



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 11th June 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 1) reports New South Wales will spend an additional \$840 million on hospital upgrade projects due to rising construction costs. *Also reported by:* [9News](#)
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 1) reports experts have called for widespread testing of Australian drinking water after multiple states' water supplies were found to contain cancer-causing carcinogens PFOS and PFOA. *Also reported by:* [The Age](#)
- [The Age](#) (page 1) reports octogenarian Cherryl Barassi is calling for reforms to Victoria's voluntary assisted dying laws to bring them in line with higher standards set by newer laws in other states.
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 1) reports Health Minister Mark Butler is receiving regular updates about Australia's Avian flu outbreak from the chief medical officer and has stressed the local strain is not transmissible to humans. *Also reported by:* [Australian Financial Review](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Sky News](#)
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 1) reports over 130 new nurses will be hired in Canberra to prepare more wards for incoming mandated nurse-to-patient ratios.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports cancer rates in Victorian men are expected to double in the next 15 years, new research by the Victorian Cancer Registry has found, with men urged to quit

smoking and vaping, reduce their alcohol intake and get health checks.

- The **Herald Sun** (page 1) reports the government has pledged \$2 million to motor neurone disease charity Fight MND, bringing its annual fundraising figure to \$5 million and its lifetime fundraising total past \$100 million. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Canberra Times](#)
- The **West Australian** (page 1) reports West Australians are being urged to consider getting health checkups at pharmacies where appropriate rather than skipping seeing a GP due to the unavailability of bulk-billing doctors.
- The **Courier Mail** (page 5) reports Queensland's government will on Tuesday announce a new \$1.7 billion health workforce strategy designed to add 45,000 staff to the public health care system by 2032.
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports patients with major medical conditions are paying more out of pocket, the latest Cost of Care report has found, with Parkinson's sufferers facing expenses of up to \$190,000 over the lifetime of the condition.

MINISTER BUTLER

Panic buying fears as egg sales limit imposed

Canberra Times, General News, 11/06/2024, Rachael Ward, Page 1

Shoppers have been urged not to panic buy eggs after a mounting bird flu outbreak prompted a supermarket giant to introduced limits on egg purchases. The highly pathogenic H7N3 strain of bird flu has been detected on five egg farms in Victoria's southwest with more than 500,000 chickens euthanised in an effort to stop the spread of the disease. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the chief medical officer had been regularly briefing him on the outbreak and stressed this variant did not cross over into humans.

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

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Our 'avoidable' surgery error

Herald Sun, General News, 11/06/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 8

Australians are undergoing "avoidable" surgery for shoulder pain, a top researcher says, as he sets out to test a simple online program he believes will be more effective. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was targeting health research funding "where it was needed most", with the trial hoped to cut waitlists if successful one of nine primary care studies to share in \$19.6m.

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

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Fears shoppers will crack over egg limits

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 11/06/2024, Page 12

Shoppers have been urged not to panic-buy eggs after a mounting bird flu outbreak prompted a supermarket giant to introduced limits on egg purchases. The highly pathogenic H7N3 strain of bird flu has been detected on five egg farms in Victoria's southwest with more than half a million chickens euthanised in an effort to stop the spread of the disease. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the chief medical officer had been regularly briefing him on the outbreak and stressed this variant did not cross over into humans.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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Campaign fires up war on rising vape rates

Newcastle Herald, General News, 11/06/2024, Page 10

Social media giants such as TikTok will be key to getting the message through to younger Australians about the harmful impacts of vaping, experts say. Health Minister Mark Butler launched a \$63 million

"give up for good" national campaign on Monday, targeting vaping for the first time and the use of cigarettes in almost a decade.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#).

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Consumers urged not to panic buy after Coles imposes egg limit

Australian Financial Review, Other, 10/06/2024, Gus McCubbing

Customers are being urged not to panic buy eggs after supermarket giant Coles banned individual customers in most of the country from purchasing more than two dozen at a time in response to a mounting bird flu outbreak. Five eggs farms at Meredith, Lethbr...

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Australia-first anti-vaping campaign uses threat of social harm, not cancer, to get its message across

ABC Online, Other, 10/06/2024, Jake Evans

A teenager hiding in a school bathroom stall, a man wheezing as he sits in the gym, a woman stressing as she tips out her handbag. The nation's first anti-vaping campaign isn't the distressing, graphic images of people dying in hospital beds or failed organs on an operating table. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the campaign hoped to discourage vapers before they became too dependent.

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Program: Coles introduces egg limit, as bird flu continues to spread

ABC Online, Other, 10/06/2024, Alison Xiao

Across the country, customers are limited to buying two cartons of eggs at all Coles supermarkets except those in Western Australia. It's in response to an outbreak of avian flu in Victoria, which has prompted fears of a potential egg shortage.

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'Why are we still doing this?': New anti-vaping campaign unveiled

9News, Other, 10/06/2024, Allanah Sciberras

The Federal Government has just unveiled its latest anti-smoking campaign, with its main focus on encouraging millions to kick the vaping habit. Health Minister Mark Butler said the \$63.4 million 'Give Up For Good' campaign would help raise awareness of the health harms of smoking and vaping.

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Australian government launches new national anti-vaping ad campaign

Sky News Australia, Other, 10/06/2024, Eleanor Campbell

Australia's first national anti-vaping advertising campaign will urge users to kick their daily habits through a suite of unsettling new ads that warn users vaping addiction can "creep up on you". On Monday, the federal government will launch a \$63.4m advertising blitz aimed at curbing vaping and smoking use as it prepares for a nationwide ban on non-therapeutic vaping products. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said senators had a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity to safeguard Australian's health when they go to vote on the government's anti-vaping legislation next month.

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Customers limited to two egg cartons each while shopping at Coles as bird flu outbreak hits Victoria

Sky News Australia, Other, 10/06/2024, Laura Grassby

Coles has introduced buying limits for eggs in supermarkets amid an outbreak of bird flu in Victoria. Shoppers will only be allowed to buy two cartons each at stores in all states except for Western

Australia. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler addressed the issue during an interview with ABC News Breakfast on Monday where he said the government was taking the issue seriously.

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The Zap: profits before patient welfare, scope of practice updates, sneaky advertising – and a very expensive splash

Croakey, Other, 10/06/2024, Melissa Sweet

This week, the column covers winners and losers from the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement, what the Federal Government's not mentioning when spruiking the latest bulk billing data, and the latest data on causes of death. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells released the Government's response to the capability review of the ACQSC carried out by David Tune AO.

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ABC News, ABC News Day, 10/06/2024, Ros Childs

The Federal Government's Give Up For Good anti-vaping and smoking campaign has been launched. It's largely focused on social media platforms such as TikTok and warns about the harms of vaping. Almost 1 in 10 people aged 14 to 17 are thought to vape, and rates for 18 to 24-year-olds have quadrupled since 2019. The Federal Government has also proposed laws to ban the sale of e-cigarettes outside pharmacies. Health Minister Mark Butler has pledged to drive the vaping industry out of Australia.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 10/06/2024, Lisa Millar and James Glenday

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister, on the Federal Government's new campaign to help Australians quit vaping and smoking. Butler says there are four different campaigns that they are rolling out today and perhaps the one of most interest to parents and school leaders will be the one targeted at young people vaping. He adds it has exploded as a public health menace, it's the number one behavioural issue reported in our school communities and they are determined to give young people as much information as possible about the harms of vaping and prompt them really towards the resources and supports that are there to help them quit.

Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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

Australians are being reassured that eggs on supermarket shelves remain safe to eat as authorities battle to prevent the further spread of bird flu in Victoria. Coles has imposed a precautionary purchase limit on cartons right across the country, after hundreds of thousands of birds from contaminated farms had to be culled. By containing the spread of the disease, farmers and the government are confident eggs already in supermarkets are safe to consume. Health Minister Mark Butler says there's always a risk that it will spread which is why the good management of these outbreaks by Victoria is reassuring.

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Bumma Bippera Media, National Talk Black, 10/06/2024, Trendy Trev

Negotiations over a new bill to ban all vapes outside of medical use are set to recommence this morning. Bans on nicotine vapes in most settings have already passed Federal Parliament, but a lack of regulation in several states has meant large quantities of e-cigarettes are still being sold. Health Minister Mark Butler has told the ABC that the impact of vaping is disproportionately being felt by young people.

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4BC, 12:00 News, 10/06/2024

The Federal Government's anti-vaping campaign is being launched today, with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler noting it's warning young people about how addiction can creep up. A total of \$63m has been invested in the campaign.

ABC Radio Canberra, 11:00 News, 10/06/2024

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he's getting regular briefings from the chief medical officer about avian influenza. Bird flu has been detected at five Victorian poultry farms, where state officials are reassuring the community the chance of the virus spreading among humans is low. Butler says the Federal Government is taking the issue seriously.

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Triple M Albany, 07:00 News, 10/06/2024

The Federal Government is stepping up its efforts to stamp out smoking with a new anti-vaping campaign. From today, the advertising blitz will run across social media and gaming platforms, TV and radio, as well as billboards and bus shelters. Health Minister Mark Butler has said young Australians are the focus of the campaign to highlight the health risks associated with vaping.

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MINISTER WELLS

Aged care: Labor's performance so far, as report reveals 1 in 7 homes fail to meet standards

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/06/2024, Julie Cross

As many as 150 serious incidents a day are reported to the aged care watchdog, including theft, shoving and unreasonable use of force. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the Overall Star Ratings show the number of aged care homes given 'good' or 'excellent' care was up 23 per cent since December 2022. She said the findings from the 2022 and 2023 Residents' Experience Surveys show the "residential aged care experience in Australia continues to improve".

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The Zap: profits before patient welfare, scope of practice updates, sneaky advertising – and a very expensive splash

Croakey, Other, 10/06/2024, Melissa Sweet

This week, the column covers winners and losers from the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement, what the Federal Government's not mentioning when spruiking the latest bulk billing data, and the latest data on causes of death. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells released the Government's response to the capability review of the ACQSC carried out by David Tune AO.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Feds give \$2m lift to MND research

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/06/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 9

The Albanese government will bolster efforts to find a cure for motor neurone disease with a \$2m investment to support innovative research projects. The federal funding will provide a vital boost for the

testing of potential medicines and treatments. [...] Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney said two Australians were diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND) every day.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

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CORONAVIRUS

How Canberra child care centres are quelling COVID

Canberra Times, Other, 10/06/2024, Steve Evans

Child care centres have seen an increase in COVID cases - but are dealing with them using measures they learnt in the depths of the pandemic. And older methods - like believing in the therapeutic benefits of fresh air.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Over 65s not keen to give up retirement dreams for kids

Canberra Times, Business News, 11/06/2024, Page 19

Boomers can see younger Australians are struggling financially and want to help where they can, but they are not willing to do so at the expense of their retirement lifestyle, new research shows. Four in five Australians over 65 think their children are facing harder times than they experienced at the same age and a corresponding three in four believe passing on their wealth is important, according to new research by AMP.

Also reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Region misses out on grants

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 11/06/2024, Chris Burns, Page 4

A new federal government grants program to financially support capital works projects in regional Australia has overlooked Townsville, drawing the criticism of Herbert MP Phillip Thompson. Mr Thompson said the Growing Regions Program offered between \$500,000 and \$15m to regional local government entities and not-forprofit organisations, but that local groups such as a cricket club and an aged care provider were overlooked in the first round of funding.

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The Illawarra aged care homes that have failed to meet quality

standards

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 10/06/2024, Natalie Croxon

Six Illawarra aged care homes have failed to meet the national quality standards in 2023-24, the industry watchdog says, with all falling short of providing the expected level of personal and clinical care. Marco Polo (operated by IRT), Blue Haven Bonaira (operated by Kiama Council), Uniting Elanora Shellharbour, Warrigal Care Mount Warrigal, Warrigal Care Albion Park Rail, and Warrigal Mount Terry have landed on the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's log of non-compliant providers for this financial year.

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70 family carers upskill to help loved ones with dementia

Australian Seniors News, Other, 10/06/2024

More than 70 North Queensland family carers, from as far north as New Mapoon in Cape York and west to Charters Towers, have undergone upskilling to allow them to assist those with dementia at their end of life. The training was delivered through the Last Days Dementia Program workshops, which are funded by Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) through the Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care program, and presented in collaboration with HammondCare.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Tradies plumb drug depths

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 11/06/2024, Stephen Drill, Page 14

One in eight use cocaine Cashed-up tradies are the new market for cocaine, as their pay outstrips the top-end-of-town lawyers, stockbrokers and accountants who were the dealers' traditional market. [...] The latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's National Drug Strategy Household Survey of 2022-23 found more than one million Aussies aged over 14 had reported using cocaine in that year.

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Cocaine Inc podcast: Cocaine is the 'talk' of Australian building sites

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/06/2024

A Melbourne tradie and stripper jailed for smuggling cocaine is one of many workers in the construction industry who have chosen to take the deadly drug. [...] The latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's National Drug Strategy Household Survey of 2022-2023 found more than 1 million Aussies aged over 14 had reported using cocaine in that year.

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Australia's first anti-vaping campaign launched

9News, Other, 10/06/2024

Australia's first national anti-vaping campaign has been launched, aimed at young people.

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My vape addiction crept up slowly. To quit, I had to find a new habit

SBS, Other, 10/06/2024, Lily Ford

Lily Ford told herself she could always quit, even when she was smoking vapes first thing in the morning and last thing at night. The devices started to take a toll on her body, so she took an unexpected path to kicking the habit. Non-therapeutic and disposable vapes may be banned in Australia this year. Is this simply the new frontier of an old war? And will prohibition actually work? Watch the latest Insight episode The Ban on Vapes, on Tuesday 11 June at 8.30pm on SBS or live on

[Read More](#)

New resources to help midlife women stay healthy

A new series of educational videos could be a useful tool for GPs who want to empower midlife women with knowledge to help them stay healthy for longer. Australian women's life expectancy is now around 85 years and women over the age of 50 are one of the fastest growing demographic groups.

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ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 10/06/2024, Mark Gibson

Australian Council of State School Organisations President Damien Ellwood has welcomed the Federal Government's new campaign to reduce vaping and smoking. The National Give Up For Good campaign launches today, and features targeted ads for young people who've taken up vaping. Rather than using graphic imagery, many of the new ads focus on the negative impact addiction can have on a person's well-being.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Art helps Ollie beat the cancer monster

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/06/2024, William Tyson, Page 7

Little Ollie Jepson has turned the pain of cancer treatment into a love of art - and even his own business. When the six-year-old developed a lazy eye two years ago, a visit to hospital revealed a cancerous brain tumour at the base of his skull, the size of a large lime.

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Thanks \$100m, Neale

Herald Sun, General News, 11/06/2024, Peter Rolfe, Page 1

Generous Victorians opened their hearts and wallets to make the 10th instalment of Neale Daniher's Big Freeze at the 'G the most successful yet. A crowd of 84,000 packed the MCG on Monday not just to watch a game of footy but to support the man championing the great quest for a cure for motor neurone disease.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Warning to tradies

Northern Territory News, General News, 11/06/2024, Page 3

Tradies have been warned about five common cancer risk factors in the workplace. For men's health week, Cancer Council WA says tradies should be wary of working around diesel engine exhaust emissions, silica dust, asbestos, welding fumes (and ultraviolet radiation) and wood dust.

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

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Cancer cuts a disgrace

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/06/2024, Elise Davey, Page 31

Professor Richard Scolyer AO, Australian of the Year, should be dead. With a diagnosis of glioblastoma (GBM), an aggressive brain tumour, the average life expectancy is just over 14 months. And yet, this incredible co-director of the Melanoma Institute Australia, one of our most prolific and highly achieving researchers is amazingly cancer free.

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John Bowen obituary: Heart transplant survivor fulfilled his soccer dream

West Australian, Other, 10/06/2024, Peta Bowen

John Bowen was a long-term heart transplant survivor, enjoying a full life for almost 30 years after his 1994 transplant. Born to Arthur and Gwen Bowen, 10-pound Poms who arrived in Adelaide in 1949, John left school and began work with the Bank of New South Wales in Adelaide.

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I'm a beautician so I knew the tiny white spot on my lip was worrying. Doctors kept sending me home but I was right... it nearly cost me my jaw

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 10/06/2024, Belinda Cleary

A beautician has revealed how a 'dodgy' white spot on her lip ended up being skin cancer - and it would have gone unnoticed had she not pushed for a proper diagnosis. Melissa Floss, 52, from Western Australia, told FEMAIL she went to several medical professionals before someone finally worked out what was wrong.

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The difficulties of treating menopause in Australia

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/06/2024

It has been a difficult 20 years in the treatment of menopause, but now some education groups and new initiatives are leading the way. Menopause is a natural stage of a woman's life. Some breeze through, for others it is misery. Many will have significant hot flushes, which can cause brain fog and insomnia ; some wake every 30 minutes.

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PRIMARY CARE

Serious diseases costing sufferers \$190,000

The Australian, General News, 11/06/2024, Clareese Packer and Natasha Robinson, Page 7

A major report on the exploding costs to patients and taxpayers of 30 major medical conditions has found those who develop some diseases, including Parkinson's and some types of cancer, face a massive financial burden and up to \$190,000 in out-of-pocket costs over their lifetime, even if they are privately insured. The Cost of Care report, compiled by financial analysts at the insurance giant Zurich, has analysed prevalence, incidence and survival rates of major diseases and calculated lifetime and out-of-pocket cost estimates for patients.

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

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Hospital upgrade costs blow out

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/06/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 1

Hospital construction projects will cost NSW taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars more than initially allocated as rising building costs hit the state budget. The NSW government will pour an additional \$840 million into hospital upgrades in the coming budget, taking the total health infrastructure spend to \$3.4 billion in the next financial year.

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Cherryl Barassi pleads for choice that was denied Ron

Age, General News, 11/06/2024, Royce Millar, Page 1

She's grateful for the life she's lived. But now, she tells Royce Millar, it's time to go. [...] She does not qualify for help under Victoria's voluntary assisted dying laws, which were trailblazing seven years ago but which are now conservative by interstate and international standards.

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More than medicine

In the middle of the cost-of-living crisis, many people are putting off visiting their GP due to the expense. But did you know there are free health checks you can access through your local pharmacy? GPs across WA have been ditching bulk billing in droves, with recent research showing many patients are now putting off visiting their GP due to the out-of-pocket costs.

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NSW budget to include \$15.1m plan to ease pressure on emergency departments

9News, Other, 10/06/2024, Emily Bennett

The upcoming New South Wales budget will include \$15.1 million to ease pressure on the state's emergency departments. Minister for Health Ryan Park announced today the funding would be used to upgrade the public health system's ambulance patient allocation matrix system to take into account capacity at nearby emergency departments, travel times and a patient's clinical condition.

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Health insiders say Royal Darwin Hospital in constant state of emergency, having 'normalised disaster'

ABC Online, Other, 10/06/2024, Jack Hislop and Stateline By

Deb Jones says her experience as a Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) patient was one of the worst of her life. In severe pain from a chronic health condition, the disability pensioner was last month wheeled into a cubicle in the hospital's emergency department. It was there that she would spend the next two days, unable to sleep, sharing a one-person room with another patient.

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Tasmanians waiting longer to be treated in hospital emergency departments than they were a decade ago

ABC Online, Other, 10/06/2024, Lucy Macdonald

Tasmanian patients are waiting longer to be treated in emergency departments than they were a decade ago, government data reveals. In April this year, just 42 per cent of patients who presented at one of the state's four emergency departments as category 2 — classified as imminently life threatening, important time-critical treatment or in very severe pain — were seen within the recommended time of 10 minutes.

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Catching up on joint replacements after COVID-19

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/06/2024

The number of elective knee, hip and shoulder replacements dipped during the COVID-19 pandemic — what are the flow-on effects? Before 2020, there had been significant growth in the number of joint replacements, and this was due to Australia's population growth, an increasing average age of the population, high rates of obesity and an increase in sports-related injuries.

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Channel 9, Today, 10/06/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Interview with Chris Minns, NSW Premier, on NSW's plan to roll out a \$15m upgrade to the NSW Ambulance Service to address ramping. Minns says one of the things they are trying is an innovative way of ensuring that ambulances don't go necessarily to the closest hospital, but also to the hospital with the shortest wait time. He adds it's a computer program they believe will work and it'll roll out progressively over the next couple of years. Minns adds people will not go to their closest hospital but to one with the shortest wait, which means that we can get people through emergency departments quicker.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 10/06/2024, David Reilly

Tasmania has slept from best to second worst in the country for the time it takes to be seen in an

emergency department. Government Health Department data revealed that in April this year, of patients classified with imminently life-threatening conditions or needing time-critical treatment, just 42% were seen within the recommended ten minutes.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 10/06/2024, Hamish Macdonald

The NSW Government will spend \$15m on real-time technology to help paramedics determine the best hospital for emergency patients. Known as a new-gen matrix, the technology draws on live data to help paramedics determine the nearest most clinically appropriate emergency department for their patients. The announcement comes less than two weeks after the latest Bureau of Health Information data revealed emergency department attendance rates are at their highest on record.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Praise for program

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/06/2024, Page 6

A new suicide prevention service for young Victorians has received positive feedback from a group of its first clients. Swinburne University of Technology and Monash University researchers surveyed 28 young people who used the service, which has been operating within a public youth health service since early 2022.

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Check-ups could stop two men from dying every hour

Canberra Times, Other, 11/06/2024, Belad Al-karkhey

About two men - someone's father, son or brother - are lost every hour to preventable deaths in Australia. The leading killer of 50 men every day is heart disease but the Australian Men's Health Forum has warned that keeping men alive for longer is about more than just physical health. Suicide is the leading cause for those under the age of 55, with half of all men experiencing some sort of mental health disorder in their lifetime.

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

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Supporting the mental health of LGBTQIA+ people in regional Australia

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/06/2024

Tailored mental health awareness-raising, training and health promotion are needed to enhance psychological support for gender and sexually diverse people experiencing a high prevalence of depression, self-harm or suicide ideation. Depression, self-inflicted injuries and suicide are leading causes of Australian disease burden, ranking fourth and sixth, respectively, for disability-adjusted life years in 2023.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Big boost for nurses

Canberra Times, General News, 11/06/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 1

More than 130 new nurses will be hired in Canberra to help significantly expand the range of wards with mandated nurse-to-patient ratios. A minimum of one nurse to four patients will soon be required on wards including maternity, the neonatal intensive care unit, cancer services, intensive care, emergency departments and palliative care.

'Work short-staffed often'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 11/06/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 1

Nurses and midwives are demanding the state government tackle severe staffing shortages following the revelation many rural and regional hospitals have less than half the workforce they need. "We work short-staffed, and we work short-staffed often," NSW Nurses' and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) Tamworth branch secretary Jill Telfer told the Leader.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Exuberant medical broadcaster who popularised the 5:2 diet

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/06/2024, Page 30

Dr Michael Mosley, who has died in Greece aged 67, was a Tiggerish presenter of television science documentaries, and became one of Britain's leading communicators on diet and healthy living. Mosley was a television producer for some two decades before he began to appear in front of the camera in his 50s. Billed as Dr Michael Mosley he had trained, though never practised, as a psychiatrist he was a television natural, combining professorial good looks with boyish enthusiasm.

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\$40,000 bait for trainee doctors

Courier Mail, General News, 11/06/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 5

Hundreds of aspiring GPs will be handed \$40,000 by the state government to undertake their training in Queensland as part of a mammoth health workforce strategy seeking to add 45,000 staff to the public system by 2032. Treasurer Cameron Dick and Health Minister Shannon Fentiman will on Tuesday unveil a \$1.7bn health workforce strategy inside the state budget.

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

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'Foodie, lovely bloke and a true pioneer'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 11/06/2024, Sophia Baker, Page 2

The life of Hamilton's Dr Dale Ford is being commemorated for the profound impact he had on the Western District Health Service and the wider community. Dr Ford worked as a GP with Hamilton Medical Group since the mid-1980s and during that time he not only served his community but passionately advocated for the needs of rural patients and doctors.

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

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Women in health excel: MLHD announces finalists for annual awards

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 10/06/2024, Finn Coleman

Women shine brightly in the Murrumbidgee, as the local health district (MLHD) has placed the spotlight on its staff. All 13 finalists for individual honours at the 2024 MLHD Excellence Awards are women, while 20 teams have been recognised in the group categories.

[Read More](#)

Why can't GPs treat family members outside of emergencies?

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/06/2024, Tony Trachtenberg

Last week, the Medical Board of Australia issued a stern reminder to doctors not to treat their family and friends, warning it was not "good practice" and "fraught with problems". Based on my own experiences, I would argue that this dictum must be flexible.

[Read More](#)

Meet the 44 specialists recognised in the King's Birthday Honours today

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/06/2024

An impressive number of non-GP specialists have been honoured for their contributions to medicine and society in the King's Birthday Honours today. They include respiratory experts Professor Helen Reddel and Professor Jo Douglass, pathologists Dr Belinda Clarke and Dr Geoffrey Higgins.

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What can health professionals do about climate change?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/06/2024

By focussing on the health impacts of climate change, health professionals can play a vital role in framing the need for climate actions in a way that is more personally meaningful and less controversial for the public and policy makers. In December 2023, on the first ever Health Day at the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 148 countries (including Australia) signed the COP28 UAE Declaration on climate and health.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Competition fears for \$8.8b chemist deal

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 11/06/2024, Jemima Whyte and Jonathan Shapiro, Page 17

Chemist Warehouse's \$8.8 billion merger with Sigma Healthcare raises "common sense" competition concerns as the company will own more than 16 per cent of the country's retail pharmacies, a Singaporean hedge fund research firm says. Analysis by Wickhams Hi...

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Equitable access needed for IVF rebates

Canberra Times, General News, 11/06/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 3

Lgbtqia+ couples and single women may face discrimination depending on their specialist when accessing rebates assisted reproductive technology treatments, prompting advocates to call for more equitable access. Medical rebates for people undergoing treatments such as IVF or intrauterine insemination are available for people experiencing infertility.

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Two-decade-old ambulance system used to decide where patients are transferred to be replaced

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/06/2024, Madeleine Bower

A two-decade old system which paramedics use to decide which hospitals to send patients to will be overhauled in a \$15.1 million upgrade by the Minns government. The current dated system does not use real time data, instead relying on manual data inputs with paramedics unable to see potential delays in emergency departments, which contributes to ambulance ramping.

[Read More](#)

I've uncovered a new medical condition: Post Techno-Torture Distress Syndrome

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/06/2024, Pam Rachootin

I am suffering techno-torture after trying to switch to a 5G phone. I spent an hour with a one-on-one digital mentor, a service offered at the local library. While I sat helpless and terrorised, the librarian used the library's unsecure public WiFi network to work her magic. She required the entire hour to transfer my Messenger and WhatsApp data from my obsolete phone to the new one.

[Read More](#)

Australia can afford to bulk bill all GP visits. So why don't we?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/06/2024

Being able to afford health care is a pressing issue for many Australians. And encouraging GPs to bulk bill is one measure the government is taking to ease the strain. So what would it take for GPs to bulk bill everyone? In our recent paper, we calculated this is possible and affordable, given the current health budget. But we show recent incentives for GPs to bulk bill aren't enough to get us there.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Nurse slept in bed of patient

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/06/2024, Lucy Rutherford, Page 3

A mental health nurse has had her registration cancelled for having "highly unprofessional" relationships, including staying overnight at a vulnerable patient's house. The South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal reprimanded and disqualified Woei Tan after the patients "suffered adverse consequences from her actions". According to the judgment, Ms Tay failed to maintain professional boundaries with two of her patients.

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

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Paramedic high while working

Ballarat Courier, General News, 11/06/2024, Page 9

A paramedic who had a cocktail of drugs, including ice, in his system while working has been suspended. Drug and alcohol testing in June 2020 revealed that Ambulance Victoria paramedic Michael Graham had methamphetamine, cannabis, amphetamine, codeine and delta-9-TCH-COOH (indicative of the use of cannabis) in his system.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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Junee pharmacist to be suspended over professional misconduct

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 10/06/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf

A Junee pharmacist will be suspended over historic misconduct after he prescribed addictive drugs well in excess of that required to multiple patients over more than a year. Junee Discount Pharmacy proprietor and its sole chemist Michael Ezzat Helal Azzer, 34, will be officially suspended from July 5 after a decision was handed down by the this week. [...] Advertisement Azzer, as a chemist, also had an obligation to notify the AHPRA if he had reason to believe a practitioner was endangering the public by significantly departing from accepted professional standards.

[Read More](#)

Prominent Melbourne dentist Ari Masters, owner of No Brace Centre, banned for four years for professional misconduct

7news.com.au, Other, 10/06/2024, Melissa Meehan

A high profile Melbourne dentist who spruiked a no-brace method of straightening teeth has been banned for four years. Best known as the proprietor of Melbourne's No Brace Centre, Ari Masters was banned during a professional disciplinary proceeding arising from complaints about poor quality orthodontic treatment.

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

This mum needed a bone marrow transplant. She was forced to look overseas

SBS, Other, 10/06/2024, Shirley Glaister

Perth mum, Julie Moffatt, 39, needed a life-saving bone marrow transplant after her leukaemia diagnosis but because Australia has the lowest rate of donation in the world, she was forced to look overseas. Key Points Julie Moffatt was diagnosed with a form of leukaemia in September 2023 and urgently required a bone marrow transplant.

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SPORT

Spectator safety defended

Northern Territory News, General News, 11/06/2024, Camden Smith, Page 8

The Chief Minister has defended the Territory's capacity to stage major events despite five spectators injured in a weekend explosion at Finke Desert Race having to be flown interstate for medical treatment. Speaking on Monday, Eva Lawler described Finke as a "high risk event" held in a "high risk environment" and dismissed a suggestion safety at the event ran a distant second to excitement for spectators and contestants.

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

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Geraldton a hockey hub for more than 200 students at regional carnival

West Australian, Other, 11/06/2024, Fraser Williams

More than 200 hockey players gathered in Geraldton for a regional hockey carnival, with top performers Geraldton Grammar School among eight schools from the Mid West represented. The CSBP hockey carnival was held at the Geraldton Hockey Stadium on May 30, where 21 teams from Geraldton schools, Mingenew primary and Carnamah district high schools competed.

[Read More](#)

Paris 2024 Olympic Games the golden goal at Australian Swimming Trials in Brisbane

ABC Online, Other, 10/06/2024, Simon Smale

The Paris 2024 Olympic Games are barely a month and a half away — and that means athletes across the world are honing their preparations for the upcoming spectacle. No squad in Australia has more eyeballs on it at this stage of the Olympic cycle than the swimming team.

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

[Read More](#)

IBA announces Indigenous Men's All Stars game against Sacramento State NCAA team

National Indigenous Times, Other, 10/06/2024, Joseph Guenzler

Indigenous Basketball Australia (IBA) has announced the inaugural Indigenous men's All Stars team, which will compete against Sacramento State's NCAA D1 team on Tuesday, 11 June, at Logan Basketball Stadium, Shailer Park, Brisbane. The IBA All Stars team features NBL and NBL1 Indigenous players from across Australia, including William Davo Hickey, Biwali Bayles, Kobe McDowell-White, and Nathan Jawai.

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Opthea in \$220m raise

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 11/06/2024, Page 18

Opthea is raising about \$220 million to fund the ASX-listed biotech through to its phase-three read-out early next year, sources say. The company, with a market capitalisation of \$321 million, was placed in a trading halt on Friday ahead of the capital ra...

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Big pharma bets the house on obesity 'wonder' drugs

The Australian, Business News, 11/06/2024, Alex Ralph, Page 20

The pharmaceuticals business hasn't seen anything like it. A "modern day gold rush", a "bonanza", a "trillion-dollar opportunity", "wonder drugs", the superlatives come thick and fast. All are talking about the same thing, the obesity drugs market that nobody, it seems, wants to miss out on.

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Man, this is serious

Herald Sun, General News, 11/06/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 1

Victorian men are being urged to quit smoking or vaping, reduce their alcohol intake and have health checks as research released on Tuesday warns cancer rates in men will almost double in the next 15 years. Talking to a mate is also being encouraged, after it was found men with close mates live longer.

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Dye helps find cancer

Herald Sun, General News, 11/06/2024, Page 4

A glowing marker dye that sticks to prostate cancer cells could help surgeons to remove them in real-time, according to a study funded by Cancer Research UK. Scientists used a fluorescent dye attached to a special marker molecule to give medics a "second pair of eyes" during surgery for prostate cancer.

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

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Heart stress a hot topic

Herald Sun, General News, 11/06/2024, Page 8

Heat can put stress on our hearts even if we're just resting. Researchers from the University of Sydney and Montreal Heart Institute in Canada recruited 61 participants a mix of healthy younger and older adults and some with coronary artery disease and monitored their hearts as they were exposed to increasing heat while lying down in a lab.

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

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More kids are obese

Courier Mail, General News, 11/06/2024, Page 13

Rates of obesity globally are 1.5 times higher over the last 10 years compared with the previous decade. Almost 6 per cent of Aussie kids are obese compared with a global average of 8.5 per cent, according to researchers from Sichuan University in China.

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

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Mapping cancer cases

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/06/2024, Page 5

A new version of the Australian Cancer Atlas, an online cancer map revealing new geographical patterns across Australia, shows the impact of cancer varies substantially depending on where Australians live. [...] The Leukaemia Foundation is using the Australian Cancer Atlas released by Cancer Council Queensland in partnership with QUT to enhance its research to better understand the impact of blood cancer across the country.

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Patients are looking for alternative to invasive heart surgery, and a new study has shown promising results for 3D printed 'mini-hearts'

ABC Online, Other, 10/06/2024, Courtney Barrett Peters

Elle Pendrick has spent many sleepless nights in intensive care, attempting to fall asleep to the incessant beeping of the very machines keeping her alive. The 41-year-old was born with complex congenital heart disease and has endured five open-heart surgeries in her lifetime and many more cardiac catheters and procedures.

[Read More](#)

Bowel disease breakthrough

ABC Online, Other, 10/06/2024, Rachel Mealey

Australia has one of the highest rates of inflammatory bowel disease in the world.....the most common forms of which are Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis.

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

[Read More](#)

Microplastics found in every human semen sample tested in study

The Guardian, Other, 10/06/2024, Damian Carrington

Microplastic pollution has been found in all human semen samples tested in a study, and researchers say further research on the potential harm to reproduction is "imperative". Sperm counts in men have been falling for decades and 40% of low counts remain unexplained, although chemical pollution has been implicated by many studies.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 10/06/2024, Emma Bickley

British researchers say a major breakthrough could lead to new treatments for inflammatory bowel disease Crohn's. They've discovered a DNA pathway that's present in 95% of people with IBD and other immune disorders.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Michael Mosley was 'blown away' by the health challenges faced in outback Indigenous communities

ABC Online, Other, 10/06/2024

Late television doctor Michael Mosley became "very interested" in Indigenous health issues while filming in remote New South Wales, according to a physiologist who introduced him to outback Aboriginal communities. The body of Dr Mosley was found after a five-day search on the Greek island of Symi on Sunday local time, where he had been holidaying with his wife Clare Bailey Mosley.

[Read More](#)

From accidental doctor to Indigenous health trailblazer

National Indigenous Times, Other, 10/06/2024, Stephanie Gardiner

Christine Jeffries-Stokes became an outback doctor almost by accident, having longed to work as an artist by the sea. "I wanted to go to art school and do ceramics and sculpture, but there was a mix up with my Year 12 results and I ended up in medicine," Dr Jeffries-Stokes said.

[Read More](#)

Lidia Thorpe questions land council's use of COVID grants under current government MP's leadership

National Indigenous Times, Other, 10/06/2024, Giovanni Torre

Senator Lidia Thorpe has raised suggestions the Labor Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour, took advantage of more than \$400,000 of COVID stimulus funding when she was the chief executive of the Northern Land Council. The Gunnai Gunditjmara and Djab Wurrung senator made the allegations - which Ms Scrymgour rejects - under parliamentary privilege in a Senate estimates hearing last week.

[Read More](#)

ABC Kimberley, Breakfast, 10/06/2024, Vanessa Mills

Kahlie Lockyer, the 35-year-old artist turned medical student received a scholarship for \$11,000 in Canberra from Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly on Friday. Lockyer says she plans to specialise in paediatrics and hopes to one day focus on helping children in remote Indigenous communities.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Consumers urged not to sit on eggs

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/06/2024, Madeleine Heffernan and Jessica Yun, Page 1

Consumers are being urged not to stockpile eggs amid an outbreak of bird flu at Victorian farms that has one major supermarket already imposing buying limits. Almost 800,000 birds have been destroyed so far after avian influenza, a viral disease in birds, was detected at five Victorian poultry farms. The state is Australia's third-biggest supplier of eggs, raising concerns the culls will crimp supply for many months and force prices to surge.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 10/06/2024, Lisa Millar and James Glenday

Coles is imposing a cap on egg purchases in all supermarkets except those in Western Australia. Egg producers earlier this week had warned of the potential shortage as bird flu outbreaks affect production across Victoria. At least four farms in Victoria's largest egg-producing regions are now under quarantine after confirmed outbreaks of two different strains of the virus, also known as avian influenza, and more than 600,000 egg-laying hens at those farms will be culled to limit the spread of the virus.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 10/06/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Professor Robert Booy, infectious diseases expert, on supermarkets across the country announcing restrictions on the number of eggs customers can purchase as the bird flu outbreak continues to wreak havoc. The restriction is temporary but will be in place at all stores except Western Australia. Booy says it's a virus that can spread between wild birds and poultry but it is very unlikely to pass to humans. He adds Australia doesn't need to worry because it has a very good surveillance system in its poultry flocks and it has early detection.

[Play Now](#)

Coles is putting a shopping limit on eggs as Victoria deals with a bird flu outbreak. Authorities say the properties have been placed in quarantine for cleaning and the chickens euthanized as the industry responds to the outbreak. A temporary limit of two egg cartons per customer will apply at Coles stores nationally, except in WA.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Cabinet is not immune from idiocy

Newcastle Herald, General News, 11/06/2024, Jenna Price, Page 18

That fear when one of your kids is sick, really sick, is like nothing else. Steve Robson, AMA president, obstetrician and professor at ANU, can tell you. [...] Fourth: the Therapeutic Goods Administration rigorously evaluates all this for licensing and registration.

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

King's Birthday honours 2024: Robodebt hero recognised, state premiers' service celebrated

The Mandarin, Other, 10/06/2024, Melissa Coade

Former DHS compliance officer Colleen Taylor , who fought to bring concerns about the illegal robodebt scheme to the attention of her secretary and SES bosses, is one of several outstanding public servants have been named among the 737 Australians recognised on the King's Birthday honours list this year. [...] Dr Eileen Gallery , TGA expert writing group member, for significant service to nephrology, to obstetric medicine, and to tertiary education.

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

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'Katie did not need the vaccine': AstraZeneca victim was 'doing her bit' to end lockdown

NEWS.com.au, Other, 10/06/2024, Frank Chung

Katie Lees was a fit and healthy young actor who "didn't need the vaccine", but took it to "do her bit" to end the brutal lockdown. Thirteen days later she was dead. [...] Of the 14 Australians acknowledged by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to have died from Covid vaccines, 13 were from AstraZeneca and one from Moderna Immediately after her vaccine, Ms Lees had headaches and developed a rash on her arm, but doctors from NSW Health did not pick up that it may be an adverse reaction.

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

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Police nab illicit Hume tobacco haulers

Canberra Times, General News, 11/06/2024, Peter Brewer, Page 7

Police have seized more than \$1.8 million in illicit tobacco and related products, cash and vapes after stopping vehicles at various times on the Hume highway over the weekend. Also found in one of the vehicle stops was a hydraulic machine used to produce cigarettes.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Home goal on staffing

West Australian, Business News, 11/06/2024, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 32

Bosses lament housing crisis WA's peak business group has reaffirmed the State's crippling housing shortage as one of the biggest barriers to attracting staff after a medicinal cannabis manufacturer decided to take matters into its own hands and buy a hotel in the South West.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Clear, present danger

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/06/2024, Carrie Fellner, Page 1

Tap water across parts of Sydney, Newcastle, Canberra, Victoria, Queensland and the tourist havens of Rottnest and Norfolk islands has been found to contain contaminants that US authorities now warn are likely to be carcinogenic, with "no safe level of exposure". [...] A Department of Health spokesperson said that testing varied across water utilities based on the different risks of PFAS in different water supplies, as with other threats to water safety.

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

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