' ruining trust in vital medical science

Canberra Times, Other, 18/05/2024, Brad Elphinstone

Should insurance companies even have access to your genetic data in the first place? This is known as "genetic discrimination", a practice already banned in some countries, including Canada. The Australian Treasury is working on a review of the relevant legislation, with insurance industry bodies arguing a total ban would raise life insurance bills.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Construction of new mobile tower a vital next step for Yarrabah, leaders say

The Mercury, Other, 18/05/2024, Angus McIntyre

Construction of a new mobile tower in Yarrabah has been hailed as an important first step, but local leaders say reliable internet connectivity in the community must be guaranteed in the long term. "Digital

access is critical for economic development here in Yarrabah," co-Chair of the Yarrabah Leaders' Forum Father Les Baird said.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### TB cases jumping

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 19/05/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 28

es of tuberculosis are on the rise in Queensland, with 30 per cent more cases so far this year than all of 2023. And the state government says the increase is due to migrants arriving from countries with high TB rates. While migrants are screened for TB before arrival, the disease can remain dormant and reactivate months or even years later.

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

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### Health warning issued for Victoria after new measles case reported at Melbourne International Airport

The Australian, Other, 18/05/2024, Emma Kirk

A new case of measles has been reported in Victoria – the 10th recorded for the state since the start of the year. The returned traveller tested positive to measles after transiting through Melbourne Airport's T2 international terminal between 9.15pm and 10.30pm on Wednesday. The infected traveller returned on Emirates flight EK408 from Dubai to Melbourne.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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### Mould menace stalks Sydney as record rains trigger health crisis

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/05/2024, Sofia Dmitrieva

Mould is slowly creeping its way back into homes across the state, after we thought it had been banished with the end of years of La Nina. But this month's incessant rainfall has shown it never left, it was just biding its time and waiting for revenge. Worse, after an El Nino summer that seemed to just bring humidity into our lives, the Bureau of Meteorology this week announced it is on La Niña watch.

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

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### Health alert: Whooping cough cases detected at primary school

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/05/2024, Peter Carruthers

A spike in a potentially fatal respiratory illness in babies and young children has sparked an alert from the Tropical Public Health Service. There has been an outbreak of the highly contagious whooping cough infection in the Cairns and Atherton Tableland areas that has especially impacted infants and children, according to the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service.

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

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### ABC Radio Darwin , Saturdays, 18/05/2024, Lyrella Couzens

A new study from the Menzies School of Health Research has found strong support from Northern Territory festival goers for pill testing. This comes ahead of the NT's biggest music festival, based on

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### My HRT hunt 'like a job'

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 19/05/2024, Madeline Crittenden, Page 22

From headaches, to anxiety, depression, rage and muscle aches, Naomi Weatherburn-Reeves' menopause symptoms were at times so bad she struggled to leave home or go to work. [...] According to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), there are 12 different types of HRT patches currently in short supply, with some not expected to return to stock until August, others are hoped to return by mid-June.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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### 'Ozempic is a dangerous game' warns doctor

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/05/2024, Zac Turner

A doctor has warned against a controversial drug that people are so desperate to use to lose weight, they're willing to buy illegal versions online. [...] Purchasing Ozempic off the internet means you are foregoing the rigorous tests and checks of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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### Aussie mum Gemma was told she had a year to live. Nearly five years later she's defied all odds

7news.com.au, Other, 18/05/2024, Jacqueline Mey

When mum-of-two Gemma Farquhar was 35, she was told she most likely wouldn't make her 36th birthday. [...] Gemma is supporting the Stronger PBS campaign by raising awareness for better access to safe and effective medications the moment they are approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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