



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 21st May 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (page 1) reports state premiers have called for clarity on impending changes to the NDIS announced in the budget, in a joint submission to a Senate inquiry due to examine the issue this week.
- The **Courier Mail** (page 1) reports health experts are calling on the government to sharpen its community education campaign about services at satellite hospitals after new data showed over 1,100 patients with life-threatening illnesses attended in the first three months of 2024.
- **The Australian** (page 2) reports patient prescriptions and GP and healthcare provider private information has leaked in the MediSecure data breach, with the organisation to contact affected individuals "as soon as possible". *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#), [Courier Mail](#), [7news.com.au](#)*
- The **Herald Sun** (page 4) reports two Melbourne doctors have been suspended by the AHPRA after the death of a woman during a surgical abortion amidst allegations they were not authorised to practice at the facility where the surgery was performed.
- **The Age** (page 6) reports Victoria's nurses and midwives have rejected a new pay rise offer believed to be as high as 23 per cent over four years, saying they want certainty on the

proposed rises, which may be affected by an FWC decision on pay rises for aged care nurses.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#), [9News](#)

- The [West Australian](#) (page 6) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has announced a new bulk-billing urgent care centre for the south-eastern Perth suburb Armadale.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 6) reports WA AMA president Michael Page has welcomed planned Coalition incentives for junior doctors, but warned cuts to skilled migration would send the health system backward.
- [ABC Online](#) reports BUPA, Medibank and NIB say they will continue to subsidise Ozempic and Saxenda after competing private health insurer HBF said it will reduce rebates for the medications amidst an "unsustainable" rise in claims.

MINISTER BUTLER

Bulk-billed clinic set for Armadale

West Australian, General News, 21/05/2024, Page 6

Residents in Perth's booming south-eastern suburbs will have access to walk-in, fully bulkbilled medical care in Armadale. The Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is one of 29 new clinics to be established around the country as part of a \$227 million expansion of the program announced in the Albanese Government's latest Budget. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Armadale clinic would allow more West Australians to access high-quality care without having to wait in hospital emergency departments to be seen by a doctor.

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

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Doctor help, good in practice

West Australian, General News, 21/05/2024, Gabrielle Becerra Mellet, Page 6

Junior doctors would be offered \$32,500 in incentives under a Coalition government as part of a \$400 million investment to ease GP shortages. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has flagged the Government would spend \$90 million over three years to speed up measures for foreign doctors and nurses to work in Australia.

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

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Violi push for urgent care

Lilydale Star Mail, General News, 21/05/2024, Callum Ludwig, Page 6

Support for some of the most pressing healthcare concerns in Australia received some support in the 2023/24 Federal Budget. [...] The announcement will bring the number of UCCs around the country to 87 and Health Minister Mark Butler said Medicare Urgent Care Clinics are already fulfilling their promise by making sure Australians can walk in and receive urgent care quickly and for free.

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More overseas-trained GPs for Melton, Bacchus Marsh

Melton & Moorabool Star Weekly, General News, 21/05/2024, Page 3

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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Hunter GP fees' new high

Newcastle Herald, General News, 21/05/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

The average out-of-pocket cost for Hunter patients to see a GP has risen to \$48 - the highest on record

for the district, Medicare data shows. [...] The federal Minister for Health, Mark Butler, said "this year's increase to Medicare rebates was the second-largest increase in the past 30 years".

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Premiers unite in call for social media bans for kids

Canberra Times, Other, 20/05/2024, Sam Mckeith

Millions of Australian children could be barred from using social media platforms under age-limit changes floated by state premiers who want bolstered protections for young people against online harm. The leaders of NSW, Queensland and Victoria united on Monday in a push to lift age minimums on major operators such as the Meta-owned Facebook and Instagram, and TikTok. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the age limit was still being worked out as a verification trial was completed using funding allocated in the recent budget.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#).

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Care network to take the collective fight to cancer

Canberra Times, Other, 21/05/2024, Abe Maddison

A new network linking cancer services across the nation will aim to improve outcomes and experiences for all Australians affected by the disease. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the network was a crucial step forward in ensuring that every Australian, regardless of their background or location, received the best possible cancer care.

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

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GP shortage 'terrifying' says Mark Butler, Federal Minister for Health

ABC Online, Other, 20/05/2024, Leon Compton, Brooke Van and Rachel Edwards

Dr Liz Gray I'm really concerned where are the GPs coming from when we've got a shortage of GPs throughout our country without taking them from other areas is one point. The next is the nurse practitioner, Medicare rebate is inadequate to recompense the cost of a bulk billing clinic. [...] Mark Butler My diary is chockers this weekend, unfortunately, Liz.

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UCCs 'drag GPs away from their regular jobs'

The Medical Republic, Other, 20/05/2024, Laura Woodrow

Tasmania will get one more new urgent care clinic this year, but local doctors are split over what it means for the workforce. The federal Health Minister has been in the firing line of the Tasmanian government and local GPs for very different reasons, after the announcement of a new urgent care clinic in Tasmania. Mark Butler flew to Tasmania this morning to discuss the state's fifth federally-funded UCC – one of 29 new urgent care clinics promised in the \$277-million expansion of the Medicare UCC program in the 2024-25 federal budget.

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Attention home care providers: IHACPA's first look into Support at Home costs

The Weekly Source, Other, 20/05/2024, Caroline Egan

The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA)'s first home care costing study will be used to inform the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, to support pricing for Support at Home. The 83-page report 'Support at Home Costing Study' was conducted by global management consultants and auditors Ernst & Young on 48 providers across a range of sizes and locations.

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ABC News, ABC News Tonight, 20/05/2024, Manny Tsigas

New ultraviolet light technology that could help reduce the level of Covid 19 in aged care homes is being trialled in Victoria. The technology will be installed in the ceilings of common areas and will

measure whether infection can be killed at the source.

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ABC, ABC News, 20/05/2024, Guy Stayner

The federal government has announced a new bulk billing urgent care clinic will be set up in Hobart's northern suburbs, the fifth of its kind in the state. The Tasmanian government says the commitment isn't enough and health stakeholders remain focused on other parts of the system they say need help.

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WIN Toowoomba, WIN News Darling Downs, 20/05/2024, Jared Constable

Some rural communities are worried about their access to mental health services despite the latest Federal Budget's efforts to address funding issues. Only 14% of psychiatrists who practise in rural areas are raising concerns over allocated mental health support. Health Minister Mark Butler says the allocated \$29.8 million in the budget will upgrade existing health networks.

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Triple M Hobart, Breakfast, 20/05/2024, Kaz McMullen and Andy 'Tubes' Taylor

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Minister of Health, on the Federal Government announcing an urgent care clinic for Bridgewater which is very much needed by Tasmania's health system that is in somewhat of a crisis. Butler says the Commonwealth provides a lot of funding into the hospital system which is, almost half and they are going to increase that share over the coming few years. He adds that the states run the hospitals and that's how it should be. He adds that urgent care clinics are very important because they provide that extra care and decongest the hospital system.

Interview continues on: [Triple M Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [Triple M Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [Triple M Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

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ABC Radio Adelaide, 13:00 News, 20/05/2024

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says a lack of junior doctors training as general practitioners in Australia is terrifying. The Albanese Government has announced a fifth urgent care clinic will open in Tasmania's south. Asked how the urgent care clinics would be staffed, Butler said more doctors needed to be encouraged to move to general practice.

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ABC Radio Hobart, 14:00 News, 20/05/2024

The Albanese Government announced a fifth urgent care clinic for Tasmania to reduce congestion within the state's stretched hospital system. It forms part of a \$28m health care investment for Tasmania. Tas Health Minister Guy Barnett says the Commonwealth has failed to adequately invest in the state's primary health care system. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the Tas Government already receives a greater share of per capita funding.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 20/05/2024, Leon Compton

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Minister of Health, on the Federal Government announcement that one of the new urgent care clinics promised in the Federal Budget will be set up in Bridgewater, Tasmania. Butler says they are hoping that it will open in 2024 or 2025 because the funding is for the next financial year, but he would love to see it open before the end of this year. He adds they stood up 58 of them last year across the country, including four in Tas and they got a pretty good record at standing them up quickly, but we've got to go to a tender process and it will take a little bit of time.

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MINISTER WELLS

The Zap: all the non-Budget health and aged care news – and also a question about the “razzamatazz of Budget night”

Croakey, Other, 20/05/2024, Melissa Sweet

With the Federal Budget hogging headlines, The Zap this week puts a focus on news you might have missed, including a call from the Department of Health and Ageing for nominations from people interested in serving on a new First Nations Health Governance Group (applications are due by midnight on Friday, 7 June). [...] The exception to the Budget focus was a statement by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, announcing the winners of a design competition for innovative residential aged care accommodation meeting the requirements of the draft National Aged Care Design Principles and Guidelines.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Deadly error rate in WA hospitals on the increase

West Australian, General News, 21/05/2024, Jake Dietsch, Page 10

Twenty-three errors that resulted in death or serious harm to patients occurred in WA hospitals in one year. [...] The figures have emerged as Federal Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney was in Perth to announce reforms to midwifery, including that midwives would have less oversight from doctors and \$50 million for scholarships to pay midwife students during their placements.

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

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Labor's 'genocide' senator backed

West Australian, General News, 21/05/2024, Page 14

A Labor frontbencher has backed Senator Fatima Payman, who broke party ranks by labelling the war in Gaza "genocide" and concluded with the controversial slogan; "From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free" a chant viewed as a call to wipe out the Israeli state. Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney was in Perth on Monday to announce an urgent care clinic in Armadale when she defended the WA Labor senator as "a great contributor" and a "wonderful senator".

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

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Federal govt invests \$56m in midwifery care

Business News WA, Other, 20/05/2024, Ava Rawlings

Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney has detailed a \$56.5 million investment to increase the number of midwifery services covered by Medicare. Health Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney has detailed a \$56.5 million investment to increase the number of midwifery services covered by Medicare.

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Channel 7, Seven News WA at 4pm, 20/05/2024, Samantha Jolly

The Federal Government has invested more than \$55m to help solve WA's midwife crisis. The Health Minister has announced scholarships and paid placements for nursing students. The investment will

also see new items added to the Medicare Benefits Scheme. Federal Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney says there have been many barriers to midwives accessing the MBS and PBS and providing that care.

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6PR, 11:00 News, 20/05/2024

Perth's south eastern suburbs will be getting a new Medicare urgent care clinic. It's hoped the centre will take the pressure off Armidale Hospital which has reported 40% of its ED presentations in 2022 and last year to be semi-urgent or non-urgent matters. It'll be WA's eighth bulk-billed urgent care clinic, but Federal Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney doesn't know when it will be operational.

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ABC Radio Perth, 14:00 News, 20/05/2024

Federal Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney says the debate over a controversial pro-Palestine chant is a serious distraction from the dire situation in Gaza. Her comments come after Labor Senator Fatima Payman last week accused Israel of genocide and used the phrase "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free".

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

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CORONAVIRUS

COVID conspiracy theorists' new target

The Nightly, General News, 20/05/2024, Kate Emery, Page 15

The COVID-19 pandemic broke some people and afterwards, to bastardise Ernest Hemingway, not everyone was stronger at the broken places. I'm not talking about those who lost loved ones to the virus, who have suffered the debilitating effects of long COVID or those dealing with the current surge of cases that has seen 15 deaths in WA alone in the past two weeks.

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FLiRT-ing with a new COVID-19 wave

Canberra Times, Other, 20/05/2024, Jessica Belzycki

As the weather gets colder, Australians should expect a winter wave of a new COVID-19 strain. The 'FLiRT' sublineages, including KP.2 and KP.3, stem from JN.1, which dominated infections early this year. KP.2 made up around 50 per cent of COVID-19 infections in NSW up until May 4, according to NSW Health. While the Department of Health, Victoria found KP.3 and other JN.1 variants were in wastewater in "increasing abundance" in their May 17 report.

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Setback to aged care

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/05/2024, Page 11

Australia's hopes of innovation in aged care have suffered a major setback after the federal budget, according to aged care provider McLean Care. McLean Care CEO Sue Thomson said the government must prioritise funding for innovation to ensure a future world class aged care service that Australians can rely on. She said the Federal Government had failed to respond to the recommendations of the Aged Care Taskforce report in the 2024 Budget.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Australian Ageing Agenda \(Online\)](#), [Australian Seniors News \(Online\)](#)

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Kiama 'over-investment' in aged care costs other areas

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 21/05/2024, Glen Humphries, Page 7

Sporting groups and vital stormwater infrastructure may have missed out on funding due to Kiama council's continued investment in Blue Haven, a report to a state government inquiry reads. The council has lodged a submission to the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on State Development inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services.

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Community-run no more

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 21/05/2024, Ben Silvester, Page 1

Lyndoch Living will be swallowed up by a larger aged care organisation after failing to shrug off years of financial strife. The Warrnambool aged care facility announced it would merge with Respect Group Limited on June 1, 2024. Lyndoch has had a catastrophic few years, with poor strategic decisions destroying a once enviable financial position.

Also reported by: [The Weekly Source \(Online\)](#)

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New research recommends a Mediterranean-style diet for older Australians

SBS, Other, 20/05/2024

New research has found consuming more nuts, fruit and legumes and fewer sugary drinks may help people aged over 60 feel less anxious and stressed. The study, led by the University of the Sunshine Coast, suggests a Mediterranean style diet is also associated with fewer symptoms of depression.

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National Palliative Care Week: Volunteers support integral for care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 20/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Last year in February, Wally Kewley and his wife Jackie were making plans for their next adventure to Vietnam. However, their plans were put on a halt, and lives turned upside down when Wally was diagnosed with brain cancer, immediately needing urgent surgery.

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Oldest QLD resident celebrates 107th birthday

Aged Care Insite, Other, 20/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

One of Queensland's oldest residents blew out 107 candles (not really!) on Thursday, surrounded by family and aged care staff. Lutheran Services' Zion Aged Care resident Mavis Radcliffe, was born in 1917 - at the cusp of World War I. According to her birth certificate, she was born in Brisbane on May 18, but grew up believing her birthday was on the 16th.

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Calvary Hallam to cease operations this year

Residential aged care home Calvary Hallam will cease operations by October of this year as the home assesses the future use of the site to deliver modern connected care across its services. The home, located in Melbourne's southeast, considered modernising the existing building design but determined such work was not practical for staff or residents, who would have to relocate throughout the process.

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Cultural diversity set to boom among older Australians

Australian Seniors News, Other, 20/05/2024

New projections show how migrant backgrounds and cultural and linguistic diversity are set to boom among older Australians, according to a new research brief on migration and ageing, published by the ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR). Over the last decade, the average Australian has become one year older and three percentage points more likely to have been born overseas.

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Who will look after the elderly in Australia?

In Daily, Other, 20/05/2024

Last week we discussed just how big the demand for aged care will be in the coming decades. More than half of all people aged 85+ will need some sort of care. This care can be provided by family members or professional aged carers. Since we are doubling the 85+ population in the next 14 years from 586,000 to 1,189,000, we can be sure that the need for aged care workers will grow at roughly the same rate.

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Updated guidelines on preventing and managing poor bone health in the over 50s

Medicine Today, Other, 20/05/2024, Rebecca Jenkins

Updated evidence-based recommendations on preventing and managing poor bone in older patients have been released by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) in partnership with Healthy Bones Australia. First published in 2017, the latest edition of the Osteoporosis Prevention, Diagnosis and Management in Postmenopausal Women and Men Over 50 Years of Age guideline aims to help GPs manage patients over 50 years of age with poor bone health, including osteopenia and osteoporosis.

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Landmark plea: village call to unite

The Senior, Other, 20/05/2024, Eileen Wood

This June there'll be a call to arms across retirement villages nationwide, following a report detailing the shocking level of resident-on-residence psychological abuse and aggression within villages. A year ago The Ageing Without Fear research by the Retirement Village Residents Association NSW, sent shockwaves across the retirement living sector generating a desperate plea from industry bodies for action.

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\$30M seniors housing development The Alexander Luxury Living planned to transform mansion in Mosman, Sydney's 9th wealthiest suburb

The Weekly Source, Other, 20/05/2024, Ian Horswill

Twilight Aged Care, which owns and operates six aged care facilities in Sydney, is expanding into retirement villages. It has lodged plans by Calderflower Architecture to build 23 independent living units on a 7648 sqm site, within 500m of the town...

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Survivors demand real change

Shepparton News, General News, 21/05/2024, Kady Hadjab, Page 4

"Women never stay in abusive relationships by choice. It's just that they have nowhere else to go." This is the message from Emra, a victim-survivor and domestic violence advocate. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveals a grim reality: in 2020-21, a woman was killed by her partner every 15 days.

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Fear factor: how to stay alive

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 21/05/2024, Evan Morgan, Page 8

A person in Australia is nearly 400 times more likely to be bitten by a dog than be attacked by a crocodile but it is the latter that strikes fear into people's hearts. [...] In July last year, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released its report Injury in Australia: Contact with Living Things, revealing 28,000 hospitalisations in the country, with 27 deaths for the period 2021-2022.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#)

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Regional women are prime targets for DV offenders. So why is nobody talking about this?

Canberra Times, Other, 20/05/2024, Carla Mascarenhas

How many more aims to expose and stop violence against women in the regions, where the problem is most severe but support is most lacking. ACM is pushing for more funding for preventative and protective programs, now. [...] AIHW 2023 data also shows they are 32 times more likely to be hospitalised because of family violence.

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10,000 mental health patients turned away from Hunter emergency departments

Newcastle Herald, Other, 20/05/2024, Damon Cronshaw

Presentations to emergency departments in the Hunter's primary health network rose 10 per cent in seven years to more than 17,000 people a year, federal government data shows. The figures can be revealed as a NSW government gap analysis, released on Sunday, showed 58,000 people a year across the state with severe needs were missing out on care. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows mental health-related presentations in emergency departments rose 13 per cent nationally from 254,901 in 2014-15 to 287,419 in 2022-23.

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Wastewater drug monitoring finds the wealthy drink more than lower socio-economic counterparts

ABC Online, Other, 20/05/2024, Kenji Sato, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Australians are drinking nearly 30 per cent less alcohol today than they were seven years ago, scientists have discovered. A National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program study has found Australians from wealthier areas drank more alcohol than their lower socio-economic counterparts.

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Should more tax be applied to vapes?

ABC Online, Other, 20/05/2024

The Federal Government is expected to lose \$23 million in revenue over a number of years as Australians quit smoking. Many are picking up vaping instead, so should more taxes be applied to vapes and e-cigarettes? ABC NewsRadio's Sarah Dingle spoke to Professor Becky Freeman from the University of Sydney who's been researching tobacco control.

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'He died in my arms': Grieving Perth dad calls for change after son's choking death

9News, Other, 20/05/2024, Emily McPherson

A Perth father has spoken of his devastation and called for change after his 22-month-old son died after choking on a grape. Brian Bwoga was with his two sons on a mother's group outing at Burns Beach, near the Illuka Foreshore, when the tragedy occurred on January 15. [...] Statistics from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show there were 134 injury cases of choking and suffocation relating to food among children aged four and under in 2021-2022.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

'I felt the lump while feeding my baby'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 21/05/2024, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 8

An Adelaide mum, who was diagnosed with breast cancer at only 37 years old, said she wouldn't be here today for her young daughter if it wasn't for medical research. Jacqui Faliszewski was breastfeeding two-year-old Evie when she felt a lump in her breast in 2021.

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

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Terminal teacher now looks for the positive

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/05/2024, Genevieve Holding, Page 3

Primary school teacher Peter Rasmussen has found his perspective has changed since being diagnosed with terminal cancer. Mr Rasmussen, a father of three and husband to Kirsten, was diagnosed with an inoperable stage 2 brain tumour, giving him between seven and 10 years to live.

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Ballarat bowel cancer survivor welcomes extended screening

Ballarat Courier, General News, 21/05/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 2

Bowel cancer campaigners have welcomed news that bowel cancer screening has been extended to people aged 45 to 49. For years Australians have received a 'gift' from the federal government after turning 50, with a bowel cancer screening kit arriving in the mail. [...] Ballarat bowel cancer survivor Simon Ward has been part of the Bowel Cancer Australia's '50 under 50' campaign to lobby government to extend the screening program.

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Shining light on hidden condition

Border Mail, General News, 21/05/2024, Page 7

Seven-year-old Kaiden Eley may seem like any other growing child at first glance, but he faces a unique challenge. A rare genetic condition, little understood by health professionals and even less by the general public, threatens to cut his young life short. His mother, Tegan Eley, said she was "shocked" and "confused" when a doctor gave the diagnosis of neurofibromatosis in 2022, when Kaiden was five-years-old.

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Klim's taking the fight up to illness

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 21/05/2024, Fiona Byrne, Page 14

Swimming great Michael Klim is using the mental toughness that earned him Olympic gold and world records to fight the neurological disorder that has profoundly changed his life. The once seemingly invincible athlete was diagnosed in June 2020 with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP), a neurological disorder that can cause weakness, wasting and sensory loss in the limbs.

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Peak body for general practitioners and Bunbury-based Young Veterans want a 'fair go' for veterans' health

West Australian, Other, 21/05/2024, Claudette Rizzi

Australia's peak body for doctors and a Bunbury-based veteran support group have called for more to be done to treat ex-servicepeople with chronic conditions. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners called for improvements to the Coordinated Veterans' Care Program in a recent review, suggesting more could be done to ensure they did not miss out on vital care.

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Treating endometriosis with ice therapy, The Siege of Cusco, New Music

ABC Online, Other, 20/05/2024, Suzanne Hill

Endometriosis is an often painful condition that affects around one-in-nine women. Usually, the treatment involves medicine and surgery, but researchers in Adelaide are exploring ice therapy specifically, the Wim Hof Method. Dr Joe Milton, a Science Communicator with the Australian Science Media Centre, and Dr Kelsi Dodds, an Endometriosis expert at Flinders University, spoke about the latest research.

[Read More](#)

Erin Molan in tears as she shares tragic news about brave youngster Maddy Suy

NEWS.com.au, Other, 20/05/2024, Joshua Haigh

Erin Molan cried on air on Monday after she announced some tragic news to listeners. The 2Day FM's Hughesy, Ed & Erin co-host announced that brave youngster Maddy Suy has lost her battle with brain cancer. Nine-year-old Maddy was a regular on Hughesy, Ed & Erin, and recently got to enjoy her final Taylor Swift concert — despite the massive brain tumour that was assaulting her body.

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Jana Pittman mourns death of long-time coach Jackie Byrnes

7news.com.au, Other, 20/05/2024, Glenn Valencich

The Australian world champion is 'forever grateful' but still wonders 'what could have been'. Australian athletics world champion Jana Pittman is mourning the death of Jackie Byrnes, her long-time coach who masterminded her journey from junior gold medallist to Olympic athlete.

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

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Asthma resources

Medicine Today, Other, 20/05/2024

National Asthma Council Australia has launched the following new asthma resources: a new instructional video showing the use of a pressurised metered dose inhaler and spacer for adults with asthma; a new instructional video showing the correct way to use a metered dose inhaler, spacer and face mask for parents of children with asthma; and an updated allergic rhinitis treatments chart.

[Read More](#)

Planning for predicted worldwide surge in prostate cancer cases

Medicine Today, Other, 20/05/2024, Melanie Hinze

Prostate cancer cases are expected to double worldwide between 2020 and 2040, according to the recently published Lancet Commission on prostate cancer. The Commission reported projections of prostate cancer cases in 2040 on the basis of data for demographic changes worldwide and rising life expectancy, finding that the number of new cases annually would rise from 1.4 million in 2020 to 2.9 million by 2040.

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospital confusion

Courier Mail, General News, 21/05/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 1

More than a dozen Queenslanders a day are mistakenly turning up to the state's "satellite hospitals" in urgent need of lifesaving care, reigniting concerns patients are being put at risk by the misnomer. Queensland Health data revealed 1147 patients with "imminently life threatening" ailments had presented at the centres in the first three months of 2024.

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

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Journo hit in hospital parking crackdown

Border Mail, General News, 21/05/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 2

An ABC Goulburn Murray radio journalist has been dealt a ticket from a council officer while asking about Albury hospital car parking issues. Jason Katsaras was questioning NSW Upper House MP Amanda Cohn during a media conference on the edge of East Street outside Albury hospital on the afternoon of Monday.

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Ambos queue up for hours at GV Health

Shepparton News, General News, 21/05/2024, Taylah Baker, Page 2

Concerning footage has shown ambulances queued outside Goulburn Valley Health, with reports indicating crews waited up to nine hours overnight. On Tuesday, May 7, nine ambulances were seen lined up outside GV Health, while another bystander later counted 13 ramped ambulances.

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

Enough to fill biggest hospital

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 21/05/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 5

The number of Queenslanders languishing in hospital longer than needed due to a lack of aged care or disability help has hit a new high, despite the state government pumping in \$200m to combat the issue. There were 964 long-stay patients across the state as of the end of February - enough to fill nearly every bed at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

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Healthcare on track

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 21/05/2024, Cameron Bates, Page 5

Both the Townsville and North West hospital and health services are claiming improvements in service despite ever-increasing numbers of patients. "Townsville University Hospital continues to prioritise the most acutely unwell patients as we work through wait lists and manage sustained levels of high demand on all areas of our health service," THHS chief executive Kieran Keyes said.

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

'Never been worse': Queensland Labor sees record ambulance ramping

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/05/2024

Sky News host Paul Murray slams the Queensland Labor government over the climbing rates of "ambulance ramping". "Ambulance ramping, the amount of time an ambulance spends with a person in the back not being able to drop them off at a hospital is now at record levels," Mr Murray said.

[Read More](#)

Inside look: Brisbane south's new satellite hospital

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 20/05/2024, Jonathan O'Neill

A new satellite hospital, set to open next week in Brisbane's south, is hoped will take pressure off strained emergency departments across the city. Jonathan O'Neill Southern Star Local residents were

given their first look inside the new Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital, set to open next week.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 20/05/2024, Sharyn Ghidella and Max Futcher

Qld Premier Steven Miles admits the Qld Government's hospital building program is playing catch up to deliver more beds. Miles is standing by the Health Minister as the LNP tries to turn up the heat on the health crisis. The \$14b health infrastructure program includes satellite hospitals and hospital expansions in the push to alleviate pressure off the front line.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 20/05/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Queensland ambulances are reportedly being taken off the road 25 times a week to take prisoners to hospital. Prison officers say sometimes it is happening for no reason at all, and it's simply because nursing staff aren't available at the jails. New data has shown that ambulance ramping has hit a record high in Queensland with 45% of patients having to wait more than half an hour to be admitted into an emergency department.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental health and the 'missing middle'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 21/05/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 4

About 120,000 people in the Hunter region live with "high levels of psychological distress", a new mental health report shows. Furthermore, about 18,000 people in the region aged 25 to 64 live with a severe mental illness. The data emerged with the release of a NSW government gap analysis that found people were "experiencing increasing levels of mental health issues".

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

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

Self-harm rates like a new virus epidemic: Qld chief health officer John Gerrard

The Courier Mail, Other, 21/05/2024, Hayden Johnson

Queensland's chief health officer has backed The Let Them Be Kids campaign's calls on the federal government to raise the age limit for social media to 16. The American social psychologist and author details the alarming rates of suicidal thoughts and self-harm creeping in on young people as a result of social media.

[Read More](#)

AMAQ calls on Queensland Government to fund LGBTQIA+ suicide register in state budget

ABC Online, Other, 20/05/2024, Janelle Miles

General practitioner Dr James Allen lost two patients to suicide at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, triggering his own mental health crisis. The Queensland-based GP took a year off work to deal with the psychological fallout from his patients' deaths, which happened within two months of each other in 2021.

[Read More](#)

New standard on psychotropic medicine use

Medicine Today, Other, 20/05/2024

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare has launched a new clinical care standard on the mindful use of psychotropic medicine for people with cognitive disability or impairment. The standard aims to curb the inappropriate use of psychotropic medicines and promote patient safety.

Channel 7, Sunrise, 20/05/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Dr Ginni Mansberg, Sunrise GP. According to new research, the popular keto diet could help reduce stress and boost mental health with benefits increasing over time. There's already scientific evidence it can help treat people with type 2 diabetes and epilepsy but now, the diet is being explored as a potential treatment plan for mental illness. Mansberg says it turns out that the brain loves eating ketones instead of just having sugar all the time and new research shows that it could reduce more serious mental health issues like anxiety, depression, and even loneliness.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses, midwives reject new pay offer in shock decision

Age, General News, 21/05/2024, Jewel Topsfield, Page 6

Victoria's nurses and midwives have voted to reject a new pay offer in a shock decision that left their union's leadership reeling after they had agreed to an in-principle deal with the Allan government. Industrial action, including the closure of one in four hospital beds and the cancellation of some elective surgery, was suspended on Friday after the government struck the deal with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

When will we start taking women's birth trauma seriously?

West Australian, General News, 21/05/2024, Alix Woolard, Page 37

When it comes to childbirth, what's good for mum is good for bub. But right now, we are failing our parents in what should be among the happiest moments of their lives. In our childhood trauma research team at Embrace @ Telethon Kids Institute, we're all too aware that the wellbeing of the family unit plays such a vital role in the mental health and development of children.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Unions push for more in public sector pay deal

Newcastle Herald, General News, 21/05/2024, Jack Gramenz and Sam McKeith, Page 2

State workers have been offered wage increases worth billions of dollars but unions want more for tens of thousands of essential workers in NSW. More than 400,000 of the state's public sector employees are being offered a 10.5 per cent pay rise over three years, including a mandatory increase in superannuation payments.

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

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Entire Hunter ambulance station stands down over roster dispute

Newcastle Herald, Other, 20/05/2024

Paramedics at the Rutherford ambulance station have stood down, after planned union action was denied by their management. A rostering dispute is at the heart of the disagreement, which has seen paramedic crews sent hours away to fill shortfalls in other areas.

AMA facing backlash over its constitutional revamp

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/05/2024, Rachel Carter

The proposed amendments will be voted on at the AMA's AGM on Wednesday. A vote on AMA Tasmania's future is two days away. It wants to become a branch of the federal AMA to stay sustainable. The complication is that two other state AMAs are against proposed changes to the federal constitution that are essentially prerequisites for the merger.

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

[Read More](#)

No extra indemnity fees for pharmacists in Qld prescribing pilot: Guild Insurance

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/05/2024, Sarah Simpkins

The insurer has updated its policies to cover pharmacists participating in prescribing pilots. Pharmacists who start prescribing S4 medicines in Queensland or any other scope of practice pilot will not face higher premiums, according to the leading pharmacist indemnity provider.

[Read More](#)

Let us 'finish the job': Guild leader

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 20/05/2024, John Smith

With negotiations for the 8CPA ongoing one Guild state branch leader says "it is vital" that those currently involved in the process are backed in the organisation's ongoing election.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Gels not a patch on HRT options

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 21/05/2024, Madeline Crittenden, Page 14

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. [...] All patches are on the PBS, costing about \$25 or \$7.70 for those with a healthcare card. However, the most popular and commonly prescribed gel isn't covered, meaning women like Ms Weatherburn-Reeves are paying more than \$30 for each prescription.

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

Ozempic is forcing Australia's major private health insurers to rethink their rebates amid global shortage

ABC Online, Other, 20/05/2024, Ruby Littler

Australia's biggest private health insurers have pledged to continue subsidising diabetes and weight loss medication Ozempic, following HBF's decision to slash rebates for the drug. HBF, which dominates the health insurance market in Western Australia, is cutting rebates for weight loss drugs including Ozempic, saying the rise in claims has become unsustainable. [...] He's unable to access rebates under the National Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and relies on private health insurance policies for rebates.

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

[Read More](#)

Reduced dispensing of immediate-release opioids following tightened PBS restrictions

Medicine Today, Other, 20/05/2024, Emily Lathlean

PBS-subsidised dispensing of opioid medications declined during the 12 months following the June

2020 changes to the PBS, according to a recent Australian study. In response to concerns about the high number of deaths and hospitalisations due to prescription opioids, the PBS changes included tightening of PBS prescribing restrictions for publicly subsidised opioid medications and the introduction of half-pack product formulations for immediate-release (IR) opioid medications.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 20/05/2024, Georgia Stynes

The use of the diabetes drug Ozempic for weight loss is being hotly debated among private health insurers. HBF is cutting its rebates for the drug, saying it's hugely overrepresented in claims despite only being prescribed to 3% of its customers. Other insurers will continue rebates, saying Ozempic can help to prevent obesity-related illness.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

MediSecure breach: scripts, GPs leaked

The Australian, General News, 21/05/2024, Joseph Lam, Page 2

Patient prescriptions and GP and healthcare provider private information were leaked in last week's MediSecure data breach. Cyber Security Co-ordinator Michelle McGuinness on Monday said the prescriptions of patients who had used MediSecure's electronic prescription service until November last year had been compromised.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Premiers issue NDIS warning to Shorten

Age, General News, 21/05/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

State premiers have accused Bill Shorten of making hasty changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, warning that Australians with a disability will be worse off unless he slows his plans to clamp down on the \$44 billion program. In a rare joint submission outlining their fears, state and territory leaders said the federal NDIS minister had not made clear who would be in or out of the scheme, or which supports people would have access to, before he introduced new laws to parliament in March.

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Embrace the future

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 20/05/2024, Chris Brooker

Pharmacists should "embrace and lead the agenda" in using artificial intelligence as supportive tools to enhance their clinical practice, say hospital pharmacy researchers.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

More doc bans on surgery death

Herald Sun, General News, 21/05/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 4

Two more doctors have been suspended after a Melbourne mum died shortly after surgery at a local women's health clinic. Beloved mother of two Harjit Kaur died after a surgical abortion in January at Hampton Park Women's Health Clinic. [...] An Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency spokesman would not comment on the suspensions.

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

Doc pleads not guilty to patient assault

West Australian, Edition Changes, 21/05/2024, Lauren Price, Page 10

A Perth gynaecologist accused of indecently assaulting a woman during a medical procedure has denied the allegation. [...] It was also revealed in court that the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency had investigated him.

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

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Doctor's licence cancelled over misconduct

Border Mail, General News, 21/05/2024, Page 3

A Wodonga doctor has had his licence cancelled for misconduct after giving misleading information, breaching conditions of his registration, and failing to transfer patients when he closed the Whitebox Rise Medical Centre. Health authorities received complaints from another doctor, a pharmacist and a patient about Godwin Mbachilin over a range of issues.

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Inmate repeatedly asked for medical help

Border Mail, General News, 21/05/2024, Page 9

Custody management changes have been made following the death of a southern NSW woman, with the care provided to her while in jail found to have been inadequate. The inmate made multiple requests to be hospitalised, which never took place.

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Man who died after hours in ambulance 'should never have remained ramped'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 20/05/2024, Tim Arvier

Paramedics repeatedly raised the alarm about a man who waited for hours in an ambulance outside a Queensland hospital last week, before he suffered a heart attack and died. Leaked emails obtained by Nine News show paramedics escalated their concerns to hospital bosses, with a senior doctor later declaring the patient "should never have remained ramped".

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

[Read More](#)

Scandal-ridden Launceston General Hospital boss Peter Renshaw could have medical registration cancelled

The Mercury, Other, 20/05/2024, Amber Wilson

A scandal-ridden director who worked as a Launceston General Hospital boss for decades has been suspended from medical practice. What could happen next before a tribunal > A scandal-ridden medical director who worked as a Launceston General Hospital boss for decades has been suspended from practice. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) website states he "cannot practise in Australia".

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

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 20/05/2024, Manny Tsigas

A man has pleaded not guilty to indecently assaulting a woman during a medical procedure in Perth's southern suburbs, police say. Angamuthu Shenbagavalli Kalaivanan was working as a doctor specialising in obstetrics and gynaecology at the time of the alleged incident in February 2022.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 20/05/2024, Melissa Downes

A Gold Coast man has died after waiting hours in the back of an ambulance before suffering a heart attack. Leaked emails obtained exclusively by Nine News show paramedics escalated their concerns to

Gold Coast University Hospital bosses with one senior doctor declaring the patient should never have remained ramped.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Baby, we really miss you

The Australian, General News, 21/05/2024, Greg Ip and Janet Adamy, Page 12

Birthrates are falling fast across right across the globe, and with the decline comes alarming economic, social and geopolitical consequences. The world is at a startling demographic mile stone. Sometime soon, the global fertility rate will drop below the point needed to keep population constant. It may have already happened.

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

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

Low blood donation storages as sickness grips Victoria

7news.com.au, Other, 20/05/2024, Melissa Meehan

Lifeblood Red Cross says it needs 1200 people donating blood every day to meet demand. Victoria's blood donation levels are dangerously low as the cold and flu season hits hard, forcing would-be donors to cancel. Red Cross Lifeblood has launched an immediate call for donors as reserves of most blood types drop to critical levels.

[Read More](#)

As a GP who provides gender-affirming care, I'm rattled by the UK move against puberty blockers

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/05/2024, Corinne Glenn

The UK's Cass Review should not be a blueprint for gender-affirming care in Australia. Headed by paediatrician Dr Hilary Cass, the NHS-commissioned review recommends against puberty blockers for most children who identify as transgender, with Dr Cass citing the "remarkably weak evidence" in support of medical intervention.

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SPORT

Leichhardt Oval has PM's home ground advantage

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 21/05/2024, Page 18

We can but admire the alacrity with which governments can suddenly come to the aid of venerated suburban sports ground Leichhardt Oval. The Inner West Council, which controls the ground, has informed the Wests Tigers it will be closed to professional sport in two years, citing growing occupational health and safety issues.

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

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Rebels rescue plan comes with warning

Age, General News, 21/05/2024, Sarah Danckert and Carla Jaeger, Page 1

Business heavyweight Leigh Clifford says new investors are willing to treat legal threats against Rugby Australia as a "last resort option" if they find support for their plan to save the troubled club, and has warned the NRL would expand in Melbourne if the Rebels disappear. Clifford, who is heading a consortium to rescue the Melbourne Rebels, has called on Rugby Australia to put aside past

differences with the club and back a six-year plan that will see the club continue as a viable operation until at least 2030.

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

Bells rings for Queensland's Indigenous surf stars

Courier Mail, General News, 21/05/2024, Jenna Lapp, Page 1

Young Queensland surfers are preparing to hit the waves to compete at the 11th Australian Indigenous surfing titles. One of the competitors will be Gold Coast surfer Summer Simon, who already holds three junior women's titles and five open women's titles. She will compete with siblings Bodhi and Taj.

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Tate has place on board for Olympics

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 21/05/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 2

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate will join the board of Brisbane's Olympic Games organising committee following years of scathing criticism about the city being left out of planning for the 2032 event. The state government will appoint Mr Tate to the powerful board after a parliamentary committee recommended he be allowed to join due to the "resources and partnership invested" by the Gold Coast in the event.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Premier goes for gold

Courier Mail, General News, 21/05/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 8

High-performance sports administrator Chelsea Warr would be welcomed back to contribute to the Queensland Academy of Sport amid a review to determine whether the agency becomes independent, Premier Steven Miles has revealed. Dubbed "the gold medal maker", Ms Warr sensationally quit as chief executive of the government-run academy in February following repeated clashes with bureaucrats about how it should operate.

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Construction cooperation

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/05/2024, Stephanie Dalton, Page 1

Deputy Premier Michael Ferguson says Tasmania's largest multipurpose community sporting and recreation facility is evidence of what can be achieved when all three levels of government work together. Tender for the construction of the Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub at Mowbray has been awarded, with the project receiving \$15m from the federal government, \$27.5m from the state government, and \$1.1m from the Launceston Council.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Surgeons aim to beat bankers with VC fund

Australian Financial Review, Technology, 21/05/2024, Tess Bennett, Page 22

Two surgeons behind a new \$50 million venture capital fund based in the Southern Highlands argue they can do a better job at commercialising medical research than investment bankers and fund managers.

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Acne med a risk to bub

Northern Territory News, General News, 21/05/2024, Page 8

Researchers at the University of Sydney are urging women who take oral retinoids to take conception

in order to avoid pregnancy, after a study found serious side effects to women who fall pregnant while on the acne treatment. Side effects include miscarriage, major congenital abnormalities and issues with neurodevelopment in children.

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

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Breast tissue 'breakthrough' to aid cancer research

Canberra Times, Other, 20/05/2024

Researchers say they have managed to keep breast cancer tissue viable for at least a week outside of the human body, paving the way for enhanced cancer treatments. A new study, funded by the Prevent Breast Cancer charity, found breast tissue could be preserved in a special gel solution, enabling scientists to examine it in great detail.

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

[Read More](#)

Tea could significantly reduce the risk of dementia, study shows

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/05/2024, Ashleigh Jones

There are currently more than 421,000 people in Australia living with dementia, a group of conditions that includes Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, the Lewy body dementias and more. It's a degenerative illness, affecting the memory centre of the brain, and is deemed incurable. However, healthy lifestyle choices made earlier in life can go a long way to reducing your risk of dementia later on.

[Read More](#)

Ex-smokers who use e-cigs are twice as likely to die from lung cancer, study suggests

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/05/2024, Alexa Lardieri

E-cigarettes, or vapes, long been touted as a far safer alternative to cigarettes, with some companies claiming their products pose virtually no cancer risk. But alarming new research appears to turn this perceived notion on its head. In a first study of its kind, researchers analyzed health data from 4.3million ex-smokers and found those who switched to vapes were twice as likely to die from lung cancer, compared to those who went cold turkey.

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Men face more diabetes complications than women: Aussie study

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/05/2024

The findings were independent of diabetes duration over a 10-year period. Men with diabetes have a 1.5-fold greater risk for complications than women, irrespective of diabetes duration, according to an Australian study.

[Read More](#)

Nontraditional stroke risk factors linked to greater stroke risk in young people

Medicine Today, Other, 20/05/2024, Melanie Hinze

Adults younger than 35 years may be at greater risk of developing stroke from nontraditional risk factors such as migraine than from traditional risk factors, according to research published in *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*. The retrospective case-control study used the Colorado All Payer Claims Database to identify index stroke events in 2618 US adults aged 18 to 55 years (52% women; 73.

[Read More](#)

Delirium a risk factor for death and dementia, finds Australian study

Medicine Today, Other, 20/05/2024, Rebecca Jenkins

Delirium is a strong risk factor for death and incident dementia among older adults, a large Australian

retrospective cohort study finds. Observational studies had found an association between delirium and dementia, but the strength and nature of the link remained unclear, researchers wrote in the BMJ.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 20/05/2024, Peter Overton

A popular type of acne medication could be causing miscarriages and harm to unborn babies, according to scientists from the University of Sydney. Researchers say not enough precautions are being taken to protect women if they fall pregnant while on prescription oral retinoids.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

State on alert for viral wave

Courier Mail, General News, 21/05/2024, Kate Stephenson, Page 15

Whooping cough cases have skyrocketed across the state this year, with the notifiable disease already more than double last year's total. An incoming wave of viral diseases, including whooping cough, coupled with low vaccination rates has health experts concerned for winter. Queensland Health confirmed 2515 cases of whooping cough had been reported this year so far a stark rise from the 40 cases declared for the same period last year and almost three times the total number of cases clocked by the end of 2023 (929).

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An avian flu virus is wreaking havoc globally

ABC Online, Other, 20/05/2024, Amanda-Roberts and Phillip-Adams

Avian flu is continuing to spread throughout the world, infecting some mammals as it goes – but what's the risk to Australia? Dr Michelle Wille from the Centre for Pathogen Genomics Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Melbourne and Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity is our guest.

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

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Victoria battling through 'significant' jump in flu rates

3AW, Other, 20/05/2024, Jacqui Felgate

Clare Looker told Jacqui Felgate the state was currently dealing with a cocktail of elevated influenza, COVID and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases as winter approaches. "We've seen a significant jump in flu," she said on 3AW.

[Read More](#)

Cell-based flu vaccine is more protective than standard dose egg-based, new data shows

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/05/2024

A veteran of Australian immunisation policy has called for an updated program recommending cell-grown influenza vaccine over the standard dose egg-grown equivalent, arguing it would result in a significant public health benefit.

[Read More](#)

154 million lives saved in 50 years: The five charts showing the global success of vaccines

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/05/2024, Alexandra Hogan and Meru Sheel

We know vaccines have been a miracle for public health. Now, new research led by the WHO has found vaccines have saved an estimated 154 million lives in the past 50 years from 14 different diseases.

[Read More](#)

4 graphs show how influenza vaccination is going this season

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 20/05/2024, Chloe Hava

How pharmacist-administered vaccination has tracked across the years, and where the profession has an opportunity to improve access. As we approach winter, a number of jurisdictions, including New South Wales and Victoria, have been afflicted by a 'virus soup'.

[Read More](#)

Bracing for impact: navigating the complexities of the 2024 influenza season in Australia

Medicine Today, Other, 20/05/2024

The 2023 influenza season in Australia presented a unique epidemiological profile, with an earlier onset, extended duration and the second highest number of laboratory-confirmed cases on record. Yet, it demonstrated lower clinical severity and societal disruption compared with many of the influenza seasons observed before the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the only predictable aspects of seasonal influenza is its fickle nature from year to year.

[Read More](#)

The battle against RSV in Australia begins – new preventives are here

Medicine Today, Other, 20/05/2024, Ian G. Barr

With winter fast approaching, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections are expected to peak. A range of new preventives against RSV have been approved for use in Australia. These include the monoclonal antibody nirsevimab for infants and two active vaccines for older adults aged 60 years and over, one of which is also approved for pregnant women to offer passive immunisation to the baby.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 20/05/2024, Manny Tsigas

Australian authorities are planning for an outbreak of the latest bird flu variant following a stark discovery at one of the most remote places on Earth, Antarctica.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 20/05/2024, Brenton Ragless

South Australia is being hit with a triple whammy of viruses, which has health authorities increasingly concerned about the slow rates of vaccination. Reports of RSV infections are already up 28% on this time last year, while flu cases are up 10% and an additional 90 cases observed in the past week alone.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 20/05/2024, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan

Old parents are being warned to be on alert as the state grapples with a major spike in whooping cough cases. The number of cases there at the moment is 12 times higher than the average for the past five years.

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Biotech start-up raising \$20m pre-IPO amid claims

Australian Financial Review, Other, 20/05/2024, Yolanda Redrup

Queensland government-supported plasma biotech Aegros is attempting to raise \$20 million from investors ahead of a 2025 float, despite one of its suppliers being forced to lodge a winding up action in the Supreme Court of Victoria to secure payment. The b...

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Cannabis companies advertising on social media face backlash from drug watchdog

Crikey, Other, 20/05/2024, Alex Cameron

The Therapeutic Goods Administration alleges advertising cannabis directly to consumers can lead to 'inappropriate demand for these medicines'. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)'s legal battle with health clinic Alternaleaf could prove an important test case for how medicinal cannabis will be allowed to be advertised in Australia.

[Read More](#)

Young plumber's death from Covid vax side effect should have been prevented: 'Had his whole life ahead of him'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 20/05/2024, Freddy Pawle

The death of a young New Zealand plumber from a side effect of a Covid-19 vaccine should have been prevented by telling him of the risks before getting the jab, a coroner has found. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) say around one to two in every 100,000 Australians who get the Pfizer vaccine develop the condition.

[Read More](#)

The COVID-19 vaccine Australians can't get

SBS, Other, 20/05/2024, Madeleine Wedesweiler

The new Novavax XBB.1.15 vaccine appears to have been knocked back for approval by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Key Points The updated Novavax COVID-19 vaccine appears to be delayed for rollout in Australia. Australia's last batch of ancestral Novavax vaccine expired on 31 January, according to the TGA. The Therapeutic Goods Administration said a formal decision has not been made on the updated vaccine.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

What are the five common sweeteners really doing to your body

Australian Financial Review, Other, 20/05/2024, David Cox

Over the last five to six years, a new sweetener has found its way into a variety of common foods. Its name is neotame, or E961.

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Developed in a lab and grown in a vat: It's meat, but not as you know it

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 20/05/2024, Caitlin Fitzsimmons

Take a few cells of Japanese quail from a real animal, reproduce them in a giant vat using a similar method to growing a sourdough culture, separate the meat cells using a centrifuge, then mix the resulting goo with butter, brandy, port wine and various herbs and spices.

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Perth father's plea for warning labels on grapes after toddler son's choking death

7news.com.au, Other, 20/05/2024, Bryce Luff

His grieving father is calling for change in the hope he can 'do something to help someone'. A grieving Perth father is appealing for change to grape packaging after his son choked to death on the popular fruit. [...] Food labelling requirements are set by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

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