



# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 12th July 2024

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

## LINKS

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

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

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 15\)](#)** reports that Olympic officials plan to launch the \$100m Australian Olympic Indigenous Athlete Fund by the end of the year which will be designed to generate \$1m each year.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 7\)](#)** reports that Australian researchers at the Children's Cancer Institute have discovered a gene, known as RUNX1T1, they have shown could prevent the development of neuroblastoma in children when blocked.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 26\)](#)** reports that Australia New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine president Michelle Gold has warned that a shortage of morphine-based medicines in Australia has increased the risk of end-of-life patients suffering additional distress and uncertainty.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Victoria's acting chief health officer Evelyn Wong issued an alert for whooping cough with Victoria's 2024 case numbers already outpacing all of 2023 by around four times. Dr Wong encouraged at risk populations to get vaccinations and reminded health professionals to check their local pharmacies' supply of antibiotics.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 6\)](#)** reports that the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has called for doctors to use the trusted relationship they have with their patients to address

## MINISTER BUTLER

### **Saving grace Look, you can**

The Australian, Business News, 12/07/2024, Yoni Bashan, Page 16

Look, you can accuse lobbyists of a lot of things but not all of them are missing a heart. [...] We probed further and figured out that CT Group had actually been working pro-bono with Neuroblastoma Australia, and with Ryan, and they'd all been leaning on Health Minister Mark Butler to put aside money for DFMO, a drug therapy that improves survival rates in children with the disease.

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

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

### **Technology and health combine for Queenslanders**

Local Ipswich News, General News, 11/07/2024, Page 7

Health services in Ipswich are showing innovation and progression into the future in both person and online. [...] "Doctors' groups have called our tripling of the bulk billing incentive a 'game changer' and clearly it is in Blair," Minister Mark Butler said.

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

### **This 'game-changing' announcement will give sick kids new hope**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/07/2024, Joel Erickson

Families with children battling a deadly cancer have been given a lifeline after the government announced funding for early access to a lifesaving drug in Australia. [...] The campaign led to Health Minister Mark Butler announcing Aussie kids would receive DFMO for free in Australian hospitals.

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

[Read More](#)

### **Health precinct in sights as we consider new sites for private hospital | Mayor's say**

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 11/07/2024, Jess Jennings

I attended the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra last week. [...] I used the visit to brief the federal Health Minister Mark Butler on the local health challenges we face, having already briefed the state minister Ryan Park.

[Read More](#)

### **Patients and families welcome Government's funding for neuroblastoma treatment**

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 11/07/2024

Neuroblastoma Australia and Rare Cancers Australia have welcomed the announcement by Health Minister Mark Butler that the Government has ensured patient access to Norgine's eflornithine.

[Read More](#)

### **The Government's 'good conscience' should extend to other patients waiting for access**

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 11/07/2024

"I've got to say our Government was not willing in good conscience to stand by and not give these kids every chance of survival," said Health Minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

### **Hope for neuroblastoma**

Every Australian child and young adult with high-risk neuroblastoma will now have free access at Australian hospitals to a promising medicine not otherwise available in Australia, known as DFMO. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mr Mark Butler, said that after engaging with the drugmaker Norgine over several weeks and advocating on behalf of Australian children and their families, the Government had secured an undertaking that Norgine will make DFMO available to Australian patients for free, while it pursues the necessary approvals for a PBS listing.

[Read More](#)

## **Will Mark Butler survive a cabinet reshuffle?**

Oncology Republic, Other, 11/07/2024, Cate Swannell

Rumours of a reshuffle distracted from an announcement of an important bridging arrangement for cancer treatment funding. Federal health minister Mark Butler was in Sydney yesterday to announce a bridging arrangement that will allow the Commonwealth to pay for the cost of drug treatment for childhood neuroblastoma, but it was pure politics that got the attention.

[Read More](#)

## **Hope for Aussie kids with neuroblastoma**

Oncology Republic, Other, 11/07/2024, Amanda Sheppard

The federal government negotiated with the manufacturer of DFMO to provide the treatment for free in major Australian hospitals. [...] Under the new funding arrangement, DFMO will be provided to eligible patients at major Australian hospitals, health minister Mark Butler said in a statement this week.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC News, ABC News Hour, 11/07/2024, Joe O'Brien**

Early indications are suggesting the government's new restrictions on the sale of vapes are being followed. The Federal laws restricting the sale of vapes to pharmacies and reducing the flavours on offer have been in force for more than a week. Health Minister Mark Butler says the new laws are working saving direct communication from vape store owners that they're winding up their leases and they're closing their doors.

[Play Now](#)

## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 11/07/2024, Bridget Brennan and Lisa Millar**

Some doctors are warning of unforeseen problems for users of medicinal cannabis, 10 days after the ban on vape sales outside of pharmacies. It is believed that those who need medicinal cannabis won't be able to get access to any TGA-approved vape devices. Health Minister Mark Butler says there's been no change on that front, and medicinal cannabis products have only ever been legally available through prescription or by a doctor from a pharmacy.

[Play Now](#)

## **Seven Albury, Seven Local News, 11/07/2024, Reuben Spargo**

A grandfather determined to keep fighting for his five-year-old grandson diagnosed with a rare cancer. A Federal Government decision to provide free access to a groundbreaking drug coming too late for the boy. Health Minister Mark Butler has now announced free access to the medicine for those with Jack's cancer, the family labelling it a bittersweet moment.

[Play Now](#)

## **WAVE FM, 12:00 News, 11/07/2024**

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is lobbying Illawarra pharmacies to get on board with the government's vape ban. It comes as several major chemist franchises are refusing to supply vapes following the introduction of the ban on 1 July. Butler says it's important local chemists support the ban.

[Play Now](#)

## **ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 11/07/2024, Georgia Stynes**

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says enforcement has been ramped up since new laws took effect this month, banning the sale of vapes anywhere but in pharmacies.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### **Doping, not the Seine, still the biggest issue in Paris**

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 12/07/2024, Andrew Webster, Page 42

How did the heart medication get into the spice rack? How did the banned substance trimetazidine (TMZ) get into air vents and drains and other parts of the kitchen at the Huayang Holiday Hotel in Shijiazhuang then presumably into the food and therefore the bodies of 23 Chinese swimmers before their Olympic trials in 2021? [...] Federal sports minister Anika Wells said WADA, of which she is an executive committee member, would review its EPO testing procedures.

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

### **Government's Aged Care Digital Strategy could slash admin time by one-third**

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/07/2024, Caroline Egan

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has released the Government's first Aged Care Data and Digital Strategy, a five-year plan aimed at making better use of aged care data and reducing the administrative burden on staff. The goal of the Strategy is to deliver the Government's aged care reforms and implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, in the context of an ageing population, where the number of people over the age of 85 is expected to more than triple in less than 40 years, and a aged care sector workforce already under strain.

[Read More](#)

### **Channel 9, Today, 11/07/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo**

Panel discussion with Minister for Sport Anika Wells and Sofie Formica, 4BC presenter. [...] All right, guys, it is official. Australia's Olympic team has been finalised. 460 home grown athletes ready to represent our country in Paris. And a 50% of these athletes will be making their debuts. And the highest percentage of women representing Australia too. Yes, Sarah, 55% of our Australian team will be women, which is a sharp contrast from the Paris 1924 Australian team, which had no women in it. So, um, people like I think one of the benefits of my job is that I get to see athletes every step of the journey from five year olds who are trying flag football for the first time.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### **Pollies lend an ear on peak-season pressure**

Augusta Margaret River Times, General News, 12/07/2024, Warren Hatley, Page 2

A trip to Canberra has allowed Shire of Augusta Margaret River president Julia Meldrum to get in the room with Federal decisionmakers to argue the region's plight in the face of rampant population and tourism growth. [...] Breakout sessions during the assembly gave the shire president a chance to have personal meetings with bigwigs including Regional Development, Local Government and Territories Minister Kristy McBain and the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride, as well as ALGA's president Cr Linda Scott.

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

### **Bulk billing rates on the rise in Dobell**

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 11/07/2024, Page 28

More patients in Dobell are being bulk billed as a direct result of the tripling of the bulk billing incentive by the Albanese Government, with more than two million additional bulk billed visits across the country since November 1, 2023. [...] "The Albanese Government committed to making it easier for people to see a doctor and that is what we are seeing on the Central Coast with the significant rise in bulk billing," Member for Dobell Emma McBride said.

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

## Volunteers needed to support Nullum House

Tweed Valley Weekly, General News, 11/07/2024, Jonathon Howard, Page 11

Ms Hunt said she has an ambitious goal to end homelessness in Murwillumbah. [...] Mayor Chris Cherry said raised this very issue with the Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride in Canberra on Friday last week.

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

## Applications now open for the 2025 ABC Heywire Competition

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2024

Wodonga teenager and Heywire alumni Solange is encouraging all young people from regional communities across Australia to participate in the 2025 ABC Heywire competition, which officially opens today. [...] Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride wants young rural and regional Australians to get involved and enter the competition.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

### Indigenous cancer scholarship open now

Oncology Republic, Other, 11/07/2024, Mariella Attard

The federal government has announced \$5.9m for scholarships, hoping to increase the Indigenous cancer workforce and improve survival rates. [...] Your research and expertise have the power to make a real difference in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples affected by cancer," said Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Vax rates among highest in region

Dimboola Banner, General News, 10/07/2024, Tony Curran, Page 3

Residents in Dimboola hospital's aged care facility, and their families, can rest easy knowing their facilities are not among the five aged care homes across the Wimmera who have failed to administer adequate Covid boosters to at least half of their residents, according to latest figures. [...] The Federal Department of Health and Aged Care reportedly contacted providers with low vaccination rates requesting they submit plans to vaccinate their residents over coming weeks.

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

### Having healthy teeth

Dental health in Australia has improved a lot over the last three decades. [...] However, latest statistics show that "3 in 10 people delay or avoid seeing a dentist due to cost, 1 in 4 children (aged 5 to 10) have untreated decay in their baby teeth, and 1 in 25 people (aged 15 and over) have no natural teeth left" (Department of Health and Aged Care, Australian Government).

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

## Decision on possible Alice Springs curfew extension expected Thursday morning

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2024, Jack Hislop

A 72-hour curfew in Alice Springs ended at 6am on Thursday. The NT police minister is set to announce this morning whether it will be extended. [...] "This is not just policing, it requires the health department, education officials, the social services and family support officials, to be getting together ... and listening to communities," she said.

[Read More](#)

## The Project host Kate Langbroek mocks people who 'lined up like little b\*\*\*\*\*s' to get Covid jab

Adelaide Now, Other, 11/07/2024, Frank Chung

The Project host Kate Langbroek has mocked Australians who 'lined up like little b\*\*\*\*\*s' to get Covid jab during a discussion about tennis star Novak Djokovic.

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

[Read More](#)

## Nominations sought for new shared MRFF and NHMRC advisory committees

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 11/07/2024

Shared advisory committees are to be established following the Australian Government's consultation on improving alignment between the Department of Health and Aged Care's Medical Research Future Fund and NHMRC's Medical Research Endowment Account. The Department of Health and Aged Care and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) are seeking nominations for four advisory committees that will support both federal funds by advising on research strategies and funding policies.

[Read More](#)

## National Hypertension Taskforce of Australia: a roadmap to achieve 70% blood pressure control in Australia by 2030

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 12/07/2024

Raised blood pressure or hypertension is by far the leading risk factor for preventable deaths in Australia, contributing to over 25 000 deaths annually ( Supporting Information, figure 1 and figure 2), 1, 2, 3 mainly due to stroke, heart disease, kidney disease, heart failure, atrial fibrillation and dementia. 3, 4 [...] In Australia, the Department of Health and Aged Care supports health care providers through other platforms, such as the Australian Immunisation Register.

[Read More](#)

## Here's what the other docs charge

Oncology Republic, Other, 11/07/2024, Holly Payne

Internal medicine has overtaken allergy/immunology as the medical specialty with the lowest bulk-billing rate, while GPs continue to be among the top bulk-billers. [...] But despite the government being one of the biggest handwringers of all, the Department of Health and Aged Care's own Medical Costs Finder tells a different story.

[Read More](#)

## Which APS secretaries sit at the top of the salary food chain?

The Mandarin, Other, 11/07/2024, Melissa Coade

The Mandarin is always keeping a watchful eye on the remuneration deals flowing to some of the most powerful public servants in Australia but a new instrument signed by PM&C boss Glyn Davis this week marks a 3.5% boost across the board. [...] They include Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry head Adam Fennessy, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water boss David Fredericks, Education head Tony Cook, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations secretary Natalie James, Finance head Jenny Wilkinson, Health and Aged Care secretary Blair Comley, Attorney-General's Department chief Katherine Jones, and Social Services secretary Ray Griggs.

[Read More](#)

## **IMG fast track expensive, burdensome: AMA**

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/07/2024, Holly Payne

Data on the specialist pathway for international medical graduates does not appear to support the government's case for taking selection out of college hands. [...] This week, the AMA told the Department of Health and Aged Care that while it was supportive of efforts to streamline the pathway for overseas-trained specialists, it was "fundamental to our system" that the colleges continued to set standards for training and education.

[Read More](#)

## **Victorian Gov opens 10-bed expansion of Barrabill House in rural Seymour**

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/07/2024, Caroline Egan

The state government has completed a \$3.17 million refurbishment and expansion of Barrabill House Public Sector Residential Aged Care Service (PSRACS) in Seymour, 100km north of Melbourne, expanding the facility's capacity by 10 beds and adding new facilities. [...] An additional \$300,000 grant through the Department of Health and Aged Care's Significant Facility Refurbishment allowed for the redevelopment of the facility's outdoor space.

[Read More](#)

## **Star ratings have "significant limitations": ACCPA**

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/07/2024, Caroline Egan

The Aged and Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA) has published its submission on the evaluation of the Star Ratings system, noting that consumers are not using Star Ratings to inform their aged care decisions, the purpose for which the system was intended, and that some subcategories are disadvantaging certain kinds of providers. [...] The peak body for aged care providers, which has 1,100 members, made nine recommendations: The Department of Health and Aged Care reviews how Star Ratings data is presented on the My Aged Care website and makes changes to ensure it is more user friendly for older people.

[Read More](#)

## **COVID-19 and flu have hit aged care hard this winter**

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/07/2024, Caroline Egan

Covid-19 outbreaks were recorded in nearly 400 residential aged care homes as more than 3,000 staff and residents contracted the highly contagious virus in the week to 4 July 2024. [...] Recent data released by the Department of Health and Aged Care reveals 97 aged care homes had vaccination rates of less than 10% and 706 facilities had coverage of less than 50%.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## **CORONAVIRUS**

### **From FLiRT to FLuQE: what to know about the latest COVID variants on the rise**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 11/07/2024, Nathan Bartlett

We're in the midst of a bad cold and flu season in Australia . Along with the usual viral suspects, such as influenza, RSV, and rhinoviruses (which cause the common cold), bacterial pathogens are also causing significant rates of illness, particularly in children.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Senior tech safety fears

Herald Sun, General News, 12/07/2024, Page 24

Aussie seniors are tech savvy and social but privacy and security concerns, not tech challenges, are their biggest limitations, with 17 per cent of seniors having lost money from an online scam. Eight in 10 older Australians describe technology as important in helping them keep in touch with family and friends, research by not-for-profit aged care provider Benetas reveals.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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

### June has 60 days to pack up and Plan B is living in a caravan

Canberra Times, Other, 11/07/2024, Anna Houlahan

Older Australians who are renting are facing a daunting budget battle as rental prices outstrip age pensions. Competition for properties has spiraled out of control for many pensioners with the national rental vacancy rate at a record low of 0.7 per cent in February 2024.

[Read More](#)

### Malnutrition a 'serious problem' in older Australians, screening needed in aged care, dietitians say

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2024, Paige Cockburn

Hair falling out. Weakness and confusion. Wounds that don't heal. These can all be signs someone is malnourished, but they are commonly mistaken for the "normal" process of ageing.

[Read More](#)

### Turn up the Volume! National conference to raise voices on elder abuse

Aged Care Insite, Other, 11/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Elder Abuse Action Australia (EAAA) and Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS) are joining forces to present the 2024 Australian Elder Abuse Conference in Adelaide later this month. The national conference takes place every two years and helps determine areas of focus for future reform.

[Read More](#)

### Maggie Beer's aged care eating mission is feel-good TV – but is it a recipe for real change?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 11/07/2024, Jade Cartwright, Anne Whitworth and Lynette R. Goldberg

Australian celebrity cook Maggie Beer has long been an advocate for better quality meals in aged care. It led her to a four-month immersion in an aged care residence with the goal of transforming the meals and dining experiences there.

[Read More](#)

### 37 Fijians first to graduate for Opal HealthCare under new Gov scheme

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/07/2024, Caroline Egan

Thirty-seven Fijians have graduated with their Certificate III qualifications at Opal HealthCare today, the first graduates for the provider of the Federal Government's Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Aged Care Expansion (ACE) program. The Fijians spent nine months undergoing training and work experience at three NSW regional locations - the Orange Grove Care Community (in the NSW Central



West), Denhams Beach Care Community (on the NSW South Coast), and Kanwal Gardens Care Community (NSW Central Coast).

[Read More](#)

## Home Care customers' care falls to a five-year low: StewartBrown

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/07/2024, Caroline Egan

The hours of care received by Home Care Package recipients continued to fall in the March 2024 quarter, continuing a five-year trend. "It is significantly below the average nine hours per client per week provided prior to the implementation of the Consumer Directed Care model in July 2015," states the latest Aged Care Financial Performance Survey Sector Report by aged care accountants StewartBrown.

[Read More](#)

## Government's own modelling: aged care short of 17,500 nurse within 12 years

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/07/2024, Caroline Egan

The Australian Government quietly released the results of its Nursing supply demand and study this week, revealing the nursing workforce is growing in Australia, but not quickly enough to keep up with the demands of an ageing population, a situation that is already putting pressure on both the health system and the existing nurse workforce.

[Read More](#)

## Carers like Col Blake, who cares for his wife Shirley who is living with dementia, will become increasingly rare

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/07/2024, Caroline Egan

Australia's reliance on the generosity of unpaid carers is under threat, as demographic changes mean there will be fewer friends and family available to provide unpaid care in the future, says leading Canadian geriatrician and policy advisor Dr Samir Sinha.

[Read More](#)

## Mable & TAFE NSW partner so support workers earn Cert III for free while working

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/07/2024, Caroline Egan

Online disability and aged care support platform Mable and TAFE NSW have formed a partnership allowing independent support workers to obtain their Certificate III in Independent Support (Disability and Aged Care) through TAFE NSW - for free - while working in the industry.

[Read More](#)

## Time for a minister for older Australians, National Seniors says

Your Life Choices, Other, 12/07/2024, Brad Lockyer

A private member's motion introduced to parliament calling for the establishment of a portfolio and minister for older Australians has attracted support from advocacy groups. But how would such a ministry work?

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Inferno chemicals washed up the creek

Age, General News, 12/07/2024, Chris Vedelago and Lachlan Abbott, Page 1

A bitter dispute erupted on Wednesday in the midst of the worst industrial fire in Melbourne in seven years over what to do with millions of litres of contaminated water potentially exposing those fighting the blaze to dangerous chemicals. Water authorities let huge pools of water and firefighting foam

contaminated with chemicals collect around the site in Derrimut, in order to protect fish in a nearby creek and limit clean-up costs.

*Similar Stories:* [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#)

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

## Feel like everyone's smoking on screen? You're not alone

Age, General News, 12/07/2024, Meg Watson, Page 35

While fewer Australians are smoking than ever, cigarettes are everywhere on our film and TV screens with Hollywood seemingly re-embracing the glamorisation of tobacco that helped drive last century's sky-high smoking rates. From Austin Butler chain smoking outside Jodie Comer's house in *The Bikeriders* to Josh O'Connor taking long drags on the beach while staring longingly at Zendaya in *Challengers*, cigarettes feel inescapable at the cinema.

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

## Are gen Z ageing faster than they should be?

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/07/2024, Hannah Vanderheide, Page 34

As I crawl ever closer to my mid-thirties, I've started noticing some changes. My left knee hurts in the morning, my hangovers are almost not worth the night out, and my face fills with previously unseen creases when I crack a smile.

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

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

## Fatal overdose alerts

Herald Sun, General News, 12/07/2024, Olivia Jenkins and Mitch Clarke, Page 10

Victoria Police is being urged to equip its officers with a lifesaving overdose reversal medication as the state braces for a new drug crisis akin to America's fentanyl war. Major concerns about a batch of cocaine laced with a lethal opioid that is believed to have killed four people in Melbourne's north has sparked calls for frontline workers to carry Naloxone, a nasal and injectable treatment that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

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

## Killer drug fear

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/07/2024, Judy Augustine, Page 1

Tasmania had the highest use of cannabis, fentanyl, oxycodone, ketamine and MDMA of any capital city in Australia, a new report says. But it was the presence of the dangerous synthetic opioid fentanyl which accounted for more than 73,000 deaths in the United States last year that is causing the most concern.

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

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

## Fentanyl fear in test results

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 12/07/2024, Page 34

The synthetic opioid fentanyl has emerged as one of the most dangerous recreational drugs in recent years. Its potent effects and high potential for misuse have led to a staggering increase in overdose deaths in the United States.

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

## Anti-vaping laws let down a new generation of smokers

West Australian, General News, 12/07/2024, Jay Hanna, Page 13

Watching my grandmother's chest heaving with death rattle breaths as she lay dying of lung cancer is a trauma that will never leave me. I'll also never forget my grandad simultaneously waging a war with emphysema, losing ground daily as if the life was being squeezed out of him from within.

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

## Language of sex

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2024, Page 14

An online educational video aimed at increasing contraceptive knowledge among young women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is being distributed in five languages. Release of the 13-minute videos follows a significant research project at Monash University.

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

## Cook calls for crackdown on 'east coast' drugs in WA

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 12/07/2024, Dylan Caporn, Page 4

A surge in the use of east coast drugs such as cocaine and heroin needs to be investigated by police, Premier Roger Cook says, as new waste-water analysis shows an alarming increase in their use. New wastewater data results released on Thursday show rates of cocaine and heroin usage in WA skyrocketed to record highs late last year, on top of climbing rates of methamphetamine use.

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

## Alarming spike in meth, MDMA use in sewage analysis

Launceston Examiner, General News, 12/07/2024, Benjamin Seeder, Page 18

Hobart had the nation's highest per-capita consumption of several illegal drugs in December last year, according to new research released by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) today. The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program found that Hobart led Australian capital cities in consumption of MDMA, cannabis, horse tranquiliser ketamine, oxycodone and fentanyl over Christmas last year.

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

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

## Natural talent plays big role

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 12/07/2024, Denika Anderson, Page 7

A gardener has been named employee of the month for April by Sunraysia Regional Consulting, also known as SRC. The not-for-profit organisation focuses on improving employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported that the employment rate in the 2021 census for First Nations peoples aged 25-64 was 56 per cent.

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

## Nation ranks fourth of 34 for illicit drugs

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 12/07/2024, Page 10

Australia stands out from other nations when it comes to illicit stimulant use, but cannabis is still more popular. A national wastewater drug monitoring program report released by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission paints a picture of consumption levels across both regional and capital city centres.

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

## Ice baths, fire circles: The \$1500 male-only retreats tackling toxic masculinity

Adelaide Now, Other, 11/07/2024, Kate Smithers

Many men are struggling. And some are turning to male-only retreats, complete with yoga, ice baths and fire circles for the answer. [...] As detailed in an April 2024 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report, 27 per cent of women are victims of domestic family violence, 23 per cent experience emotional abuse from a partner, and 16 per cent report financial abuse.

[Read More](#)

## Middle East Area of Operations Commemoration a first step in bringing in RSLs' newest members

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2024, Zaarkacha Marlan and James Findlay

Dubbo veterans gathered to commemorate Australia's involvement in conflicts across the Middle East

between 2001 and 2021. [...] According to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 1,677 defence force personnel suicided between 1997 and 2021, more than 20 times the number killed in active duty over roughly the same period.

[Read More](#)

## GPs concerned as young women ditch hormonal contraceptives for period tracking apps

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/07/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Dr Heather McNamee blamed the trend on 'anti-contraceptive influencers' on social media. "I did an abortion clinic last week and every second young woman was using Flo."

[Read More](#)

## I'm a doctor - this common household appliance is making you and your children sick: 'Get rid of it'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/07/2024, Carina Stathis

A doctor has warned against people using a common household appliance and says it can lead to acute asthma, increased allergies and even pneumonia According to Dr Ben Ewald gas stoves are among the most dangerous household appliances today.

[Read More](#)

## 'Stimulant nation': Australia's illicit drug habits — and how we compare to the world

SBS, Other, 11/07/2024, Elfy Scott

Cannabis continues to be Australia's most-consumed drug, according to a new report, which says the use of some other illicit substances is at record highs. A recent snapshot of Australia's drug habits has found cocaine and methylamphetamine use are at their highest levels since reporting began.

*Similar Stories:* [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Qld's opposition leader has promised harsher punishments for youth crime, solicitor says it misses the point

SBS, Other, 11/07/2024, Jonah Johnson

Queensland's opposition leader David Crisafulli says youths found guilty of crimes such as murder, manslaughter, grievous bodily harm and dangerous operation and unlawful use of a motor vehicle would be sentenced as adults. [...] Between 2021-2022, 5.7 per cent of First Nations children were in out of home care compared to 0.8 per cent nationally, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### New hope for cancer kids

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/07/2024, Sue Dunlevy, Page 7

A deadly childhood cancer may be completely prevented thanks to a major breakthrough by Aussie researchers. A day after the federal government announced it would fund a \$500,000 lifesaving treatment for neuroblastoma, the Children's Cancer Institute has in a second win identified a gene that could ultimately wipe out the condition.

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

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

## Texting for God's sake

Courier Mail, General News, 12/07/2024, Patrick Billings and Toby Crockford, Page 1

Eight-year-old Elizabeth Rose Struhs died in her family's Toowoomba home in January 2022 after her parents, Jason and Kerrie Struhs, allegedly took her off lifesaving insulin used to treat her diabetes, in an attempt to "prove their faith" in God's healing powers. The Supreme Court trial of Mr and Mrs Struhs and the other 12 members of the hardline religious group called The Saints over Elizabeth's death continued on Thursday.

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

## Plea to listen to your body

Herald Sun, General News, 12/07/2024, Erin Constable, Page 5

For years, Karen Thrussel had complained to doctors of health concerns she was gaining weight despite an active lifestyle, experiencing hot sweats and feeling tired all the time. Like many Australian women, the Surrey Hills mum was dismissed and told her symptoms were "normal" for her age and likely just menopause.

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

## Doc wants ban on sugary drinks

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 12/07/2024, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 4

A leading Gold Coast doctor has weighed in on the debate around banning sugary drinks, saying restrictions are needed to halt the nation's rising obesity crisis. Bond University assistant professor of biomedical sciences Dr Hayley O'Neill said high levels of processed sugar were proving deadly to the population, with more than 200 diseases and conditions now linked to obesity.

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

## Wise up

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 12/07/2024, Page 48

Bond University's Dr Hayley O'Neill has weighed in on a sweet topic that creates a rather bitter divide. The growing calls from health experts in recent years to ban sugary drinks, soft drinks or fast food has certainly been divisive. On one hand there are valid arguments to be made about saving Aussies from themselves when it comes to the battle of the bulge.

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

## Training to fight cancer

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 12/07/2024, Page 10

A Coast cancer nurse passionate about preventing and curing the deadly disease plans to use a prestigious scholarship to help patients who she says taught her the meaning of "love, dignity and grace".

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

## CAR T-cell cancer therapy travel 'risky', haematologist warns, as families push for SA clinic

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2024, Malcolm Sutton

Sending critical cancer patients interstate for specialised treatment is both "suboptimal and risky", a leading haematologist has warned, as the South Australian government explores offering the treatment in Adelaide. Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell treatment was developed in the 2010s and involves collecting a type of white blood cell from a patient, re-engineering them in a laboratory, then returning them to the patient's body where they multiply and attack cancer cells.

[Read More](#)

## Kilvington Grammar School: Melbourne school pleads guilty to failing to ensure student Lachlan Cook's safety on school trip

NEWS.com.au, Other, 11/07/2024, Liam Beatty

A prestigious private Melbourne school has pleaded guilty to a criminal offence after a diabetic student

fell ill while on a school trip to Vietnam. Lachlan Cook, 16, was a few days into the school trip in September 2019 when he began vomiting and having stomach pains.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Lack of morphine causing distress

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/07/2024, Page 26

End-of-life Patients who are reaching the end of their life are suffering additional distress and uncertainty due to a shortage of morphine-based medicines in Australia, a doctor says. Australia New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine president Michelle Gold says over the past 12 months, at least six pain-relieving medications have been withdrawn from the market, resulting in doctors needing to change prescription medications to ones that may be less effective, which creates risks to patients.

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

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

### Crisafulli backing Bates as minister

Courier Mail, General News, 12/07/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 2

Concern within the LNP about whether health spokeswoman Ros Bates is up to transitioning to become minister has been slapped down by Opposition Leader David Crisafulli. Several sources within the LNP which polling indicates will form government in October told The Courier-Mail there were questions about whether Ms Bates would transition from opposition health spokeswoman to health minister in a Crisafulli government.

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

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

### GP tax revolt ramps up

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2024, Emily Olle, Page 19

More than 1000 South Australian doctors and patients have signed a petition to scrap payroll tax against GP clinics, fearing the move could have catastrophic consequences for the state's health system. In the past 10 days, almost 1100 signatures have been collected from GP clinics on a Liberal Party petition revolting against the tax, which the AMA predicts could force gap fees to rise up at least \$10.

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

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

### Cook could learn from Simmo

West Australian, General News, 12/07/2024, Libby Mettam, Page 58

If Roger Cook were an AFL coach, he'd be sacked. His seven-year tenure as a minister and now Premier would make an even more brutal graphic than what we saw on the front of this newspaper on Wednesday.

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

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

### Speirs wants GP payroll tax gone for good

Border Watch, General News, 12/07/2024, Page 46

Leader of the Opposition David Speirs visited the Limestone Coast once again last week. Mr Speirs visited the Millicent Medical Clinic as well as a range of businesses across the region before settling in Mount Gambier/ Berrin for a Pioneers game.

## Time called on centre

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 12/07/2024, Catherine Piltz, Page 18

A 118-year-old northern NSW institution will close its doors next month as four key staff hang up their hats after caring for generations of patients. General practitioners Dr Ian Kettle and David Snedden, along with practice manager Lynn Hall and practice nurse Jane Anderson, will retire when the Wollumbin St Medical Centre in Murwillumbah officially closes its doors on August 2.

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

## Worst in Australia

Launceston Examiner, General News, 12/07/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 1

Tasmanians continue to have the worst dental health outcomes in the country. But with 15,000 Tasmanians waiting around four years for general treatment, it's hard to put the blame solely on Tasmanians not flossing enough.

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

## Triple 0: The Sydney suburbs with no police, firefighters or paramedics

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/07/2024, Matt Wade and Craig Butt

Dozens of inner-Sydney suburbs are entirely devoid of emergency workers as soaring housing costs push a growing number of those employed in frontline jobs to outer metropolitan areas and beyond. There are 33 suburbs in Sydney's north shore, eastern suburbs and inner west with no residents who work as police officers, firefighters or paramedics, Herald analysis of local area employment data reveals.

[Read More](#)

## Eurobodalla Regional Hospital: Construction weeks away for \$330m facility

Northern Territory News, Other, 11/07/2024, Tom McGann

The countdown is on for construction to kick off for a controversial, \$330m hospital on the NSW south coast, following a major cost blow out and debates over smaller hospital closures. Construction crews are rolling up to the Eurobodalla Regional Hospital site in Moruya, just weeks after the NSW Health Minister, Ryan Park, revealed the construction cost was increasing to "meet construction timelines".

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

[Read More](#)

## Remote Paraburdoo Hospital to be upgraded as part of joint tender with Tom Price Hospital revamp

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2024, Charlie McLean

Upgrades to a hospital in the remote mining town of Paraburdoo will be included in a combined tender for a planned revamp of Tom Price Hospital. Rio Tinto has committed \$20 million to the Paraburdoo upgrades, on top of \$20 million it previously put forward for the Tom Price upgrades.

[Read More](#)

## More people are freezing their eggs to preserve their fertility but some IVF clinics are struggling to keep up with storage

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2024, Sophie Kesteven

As the number of women freezing their eggs and embryos in Australia surges, some fertility clinics are struggling to keep up with freezer storage demands. William Ledger, an emeritus professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of New South Wales, says he has heard of "times where clinics have not been able to keep up with demand, and [there have been] people not starting [IVF] cycles because there's not the storage space available".

[Read More](#)

## For-profit health insurance not adding up

In Daily, Other, 11/07/2024, Michael Pascoe

An unprecedented standoff between health insurer NIB and St Vincent's Health Australia has captured headlines for the potential high out-of-pocket costs for thousands of hospital patients. Perhaps more importantly, it should also raise questions about whether there is room in our health system for rich profits flowing to private insurance companies.

[Read More](#)

## Guild has its say on merger review

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/07/2024

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is continuing to highlight its concerns about the proposed merger of Sigma and Chemist Warehouse to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) by responding to its Statement of Issues (PD 14 Jun). The Guild expressed concerns that the reverse takeover of Sigma by Chemist Warehouse could lead to higher prices, reduced service quality, and a decline in the world-class healthcare provided by Australia's community pharmacies.

[Read More](#)

## QScript's new exemptions

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/07/2024

New exemptions for the mandatory QScript look-up requirements for relevant practitioners have come into effect in Queensland. The changes aim to simplify the process for prescribing and dispensing monitored medicines in specific situations.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, ABC Evening News, 11/07/2024, Joe O'Brien

There's an ongoing opioid medicine shortage in Australia, and doctors are warning that chronically ill people are struggling to manage their pain. A series of morphine and other opioid-based painkillers have been disappearing from pharmacy shelves this year as drug companies pull products. Dr Michelle Gould, President, Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine, says doctors have been left in the dark as to why the drugs are being withdrawn from Australia.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Just patMac, he won't judge you

Daily Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 3

After more than 30 years working as a nurse, Heather Letchford's seven months as a dog handler has convinced her she wants to work with therapy animals. Every second Wednesday, Mrs Letchford and daughter Catherine Hannah volunteer as therapy dog handlers at Wagga courthouse.

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

### Furore not stopping site

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2024, Lucy Crock, Page 1

The developer of a controversial Torquay mental health facility shows no sign of walking away from the project despite residents ramping up their campaign and opposition from the local MP. In correspondence to one resident, seen by the Geelong Advertiser, Mind Australia executive Mark Heeney confirmed construction of Haven Torquay would soon begin.

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

### Health building on track to deliver

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 12/07/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 3

Mental health is no longer taking a back seat in the Tamworth region as our new mental health unit is



on track to deliver "the best" level of care possible. The state's Minister for Mental Health Rose Jackson delivered a progress report on the new mental health unit on Wednesday.

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

## **\$250k boost to the Gong's Barstool Project sends mental health initiative statewide**

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 11/07/2024, Joel Ehsman

The Raising the Bar Foundation has received \$250,000 from the NSW Government to help them design and deliver a mental health training program called the Barstool Project. The \$250,000 once-off contribution will go towards the third pilot of the project's Healthier Hospitality program.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## **CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE**

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## **HEALTH WORKFORCE**

### **Union worried by hundreds of vacancies**

Launceston Examiner, General News, 12/07/2024, Emily Shepherd, Page 53

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) is extremely concerned about the vacancy control cuts occurring across Tasmania, even though there are currently hundreds of vacant positions.

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

### **Recruitment goal for base hospital**

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 12/07/2024, Phoebe Doyle, Page 6

Staff at Mildura Base Public Hospital are hoping a new recruitment campaign will help boost the local health-care workforce. In collaboration with Mallee Track Health and Community Service, phase one of MBPH's new campaign is now live across a variety of media platforms.

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

### **Essential service workers pushed to the fringes by housing crunch**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/07/2024, Josh Gordon and Craig Butt

Aged care workers, teachers, nurses, paramedics and police are being forced to Melbourne's fringes by high housing costs, prompting warnings about shortages of essential workers as the city continues to densify. In a sign Melbourne is becoming increasingly stratified by occupation, a detailed analysis by The Age reveals essential service workers are increasingly living in outer-suburban areas.

[Read More](#)

### **Vacancies rise despite 60-day dispensing**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/07/2024

Concerns that the introduction of 60-day dispensing would lead to job cuts have not emerged with Raven's Recruitment reporting that vacancies for pharmacists have increased over the last 12 months.

[Read More](#)

### **The new graduate jobs offering six-figure salaries for those willing to move to a remote area**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/07/2024, Stephen Johnson

University graduates are now earning six-figure salaries during the first year of their profession if they

are prepared to ditch Australia's cities and move to a remote part of the country. Brooke Mackie, 24, recently moved to Mount Isa in north-west Queensland after studying medicine at James Cook University in Townsville.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### **2GB, Mornings, 11/07/2024, Ray Hadley**

Hadley recalls a story in the [Daily] Telegraph wherein a PBS-approved drug that will make a huge difference for children suffering from a certain cancer is now being made free in Australia.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### **No 'shoebox of PDFs': My Health Record in good shape, says former ADHA CDO**

The Mandarin, Other, 11/07/2024, Peter Gearin

Steven Issa stepped down as chief digital officer of the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) two years ago, but any criticism of My Health Record still stings. "I genuinely believe in it," Issa told The Mandarin following his presentation at the Qualtrics X4 conference in Sydney.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### **Healthy dose of reality**

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 12/07/2024, Vanda Carson, Page 5

A senior leader at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital has failed in his bid to overturn his demotion after he was found guilty of misconduct for approving a staffer to skip the standard intake process to use an echocardiogram on her spouse several times.

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

### **Former WA doctor struck off**

Medical Forum, Other, 11/07/2024

The Medical Board of Australia has released its latest list of disciplinary actions in the first half of this year, with a former WA doctor struck off for failing to separate work from pleasure. [...] On 24 August 2018, the practice's principal doctor and Dr Saunders' supervisor informed him those complaints had been made against him by a patient, and by 27 August, following additional complaints, that the termination of his contract with the practice was effective immediately – with a mandatory notification sent to AHPRA on 3 September.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

## SPORT

### **\$100m Olympics fund on starting blocks**

The Australian, Business News, 12/07/2024, John Stensholt, Page 15

Olympic officials plan to launch \$100m investment fund by the end of the year to raise money for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes, which will be managed by some of Australia's best known fund managers. The Australian Olympic Indigenous Athlete Fund will be designed to generate \$1m each year and use the same strategy as the ASX-listed Future Generation investment company, which allocates 1 per cent of its assets annually to charity, and potentially to a similar fund being planned for rugby union.

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

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

### **Former cricketer brings sex abuse suit**

Herald Sun, General News, 12/07/2024, Glen Norris, Page 7

Cricket Australia is facing accusations it failed to protect junior cricketers from sexual abuse after a claim it allowed a player to be molested by a coach during a tour of India. Dean Raymond Reynolds, now 57, is suing the sport's governing body for more than \$4m in the Queensland Supreme Court, alleging assistant coach Robert "Bob" Bitmead sexually assaulted him on the under-19 Australian tour of India and Sri Lanka in 1985.

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

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

### **School's in**

Age, General News, 12/07/2024, Stephen Brook and Kishor Napier-Raman, Page 2

Bachar Houli, the former AFL footballer and devout Muslim who received an OAM in the King's Birthday honours, is making a play for the old Coburg bowls club via his Bachar Houli Foundation. The foundation is asking for a peppercorn rent and \$20 million in state and federal government funding and has tapped the local Merribek council with a proposal to create a multi-purpose sporting centre on the site which could be used by the community and the Islamic College of Sport.

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

### **Warr and peace**

Courier Mail, General News, 12/07/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 1

Queensland's Academy of Sport will be unshackled from government bureaucracy in a landmark move that clears the way for the return of its globally renowned boss and deals a major blow to one of the state's newest departmental directors-general. Mr Miles will today reveal the QAS will become a statutory body so it can be "guided by, and for, elite athletes".

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

### **Inquiry into footy racial slur claim**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/07/2024, Page 5

A Tasmanian local football league is investigating claims a player was allegedly racially abused by an opponent during a game at the weekend. The Mercury understands the alleged incident took place during a Southern Football League senior game between Hobart and New Norfolk at the TCA Ground.

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

### **Star Eagle sues club, AFL**

West Australian, General News, 12/07/2024, Tim Clarke, Page 8

Former West Coast defender Brad Sheppard is suing the AFL, the Eagles and two of the club's doctors for medical negligence after he was left with long-term concussion symptoms following his decorated

football career. In what could become another watershed legal challenge surrounding the league's treatment of brain injuries, the 216-game star has hired a law firm specialising in personal injury and medical negligence to launch a case in WA's Supreme Court.

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

## It's the \$1b question hanging over footy

West Australian, General News, 12/07/2024, Glen Quartermain, Page 9

Playing "hurt" and "going when it's your turn" were once part of the footy vernacular, badges of honour upheld by modern-day gladiators. Now they are phrases likely headed for the West Australian Supreme Court following Brad Sheppard's decision to sue the AFL, the West Coast Eagles and two former club doctors for medical negligence.

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

## Proud moment

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 12/07/2024, Jessica Greenan, Page 1

AFL great Nicky Winmar has praised South Warrnambool export Jamarra Ugle-Hagan for echoing his iconic anti-racism pose. His comments came during a NAIDOC Week event at Warrnambool's South West Healthcare on Thursday at which he said he was glad to be back in the city.

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

[Back to Top](#)

# HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

## Local biotechs after life changing investors

West Australian, Business News, 12/07/2024, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 54

The boss of listed biotech Argenica Therapeutics wants to use the emotive narrative of "changing the lives of patients" to bring more investors on the ride in an industry recently described as facing a tough sell. Argenica's share price has surged nearly 170 per cent in the past year to 93 but chief executive Liz Dallimore reckons more work is needed to attract new investors, particularly retail shareholders.

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

## Study finds a treatment more effective than Ozempic for slimming down

Australian Financial Review, Other, 11/07/2024

Shares in Novo Nordisk, the maker of wildly popular obesity drug Wegovy, were down 1.9 per cent on Tuesday after the publication of a data analysis showing rival Eli Lilly's own treatment Mounjaro leads to faster and greater weight loss than...

[Read More](#)

## New kid on the block

Medical Forum, Other, 11/07/2024

In the battle of weight loss drugs, international researchers have found that tirzepatide – commonly sold under the names Mounjaro or Zepbound – does a better job of cutting the kilos than semaglutide among overweight and obese people. The researchers investigated the effects of close to 20,000 people taking either drug and while most of them went on to lose 5% or more of their weight, the effects were greater for tirzepatide: those receiving tirzepatide were more likely to achieve 5% or greater, 10% or greater, and 15% or greater weight loss and experienced larger reductions in body weight at three, six, and 12 months.

[Read More](#)

## \$6.4m in funding

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/07/2024

Four new projects led by Flinders University researchers to tackle the problems of sleep apnoea and gestational diabetes have been awarded \$6.4 million in funding in the latest round of the Medical

Research Future Fund. Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Timothy Cavagnaro said Flinders University continues to rapidly expand the scope and breadth of its health and medical research.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### **NAIDOC Week a time to listen to elders and inform youth: SWAMS chief executive Lesley Nelson**

West Australian, Other, 11/07/2024, Oliver Lane

Chief executive Lesley Nelson is a Balladong-Whadjuk woman with more than 25 years experience in the Aboriginal health sector. Ms Nelson said the words of this year's National NAIDOC Week theme — Keep the fire burning! Blak, Loud and Proud — rang true to her and explained the week was a spotlight on the need to impart information to the next generation.

[Read More](#)

### **Charles Darwin University collaborates with Hoops 4 Health during NAIDOC Week**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/07/2024, Joseph Guenzler

Charles Darwin University is teaming up with Hoops 4 Health, a prominent Northern Territory organisation focused on empowering Indigenous youth and communities through basketball. During NAIDOC Week, Charles Darwin University (CDU) First Nations Leadership and the Men@CDU program will collaborate with Hoops 4 Health to engage staff and students at the Casuarina Campus in basketball activities and educational sessions about Indigenous culture.

[Read More](#)

### **New health partnership aiming to combat preventable rheumatic heart disease experienced by Indigenous peoples**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/07/2024, Dechlan Brennan

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and The Snow Foundation have partnered in a major step forward for Indigenous health outcomes as they look to prevent acute rheumatic fever (ARF) and rheumatic heart disease (RHD) in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

[Read More](#)

### **Respectful care a study focus**

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 11/07/2024, Denika Anderson

Medical students from Monash University's School of Rural Health have spent time with elders near Lake Mungo as part of a new approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health treatment.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### **Alarm on cough**

Herald Sun, General News, 12/07/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Cases of a highly contagious respiratory virus that can be life threatening for babies have surged in Victoria, prompting an urgent warning for parents. Health authorities have revealed whooping cough is spreading quickly, with Victoria's total cases for 2024 already about four times as high as for all of 2023.

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

## Focus on vax fatigue

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2024, Page 6

The trusted relationship GPs have with their patients makes them best placed to fight vaccine fatigue and misinformation amid concerns about a resurgence in preventable disease, the Royal Australian College of GPs says. "Australia has been grappling with falling vaccination rates and we're seeing a resurgence in preventable diseases as a result, such as measles, which was virtually eradicated in 2014," RACGP president Nicole Higgins said.

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

## 'Relentless': flu season soars to new heights

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/07/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Influenza rates rose by 21 per cent in Hunter New England in a week, as NSW Health warned that children under five were at highest risk from the deadly virus. The latest NSW Health Respiratory Surveillance Report, released yesterday, said there was "likely to be continued influenza activity for the next few weeks".

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

## No, it's not too late to get the flu vaccine health experts insist

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/07/2024, Leah Goulis

We're often told that May is the "magic" month for getting the flu vaccine. It gives the body enough time to prepare for battle when the onslaught of winter bugs do the rounds in June and July, but also carries you through to the shoulder period of winter/spring.

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

[Read More](#)

## 'Walking pneumonia': Mycoplasma infections on the rise bringing cough that lasts 'weeks or months'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 11/07/2024, Frank Chung

If it seems like everyone is sick at the moment, it's not your imagination. NSW is swimming in a "respiratory bug soup" that is putting "unprecedented" strain on hospital emergency departments, driven by a monster flu outbreak and high levels of Covid.

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

[Read More](#)

## NSW Health urges people to vaccinate against flu during school holidays

NEWS.com.au, Other, 11/07/2024, Aisling Brennan and Clareese Packer

Health authorities are warning Australia is going to experience a brutal flu season this winter. This flu season is shaping up to be "as severe a season as ever" as health officials worry school holidays will be the tipping point for millions of Aussies.

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

[Read More](#)

## Hospitals facing immense pressure as health warnings issued over concerning surge in gastro and flu cases this year

Sky News Australia, Other, 11/07/2024, Gemma Crotty

Surging flu and gastro cases across the country have led to immense pressure on hospital systems with experts warning about the high level of transmission. The number of gastro cases reported in the first six months of this year alone was almost 42,000 – well surpassing the annual average between 2004 and 2014 of about 30,000.

[Read More](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Zactin Tabs 'shortage resolved'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/07/2024

Alphapharm notified the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) that the shortage of Zactin Tabs (fluoxetine 20mg dispersible tablets) "has resolved". The company had previously forecast that supply would return to normal by 30 June 2024, citing manufacturing issues as the cause of the shortage.

[Read More](#)

### More pain meds shortages

Medical Forum, Other, 11/07/2024

Doctors are being forced the change the essential palliative care medications they prescribe to patients because of ongoing drug shortages. [...] "We have been alerting the TGA and the Minister of this looming crisis for close to a year now.

[Read More](#)

### Doctors share the number one mistake people on weight loss drugs are making

Prevention, Other, 11/07/2024, Korin Miller

Research from America shows people are stopping these drugs too early. [...] Ozempic is primarily a diabetes drug and not approved for use as a weight loss drug in Australia, according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### MDOs not 'currently' planning to restrict medicinal cannabis prescribing cover

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/07/2024, Rachel Carter

Three of Australia's MDOs report no plans to restrict cover for medicinal cannabis prescribing despite MDA National deeming it an "unusual practice". Last month, AusDoc reported that MDA National's latest policy would not cover any doctor for medicinal cannabis prescribing unless they had specialist fellowship or "equivalent specialist qualifications".

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### Rating food for thought

Herald Sun, General News, 12/07/2024, Page 13

Making simple changes to Australia's health star rating system to factor in ultraprocessing would lower the high scores assigned to many unhealthy foods, researchers say. It would also bring Australia's main nutritional labelling system more in line with the globally recognised NOVA system, researchers from The George Institute for Global Health found.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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

## Aldi sesame seeds recall

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2024, Page 18

Jars of sesame seeds sold in Aldi supermarkets have been recalled over concerns of salmonella being detected. Stonemill 60g sesame is being recalled by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) due to the potential contamination.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), Similar Stories: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.  
See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

