



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 28th May 2024

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (page 1) reports offering young Australians genomic testing would be cost-effective for the healthcare system and help identify and treat instances of hereditary conditions, new research by Monash University has shown. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#)
- The **Herald Sun** (page 1) reports a potential new treatment for Parkinson's that tackles the gut microbiome will begin human trials in Brisbane from August thanks to US government grant funding. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#)
- **The Australian** (page 3) reports patients recovering from joint replacement surgeries could be offered same-day discharge from hospitals in NSW after a trial found rehabilitation outcomes were as good or better with in-home support.
- **The Australian** (online) reports the government says it will not reverse bans on non-prescription vaping products following a renewed push by the Nationals to regulate and tax vape use.
- The **West Australian** (online) reports the US and Europe are moving to acquire H5N1 bird flu vaccines to protect at-risk workers, in a move flu experts say could ease the threat of a pandemic.

- [The Guardian](#) (online) reports Australians weaning off antidepressants are turning to social media forums due to a lack of available clinical support, a new study by the University of Melbourne has found.
- [The Guardian](#) (online) reports women using GLP-1 medications for weight loss are being urged to pair them with effective contraception amidst ongoing reports they may improve ovulation rates.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### MP's cancer case cause for call out

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 27/05/2024, Alistair Finlay, Page 2

With Member for Mallee Dr Anne Webster set to receive surgery this week for a possible skin cancer on her face, the MP has used the diagnosis to issue a warning to others. With May being world Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month, Dr Webster said her planned surgery highlighted the need to increase skin cancer detection in the region. [...] "I used this data writing to (Federal Health) Minister Mark Butler last June advocating for Mildura to receive a state-of-the-art Vectra scanning machine, using 92 cameras to produce a 3D body image to detect and monitor potential lesions.

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

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### Renewed push to legalise vapes as industry figures project millions in tax revenue

The Australian, Other, 27/05/2024, Eleanor Campbell

Labor has rebuffed calls to reverse its hard ban on the recreational use of vapes after industry figures projected a million-dollar tax windfall if Australia pivoted towards regulation. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has he did not 'hold out much hope' of the Nationals backing Labor's anti-vaping laws.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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### Vape shops at war in Australia: Why so many are going up in flames

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/05/2024, Eliza McPhee

A violent war has erupted between motorcycle gangs and Middle Eastern crime syndicates over the illegal trade of black market vapes - with dozens of tobacco shops going up in flames. There's been more than 40 arson attacks across Australia that are understood to be related to the sale of black market tobacco, with Victoria copping the worst of the violence. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler introduced a nationwide ban on the importation of disposable vapes on January 1.

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### Millions of Aussies at risk with hundreds of medicines, including blood thinners and antibiotics, in short supply

7news.com.au, Other, 27/05/2024, Caleb Taylor

With more than 400 medicines in short supply across the country, a peak doctors' group has delivered a dire warning. Patients are resorting to cutting their pills in half to make them last longer amid a nationwide shortage of hundreds of medicines, according to a peak doctors' group. [...] In a Sydney Morning Herald report on Sunday, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said managing medicines was a priority.

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### Providers warned as rise in COVID-19 RACH outbreaks

Aged Care Insite, Other, 27/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Providers have been warned to stay alert as a new COVID-19 variant sweeps the nation, following a rise in cases and deaths in aged care homes. The Department of Health and Aged Care and the Aged

Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) released a statement on Friday, stating it was "imperative" that aged care services remained alert as Covid and influenza cases rise. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the outbreak, coupled with the flare-up of influenza, indicated another wave was starting.

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## 'When you're looking at the choices you have to make, what choice do you make?'

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 27/05/2024

Australia's former most senior bureaucrat says 'reform' is the most overused word in Canberra, that the PBS has regrettably become a transactional area of policy, and that difficult decisions might be required as the country's fiscal position deteriorates. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler recently said the pharmaceutical sector will not be required to offset the Government's additional \$3 billion investment in the new Community Pharmacy Agreement.

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## The Zap: all the latest health and aged care news, as well as consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 27/05/2024, Melissa Sweet

A comprehensive update on the latest developments and resources in palliative care is provided in the column this week, as well as wide-ranging news in cancer control, including some key recommendations from a Senate inquiry into rare cancers. [...] Minister Mark Butler announced on 22 May that the Government would implement the change from October "to protect Australians from the clear risk to human health posed by the large-scale manufacture of compounded injections".

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## Butler in Geneva for Pandemic Treaty

MedNews, Other, 27/05/2024, Megan Brodie

Health Minister Mark Butler has flown to Geneva in Switzerland.

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## Aged care the 'best place' for alternative models of primary care

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/05/2024, Laura Woodrow

A nurse practitioner, rather than a GP, may be the only practical solution to caring for older Australians in aged care homes, says a health services professor. [...] Last year, the federal health minister Mark Butler announced the new General Practice in Aged Care Incentive which will offer GPs who provide at least eight consultations and two care plans to residential aged care patients a \$300 payment per patient per year.

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## Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 27/05/2024, Davina Smith

More pressure is mounting on federal MPs and senators to pass proposed vaping reforms. Experts are warning of an impending health catastrophe. Since January, it's been illegal to import disposable vapes into Australia, but Health Minister Mark Butler's proposed legislation to ban all vape products, except for prescription vapes needs to pass Federal Parliament in the coming weeks to become law. Butler says it's time now to get on and vote for the bill.

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## Seven Mackay, Seven News Mackay, 27/05/2024, Rob Brough

The last bulk-billed medical practice in the Whitsundays is closing its doors after failing to attract staff. The director of Bowen's Herbert Street Family Medical Centre says it was the final straw and they had no choice. The Federal Government has provided more than \$200m over five years to strengthen the health workforce. Health Minister Mark Butler's office says the centrepiece of the latest Budget was to strengthen Medicare with \$6.1b of initiatives to encourage GPs to shift back to bulk billing.

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### 3AW, Mornings, 27/05/2024, Tom Elliott

Interview with Theo Foukkare, CEO, Australian Association of Convenience Stores, on a new study saying that Victoria alone could rake in three-quarters of a billion extra dollars a year by regulating and taxing vapes. Foukkare says it's estimated that should the government introduce a regulator tax model and not via a prescription, which is the path they're going down, they're somewhere between \$9b and \$12b at a total level, inclusive of excise and GST. He adds both the Federal and State Governments could be using the funding that they could generate for enforcement, health, building public hospitals and public housing and use it to educate children. Foukkare says late last year it is laughable that many vape shops are still openly advertising vapes despite Federal Health Minister Mark Butler last year made a big song and dance about how they would get rid of vapes and how awful they are.

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### The 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to address vaping problem

3AW, Other, 27/05/2024, Jacqui Felgate

A major general practitioner body says a "once in a lifetime" to regulate vaping has now presented itself. Labor says it won't back down from its stance to not legalise vaping, but Royal Australian College of General Practitioners president Nicole Higgins says it's now time for meaningful change to be made.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Retirement Living Council's Shared Care set to be part of Support at Home

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/05/2024, Ian Horswill

The concept of Shared Care is to take a small portion of a large number of village residents' Community and Home Support packages and apply those funds to the full village, which would deliver economies of scale and investments in wellness supports for all residents. [...] The Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells revealed in November 2023 that the Home Care Package Program and the Short-Term Restorative Care (STRC) Programme will be rolled together into Support at Home from 1 July 2025 , with the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) to transition "no earlier than 1 July 2027".

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

**Since the Voice to Parliament referendum, our national discourse has failed to reflect on where we should go next**

In 1968, anthropologist W E H Stanner spoke in his Boyer lecture about the "cult of forgetfulness". He called it "the Great Australian Silence" — where Australians do not just fail to acknowledge the violence and legacy of the past towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but choose to not think about this past at all. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy, who represents the Northern Territory, says there remains a deep hurt and disappointment in the community over the outcome of the referendum.

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## "Now more than ever": Karen Mundine urges action as nation marks first Reconciliation Week since Voice referendum

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/05/2024, Jarred Cross

"Now more than ever, we actually need action": Reconciliation Australia boss Karen Mundine  
Reconciliation Australia chief executive Karen Mundine has urged Australians to "dig deep" and take notice in 2024 as Reconciliation Week and its theme 'now more than ever' kicks off across the country. [...] This time last year, Ms Mundine stated a Voice to Parliament would not be a "silver bullet" for First Nations Australians, she told ABC In a joint media statement on Monday, Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney and Assistant Minister Malarndirri McCarthy acknowledged "a difficult 2023 for many First Nations people", but implored the public to join in on a shared journey.

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## DEPARTMENT

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## CORONAVIRUS

### Hospitalisations spike in COVID wave

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/05/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

COVID hospitalisations have almost doubled in a month in Hunter New England as another wave of the virus takes hold. The wave is expected to peak in the middle of winter, worrying authorities as influenza and RSV cases are also rising. Dr Peter Murray, a Hunter New England public health physician, said "we're really concerned about these viruses all hitting at once during winter".

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### World Health Assembly hopes to reinforce pandemic preparedness after bold treaty project stalls

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/05/2024

The World Health Organization begins its annual meeting on Monday with government ministers and other top envoys hoping to reinforce global preparedness for the next pandemic in the devastating wake of COVID-19. But the most ambitious project, to adopt a pandemic "treaty," has been shelved for now after 2 1/

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

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

**Aged care worker who strangled 70-year-old WA woman to death had a**

## fixation on serial killers

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/05/2024, Rebecca Peppiatt

Chilling details of how an aged care worker strangled a 70-year-old woman to death were revealed in the Supreme Court of WA on Monday as the 21-year-old was sentenced for what was described as "almost the perfect crime". Jacob Anthony Hoysted was just 19 years old when he decided to initiate the "cruel and violent" murder of dementia sufferer Monica Stockdale during a shift at her Albany care home in November 2022.

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

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## VR training to change dementia education

Aged Care Insite, Other, 27/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

Dementia Australia has launched a new virtual reality (VR) training workshop to help de-escalate behavioural emergencies in care settings. D-Esc is an immersive simulation that aims to equip frontline and healthcare workers with essential skills and build empathy and understanding towards people with dementia.

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## Become an Aged Care Locum with Rural LAP

Aged Care Insite, Other, 27/05/2024

Kim Murphy is a proud Rural LAP locum, joining the program in 2022, sporadically fulfilling contracts while on break from working at her local hospital in Alexandra, Victoria. With 22 years of experience as an Enrolled Nurse, Kim decided to join Rural LAP to experience more in her career, learn new skills, travel Australia and create a better work-life balance.

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## Crafting a safer world for seniors one home at a time

Australian Seniors News, Other, 27/05/2024

Seniors Rights Victoria, Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria, Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG), and the City of Melbourne Council are set to showcase the creative and compassionate efforts of Victorians on the eve of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. On June 13th, the Melbourne Town Hall will house an exhibition of crafted Warm Safe Homes ( pictured ) created all throughout Victoria, in an event hosted by the City of Melbourne Council and opened by Deputy Lord Mayor, Nicholas Reece.

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## New voice for WA seniors

Australian Seniors News, Other, 27/05/2024

The Western Australia Government says Advocare will fulfill an important function representing the interests of more than 428,000 seniors who make up a vital part of WA to help ensure they are supported, connected and heard. As the seniors peak body, Advocare will engage with older people to hear their views and present these to Government and the community sector, said Seniors and Ageing Minister, Don Punch.

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## Why are older Australians with disabilities excluded from NDIS funding?

HelloCare, Other, 27/05/2024, Jakob Neeland

Advocates are raising concerns about the plight of older Australians with disabilities, who are often left struggling financially, housebound, or forced into residential care due to government funding policies. The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) currently excludes individuals diagnosed with a disability after the age of 65, pushing them into the Home Care Package system, which many argue is insufficient for their needs.

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## Volunteer Di and her guitar bringing joy for people with very severe symptoms of dementia

HelloCare, Other, 27/05/2024, Jakob Neeland

The residents of the Illawarra's newly opened Specialist Dementia Care Unit (SDCU) at HammondCare Horsely, all at a stressful phase in their lives, are keen for more singalongs with volunteer musician Di Davies and her guitar. Di's comforting repertoire – including Pack Up Your Troubles, A Long Way To Tipperary, You are my Sunshine – is warmly familiar to the residents, who all were moved there after being unable to be cared for in mainstream aged care services.

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## Can I still live independently while getting help at home?

The Senior, Other, 27/05/2024, Anthony Caggiano

Many people pride themselves on living independently in their own homes as they get older But running a household can sometimes become challenging and seeking out in-home care for support can be perceived as losing that independence. According to the chief executive officer of service provider Myvista Home Care, Irene Mooney, all such care does is provide the support needed to conquer these challenges independently.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Vapes, votes & the \$9B question

The Nightly, General News, 27/05/2024, Sarah Blake, Page 7

Back when Donald Trump was newly elected, his communications adviser Kellyanne Conway spoke with a straight face about "alternative facts" to explain the discrepancy between the crowd size Team Trump said was at his swearing in and the number that people's eyes were telling them was actually in attendance. [...] The number of those young users who report using devices with more than 3000 puffs in them has doubled in the past two years, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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### 'Forgotten' mums tolerate abuse

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 28/05/2024, Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 4

A distressed mother called Remi King's workplace after her car broke down one afternoon. She told Ms King, who works at a women's shelter, she did not feel safe and had nowhere to go. [...] "They are 35 per cent more likely to be hospitalised," Ms King, a medical graduate, quoted from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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

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### Help for dads in distress

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 28/05/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 1

Wellbeing 'Dads that are willing to talk are the ones that survive.' An organisation dedicated to improving men's mental health and wellbeing is coming to Tamworth to provide much-needed support. [...] From 2017 to 2021, more than 82 per cent of suicide deaths in Tamworth, Gunnedah, and the Liverpool Plains have been men, according to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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

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### St John Ambulance Victoria urges all soon-to-be parents to learn first aid

Adelaide Now, Other, 27/05/2024, Samantha Landy

All expectant parents are being urged to learn first aid after new research exposed an alarming knowledge gap. A Melbourne mum says she's an example of how vital it is to be trained up. [...]  
Picture: Brendan Beckett About 500 children aged 0-14 are tragically dying from injuries each year, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare figures show, while more than 62,000 are hospitalised.

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## Local mum Alicia Kimberley on a mission to educate Geraldton on the link between sunflowers and disability

West Australian, Other, 28/05/2024, Anna Cox

A local mum is on a mission to raise community awareness of the unlikely importance of sunflowers, and their representation of something much bigger. Alicia Kimberley found out about the Sunflower Program on a trip to Perth with her nine-year-old son, discovering the flower represented hidden disabilities such as neurological disorders and chronic illnesses.

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## What to do when you feel the first signs of a cold

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2024, Anna Chisholm

The first tickle at the back of the throat is usually followed by a familiar wave of dread. "Oh noo, I'm getting sick," your internal monologue cries. We asked doctors about the best things to do — and what to avoid — when you feel like you're coming down with a cold.

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## A cooking school is helping young people with disability learn skills that will help them find employment

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2024, Mietta Adams

Running a marathon or completing a triathlon is an impossible feat for most people – but not for 25-year-old Montana Whiteley and her brother Jamieson, 26, who are decorated athletes within Australia and internationally. [...] The latest report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found the unemployment rate for people with disability aged between 15 and 64 was ten per cent – which was about double the rate of unemployment for those without disability.

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## Distressing lack of access to palliative care highlighted in new data

HelloCare, Other, 27/05/2024, Jakob Neeland

New data released during National Palliative Care Week reveals the benefits of palliative care for those with a terminal diagnosis but also highlights a distressing lack of access to the symptom control, and social and emotional support palliative care offers. Produced by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the data fills in gaps in our knowledge about people with life-limiting conditions and their access to quality palliative care.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### In dark on bad genes as dad passes on female cancer risk

Age, General News, 28/05/2024, Wendy Tuohy, Page 1

When Alisha Mangan was told that her family history of cancer was not significant enough for her to qualify for genetic testing under Medicare, she felt she was being "pushed away". Her mother died at 58 of breast cancer, and her grandfather and his siblings had died of prostate cancer in their 60s, but the system used to determine her risk found Mangan's was not great enough to qualify for investigation.

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

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## Release your pressure valves

Age, General News, 28/05/2024, Amanda Loudin, Page 16

Hypertension affects more than one in five Australians. It is a leading cause of stroke and heart attack, and it often comes with no obvious early symptoms. [...] Setting goals The Australian Heart Foundation recommends 30 minutes or more of moderate-intensity physical activity five or more days per week.

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

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## How to stay well this winter

West Australian, Today, 28/05/2024, Katie Hampson, Page 1

As the days become cooler, many of us will be reaching for comfort foods to feel better, stay warm and provide extra energy. This can lead to gaining unwanted extra kilos over winter, warns Dr Michael Mosley, who has spent decades trying to help us all eat healthily, sleep better and do more exercise.

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## Cancer victim's stage-four shock

Ballarat Courier, General News, 28/05/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 3

Joel Ridsdale is going through a cancer fight he could perhaps have avoided. [...] According to Cancer Council Victoria, Lynch syndrome is believed to be Australia's most common inherited cancer risk, with one in 280 Australians believed to carry the mismatch repair gene deficiency.

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## Australian doctor survives brain tumour thanks to his own research

SBS, Other, 27/05/2024, Barbara Barkhausen

When Australian doctor Richard Scolyer was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour around a year ago, his chances of survival were slim. But then the 57-year-old became "patient zero" in an immunotherapy approach that was developed on the basis of his own melanoma research.

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## Advocacy group calls for transparency regarding radiotherapy service feasibility report, costing

About Regional, Other, 27/05/2024, Marion Williams

A Eurobodalla advocacy group is concerned that NSW Health remains reluctant to include a local radiotherapy service (LRS) in the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital precinct plans. They want to see Professor Mick Reid's independent feasibility report on local access to radiotherapy in the region.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Same-day release plan for patients

The Australian, General News, 28/05/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

Patients who have joint replacement surgery could be routinely discharged from hospital on the same day of their operation as NSW leads the country in instituting shorter stays in hospital. Knee replacement patients in particular are likely to be offered same-day discharge if they are well enough, after a NSW pilot program found patients recovered well with post-operative inhome support and rehabilitation outcomes were as good or better.

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

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### All very chic

Cairns Post, General News, 28/05/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 1

A "cutting edge" \$60m health service focusing on tropical medicine and research will be established in Cairns, attracting skilled clinicians to Far North Queensland as part of increased investment in the region's hospital precinct, Premier Steven Miles says. The project will be officially announced on Tuesday and included in the state budget with Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service set to secure more than \$1.4bn, including \$450m in capital projects.

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## State's health system has a wastage issue

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/05/2024, Will Gordon, Page 15

Recently the Minister for Health, Guy Barnett stated that funding for Urgent Care Clinics and the Launceston General Hospital was "grossly inadequate", also expressing his discontent with the lack of federal assistance for the \$580 million upgrades for the LGH. First, the Tasmanian public need to understand that the Urgent Care Centres, DO NOT reduce bed flow issues in our emergency departments.

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## Works stop at Shellharbour's new Hospital, or do they?

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 27/05/2024, Connor Pearce

When Kiama MP Gareth Ward posed for a photo outside the new Shellharbour hospital construction site with Shellharbour mayor Chris Homer and deputy mayor Kellie Marsh to ask why works had "stopped", it turned out the answer was standing on either side of him. As earthmoving and utilities works occur at the hospital site, there's also been an ongoing back and forth between three state government departments and the local council - all of which is available publicly online.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 27/05/2024, Peter Overton

Independent auditors have cast doubt over the ability of Sydney's Northern Beaches Hospital to keep its doors open because of a debt crisis. Operators Healthscope reportedly owe \$283m, far exceeding the \$79m it has in cash and assets. Premier Chris Minns says he expects Healthscope to deal with its financial situation as it is very important and necessary that a hospital is available for that community.

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## Seven Regional WA, Seven Regional News, 27/05/2024, Noel Brunning

Home support is about to look different for Great Southern residents. The WA Country Health Service is opting out of providing that care, with funding being passed on to private companies. Juniper is one of three private providers selected by the Federal Health department to continue the care but some country residents are worried as the private companies focus on Albany and Katanning.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### The body image battle

Herald Sun, General News, 28/05/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 13

Beauty filters would be blocked for users aged under 18 and tech giants would be fined for failing to promptly remove toxic eating disorder content and advertising under a proposed crackdown to better protect kids and teens. An expert roundtable, spearheaded by teal MP Zoe Daniel and the Butterfly Foundation, will on Tuesday call on the federal government to enact 21 urgent recommendations to reduce harm for vulnerable Australians struggling with their body image.

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

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## Youth mental health boost

A dedicated adolescent mental health unit will be established at Cairns Hospital next year, the first of its kind in Far North Queensland. To make room for the \$24m facility, the existing adult inpatient ward on the ground floor of A-Block will be refurbished with eight beds, to allow for new age-appropriate adolescent mental health care and treatment.

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

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## Big push for mental health

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/05/2024, Abby Walter, Page 9

Headspace Geelong and headspace Corio are encouraging residents to push for better mental health by taking part in the Push-Up Challenge in June. Headspace Geelong and Corio spokeswoman Tenille Favazza said challenge was a great opportunity to talk about mental health.

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## Walking, talking and breaking down barriers

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/05/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

One in three Australian men in mental distress don't seek help, so the University of Newcastle is running a clinical trial that aims to improve that. Health researcher Myles Young said "we're looking at recruiting men with low mood or depressive symptoms".

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## Australians coming off antidepressants are relying on social media due to lack of clinical support

The Guardian, Other, 28/05/2024, Melissa Davey

Patients weaning themselves off antidepressants are turning to online support groups due to a lack of information and support, with a new study finding Facebook and other platforms are filling a gap left by clinicians. Approximately one-in-seven Australians take antidepressants, which are the most commonly dispensed medications

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### 'It's killing towns': push for better rural childcare

Canberra Times, Other, 28/05/2024, Stephanie Gardiner

There's a joke among a group of rural nurses: staff shortages would be solved instantly if every hospital had a creche. It's a quip that's hit home for Victorian nurse and diabetes educator Leah-Ann Stephenson, who cannot return to work because there are no childcare spots for her 11-month-old son.

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

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### NSW offers nurses pay rise, short of unions demands

Aged Care Insite, Other, 27/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

The NSW government has offered public sector workers, including nurses, a three-year pay rise worth 10.5 per cent, which is well under the demands of some of the unions. The Minns government announced the offer last Monday, and it applies to workers whose industrial agreements are due for renewals, including nurses.

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### ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 27/05/2024, Sammy J

Victoria's nursing union will meet with state government ministers today to continue pay negotiations, a

week after the shock decision of union membership to reject a pay offer their leaders had accepted. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Vic Branch Secretary Lisa Fitzpatrick says she's positive an agreement can be reached.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### A healthy dose of doctors

Daily Advertiser, General News, 28/05/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf, Page 1

A government program aimed at attracting doctors to the regions has kicked off, with more than half of the current doctors based in the Riverina region. Of the 21 doctors under the rural generalist single employer pathway program that have begun their training in regional hospitals, eight are based in the MLHD alone. The state government program is aimed at attracting more doctors to the bush.

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

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### Hospital patients out of parking patience

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/05/2024, Ann Wason Moore, Page 8

It's a code red emergency at the Gold Coast University Hospital. But this crisis is not about ambulance ramping, it's not about waiting times. It's about parking. When the GCUH was first opened a decade ago, patients and staff alike couldn't believe their good fortune when it came to the facilities for cars.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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### Family violence training for GPs

Sunbury & Macedon Ranges Star Weekly, General News, 28/05/2024, Hannah Hammoud, Page 4

The North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) is on a mission to protect and support patients experiencing family violence through its innovative program, Primary Care Pathways to Safety. This program equips general practice staff with the necessary tools to provide trauma-informed care to victim-survivors.

Also reported by: [Brimbank & North West Star Weekly \(Melbourne\)](#).

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

### Six Great Southern doctors appointed this financial year as Rural Health West increases regional GP numbers

West Australian, Other, 27/05/2024, Matthew Paddick and Eliza Kavanagh

Six new GPs have been placed in the Great Southern as part of Rural Health West's near-doubling of recruits to the regions compared to last financial year. This year so far, the organisation has recruited 50 GPs to WA's rural and remote communities, with six for the Great Southern.

[Read More](#)

### Obstetrician famed for delivering a baby on live TV dies aged 69

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/05/2024, Carmel Sparke

The death of the renowned media doctor and IVF pioneer Dr Ric Porter was reported on Nine News. Dr Ric Porter, a prominent obstetrician and IVF doctor who performed the first caesarean on Australian live television, has died aged 69. The fertility expert and media personality died of pancreatic cancer, Channel Nine reported on Saturday.

[Read More](#)

### Former RACGP presidential candidate slammed for tweet about killing of doctor's son

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/05/2024, Heather Saxena

Dr Julian Fidge suggested that family court treatment of the boy's father may have contributed to the suspected murder-suicide. Doctors have slammed a former RACGP presidential candidate for suggesting a suspected murderer may have been 'goaded' before killing his two-year-old son and himself.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, News Breakfast, 27/05/2024, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

Doctors in the UK are leaving the country in droves and Australia is the top destination they are moving to. Health staff have been striking on and off for more than a year, fighting for better pay and conditions as the UK's health crisis deepens. More than 1300 medical practitioners moved from the UK to Australia in 2022 and last year, that number jumped by a whopping 67% to nearly 2000. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' Dr Nicole Higgins says they've made huge differences to rural and regional Australia but to our workforce as a whole and what it means, though, is that the UK system is now really struggling.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Mum's hospital op 'heartbreak'

Courier Mail, General News, 28/05/2024, Toby Crockford, Page 18

A Brisbane mum says she "suffers ongoing pain", reduced mobility and lost bowel function because medical staff allegedly took too long to diagnose and operate on her, according to her filed lawsuit. Meagan Hammond, 40, has launched a \$1.9m damages claim against Queensland Health's Metro North and a private surgeon, Dr Michael Bryant, alleging it took almost four days to properly treat her after she went to The Prince Charles Hospital on June 10, 2018.

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

### Tech guru accused of health system fraud blew it on crypto

West Australian, General News, 28/05/2024, Page 9

A former biomedical engineer turned tech guru is accused of defrauding hundreds of thousands of dollars from the WA health system and gambling away or spending the proceeds on crypto currency. Suresh Kumar, 43, faced Perth Magistrates Court on Monday for the first time, charged with more than 50 corruption offences which relate to his time with the North Metropolitan Health Service.

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

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### Can industry influence what a doctor prescribes?

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2024

Australian researchers report that drug companies are paying Australian doctors millions of dollars

every year to fly to overseas conferences and meetings, give talks and serve on advisory boards. They raise concerns this could influence prescribing patterns and are calling for greater transparency and tighter controls within the industry.

[Read More](#)

## **Devastating reason this Melbourne mum-of-two is now dead**

NEWS.com.au, Other, 27/05/2024, Natalie Brown

A Melbourne woman who died shortly after a surgical abortion underwent the procedure for financial reasons, a spokesperson for her family has said. [...] Three doctors – clinic director, Dr Michelle Kenney; the anaesthetist from Ms Kaur's surgery, Dr Tony Chow; and gynaecologist, Dr Rudolph Lopes – have now been suspended from practising medicine anywhere in Australia by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), pending an investigation.

[Read More](#)

## **Proving negligence: Does anyone benefit from the courtroom medical gladiators?**

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/05/2024, Paul Nisselle

Professor Stephen Duckett's recent article about the funding of pathology services attracted a lot of adverse comment. Many years ago, at the height of the litigation crisis, I had lunch with him and a senior executive of the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA), which, among other things, manages negligence claims for public hospitals and their employees. [...] Also, it could be run by the VMIA, though it was suggested only for litigation and not for AHPRA and other disciplinary matters.

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## **Patient's death could have been prevented if doctor used pneumonia risk tool: coroner**

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/05/2024, Carmel Sparke

The GP locum was not aware of the tool for assessing risk when treating the 60-year-old woman in ED, an inquest heard. A woman with community-acquired pneumonia may not have died if a GP locum had calculated her risk of ICU admission or death when she presented to ED, a coroner has found.

[Read More](#)

## **Aussie grandma's shock claim after breathing in 'toxic particles' from life-saving device**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 27/05/2024, Courtney Greatrex

A retired nurse has been left fearing for her future after using an allegedly faulty device to treat a chronic health condition. Grandmother Eva Lindbloom, from Mandurah, WA, claims she has developed health complications as a result of using a Philips Electronics CPAP machine, to help treat her sleep apnea.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 9, Nine News, 27/05/2024, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins**

The Deputy State Coroner has visited the Flinders Medical Centre's emergency department as part of an ongoing inquest into the deaths of three South Australians after they'd been left waiting in the back of ambulances. The coroner will also tour the emergency departments at the Royal Adelaide and Lyell McEwen hospitals.

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## **ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 27/05/2024, Ryk Goddard**

A nurse working for Tasmania's Hospital@home program claimed she suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder after being verbally assaulted by a psychiatric patient outside her Cambridge office earlier this year. Her employer, Tasmania's Health Department, disputed it was liable for compensation on the grounds the nurse's mental health injury was caused by being accosted by a third party and was unrelated to her work.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Health spending outstrips tax cuts in budget favour

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/05/2024, Phillip Coorey, Page 4

A \$5.7 billion boost to defence spending and a \$623 million-a-year decision to pay superannuation on public paid parental leave were the two least popular measures in the federal budget, according to a deep dive into the May 14 document. Both measures fai...

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

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### Vaping clash

The Australian, Business News, 28/05/2024, Yoni Bashan and John Stensholt, Page 14

Word has reached us of a very angry phone call between Australian Medical Association president Steve Robson and Theo Foukkare, CEO of the Australian Association of Convenience Stores. Their beef is over the legalisation of vaping. Foukkare's mob of corner stores and food marts are eager to see that happen, of course; the AMA and the government aren't as enthusiastic.

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### Barnaby Joyce throws support behind vape tax claiming people buying vapes meet 'people who sell them meth'

West Australian, Other, 27/05/2024, Max Corstorphon

Nationals MP Barnaby Joyce has thrown his support behind a bid to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in additional tax revenue, a new push to legalise and regulate vaping claiming kids are meeting people 'who sell them ice' when they go to buy a vape. Projections indicate that if an excise tax is implemented on vapes, Queensland, NSW, and Victoria could each collect over \$600 million in the next four years.

Also reported by: [3AW \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### Expanding access

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/05/2024

The Senate report focused on enhancing access to diagnosis and treatment for individuals with rare and less common cancers has been supported by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA). The report encompasses over 40 recommendations including expanding medication access and bolstering workforce development in cancer care.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 10, 10 News First, 27/05/2024, Jennifer Keyte

Calls are growing to legalise vapes and create a new stream of revenue for the government worth billions of dollars a year but medical experts warn the health costs will be far greater. The Australian Medical Association argues it would cost state health departments far more in the long run, to treat a new generation of nicotine addicts.

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### Channel 7, Sunrise, 27/05/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

The Federal Nationals are backing a move to legalise and regulate vaping, in a move that could bring in hundreds of millions of tax dollars. Labor has been doing its best to outlaw the sale of vapes without a prescription and it wants them treated like the therapeutic goods they were initially marketed as to help people quit smoking. However, the nationals want to see vapes regulated more like cigarettes only available to buy in specialty stores by adults and sold in plain packaging. Figures out today show that if

vapes were legalised and an excise was slapped on them, there would be a significant tax windfall to be had with NSW potentially earning more than \$830m and Victoria \$765m over the next four years.

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## Channel 9, Today, 27/05/2024, Alex Cullen and Sarah Abo

States across the country could see a huge tax boost if vapes are legalised with Qld looking at an extra \$600m in GST over four years. The Nationals have already gotten behind the idea and they believe that regulating and taxing vapes could create a lot of revenue that could go straight back into things like housing. The Coalition is mulling over whether to support it or not.

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## SPORT

### Hawks race case secret texts

The Australian, General News, 28/05/2024, Mark Robinson, Page 1

Secret text messages from a former Hawthorn football official are expected to be used in evidence when claims by Indigenous former players that they suffered racism at the Hawks are heard in the Federal Court. On Monday, the Hawks confirmed the Human Rights Commission had terminated a claim against the club by past Indigenous players and their families because parties could not come to a deal.

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

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### Minister won't lock in Boxing Day Test at MCG

Age, General News, 28/05/2024, Broede Carmody, Page 5

Victoria's major events minister has failed to guarantee the Ashes Boxing Day Test will be held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground the summer after next amid a standoff between the state government and Cricket Australia. During a state budget estimates grilling yesterday, Steve Dimopoulos was asked a number of times to guarantee that the Boxing Day Test which has been held in Melbourne for more than four decades would remain in the Victorian capital beyond 2024-25.

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### We were Robb-ied

Herald Sun, General News, 28/05/2024, Aneeka Simonis, Page 1

The cancellation of megastar Robbie Williams' Australian Grand Prix concert was based on false information that wrongly stated then chief health officer Brett Sutton had directed it not go ahead, a trial has heard. The high-stakes legal fight over the abandoned concert began in the Supreme Court of Victoria on Monday, with the civil trial expected to run for three weeks.

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### Swimmer drowns at unpatrolled surf beach

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 28/05/2024, Nadine Morton, Page 3

A man has died after being pulled from the ocean at Seven Mile Beach. The man, who is believed to be aged in his 60s, was found unresponsive in the water at Shoalhaven Heads at 8.45am yesterday. Members of the public commenced CPR before the arrival of paramedics; however, he was unable to be revived. The man is yet to be formally identified.

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### Net Gains: How even in First Nations round netball is failing Indigenous players

The Australian, Other, 27/05/2024, Emma Greenwood

The Melbourne Vixens were outstanding in their win against West Coast Fever in Perth on Sunday,



becoming the first team in the league to beat the competition leaders this year. The 76-65 win was comprehensive in the end , although the Fever clawed their way to within six points with just over three minutes remaining when Jhaniele Fowler-Nembhard converted her second super shot of the final term.

[Read More](#)

## **Tasmania is the 'diving death capital' of Australia says expert**

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2024, Brooke Van, Rachel Edwards and Leon Compton

David Smart Tasmania has a dubious distinction of being the diving death capital of Australia. We have at least four times the national average of deaths underwater per capita. Now that doesn't take into account participation rates which may well be quite a bit higher in Tasmania because of the ability to catch recreational seafood. But certainly per capita we are four times the national average and about ten times the safest state.

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## **AIS unveils free course to support umpires**

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2024

The Australian Sports Commission has designed a free online course to help Australian sports umpires and officials build skills and confidence Claire Polosak umpired international men's and women's cricket matches and she told RN Breakfast the course will help all levels of umpires with the "soft skills" and the ability to facilitate games more smoothly.

[Read More](#)

## **Women's soccer is surging, and the Adelaide Jaguars are urgently seeking a permanent home**

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2024, Stateline By, Brant Cumming and Stephanie Richards

Lynley Muller steps off the pitch after playing her fourth-ever soccer game. The Adelaide Jaguars player is embraced by her two children, who have spent the afternoon watching their mother fill in as goalkeeper after a last-minute team reshuffle.

[Read More](#)

## **“An opportunity for others to step up”: Professor Colleen Hayward ends near decade-long contribution to WA Cricket's Aboriginal advisory committee**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/05/2024, Callan Morse

Professor Colleen Hayward AM has concluded her role as co-chair of the WA Aboriginal Cricket and Cultural Advisory Committee. Her resignation ends a nine-year tenure as a member of the WA Aboriginal Cricket and Cultural Advisory Committee (WAACCAC), which was established as the WA Aboriginal Cricket Advisory Committee in 2015.

[Read More](#)

## **NRL teams up with Deadly Choices for 2024 Indigenous Round**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/05/2024, Joseph Guenzler

The National Rugby League (NRL) has partnered with Deadly Choices, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health program, to promote healthy living through a jersey initiative. Created by the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), Deadly Choices encourages Indigenous Australians to eat well, exercise, quit smoking or vaping, and connect with Community Controlled Health Services for a 715 Health Check.

[Read More](#)

## **Queensland passes Olympic torch to independent authority**

The Mandarin, Other, 27/05/2024, Dan Holmes

The Queensland government has established an independent authority to oversee the delivery of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games. Legislation has passed the state's parliament, establishing the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Healius steady on unit sale bid

The Australian, Business News, 28/05/2024, Bridget Carter, Page 14

Short sellers and a potential profit downgrade kept the lid on the Healius share price on Monday despite the group answering the call of its investors to run a sale process for its diagnostic imaging unit. The sale process by UBS of the Lumus Imaging unit was flagged by DataRoom ahead of an announcement by the company on Monday that it would explore a sale.

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

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### Parkinson's hope

Herald Sun, General News, 28/05/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

A group of Australia's top neurologists has high hopes of stopping or slowing the progression of Parkinson's disease with a world-first treatment that targets the gut microbiome. Human trials of the treatment will begin within weeks. Parkinson's disease, which affects millions of people worldwide, is the fastest-growing neurological disorder globally. There are currently no effective cures.

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

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### Local bequest backs Ballarat researchers

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 27/05/2024, Phoebe Doyle, Page 4

A new fellowship to support research into cancer treatment has been named in honour of Mildura's Irene Tellefson. Last Friday, the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute, based in Ballarat, announced the establishment of the Irene Tellefson Cancer Research Fellowship.

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### New hope to cut side effects of anti-psychotic drugs

7news.com.au, Other, 27/05/2024, Abe Maddison

Researchers say the change has the potential to change the lives of patients. A new coating for anti-psychotic drugs mitigates weight gain as a side effect and boosts serotonin levels, offering the potential to change lives, researchers say.

[Read More](#)

### Deaths from psychedelics and the rise of COVID variant FLiRT - Health with Dr Norman Swan

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2024

As far as recreational use of psychedelic drugs goes, there's been a perception they're safer than other drugs. But a new study from Australian researchers shows that isn't necessarily the case.

[Read More](#)

### Women advised to pair effective contraception with 'skinny jabs'

The Guardian, Other, 28/05/2024, Nicola Davis

Claims that "skinny jabs" are fuelling an unexpected baby boom have led experts to warn women to pair their use with effective contraception. Medications such as Wegovy and Ozempic, both of which contain semaglutide, have become hugely popular, not least because they can help people lose more than 10% of their body weight.

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A team of Australian researchers is running a human clinical trial using magic mushrooms to treat anorexia nervosa. The treatment involves patients taking a dose of psilocybin, a psychedelic extracted from the mushrooms.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Hailing Far North winners

Cairns Post, General News, 28/05/2024, Page 9

A Far North Queensland Indigenous health service and a First Nations tourism venture have been recognised at the 2024 Queensland Reconciliation Awards held in Cairns on Monday night. Apunipima and Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service claimed the health and wellbeing award for its campaign for better kidney care in Cape York while Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation tourism operation claimed the business prize.

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### 'Healing' on National Sorry Day

Daily Liberal, General News, 28/05/2024, Page 2

It was an atmosphere of healing and coming together as Dubbo marked National Sorry Day. On Friday, May 24, the Dubbo Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) hosted an event to remember those that were taken away from families by government policy from the 1800s to the 1980s and in some cases today.

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### Indigenous healing gets Federal lift

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 27/05/2024, Holly Hales, Page 4

Healing workshops, on-country camps, and the documentation of Stolen Generations survivors' experiences are set to be boosted by \$3.5 million in federal funding. The announcement, coinciding with National Sorry Day yesterday, is aimed at supporting community-led services through the Healing Foundation over the next two years.

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### 'It's not a good place for anyone': Indigenous incarceration figures in NSW have reached a record high

SBS, Other, 27/05/2024, Angelica Waite

The devastating new figures show that the state is not on track to meet its Closing the Gap targets. Michael Pitt, a 44 year-old Gomeroi Gamilaroi man, was first placed in detention when he was 14 years old.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### US, Europe consider vaccinating workers for bird flu

West Australian, Other, 27/05/2024, Jennifer Rigby and Julie Steenhuysen

The United States and Europe are taking steps to acquire or manufacture H5N1 bird flu vaccines to protect at-risk poultry and dairy workers, veterinarians and lab technicians, government officials say, moves influenza experts say could curb the threat of a pandemic. US officials last week said they were moving bulk vaccine from CSL Seqirus that closely matched the virus into finished shots that could provide 4.8 million doses of vaccine.

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

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## Triple threat: The winter viruses you can get at the same time

The New Daily, Other, 27/05/2024, John Elder

You might have heard that people are being hit with a "triple whammy" of respiratory diseases. This suggests that some members of the community are being laid out with two or even three rotten viruses at the same time.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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## Channel 7, Sunrise, 27/05/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Dr Ginni Mansberg, Sunrise GP, on travellers being warned that cases of the deadly mosquito virus, dengue fever are spiking with more than 5 million people contracting the disease so far this year. Popular Australian tourist spots including Bali, Malaysia, Singapore and Peru are experiencing one of the largest and most severe outbreaks in history. Mansberg says only 25% of people who catch dengue fever get any symptoms at all but people would get them, they're nasty.

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 27/05/2024, Sammy J

Interview with Dr Anita Munoz, Chair of the Victoria Faculty, RACGP, on people getting sick during the winter season. Munoz says Covid is surging again and influenza is starting to ramp up, but it's only the start of the season. She adds they are only starting to collect data on RSV, which is also a cause of particularly nasty respiratory illness but there are so many more viruses that circulate at this time of year than those three sorts of well-known viruses.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Biggest build yet is the mountain of deception

Herald Sun, General News, 28/05/2024, Shannon Deery, Page 21

How do you know when a politician is lying? Their lips are moving. It's an old, unkind joke, Hbut it speaks to the reality that we've come to expect nothing more from our MPs. [...] At the time the offer was made the drug was yet to be approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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### 'We are facing medicine shortages': Pharmacy Guild president

Burnie Advocate, General News, 28/05/2024, Hugh Bohane, Page 2

The Pharmacy Guild claims Tasmania is facing a shortage of pharmaceuticals and says some medicines are 'completely unavailable'. Launceston-based President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Helen O'Byrne said there is an ongoing shortage of medicines nationwide, and the barriers to manufacturing medicines in Australia must be addressed. [...] Sometimes, even the TGA will stop importing a particular medicine because it doesn't meet their standards, which can add to the supply issues.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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### Anti-vax claims flood Senate inquiry. Officials say they're wrong

Australian Financial Review, Other, 27/05/2024, Tom Burton

Anti-vax groups have flooded a Senate inquiry with claims that government vaccine mandates during the pandemic have resulted in more deaths from causes other than COVID-19 in the years since. The Australian Bureau of Statistics, the federal Health Departm...

## Therapeutic Goods Administration fines another medicinal cannabis supplier

Crikey, Other, 27/05/2024, Daniel Holmes

Medicinal cannabis products cannot be advertised to Australian consumers — but some suppliers are alleged to be playing fast and loose with the rules. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued fines worth \$171,972 to medicinal cannabis supplier Better Leaf Pty Ltd.

[Read More](#)

## The rise and rise of Australia's \$350 million medicinal cannabis business

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/05/2024, Sarah Simpkins

Just how much is the Australian medicinal cannabis market worth? The estimates put it at more than \$350 million. [...] In fact, only two products are listed on the TGA's register of therapeutics goods – Sativex and Epidyolex.

[Read More](#)

## AusDoc special report: Is medicinal cannabis prescribing out of control?

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/05/2024, Rachel Carter

Doctors have obtained 140,000 approvals to prescribe high concentrate THC products despite the limited clinical indications for its use. "The script for medicinal cannabis comes in, then things start to fall apart for them," says Dr Stephen Parker. [...] Officials from the Department of Health and Aged Care, along with AHPRA, the TGA, the Medical Board of Australia and a string of other regulators held a rare joint meeting in February to discuss how to protect patients.

[Read More](#)

## Government pulls the plug on replica Ozempic

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 27/05/2024, Chloe Hava

After much media scrutiny, the federal Department of Health and Aged Care has announced a ban on compounded Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1RAs) such as semaglutide and tirzepatide. The ban follows advice from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), after a Consultation to remove GLP-1RAs from the pharmacist extemporaneous compounding exemption, and a high-profile raid on a Melbourne compounding pharmacy earlier this year.

[Read More](#)

## The Zap: all the latest health and aged care news, as well as consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 27/05/2024, Melissa Sweet

A comprehensive update on the latest developments and resources in palliative care is provided in the column this week, as well as wide-ranging news in cancer control, including some key recommendations from a Senate inquiry into rare cancers. [...] Minister Mark Butler announced on 22 May that the Government would implement the change from October "to protect Australians from the clear risk to human health posed by the large-scale manufacture of compounded injections".

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## You voted esmi as your favourite beauty brand in 2024. Here are their best 6 products, ranked.

Mamamia, Other, 27/05/2024, Laura Tough

In case you have been hiding under a rock and haven't heard, esmi has been crowned All-Time Fave Beauty Brand in Mamamia's 2024 You Beauty Awards. And we can understand why. [...] This is the product for skin in need of some extra TLC. Formulated with 100 per cent Australian-made probiotics, esmi is the first skincare brand to actually use 100 per cent Australian-made probiotics produced in an Australian cGMP/TGA approved laboratory (fancy!).

## Channel 7, Sunrise, 27/05/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Desperate patients struggling with critical medicine shortages are resorting to rationing their medicine by cutting capsules in half. The Therapeutic Goods Administration lists shortages of 424 medicines, with 40 in critically short supply. Royal Australian College of GPs President Doctor Nicole Higgins says it's a global supply chain problem and Australia imports nearly all of its medications. She adds the issue is across the spectrum and it's having different impacts but most of the time there is an alternative.

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## 5AA, Mornings, 27/05/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of GPs, on the 424 medicines listed on the Therapeutic Goods Administration medicine shortage database with 20 of those in critically low levels. Higgins says people need to keep taking their medicines and the government should start to act and make sure that Australians have the medications that they need.

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## ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 27/05/2024, Mark Gibson

Interview with Associate Professor Michael Clements, Vice President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, on the Therapeutic Goods Administration listing more than 400 medications that are in short supply, 40 of them facing critical shortages. Clements says the shortage is also impacting weight loss medications including Ozempic which has been in shortage for a long period because of such high demand. He adds it also includes hormone replacement therapies, certain blood pressure and cholesterol tablets while antibiotics go in and out of supply depending on trends.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Why marijuana can be madness

The Australian, General News, 28/05/2024, Allysia Finley, Page 12

Young people who smoked marijuana in the 1960s were seen as part of the counterculture. Now the cannabis culture is mainstream. A survey last year sponsored by the US National Institutes of Health found that 28.8 per cent of Americans age 19 to 30 had used marijuana in the preceding 30 days more than three times as many as smoked cigarettes. Among those aged 35 to 50, 17.3 per cent had used weed in the previous month, against 12.2 per cent for cigarettes.

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

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### Drug OD warning

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/05/2024, Tara Miko, Page 15

Women are more likely to have GHB in their system than men when presenting at South Australian public hospitals, it can be revealed. But the trend of ingesting the deadly drug in licensed venues has changed, with users more likely to take it at home or in another private residence. The findings are outlined in a toxicology report that surveyed almost 1100 people who presented at four South Australian public hospitals over 15 months.

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

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## FOOD STANDARDS

# Korean BBQ sauce recall

Courier Mail, General News, 28/05/2024, Page 11

A popular Korean BBQ sauce sold at major supermarkets has been recalled on food safety fears. ByAsia Food, a Korean food distribution company, has recalled two O'Food Korean BBQ sauces: the bulgogi beef marinade 280g bottle with a best before date of April 16, 2025, and the BBQ spicy pork marinade 280g bottle with a best before date of March 10, 2025.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Lawsuit claims COYO was told product wasn't suitable for dairy-free label before woman's anaphylaxis death

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2024, Laura LaVelle

A Queensland "dairy-free" ice cream and yoghurt company was told its product wasn't suitable to be marketed as "dairy-free" years prior to the anaphylaxis death of a woman in the UK, court documents allege. Last year the ABC revealed COYO, based on the Sunshine Coast, was being sued by its UK licensee, Planet Coconut, after it was embroiled in the death of a 42-year-old mother.

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### AICIS

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