



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 1st July 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Northern Territory News \(page 13\)](#)** features an article by Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Malarndirri McCarthy on cost-of-living measures commencing on 1 July, including a one-year freeze on the maximum cost of a Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme prescription for everyone with a Medicare card and extending up to five-years for pensioners and other Commonwealth concession card holders.
- **[The Age \(page 9\)](#)** reports the Department of Health and Aged Care has said it is updating pregnancy care guidelines to recognise new evidence around the risks in pregnancy from communicable diseases like cytomegalovirus. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#)
- **[The Australian \(page 3\)](#)** reports a new online database launched by Zable Health compiles estimated initial consultation costs, wait times and areas of expertise of Australian medical specialists and shows psychiatrists, obstetricians and paediatricians are charging the highest specialist fees across the nation.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 3\)](#)** reports a national ban on the manufacture, supply, processing or installation of engineered stone commences today to protect workers from the risks of the deadly lung disease silicosis. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [ABC News](#), [Channel 10](#)

- **[The Australian Financial Review \(page 11\)](#)**, reports researchers from Flinders University in Adelaide have called for reforms that would allow data from clinical cancer trials used to approve medications to be shared with researchers.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** leads coverage of issues facing ambulance and emergency services across Australia, with reports of increases in ambulance ramping times. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [West Australian](#), [Daily Liberal](#)
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 8\)](#)** reports mental health experts have criticised social media platform Tiktok for continuing to send people living with eating disorders extreme appearance-related videos. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#)
- **[The Burnie Advocate \(page 2\)](#)** reports the Rural Doctors Association of Tasmania has welcomed an incentive package introduced by the Tasmanian Government, which it says puts the state ahead of other jurisdictions in attracting general practitioners to work in rural and regional areas.

MINISTER BUTLER

Cochlear implants have 'become part of me': Milly's mission

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/06/2024, Sue Bailey

When she was just nine weeks old Milly Collins became one of the youngest Tasmanians to be fitted with hearing aids. [...] As part of her passionate advocacy, she will address politicians and other dignitaries at Parliament House in Canberra on Wednesday, including Health Minister Mark Butler, about the importance of ongoing government support for early intervention services for children living with hearing loss.

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

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Professor Jenny May appointed National Rural Health Commissioner

Hunter Headline, Other, 01/07/2024, Staff Writer

University of Newcastle's Professor Jenny May, AM, has been appointed Australia's National Rural Health Commissioner. Announced recently by Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler, the National Rural Health Commissioner provides health policy advice and advocates for reforms which support better access to safe, quality and affordable health care in rural, regional and remote Australia.

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MINISTER WELLS

Always game on for minister in 'dream job'

The Australian, General News, 01/07/2024, Jenna Clarke, Page 3

She writes letters to the Matildas cheering them on from flights to Canberra during parliamentary sitting weeks, helped style our Olympians at the 2024 uniform launch and spends her weekends on the sidelines of Saturday sport. For Anika Wells, Minister for Sport and Aged Care, her portfolio is more than just a mere job title.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

Cost of living relief for all Territorians

Northern Territory News, General News, 01/07/2024, Malarndirri McCarthy, Page 13

Territorians are under pressure right now and that's why the Albanese Labor government is focused on helping all Australians with the cost of living. [...] A one-year freeze on the maximum cost of a Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme prescription for everyone with a Medicare card and up to a five year freeze for pensioners and other Commonwealth concession card holders will mean cheaper medicines.

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DEPARTMENT

Greater awareness needed of a virus causing disability in babies

Age, General News, 01/07/2024, Henrietta Cook, Page 9

It was a plate smashing on the kitchen floor that first alerted Catherine Bradshaw that something was amiss with her six-month-old daughter, Kirsten. [...] A federal Health Department spokeswoman said its pregnancy care guidelines were also being updated and would consider the latest evidence when it came to communicable diseases such as CMV.

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

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Ban 'not the solution'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/07/2024, Abby Walter, Page 8

A legitimate vape store operator in Belmont is concerned that as retailers close their doors on Monday, sales on the black market will boom. [...] A Department of Health and Aged Care spokeswoman said the commonwealth, states and territories would have strengthened powers to remove unlawful vapes from the supply chain, address unlawful advertising, and deter unlawful dealings in vapes.

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

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Labor delivering on help for households and a fairer society

The Australian, General News, 01/07/2024, Anthony Albanese, Page 11

From Monday, we are delivering even more help with the cost of living for every Australian. [...] We've supported back-to-back increases in the minimum wage, and we've delivered a historic and overdue 15 per cent pay rise for aged-care workers, who were among the heroes of the pandemic

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Circus program connecting seniors and students boosts wellbeing and confidence on NSW Mid North Coast

ABC Online, Other, 30/06/2024

At the age of 84, Pat Evans never imagined she'd be spinning plates in a circus show with teenagers in front of an audience. The small production was a culmination of an arts and wellbeing program involving Ms Evans and a group of aged care residents and high school students on the New South Wales Mid North Coast.

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Praise for David Hurley and a donation for Dementia Australia

The Mandarin, Other, 01/07/2024, Melissa Coade

The prime minister has paid tribute to Australia's outgoing 27th governor-general for his "outstanding dedication" and tireless work in celebrating the good of the nation's communities. In a statement on Sunday, Anthony Albanese announced the government would make a \$10,000 donation to Dementia Australia in honour of David Hurley AC, DSC, FTSE and Linda Hurley on behalf of the Australian people.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Changing the script on vaping

Herald Sun, General News, 01/07/2024, Suzan Delibasic, Page 6

Australia's crackdown on the underground nicotine vape market is set to ramp up as new laws kick in banning all cigarette sales regardless of nicotine content. From today, only people with a prescription can buy vapes from pharmacies.

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Boss's proposal on sales of vapes

Northern Territory News, General News, 01/07/2024, Harry Brill and Gera Kazakov, Page 5

A handful of Darwin pharmacies are being strongly advised to not sell vapes to those without a doctor's prescription, after the government watered down its ban on the product. Last week, the federal government announced that from October plain-packaged vapes would be sold over the counter at pharmacies as a therapeutic tool following amendments to the government's crackdown on vaping products.

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

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Changes on vaping needed to happen

Burnie Advocate, General News, 01/07/2024, Alex Fair, Page 12

The federal government's vaping regulations were never going to please everyone. This is despite the very obvious importance around the need to control the accessibility of vapes in the community.

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Australia bans the sale of vapes outside pharmacies – here's what you need to know

The Guardian, Other, 01/07/2024, Natasha May

Australia has become the first country to ban the sale of vapes outside pharmacies, with new laws coming into effect on Monday. The domestic manufacture, supply, commercial possession and advertisement of disposable and non-therapeutic vapes are banned under the reforms, meaning vapes will only be available behind the counter at a pharmacy.

[Read More](#)

What's really inside vapes? We pulled them apart to find out

ABC Online, Other, 30/06/2024, Miles Park

While vapes or e-cigarettes first appeared around 20 years ago as an alternative to smoking, their prevalence and use have increasingly become problematic. Governments and regulators are now catching up to what is widely seen as an addictive and unsafe product.

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2GB, Weekends, 30/06/2024, Luke Grant

Interview with Natalia Rachel, human behaviour therapist. Grant points out that according to statistics from the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, one-third of adult Australians drink more alcohol than the recommended guidelines. Rachel points out that this a good conversation starter and the beginning of a reframing of the way people understand and consume alcohol.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Push for all cancer trial data to be shared once drugs are approved

Australian Financial Review, General News, 01/07/2024, Jill Margo, Page 11

Australian researchers are calling for the correction of a critical flaw in the way data from cancer trials is shared.

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

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Ban on engineered stone starts

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/07/2024, Suzan Delibasic, Page 3

A nationwide ban on engineered stone is now in effect to protect workers' health making Australia the first country in the world to implement such a policy. From today, manufacturing, supplying, processing or installing engineered stone, which has been shown to cause silicosis, a deadly lung disease, will be banned.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Cancer patients in limbo

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 01/07/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 2

Two thirds of cancer patients are not receiving their test results on time due to critical staff shortages in Queensland's pathology laboratories, with turnaround times stretching well beyond nationally recommended time frames. [...] A health department spokeswoman said the government was investing \$16 million to address shortfalls within Pathology Queensland but it would take time to drive turnaround times down, with histology workloads increasing one per cent every month.

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More hip-pocket help set to kick in

Burnie Advocate, General News, 01/07/2024, Jim Chalmers, Page 7

Tax cuts, energy bill relief and an increase in the minimum wage are among the raft of mid-year changes set to kick in for Australians. [...] A national ban on engineered stone will begin, with almost 600,000 Australian workers exposed to silica dust.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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PET scanner will be ready by August

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 01/07/2024, Rachel Clark, Page 2

The long-awaited Tamworth hospital PET scanner will be operational by the start of August. [...] Cancer Council's Shaen Fraser said it is so "exciting" to see the project enter the final stage.

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

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'Lives destroyed': Killer engineered stone ban 'too late'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/06/2024, Sarah Sharples

Dean Morris was "heartbroken" when he learned the trade he loved had caused a potentially fatal disease that would ruin his health. His heartbreak was also exacerbated by the fact the deadly item found on worksites across Australia that caused the disease has taken years to be banned.

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

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Union warning as 'killer stone' ban comes into effect

Canberra Times, Other, 01/07/2024, Aaron Sheldrick

The enactment of a world-first ban on manufactured stone is being hailed as a momentous day for Australian workers which will prevent "senseless deaths". Engineered stone is commonly used in kitchen benchtops and workers who use the product have been left at risk of developing the incurable and deadly lung disease silicosis.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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As engineered stone ban comes into effect, war on silicosis far from over, doctor warns

ABC Online, Other, 30/06/2024, Jessica Lamb

It's 2017 and doctor Graeme Edwards has seen another young stonemason with lung problems at his Gold Coast clinic. The men are suffering from silicosis, a disease that is caused by breathing in crystalline silica dust found in manufactured stone often used for benchtops, and is almost always deadly.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 30/06/2024, Chris Bath

Australia will tomorrow become the first country in the world to ban the use of engineered stone. It's a move to protect workers from a killer disease, but for some, it's too late. From tomorrow in a world first, the supply and manufacturer of engineered stone will be banned in Australia under new work, health and safety laws.

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Medical specialists: what they cost you

The Australian, General News, 01/07/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

The fees of medical specialists around the country have been revealed publicly for the first time in an online referral database that shows psychiatrists, obstetricians and paediatricians are charging some of the highest specialist fees in the nation. The new website confirms that patients face hefty out-of-pocket costs for consultations in all types of medicine amid indications that the rising cost of healthcare and difficulty accessing appointments are deterrents for millions of Australians seeking medical care.

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

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Constipated patients block up ambo lines

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/07/2024, Madeleine Bower, Page 4

People suffering from trivial issues such as constipation, hiccups or pimples in unreachable places made thousands of calls last year to the state's ambulance services, clogging up the critical triple-0 line. Constipation is one of the most common non-emergency call-outs for the state's ambulances, with more than 500 people calling for help with the issue in 2023, according to new data from NSW Ambulance.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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7 hours in an ambo

Courier Mail, General News, 01/07/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 1

Ambulance ramping has hit unprecedented highs in Queensland this year, with new data showing some patients waited more than seven hours outside major hospital emergency departments. The Mater Hospital in Brisbane had some of the worst ramping across the quarter, with worst wait times blowing out to more than seven hours at an average of 44 minutes.

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

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New cuts assertion provokes Lib fury

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/07/2024, Rob Inglis, Page 6

The Opposition has accused the state government of cutting crucial jobs at the Royal Hobart Hospital but the Liberals have categorically denied the claim, calling it a "lie". The Health Department is grappling with a deteriorating budget position, seeking to implement vacancy control in order to make savings.

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

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Worst June ever for ambulance ramping at our hospitals

West Australian, General News, 01/07/2024, Josh Zimmerman, Page 9

St John WA ambulances have spent more than 5600 hours waiting to offload patients to WA's overflowing hospitals in the worst June on record for ambulance ramping. The big spike in ramping is an ominous sign for the rest of winter and has serious flow-on effects on the availability of paramedics.

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

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Health vacancy control measures 'inherently dangerous'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 01/07/2024, Joe Colbrook, Page 7

Labor says vacancy control measures will put hospital patients' lives at risk, as the health department seeks to patch up its budget. [...] Mr Bradley said the job losses were the decision of a Department of

Health vacancy control committee, as the roles had been advertised for "too long" and then deemed unnecessary.

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

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Bush ambos fear burnout: report

Daily Liberal, General News, 01/07/2024, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 3

Paramedics have had to transport thousands of non-critical patients in rural NSW, potentially diverting frontline workers from emergencies and causing burnout. [...] The auditor-general's report largely found the health department is effectively managing the service in rural areas, even as NSW Ambulance faces an 18 per cent increase in demand across the state since 2018.

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

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Brush-off for whistleblower

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/07/2024, Amber Wilson, Page 9

Tasmania Police has told a whistleblower it would not criminally investigate claims a Launceston General Hospital boss routinely falsified the death certificates of deceased patients. [...] Deputy Commissioner Higgins said he had provided Ms Duncan's information to the Department of Health for inclusion into Ms Picone's review, and "should this information provide further avenues of inquiry I can assure you we will follow these up".

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'I'm so relieved'

Ballarat Courier, General News, 01/07/2024, Ben Silvester, Page 1

A south-west Victorian man has received long-overdue hip surgery at Ballarat Base Hospital after his increasing reliance on painkillers put his life at risk. Heywood resident Alan Rundell, 69, fell victim to Victoria's record elective surgery wait times, languishing for nine months when he should have been treated within three.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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Local tradies on the task

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 01/07/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 1

Construction is progressing well on the new Tamworth Mental Health Unit, and the company in charge of works is sending positive signals for the city's ongoing development boom. Melbourne-based builder Hansen Yuncken started construction at Tamworth hospital in March and the company says it's looking for local businesses to partner with "on this project and in future".

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New urgent care is a phone call away

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 3

A new phone service aimed at taking the pressure off Armidale Hospital's emergency department is now available. Armidale Urgent Care Service is staffed by general practitioners and nurses who can, over the phone, provide diagnostic services.

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First look: Queen Elizabeth Hospital's huge \$314m upgrade

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/06/2024, Carl Pfeiffer

A new 67-bed expansion of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the western suburbs will open to the public this week, with the \$314 million upgrade set to feature more than 1800 clinicians, nurses and other staff. The hospital's new five-storey clinical services building will begin full operation on Wednesday and will include 52 new inpatient beds and a 46-treatment bay emergency department including 15 extra new emergency department beds, almost 50 per cent larger than the hospital's old ED.

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

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Medical tourism can save you thousands of dollars. But is it worth the risk?

SBS, Other, 30/06/2024, Amy Hall

It can be much cheaper to get a medical, dental, or cosmetic procedure done overseas. But experts warn there are several factors Australians need to consider before booking their trip.

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Madison went to hospital in excruciating pain. Doctors threatened to send her to the psych ward.

Mamamia, Other, 30/06/2024, Isabella Ross

Madison Purkis isn't the only patient - particularly female patient - to have her pain ignored. And ultimately, when this happens, the consequences can be life-threatening.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 30/06/2024, Johanna Nicholson and Fauziah Ibrahim

Interview with Leigh Clarke, CEO, Victorian Health Care Association. Nicholson says Melbourne hospitals have imposed hiring freezes after being asked to find ways to cut costs. Ibrahim says those in the system say the move could lead to bed closures, shutting entire wards, and reduced elective surgeries. Clarke says there's an extensive range of pressures in the Victorian healthcare system at the moment and financial pressures as well, being experienced across the sector.

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Sky News Live, Paul Murray Live, 30/06/2024, Paul Murray

Panel discussion with Taylor Hull, LNP Candidate and Amanda Stoker, LNP Candidate. Stoker mentions that Redland Hospital has had the worst statistic for hospital ramping. She admits that it breaks her heart because the hospital is quite great. Stoker adds that the hospital has grown from a simple country hospital servicing the big outer suburban area.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Weekends, 30/06/2024, Peter Fegan

Compere mentions that the Qld Ambulance ramping situation has reached unprecedented levels. She states that as of March 2024, 45.5% of patients waited over 30 minutes on ambulance stretchers before being admitted to hospitals. Compere discusses her son suffering a raging fever and was having an issue getting some medical assistance.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Meta stock-in-trade misery affects us all

The Australian, Media, 01/07/2024, Andrew Schreyer, Page 23

Last month, Country Press Australia, the largest representative association of newspaper publishers in Australia, appeared before a joint hearing in Canberra into social media and its impacts on Australian society. The hearing was convened out of concerns about the negative impacts social media platforms have on our community, including the recent decision by Meta to no longer pay news publishers for content posted to its platforms.

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

TikTok's ticking timebomb

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 01/07/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 8

TikTok's algorithm is bombarding people living with eating disorders with extreme appearance-related videos within minutes, intensifying their illness, damning research shows. Melbourne University Professor Scott Griffiths said TikTok users with eating disorders didn't even have to like a video to be pushed with more harmful content.

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

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Toxic harm of 'Thinstagram'

Herald Sun, Editorials, 01/07/2024, Editorial, Page 20

An alarming health disorder that is wreaking havoc across a younger generation is getting worse by the day, with every scroll and click. As revealed in the Sunday Herald Sun, social media is fuelling a deadly epidemic that now kills more people every year than die on our roads.

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Virtual reality may be able to help people with anxiety

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 01/07/2024, Natalie Croxon, Page 11

A Wollongong-based tech business proves virtual reality can provide more than entertainment, developing products designed to help people with mental health concerns and neurodevelopmental disability. Devika will soon launch its newest VR offering called the Sally Fitzgibbons Art Therapy Experience, which takes users to a beach where the champion surfer talks them through painting surfboards with the aim of fostering a sense of calm and mindfulness.

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Young Australians ditch hustle culture for slower lifestyle to minimise burnout

ABC Online, Other, 30/06/2024

Sophia Antoncic's commute to work used to be a drive through one of Australia's most industrious towns. Now, it is a mere 200 metre walk down to the pristine water and coconut palms that line the beaches of Great Keppel (Woppa) Island.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Computer says no

Age, General News, 01/07/2024, Stephen Brook and Kishor Napier-Raman, Page 2

When is a job cut not a job cut? When it's an admin error. One of CBD's spies spent much of Saturday teasing out claims Ambulance Victoria was cutting patient transport shifts it contracts out to St John and the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong.

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Generous GP incentives put state 'above others'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 01/07/2024, Matt Maloney, Page 2

The state government's general practitioner incentive package puts Tasmania ahead of other states in terms of attracting doctors to work in rural and regional areas, Rural Doctors Association of Tasmania president Ben Dodds said. Health Minister Guy Barnett was in Campbell Town on Friday to spruik the government's incentive package, announced at this year's state election, which offers doctors a \$100,000 settlement allowance to work in rural and regional parts of the state over five years, and a promise to pay off their university debt.

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

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Hurting our heroes

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 01/07/2024, Christine Schindler, Page 1

Survey reveals 8 out of 10 staff experienced workplace violence Hospital staff have spoken out after a survey revealed that workers in the Darling Downs - which stretches across Toowoomba, Warwick, Dalby and Kingaroy were the most likely in Queensland to experience violence at work. The Australian Workers Union released survey results which revealed eight out of 10 Darling Downs Health hospital staff who responded had been assaulted or had witnessed assaults.

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North West Hospital and Health Service search for junior doctors to join staff

The Australian, Other, 30/06/2024, Aisling Brennan

A young doctor who switched her seaside upbringing to living and working in her dream job in northwest Queensland is urging other medical graduates to reconsider their career options and head into rural medicine. Gabrielle Keating never thought her six-week placement in Mt Isa would lead her to finding her passion in rural and remote medicine, but after Covid-impacted placement options and her finding love with a cowboy, the young doctor is now a dedicated member of the North West Hospital and Health Service staff.

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

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Melbourne jaw surgeon may face legal action from second patient alleging negligence

The Guardian, Other, 01/07/2024

A Melbourne surgeon is facing potential legal action from a former patient three years after an investigation by the medical regulator found he failed to warn her that she may be left with nerve injuries, and failed to obtain informed consent before major surgery on her jaw. The patient, Jordan*, alleges that in 2018 she had both her temporomandibular joints replaced with the OMX TMJ prosthesis while under the care of Dr George Dimitroulis.

[Read More](#)

Beyond the bubble baths: enhancing medical trainee wellbeing

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 01/07/2024, Emma Hodge

The path to improved wellbeing in medicine requires a balance of self-care and systemic change, transforming the training environment to address the underlying causes of burnout and advocating for holistic support in the personal and professional growth of medical trainees. When I say “wellbeing” in the context of medicine, it often conjures up images of individual acts of self-care: a medical student taking a yoga class to manage stress, or a registrar indulging in a relaxing bath to unwind after a demanding schedule.

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We created a guide to futureproof the mental health of health care workers. Will health care leaders use it?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 01/07/2024, Peter Baldwin, Natasha Smallwood and Karen Willis

If you're eager for meaningful action on mental health in health care workplaces, you're in great company. We've known the facts for decades.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Nukes plan will hinder WA

West Australian, General News, 01/07/2024, Madeleine King, Page 43

Over the past 20 years Australia's economy has undergone a profound change.[...] And from today, the Albanese Government introduces a freeze on the cost of PBS medicines for every Australian.

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

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Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 30/06/2024, Chris Bath

Stage three tax cuts and energy rebates come into force tomorrow, which will bring some relief for households that are under the cost of living pressure, however, celebrations could be halted by the threat of an interest rate rise. Other measures coming into effect on July the 1st paid parental leave increasing by two weeks, so those eligible have access to 22 weeks this year and the one-year freeze on the \$31.60 charge for medicines listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Faster, higher, hotter: athletes fear deadly Olympic heatwave

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 01/07/2024, Marnie Vinall, Page 10

When Rhydian Cowley looks back at his collapse in 35 kilometre racewalk at last year's World Athletics Championships in Budapest, he can see how frightening his case of heatstroke was, and how lucky he is to still be competing. As a legitimate medal hope for his country at the Paris Games, Cowley has one eye nervously watching the weather forecasts.

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Huge hit-up for local sport

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 01/07/2024, Chris Burns, Page 2

The Women's State of Origin decider in Townsville recently illuminated the city's burgeoning rugby league scene, casting a spotlight on efforts to revamp facilities and attract more female players to the sport. In response to the growing interest, the state government has committed \$300,000 to upgrade field lighting at Neil Stewart Park, aiming to accommodate the rising number of female players in Townsville.

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Class advantage is just not cricket

Canberra Times, General News, 01/07/2024, Clive Hamilton, Page 17

The opening of Radford College's multimillion-dollar cricket facility - described as "better than Lord's" - draws attention to the fundamental unfairness of our education system. Elite private schools are engaged in a kind of arms race to build the most lavish facilities for their already privileged pupils, which not only highlights the growing gap with public schools but inflicts a moral injury on all those families that cannot afford to pay Radford's \$21,000 a year for senior students or Canberra Grammar School's \$30,000.

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The remote pools project reviving and reopening public pools in central Australia

ABC Online, Other, 30/06/2024, Stephanie Smail

Belinda Andrew is a lifeguard in the desert. She's from Utju, a community west of Alice Springs, and helps run the swimming pool there.

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Olympic, Paralympic flagbearers feted by prime minister

The Senior, Other, 30/06/2024, Steve Larkin

Recently-retired swim great Cate Campbell has received a fresh salute at a function for Australia's Olympic flagbearers. Campbell, a four-time gold medallist, and eight other Olympic flagbearers were feted at the Prime Minister's Olympic and Paralympic dinner in Melbourne on Saturday night.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

CSIRO unveils super computer

The Australian, Business News, 01/07/2024, Jared Lynch, Page 17

Australia's peak research agency, CSIRO, has spent \$15m on a new "super computer" that it says will speed up scientific discoveries, helping grow the national economy. US tech titan Dell built the computer cluster, dubbed Virga the meteorological effect of rain that evaporates before it reaches the ground.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Health care 'by the community, for the community' with Professor Kelvin Kong

Professor Kelvin Kong is a Worimi man, working on Awabakal and Worimi Country at Newcastle's John Hunter Hospital and John Hunter Children's Hospital. Professor Kong is an otolaryngology, head and neck surgeon and a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

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MJA Special Issue in partnership with the Lowitja Institute: centring Indigenous knowledges

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 01/07/2024, Sally Block

In recognition of National NAIDOC Week, MJA has worked with a team of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academics in a unique partnership that challenges power and privilege in scholarly publishing with the creation of a special issue in collaboration with the Lowitja Institute, Australia's only national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled research institute. The MJA's Editor in Chief Virginia Barbour said the issue, which ceded editorial control to Indigenous guest editors, was a specific response to the outcome of the Voice referendum in 2023.

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Establishing First Nations Health and Wellbeing: The Lowitja Journal – reflections from the inaugural Editor-in-Chief

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 01/07/2024, Catherine Chamberlain

Establishing First Nations Health and Wellbeing – The Lowitja Journal (The Lowitja Journal) has been an enormous collaborative effort involving the Lowitja Institute Board and staff, Elsevier key staff and a large editorial team of almost 30 First Nations researchers. This article reflects on our shared journey of establishing this unique community-controlled international health research journal.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

'Perfect storm': high levels of COVID, influenza, RSV

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 01/07/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Influenza rates have risen by 70 per cent in Hunter New England in a week, health data shows. COVID hospitalisations are falling and the latest wave appears to have peaked, but high levels of the virus are spreading.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

MDMA therapy helps Adam Bray process grief of losing son in Hunter Valley bus crash

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/06/2024, Cydonee Mardon

Adam Bray made the impossible choice, yet the only choice he had, to view his son's remains after he was killed in the Hunter Valley bus crash. [...] He did his research, spoke to highly regarded trauma professionals, and informed himself about the new trial led by Associate Professor Ranil Gunewardene, who is the only TGA Authorised Prescriber approved to deliver MDMA and psilocybin assisted therapy in NSW in a controlled medical setting.

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

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Explainer: are mushroom gummies part of the 'healthy high' industry and how is it regulated?

The Guardian, Other, 30/06/2024, Natasha May

Mushroom gummies have made headlines this week after one brand was recalled Australia-wide as customers were hospitalised with "disturbing hallucinations." [...] Unlike TGA-approved medicines, their effects have not been scrutinised by high-quality studies," Wilson said.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 30/06/2024, Dr Ross Walker and Ned Green

Interview with Dr Clay Golledge, WA infectious diseases expert. Walker points out that antibiotics have saved billions and billions of lives, but there's no question that they are adding to this wave of superbugs. Golledge points out that they are now resorting to using very expensive TGA-approved drugs that are barely rarely used outside the sphere of antibiotics.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Turbulent time for drug crews

Herald Sun, General News, 01/07/2024, Olivia Jenkins, Page 6

Dozens of Melbourne Airport workers and airline crew have been busted helping organised crime smuggle drugs. In a crackdown on baggage handlers, airline workers and ground staff, authorities have ramped up checks on employees who may use inside knowledge of airport security to wave through drugs and other illegal products.

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

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Mum of NSW overdose victim calls on Premier to follow Victoria in pill testing reform

The Australian, Other, 30/06/2024, Jessica Wang

A grieving mum turned accidental advocate says NSW must catch up to other states in implementing a pill testing program, unanimously stating: "It will save lives". It's been more than four years since NSW-woman Jennie Ross-King lost her 19-year-old daughter Alex after she overdosed on three MDMA capsules at Parramatta-based FOMO music festival.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

Renewed focus on our food security

The Australian, General News, 01/07/2024, Joe Kelly, Page 4

Fresh calls have emerged for Labor to use its Future Made in Australia agenda and the \$15bn National Reconstruction Fund to bolster food security by producing more fertiliser and fuel at home to better prepare the nation for a disruption to supply chains or a potential conflict. After public service chiefs lifted the lid in recent weeks on the broadening of national security and its intersection with economic security, a new focus shifted to Australia's capacity to feed itself especially if imports of chemicals, fuel and fertiliser are disrupted.

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

Concern over alcohol ads in kids' broadcasts

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 01/07/2024, Mike Foley, Page 2

The media watchdog is fielding complaints about commercials for beer in broadcasts of The Wiggles, Johnny Walker whisky during Lego Masters and for alcohol delivery services in morning programming. This is due to a legislative loophole that allows alcohol companies to advertise during childrenfriendly programming periods.

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

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Beer advertisements shown to kids during streamed TV programs like Lego Masters

The Guardian, Other, 30/06/2024, Karen Middleton

Independent senator David Pocock is urging the government to fix a gap in the law that allows alcohol to be advertised during children's television programs when streamed rather than using a traditional TV aerial. Pocock has identified 28 complaints about alcohol being advertised during programs including Lego Masters, Australian Idol and The Voice and during the broadcast of Carols in the Domain around segments featuring Disney characters and The Wiggles.

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