



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 31st May 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 11\)](#)** reports the AMA has called for the re-introduction of rules allowing pharmacies to discount prescription medicine in a submission to a Productivity Commission inquiry. A spokesperson for Health Minister Mark Butler said the discount "was failing to drive competition and make medicines cheaper." *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#)
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 1\)](#)** reports SA Health has announced it is temporarily cancelling elective surgeries, except category 1 and paediatric urgent category 2 surgery, across the state, following a number of days operating under a Code White workload. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#)
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports a roundtable of 27 mental health experts have called on the federal government to tax social media giants to fund initiatives addressing the mental health impacts of social media on young people. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Courier Mail](#)
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports Monash University researchers are recruiting anorexia patients to trial a new treatment that involves stimulating a part of the brain that is increasingly believed to be causally linked to development of the condition.

- **The Courier Mail (page 5)** reports the AMA Queensland branch has raised concerns that the rates of people moving to Queensland from interstate will put further strain on the state's already under pressure health system. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#)
- **The Courier Mail (page 13)** reports a Flinders University study found on-site pathology tests in rural and remote locations are just as reliable and accurate as tests carried out in hospital labs.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald (page 15)** reports authorities are cracking down on access to 1,4-Butanediol, which can be imported legally imported into Australia for industrial use under the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme, but is increasingly being identified in date rape drugs. *Also reported by:* [ABC News \(online\)](#), [Channel 9](#)
- **The Northern Territory News (page 18)** reports the NSW-based not-for-profit Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia visited four NT independent schools to provide year 10 students with information on pelvic pain and endometriosis.
- **ABC News (online)** reports a cluster of 10 monkeypox cases have been identified in Queensland this month as local authorities urge at risk populations to access the free vaccine. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times \(online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(online\)](#).
- **The Hobart Mercury (page 7)** reports Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation has urged the Tasmanian government to "immediately" fund additional mother and baby services across the state.

MINISTER BUTLER

Up in smoke

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/05/2024, Kishor Napier-Raman and Noel Towell, Page 2

When Health Minister Mark Butler went all-in on stopping the vapes, he probably didn't imagine his task would get quite so Sisyphean. After all, banning stuff is usually pretty uncontroversial in Australia, especially when the stuff in question is chock-full of nasty chemicals and keeps falling into the hands of children.

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

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Let the chemists discount medicine

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/05/2024, John Rolfe, Page 11

Doctors have slammed the Albanese government's new ban on prescription medicine discounts which currently save pensioners \$20 million a year and cost taxpayers nothing. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler's spokeswoman said the discount "was failing to drive competition and make medicines cheaper."

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

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Bundaberg Urgent Care Clinic is deemed a success

Bundaberg Today, General News, 31/05/2024, Angela Norval, Page 20

As Health Minister Mark Butler and Senator Murray Watt announced another Medicare Urgent Care Clinic for Queensland on 22 May, it was a reminder for Bundaberg on just how well the Bundaberg Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is going. Since opening in November 2023, the Bundaberg Medicare Urgent Care Clinic has had over 5000 presentations, with these clinics offering walk-in care over extended hours, bulk billed.

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Doctor shortage talks

Tweed Valley Weekly, General News, 30/05/2024, Jo Kennett, Page 6

The federal Health Minister Mark Butler visited Murwillumbah on Wednesday, May 22, to hear about

the doctor shortage due to a zoning anomaly. Minister Butler was joined by Member for Richmond Justine Elliot, State Member for Lismore Janelle Saffin and Tweed Shire councillor Reece Byrne.

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Bulk billing concerns

Tweed Valley Weekly, General News, 30/05/2024, Jo Kennett, Page 10

Federal health Minister Mark Butler says he is looking into the shortage of bulk billing in the Tweed Valley due to zoning issues and problems attracting doctors to the area. Mr Butler said that in most areas the tripling of the bulk billing incentive was working well.

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The black market for cigarettes has exploded in plain sight and it's costing taxpayers billions

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2024, Jane Norman

The sale takes place in plain sight. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler reckons smoking rates have "flatlined" and a fresh crackdown is required.

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Aussie former darts world champion tells how infected donor blood almost killed him

9News, Other, 30/05/2024, Emily McPherson

When former darts world champion Tony David was tearing up his opponents on the global stage he went by the nickname "the deadly boomerang". [...] In a letter to Health Minister Mark Butler, Rennick called on the government to acknowledge the plight of Australian victims.

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Compounded semaglutide ban will harm patients, says Dr Nick Coatsworth

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/05/2024, Antony Scholefield

Former deputy chief medical officer Dr Nick Coatsworth says the Federal Government's looming ban on compounded semaglutide fails to recognise the life-changing effect of the drug. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler announced last week that pharmacists would be prevented from compounding semaglutide and other GLP-1 receptor agonists from 1 October.

[Read More](#)

'We hope to pave the way for more pharmacist-researchers'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/05/2024, Megan Haggan

Many patients are prescribed opioids for hip and knee pain – but can pharmacists help them taper safely before replacement surgery? Two pharmacists have just been awarded a grant to further their work in this area Early this month (2 May 2024) health minister Mark Butler announced a \$1.

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ICYMI: World Health Assembly, some good and also alarming global health news, cautions over smartphones, and waving the Torres Strait Islander flag

Croakey, Other, 30/05/2024, Melissa Sweet

After apparently going missing in action, the Measuring What Matters framework turned up in Geneva this week, courtesy of Health Minister Mark Butler at the 77th World Health Assembly. The column this week brings wide-ranging updates from #WHA77 and other global health developments.

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Payroll tax pushback

Medical Forum, Other, 30/05/2024

While WA GPs have been spared the impost, others across the country were not so fortunate, spurring

the Royal Australia College of GPs (RACGP) to once again call on all state and territory governments to axe the payroll tax. [...] "As Minister for Health and Aged Care Mr Mark Butler and Treasurer Mr Jim Chalmers have warned, this groundbreaking investment will be for nothing if the states and territories don't address the payroll tax hit. It's a case of the giving with one hand and taking with the other unless a solution is found across Australia."

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National cancer network promises better-connected care

Oncology Republic, Other, 30/05/2024, Mariella Attard

Launching the Australian Comprehensive Cancer Network in Sydney this month, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said Australia's health system was "not a well-connected system". The network aims to bring together cancer resources and data from around the country to ensure everyone shares in what he described as "not just among the best [outcomes] in the world but the best in the world".

Also reported by: [The Medical Republic \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Bulk-billing consent fix on the way, but not this year

The Medical Republic, Other, 30/05/2024, Holly Payne

It will be another 18 months before a permanent fix is fully done, but the ball has officially started rolling in parliament. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler came out within the week to announce that a more suitable solution was in the pipeline and that DoHAC would not be pursuing any broad compliance campaigns in the interim.

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2SM, 14:00 News, 30/05/2024

Residents across New South Wales are being encouraged to nominate an outstanding doctor, nurse or health professional for a stronger Medicare award. The awards celebrate the 40th year since Medicare was established. Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler says it's a fantastic opportunity.

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MINISTER WELLS

Toombul a mystery

Courier Mail, General News, 31/05/2024, Madura McCormack and Brendan O'Malley, Page 23

The owner of the semi-demolished landmark Toombul Shopping Centre on Brisbane's northside has yet to provide clear plans for the future of the site, according to a federal government frontbencher. The alleged lack of community consultation has pushed Aged Care and Sport Minister Anika Wells, whose electorate covered Toombul, to rally local politicians from across all three levels of government to "discuss a way forward".

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

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\$7.5 million aged care cash splash for Burnett region

South Burnett Today, General News, 30/05/2024, Julian Lehnert, Page 3

The Burnett regions will receive over \$7.5 million in grant funding to improve access to aged care services at Gayndah, Monto and Murgon, the Federal Government announced last week. The Department of Health and Aged Care released the successful applicants in the 'Thin markets, Multiple Streams' section of its Aged Care Capital Assistance Program scheme on Wednesday, 22 May. [...] Federal Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, welcomed the government's spend in the sector.

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Federal grant to renovate rural Uniting home

A grant by the Federal Government will be used for a "much-needed" upgrade of a rural Uniting aged care home. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the grants were to be used to create "home-like" environments and ensure older Australians felt safe.

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Winners shape future aged care design

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 30/05/2024

Connection to nature, community and the environment were popular themes among the winning entries of the government's aged care design competition. [...] "Through this design challenge, we've seen innovative ideas and accommodation solutions that will shape the future of aged care accommodation and support older people to live meaningful lives in safe, high-quality residential care when it is needed," said Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells.

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Uniting NSW.ACT receives \$530K in Govt funding to safeguard Taralga aged care home's future

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/05/2024, Ian Horswill

Not For Profit Uniting NSW.ACT has secured a \$530,000 Federal Government grant to undertake a much-needed upgrade of its Taralga aged care home in the NSW Southern Tablelands, 237km west-southwest of Sydney's CBD. The grant is one of 76 infrastructure projects announced by Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells on 22 May as part of the Government's \$135 million Aged Care Capital Assistance Program.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 30/05/2024, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Interview with Federal Sports & Aged Care Minister Anika Wells. Wells points out that she will be meeting with Mirvac to discuss what will happen in the once flood-stricken Toombul Shopping Centre. She added that they will be bringing in a new support at-home system for people who need care at home. Wells says they want people to remain independent in their homes for as long as possible.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 30/05/2024, Georgia Stynes

Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells has welcomed renewed debate about venues for the upcoming Brisbane Olympics and Paralympics. It comes as the Qld Government is looking to upgrade its existing venues for the 2032 games, but Brisbane Olympics Chief Cindy Hook says organisers can work with that, but she's encouraging locals to speak up.

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DEPARTMENT

The Government developed this critical public health strategy by consulting with itself

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 31/05/2024

According to the new 2025-2030 National Immunisation Strategy, "This consultation paper outlines an approach to the National Immunisation Strategy (NIS) 2025-2030. [...] " A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care has confirmed that the other "selected key stakeholders" were the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation and the government-funded National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance.

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The 94 words that created a national institution and helped build a global industry

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 31/05/2024

As the Albanese Government considers the still secret recommendations of the Health Technology Assessment Review, it is worth considering the historical context. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care now claims it costs over \$40 million yearly to administer HTA and pricing processes related to the PBS and National Immunisation Program.

[Read More](#)

3BA FM, Ballarat Today, 30/05/2024, Brett MacDonald

Interview with Emily Learey, Primary Care Project Lead, PHN Western Victoria. Learey mentions the A-LIVES training package which is being developed as part of an initiative underneath a family domestic and sexual violence pilot project that is being funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care. She added that it was developed by their GP in their region on 2022.

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Changing of the guards heralds a new regime

Australian Financial Review, General News, 31/05/2024, Tom Burton, Page 11

When it comes to Australia's national regulators, women rule.

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Kiama council reveals Blue Haven Bonaira aged care buyer

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 31/05/2024, Glen Humphries, Page 12

The aged care provider who is buying Kiama's Blue Haven site has 36 other facilities across two states. Hall & Prior owns 23 aged care facilities in Western Australia and 13 in NSW.

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End of chapter for Kiama's Blue Haven

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 31/05/2024, Editorial , Page 51

Blue Haven Bonaira. It has been a long-running saga, and our reporter, Glen Humphries, has diligently reported every cough and sneeze.

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Aged care worker sentenced to life for 70yo murder

Aged Care Insite, Other, 30/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

A 21-year-old aged care worker who killed a 70-year-old woman has been handed a life sentence as a Perth court hears details for what was described as "almost the perfect crime". On November 28, 2022, Jacob Anthony Hoysted murdered Monica Stockdale during a shift at the BaptistCare Bethel aged care centre in Yakamia, Albany – southeast of Perth.

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Historic Sydney hospital to be transformed into aged care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 30/05/2024, Arshmah Jamal

A historic hospital precinct in Sydney's east is set to be transformed into an aged care facility in an effort to "rejuvenate a landmark urban site". Aged care provider Uniting has proposed a \$375m redevelopment for the Waverley War Memorial Hospital site to be developed into an aged care facility.

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Comms, charges top home care complaints

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 30/05/2024, Christopher Kelly

Consultation and finances head the list of complaints received by the aged care regulatory body from in-home care clients, says a new report. Released on Monday by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, the report – Complaints about aged care home services – Insights for people receiving care – shows 15 per cent of all complaints concerned consultation and communication.

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Improving access to restorative and wellbeing care for older Australians

HelloCare, Other, 30/05/2024, Jakob Neeland

Restorative and wellbeing care is essential for enhancing independence and self-confidence in older Australians and improving their quality of life. In Australia, residential aged care (RAC) residents are not receiving the recommended quantities and types of allied health care to support restorative and wellbeing care.

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Opposition stands by offer of bipartisan support for aged care sustainability reforms

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/05/2024, Caroline Egan

Shadow Minister for Aged Care Anne Ruston has reiterated the Opposition's offer of bipartisan support for aged care reforms that support the financial sustainability of the sector - but said she is disappointed the Government has not consulted more widely on the Aged Care Taskforce recommendations. "The Leader of the Opposition made clear in his last Budget in Reply speech last year that the Opposition would support sensible measures put forward by the Government to ensure that our aged care system is sustainable into the future," she told The SOURCE.

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\$43M "geriatric flying squads" to put 190 hospitalised seniors into aged care in SA

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/05/2024, Caroline Egan

The Federal Government and the South Australian State Government will spend \$56.3 million to try and unplug the aged care bed blockages that currently sees 190 South Australians in hospital when they should be in an aged care bed. The package includes \$42.9 million for so-called "geriatric flying squads" in which hospital staff will help older patients transition into residential aged care.

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Does AN-ACC sufficiently cover high-acuity aged care needs?

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/05/2024, Caroline Egan

Since 1 October 2023, the AN-ACC funding mix has left high-acuity care costs underfunded, according to an aged care business consultant. Providers we have spoken say allied health, lifestyle, GP visits and dementia care lack sufficient Government funding.

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54% of GPs don't want to provide aged care services - regardless of incentive

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/05/2024, Caroline Egan

A survey by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has revealed that no matter how large the incentive, more than half their General Practitioner (GP) members - 54% or 1,587 GPs - do not wish to deliver aged care services, regardless of incentive. The survey, which asked GPs if various incentive rates would be sufficient for them to visit aged care residents, included a final option: "I would not provide aged care services regardless of incentives."

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Regis Aged Care CEO Dr Linda Mellors and Sue Peden AM reappointed to ACCPA board

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/05/2024, Caroline Egan

The sector's peak body, Aged and Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA), has reappointed two board members for three-year terms: Dr Linda Mellors, CEO of Regis Aged Care, and Sue Peden AM, a communications and marketing executive with extensive experience in healthcare.

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POPULATION HEALTH

It hurts to be a man

Herald Sun, General News, 31/05/2024, Page 13

Men made up more than half of injury hospitalisations and emergency room injury presentations in 2021-22, new data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has revealed. Over the year, adult men represented 54 per cent of all injury-related hospitalisations, with 671,000 cases, and there were 8700 injury-related deaths.

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

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'Forgotten' mums tolerate abuse

Daily Liberal, General News, 31/05/2024, Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 4

A distressed mother called Remi King's workplace after her car broke down one afternoon. [...] "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).

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Endometriosis lesson not for public schools

Northern Territory News, General News, 31/05/2024, Gera Kazakov, Page 18

Educators from a NSW-based not-for-profit organisation have travelled to schools in the Red Centre capital to bust myths about pelvic pain and endometriosis for year 10 students, but were unable to visit any public schools. Two clinical educators from the Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia Elizabeth Lush and Polly Levinson travelled to Alice Springs and spoke about the Periods, Pain and Endometriosis Program (PPEP) to four independent schools.

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

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Melanoma biopsy treatment debate among skin cancer specialists

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/05/2024, Clarissa Bye

Many Australian skin cancer patients could be suffering from outdated surgery causing more harm than good – but medical debate is being stifled in Australia, according to a group of leading international medical researchers. The doctors reject routinely conducting surgical diagnostic test called a "sentinel lymph node biopsies" (SLNB) on patient's patients' lymph glands, particularly on those under 40 years and over 60 years of age.

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

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Karin had to wait 18 years to get her illness diagnosed and move 2,600km to manage it

SBS, Other, 30/05/2024, Christopher Tan

Karin has had to move from Christmas Island to Perth to get the medical care she needs. [...] MS Australia says the disease means the body's own immune system mistakenly attacks and damages the fatty material — called myelin — around the nerves.

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West Australian of the Year: Sandra Bellekom keeps an ear out for hearing health

West Australian, Other, 30/05/2024, Dylan Caporn

Sandra Bellekom really wants people to listen when she talks about hearing. The Ear Science Institute Australia chief executive is concerned about a "perfect storm" of hearing issues about to hit Australia and the world.

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2CC, Breakfast, 30/05/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Associate Professor Graham Newstead, Medical Director, Bowel Cancer Australia. Cenatiempo admits that he was expecting older people to be the ones who are being affected by bowel cancer, but younger people are now being affected by it. Newstead says that when he was younger, he learned that bowel cancer usually affects those around the mid-50s to 70s and now with a screening programme, they've reduced the mortality of the average group, but they are seeing it in younger people and it's increasing.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 30/05/2024, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Interview with Dr Julia Morahan, Head of Research, MS Australia. Ryan points out that today is World MS Day. She adds that a new report from MS Australia about the prolonged diagnosis times for the

disease. Morahan says the new report that they have launched today has shown that previously it was around five and a half years, which is now down four years in its diagnosis.

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PRIMARY CARE

No surgery for you

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/05/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 1

Elective surgery has been cancelled at all hospitals across the state as the health system heaves under an early winter illness load. Another grim milestone has also been reached with the time lost to ambulance ramping since the election of the Malinauskas government about to top 100,000 hours.

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

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Doctors call for discounts

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/05/2024, Page 18

Doctors have slammed the Albanese government's new ban on prescription medicine discounts which currently save pensioners \$20m a year and cost taxpayers nothing. In a submission to a Productivity Commission inquiry seen by The Daily Telegraph, the Australian Medical Association says the move by federal Labor "generates no savings for the government and is the opposite of the direction policy .

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

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Ramping more of a fail than a fix as winter hits

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 31/05/2024, Editorial, Page 24

Flashback to the 2022 election complete with Ash the Ambo, paramedics daubing ambulances and a sense of hysteria over ramping. Covid-19 was swamping the state for the first time in the pandemic, creating community concern about the prospect of an ambulance not turning up and delivering sick people to hospital.

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It's not a healthy growth

Courier Mail, General News, 31/05/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 5

Health chiefs fear struggling regional health services will collapse as interstate millennials flood into Queensland regions, with new data showing the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast are the top two hotspots for migrants. Critical surgical waitlists, doctor shortages, overwhelmed emergency departments and obstetric uncertainty are all concerns for the state's peak medical body as the population explodes.

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

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Docs blast discount med ban

Courier Mail, General News, 31/05/2024, John Rolfe, Page 25

Doctors have slammed the Albanese government's new ban on prescription medicine discounts, which currently save pensioners \$20m a year. In a submission to a Productivity Commission inquiry seen by The Courier-Mail, the Australian Medical Association says the move by federal Labor "generates no savings for the government and is the opposite of the direction policy .

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A state suffering from growing pains

Courier Mail, Editorials, 31/05/2024, Editorial, Page 30

For those of us who live here it is totally understandable that Queensland is the top destination in Australia for interstate migration. New data released officially today has revealed the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast are the top two hotspots for people wanting a fresh start.

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Don't hope, don't think, do something about violence

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/05/2024, Page 34

The time for action in dealing with family violence is now, writes Dr Juliana Ahmad In Australia, we are confronting a grave, unparalleled epidemic of family violence. Each week brings fresh stories of lheartbreak of women and children harmed, emotionally tortured, or tragically killed.

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Safe menopause drugs should be for all, not just the wealthy

West Australian, General News, 31/05/2024, Lucy Caratti, Page 54

Safe, effective treatment for menopause should be available to all Australian women, not the privileged few who can afford it. But for many people experiencing the debilitating symptoms of menopause, the only hormone replacement therapy they can afford is outdated and exposes them to increased risks of breast cancer.

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'Fantastic' facility not too far away

Ballarat Courier, General News, 31/05/2024, Melanie Whelan, Page 2

Final fit-outs are under way in the St John of God Ballarat Hospital expansion, which appears on track for a midyear completion. Builders from the site have offered a look inside the \$80.5 million project, which has been about 18 months in the making.

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Bold bid to bring healing

Cairns Post, General News, 31/05/2024, Page 5

A special fundraising campaign has set an ambitious target, to bring a \$4.3m surgical robot to the Far North in what would be a first for a public hospital outside of southeast Queensland. It's a cause close to the heart of Cairns businessman Rod Sherrington, who was treated for prostate cancer with the help of a similar robot at the Cairns Private Hospital.

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Emergency wait has risen

Central Western Daily, General News, 31/05/2024, Allison Hore, Page 1

Emergency room patients at one regional hospital have been left waiting up to three hours for treatment, the latest hospital data reveals. According to figures from the Bureau of Health Information (BHI), some semi-urgent patients at Dubbo's emergency room waited almost three hours for treatment in the first quarter of 2024 - one hour longer than in 2023.

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New health chief names priority

Central Western Daily, General News, 31/05/2024, Grace Dudley, Page 2

The new chief executive of one of the region's main health organisations has ensured a proposed "internal realignment", which had the potential to cause job losses, will not go ahead. The Chief Executive Officer of the West NSW Primary Health Network (PHN), Bradley Porter said the restructure is "off the table" and has vowed to help to attract more general practitioners to practices across the Central West.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#).

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'Hometown care saved me and my babies,' mum declares

Daily Advertiser, General News, 31/05/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 2

A Riverina mother who returned to her hometown after two premature births is adamant having medical help close by was a saviour for her family. "Without the help and guidance and the constant care of the doctors and nurses [at Cootamundra], I probably would not be here today ... and my children wouldn't be here either," mother of two Belinda Thompson said.

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

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Operation gone wrong

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 31/05/2024, Chloe Grimshaw, Page 5

An elderly woman hospitalised for months when a surgeon perforated her oesophagus has commenced proceedings against two Sunshine Coast health providers, after the Supreme Court refused their applications to dismiss new evidence. Christine Ann Lewis, 78, has claimed a total of three defendants including a surgeon, the Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital and Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service breached their duty of care after an emergency surgery left her with a perforated oesophagus and ongoing health complications.

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

Family of five-year-old girl who died at Seaton reveal asthma as her cause of death

Adelaide Now, Other, 30/05/2024, Riley Walter , Eva Blandis , Natalie Vikhrov an

A five-year-old girl who died of a suspected asthma attack has been remembered as a "playful" and "happy" child. The girl's great uncle, Anthony Wanganeen, said her tragic death had rocked her large Indigenous family.

[Read More](#)

South West Autism Network's free support service facing closure after federal funding cut

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2024, Bridget McArthur, Bridget-Mcarthur and Ethan French

A free autism support service in South West WA says it will have to close its doors following the federal government's decision not to renew its funding. The South West Autism Network (SWAN) has been assisting people with autism and other disabilities in the state's most populated regional area for 15 years.

[Read More](#)

Doctor-turned MP on the health woes of Australia's politicians and why they need a GP

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/05/2024, Carmel Sparke

After eight years, MP Dr Mike Freeland's push for an onsite GP at Parliament House in Canberra is gathering momentum. Since becoming an MP eight years ago, Dr Mike Freeland has discovered it is not only his vote on the floor of Parliament that other politicians count on.

[Read More](#)

Contraception more accessible in WA

Medical Forum, Other, 30/05/2024

Western Australian women will soon be able to get a resupply of the oral contraceptive pill at their local participating pharmacy as part of a new program where eligible women can get a resupply for up to 12 months at a time. Patients aged between 16 and 17 years can access up to four months' supply as an extension of their original prescription.

[Read More](#)

EC pill not stocked by all

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 30/05/2024

The availability of first-line oral emergency contraceptives in Australian community pharmacies is concerning, with a national survey revealing that nearly one-third of pharmacies do not stock the ulipristal acetate pill, according to Flinders University. The study found that only 70% of the 233 pharmacies surveyed stocked ulipristal acetate emergency contraceptive (EC) pills, compared to 98% for levonorgestrel.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Pay up for sins

Herald Sun, General News, 31/05/2024, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 1

Social media giants should be hit with a sin tax to pay for the damage they've done to Australian teens and to help fix platforms for future generations. That's the pitch to the Albanese government from 27 mental health experts, including representatives from the Black Dog Institute, Batyr and Beyond Blue, amid skyrocketing reports of cyber-bullying, sextortion and self-harm, and the rate of psychological distress in young people more than doubling in a decade.

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

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New laws to fight social media harm

Courier Mail, Editorials, 31/05/2024, Page 30

Day after day the horror stories about the shocking impact of social media keep rolling in. From the psychological distress and bullying suffered by teens to the tragic link to suicides it is becoming increasingly clear more must be done to curb the dangerous influence and insidious reach of the tech giants.

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

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'The missing middle': Meet the people falling through the gaps of the mental health care system

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2024, Shalailah Medhora

Riley* began seeing a psychologist when he was just 13 years old, but his mental health really deteriorated in 2020, when he was in Year 12. "I had presented to the emergency department in North Melbourne, probably four times before I was finally admitted," Riley told triple j Hack.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Urgent call for mums' support

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/05/2024, Rob Inglis, Page 7

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) is calling on the Rockliff government to "immediately" fund additional mother and baby services across Tasmania, saying the current treatment options are "insufficient" to meet demand. It comes a year after the closure of St Helen's Private Hospital, which took away the state's only mother and baby unit.

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Childbirth trauma pledge

Daily Advertiser, General News, 31/05/2024, Jeremy Eager, Page 1

Dozens of recommendations have been made in the wake of the statewide birth trauma inquiry sparked by complaints about maternity care at Wagga Base Hospital. The Select Committee on Birth Trauma's 256-page report was released on Wednesday with 43 recommendations to help improve maternity care services across the state, stemming from five key findings.

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

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Report 'reflects seriousness' of horrors

Daily Advertiser, General News, 31/05/2024, Taylor Dodge, Page 3

Wagga Women's Health Centre is urging the NSW Government to adopt and fund recommendations to address the trauma faced by local mothers during, before and after birth. The NSW Birth Trauma Inquiry was established following dozens of complaints lodged by the Maternity Consumer Network about birthing trauma experienced at Wagga Base Hospital.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Jaquelyne Hughes

Northern Territory News, Features, 31/05/2024, George Yankovich, Page 14

Few understand how chronic kidney disease affects a person's life more than Professor Jacquelyne Hughes, a kidney health researcher at Charles Darwin University and a specialist physician at Royal Darwin Hospital. She says the NT "leads the world in incidence of kidney disease" which if left untreated can lead to a lifetime of dialysis.

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

'Docs' turn on smiles for kids

Northern Territory News, General News, 31/05/2024, Gera Kazakov, Page 18

Some patients in a Red Centre hospital have been left in the right kind of stitches after visits from two special doctors. Dr Honeybee and Dr You Know - two of the Humour Foundation's clown doctors - brought laughs to the patients at Alice Springs Hospital last week.

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Sharon Wunungmurra

Northern Territory News, Features, 31/05/2024, Harry Brill, Page 20

For the past 18 years Sharon Wunungmurra has lived with her family in the East Arnhem community of Gapuwiyak, something she describes as a "real honour". Sharon, who has an occupational therapy background and now works as an NDIS and aged care centre co-ordinator, has been working with the East Arnhem Regional Council in taking a regional approach to aged care.

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Fransisca Tenorio

Northern Territory News, Features, 31/05/2024, Gera Kazakov, Page 20

Hailing from Surabaya in Indonesia, Fransisca Tenorio is no stranger to travelling for the answers. Moving to Darwin 14 years ago to study nursing at CDU, Fransisca says she was a registered nurse for 10 years before moving into a more research-driven position.

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

Nurses' staffing shortfall fight thrown out of court

Canberra Times, Other, 30/05/2024, Cassandra Morgan

Nurses have lost a legal fight over claims of staffing shortfalls at public hospitals, with a judge throwing

out a union bid to have the NSW government hit with penalties for understaffing. The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association launched the Supreme Court action against the government in March 2023, accusing it of repeatedly breaching award conditions.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), and syndicated widely across regional online

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Opal HealthCare staff in NSW reject pay deal

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/05/2024, Caroline Egan

Opal HealthCare aged care staff in New South Wales have rejected a proposed enterprise agreement (EA), which included a pay rise of 8.25% over three years (2.25%, 3% and 3%). An Opal HealthCare spokesperson told The SOURCE, "Opal HealthCare team members in NSW recently chose to continue negotiations for their upcoming Enterprise Agreement after voting down an earlier offer.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Parents can be tech-savvy too

Herald Sun, General News, 31/05/2024, Rachel Riley, Page 10

Two mums who started a first-of-its-kind not-forprofit helping Australian families with digital health are developing a national platform to upskill parents on how to navigate technology use with their kids. Brisbane mother of four Mackenzie Forrester founded Screen Sanity Australia in 2021 after a discussion with a group of other parents in a school carpark about growing device dependence among students and adults.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 30/05/2024, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Discussion about the cost and distribution of medicines. Mitsopoulos points out that people can complain about the pharmacies through AHPRA, the medical professional complaints organisation.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Pharma firm urged to share new 'game-changer' HIV drug

The Australian, Other, 30/05/2024

More than 300 politicians, health experts and celebrities on Thursday called for US pharmaceutical giant Gilead to allow cheap, generic versions of a promising new HIV drug to be produced so it can reach people in developing countries most affected by the deadly disease. The antiretroviral drug lenacapavir could be a "real game-changer" in the fight against HIV, according to an open letter to Gilead CEO Daniel O'Day signed by a range of former world leaders, AIDS groups, activists, actors and others.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Federal Human Rights Act could help prevent policy failures like robodebt, parliamentary inquiry says

The Guardian, Other, 30/05/2024, Paul Karp

A parliamentary inquiry has called for Australia to adopt its first ever federal Human Rights Act, with MPs arguing it could provide safeguards against public policy disasters like the robodebt scheme. [...] Independent MP Kylea Tink said that many public policy "disasters" including robodebt and neglect in the aged care sector "may not even have happened if we had a Human Rights Act providing protections for Australians".

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SPORT

Two more players tied to bet-fixing

The Australian, General News, 31/05/2024, Elizabeth Pike, Page 3

Two more Macarthur FC players have become embroiled in the ALeague bet-fixing scandal. Matthew Millar and Jed Drew, according to a police fact sheet, are alleged to have participated in a "criminal group" and contributed to "criminal activity" alongside club captain Ulises Davila, Kearyn Baccus and Clayton Lewis.

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Brighter outlook for super fund

The Australian, Business News, 31/05/2024, Glen Norris, Page 17

Brisbane-based Brighter Super will invest \$500m in new Queensland assets including key infrastructure in the lead up to the 2032 Olympics. Brighter Super chief executive Kate Farrar said the investment adds to the \$1bn in assets the \$32bn fund already holds in the state and underpins job creation and economic growth.

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

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World Cup at risk as Rebels get punted

Age, General News, 31/05/2024, Sarah Danckert, Page 6

Extreme doubt surrounds Victoria's chances of hosting the 2027 World Cup final and other major rugby events after Rugby Australia shut down the Melbourne Rebels after 14 seasons, sparking a court battle with the consortium that planned to save the club. The Rebels will play their last game next month after Rugby Australia chief executive Phil Waugh told Rebels staff and players of the impending closure at a 10am meeting yesterday at AAMI Park.

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Investing in athletes for golden return

Daily Telegraph, Supplement 1, 31/05/2024, Page 3

It's time to take a serious look at Australia's funding model for the majority of our Olympic sports and their athletes as we countdown to Paris 2024. As legendary Aussie swim coach Laurie Lawrence once

said: "You can't eat gold medals".

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

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Grace under pressure over wheelchair gaffe

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 31/05/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 4

Minister Grace Grace has been left red-faced after a tour of a \$257m Olympic and Paralympic sporting venue failed to meet accessibility requirements, excluding invitees who arrived in wheelchairs. Para-athletes and a journalist who uses a wheelchair waited for an hour while other stakeholders including Olympics and Paralympics organising committee president Andrew Liveris toured the Chandler Sports Precinct facility on Thursday.

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Premier sticks to stadium opinion

Courier Mail, General News, 31/05/2024, Hayden Johnson and Taylah Fellows, Page 4

Premier Steven Miles has slapped down talk of Brisbane getting a new stadium in time for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, but acknowledged upgrading the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre is yet to be properly assessed. Brisbane 2032 chief executive Cindy Hook on Wednesday urged concerned Queenslanders to "speak up" and demand an Olympic Games stadium a growing city needs.

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

E-sports girls are loading

Courier Mail, General News, 31/05/2024, Page 23

Move over boys, girls are taking over the e-sports domain. More than 150 female students from Brisbane schools will compete in a new all-girl esports tournament at St Margaret's Anglican Girls School on Saturday 1 June the first of its kind for Queensland schools.

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

Paris Olympics will be 'very special'

Canberra Times, General News, 31/05/2024, Megan Doherty, Page 13

Australian Olympic Committee chief Matt Carroll says the Paris Olympics will be "very special" but he's not about to put a number on how many gold medals the Aussies will bring home from France. "We never put out a medal count," he said.

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

Senator backs calls to take the plunge

Burnie Advocate, General News, 31/05/2024, Libby Bingham, Page 7

Liberal Senator Richard Colbeck has voiced his support for the campaign to build an ocean pool at Devonport's popular Mersey Bluff beach. "I'm keen to lend the ocean pool my support because I reckon it's a great idea for the Bluff," Senator Colbeck said.

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Helping kids go for gold

Daily Mercury, General News, 31/05/2024, Page 7

Four schools in the local region are set to share in more than \$30 million in funding for new or improved sporting infrastructure. Mackay Northern Beaches State High School, Emerald State High School, Eton State School and Finch Hatton State School are among more than 90 facilities who were successful in landing up to \$500,000 in the state government's Go for Gold funding.

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Mackay to host more matches

Daily Mercury, General News, 31/05/2024, Mitch Bourke, Page 39

Mackay's Great Barrier Reef Arena is going from strength to strength in Cricket Australia's international scheduling. The stadium has already been unveiled as the host venue for the opening matches of the

summer, with two women's T20 Internationals between Australia and India slated for late September.

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

Olympic women's marathon selection drama finally over as Lisa Weightman withdraws appeal

7news.com.au, Other, 30/05/2024, John Salvado

Lisa Weightman has had a last-minute change of heart and reluctantly given up on her dream of contesting a record fifth Olympic marathon, with Commonwealth champion Jess Stenson to complete a remarkable comeback in Paris. Weightman, 45, appealed her initial non-selection in the three-strong Australian squad to the National Sports Tribunal (NST) in May.

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

[Read More](#)

Senator showdown: Hanson-Young ready to 'drill' Labor on locking Aussies out of free sport

7news.com.au, Other, 30/05/2024, Jessica Evensen and Max Corstorphan

The Greens have joined the fight to keep sports free for Australians, drawing an amendment to the Government's anti-siphoning legislation that would tie digital rights to aerial rights. Current anti-siphoning provisions prohibit paid broadcasters from acquiring the rights of sports on the Government's anti-siphoning list unless a free-to-air broadcaster also has the rights.

[Read More](#)

Brisbane Olympics boss Cindy Hook calls for those who want major new stadium to 'speak up'

7news.com.au, Other, 30/05/2024, Savannah Meacham

A Brisbane Olympics boss has called on people to argue their case for a new stadium despite the Queensland government opposing it. However, 2032 Games organising committee CEO Cindy Hook is confident the Brisbane infrastructure rollout will be sustainable and deliver legacy impacts.

[Read More](#)

How the axing of a top Australian team could throw the Rugby World Cup final at the MCG into doubt

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 31/05/2024

Melbourne Rebels officials declared it was a 'sad day' and a court battle looms after Rugby Australia rejected an application from a consortium seeking to take over the embattled club choosing instead to shut it down after 14 seasons. The news was delivered to staff and players on Thursday morning, as the club prepares for a first ever Super Rugby finals appearance and RA chair Daniel Herbert said those upset member of the Rebels board, including some who were part of the resurrection consortium, had 'let rugby stakeholders down in Victoria' through poor financial management of the club.

[Read More](#)

Rugby Australia set for court stoush over Rebels axing

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/05/2024

A legal battle looms between Rugby Australia and the consortium who planned to save the Melbourne Rebels, with the Super Rugby Pacific club to be shut down after 14 seasons. Five months after the Rebels entered voluntary administration, Rugby Australia broke the news before players boarded a plane to Fiji for the final round of the competition.

[Read More](#)

Push for new 2032 stadium shut down by govt

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 30/05/2024, Savannah Meacham

The Queensland government on Thursday tried to finally end debate over its controversial 2032 infrastructure plan after unveiling a \$257 million multi-sport hub Games upgrade. Queensland Premier

Steven Miles copped criticism for ignoring an independent review's key findings and opting to revamp ageing facilities instead of building a \$3.4 billion stadium as the 2032 centrepiece.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 30/05/2024, Lisa Millar and Emma Rebellato

Cindy Hook, Chief, Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games, encourages people to let the Qld Government know if they want a new stadium back on the agenda. Yesterday, at a business leaders forum, Hook was asked to weigh in on this debate that they've been having around whether there should be a new stadium or whether they should be refurbishing existing infrastructure. here at the start of this year.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Anorexia brain link

Herald Sun, General News, 31/05/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Melbourne will be the first place in the world to trial a new anorexia therapy. The news comes after a handful of previously healthy patients from across the globe developed symptoms after brain injury.

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

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QUT researchers secure funding for Parkinson's disease treatment

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 30/05/2024

The Queensland University of Technology (QUT) has secured A\$4million in funding from the US Department of Defence (DoD) to develop new treatments for Parkinson's disease by targeting the gut microbiome and gut-brain axis. Associate Professor Richard Gordon and his team at QUT will use the grant to expand their Parkinson's research program and test new approaches to slow or stop disease progression.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

PM suffering Indigenous amnesia

The Australian, General News, 31/05/2024, Geoff Chambers, Page 5

Anthony Albanese's failure to deliver on his election night promise to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart and win support for a voice has left the government devoid of ideas and leadership on Indigenous policy. Almost eight months since the Prime Minister's voice referendum was rejected by 60 per cent of Australians, the government has provided zero details on the way forward and how Labor will Close the Gap.

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

Indigenous stockmen's tough love helps youth detainees, people with drug addictions via All Rounder program

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2024, Elsa Silberstein

As he bats away tenacious flies, Damien Kunoth smiles at his nephew Jeserriah, gesturing for him to get on the horse in front of them. "You'll be right, trust me," he says.

[Read More](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Bush labs up to standard

Courier Mail, General News, 31/05/2024, Page 13

On-site pathology tests for infectious diseases in rural and remote locations can be just as reliable and accurate as tests carried out in a hospital laboratory, a new report from Flinders University shows. Flinders University researchers tested the quality of on-site tests for Covid in more than 100 remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and found "the quality of pathology results can be equivalent to laboratory tests, and the benefits for patients are overwhelmingly evident", according to Dr Susan Matthews, from Flinders University.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Get the free flu jab says chemist

Northern Territory News, General News, 31/05/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 5

A Top End pharmacy chain is urging vulnerable Territorians to get their free flu jab for 2024, amid a surging caseload. According to a spokesman for Blooms The Chemist, which operates dispensaries at Darwin Plaza and Darwin Galleria, last year was "one of the worst flu seasons".

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Warning to older Aussies as 'triple-threat' flu, Covid, RSV wave hits NSW

The Australian, Other, 30/05/2024, Jessica Wang

A "triple threat" of surging flu, Covid and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) detections across NSW has prompted health authorities to call on people over the age 65 to get their free influenza vaccine. The NSW Health Respiratory Surveillance Report released on Thursday revealed a 27 per cent increase in influenza notifications, and a 23 per cent in Covid-19 notifications week-on-week.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Queensland records eight cases of Mpox, formerly known as 'monkeypox', in state's biggest cluster in history

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2024, Janelle Miles

Queensland has recorded eight locally acquired cases of Mpox this month in the state's biggest cluster of the virus. All cases of the disease, formerly known as monkeypox, are linked and contact tracing is underway to potentially locate more people with the infection.

[Read More](#)

Eight cases of monkeypox recorded in Queensland

Canberra Times, Other, 30/05/2024, Fraser Barton

Contact tracing is reportedly ongoing in Queensland after eight cases of Mpox were recorded in the month of May. Queensland Health told the ABC that the state had recorded its biggest cluster of the virus, but it is not linked to an outbreak found in Victoria last month.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#) and syndicated widely across regional online

[Read More](#)

Ten people infected with monkeypox in Queensland in linked cluster

7news.com.au, Other, 30/05/2024, Fraser Barton

Ten linked cases of monkeypox have been recorded in Queensland with contact tracing underway by health authorities. The cluster is the largest recorded in the state.

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

[Read More](#)

Australians aged 65 and over urged to get flu shot as vaccination rates stall

9News, Other, 30/05/2024, Mikala Theocharous

Flu vaccination rates for this time of year are the lowest they've been in five years, with only 49.9 per cent of those aged 65 and over vaccinated, compared to 2020 when 57.8 per cent had received their flu shot by May, according to data from NCIRS. Across all states and territories, NSW has seen the biggest amount of flu cases this week with a total of 28,367 cases, according to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS).

[Read More](#)

Queensland Health notified of 10 Mpox cases, contact tracing underway

9News, Other, 30/05/2024, Lucy Slade

Queensland Health has been notified of 10 locally acquired Mpox cases, which is the state's biggest cluster of the virus. The Mpox cases, formerly known as monkeypox, are all linked and contact tracing is underway, health authorities confirmed.

[Read More](#)

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Watch for sexual dysfunction after antidepressant cessation: TGA

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/05/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

The TGA has slapped new safety warnings on all SSRIs and SNRIs about the risk of persistent sexual dysfunction after treatment cessation.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacy fined over Ozempic advertising

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/05/2024

Western Sydney pharmacy hit with a fine of more than \$18,000 in relation to alleged unlawful advertising of Ozempic. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued an infringement notice of \$18,780 to a Merrylands pharmacy in relation to an in-store ad.

[Read More](#)

'In desperate need': could magic mushrooms help body image distress?

Canberra Times, Other, 30/05/2024, Jessica Belzycki

Magic mushrooms could be used to treat body image distress but more research is needed, experts say. [...] Last year, the Therapeutic Goods Administration approved psilocybin for treatment-resistant depression.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#) and syndicated widely across regional online

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 30/05/2024, Craig Reucassel

Reucassel is joined by Kirsten Drysdale, ABC. Drysdale explains that the TGA has had to put out a warning about their products and had to ask Armour Force and other manufacturers that use Vitamin C

to put warning labels on them. She adds that this is because they found two weeks ago that some people are losing their sense of taste entirely or having it go a bit funny.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Strike team to walk streets and catch dodgy vape sellers

9News, Other, 30/05/2024, Beth Excell

A \$16 million strike team has been established in South Australia to combat the escalating black market trade in nicotine-laced vapes and illegal tobacco. "If you are breaking the law with impunity, selling chop chop, selling illegal cigarettes, tobacco, vapes, we are coming after you," Premier Peter Malinauskas said.

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Authorities crack down on dangerous 'date-rape drug'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/05/2024, Clare Sibthorpe, Page 15

Authorities are cracking down on a dangerous "date-rape drug" which has been linked to sexual assaults and overdoses and is being hidden in beauty and food products. [...] Bute can be legally imported into Australia for legitimate industrial use by importers registered with the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme and is used in the production of plastics and polymers.

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

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Date rape drug concealed as bottles of body oil from China as Federal Police warn 'bute' importers will face heavy penalties

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2024, Holly Tregenza

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) have confiscated more than 4000 litres of a date rape drug commonly known as 'bute' in Sydney since legislation came in to affect in March controlling its import. [...] Bute can be legally imported into Australia for legitimate industrial use by importers that are registered with the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme.

[Read More](#)

Warning to community, crooks, over 'date rape' drug

9News, Other, 30/05/2024, Adam Vidler

An industrial solvent used to produce plastics has been increasingly linked to sexual assaults and overdoses, prompting a warning from authorities. [...] Bute can be legally imported into Australia for legitimate industrial use by importers that are registered with the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme.

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Channel 9, Nine News Late, 30/05/2024, Tracy Vo

News It's been linked to sex assaults and overdoses, and police in Sydney have stopped thousands of litres of a date rape liquid from hitting the streets.

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 30/05/2024, Laura Jayes

Press conference with Asha Patwardhan, Acting Commander, Australian Border Force, about the AFP warning over a harmful substance called Bute. Patwardhan mentions that despite being allowed to be exported in Australia, the drug Bute needs to be registered to the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme.

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