



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 8th June 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 49) reports that Netball Australia's World Cup proposal by new CEO Stacey West has been praised by Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells as she announced \$6 million in funding for the Cup to be held in Sydney in 2027.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 10) reports that the Department of Health and Aged Care's Russell Herald has told Senate Estimates that home care support services for the elderly are facing increased wait times, especially in the past six months.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 5) reports that NSW has banned the sale of liquor labelled with dessert names such as "fairy floss" to combat alcohol marketing to children.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 8) reports that areas of Queensland have up to 60 per cent increased likelihood of cancer diagnoses compared to the national average.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 1) reports that the mother of Sandipan Dhar, who died of a treatable blood cancer, will be interviewed as part of Joondalup Health Campus' internal investigation into the families' claims that their requests for blood tests were refused by hospital staff.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 4) reports that issues with the Victorian emergency call triaging program is causing paramedics to be called out to non-urgent cases, with the Victorian Ambulance

Union calling for an overhaul of the system.

- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 4) reports that South Australia's emergency departments are reaching capacity, with an 84 year old woman saying she waited for 10 hours before receiving treatment.

MINISTER BUTLER

Disease centre a \$90m fail

Herald Sun, General News, 08/06/2024, James Dowling, Page 35

Promised national body to manage pandemics still not established Australia remains unprepared for the next pandemic because the federal government has failed to deliver on a \$90m promise to set up a national health body to manage disease outbreaks. [...] A discussion paper on the ACDC, issued by Health Minister Mark Butler in November 2022, said the job of the ACDC would be to lead the national response to future infectious disease outbreaks.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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Alarm bells ringing as vaping rates rise in younger men

Ballarat Courier, General News, 08/06/2024, Melanie Whelan, Page 12

Three out of 10 young men are vaping, a new Australian look into the dangerous habit has shown. While vaping rates among men have tripled within a year, almost one-third of male vapers are taking up the puff more than five times a day, the Australian Institute of Family Studies shows. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said young Australian men had been "sold a furphy from Big Tobacco" that vaping was a better choice.

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'It's definitely back': Gen Z's dirty obsession

NEWS.com.au, Other, 07/06/2024, James Weir

"Would you like a dart? They're from Japan," Will, 26, says as he blows a cloud of smoke over his shoulder. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says boosting tobacco costs is one of the most effective and efficient ways that governments can reduce consumption – especially among young people.

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

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Pharmacy win for patients

Bundaberg Today, General News, 07/06/2024, Page 10

This week the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Commonwealth Government signed the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA), delivering cost of living relief for all Australians and ensuring a vibrant and growing community pharmacy network for the next five years. The signing ceremony between Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Health Minister Mark Butler and the Guild's Trent Twomey and National Executive Director Gerard Benedet followed nine months of productive and good-faith negotiations, informed by a shared commitment to National Medicines Policy.

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Through the lens: A very weird week in politics

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 07/06/2024, Alex Ellinghausen

The opposition attacked the government's handling of immigration and Defence recruitment, Australia's lowest-paid workers and pharmacies both had wins, the political debate over the war in Gaza erupted, and the Reserve Bank warned interest rates would remain high as long as needed. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Pharmacy Guild president Professor Trent Twomey

signed an agreement under which pharmacies will be paid an extra \$4.80 by the government every time they give out a 60-day medicine script.

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

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Only 20 doctors sign up to government's \$24 million Medical Costs Finder website

NEWS.com.au, Other, 07/06/2024, Frank Chung

A \$24 million website meant to let Australians compare costs of medical procedures has only been used by 20 doctors nationwide to display their fees, it has been revealed. [...] When Mr Pocock then asked how many doctors' fees were shown on the website, he was left stunned when Health Department official Brian Kelleher confirmed the national number was just 20. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler pointed the finger at the Coalition.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#). Similar coverage: [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [InnovationAus \(Online\)](#).

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Industry stuck in HTA limbo

Pharma In Focus, Other, 07/06/2024

Don't expect HTA reforms to arrive in a hurry, with a Senate Estimates hearing told yesterday there were several more hoops to be jumped through before the Minister delivers on promised change. While the HTA Review delivered its final report almost a month ago it had "only just" made it to Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler because the authors had asked that it be "professionally edited" to alleviate concerns about consistency in style and content.

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Digital humans and mental help

Medical Forum, General News, 01/06/2024, Idan Schmorak, Page 34

It is no secret that Australia's mental health system is under immense strain. According to recent statistics from 2022, two-thirds of Australian patients had waiting times of more than 12 weeks before receiving their initial consultations, with nearly half failing to receive any psychiatric evaluation during the 2022-23. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has admitted the sector is in the worst shape it has been in its 40-year history, and the Federal Government has set up a \$750 million task force to improve Medicare.

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'Can't fathom it': Blanket ban on Ozempic replicas causes concern for weight-loss patients

A Current Affair, Other, 07/06/2024

Weight-loss patients have expressed their disappointment at the government's plan to enforce a blanket ban on replicas of the drug Ozempic later this year. The ban will cut the supply to 20,000 Australians in October, amid growing patient safety concerns about the composition of the compounded drugs. [...] "These are powerful new drugs that have a significant impact on the body and it's simply not acceptable to have them compounded in a way that gets around all the safety regulations that have long existed in this country," Health Minister Mark Butler said when he announced the ban.

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Channel 9, A Current Affair, 07/06/2024, Allison Langdon

Bnette tried everything to lose weight: fad diets, even surgery, nothing worked until she tried a drug similar to Ozempic. But sometimes too much of a good thing can be bad. With money to be made, the cowboy chemists moved in and now the drug is banned. [file video: Minister Butler]

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MINISTER WELLS

'We trust you': The \$6m show of federal faith in netball after overhaul at the top

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 08/06/2024, Carla Jaeger, Page 49

Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells has praised the change in Netball Australia's leadership, describing a \$6 million pledge to the 2027 World Cup in Sydney as a vote of confidence in the sport. The minister's glowing endorsement of the game was in stark contrast to December, when the federal government pulled \$17 million it had committed to the sport, accusing the peak netball body of failing to provide a convincing proposal.

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

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ABC, ABC News, 07/06/2024, Ellen Fanning

Three debutants have been named in the Diamond Squad as Netball Australia turns its eye towards hosting the 2027 World Cup. [...] \$6 million in federal funding was also announced for the cash-strapped Netball Australia, which is set to be put aside for the World Cup in Sydney, where the diamonds will defend their title. [video: Minister Wells]

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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Sky News Live, First Edition, 07/06/2024, Peter Stefanovic

Netball Australia has worked its way back into the federal government's funding fold after \$18 million was stripped from the sport last year. Sport Minister Anika Wells will make an official announcement about the funding in less than an hour's time.

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'Worrying trend of female CEOs leaving': Sport chiefs vow to turn tide of women leaving power positions

The Australian, Other, 07/06/2024, Emma Greenwood

Two of the most powerful figures in Australian sport will turn their attention to the "worrying" female brain drain from some of the most significant sporting roles in the country. Speaking at the announcement of \$6 million in Federal Government funding for netball in Brisbane on Friday, Sports Minister Anika Wells said she met with the new chair of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) Kate Jenkins this week, the pair discussing the "worrying trend" of women leaving high-powered roles in the sporting sector and what could be done to stem the tide.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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Govt accepts Tune's commission review

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/06/2024

Every recommendation contained in the final report of the capability review of the aged care regulatory body has been accepted by the federal government. [...] "The independent review led by Mr Tune charts a course for service improvement by lifting the capability of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission and we've accepted all 32 of his recommendations," said Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells in a statement accompanying the release of the government's response to the review.

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Maggie Beer's mission to fix food in aged care homes

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/06/2024, Julie Cross, Annabel Fleming and Antimo Iannella

A Government plan to make aged care more transparent by publishing how much money homes spend

on food has spectacularly failed. [...] The Department of Aged Care said it could not check each and every number, but if homes were found to have provided a false figure, that was fraud. [...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells said the Government was "committed to increasing transparency over public dollars going into aged care".

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

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 07/06/2024, Bridget Brennan and James Glenday

New data out this morning shows that the wait list to get a home care package has blown out with tens of thousands of older Australians now waiting for help. Evelyn Manfield is in our Parliament House bureau for us this morning. [...] The aged care minister, Anika Wells, says for next financial year, there have been more than 24,000 extra packages funded. And she says those who have urgent needs are getting help within a month.

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Radio National, AM, 07/06/2024, Sabra Lane

The number of Australians waiting for home care packages has nearly doubled in a year to more than sixty thousand. These packages allow the elderly to get help at home to delay or even avoid the need to move into aged care homes. [...] At roughly the same time last year, the Department of Health and aged Care's Russell Herald told senate estimates it's becoming harder for people to access the level of care they've been approved to receive. [...] A spokesperson for the aged care minister Anika Wells says those classified as needing urgent care are receiving home care packages within a month, while waiting times for those assessed as minimum priority can be as long as 15 months.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

Wait times for in-home care support to lengthen

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/06/2024, Page 10

Elderly Australians in need of home care support are facing wait times of up to nine months and the situation is expected to worsen. The federal government is being urged to address the delays with the

number of those in limbo more than doubling to 68,109 over the past year. [...] "We have seen a deterioration of access, particularly in the last six months," the Department of Health and Aged Care's Russell Herald said.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [InQueensland \(Online\)](#), [The Queenslander \(Online\)](#), [CityNews \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#). *Similar coverage:* [The Weekly Source \(Online\)](#).

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

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Meals for just \$11 a day

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/06/2024, Julie Cross and Annabel Fleming, Page 32

A federal Government plan to make aged care more transparent by publishing how much money homes spend on food has spectacularly failed. [...] The Department of Aged Care said it could not check each and every number, but if homes were found to have provided a false figure, that was fraud.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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Fee website compares just 20 doctors out of 36,000

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/06/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 23

The Medical Cost Finder website, designed for patients to compare out-of-pocket fees for specialist procedures, has received more than \$24 million in government funding. But almost five years after the site launched, just 20 of 36,000 specialists nationwide have listed their fees. [...] Health department assistant secretary Brian Kelleher, citing the comparison website, said just 20 doctors had disclosed their fees.

Similar coverage: [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [InnovationAus \(Online\)](#).

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Disease centre a \$90m fail

Herald Sun, General News, 08/06/2024, James Dowling, Page 35

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A lifeline to hundreds

Camden Haven Courier, General News, 07/06/2024, Luke Hadfield, Page 14

Camden Haven resident Bruce de Graaf has reached a remarkable milestone achieved by only 28 other Australians, making his 655th blood donation, a journey that began in 1979. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care reports that only about three percent of Australians donate blood, despite one in three needing blood or blood products at some point in their lives.

Also reported by: [News Of The Area \(Online\)](#)

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Men empowered with healthy habits

Riverine Herald, General News, 07/06/2024, Jaci Hicken, Page 19

Around 40 per cent of poor health and premature death among Australian men can be prevented by healthier habits, and this Men's Health Week, June 10 to 16, we're giving blokes the superpower to change their wellbeing for the better. [...] The campaign is also supported by key experts and organisations such as the Federal Government Department of Health and Aged Care, Australian Fatherhood Consortium, Australian Men's Health Forum, Australian Men's Shed Association, Centre for Gender Equity in Health and Medicine, CPA Australia, Dads Group, Flinders University, Gotcha 4 Life, Greater Western Sydney Giants, MATES in Construction, Movember, OzHelp, PANDA, Ten to Men, The Men's Table, the Western Sydney Wanderers and Young Blood.

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Why did health officials restrict GLP-1 RA prescribing? Here's the PBAC review behind the decision

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/06/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Dr Gary Deed says that striking the right balance between clinical considerations and cost-effectiveness will always be a challenge. What sparked the Department of Health and Aged Care decision to change prescribing rules for type 2 diabetes medications on the PBS?

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Australian Government Consulting to double in size next year

The Mandarin, Other, 07/06/2024, Dan Holmes

Australian Government Consulting has provided an update on the establishment of Government's internal policy capacity. Appearing at Senate estimates last week, Australian Government Consulting (AGC) chief consulting officer Andrew Nipe said the number of employees was expected to double before the end of the 2024-25 financial year. [...] Nipe said AGC is already engaged in a two major projects -- one with Department of Health and Aged Care and one with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

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Indigenous medical student awarded AMA scholarship

National Indigenous Times, Other, 07/06/2024, Giovanni Torre

Kahlie Lockyer, an accomplished artist and medical student at the University of Western Australia, has been awarded an Australian Medical Association Indigenous Medical Scholarship. [...] Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly will address the taskforce, attended by representatives from the AMA, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association, and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

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CORONAVIRUS

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

How Maggie's fixing menu at aged care homes

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/06/2024, Antimo Iannella and Julie Cross, Page 32

Five million dollars and a celebrity chef. That was Labor's big election pledge to improve the slop being served in some aged care homes across the country. Maggie Beer, who has long advocated for better, healthier and tastier food for older people in aged care facilities, was tasked with the job of improving meals.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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Report addresses underservicing of allied health care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/06/2024, Christopher Kelly

The federal government is being called upon to amend the Quality of Care Principles to support equal access to allied health services. The recommendation features in a policy brief published by the Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research, such an amendment would, say the authors, "minimise service disruption and support equitable access to allied health services."

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POPULATION HEALTH

Name your poison, but don't call it fairy floss

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/06/2024, Linda Silimalis, Page 5

Liquor outlets across NSW have been ordered to stop selling a series of lolly or dessert-named alcohol drinks such as "fairy floss" and "bubblegum" amid concerns they could be found appealing to minors. The Liquor & Gaming NSW industry alert follows an Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code (ABAC) scheme ruling early last year, which found some "alcohol soft drinks" being sold had names and packaging that could appeal to children.

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Ciggies are 'smokin hot'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 08/06/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 1

Smokers are dodging cigarette taxes by turning to the illegal market, according to Wagga supermarkets and tobacconists. Tobacco will be subject to limits on packet size, colour, flavour and weight as part of Australian government reforms to reduce tobacco consumption and prevalence across the nation.

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Why I have sympathy for smokers out there

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 08/06/2024, Ann Wason Moore, Page 86

They're a dying breed, but it's time to have a little sympathy for smokers. Look, I hate the smell of old-school cigarettes as much as the next non-smoker. One of the greatest decisions ever made by our government was to ban smoking inside pubs, clubs, restaurants and, well, anywhere that was not your own home. But now even your own property is not necessarily safe for smoking.

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My dad's death by a million missing memories

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 08/06/2024, Page 10

Anthony Keane is watching his father, Gary, slowly die from Alzheimer's disease, a heartbreaking reality which affects tens of thousands of Australians and their families every day. He shares his story to shine the spotlight on an affliction which is both cruel and confounding. It's the eyes that hit me the hardest. [...] Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates that more than 411,000 people were living with dementia in 2023.

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New test could be dementia predictor

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/06/2024, Tiffany Bakker, Page 7

British scientists have developed a first-of-its-kind test that can anticipate dementia in a person up to nine years before a diagnosis - and with 80 per cent accuracy. [...] In 2023, it was estimated that there were 411,100 (AIHW estimate) Australians living with dementia, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

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Enough awareness-raising: it's time to STFU about mental health

Crikey, Other, 07/06/2024, Bernard Keane

Is 'awareness-raising' actually good for mental health? Or is it a distraction from bigger issues? [...] According to the good people at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the incidence of mental health disorders hasn't changed since 2007.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

SUNSHINE STATE'S CANCER HOTSPOTS

Courier Mail, General News, 08/06/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 8

Shock new data has revealed there are places in Queensland where people are almost 60 per cent more likely than the average Australian to be diagnosed with cancer – and your postcode can be a matter of life and death. Concerning hotspots include Mackay where cancer diagnoses are an eye-opening 57 per cent above the national average as well as Berserker in Rockhampton and Bundaberg, which are 48 per cent and 45 per cent higher.

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

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Obesity emerges as huge liver risk

Courier Mail, General News, 08/06/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

Liver cancer rates have doubled since 1996, with obesity emerging as the main risk factor, pushing aside smoking and alcohol. The Australian Cancer Atlas research shows that, nationally in 1996, 4.1 cases were diagnosed per 100,000 people, while there were 9.0 in 2019.

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

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Cancer map can help save lives

Courier Mail, Editorials, 08/06/2024, Page 73

The Australian Cancer Atlas lays bare Queensland's haves and have nots. Put bluntly, if you live on Palm Island you are far more likely to die from cancer than if you live in St Lucia.

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Inflammatory bowel disorder rates are increasing in children and no-one knows why

ABC Online, Other, 07/06/2024, Fleur Connick

Chris*, 4, has had what his mother, Sarah*, describes as abnormal bowel movements his entire life:

"mucously stools", diarrhoea, and needing to go to the toilet multiple times a day. But when Sarah and her husband first took their son to see various doctors in Melbourne, they were told it was "toddler diarrhoea" and "normal for little boys to have loose stools".

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PRIMARY CARE

Ambos sent to pigeon

Herald Sun, General News, 08/06/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 4

Ambulances have been sent to sick pets, hiccups, toothaches and other non-urgent cases, a peak union says, leaving genuine patients at risk. The union warned crews, at times with lights and sirens, have been repeatedly sent to non-urgent cases, including on nights Ambulance Victoria called an internal emergency because of "extreme demand".

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

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NDIS shonks driving ambulance ramping

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 08/06/2024, Phil Hickey and Josh Zimmerman, Page 14

A surge in the number of hours that ambulances are being forced to "ramp" outside public hospitals is being hampered by shonky NDIS providers sending vulnerable clients to WA hospitals. Health Minister AmberJade Sanderson labelled as "very concerning" the rate of NDIS providers putting their clients – who often do not have an urgent medical issue – in hospitals as a matter of "last resort".

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

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Gran's 10 hours in ED as hospitals feel strain

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/06/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 4

It is a pitiful and shocking sight – a sick woman, 84, lies on seats in Lyell McEwin Hospital's emergency department, without receiving care for 10 hours. It is yet another unacceptable example of SA's failing health system.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#). Similar coverage: [9News \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 07/06/2024, Yvonne Yong

An internal emergency in Adelaide's hospitals has been extended until at least Monday, with elective surgery cancelled until pressure on the health system is relieved. In the last few hours, however, the code yellow has been lifted for country hospitals a week after the emergency was declared.

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Victims lose if 'Bandit' dies

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/06/2024, Sean Fewster and Dasha Havrilenko, Page 5

The people allegedly robbed by South Australia's infamous "bicycle bandit" will struggle to claim a share of the accused man's \$2.4m estate as victim's compensation if he legally ends his life before his trial. SA Health's approval of Kym Allen Parsons for voluntary assisted dying - revealed by The Advertiser on Wednesday - has sparked legal issues beyond his impending criminal trial.

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

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Accused's dying wish can never happen again

Earning the right to die with dignity was a decades long, emotional, Epolarising and hard-fought battle for South Australians. Years were spent debating and ultimately devising a system that was to be beyond reproach and ensure a peaceful, painless end for the needy without exposing the broader community to risk.

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The long, painful road to VAD

Canberra Times, General News, 08/06/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 27

"It is absolutely resolved in the affirmative ... a bit of history made just then." ACT Legislative Assembly Speaker Joy Burch made this remark at about 12.15pm on Wednesday as a bill passed to legalise voluntary assisted dying.

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A mother's anguish

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 08/06/2024, Josh Zimmerman, Page 1

Sandipan Dhar died of a treatable blood cancer, compounding the agony of the infant's devastated family who will meet Joondalup Health Campus authorities on Monday to learn the findings of an internal investigation into the tragedy. Central to that probe are claims his parents, father Sanjoy and mum Saraswati, repeatedly requested blood tests to help diagnose a long-running fever when they first visited the hospital on March 22 two days before their 21-month-old son died.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#). Similar coverage: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

Have lessons from Aishwarya already been forgotten?

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Editorials, 08/06/2024, Page 156

Another child dead. This time, a little boy, just 21 months old. Sandipan Dhar's parents say they pleaded for blood tests in the days before his death in March.

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

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 07/06/2024, Yvonne Yong

The death of a Perth toddler has triggered an urgent clinical review after the boy's family complained their pleas for help from GPS in hospital staff were ignored. 21 month old Sandipan Dhar died in March after his family said they'd made repeated requests for blood tests at a GP clinic and Joondalup Health campus to find the cause of the boy's long running fever.

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\$200m for new hospital

Weekend Post, General News, 08/06/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 13

The Premier's pre-budget cash splash has extended to Cape York with a record \$200m investment to develop a new hospital in Cooktown. But the release of a critical report into the health care of First Nations peoples living in remote communities has been delayed for a staggering fourth time, with the timeline on its release now set for July.

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

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Hospital prepared for the long weekend

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 08/06/2024, Tom O'Callaghan, Page 3

The city's main hospital is ready for the long weekend despite a deluge of sick people forcing healthcare workers to declare a "code yellow" earlier this week. Bendigo Health stood down the code yellow on Friday June 7, ending two days of internal emergency responses to spiking numbers of people with the flu, COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.

How long can patients expect to wait for surgery in the Central West?

Central Western Daily, General News, 08/06/2024, Allison Hore, Page 2

As hospitals across the Central West work through their surgery backlogs, one lags behind. According to the latest data from the Bureau of Health Information (BHI), the proportion of Dubbo hospital patients receiving surgery on time in the first quarter of 2024 dropped by 3.9 per cent compared to the same time last year.

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Bulk-billing rates on the rise, but Pocock says ACT still 'being duddled'

Canberra Times, Other, 07/06/2024, Miriam Webber

Katy Gallagher says a 5.5 percentage point increase in bulk-billing rates in the ACT is "good news", as an independent senator questioned why Canberra was "being duddled" on healthcare. Senator Gallagher made the comments during a Senate estimates hearing, in which David Pocock referenced data from Private Healthcare Australia, showing Canberrans with private health insurance were still paying much more for elective surgeries.

[Read More](#)

Gold standard morning-after pill difficult to access in regional areas, study finds

ABC Online, Other, 07/06/2024, Amelia Costigan

Poor access to the gold-standard, medically recommended morning-after pill in regional and remote areas is undermining women's reproductive health, experts say. The emergency contraception ulipristal acetate is harder to access and more expensive than its less effective alternative, particularly in regional Australia, according to a report published in the international health journal Contraception.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Help for beautiful young minds

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/06/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

An ADHD pilot project at Wallsend set to treat more than 100 children in its first year is making a case to become a permanent clinic. The program, which treats children aged six to 12, opened in September last year.

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

GPs can be a lynchpin in ADHD bottleneck

Medical Forum, General News, 01/06/2024, Cathy O'Leary, Page 18

Long waiting lists for patients to be assessed and treated for ADHD by specialists is fuelling frustration among GPs, prompting some to speak out. The referral system is accepted as a fundamental part of medical practice and a way of keeping GPs as the gatekeepers of patients' sometimes complex health profiles and with some medical conditions such as ADHD, the referrals are essential to get a diagnosis and treatment.

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'Reach out and seek help'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 08/06/2024, Tony Stevenson, Page 15

I write to your newspaper on behalf of the not-for-profit Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia (MIFA) with a very specific request. We are urging all your readers impacted in any way by mental illness issues to reach out and seek help.

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

Hidden pain for mothers takes its toll

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 08/06/2024, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 25

It is supposed to be the happiest of times. But after Tracey Tyley had her third child, she hit a crisis point. Ms Tyley was one of an alarming number of expectant and new parents who say their emotional wellbeing is not screened during pregnancy check-ups, or in the months after birth.

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Lifeline to receive funding boost to increase Saturday night capacity and help vulnerable cohorts

West Australian, Other, 08/06/2024, Jake Dietsch

Lifeline WA will become better at helping vulnerable groups in crisis — including victims of domestic violence, with the 24-hour hotline also set to increase its capacity on busy Saturday nights. Premier Roger Cook will announce Saturday that the State Government is providing \$1.1 million to Lifeline to respond to calls on Saturday nights — a peak period for the service, by employing 10 additional crisis support workers to boost capacity at this time.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Issues recruiting junior doctors to LGH

Launceston Examiner, General News, 08/06/2024, Isabel Bird, Page 11

A dearth of senior doctors at the Launceston General Hospital is making it difficult to recruit and retain junior doctors, according to the AMA state president, who says urgent action to address the issue is needed. It is understood that at least half of all registrar positions at the LGH are currently vacant.

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Nurses state their case for pay rise

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/06/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

NURSES and midwives pushing for a one-year 15 per cent pay rise have raised concerns about Novocastrians moving to Queensland for better pay, while Hunter hospitals struggle to get staff. The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association released a report on Friday, titled Escaping NSW Treasury's Curse. It detailed how first-year nurses in Queensland earn a base rate of \$82,753, while those in NSW earned \$70,050.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Chemist banned for over-prescribing

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/06/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 24

A Pharmacist caught dispensing 700 pills containing addictive and dangerous drugs to a single patient over three months has been suspended.

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

Doctor charged with sexual assault, banned from treating men

The Courier Mail, Other, 07/06/2024, Vanda Carson

A Queensland GP has been banned from treating men by the health watchdog after he faced court accused of three counts of sexual assault.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

GPs key to donation increase

Medical Forum, General News, 01/06/2024, Cathy O'Leary, Page 10

Organ donation experts have a message for GPs – help them save more lives – while their call to the States is to bring back consent on driver's licences. On a positive note, last year saw an improvement in Australia's organ donation figures, with the highest rates of deceased organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation since 2019.

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SPORT

Beach Volleyball titles facing a wipeout

The Saturday Age, General News, 08/06/2024, Chris Barrett, Page 6

Australia risks the embarrassment of having to hand back or be stripped of another global sporting event following Victoria's Commonwealth Games cancellation because the federal government is withholding funding from next year's beach volleyball world championships. The tournament, due to be staged in the Asia-Pacific for the first time in Adelaide, has been spruiked as part of the Australian Olympic Committee's so-called "green and gold runway" of events leading up to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games.

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

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Head knock blood test on way

Courier Mail, General News, 08/06/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 3

Aussie researchers have revealed they are close to having a unique concussion blood test approved for use in Australia. It means a simple blood test could now complement sports-related concussion protocols following world-first research on footballers.

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

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Suicide highlights football risk

Herald Sun, General News, 08/06/2024, Aneeka Simonis, Page 28

A former regional football player took his life after a secret, decades-long battle with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). The tragic finding draws attention to the lifeendangering risks of head knocks and concussions faced not only by professional Australian Football League players, but local players too.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Trial a success for gran

Courier Mail, General News, 08/06/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

While lung cancer is not limited to smokers, the Australian Cancer Atlas highlights how the habit boosts the chances of diagnosis. Smoking rates are decreasing in Australia but the atlas shows the prevalence of smoking varies, with some areas having smoking rates more than 50-70 per cent higher than the average. An Ipswich grandmother, who is a non-smoker, was given just a year to live while celebrating the birth of her first grandchild, but Jan Mundt is still alive six years later thanks to a clinical trial.

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

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New test promises detection of dementia

Canberra Times, General News, 08/06/2024, Melissa Meehan, Page 18

A new test promises to predict whether someone will get dementia, almost a decade before diagnosis. An international research team, including Associate Professor Adeel Razi from Melbourne's Monash University, have developed a new method for predicting dementia with over 80 per cent accuracy.

Also reported by: [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#). Similar coverage: [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 7, Seven News, 07/06/2024, Peter Mitchell

It's a disease that affects up to half a million Australians. Now, world first research can predict dementia up to a decade in advance, with 80 per cent accuracy.

Also reported by: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Local study sparks new bladder cancer treatment

Medical Forum, General News, 01/06/2024, Eric Martin, Page 30

There are some promising results from a Perth study into the treatment of bladder cancer by delivering drugs in a new way. A world-first research trial led by Perth urologist Professor Dickon Hayne has shown that a new potential treatment for bladder cancer is feasible and safe.

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Personalised treatments offering new hope for incurable childhood cancers

ABC Online, Other, 07/06/2024, Kathleen Ferguson

A world-first Australian study has found personalised cancer treatments using genome sequencing are achieving remission in cases considered unlikely to be cured. When the Zero Childhood Cancer

program started using the sequencing method to take a closer look at cancers, it took a year to map them.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 07/06/2024, Bridget Brennan and James Glenday

Interview with Children's Cancer Institute's Professor Glenn Marshall regarding gene-tailored cancer treatment.

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SBS, World News Australia, 07/06/2024, Anton Enus

The trials of a new approach to treating deadly childhood cancers is doubling survival rates for some patients. The development is the result of almost ten years' work by Australian researchers into how genetic analysis can pinpoint better treatment options.

[Play Now](#)

Genomics initiative

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/06/2024

The nation's largest cancer genomics initiative ProSPeCT (Precision Oncology Screening Platform Enabling Clinical Trials) has hit a major milestone, with over 5,000 Australians diagnosed with hard-to-treat cancers receiving free comprehensive genomic profiling of their disease.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 07/06/2024, Leon Delaney

Interview with Centre for Eye Research Australia associate vitreoretinal surgeon Prof Penny Allen regarding the first clinical trial of Australia's second-generation bionic eye.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Kids at risk as jab rates plunge

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/06/2024, Madeline Crittenden, Page 1

Australian children are at risk of death and life-changing disability from preventable diseases amid falling immunisation rates, with misinformation and vaccine exhaustion threatening our herd immunity. While the national childhood immunisation coverage target is 95 per cent, rates have fallen across all age groups since peaking in 2020, with one NSW community falling below 75 per cent.

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

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Superspreader fears as parents ditch flu shots

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/06/2024, Madeline Crittenden, Page 8

Kids under the age of nine are being hit hardest by the flu, but parents are failing to vaccinate them, with doctors warning the poor uptake could have deadly consequences. Just 28 per cent of children got

the flu jab last year, and so far this year doctors are finding it increasingly difficult to encourage parents to vaccinate their kids.

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The good, the bad and the deadly

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/06/2024, Page 9

The worst vaccination rate for all of NSW is in the Richmond Valley coastal area which encompasses the towns of Brunswick Heads, Byron, Bangalow, Ballina, Woodburn, Evans Head where just 74.72 per cent of children in the two year-old cohort have been fully immunised, well below the 95 cent target. But parents in most country areas of NSW are getting their children immunised at a higher rate than those in city areas, with parts of Sydney clocking the lowest vaccination levels.

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Which vaccines when, and why they are so important

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/06/2024, Page 9

Jab rates need to be at 95 per cent to create "herd immunity" to stop outbreaks and protect vulnerable newborns and children. Just one traveller infected with a highly infectious disease like measles could restart these vaccinepreventable diseases if immunisation rates don't increase.

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Forget the lies, Covid fatigue and get back to the vax

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 08/06/2024, Page 76

One of the devastating side affects of the Covid pandemic and the new suite of vaccines is the impact it is having on the propensity of parents to keep up the childhood vaccination regimens in their family. A new of vaccine hesitancy is sweeping the country, finding particularly fertile ground in areas already suffering under low vaccination rates.

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'Unseasonably high' numbers of whooping cough cases among NSW school-aged children

9News, Other, 07/06/2024, Josh Hohne

There has been an "unseasonably high" number of school kids with cases of whooping cough in New South Wales in recent months, according to NSW Health. Cases have been increasing since February this year, with 1135 cases reported in May 2023.

[Read More](#)

Post-Covid vaccination fatigue and it's impacting the future health of our youngest and most vulnerable

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 08/06/2024, Peter Jones, Page 86

For a couple of weeks each year, I work at hospitals in the Solomon Islands. It may be confronting to learn that a three-hour flight from Brisbane, young babies are dying of meningitis, and young women of 40 with cervical cancer are being sent home with a single packet of paracetamol to ease their suffering. In Australia, vaccines prevent both of these deadly conditions.

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Schools urged to prevent viral illnesses

Canberra Times, General News, 08/06/2024, Sarah Lansdown, Page 5

Some Canberra parents are calling for schools to improve ventilation and other infection control measures as cases of COVID and other respiratory illnesses continue to climb. COVID-19 infections have tripled over the past month and, alongside respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and influenza, has been circulating in schools, but it is up to individual schools as to what measures they take to prevent illnesses spreading.

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RSV the skyborne stowaway

Understanding how respiratory syncytial virus behaves is the first step in discovering how to stop its nasty impact on the young and not-so-young. Vaccine research is ramping up but this tricky 'quiet one' will need vigilance and caution.

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NSW Health investigates potential cancer cluster among workers at Liverpool City Council office

7news.com.au, Other, 07/06/2024

An urgent investigation is underway into a potential cancer cluster among workers at a suburban Sydney council. At least five current or former workers at Liverpool City Council's Moore Street office building in Sydney's southwest have developed thyroid cancer in the last three to five years.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 07/06/2024, Bridget Brennan and James Glenday

Targeted mosquito spraying is underway to stop the spread of suspected dengue fever in the Torres Strait, north of mainland Queensland. Antonia O'Flaherty joins us now from Brisbane.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Covid jab suspected as excess deaths stay high

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/06/2024, Merryn Johns, Page 28

Covid vaccines could be partly to blame for a rise in "unprecedented" excess deaths in the US and other Western countries in the three years since the pandemic took hold, a new study suggests. [...] In a statement to RMIT's FactLab in October 2022, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, which regulates vaccines in Australia, said that despite a rise in deaths it was "false and unscientific to automatically conclude that vaccines caused these deaths".

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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

The key to solving our opioid problem

Canberra Times, General News, 08/06/2024, Justin Turner, Page 45

In Australia, opioid use is common, with approximately 13.3 million opioid prescriptions dispensed to provide pain relief for almost three million people between 2021-22. With opioids being so widely prescribed, it's not surprising that in 2022 they were the most common drug class identified in toxicology for drug-induced deaths according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. [...] The Australian government and Therapeutic Goods Administration have rolled out several initiatives aimed at reducing the amount of inappropriate prescription opioids in the community.

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Focus on unapproved models of care

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/06/2024

Recent years have witnessed an exponential rise in the use of unregistered medicinal cannabis and compounded medicines such as replica semaglutide. Authorities such as the Pharmacy, Medical, Nursing, and Midwifery Boards of Australia, along with Ahpra, are now directing their attention toward alarming reports suggesting practitioners are capitalising on this surge in demand. The boards also noted with concern the TGA data which indicated a staggering increase of medicinal cannabis from approximately 18,000 Australian patients in 2019 to over one million patients by Jan 2024.

[Read More](#)

Family mourns dad after allergic reaction to common cold medicine

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/06/2024, Joel Erickson

A family is in mourning after a father-of-two tragically died after suffering an allergic reaction to an ingredient commonly found in cold and flu tablets. [...] More than 800 reports of adverse reactions to ArmaForce have been registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, including a loss of taste and anaphylaxis.

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

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 07/06/2024, Sandra Sully

Two investigations are underway tonight into the death of a Brisbane father who died after taking a popular supplement. Cale Agosta's family say that he suffered a suspected allergic reaction from an ingredient in a cold and flu tablet. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration has received nearly 1100 adverse reports for medicines that contain the herbal product including ArmaForce and with more than 300 events linked to anaphylaxis.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Illegal ketamine use is at a record high, and dangerous chemical cousins are entering the market

ABC Online, Other, 07/06/2024, James Vyver

The illegal use of ketamine reached a record high in 2023 in Australia. But as ketamine rises in popularity, organised crime groups are importing dangerous chemical copies of the drug.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Food recall: Primo's Mild Salami with 25 per cent less salt recalled over unlisted allergen

NEWS.com.au, Other, 07/06/2024, Jessica Wang

An urgent product recall has been put in place for a popular packaged salami, after the brand failed to declare a common allergen. A release shared by the NSW Food Authority urged people who purchased Primo's Mild Salami 25 per cent Less Salt in the 80g packs to not consume the product if they have either an allergy, or are intolerant to milk.

Similar coverage: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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AICIS

Mullumbimby residents warned about eating homegrown produce after PFAS chemicals detected

ABC Online, Other, 07/06/2024, Max Tillman

People living in parts of Mullumbimby in the Byron Shire hinterland are being warned to avoid using groundwater or harvesting homegrown fruit and vegetables after PFAS chemicals were detected. The

NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and NSW Fire and Rescue have contacted residents in 80 homes near the town's fire station following the discovery of the toxic chemicals.

[Read More](#)

Extent of PFAS 'forever chemicals' contamination at Mullumbimby on North Coast unknown

The Courier Mail, Other, 07/06/2024, Toni Moon

Residents are being doorknocked as part of PFAS contamination testing in the Byron Shire, but the EPA are tight-lipped on how bad the problem actually is. Here's what we know.

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

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