



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 3rd June 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)  
| [Coronavirus](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)  
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)  
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)  
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)  
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)  
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |  
[First Nations Health](#) | [Interim Australian CDC](#) | [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#)  
| [Office for Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#) | [AICIS](#)

## LINKS

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 6\)](#)** reports the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency will step up monitoring of single-disorder telehealth services in response to concerns that clinicians are conducting superficial consultations and prescribing predetermined medicines to capitalise on demand for weight-loss drugs and medicinal cannabis. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#)
- **[The Hobart Mercury \(page 7\)](#)** reports Sport Minister Anika Wells said the upcoming Olympics in Brisbane provided "an unprecedented opportunity to showcase Australian excellence and expertise" as the federal Government announced the launch of a sports diplomacy roundtable to improve Australia's international relations. *Also reported by:* [Northern Territory News](#)
- **[The Daily Liberal \(page 3\)](#)** reports Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney has announced \$9.5 million for miscarriage research and support. Ms Kearney said, "We want to make sure that women who are going through this tragic experience of miscarriage know they can get help, that they can get some understanding, that there is support for them."
- **[The Guardian \(online\)](#)** reports the Federal Government will provide nearly \$400,000 in funding towards Organ and Tissue Authority grants to support grassroots engagement on organ donation with culturally and linguistically diverse (Cald) communities. Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said, "These grants will help encourage conversations around organ and tissue donation with Cald communities in their own voices."

- [The Australian \(page 2\)](#) reports this week's ACTU Congress in Adelaide is expected to call for reproductive leave entitlements to be added to the National Employment Standards.
- [The Hobart Mercury \(page 1\)](#) reports Tasmania's health dashboard shows that in the year to April almost 100 patients waited on the elective surgery list for so long that they eventually required an emergency procedure. *Also reported by:* [Hobart Mercury](#).
- [The Australian \(page 28\)](#) reports medical experts have called on the AFL to update in-game protocols to allow for quicker and more thorough examinations of players suspected of having suffered concussion. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#)
- [The Ballarat Courier \(page 3\)](#) reports GPs have been urged to undertake training modules that will help them identify the potential signs that patients are suffering from domestic violence.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Crackdown on telehealth drug-pushing

The Australian, General News, 03/06/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 6

The nation's health regulator says some doctors working for commercial telehealth clinics may be putting profit ahead of patient welfare and sidestepping obligations to provide safe and appropriate patient care. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has ordered a legislation change to carve out semaglutide from drugs allowed to be supplied via compounding pharmacies to consumers.

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

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

### Sky News Live, Outsiders, 02/06/2024, Rowan Dean, Rita Panahi and James Morrow

Dean discusses a message from Health Minister Mark Butler earlier this week, regarding the Global Pandemic Treaty voting with the WHO, wherein he supported the treaty. He plays an excerpt of Mr Butler's address to the World health Assembly in Geneva.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### Sporting chance to push agenda

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/06/2024, Blair Jackson, Page 7

The federal government has pulled together a sports diplomacy roundtable in a bid to improve Australia's international relations. [...] Sport Minister Anika Wells said competition on the field had multi-pronged benefits and the Olympics in Brisbane "an unprecedented opportunity to showcase Australian excellence and expertise".

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### Tara and the 'vicious cycle' of miscarriages

Daily Liberal, General News, 03/06/2024, Orlander Ruming, Page 3

Tara Wright has had seven miscarriages. [...] Earlier in the month Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney announced \$9.5 million for miscarriage research and support.

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

### 'It's only because of your son that my daughter's living': overcoming the cultural barriers to organ donation

The Guardian, Other, 02/06/2024, Josh Nicholas and Natasha May

When doctors told Mili Udani there was nothing more they could do to treat her seven-year-old son Deyaan's brain haemorrhage, her "world came crashing down". [...] The assistant minister for health and aged care, Ged Kearney, says "Australia is a diverse and multicultural country.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### The great wealth transfer

The Australian, Business News, 03/06/2024, Alexis George, Page 20

\$3.5 trillion: that's the value of wealth set to transfer from generation to generation in Australia over the next 20 years. It's a wealth shift of seismic scale and brings with it a range of socio-economic implications that warrant deep analysis and consideration.

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

### Boomers aren't stingy, just worried. You should be, too

West Australian, Business News, 03/06/2024, Neale Prior, Page 46

Another week, another lot of attacks on those of us lucky enough to have been born between 1946 and 1964. But this time it wasn't just the usual gossip site clickbait or ill-informed social media rambles about baby boomers.

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

### Home care key to health

Leaders at WA's major health fund HBF and senior services giant Silverchain believe wellheeled baby boomers are willing to pay their share for aged care in their home. With Federal officials still pondering the Age Care Task Force report released in March, both HBF chair Diane Smith-Gander and Silverchain chief executive Dale Fisher pointed to boomers' willingness to help fund high expectations for aged care.

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

## New laws coming this July

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 03/06/2024, James Dowling, Page 14

[...] Aged Care facilities will be subject to a new Aged Care Act with higher standards and regulations. These changes come in response to recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Workers will also have greater whistleblower protections.

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

## Lyndoch set for take over

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 03/06/2024, Monique Patterson, Page 1

Staff from Respect Group will be on site at Warrnambool's Lyndoch aged care facility on Monday. The company was set to take over Lyndoch Living on Saturday.

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

## Online tool tackles delirium, a \$1bn health care problem

The Australian, Other, 02/06/2024, Tim Dodd

A new online tool has been found to make an impact on a key issue facing carers of elderly people – distinguishing between delirium, which can be treated and is potentially reversible, and dementia which is not. International research led by Southern Cross University has found that the PREDICT online tool (standing for Prevention and Early Delirium Identification Carer Toolkit) can significantly increase a family carer's knowledge of delirium.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Arnhem Land football team without three future leaders this season following series of sudden tragedies

ABC Online, Other, 02/06/2024, Lillian Rangiah

Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this article contains the name of an Indigenous person who has died, used with the permission of their family. As dusk falls over north-east Arnhem Land, the Yirrkala footy oval comes to life. [...] The latest data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) shows First Nations people in north-east Arnhem Land had among Australia's highest rates of avoidable deaths in 2018.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Elizabeth's new cancer centre

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/06/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 7

Adelaide's newest cancer centre welcomes its first oncology patients on Tuesday in a major health boost for the northern region. Calvary's \$4.75m state-of-the-art Connery Centre on John Rice Ave at Elizabeth Vale includes 18 day oncology chairs and three treatment rooms to deliver chemotherapy, day haematology and other oncology treatments.

## Cancer trial opens way for non-surgical treatment

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/06/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 12

Hayley Hetherington rarely thought about melanoma after she had one removed from the back of her scalp in 2019. Life got busy.

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

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

## Diet drug cancer win

West Australian, General News, 03/06/2024, Ethan Ennals, Page 14

Revolutionary weight-loss injections such as Ozempic slash the risk of some of the most common cancers, a study suggests. Obese patients taking the drugs, produced originally to help those with diabetes, were nearly a fifth less likely to develop cancers including breast, bowel, pancreatic and ovarian.

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

## Vaping danger message early makes sense

Burnie Advocate, General News, 03/06/2024, Editorial , Page 16

Taking the war against vaping into the classroom is a move that is very much worth making. In many ways, it is ground zero.

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

## Cancer patients often do better with less intensive treatment, new research finds

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/06/2024

Scaling back treatment for three kinds of cancer can make life easier for patients without compromising outcomes, doctors reported at the world's largest cancer conference. It's part of a long-term trend toward studying whether doing less - less surgery less chemotherapy or less radiation - can help patients live longer and feel better.

[Read More](#)

## Drug that 'melts away' tumours could replace surgery for bowel cancer, say doctors

The Guardian, Other, 02/06/2024, Andrew Gregory

A "gamechanger" immunotherapy drug that "melts away" tumours dramatically increases the chances of curing bowel cancer and may even replace the need for surgery, doctors have said. Pembrolizumab targets and blocks a specific protein on the surface of immune cells that then seek out and destroy cancer cells.

[Read More](#)

## How much more asbestos regulatory failure needs to be exposed before the NSW government gets the political will to act?

The Guardian, Other, 02/06/2024, Wendy Bacon

The opening of the Rozelle interchange in Sydney's inner west late last year turned from a traffic into an environmental scandal when a child took home a piece of asbestos from the new Rozelle parklands. This caused alarm because under New South Wales law it is an offence to permit asbestos waste in any form to be reused or recycled. T

[Read More](#)

## The heartbreaking disease Aussies are terrified of, but a diagnosis is not the end - this is what you must do

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 02/06/2024, Lollie Barr

In the four and a half years since my gorgeous, highly intelligent mum, who was once a high-powered

executive assistant, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's at the age of 76, I have rarely seen positive stories about people living with the symptoms of dementia in the community when, in fact, two-thirds of people live in the community .

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Sicker while they wait

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/06/2024, Rob Inglis, Page 1

Almost 100 Tasmanians have languished on the elective surgery waiting list for so long that they required an emergency procedure, new statistics for the year to April show. The monthly Health Dashboard data, published by the Health Department, showed that 94 people on the elective surgery waiting list were removed in the 12 months to April 2024 after they were admitted for emergency operations.

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

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

### Uphill battle to fix system

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 03/06/2024, Editorial, Page 16

Tasmanians would be forgiven for wilfully tuning out news stories about the poor state of our health system, such is their volume and frequency. We're often told that ambulance response and emergency department wait times are improving but these improvements appear so minor as to be borderline inconsequential.

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

### Territory 'lags on women's period poverty'

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/06/2024, Harry Brill, Page 3

The Territory is "behind the rest of Australia" regarding period health, claims a leading menstrual health advocate, who is calling on the Lawler government to make tampons and pads more accessible for remote communities. The claim comes after the Albanese government pledged \$12.5m in period products towards remote Indigenous communities as part of the 2024-25 budget announced in May.

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

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

### Plan to put concerns to the people

Border Mail, General News, 03/06/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 5

A community forum to boost support for a new single-site Albury-Wodonga hospital is being staged by Better Border Health on Sunday, July 7. The lobby group wants to make the public aware of what it sees are the failings of the NSW and Victorian governments' plan to upgrade Albury hospital for \$558 million.

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

### Labor blasts hospital wait times amid budget cut fears

Launceston Examiner, General News, 03/06/2024, Joe Colbrook, Page 1

Labor has called for transparency over proposed budget cuts, amid concerns the savings may be found in the state's beleaguered health system. Premier Jeremy Rockliff defended the government's record on health, and said he was committed to investing in the sector.

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

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

## Top End hospital leads the green revolution in health care

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/06/2024

A volunteer project at Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) is using native landscapes to adapt to climate while enhancing wellbeing, Indigenous cultural security and local biodiversity. Health campuses across Australia can improve wellbeing for both patients and staff by incorporating the natural environment using biophilic design.

[Read More](#)

## Why a NSW farmer trapped under a ute called a neighbour, not triple zero, to get to her closest hospital

The Guardian, Other, 02/06/2024, Eliza Spencer

The town of Deepwater is in the Hunter New England local health district, whose largest hospital, at Newcastle, is six hours away. When Lindy Newsome was pinned beneath her ute in the middle of lambing season, she didn't call triple zero. Newsome had been struggling to unlatch a set of double gates when the handbrake failed, pushing her under the car and on to the road just outside Deepwater in the New South Wales northern tablelands.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Report delays see defendants languish

Burnie Advocate, General News, 03/06/2024, Helen Kempton, Page 4

A magistrate in Burnie says she had been told by Tasmania's chief psychiatrist there was "no funding" to prepare the forensic mental health reports often needed to progress cases in the courts. Magistrate Leanne Topfer made the statement during Vanessa Maree Dare's appearance in the court via video link from the women's prison in Hobart.

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

### Boost your mental health

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/06/2024, Chris Mackey, Page 18

Many people are struggling to access or continue with professional mental health assistance as a result of cost-of-living pressures. It's timely to consider what people can do to assist their mental health, whether they are accessing therapy services or not.

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

### Save system so we can save lives

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/06/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

The price of a human life may be difficult to estimate, but the value of suicide prevention is clear to health economist Francesco Paolucci. "We need to double the effort when it comes to saving lives," said Professor Paolucci, of University of Newcastle.

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

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

### Mum of 13-year-old Brisbane school girl who took her own life wants other teens to know they are never alone

7news.com.au, Other, 02/06/2024, Jacqueline Mey

Proud mum Sam lifted up her phone and snapped a photo of Chloe on her first day of high school. The Brisbane mum beamed from ear to ear, excited for her daughter's next chapter.

[Read More](#)

### Em Rusciano talks through her ADHD, autism and perimenopause —

## and the exhausting reality of the 'diagnostic trifecta'

ABC Online, Other, 02/06/2024, Lucy Sweeney

Walking down the hallowed halls of an Australian institution, past portraits of former prime ministers and foreign dignitaries, one thought is playing on repeat: "You're an unserious person. You danced on television with 12 giant vulvas in your last show. What are you doing here lady?"

[Read More](#)

## With youth suicide rates rising in Queensland, parents who have lost children are speaking out

The Guardian, Other, 02/06/2024

Suicide is now the leading cause of death for those aged 10–17 in the state, amid a 'rising mental health crisis' in Australia A black-and-white picture book chronicles the mental health struggles of 16-year-old Skyla Lomas. Written months before her death, it describes "the bad guy" who "lived inside" her and the "constant battle" in her mind.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Plea for doctors amid a national 'crisis'

Ballarat Courier, General News, 03/06/2024, Melanie Whelan, Page 3

Doctors are being called on to skill-up in better identifying and understanding family violence. The Grampians region - taking in the Central Highlands, Pyrenees and Wimmera - has far higher rates of gendered violence than the state average, Women's Health Grampians has reported. In some communities these rates are double the average.

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

### Investigations under way after nurse found dead in ED at major Sydney hospital

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/06/2024, Madeline Crittenden

Investigations are under way at a Sydney hospital after a nurse was found dead in an emergency department storeroom. Questions have been raised over duress alarms, and whether they were working at the time.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Discount card a saviour



Eligible holders could save their families thousands, but few even know it exists It's the discount card with a punch that thousands of eligible Aussies are missing out on, simply because they're not aware it exists.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Health refunds blow out

Herald Sun, General News, 03/06/2024, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 3

Long wait for your return Patients and doctors are waiting 400 per cent longer for crucial healthcare claims to be processed by Services Australia as compared to during the pandemic, the Coalition claims.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Labor on notice on health leave bid

The Australian, General News, 03/06/2024, Ewin Hannan, Page 2

The union movement will press the Albanese government to legislate universal access to 10 days paid of reproductive leave annually including employerfunded time off from work for IVF treatment, post-vasectomy recovery, prostate and breast cancer screening. But the government signalled on Sunday it would not be backing the union claim, saying "ACTU policy and ALP policy have always been different (and) the major changes we intend to make are already law".

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

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

### The Tax Office needs to have a bloody go

Canberra Times, General News, 03/06/2024, Tony Robinson, Page 20

I wouldn't know Australia's Tax Commissioner Rob Heferen if I fell over him, but I'll guess he is very busy overseeing the collection of around \$750 billion of tax revenue this year. I'll take another guess his overly full weekly diary prevents him from being one of the country's regular blood donors.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#).

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

### The SA government is in the 'premiership quarter'. Can it turn the health system around before the siren?

ABC Online, Other, 02/06/2024, Rory McClaren

There's no shortage of Australian Rules fans in South Australian government ranks. This is the administration which did a deal with the AFL to bring a whole round of games to SA Even Premier Peter Malinauskas has described himself as a "pretty average footballer", thanks to the time he spent playing at Adelaide University in the amateur league.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## Streaming services plead for bidding rights on sport

The Australian, Media, 03/06/2024, Elizabeth Pike, Page 23

Foxtel Group chief executive Patrick Delany has renewed calls for streaming platforms to be able to bid for sport broadcasting rights alongside free-to-air networks. The plea comes amid the federal government's proposed changes to the anti-siphoning bill, which would see streaming services join pay television in being locked out of bidding for major sporting events.

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

## Calls to change rules to let doctors stop game for HIA

The Australian, Sport, 03/06/2024, Jon Ralph, Page 28

The AFL has been urged to alter its rules mid-season to allow club doctors to escort players off the ground for head-injury assessments. It comes after a St Kilda doctor was helpless to diagnose Rowan Marshall on Saturday night.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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

## NSW kicks off footy feast

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/06/2024, Matthew Benns, Page 4

The Matildas will run on to the pitch at Accor Stadium tonight to face China in front of a sellout crowd to kick off a bumper week of sport in NSW. The festival of sport continues with the men's State of Origin opener at Accor Stadium on Wednesday, game two of the Women's State of Origin in Newcastle on Thursday, before the Swans take on Geelong in an SCG blockbuster on Sunday afternoon.

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

## Knee-d a register

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 03/06/2024, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 13

An "epidemic" of serious knee injuries in young athletes has the nation's leading orthopaedic surgeons calling for the creation of an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury registry. They say it's not uncommon to now see children aged seven and eight with torn ligaments and they are treating more girls than ever before.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Trial gives hope for heart patients

Canberra Times, General News, 03/06/2024, Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 8

The first Australian patient in a trial to prevent heart failure - using gene therapy - is South Coast surfer Brian Jelfs. The 82-year-old's cardiologist Dr Walter Abhayaratna is the director of clinical trials at Canberra Hospital and brought the "Magnitude" trial to the ACT.

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

### HCF gets creative with its members to stand out from its louder competitors

The Australian, Other, 03/06/2024, Danielle Long

In the lead-up of the end of the financial year, the health fund category is awash with brands jostling to attract new customers. In a bid to cut-through this noise and showcase its commitment to its members, HCF has launched an initiative to provide its customers with more value.

[Read More](#)

### Agony and the urge to pee: the growing evidence giving hope to

## chronic UTI sufferers

The Guardian, Other, 02/06/2024, Melissa Davey and Charlotte Thou

After enduring years of experimental and unhelpful treatments in Australia to treat her chronic urinary tract infections, Grace\* took the drastic measure of flying to the UK to seek help for symptoms so painful she “could barely walk down the street”. While common and uncomplicated cases of the infections, known as UTIs, are usually easily treated with a short course of antibiotics, this often does not work for chronic, recurring cases like Grace's.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Shock as health clinic closes

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/06/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 4

An Aboriginal community outside of Katherine has been rocked by the sudden closure of its health clinic, with the chief executive of the local Aboriginal corporation warning the decision places the health of its old, ill residents at risk. It's understood Wurli-Wurlinjang Health Service made the decision to close its Binjari Health Centre, which cares for the approximately 240 people that make up Binjari community, about 28km southwest of Katherine, earlier this month.

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

### Health risk

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 03/06/2024, Editorial, Page 12

If you've ever struggled to get in to see a doctor, or felt like you've waited forever to see a medical professional, spare a thought for the members of the Binjari community. The small town located almost 30km southwest of Katherine is losing its only health clinic, as it moves to a centralised service out of Katherine.

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

### World-first project finds new life

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 03/06/2024, Rachel Clark, Page 3

A world-first research project, the Gomeroi Gaaynggal study, which focuses on the health of First Nation mums and children, has relaunched after a four-year hiatus. The initial Tamworth-based project, led by the Indigenous community, followed 400 mothers and 1077 babies throughout early pregnancy and childhood between 2009 to 2019.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Pandemic deal talks extended

Herald Sun, General News, 03/06/2024, Page 13

World Health Organisation members extended negotiations on Saturday on a landmark global agreement on handling future pandemics for up to a year, as the WHO chief warned the next crisis was just a matter of time. Two years of talks ended on May 24 without a finalised agreement, chiefly due to differences between well-off nations and those who felt cut adrift during the pandemic.

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

### Making dent in kids RSV

West Australian, Edition Changes, 03/06/2024, Claire Sadler, Page 11

WA is reporting lower rates of RSV cases and hospital admissions than the rest of the country following the rollout of the State's infant immunisation program in April. By the start of RSV Awareness Week

(June 2-8), Australia had already recorded more than 47,000 cases of the virus in children aged under five, nearly two-thirds the total number of cases reported in 2023.

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

## Nations approve steps to better prepare for global pandemics

Canberra Times, International News, 03/06/2024, Page 15

The World Health Organisation's member countries have approved a series of steps to improve global preparedness for and response to pandemics like COVID-19 and mpox. Nations have agreed to amend the International Health Regulations, which were adopted in 2005, by defining a "pandemic emergency" and helping developing countries gain better access to financing and medical products, the WHO says.

*Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#) and syndicated widely across regional online*

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

## Whooping cough hits record high

Cairns Post, General News, 03/06/2024, Annabel Bowles, Page 1

A whooping cough outbreak in Cairns has hit a record number of cases, already six times the yearly average, causing the public health unit to issue a warning. There has been more than 60 cases detected in the Cairns region this year, compared to a yearly average of 11.

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

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

## Babies' lives bet on 'postcode lottery'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/06/2024, Sue Dunlevy, Page 9

A postcode lottery affecting the rollout of a lifesaving new childhood vaccine for the Respiratory Syncytial Virus infection could come to an end next month. The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), a government committee that decides which medicines are subsidised, will consider whether to fund pharmaceutical company Sanofi Aventis's RSV immunisation Beyfortus in July.

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

## COVID infections spike as new variant triggers next wave

Central Western Daily, General News, 03/06/2024, Grace Dudley, Page 3

Covid-19 cases have increased in the region, with a variant relatively new to Australian shores triggering a spike in positive cases. Last week, 179 cases were reported across the Western NSW Local Health District, a significant jump from only 55 reported around the same time last month, the latest Respiratory Surveillance Report shows.

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

## RSV Awareness Week couldn't come soon enough as cases surge

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/06/2024, Grace Ellen Macpherson

Australia has already recorded more than 47,000 cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in children under five years of age in 2024, as the Immunisation Foundation of Australia commenced its RSV Awareness Week today. Winter has only just begun, but the number of RSV cases is already nearly two-thirds of the total cases reported in 2023, according to the Immunisation Foundation of Australia.

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

[Read More](#)

## Virus mutation warning as H5N1 avian influenza spreads among US dairy cattle and workers

ABC Online, Other, 02/06/2024, Clint Jasper

United States health authorities say the risk to human health from a strain of avian influenza spreading through dairy cattle remains low, even after a third case of human infection was recorded in Michigan. The two previous cases, involving dairy workers in Michigan and Texas, reported mild conjunctivitis symptoms that authorities believe were the result of direct contact with milk or other fluids of infected dairy cattle.

[Read More](#)

## **Urgent warning as tens of thousands of Australian babies are struck down by contagious virus - as doctors warn infection rates could get even worse over winter**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/06/2024, Makayla Muscat

An urgent warning has been issued after tens of thousands of Australian babies have been struck down with respiratory syncytial virus. So far in 2024 more than 47,000 cases of RSV have been recorded in children under the age of five, and doctors are predicting an even greater surge over the winter months.

[Read More](#)

## **Global pandemic treaty to be concluded by 2025, WHO says**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/06/2024

Talks aimed at reaching a global agreement on how to better fight pandemics will be concluded by 2025 or earlier if possible, the World Health Organization said on Saturday. The WHO's 194 member states have been negotiating for two years an agreement that would, among other things, improve international coordination and collaboration before and during pandemics.

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

[Read More](#)

## **Vaccine too expensive as older Aussies hospitalised with respiratory virus**

The Senior, Other, 02/06/2024, Eileen Wood

A surge in the highly contagious RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) infections among older Australians and those vulnerable to severe lung disease has experts fearing a tsunami of hospitalisations for related pneumonia and bronchiolitis. But while a vaccine is available and free for babies in some circumstances, it is not listed on the National Immunisation Program and costs an adult between \$315 and \$350 a year putting it out of reach of many vulnerable older Australians.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## **THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION**

### **Survivors go from agony to ecstasy**

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/06/2024, Megan Gorrey, Page 15

In the months after Adam Bray's son Zach perished in the Hunter Valley bus crash, he couldn't watch other fathers play with their young children along Manly beach as he once had without a monstrous wave of grief and pain crashing over him. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration surprised researchers last year when it approved MDMA for controlled use when prescribed by a psychiatrist for people with PTSD.

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

## **'More than I was expecting': NZ students just the tonic for ACT pharmacies**

Canberra Times, Other, 02/06/2024, Isabella Oakley

A new outreach program with New Zealand students is aiming to solve the pharmacist shortage in the ACT and surrounding regions. [...] "We do lose fantastic pharmacists to the public service, such as the

TGA, and perhaps they're not using the clinical expertise they've had as much, so we're always looking for opportunities to find keen pharmacists," Mr Blacker said.

[Read More](#)

## Analysis Millions are racing to get hold of Ozempic. But when women are accidentally falling pregnant, shouldn't we be more skeptical?

ABC Online, Other, 02/06/2024, Julia Baird

"Oops babies", they're called. The unplanned pregnancies that seem to be catching hundreds of women by surprise, that occur after they take Ozempic — and other drugs like it — to curb their appetites and lose weight. [...] (The Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia recommends taking an additional form of contraception.)

[Read More](#)

## Blood on their hands

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/06/2024, Caitlin Wright

A report into the UK's infected blood scandal exposes shocking systemic failures. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration have approved a submission by Lifeblood to allow everyone, regardless of their sexual activity, to donate plasma without any wait period.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Scrutiny on rogue 'doctors'

Herald Sun, General News, 03/06/2024, Mark Buttler, Page 7

Watchdog probes clinics Rogue medical clinics - some with links to organised crime have become one-stop shops for steroids, bootleg diet drugs and medicinal cannabis.

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

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

### Landlords warned over illegal tobacco

Shepparton News, General News, 03/06/2024, Page 5

Victoria Police is working closely with councils across the state to distribute a letter to landlords as part of its investigative response to arson attacks at tobacco stores. The purpose of the letter is to highlight to landlords the current risks around businesses engaged in illicit activity.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### White Lies Brewing Company recalls Hazy Craze Sessions NEIPA over 'excess alcohol'

7news.com.au, Other, 02/06/2024, Dominique Tassell

'Consumers should not drink or open this product, and should dispose of it safely.' A Queensland craft brewery has recalled one of its beers due to secondary fermentation causing excess alcohol or carbonation.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

