



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 25th May 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Sydney Morning Herald**](#) (page 1) reports Gina Rinehart has tried to use her company's prolific sponsorship of Australian sport to wield influence over sporting bodies. *Also reported by: [Saturday Age](#), [Saturday Age](#)*
- The [**Saturday Age**](#) (page 1) reports patient data stolen from e-script service provider MediSecure has been offered for sale on a Russian hacking forum for US\$50,000. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [ABC News](#)*
- The [**Hobart Mercury**](#) (page 1) reports Melbourne developer David Marriner has offered a third Hobart stadium option as part of a major development proposal.
- The [**Daily Telegraph**](#) (page 3) reports Border Force officers in Sydney intercepted 400,000 illegal disposable vapes in sea cargo from Asia last week. Minister for Health Mark Butler said the vapes would have ended up in the hands of Australian children and called on parliament to pass the government's vaping reforms. *Also reported by: [Courier Mail](#)*
- The [**Herald Sun**](#) (page 5) reports a Melbourne doctor specialising in neonatal circumcisions has been barred from performing the procedure following claims of accidental mutilation. *Also reported by: [Saturday Age](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#)*

- The [Saturday Age](#) (page 22) reports a coroner has highlighted poor compliance with Victoria's prescription monitoring system in the death of a young addict who had obtained dangerous scripts from 31 different clinicians in the previous year. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Canberra Times](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

400k vapes in four days

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/05/2024, Cydonee Mardon, Page 3

The Australian Border Force has stopped almost 400,000 disposable vapes from entering the country within a week in Sydney, in the largest single detection since tough new laws around vaping came into effect at the start of this year. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the 400,000 vapes would have otherwise ended up in the hands of young Aussies.

No Minister mention: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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SA, Victorian payroll tax offers are coercion by another name

The Medical Republic, Other, 24/05/2024, Jeremy Knibbs

Based on this week's announcements on intended changes to payroll tax in Victoria, office space that suits a medical centre in the border town of Wodonga is going to get scarce and expensive very quickly. [...] These state governments are most interested here in ameliorating the political blowback they might end up with if bulk billing keeps sliding. So is the federal government, which is why Mark Butler endorsed the states' moves this week.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 24/05/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with Minister for Health Mark Butler regarding Australians involved in the Singapore Airlines turbulence incident and federal-state health funding arrangements.

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MINISTER WELLS

\$100m-plus for rural, remote and homeless services

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/05/2024, Natasha Egan and Christopher Kelly

Multi-millions of dollars are to be funnelled into rural and remote communities across Australia as well as services serving older homeless people to improve access to aged care services, the government has announced this week. [...] "These capital grants ensure appropriate supports are in place for aged care providers to maintain the viability and sustainability of their operations, especially in areas of need," said Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Affairs Malarndirri McCarthy said the funding will enable First Nations people to remain close to their families.

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Winners of aged care design ideas competition revealed

Landscape Australia, Other, 24/05/2024

The federal government has revealed the winners of its national Reimagining Where We Live design ideas competition, which challenged architects, landscape architects and designers to design aged care facilities that have potential to improve residents' quality of life. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the entries demonstrate the value of good design in vastly improving a person's quality of life.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Mental health made easier

Gladstone Today, General News, 23/05/2024, Page 1

Starting a conversation about your mental health will soon be even easier for Gladstone residents with Country to Coast Queensland announcing a new Medicare Mental Health Centre will be operational before the end of July. [...] Speaking in Rockhampton on Tuesday 21 May, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride said the Federal Government is delivering muchneeded health services for Central Queensland first a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic and soon a Medicare Mental Health Centre.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

\$100m-plus for rural, remote and homeless services

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/05/2024, Natasha Egan and Christopher Kelly

Multi-millions of dollars are to be funnelled into rural and remote communities across Australia as well as services serving older homeless people to improve access to aged care services, the government has announced this week. [...] "These capital grants ensure appropriate supports are in place for aged care providers to maintain the viability and sustainability of their operations, especially in areas of need," said Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Affairs Malarndirri McCarthy said the funding will enable First Nations people to remain close to their families.

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DEPARTMENT

COVID silence raises concern

Wollondilly, General News, 24/05/2024, Page 8

NSW has scaled back on COVID surveillance; PCR testing has slowed down; the community no longer receives daily case data; and weekly forecasting has ended. However, a group of public health professionals say this is a "critical time" to review disease monitoring. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care told the Express that the plan was "a living document" which would be adjusted and updated in line with "changes to the characteristics of these viruses and their epidemiology; new technologies and approaches for disease control and surveillance; and Australia's policy responses".

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COVID cases are rising across Australia. Here's what we know about the new variant: FLiRT

ABC Online, Other, 24/05/2024, Hanan Dervisevic

As the weather gets colder, a family of highly transmissible COVID-19 subvariants has been detected

in Australia. [...] Isolation is no longer a legal requirement if you test positive for COVID-19. However, the federal department of health strongly encourages you to stay home if you are feeling unwell.

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

\$375m reno for historic hospital

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/05/2024, Odessa Blain, Page 32

A multimillion-dollar vision to transform a historic hospital precinct in Sydney's east into a sprawling aged care facility has been revived in a bid to "rejuvenate a landmark urban site". Aged care provider Uniting have pitched a \$375 million transformation of the Waverley War Memorial Hospital Site.

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Millions committed in aged care funding boost

Burnie Advocate, General News, 25/05/2024, Sarah Fittock, Page 2

Aged care facilities along the North-West Coast are set to see a funding boost. More than \$7.1 million of federal grants will be shared among Emmerton Park's Residential Care Facility at Smithton, Rubicon Grove at Port Sorell and West Coast District Hospital's Lyell House at Queenstown, which will see more than \$5 million for aged care beds.

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Residents and staff come first, then any changes

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 25/05/2024, Katrina Lovell, Page 4

Future renovations to Lyndoch Living haven't been ruled out but the new owners say their first priorities are residents and staff. Respect Group, which has 25 other aged care facilities, will take over Warrnambool's Lyndoch from June 1 after a merger was announced this week.

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Lyndoch decision labelled 'a tragedy'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 25/05/2024, Monique Patterson, Page 4

The announcement of the merger was a "tragedy for the community", Keep Lyndoch Living co-founder Jim Burke said. It was revealed this week that Respect Group and Lyndoch Living would amalgamate, and the newly built medical building next door would be sold to Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative.

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Aged care rorts: Australians forced to buy overpriced equipment that's cheaper at Bunnings

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/05/2024, Julie Cross

When it comes to rorts in the system, let's talk about in-home care where people are being forced to spend taxpayers money on overpriced equipment, when the same items can be found for less in Bunnings. Take the case of poor John, 84, who is on oxygen 24/7, and is on a level 3 Home Care Package.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Council of the ageing and Qld Public Trustee hold forum as financial elder abuse rises

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 24/05/2024, Christine Schindler

New statistics from Queensland Public Trustee have revealed the increase and extent of financial abuse towards the elderly in the Darling Downs. Council of The Aging and Queensland Public Trustee teamed up together to provide touring forums in the state after statistics from a review in the 2022/23 financial year revealed the extent of financial abuse in Queensland.

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

[Read More](#)

“Bleeding financially with no roadmap”: CHSP and Support at Home providers are rudderless and bailing

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/05/2024, Lauren Broomham

Increasing numbers of providers say there is little incentive to hold tight to 2027 (for CHSP) when they are losing money. In 2021, the previous Government issued the first timeline to meet the recommendations of the Aged Care Royal Commission by 2024. Now Support at Home is June 2025 and CHSP is June 2027, six years after the original timeline was set.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Mums have vape habit

Courier Mail, General News, 25/05/2024, Page 22

A study of thousands of pregnant Australians found more than 1 per cent are vaping. The study findings suggest pregnant people may be using e-cigarettes primarily to assist in quitting smoking, however many appear to continue to smoke.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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

Diversity brings unique DV challenges

Canberra Times, Editorials, 25/05/2024, Page 40

While it has long been acknowledged that women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities experiencing domestic violence face specific challenges, much more needs to be done to address this problem. [...] Or, as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's working paper on family, domestic and sexual violence acknowledges: "There may be an under-representation of people from CALD backgrounds in surveys due to language barriers ... and under-reporting by people from CALD backgrounds due to a reluctance to disclose sensitive information in official government surveys."

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

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Alcohol-dependent offenders may have option other than jail

Burnie Advocate, General News, 25/05/2024, Matt Maloney, Page 5

Tasmanians who commit crimes linked to their alcohol dependence may be able to avoid jail time in the future if a government bill wins the approval of the Legislative Council. The state's lower house this week voted to make alcohol treatment orders a sentencing option for courts as an alternative to a prison sentence or suspended sentence, much like drug treatment orders have been since 2007.

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

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It's time to admit Australian vaping laws are a failure

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 25/05/2024, Dr Colin Mendelsohn, Page 70

Australia's harsh restrictions on vaping have been a resounding failure. Adult vapers have rejected the prescription model and there is widespread vaping by young people.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 24/05/2024, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan

Interview with Australian Medical Association president Steve Robson regarding vaping legislation.

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5AA, Mornings, 24/05/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Australian Medical Association president Steve Robson regarding vaping legislation.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

The ways PCOS can erode women's self-esteem

ABC Online, Other, 24/05/2024, Kellie Scott

Every day, Hannah Achelles struggles with her body image. The 34-year-old from Gadigal Country/Sydney was diagnosed with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) in her late teens.

[Read More](#)

Two-year-old Felix Ross injected 10 times a day following diabetes diagnosis

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 24/05/2024, Madeline Grace

A Queensland family is pleading with for the government to reconsider funding insulin pumps for diabetics after being forced to pay tens of thousands to help their little boy. They watched helplessly as medical staff held down their screaming two-year-old to administer lifesaving injections.

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PRIMARY CARE

Boy died after 'doctor shopping'

The Saturday Age, General News, 25/05/2024, David Estcourt, Page 22

A coroner investigating the overdose death of a 16-year-old boy who was "doctor shopping" has denounced clinicians who are failing to check a prescription monitoring system designed to prevent drug seeking. The boy, known as "LI", got 64 prescriptions from 31 doctors in a year, including three scripts for opioids and benzodiazepines from three different doctors, which he filled at three different pharmacies, by feigning illness in the days before his death.

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

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Blast for GPs over teen

Herald Sun, General News, 25/05/2024, Ashley Argoon, Page 27

A coroner has lashed doctors who prescribed a 16-year-old boy opioids that led to his overdose death, finding it "astonishing" that one in three GPs still failed to check mandatory drug dispensing records. The teen, who can only be referred to as LI, was found dead in his bed in Ferntree Gully by his grandmother on January 29, 2019.

Similar coverage: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#)

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Baby race

Herald Sun, Weekend, 25/05/2024, Kate Smithers, Page 12

There's been a dramatic rise in the number of women moving to protect their chances of having a family, with egg freezing becoming increasingly common. But such forward planning does come at a price.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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Cross your legs maternity row

Courier Mail, General News, 25/05/2024, Des Houghton, Page 52

Cross your legs. As cheeky parliamentary interjections go, it was incendiary. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman was left gobsmacked and speechless after a taunt by shadow health minister Ros Bates on the floor of the House on Wednesday morning.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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New boss for health network

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/05/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 10

Karen Puvogel has been appointed as chief executive of the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network after four months acting in the job following the shock resignation of Maree Geraghty in January. Ms Puvogel was previously chief operations officer in NALHN, which covers the Lyell McEwin Hospital and Modbury Hospital.

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Government's one-off funding welcomed but 'not enough'

Canberra Times, General News, 25/05/2024, Megan Doherty, Page 3

Community health organisations who will share in \$1.65 million in one-off funding announced by the ACT Government yesterday say it is welcomed but not enough. They are also worried because the money is a one-off and not ongoing, it offers only temporary relief to a sector in crisis.

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

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Doctors in shark tank for pitches

Hobart Mercury, General News, 25/05/2024, Stephanie Dalton, Page 19

Doctors from across Tasmania are gearing up to pitch their ideas on how to improve rural health outcomes with an innovative Shark Tank-style panel this weekend. The Tasmanian Rural Health Conference in Devonport will feature a program focused on topics that matter to rural GPs and rural generalists in Tasmania.

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Parents back scan plan

Daily Advertiser, General News, 25/05/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 1

The parents of Joe Ginty believe their son would still be alive if his local hospital had been equipped for brain scans. It's been 18 months since Joe's death, and the Cootamundra community are providing feedback on plans for their hospital - including a proposed CT unit.

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No diagnosis, no NDIS, for many kids

Daily Advertiser, General News, 25/05/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 2

For autistic kids, a diagnosis can help them understand themselves properly and access support -

experts say it's critical. But high costs and lengthy wait times means some Wagga kids are going through school undiagnosed.

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'Time to come clean' on mergers

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 25/05/2024, Monique Patterson, Page 8

The state government needs to reveal whether it has merger plans for south-west hospitals, according to MP Roma Britnell. In parliament this week Ms Britnell said she had been asking questions about possible mergers for more than two years.

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This is a fight for our future: Naphthine

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 25/05/2024, Monique Patterson, Page 8

South-west residents must fight "to the end" against any proposed hospital mergers, according to former premier Denis Naphthine. Dr Naphthine said people in rural and regional areas, who have worse health outcomes than their city counterparts, would be the losers if services merged.

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Lack of resources in regional SA hospitals force mums to make 'stressful' 650km trip to give birth

ABC Online, Other, 24/05/2024, Adam Sheldon

When Port Lincoln mother Claire Stanley travelled to Adelaide for a routine check-up during her first pregnancy, with only a small bag of clothes, she expected to fly home the next day. But after specialists discovered she had high blood pressure, making her pregnancy high-risk, she gave birth at just 32 weeks.

[Read More](#)

Government responds to ramping at GV Health hospitals

Shepparton News Online, Other, 24/05/2024, Gabriel Garcia

The Victorian Government has responded after reports of ramping at a major Goulburn Valley hospital. When reports surfaced that up to nine ambulances were ramped at Goulburn Valley Health for as long as nine hours a couple of weeks ago, it ignited criticism of the state government.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Solitary for the suicidal

Courier Mail, General News, 25/05/2024, Page 28

Prison inmates who report feeling suicidal are being put into solitary confinement for at least 28 days and are eating their own faeces, hallucinating, hearing voices and, in some cases, taking their lives. Former maximum security psychologist Dr Kaine Grigg said prisoners who reported mental health issues were being placed in solitary and not given access to adequate treatment.

Also reported by: [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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The Aussies still hoping for better treatment after 75 years

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 25/05/2024, Chris Langmead, Page 62

Around half a million Australians live with the debilitating impact of severe mental illnesses, including schizophrenia. The health, economic and societal implications are immense, yet current medical treatments for schizophrenia are based on 75-year-old science, are not effective for enough patients and often bring intolerable side effects.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#)

Premier and Nationals leader clash over delayed Karratha mental health facility

West Australian, Other, 24/05/2024, Cain Andrews

Opposition Leader Shane Love and the mother of a man who took his life in February have called on the State Government to expedite the construction of a mental health facility in Karratha after a string of suicides in the region over the past five years. The facility in question, Karratha's own Step Up Step Down facility, was first proposed by the Mental Health Commission in 2013, with funding initially allocated in the 2015-16 State Budget by the Liberal National Government.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 24/05/2024, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan

Australian teenagers are tired, and it's taking a toll. There's growing evidence that lack of sleep during a sensitive, delicate developmental period is leaving teens vulnerable to the onset of mental illnesses. The ABC joined Sydney Year 12 students learning strategies to better manage their sleep and mental wellbeing for now and into the future.

[Play Now](#)

5AA, Mornings, 24/05/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Breakthrough Mental Health CEO John Mannion, One Nation MLC Sarah Game and SA Shadow Health Minister Penny Pratt regarding men's mental health.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

The unhealthiest practice: 'broken' system killing doctors

Weekend Australian, General News, 25/05/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

It was the secret Steve Robson kept buried for 30 years; an excruciating personal toll extracted by medicine that almost cost him his life. As an intern in Rockhampton in the late 1980s he had responsibility for the entire hospital one fateful autumn day, when a man died as a result of a missed diagnosis. The guilt and shame was too much for the young doctor to bear.

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Critical condition

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 25/05/2024, Steve Robson, Page 14

The medical profession is failing to take care of its own and the consequences can be disastrous, writes Steve Robson.

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

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Doctors and lawyers the next toll booth?

Canberra Times, General News, 25/05/2024, Aiden Heke, Page 37

One of the more foreboding discussions around Generative AI (GenAI) is around the disruption, or

displacement, of jobs. [...] Instinctively, one would think doctors, surgeons and those studying and applying medicine would be immune; it's among the hardest degrees to undertake, reserved for the highest ATARs in the country. But this is one of the disciplines most ripe for disruption from AI.

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Fee-free TAFE course brings more students to study nursing and fill jobs amid cost-of-living crisis

ABC Online, Other, 24/05/2024, Cameron Simmons

A surge in enrolments to fee-free nursing across North Queensland TAFE campuses is giving aspiring nurses a foot in the door during a cost-of-living crisis. Since opening free learning courses last year, enrolments for a Diploma of Nursing have increased by almost 40 per cent in the region, boosting the number of students to more than 360.

[Read More](#)

\$10k boost for Tassie's public hospital pharmacists

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 24/05/2024, Megan Haggan

Patients are being let down by pharmacy workforce shortages – but in a bid to attract and keep pharmacists, a new initiative will see them paid \$10k Guy Barnett, Tasmania's minister for health, mental health and wellbeing, has announced that all existing and new pharmacists working in the state's public hospitals are to receive a ...

[Read More](#)

Hospital understaffed

Border Watch, Other, 24/05/2024, Charlotte Varcoe

The Mount Gambier and Districts Hospital is suffering from labour pains, with understaffing at a high. Australian Nurse and Midwife Foundation South Australia (ANMFSA) chief executive Elizabeth Dabars announced the hospital would need about 37 full-time equivalent staff members in order to operate at its full capacity.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Medical data on Russia hack site

The Saturday Age, General News, 25/05/2024, David Swan, Page 1

A hacker claiming to have Australian patient data from the MediSecure data breach has put the information up for sale on a Russian hacking forum for \$75,735. MediSecure last week announced it was the victim of a ransomware attack.

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MediSecure asks for government bailout after cyberhack, data advertised on dark web

ABC Online, Other, 24/05/2024, Stephanie Borys

The health company at the centre of a cyber attack has asked the federal government for a bailout, as the personal information of some Australians has been posted for sale online. Earlier this month MediSecure, which facilitates electronic prescriptions and their dispensing, confirmed it was the victim

of a large-scale ransomware data breach. [...] More than 122 million ePrescriptions were issued between May 2020 and March 2023, according to the Australian Digital Health Agency.

[Read More](#)

E-referrals benefit to patients

Hobart Mercury, General News, 25/05/2024, Blair Richards, Page 13

Tasmania's Health Minister says the move away from paper-based referrals from the state's hospitals is benefiting patients, a year on from the system being introduced. The e-referral system project, which is part of the state government's \$475m 10-year Digital Health Transformation, replaces outdated fax, email, printed and scanned written referrals.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Prolific circumcision doctor banned from op

The Saturday Age, General News, 25/05/2024, Henrietta Cook, Page 2

One of Victoria's most prolific circumcision doctors has been banned from performing the procedure by Australia's healthcare watchdog. The Medical Board of Australia took the emergency measure against Melbourne doctor Hershel Goldman earlier this month, placing a series of conditions on his registration. [...] A spokeswoman for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and National Boards said confidentiality laws prevented it from commenting on individual cases other than what was on the public record.

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

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Cruellest cut of all

Herald Sun, General News, 25/05/2024, Ashley Argoon, Page 5

One of Melbourne's top circumcision doctors has been banned from performing the surgeries after he amputated the penises of two infant boys, a tribunal has heard. Dr Hershel Goldman, who has performed 20,000 procedures, is fighting to continue to do the operations despite admitting he made a "serious error".

Similar coverage: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Regulation strengthened in the West

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 24/05/2024, Megan Haggan

Changes to the National Law as it applies in WA have been passed and enacted. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the national Boards say this means further strengthening of health practitioner regulation and public protection in that state.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Soccer doco lifts the lid on racism, riots and raw emotion in wild west

Weekend Australian, General News, 25/05/2024, Rosemary Neill, Page 9

Football thugs or ardent fans who energised the game? That question is explored in a provocative documentary about "the nation's most controversial soccer team", Western Sydney Wanderers, with TV personality Ian "Dicko" Dickson branding condemnation of the club's working class and ethnically diverse followers "shrill, pearl-clutching" and "racist".

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Special strokes for special folks in Hancock's push for 'Dawnie'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 25/05/2024, Chris Barrett and Tom Decent, Page 1

Gina Rinehart's Hancock Prospecting demanded four-time gold medallist Dawn Fraser be sounded out to become Swimming Australia president and wanted to direct how its sponsorship money was spent before a bitter fallout with the Olympic sport's peak body. The mining company, which will sponsor the Australian Olympic Committee at the coming Paris Games, also stipulated only tea and coffee should be served at board meetings, while Fraser would enjoy perks such as free international and domestic business-class flights, with an economy plus-one, and a \$2500 a day allowance when travelling.

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

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Bol's screenshot had doping information

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 25/05/2024, Michael Gleeson and Nick McKenzie, Page 10

Olympic medal hopeful Peter Bol has once more had his integrity challenged by the world anti-doping body amid the airing of previously secret evidence uncovered on the runner's phone, sparking furious accusations that the antidoping body had "disgracefully smeared" the Australian champion. A hearing before an international tribunal has heard how anti-doping officials from Australia, who seized Bol's phone and computer during the investigation into a positive drug test, had found a screenshot on the phone with information from a former distributor of performance-enhancing drugs, Victor Conte, about how to micro-dose EPO and how to evade drug testers.

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

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Concern over AFL racism case

The Saturday Age, General News, 25/05/2024, David Estcourt, Page 20

A Victorian Supreme Court judge has expressed scepticism about a plan to add all 18 AFL clubs to a class action against the league over allegations of historical racism led by former sporting great Phil Krakouer. Margalit Injury Lawyers, representing the players, notified the AFL this week it planned to expand the class action beyond the AFL and could potentially include all 18 clubs.

Similar coverage: [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#).

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

Swans hail life-saver of a program

Daily Telegraph, Sport, 25/05/2024, Lachlan McKirdy, Page 87

The Sydney Swans have been left stunned by the impact their First Nations Foundations program has had in Indigenous communities since being launched in 2022. The new program was created to not only help First Nations kids into footy pathways, but to help foster a connection to local community and culture.

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Head case could cost kids

Courier Mail, General News, 25/05/2024, Stephen Drill, Page 23

Costs for Queensland kids to play local sport could skyrocket if a landmark concussion case against a Melbourne Australian rules football club is successful. Former AFL footballer Eli Templeton is suing Balwyn Football Club for a concussion he received in a sickening incident that was caught on video.

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New stadium player

Hobart Mercury, General News, 25/05/2024, Sue Bailey, Page 1

A major development including a third option for a multipurpose stadium has been proposed for Hobart's northern suburbs. It is the brainchild of Melbourne theatre owner and developer David Marriner, pictured, who is tight-lipped on his plans for a community precinct.

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Stadium funding means less GST revenue

Launceston Examiner, General News, 25/05/2024, Matt Maloney, Page 9

Federal treasurer Jim Chalmers has confirmed that \$240 million in federal government funding for the Macquarie Point renewal project, which includes construction of a new stadium, will not be exempt from GST funding distributions. This means the state could effectively lose out on GST payments when the Commonwealth Grants Commission determines the state's share at the end of the year and assesses federal payments paid to Tasmania over the budget year.

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

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Independent delivery body forges on for Brisbane 2032

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 24/05/2024, Savannah Meacham

The independent body responsible for overseeing and delivering the upgraded venues for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics has been enshrined in law. The Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority is a statutory body that will deliver the new and upgraded venues for the event at arms-length from the government.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Mini-heart miracle

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/05/2024, Lisa Wachsmuth, Page 34

Breakthrough allows normal life while on transplant list Azariah Harb has already endured three open-heart surgeries but a new invention could see surgeons build the five year-old her very own "mini heart" to give her the best chance at a normal life.

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Milestone for leader Vaxxas

Courier Mail, Business News, 25/05/2024, Glen Norris, Page 57

Brisbane biotechnology company Vaxxas has reached a major manufacturing milestone, producing its 100th batch of needle-free vaccine patches in its home city. The production at the Princess Alexandra Hospital's Translational Research Institute (TRI) is set to play an important role in protecting Australians against infectious diseases.

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

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Kids call for sore throat study

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/05/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 5

Adelaide researchers are seeking children for a study examining the cause of sore throats and if they can be treated without resorting to antibiotics. The research by the Women's and Children's Health Network also hopes to develop a vaccine against strep A, which is usually a mild infection but can be associated with a painful sore throat known as strep throat and if left untreated can lead to heart and kidney failure.

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The new Gold Coast emerging is a health and research hub

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 25/05/2024, Cr Tom Tate, Page 71

We may be famous for our tourism and hospitality but the Gold Coast has another big story to tell the world. Today, health and medical research has emerged as the No 1 employment sector in our city. The evolution of this dynamic, cutting-edge industry has not come about by chance.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'Not a good cultural fit'

Daily Liberal, General News, 25/05/2024, Orlander Ruming, Page 1

More Aboriginal staff working in emergency departments would ensure better health outcomes for the Aboriginal population, says a local psychiatrist. Warren Kealy-Bateman addressed the The Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding during its recent Dubbo hearings.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Aussie bird flu case a wake-up call

Canberra Times, General News, 25/05/2024, C Raina MacIntyre and Haley Stone, Page 44

The first human case of avian influenza (bird flu) in Australia was reported on Wednesday in Victoria. A child acquired the H5N1 strain of the virus in India and became ill upon returning home to Australia in March this year.

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Don't get into a flap over the bird flu

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/05/2024, Merryn Johns, Page 37

Australia has seen its first human case of the avian influenza, after a child returned from an overseas trip. [...] Meanwhile, bird flu H5N1 has been detected in farms across two states of Australia. Testing by Agriculture Victoria has revealed an additional strain, H7N3, was detected at a second poultry farm in Victoria's west. Thousands of birds have since been euthanised as Agriculture Victoria continues its investigation. [...] But how serious a concern is bird flu for humans? Here is what you need to know.

Coverage of the avian flu outbreak typically mentions the coincidental human infection: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).

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FLiRT Covid variant: Urgent warning issued to Australians

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/05/2024, Olivia Day and Padraig Collins

A new Covid-19 strain could see a surge in infections this winter flu season as experts warn the sub-variant could make Australians 'very sick'. The new group of coronavirus strains have been nicknamed FLiRT and are a descendant of the highly contagious JN.1 variant.

[Read More](#)

Pandemic agreement talks come to the crunch

NEWS.com.au, Other, 24/05/2024

Countries trying to thrash out a global agreement on handling future pandemics are hoping to seal the deal Friday after weeks of creeping progress in exhausting talks. Having ploughed past several previous deadlines, the hard stop of next week's annual gathering of the World Health Organization's 194 member states is now in clear sight.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 24/05/2024, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

There's a warning from health authorities tonight as SA's Covid cases continue to surge. Infections have more than doubled in the past month and there have been more than 1900 reported this week alone, with flu cases also on the rise.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

PM must help out Ozempic patients

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/05/2024, Cydonee Mardon, Page 17

Overweight Australians robbed of access to replica versions of Ozempic should get extra support from the federal Government, according to a top doctor. Compounded versions of Ozempic and Mounjaro, made up by chemists, will be banned from October due to safety and regulation concerns.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Supply crunch with replica drug ban

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 24/05/2024

Patients who legitimately need compounded Ozempic should still have access to the medication, even if a government ban comes into effect, advises the Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF). "CHF has been concerned about safety and quality issues linked to the compounding of Ozempic-like products since the issues were first raised in the media in late Feb," said CHF CEO Dr Elizabeth Deveny. [...] "At the same time, I can tell you that, together with the TGA, we advise not starting new patients with type 2 diabetes and other indications on them, as we have a limited supply," she cautioned.

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Biotech with its eye on the prize

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 25/05/2024, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 145

Listed clinical-stage biotech PYC Therapeutics has received major backing from the US Food and Drug Administration for its drug that treats a progressive and irreversible eye disease. The Rohan Hockings-led company told the market on Friday it had received a so-called orphan drug designation for its first-in-class drug candidate - known as PYC-001 - designed to address the root cause of autosomal dominant optic atrophy (ADOA). [...] Applications to the Therapeutic Goods Administration will follow shortly after.

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

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An end to burnout

Hobart Mercury, Weekend, 25/05/2024, Linda Smith, Page 1

A devastating experience of body burnout, and a subsequent journey back to health, inspired Tasmania's Filipa Bellette to write a self-help guide for others. [...] She says there is a lot of research to support functional medicine testing, and lab tests are TGA approved and produce good results.

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Kambo frog poison inquest adjourned, charges to be considered over death of Jarrad Antonovich

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) will consider whether charges should be laid over the death of a man who took kambo frog poison at a festival in northern NSW. [...] At that time the Therapeutic Goods Administration classified it as a substance of "such danger to health as to warrant prohibition on sale, supply and use".

Similar coverage: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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New diabetes drug trialled in Melbourne hoped to fill Ozempic shortage

9News, Other, 24/05/2024, Allanah Sciberras

Melbourne researchers are helping develop a new drug that could offer a life-saving treatment option to more sufferers of type 2 diabetes. The drug, called CagriSema, combines the active ingredient in Ozempic with another appetite suppressant.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 24/05/2024, Peter Mitchell

A new diabetes drug hailed as being more effective than Ozempic will soon be trialled in Melbourne. Researchers claim CagriSema has the potential to lower blood sugar levels and reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke.

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3AW, Breakfast, 24/05/2024, Ross Stevenson and Russel Howcroft

Interview with Royal Melbourne Hospital endocrinologist Prof John Wentworth regarding trials of CagriSema.

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Novo Nordisk's Ozempic slows diabetic kidney disease progression in trial

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/05/2024, Nancy Lapid

Novo Nordisk's Ozempic slowed the worsening of kidney dysfunction in patients with type 2 diabetes and lowered the risk of kidney failure, heart problems, stroke and death, according to detailed results from a late-stage trial presented on Friday. The company in March reported that the diabetes drug known chemically as semaglutide cut the combined risk of kidney complications and cardiovascular events by 24% over the next 3.4 years in patients who received weekly 1-milligram injections compared with those who got a placebo.

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From STIs to severe pain: Australia has a medicine shortage 'problem'

SBS, Other, 24/05/2024, Gavin Butler

Experts are raising the alarm over nationwide medicine shortages, calling for urgent action to address the increasing lack of supply. Professor Jennifer Martin, president of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP), said shortages of key medicines were affecting some of the country's most vulnerable patients, including children with neurodevelopmental disorders, palliative care patients and patients with sexually transmitted infections. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration lists 420 drugs as in "short supply", including antibiotics and opiates.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 24/05/2024, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Interview with RACGP president Nicole Higgins regarding medicine shortages. [...] We've got a body called the TGA or the Therapeutic Goods Administration and they've actually just conducted an inquiry about how we can reduce the impact of shortages, how we can communicate about it, and some of the tools that they've got around this global supply chain.

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New sexual dysfunction warnings added to antidepressants' PI

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 24/05/2024, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Updated product information documents (PIs) for nine antidepressant medications will include warnings relating to the risk of persistent sexual dysfunction, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) reveals.

[Read More](#)

TGA fines another medicinal cannabis supplier

The Mandarin, Other, 24/05/2024, Dan Holmes

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued fines worth \$171,972 to medicinal cannabis supplier Better Leaf Pty Ltd. The 11 infringement notices include nine totalling \$164,460 issued to the company, and two notices totalling \$7,512 issued to an individual.

[Read More](#)

Aussie CMs' growth "a success story"

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 24/05/2024

A surge in international and local demand has led to complementary medicines becoming a huge success story for Australia, according to peak body Complementary Medicines Australia. During the organisation's recent Innovation Day, CEO John O'Doherty told Pharmacy Daily, "we are a huge success story, as the TGA has the most rigorous standard of research in the world which goes into our products, and it is a key reason they are in such high demand".

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 24/05/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

As pneumonia continues to spread throughout Queensland, the state is now facing a new problem. Doctors are warning of a dire shortage of a medicine used to treat the infection in children, and are calling on the federal government to step in.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Overdosing on festivals

Herald Sun, General News, 25/05/2024, Brooke Grebert-Craig and Chloe Bott, Page 11

Ambulance Victoria has responded to more drug overdoses at major music festivals in the first three months of this year than the entirety of 2023. Documents obtained by the Herald Sun under Freedom of Information laws revealed that paramedics attended 20 overdoses across six festivals between January and March this year.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Facebook drug market

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 25/05/2024, Madeleine Bower, Page 22

Black market merchants peddling methamphetamine, ice and heroin are using Facebook posts promoting illegal vapes to funnel customers to websites and Telegram chats selling hard drugs. Cyber safety experts have warned the use of Facebook to illegally advertise vapes before sending them through to chats selling hard drugs is opening up young people to serious drug addiction.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Delay over PFAS payout explained

Daily Advertiser, General News, 25/05/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf, Page 4

Lawyers responsible for dividing up a \$132.7 million PFAS contamination settlement involving hundreds of Wagga residents have shed light on why some are yet to be paid. In August 2023, the Federal Court ruled a large number of residents across Forest Hill, Gumly, East Wagga and Wagga in close proximity to RAAF Base Wagga be paid compensation over toxic firefighting foam contamination.

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

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Dirty deeds: Truegain owner's \$45m downfall

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/05/2024, Donna Page, Page 1

It has been a spectacular fall from grace. In 2015, Robert Pullinger, left, estimated his personal net worth was "in excess of \$45 million". Now the former owner of the Truegain site near Maitland, who made his fortune running a notorious waste oil refinery on the land for decades, is bankrupt and has been found guilty this week of three criminal charges for failing to comply with EPA cleanup notices which resulted in toxic firefighting chemicals polluting a creek that runs to the Hunter River.

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