



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 19th July 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that research has found that the Department of Defence and Veterans' Affairs ignored the toll of repeat explosions on the mental health of soldiers who were deployed to Afghanistan and abandoned testing and defunded research that could have eased a suicide epidemic.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a report by Cancer Council Victoria has found "virtue marketing" by alcohol companies has increased in Australia by almost 20 per cent in a decade, warning it risks exploiting health-conscious drinkers and detracts from a clear understanding of the health effects of alcohol.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that following concerns from Queensland doctors regarding the state government possibly appointing physician assistants to hospitals who are not registered with the AHPRA, Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has announced the plans will not go ahead.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that following the release of findings by an independent review into the Queensland Children's Gender Service, it has been announced that the use of puberty blockers for children treated at the state's gender clinic will continue.

- **The Courier Mail (page 1)** reports that a Gold Coast nurse has been arrested following allegations she used the bank card of a hospital patient to go on a shopping spree of over \$7000.
- **The Australian (page 3)** reports that a cyber attack on escript provider MediSecure has affected half of Australia's population, but the company is unable to identify or alert those whose data was compromised.
- **The Australian (page 3)** reports that Volleyball Australia has issued a public apology to female members of the national team at the AIS for creating "an environment of fear" that saw athletes face decades of coercive control and physical and mental harm.
- **The Age (page 3)** reports that Victorian Chief Health Officer, Dr Clare Looker, has called on Victorians "to maintain contact details of sexual partners," amid a significant rise in mpox cases in the state over the last three months. Dr Looker also recommended vaccination as an effective strategy against the disease, with Peter Locke, from Thorne Harbour Health, stating that if "you're double vaccinated you'll have a lot less severe symptoms".
- **The Adelaide Advertiser (page 3)** reports that the SA Office of the Chief Psychiatrist has placed conditions on the Mental Health Triage service in an effort to reduce risks stemming from long call-wait times and the rate of calls being abandoned.
- **The Hobart Mercury (page 3)** reports that Tasmanian Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Guy Barnett has announced a \$10m package of incentives to encourage more nurses and midwives to work in the state's public health system. The funding includes bonus payments of \$15,000 for new nurses from interstate and overseas and a \$10,000 scholarship available for nurses who graduated in Tasmania.
- **The Daily Telegraph (page 5)** reports that following the continued availability of black market nicotine vapes, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has said "Some stores may still be selling illegal vapes and my message to them is we are deadly serious about enforcing this ban".
- **The Herald Sun (page 13)** reports that the federal government will provide an additional \$400,000 in funding for women with ovarian cancer to access improved treatments. Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney said "It's heartbreaking to hear the stories of lives lost and families torn apart, but this announcement gives hope around the country."

MINISTER BUTLER

Vapes still sold on black market

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/07/2024, Lachlan Leeming, Page 5

Stubborn store owners are still cashing in on the crime-linked black market for vapes, defying dwindling supplies and harsh new laws threatening up to \$2.2 million in fines or seven years' jail. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler conceded the fight against black market vapes was ongoing, saying: "Some stores may still be selling illegal vapes and my message to them is we are deadly serious about enforcing this ban".

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Parliamentary Friends of Diabetes Unite for Tech

Nepean News, General News, 19/07/2024, Page 9

Earlier this month Parliamentary Friends of Diabetes Co-Chairs Graham Perrett MP and Rowan Ramsey MP hosted the launch of Diabetes Australia's upcoming National Diabetes Week campaign; 'Unite in the Fight for Tech'. Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler MP; and Chair of the Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport, Dr Mike Freeland MP, spoke at the launch of our new campaign 'Unite in the fight for tech'.

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No cure soon for shortages

Busselton Dunsborough Times, General News, 19/07/2024, Warren Hately, Page 10

The long wait for medical appointments is showing no signs of easing amid a lack of health workers.

[...] A spokesperson for Federal Health Minister Mark Butler told the Times there was "no higher priority in health for the Albanese Government than rebuilding general practice", and blamed cuts and shortfalls on the Liberals.

Also reported by: [Augusta Margaret River Times \(Margaret River\)](#).

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Reforms passed on vape laws welcomed by doctors

Gladstone Today, General News, 18/07/2024, Trish Bowman, Page 6

Australia's peak gp body has welcomed the Senate passing reforms cracking down on the market for nicotine vapes recently. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says vapes pose a major threat to Australia's tobacco controls.

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Dapto urgent care centre name change

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 19/07/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 9

There's some new signage and a slight change to the name, but otherwise patients won't notice too much difference as the federal government takes over funding of the Dapto urgent care centre. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler noted the urgent care clinic in Corrimal had made a big difference, and said the government wanted to make it easier for people to see a doctor.

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Program to attract and retain regional doctors

Southern Argus, General News, 18/07/2024, Page 3

Patients can now more easily see a doctor, with the State and Federal Governments teaming up on a new program that will attract and retain more doctors in regional and rural SA, including the Hills Fleurieu. [...] "We want to attract more doctors to regional South Australia, and this innovative approach will help to retain the doctors we need to continue to provide essential primary healthcare services to South Australians," Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, said.

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Pedal power pick up for Kaziw Meta borders

Torres News, General News, 18/07/2024, Page 5

Waiben's Torres Strait Kaziw Meta (TSKM) school boarding house has picked up a \$50,000 national grant to acquire bikes, racks, helmets and locks for its boarding students. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the value of physical activity and its role in preventing chronic disease could not be overstated.

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Government rolls back on prescription-only vapes

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 9

Pharmacies are the only retailers authorised to sell nicotine vaping products from 1 July 2024 after the passing of new federal legislation. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, said the legislation would ensure vapes were used "as therapeutic products to help hardened smokers kick the habit", while restricting access to vapes for children.

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Health Minister 'marched out' of pharmacy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 9

In a discussion of the amended vaping legislation on 27 June 2024, federal Health Minister Mark Butler explained why e-cigarettes will not be subject to a Project STOP-like measure. He had been asked by Teal independents what measures would be in place to prevent adults going from pharmacy to pharmacy to buy vapes, and potentially on-selling them to friends and minors and what data collection will be taken around the purchase of vapes from pharmacies.

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Two new agreements signed

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 9

The long-awaited Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) has been signed, with a focus on cost of living. In addition, federal Health Minister Mark Butler also announced that a new and separate Strategic Agreement on Pharmacist Professional Standards has been signed with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

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Compounding ban 'a significant public health concern'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 12

Banning the compounding of glucagon-like peptide-2 receptor agonist (GLP-1RA) medications will limit patient access to the weight loss treatments, the Australian Society of Compounding Pharmacists (ASCP) has warned. Responding to the government's planned prohibition on compounding of the medications, the group called on federal Minister for Health, Mark Butler, to focus on "rogue individuals" who fail to adhere to guidelines on good manufacturing practice and sterile compounding, rather than implementing a blanket ban from 1 October 2024.

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Pharmacy agreements 2024: are they a good deal for the profession?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 20

June saw the signing of not one, but two new pharmacy agreements that promise to revolutionise the way pharmacy operates, across the profession. [...] A new agreement: PSA national president Fei Sim and Health Minister Mark Butler hold their new strategic agreement, flanked by PSA's Steve Morris and Dr Shane Jackson, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride and Department of Health officials.

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Vapour trails: are pharmacists now tobacconists?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 27

A last-minute legislative amendment left pharmacists scrambling to deal with an expanded, and unexpected, responsibility in supplying vapes without prescriptions. [...] To combat this, in May 2023 Health Minister Mark Butler announced that the federal government would work with the states and territories to "stamp out" black markets in vaping, and close down their sales in all retail settings.

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Viva Espana

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 96

Spain is a country that tantalises the senses and captivates the heart with its rich history, vibrant culture and stunning landscapes. [...] Negotiations for the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement had still to be finalised, together with other significant policy changes and reviews, including the scope of practice review commissioned by Health Minister Mark Butler, which she said was a "once in a lifetime opportunity" for pharmacists.

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End-of-life patients suffering unnecessarily due to pain med shortage

Aged Care Insite, Other, 18/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

In the past year, at least six pain-relief products have become unavailable in Australia. [...] Key health bodies including ANZSPM, Palliative Care Australia (PCA), the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA), and Palliative Care Nurses Australia detailed their concerns in a joint letter at to the Health Minister Mark Butler at the end of last year.

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Listening is crucial as we consider next move on private hospital investment | Mayor's say

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 18/07/2024, Jess Jennings

Since the Bathurst Integrated Medical Centre withdrawal, I have sought meetings with multiple stakeholders to identify the best way forward to induce future private hospital investment in Bathurst. [...] This forum has value because it presented the opportunity to personally talk to Prime Minister Albanese, as well as federal ministers Catherine King, Ed Husic, Chris Bowen, Kristy McBain and Mark Butler about Bathurst's challenges and opportunities.

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Bulk billing rates rise by 4.5%

Coast Community News, Other, 18/07/2024, Bilk Billing

More GPs are bulk billing patients in Robertson as a result of the tripling of the bulk billing incentive by the Federal Government, with over two million additional bulk billed visits across the country since November 1, 2023. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said doctors' groups have called the tripling of the bulk billing incentive a game changer.

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Is the vape cloud clearing?

Waste Management Review, Other, 18/07/2024, Lisa Korycki

Shannon Mead, Executive Director, No More Butts, considers the progress made on vaping reforms in the past year and asks, is it enough. [...] Just over a year ago, the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler announced that he would take action on vaping.

[Read More](#)

ABC Sunshine Coast, Drive, 18/07/2024, Annie Gaffney

Interview with Dr Tim Keys, Sunshine Coast dentist, about the system for oral surgery for children's lack of funding. Keys points out that 200 to 300 patients have already written to [Health Minister] Mark Butler regarding this matter, which is why they need Butler to organise a time to meet with somebody on the ground who is dealing with oral surgery concerns for children.

[Play Now](#)

ABC South East NSW, 06:30 News, 18/07/2024

A recent visit to the Milton Medical Centre by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has highlighted the role of the new endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic nearly a year after it opened. The clinic opened in September 2023 with a Federal funding commitment of \$700,000 over four years.

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MINISTER WELLS

Implementing new Aged Care Act will take two years: council providers

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/07/2024, Caroline Egan

When the National General Assembly (NGA) of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) met in Canberra, City of Kingston, Victoria's largest provider of council aged care services, called on the Federal Government for a two-year transition to the new Aged Care Act, as it will take that long to adapt their services to meet the new requirements. [...] Support at Home is to start on 1 July 2025, with Commonwealth Home Support Programs to come in no earlier than 1 July 2027, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells announced in November 2023.

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Aged Care Minister Anika Wells visits NewDirection Care's MICRO TOWN®

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/07/2024, Caroline Egan

The Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells visited NewDirection Care's MICRO TOWN in Bellmere, 53km north of Brisbane, in the Minister's home state of Queensland. "The residents and our team were

delighted to have the opportunity to interact with Minister Wells and to showcase our community and explain why our model is so different to every other residential aged care," said Natasha Chadwick , Founder and Managing Director of NewDirection Care

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Sector “let down” as Labor Government looks to lift lifetime cap for care costs

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/07/2024, Caroline Egan and Ian Horswill

Recommendation 9 of the Aged Care Taskforce chaired by the Aged Care Minister Anika Wells states, "Continue to focus government funding in residential aged care on care costs with a significant role for resident co-contributions in non-care components. "However, the Taskforce also believes an approach expanding government funding to fully fund the care component should be considered, as this would be consistent with Royal Commission recommendations.

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The crisis needs a Minister dedicated solely to Aged Care

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/07/2024, Caroline Egan

There is no news on the Government's response to the Aged Care Taskforce recommendations; the highly contentious, incomplete and delayed new Aged Care Act is due to start on 1 July 2025; there are not enough Registered Nurses to meet the existing care minutes and from 1 October 2024 care minutes increase to 215 minutes per resident per day, including 44 minutes of direct care by an Registered Nurse. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Sport, Anika Wells, congratulates athletes at Admiralty House.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Pharmacy agreements 2024: are they a good deal for the profession?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 20

June saw the signing of not one, but two new pharmacy agreements that promise to revolutionise the way pharmacy operates, across the profession. [...] A new agreement: PSA national president Fei Sim and Health Minister Mark Butler hold their new strategic agreement, flanked by PSA's Steve Morris and Dr Shane Jackson, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride and Department of Health officials.

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ABC Wide Bay, Breakfast, 18/07/2024, David Dowsett

Interview with Assistant Federal Minister for Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride. McBride points out that the Albanese Government is rolling out 61 Medicare mental health centres right across the country including 19 in Qld and one in Bundaberg. She points out that these centres will provide free walk-in mental health support and care where they're already stretched to the medical workforce.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Seeking right formula on mum support

Age, General News, 19/07/2024, Jewel Topsfield, Page 17

Women who are unable to breastfeed are not always given adequate information about infant formula or receive the support they need, says Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney. She said while it was important to continue to promote the message that breastfeeding gave babies the best start in life, it was not easy or manageable for everyone. [...] The federal health department has asked the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to extend controversial marketing guidelines on infant formula for three years, despite an independent review last year finding they were no longer fit for purpose.

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Resistance research tackles ovarian cancer

Herald Sun, General News, 19/07/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 13

Women with ovarian cancer will have access to improved treatments under a key federal funding boost. [...] Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney said the studies would help more women and their families now and into the future.

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

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New trial launched to support domestic violence victim-survivors in accessing mental health care

ABC Online, Other, 18/07/2024, Claudia Long

The trial aims to increase long-term mental health support for victim survivors. It is already underway in Gippsland and South Western Sydney. [...] Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney said the trial will provide the long-term support survivors need.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

New renal dialysis unit for Badu

Torres News, General News, 18/07/2024, Page 2

Badu will get a new renal dialysis unit under round two of the Australian Government's Better Renal Services for First Nations Peoples initiative. Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians, and for Indigenous Health, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, made the announcement late on Tuesday, saying the Badu facility and two others in remote WA would make a significant difference to the lives of people needing dialysis and their families.

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Keep the fire burning! Black, loud and proud

Torres News, General News, 18/07/2024, Page 12

Congratulations Dyrall Lui, Torres Strait NAIDOC Youth of the Year. [...] 20 Torres Strait Islander doctors and medical students recently attended a five-day program here on Country (Waibene) with a ceremony bringing together health leaders, academics and officials including Assistant Minister and NT Senator Malarndirri McCarthy.

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DEPARTMENT

Defence 'ignored toll of exposure to explosions'

The Australian, General News, 19/07/2024, Ben Packham, Page 1

Defence and Veterans' Affairs ignored mounting evidence of chronic brain injuries in soldiers caused by repeated exposure to blast pressure waves, abandoning testing and defunding research that could have eased a suicide epidemic. [...] "There was no one from the Department of Defence, the Australian Defence Force, Defence Science and Technology group, DVA or the Department of Health and Ageing," the retired special forces officer said.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#)

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Age, General News, 19/07/2024, Jewel Topsfield, Page 17

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RNH lifts aged care vax rates

Rainbow Argus, General News, 18/07/2024, Tony Curran, Page 2

Rural Northwest Health has further moved to reassure the community following Department of Health and Aged Care statistics which showed low vaccination rates among residents at its Yarriambiack Lodge Nursing Home and Hostel. According to the Department's report, published on June 21 and based on Australian Immunisation Register data at June 12, the percentages of residents vaccinated over the previous 12 months at the Nursing Home and Hostel were 40-50 per cent and 30-40 per cent respectively.

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Honours list

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 13

A former Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) boss has received a King's Birthday honour alongside two long-serving community pharmacists. [...] Prof Skerritt held the TGA national manager role from 2012 to 2023, and was also deputy secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care Health Products Regulation Group from 2015 to 2023.

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More than words

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 35

Babies and young children can experience pain for many reasons but it's difficult for them to communicate what they're feeling and why. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Half of all Australians hit by MediSecure hack, but company can't afford

to find out who

9News, Other, 18/07/2024, Daniel Jeffrey

Half of Australia's population has been caught up in the cyberattack on MediSecure, but the company can't afford to find out exactly who had their data stolen and notify them. [...] It had provided a system to allow healthcare professionals like GPs to send prescriptions to patients electronically, but hadn't been used since November 15 for new electronic prescriptions after the federal Health Department made eRx the sole e-script provider.

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Supply and demand: Nursing shortfall predicted to grow

Aged Care Insite, Other, 18/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

As Australian nurses grapple with sector wide staff shortages, the Department of Health and Aged Care has revealed that demand will continue to outweigh supply for more than a decade. The Nursing Supply and Demand Study has forecast the workforce shortfall for nurses in Australia over the next 12 years using data collected from a number of sources between 2014 and 2022.

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Views sought in National Health and Medical Research Workforce Audit

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 18/07/2024

The Department of Health and Aged Care is undertaking a survey to understand the demographic features, work environment, challenges, and motivations of health and medical researchers across Australia. The Department is conducting a national audit of the Health and Medical Research Workforce (the Audit) to help inform the development of the National Health and Medical Research Strategy (National Strategy), and support future policy planning on matters that impact health and medical researchers in Australia.

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Investigating solutions to a syphilis crisis – lessons from remote Australian communities and Thailand

Croakey, Other, 19/07/2024, Melissa Sweet

Behind the Federal Budget's allocation of \$126.5 million over the next two years to support the national response to blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is a longstanding public health crisis, reports Dr Emily Humphries, a GP registrar and University of Sydney Master of Global Health student. [...] The program, which continues to be supported by the Department of Health and Aged Care, works with 40 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) in outbreak areas to provide funding grants, workforce supplementation and training, Point-of-Care testing capabilities and national coordination and support.

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New research reveals Indigenous people "significantly less likely" to receive medical care recommended in National Hepatitis B Strategy

National Indigenous Times, Other, 18/07/2024, Giovanni Torre

A new study published in the Royal Australasian College of Physicians' Internal Medicine Journal has found Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians living with chronic Hepatitis B are significantly less likely to receive guideline-recommended medical care. [...] "It is imperative that the Department of Health and medical professionals around the country model a similar approach to provide culturally appropriate care and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with chronic Hepatitis B," she said.

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Health officials earning big bucks

Pharma In Focus, Other, 18/07/2024

A 3.5 per cent pay boost for the country's top public health officials has seen the pay packet of Department of Health and Aged Care boss Blair Comley shoot to close to a million dollars a year. Approved by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and taking effect from this month, Comley is one of eight secretaries in the middle-income band, whose base salary now sits at \$910,270.

Improving the contraceptive knowledge of young women from multicultural backgrounds

Pharmacy ITK, Other, 18/07/2024

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, EXTEND-PREFER, undertaken by the SPHERE Centre of Research Excellence at Monash University, the results of which were published in the BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health. Funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care, EXTEND-PREFER benefited from the input of the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health and the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health at the University of Melbourne.

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Desperate wait for PBS listing of rare cancer drug

PS News, Other, 18/07/2024, Chris Johnson

Australians who suffer from the rare cancer for its treatment to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). But it's not. [...] "The Department of Health and Aged Care works to finalise arrangements with the pharmaceutical company and proceed to a PBS listing as quickly as possible, once the company has submitted the necessary documentation.

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Informal carers left out of Home Care QI proposal: Carers Australia

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/07/2024, Caroline Egan

Informal carers are the "main source of support" for older people living at home and an additional 'carer's experience domain' should be added to the proposed expansion of the National Aged Care Mandatory Quality Indicator (QI) Program to include Home Care services. In its submission to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care on the Consultation Paper for expanded QI program to include Home Care, Carers Australia said the proposed expansion did not take carers' views into account.

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Capgemini's role in Aged Care digital transformation grows to \$83.3m

WEB IT News Australia, Other, 18/07/2024, Ry Crozier

Capgemini's role in the federal Aged Care digital transformation has more than doubled in value in a little over a year, growing from \$36.7 million to \$83.3 million, primarily for Salesforce-related services. [...] "Capgemini is currently providing professional services to the aged care digital transformation program in two main areas: development, support and sustainment of our Salesforce/MuleSoft platform; and provision of design resources as part of working with our business partners in scoping of requirements," a Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson told iTnews.

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

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Some pathology companies rorted Medicare during COVID pandemic

Your Life Choices, Other, 19/07/2024

Some Australian pathology companies engaged in widespread and "systematic rorting" at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, with new documents revealing accusations of fraud, cost-shifting and "opportunistic" claiming by companies conducting tens of millions of COVID tests. One doctor requested 21,000 tests in a single day, in breach of rules that doctors must clinically assess each case individually, according to documents obtained by the ABC after a three-year battle with the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Care sector will hit productivity: Wood

Australian Financial Review, General News, 19/07/2024, Tom McLroy and Michael Read, Page 3

Productivity Commission boss Danielle Wood appears to be at odds with Treasurer Jim Chalmers' argument that increased spending on the care economy would boost overall productivity..

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Care economy cold water

Australian Financial Review, Editorials, 19/07/2024, Page 30

Treasurer Jim Chalmers has been keen to sell Labor's spending on the growing "care economy" of aged care and the NDIS as one of the "five key pillars" of Labor's "big, broad and ambitious productivity agenda".

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Ping pong automaton proving a big hit

Central Western Daily, General News, 19/07/2024, Emily Gobourg, Page 4

An aged care facility in Orange has taken on a rather unique resident, a table tennis robot proving one popular new room mate from day dot. Nursing home along Byng Street, Uniting Wontama provides a slew of leisure and wellness activities, from varying interest groups, shuffleboard, bingo, ten pin bowling and movie days to name some.

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Kiama council wanted more money

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 19/07/2024, Nadine Morton, Page 4

One hundred new jobs and extra beds for residents, Blue Haven Bonaira's new owners have moved to reassure the community. As the \$95 million sale was finalised and contract signed on Wednesday, Kiama council CEO Jane Stroud said they should have got more for the property.

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Managing the practice expansion role

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 6

More opportunities are emerging for credentialed pharmacists to demonstrate their skills and value. The commencement of the Aged Care On-site Pharmacist (ACOP) program continues the expansion of pharmacist scope of practice activities.

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'Pharmacists are the key'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 32

The numbers were shocking. When the PSA released its Medicine Safety: Aged Care report in 2020, it found that nearly all aged care residents in Australia have at least one medicine-related problem. Most have three or more problems, including dangerous and life-threatening drug interactions, and medicine dosage problems including overdosing, the report also said.

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Evidence-based non-drug treatments in dementia: reminiscence therapy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 89

With medication having limited benefits on the progress and treatment of dementia, there is rising interest in non-pharmacologic treatment options.

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‘Laughter Care’ gets the Governor-General giggle of approval

Aged Care Insite, Other, 18/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

We've all heard that laughter is the best medicine, but The Humour Foundation has turned clowning around into a life-changing support for older Australians. Laughter Care , a program run by the Humour Foundation, harnesses the power of silliness to improve the quality of life of older people experiencing dementia or social isolation in aged care.

[Read More](#)

Boost GP vaccination to save lives

Medical Forum, Other, 18/07/2024

A new Grattan Institute report has revealed that while only 40% of the older patients of some GPs are vaccinated for flu, for other GPs, sometimes just one suburb away, the rate was about 90%. For shingles, the gap was even bigger — from 22% up to 85%.

[Read More](#)

BrainTrack installs surge

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/07/2024

Braintrack, a free app designed to support brain health, has achieved over 100,000 downloads worldwide since its release in Oct 2022. Available in 202 countries, including Australia, India, and the United States, BrainTrack has garnered widespread acclaim for its approach to cognitive monitoring.

Similar Stories: [Australian Seniors News \(Online\)](#).

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Neglect, unreasonable use of force increasing in residential aged care: Sector Performance Report

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/07/2024, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's 70-page Sector Performance Report for the March 2024 quarter, and its accompanying data spreadsheets, convey a positive picture of residential aged care. Overall, 84% of residential aged care services complied with all Aged Care Quality Standards , well above the 64% compliance rate recorded for Home Care providers.

[Read More](#)

Aged care regulator triples Home Care audits as non-compliance surges to 36%

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/07/2024, Caroline Egan

More than one-third of Home Care services failed to meet the Aged Care Quality Standards in the March quarter, a seven percentage point increase from the same period a year earlier. "We are concerned about this and have increased the number of quality audits we do," the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) wrote in its Sector Performance Report for the March 2024 quarter.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacies in residential aged care risks doctor's role: GP peak body

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/07/2024, Caroline Egan

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGPs) has praised the Government's new on-site pharmacist model, which came into effect on 1 July 2024, yet warned prescribing must continue through GPs or risk "fragmentation" of care. Under the scheme, an aged care home must first attempt to access a pharmacist through a community-based pharmacy.

[Read More](#)

Kiama Council sells Blue Haven Bonaira for \$95M to Hall & Prior but banks only \$26M

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/07/2024, Caroline Egan

The council and Perth-based family owned Hall & Prior Aged Care have exchanged contracts on Blue Haven Bonaira aged care home and independent living units (ILU), with a settlement date set for 1 November 2024. The sale price for the 59 ILUs and 134-bed aged care facility , which occupies eight purpose-built care houses, including two dedicated dementia homes, was \$95 million.

[Read More](#)

Home Care customers shun Level 1 Packages: GEN Aged Care data

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/07/2024, Caroline Egan

Australian Government's Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released a range of GEN Aged Care data during the week, highlighting the shift from residential aged care to Home Care, and very low demand for Level 1 Home Care packages. According to the data, 43% of all Home Care Packages were at Level 2, compared with 35% for Level 3, 16% at Level 4 and only 6.1% were Level 1 packages.

[Read More](#)

Low vaccination rates put older Aussies at risk

Your Life Choices, Other, 19/07/2024, Andrew Gigacz

While there are many inequalities across western society, one thing Australians can claim is a relatively equitable health system. Yes, there are undoubtedly differences between private and public healthcare systems, but Medicare helps ensure all Aussies get the basics.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 18/07/2024, Georgia Stynes

New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveals the ACT has the highest turnover of residential aged care workers of any state or territory in Australia. Almost 10% of workers left the sector in the first three months of the year.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 18/07/2024, Sally Sara and Patricia Karvelas

New data suggests the ACT has the highest turnover of residential aged care workers of any state or territory. The figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveal almost 10% of workers left the sector in the first three months of the year.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Blast for booze

Herald Sun, General News, 19/07/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 1

Some alcohol companies have been slammed for a spike in the use of sneaky marketing tactics that exploit health-conscious drinkers. A report from Cancer Council Victoria found "virtue marketing", which highlights a product's nutritional benefits, eco-friendliness or plays to a buyer's social conscience, has increased in Australia by almost 20 per cent in a decade.

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Doctors test the limits of new obesity drugs

The Nightly, General News, 18/07/2024, Gina Kolata, Page 21

Lesa Walton suffered for years with rheumatoid arthritis. "I kept getting sicker and sicker," said Ms. Walton, 57, who lives in Wenatchee, Washington. She also had high blood pressure and was obese. Doctors told her to diet and exercise, which she did, to no avail.

No 'handbook' to help family drug issues

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 19/07/2024, Monique Patterson, Page 3

Family and friends of people who are dependent on drugs or alcohol often don't know where to turn for support. WRAD Health chief executive officer Mark Powell said there were a number of support groups for people, including a face-to-face group on the third Monday of the month in Warrnambool and an online group, which were

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

Living well with arthritis

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 65

In many cases, pharmacists see their patients more frequently than GPs, making them well positioned to promote and support optimum arthritis treatment. [...] Based on data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, an estimated 2.2 million people (9.3%) have osteoarthritis.

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

Vaccine hesitancy: nurturing confidence in vaccine hesitant consumers

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 75

As pharmacy's vaccine role continues to expand, and as ambivalence about vaccination grows, pharmacists are increasingly confronting the problem of vaccine hesitancy.

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Don't worry about the stickers...

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 91

Don't worry about THE STICKERS... Pharmacists are in an invidious position when combating erroneous or confusing medicine labels, with consumers, manufacturers and regulators all seeming to make the job more difficult, says Angelo Pricolo.

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

The Lounge

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 104

Fentanyl has yet to fully enter Australia, but experts believe it is a matter of when, not if, it arrives on our shores. Is there a role for pharmacists in providing support?

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Bushfire smoke sparks hospital visits

Medical Forum, Other, 18/07/2024

New research has revealed a strong link between smoke from bushfires and an increase in Perth hospital admissions for heart and lung problems. The study highlights the health dangers posed by fine particulate matter (PM2.5), after analysing more than half a million hospital admissions from 2015 to 2017 and using a smoke exposure model to track PM2.

[Read More](#)

From Nobel Prize to clinical practice: an update on messenger RNA-based therapies for lipid disorders

Medicine Today, Other, 18/07/2024, Ian R. Hamilton-Craig

On January 6, 2006, the Nobel prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Professor Andrew Fire and Professor Craig Mello for the discovery of RNA interference – using double-stranded RNA to 'silence' genes – following publication of their research in

[Read More](#)

Guidelines on long-term care of preterm babies

Medicine Today, Other, 18/07/2024

The first national guidelines to improve the long-term health outcomes of children born very preterm have been developed by a team led by Melbourne's Murdoch Children's Research Institute. The NHMRC-approved guidelines focus on the follow-up care of babies born before 32 weeks' gestation from hospital discharge to 6 years of age.

[Read More](#)

How much alcohol can you drink a week and still be healthy?

The Australian, Other, 18/07/2024, Sumathi Reddy

The only way to completely avoid related health problems is to stop drinking alcohol. Plenty of people do cut it out entirely, but for many others, that's a nonstarter. How much drinking is bad for you?

[Read More](#)

What is FASD, and why do so many children with it end up in Australia's justice system?

The Guardian, Other, 18/07/2024, Melissa Davey and Ben Smee

A 14-year-old girl with memory problems and below-average intellectual functioning – exacerbated by family violence and sexual abuse – has not been into the fresh air for several days. At various points throughout the past fortnight she has only been allowed cold showers and has gone without meals – punishment for behaviours like aggression and yelling that she cannot remember engaging in.

[Read More](#)

At 14, Sam has the mental capacity of a five-year-old. So what's she doing in a Queensland police cell?

The Guardian, Other, 18/07/2024, Ben Smee

Across the state, teenagers born with severe intellectual disabilities branded young repeat offenders are being locked up in adult watch houses.

[Read More](#)

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

MP welcomes MND money

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 19/07/2024, - Lewis Nancekivell, Page 7

Member for Murray Helen Dalton is claiming success after the New South Wales Government gave \$2 million in funding to motor neurone disease research. Ms Dalton said she's spent years lobbying the NSW Government to fund research on the potential cause of MND.

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

Pharmacy is the frontline of sun protection

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Dr Brett MacFarlane, Page 19

Our skin is the main protective barrier between our tissues and organs and the ravages of the outside world. Healthy skin is vital to help protect us from damage caused by allergens, toxins, irritants, oxidants, microbes, and ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

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Helping people with diabetes to live well

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 41

With an expanding number of medications and new technologies, pharmacists play a vital role in supporting patients with diabetes, says Leanne Philpott. According to Diabetes Australia's 2023 Snapshot: Diabetes in Australia report, around 1.5 million Australians (about 5.6% of the population) are living with diabetes.

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Parkinsonism and Parkinson's disease

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 91

Too often pharmacists focus only on the medicines for Parkinson's disease but there are many complex issues which must be considered when counselling patients and their carers.

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Check Up: Aussie biotech Ternarx to pioneer next-gen cancer medicine, and recent ASX health winners

The Australian, Other, 18/07/2024, Eddy Sunarto

A new biotech company called Ternarx has been launched in Melbourne, aiming to use cutting-edge technology to target hard-to-treat cancers. In 2023, the Albanese Government awarded \$15 million to create the Australian Centre for Targeted Therapeutics.

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

[Read More](#)

Women with endometriosis are at four times the risk of getting ovarian cancer

9News, Other, 18/07/2024, Lara Pearce

Women with endometriosis are more than four times more likely to develop ovarian cancer than women without the condition, a 20-year study has revealed. The findings will come as alarming news for the one in nine Australian women with the chronic illness, who already face often-debilitating pain, nausea and fertility issues.

[Read More](#)

Semaglutide should be first-line option for diabetic CKD, doctors say

Australian Doctor, Other, 18/07/2024, Kemal Atlay

The GLP-1 receptor agonist cuts the risk of major kidney disease events compared with placebo, research shows. Semaglutide should be a first-line treatment option for adults with diabetic chronic kidney disease and albuminuria, say renal specialists.

[Read More](#)

How just an hour too little, or too much sleep could increase your risk of a potentially deadly 'hidden' condition by a THIRD, scientists discover

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 18/07/2024, Chris Pollard

Irregular sleep may increase your risk of type 2 diabetes by up to a third, experts have warned — highlighting the importance of a good night's rest. Researchers in Boston, US, found those with the most erratic sleep patterns had the highest chance of being diagnosed with the condition later in life.

[Read More](#)

Call for better diabetic technology

Medical Forum, Other, 18/07/2024

Using this week's National Diabetes Week, the group's CEO Justine Cain said technology such as continuous glucose monitoring devices and insulin pumps were not affordable for many people, despite their life-changing impact. The Diabetes Australia has called on the Federal Government to invest \$200 million over four years in increased subsidies for these technologies.

[Read More](#)

Active surveillance for prostate cancer: long-term outcomes assessed

Medicine Today, Other, 18/07/2024, Melanie Hinze

Protocol-directed active surveillance (AS) is a safe management strategy for favourable-risk prostate cancer, which helps clinicians to avoid overtreatment and prevent undertreatment, according to research published recently in JAMA. The Canary Prostate Active Surveillance Study (PASS) was a prospective cohort study initiated in the USA in 2008.

Study finds semaglutide reduces CKD progression and CV death risk in patients with diabetes and CKD

Medicine Today, Other, 18/07/2024, Rebecca Jenkins

Once weekly treatment with semaglutide reduces the risk of major kidney disease events and death from cardiovascular (CV) causes in patients with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease (CKD), an Australian-led international trial has found. It was unknown whether semaglutide would mitigate the high risk of kidney failure, CV events and death, in patients with type 2 diabetes and CKD, researchers led by UNSW Sydney, wrote in The New England Journal of Medicine.

[Read More](#)

Continuous glucose monitoring technology – understanding the benefits

Medicine Today, Other, 18/07/2024

Optimising glycaemic control remains the cornerstone to preventing microvascular and macrovascular complications of diabetes. Landmark studies, such as the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT) and the UK Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS), provide compelling evidence that intensive glucose-lowering therapy reduces complications, including retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy and cardiovascular disease.

[Read More](#)

Lung cancer screening: an update for primary care

Medicine Today, Other, 18/07/2024, Xinxin Hu and Emily Stone

The National Lung Cancer Screening Program (NLCSP) is due to commence in July 2025. The program aims to detect lung cancers at an early stage by screening high-risk individuals with low-dose CT (LDCT).

[Read More](#)

Soaring diabetes diagnoses prompts call to invest in wearable technologies

SBS, Other, 18/07/2024, Alexandra Jones

In Western Sydney, community leaders have convened to address the escalating prevalence of diabetes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Highlighting success stories and urgent needs, advocates pushed for enhanced access to affordable diabetes management technologies amid health disparities and systemic challenges.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Daughter's death at hospital prompts father's election bid

The Australian, General News, 19/07/2024, Page 2

The father of a young girl who died after waiting hours to be seen at Perth Children's Hospital will run against West Australian Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson at the next state election. Aswath Chavittupara won preselection as the Liberal Party candidate in the seat of Morley on Wednesday ahead of the March 2025 poll.

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

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Left in despair as funds run out

Carers looking after a violent, non-verbal man with severe autism were allegedly told by an NDIS staffer to drop him at a hospital after he ran out of NDIS funds to pay for his care. Storm Menzies, general manager of Live Your Best Life Disability Support Services, said the man can't go back to the family home because of the "severe abuse he perpetrates against his mother" and so the business has been paying his \$21,000 a week care for the past two weeks.

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

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Gender blockers allowed

Courier Mail, General News, 19/07/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

Queensland children will continue to be treated with puberty blockers at the state's gender clinic, as the medication is banned overseas due to concerns of long-term harm. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman told The Courier Mail that the blockers can be "life-changing and life-saving" for those with diverse gender experiences.

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

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No news for you! Hospital cutting costs

Border Mail, General News, 19/07/2024, Janet Howie, Page 7

Albury Wodonga Health says it has stopped providing a newspaper to private patients as a cost-cutting measure. The Border Mail has received three phone calls in the past week from people concerned this masthead is no longer available at the service's hospitals.

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Funding to target substance abuse

Central Western Daily, General News, 19/07/2024, Emily Gobourg, Page 2

Orange has been locked in as one of 12 new hubs across the state to address and help those with substance use issues following a multi-million dollar injection from the government. People at risk of harm from alcohol and other drug (AOD) use will benefit from greater access to support and treatment after additional money recently hit the colour city.

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Cost of health

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 19/07/2024, Page 7

Australian hospitals cost \$263m on average each day to run, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data. Public hospitals employ 186,000 nurses and 56,700 doctors, the research shows.

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'Bittersweet' project start

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 19/07/2024, Rachel Clark, Page 1

The Gunnedah hospital redevelopment has finally broken ground after more than a decade of community-led campaigning to have the facilities upgraded. Gunnedah Shire mayor Jamie Chaffey, however, said it was a bittersweet moment, as the current project would deliver only part of what was originally promised.

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Seymour hospital merger concerns addressed by MP

Shepparton News, General News, 19/07/2024, Faith MacAle, Page 23

Community concerns grew over the possible merging of local health services after an information night in Seymour on Wednesday, July 3. As the debate on local health services reform continues, state Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes has responded with a statement: "In response to the ongoing misinformation campaign regarding local health services and the pre-emptive campaign based

on fearmongering by those in the Opposition, I would like to reiterate to the Seymour community that no decisions have been made regarding Seymour Health," Ms Symes said.

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'We'd rather die': KAP

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 19/07/2024, Cameron Bates, Page 7

Regional North Queenslanders with terminal medical conditions are choosing to die in their community "rather than undertake unaffordable travel to major centres", Katter's Australian Party says. KAP leader Robbie Katter on Wednesday lashed out at "minor" government adjustments to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme.

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

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Ambos make life-changing calls due to lack of crews

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 19/07/2024, Monique Patterson, Page 5

On Sunday, Warrnambool paramedic David Keane experienced what is the worst nightmare for anyone in his life of work. A call came in reporting a woman had suffered a cardiac arrest and the closest ambulance that could be dispatched was in Port Fairy.

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Aswath Chavittupara, dad of Aishwarya Aswath, wins Liberal preselection in Morley against Amber-Jade Sanderson

West Australian, Other, 18/07/2024, Jake Dietsch

The father of Aishwarya Aswath — the young girl who died after waiting hours to be seen at Perth Children's Hospital — will be the Liberal party candidate against Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson in the seat of Morley. Aswath Chavittupara won preselection for the State seat on Wednesday night — prevailing over procurement officer and business owner Nirmal Singh.

[Read More](#)

Mechanic AJ Rheinberger lost his ability to walk earlier this year. Robotic machines at a Canberra hospital are helping him to relearn

ABC Online, Other, 18/07/2024, Harry Frost and Lottie Twyford

A suite of new robotics machines have been installed at the University of Canberra Hospital, only the second public health facility in the country to boast them. They are able to support patients who are recovering from serious neurological injuries, including strokes.

[Read More](#)

'RAHtatouille': Rodent allegedly spotted at Royal Adelaide Hospital

NEWS.com.au, Other, 18/07/2024, Clareese Packer

Outrage has been sparked after a rodent was pictured running through a busy hospital. A photo was posted to social media by account "Rattled Doc" this week showing a rat allegedly in the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

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

[Read More](#)

Sam has the intellectual capacity of a five-year-old. She was held in isolation in an adult police facility

SBS, Other, 18/07/2024, Jennifer Luu and Michelle Elias

Queensland locks up more kids than anywhere else in Australia and Sam is one of them. With a condition that is underdiagnosed and already overrepresented in the juvenile justice system, experts fear kids like Sam are being left to spiral.

[Read More](#)

ERH looks back on 10th anniversary of new facility

Shepparton News Online, Other, 18/07/2024, Emily Donohoe

Echuca Regional Health is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the hospital rebuild, opened back in July 2014. Stage one of the ERH new hospital was officially opened on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 by then-Premier of Victoria Denis Naphthine and then-Victorian Health Minister David Davis.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 18/07/2024, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Kerrie Aust, ACT President, AMA. Delaney says concerns have arisen over discrepancies in patient data as people in the ACT Health Directorate are saying one thing and the people at Canberra Health Services are saying another regarding the number of patients that have been treated in Canberra's nurse-led walk-in centres from 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024. Aust believes this presents them an opportunity to have a look at what kind of data is coming out of the various systems within ACT Health Directorate and use this as an opportunity to address the underlying problems.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

America's most powerful export may be anxiety

Australian Financial Review, Review, 19/07/2024, Derek Thompson, Page 1

What if mental health cannot be separated from culture, and cultural forces are making young English-speakers unhappy?

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Patients in crisis on hold

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/07/2024, Tara Miko, Page 3

Vulnerable South Australians using an urgent mental health crisis hotline are abandoning calls or being left waiting for unacceptable periods, prompting an unprecedented step by the state's chief psychiatrist. The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist placed conditions on the Mental Health Triage service to mitigate risks due to the rate of calls being abandoned, and call-wait times.

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Social media makes us ill: AMA

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/07/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 5

Social media giants must be urgently pulled into line amid damning concerns about the unintended health consequences for users, a peak medical body warns. The Australian Medical Association is calling for "pragmatic regulation" of social media platforms that doesn't shift the onus onto Australians.

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

U16s banned from social media platforms?

Burnie Advocate, General News, 19/07/2024, Isabel Bird, Page 6

Banning teenagers and tweens from social media is not a decision that should be made without them, according to Tasmania's peak voice for young people. Politicians in Australia are attempting to end parental angst about social media with pledges to ban teenagers aged 16 and under from social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram and Facebook.

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

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Be brave enough to ask

Daily Mercury, General News, 19/07/2024, Zoe Devenport, Page 14

A mens' mental health advocate said it can just take a "brave" question to confront serious issues

before they escalate into poor health or suicide, after a new report showed rising statistics. Proud Yindinji (Cairns) and Badugal (Torres Straits) man Charlie Jia said he had seen a variety of issues wreck the health of men around him, including his father who he lost at age 13.

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Drought strategies for region's pastoralists

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 19/07/2024, Carwyn Monck, Page 4

Drone training, financial management tips and mental health advice will form part of hands-on workshops designed to help Goldfields pastoralists navigate the impacts of future droughts. Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association received \$20,000 from the Federal Government's Future Drought Fund to host two workshops on Goldfields pastoral stations.

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Flooding shuts uni buildings after upgrade

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 19/07/2024, Sam Turner, Page 13

Institute buildings which house a multimillion mental health research centre at the University of the Sunshine Coast have been closed due to water damage. It's understood flooding caused extensive damage in the Thompson Institute buildings at the university's Birtinya campus.

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Too many mums dismissing their birth trauma because the 'baby is okay'

Daily Liberal, Other, 18/07/2024, Orlander Ruming

"My baby is okay, I had no physical damage, I should be happy with how the birth went." That's something perinatal psychologist Ange Conn hears on a regular basis.

[Read More](#)

Social media ban may cause teens 'unintended harms'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 18/07/2024

Young people could be put at risk of unintended harms if the government bans social media for those under 16, mental health organisations warn. Platforms such as Instagram and TikTok have come under fire for fuelling cyberbullying, body image issues and mental health concerns and profiting at the expense of young Australians.

[Read More](#)

Mental health mission for regional Australia

In Daily, Other, 18/07/2024

A nationwide initiative has been launched to provide regional areas with the education to support themselves and loved ones experiencing mental illness. There is a deficit of mental health services available in regional South Australia.

[Read More](#)

Discontinuation symptoms after stopping antidepressants examined

Medicine Today, Other, 18/07/2024, Melanie Hinze

Antidepressant withdrawal symptoms are common and can be severe, an Australian expert has told Medicine Today. Professor Katharine Wallis, Mayne Professor and Head of the Mayne Academy of General Practice, and Head of the General Practice Clinical Unit at the University of Queensland Medical School, Brisbane, was commenting on a meta-analysis and systematic review published recently in Lancet Psychiatry.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Uni cleans out course

Herald Sun, General News, 19/07/2024, Rebecca Borg, Page 4

Swinburne University of Technology's proposal to phase out a cleanliness and hygiene diploma could put the wellbeing of Victorians at risk, environmental health organisations have warned. Industry leaders are urging the institution to continue offering its Graduate Diploma of Environmental Health Practice, after Swinburne University said it was considering to "teach out" the course.

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

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\$15k bonus for ring-in nurses, \$10k for grads

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/07/2024, David Killick, Page 3

A \$10m package of incentives has been announced to attract more nurses and midwives to work in the Tasmanian public health system. Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Guy Barnett announced bonus payments of \$15,000 for new nurses from interstate and overseas.

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

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Hope for new med school opening

Northern Territory News, General News, 19/07/2024, Camden Smith, Page 7

The head of the Territory's new medical school believes advanced planning around the facility could see it operating from early 2025, a year earlier than scheduled. Speaking during a question-and-answer session at Future Northern Territory with NT News editor Melanie Plane, inaugural dean, CDU Menzies School of Medicine, Professor Dianne Stephens hinted at the potential earlier opening.

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

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Abuse simply 'never OK'

Ballarat Courier, General News, 19/07/2024, Ben Silvester, Page 1

Ambulance Victoria is urging people to show respect to paramedics after 105 ambulance officers were injured while on duty in nine months. Paramedics were verbally and physically abused, punched in the face, harassed and spat on while doing their jobs between July 2023 and March 2024. AV regional operations executive director Danielle North, right, said it had forced paramedics to stop treating sick patients and even withdraw from a scene entirely.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#).

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More doctors coming

Border Watch, General News, 19/07/2024, Chris Picton, Page 8

Dear Sir/Madam. Whether it's building new Emergency Departments, recruiting new doctors, or constructing new ambulance stations, there's something special brewing in regional health. In just two years, the Malinauskas Government has made substantial inroads in our quest to improve health services for regional South Australians.

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

Incentives announced to lure nurses

Burnie Advocate, General News, 19/07/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 6

The state government has announced a suite of incentives for nurses and midwives in a bid to attract and retain health staff in the state. The \$10 million package includes a \$15,000 incentive for nurses and midwives who move to Tasmania and remain employed full-time with the Tasmanian Health Service (THS) for three or more years.

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Paramedics call out violence on the job

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 19/07/2024, Allan Murphy, Page 3

A Mildura paramedic who has been physically assaulted and spat on while on the job is calling on the community to stamp out that type of behaviour. Brodie Thomas has joined an Ambulance Victoria push to treat paramedics and call takers with respect when they see them at an emergency incident or in the community.

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Caring for staff too

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 19/07/2024, Emily Devon, Page 3

In a bid to enhance protection of healthcare staff and security, measures such as stabproof vests, restraints, bodyworn cameras and personal alarms are being reviewed. Queensland Health will review all personal protective equipment and assess its effectiveness alongside the trial of stab-resistant vests at Townsville University Hospital.

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

Concern for retiring GP 'tidal wave'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 19/07/2024, Katrina Lovell, Page 1

Warrnambool is facing a "tidal wave" of retirements as older GPs near the end of their careers and the region will be playing catch up to fill the gap, a doctor has warned. A number of doctors turned up to a public forum in Warrnambool on Tuesday, which put the spotlight on the issues facing the region's health system.

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

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Credentials for consultants launched

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 8

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has launched its full suite of credentials, including pathways for both experienced consultant pharmacists and those looking to expand their practice. The Medication Management Review (MMR) credential and Aged Care Onsite Pharmacist (ACOP) credential opened for enrolment in early July.

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SHPA, PSS extend partnership

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 14

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has signed a new three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS). Under the deal, the PSS will receive funding through the SHPA's Australia and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP).

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

Baringa Hospital nurses, midwives consider jobs elsewhere after rejecting Ramsay Health Care offer

The Courier Mail, Other, 18/07/2024, Toni Moon

Ramsay Health Care nurses are adamant that without improvements to pay and conditions nurses will remain stressed, rushed and struggling to make ends meet. While some Baringa Private Hospital nurses have been looking elsewhere for work, Melissa McDonough, a registered nurse at Coffs Harbour has joined industrial action.

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

[Read More](#)

AMA rejects doctors' pay offer

Medical Forum, Other, 18/07/2024

The AMA WA's bargaining committee formally rejected WA Health's first offer in negotiations to replace the current Industrial Agreement. On 20 June, the AMA (WA) Bargaining Committee received the first offer from WA Health.

[Read More](#)

Bolton Clarke Group CEO attacks government paralysis as Victorian care staff take industrial action

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/07/2024, Caroline Egan

Bolton Clarke's members of the Victorian branch of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) began protected industrial action this week, wearing t-shirts, banning the collection or recording data, writing chalk pen messages on cars, and refusing to be redeployed.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Mystery over millions in MediSecure hack

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 19/07/2024, Mohammad Alfares, Page 3

Half of Australia's population was affected by a cyberattack on MediSecure, yet the online e-script provider is unable to identify or alert those whose data was compromised. Personal information belonging to 12.9 million people across the country was stolen after hackers executed a ransomware attack, which resulted in customer details being leaked on the dark web, in what is now considered one of the largest cyber attacks in Australian history.

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

12.9m Aussies' data stolen

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 19/07/2024, Page 5

Massive cyber security breach at MediSecure server A worrying 12.9 million Aussies have been hacked, one of the biggest cyber security breaches in the country's history. MediSecure confirmed the attack happened earlier this year but the company can't afford to find out who has fallen victim to the breach.

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

Millions of Aussies hit by leak

West Australian, Edition Changes, 19/07/2024, Page 20

Up to 12.9 million Australians have had their personal information stolen and uploaded to the dark web by a "malicious. . . third-party actor" after electronic prescriptions provider MediSecure was hacked. The ePrescription company became aware of a breach on April 13 when suspected ransomware was discovered in a database server that contained personal and health information before publicly confirming the cyberattack in May.

Similar Stories: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#)

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The electronic prescription provider that was the target of a large scale ransomware data breach in May, has revealed about 12.9 million Australians were impacted by it. The administrators of MediSecure FTI consulting say an estimated 6.5TB of data was stolen by the hackers. This includes personal patient information relating to scripts. The company, which went into administration last month, is unable to identify the specific individuals who have been affected.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

AFL doc banned for going off script

Herald Sun, General News, 19/07/2024, Gianni Francis, Page 8

A disgraced ex-AFL doctor has been banned from practising again after he was busted prescribing steroids and benzos while he was suspended for giving dodgy scripts to "bikies". [...] Vucinic told the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency during the investigation that a "couple of patients of mine" were "part of an outlaw motorcycle gang".

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

Hospital plan fail

Courier Mail, General News, 19/07/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has binned plans to appoint physician assistants to hospitals within hours of receiving queries from The Courier- Mail about job advertisements for the roles. The state's doctors were in uproar with the news that health dollars were being invested into the assistants, who are not registered with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, rather than attracting more fully qualified doctors.

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

Nurse 'stole patient's card'

Courier Mail, General News, 19/07/2024, Jeremy Pierce and Greg Stolz, Page 1

A Gold Coast nurse has been arrested over allegations she used the bank card of a seriously ill hospital patient to go on a personal shopping spree. Melelani Crelley, 42, has been charged with one count of stealing and one count of fraud after a Mackay man noticed his mother's bank card had racked up more than \$7000 in transactions while she lay in Robina Hospital and later Gold Coast University Hospital, battling a life-threatening illness.

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Staff pan hospital

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 19/07/2024, Chloe Grimshaw, Page 8

Staff members employed at a private hospital on the Sunshine Coast have expressed their concern at what they described as "near misses" in a busy operating theatre. One staffer, who wished to remain anonymous, said those employed by the Buderim Private Hospital had become increasingly concerned with a number of theatre practices.

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

I just received an AHPRA notification, what now?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 6

We need to dispel some common myths and misconceptions that can worsen the impact of receiving an AHPRA notification. When pharmacists receive regulatory notifications, a range of common misconceptions can cloud their perception and impede their ability to respond effectively.

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

Veteran Cairns doctor Richard James Whitaker facing charges of

making child porn, filming women's genitalia

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/07/2024, Bronwyn Farr and Vanda Carson

A veteran Cairns Hospital emergency doctor is facing a raft of charges including of trying to film two unknown women's genitalia at the hospital without their consent and of making child porn at his home. Richard James Whitaker is charged with eight offences including three counts of trying to record women's genitalia, and one charge of actually recording a woman's anus at Port Douglas earlier this year.

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

[Read More](#)

Orange occupational therapist prioritises low-needs clients to speed up waitlists

ABC Online, Other, 18/07/2024, Emily Middleton

The peak body for occupational therapists says there is a minimum six-month waitlist for appointments. [...] According to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's Occupational Therapy Board, of the almost 32,500 occupational therapists in Australia, only 550 — or 1.57 per cent, were on permanent contracts.

[Read More](#)

GP leading the PSR: 'We are not a bunch of non-clinical people making opaque decisions'

Australian Doctor, Other, 18/07/2024, Rachel Carter

Canberra GP Dr Antonio Di Dio will officially lead the PSR for the next three years. [...] "It is so obvious that a review, whether it's AHPRA, Medicare or us, is among the single most stressful and horrible experiences of a practitioner's life, let alone their career."

[Read More](#)

Nurse reinstated after pushing anorexic teen

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 17/07/2024, Sophia McCaughan

A nurse has won his appeal to be re-registered as a practitioner, subject to restrictions, after he pushed a teenage girl suffering from anorexia. Peter McPherson was a nurse on the mental health unit at Sydney's Westmead Children's Hospital in November 2019, when he was hit on the head by a 15-year-old girl following a conversation after the girl failed to finish her breakfast.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Olympic sport in apology for abuse

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 19/07/2024, Jacquelin Magnay, Page 3

Volleyball Australia has issued an extraordinary public apology to female members of the national team at the Australian Institute of Sport for creating "an environment of fear", causing decades-long physical and mental harm. Players at the institute as members of the women's indoor volleyball team some as young as 14 during the lead-up to and after the Sydney Olympics, specifically between 1997 and 2005, experienced coercive control.

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

War hero and Olympic gold medallist honoured in France

The Australian, General News, 19/07/2024, Jacquelin Magnay, Page 6

Deep in the French countryside, where some of the fiercest World War I battles took place, lies the grave of a remarkable Australian now sprinkled with sand from Sydney's Manly Beach. The local Assevillers villagers raised money for a statue of Cecil Healy outside of their town hall, and on Wednesday the Australian Olympic Committee and Australian government officials arrived to lay wreaths ahead of the Paris Olympic Games.

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

Synthetic turf plan for 'jewel of inner west' stirs argument

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 19/07/2024, Michael Koziol, Page 5

Two sports fields in Lilyfield's Callan Park will be converted to synthetic, all-weather turf in an \$8 million project that will reignite tensions over the 61-hectare site sometimes called "the jewel of the inner west". Fields on Waterfront Drive and Balmain Road will be converted as part of a long-standing pledge to increase the capacity of sporting facilities in the inner west, and in particular to accommodate the growth of women's and girls' sport.

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Volleyball body apologises to ex-players

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 19/07/2024, Chris Barrett, Page 9

Australian women's volleyball players were subjected to punitive training methods and bodyshaming that led to self-harm, eating disorders and substance abuse, according to a Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) review into the culture around the national team when it was based at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) at the turn of the century. The sport's governing body, Volleyball Australia (VA), yesterday apologised to former players from the Australian indoor volleyball team during that era, acknowledging it had failed to keep athletes safe.

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Wee - oh! That's not the way to go: Probe into horror Freo flight

Herald Sun, Sport, 19/07/2024, Lauren Wood and Eliza Reilly, Page 77

The AFL is investigating after Fremantle players and staff were forced to urinate in basins on a chartered flight following their round 18 loss to Hawthorn in Tasmania last weekend. A statement released on Thursday by the Transport Workers Union, which represents cabin crew, said it held "deep concern and outrage" over the situation the result of the plane running out of water.

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Govt steps into footy travel farce

West Australian, General News, 19/07/2024, Dylan Caporn, Page 1

The State Government has raised the possibility of using its political muscle to advocate for less travel for the Eagles and Dockers. As part of the AFL fixturing process, State governments can make submissions on the scheduling of games and grounds.

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

PNG is secured as next NRL club

Cairns Post, General News, 19/07/2024, Dean Ritchie, Page 4

In a historic decision, Papua New Guinea will formally be announced as an NRL club after Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and PNG counterpart James Marape intensified recent negotiations about rugby league expansion. Multiple PNG ministers were briefed about the successful NRL bid in Brisbane on Wednesday night before State of Origin III.

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

Slam dunk: Coast stadium critical for new NBL team

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 19/07/2024, Paul Weston, Page 12

The Gold Coast will get an indoor entertainment and sports stadium but in a deal breaker it must be built soon if the city is to secure an NBL licence, according to City sources. The Bulletin has been told

the stadium will go ahead regardless of the basketball deal.

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

Gap between live sport and virtual world getting blurry

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 19/07/2024, Mitch Bourke, Page 13

The line between video games and reality becoming blurred is a daunting concept. But it's one we better get used to, and it may well shape the fan experience at the 2032 Olympics, sports technology industry expert David Martin said.

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

Just build it

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 19/07/2024, Page 40

The arguments in favour of a boutique stadium are overwhelming. There is only one actual downside for the Gold Coast in getting its own boutique stadium the cost.

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

Asolution to the basketballmess

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/07/2024, Bradley Perrett, Page 15

The state government should buy a new stadium site. It has the money. Why has no one noticed this? The plan to relocate the basketball stadium means building on a park to pour money into the state treasury.

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

Volleyball Australia apologises to former female players who experienced physical, mental abuse

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 18/07/2024

Volleyball Australia (VA) has apologised to former players of the Australian women's indoor team who it said experienced physical and mental abuse at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra between 1997-2005. The players faced an environment of fear, punitive training practices, inadequate complaints handling, lack of coach accountability and coaches who disregarded the advice of medical and performance support staff, VA said in a statement on Thursday.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 18/07/2024, Yvonne Yong

Volleyball Australia has issued an apology to former players in the women's national team who were abused at the Australian Institute of Sport. The apology was made to players in the national programme between 1997 and 2005, which included the team that played at the Sydney Olympics. It says players as young as 14 suffered verbal and physical abuse, excessive punishments and body shaming within a culture of fear and punishment.

[Play Now](#)

6PR, Afternoons, 18/07/2024, Julie-anne Sprague

Interview with Dr Thomas Hill, sport and exercise physician. Sprague points out that there has been some statistics compiled by the Australian Government for the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, which analysed 56,000 sports injuries that led to a hospital stay in Australia over one year. Hill admits that it is interesting that sports like cycling are part of the list, which he believes kinda of lends itself to how the cyclist gets into an accident. He admits that cyclists and equestrian athletes might not get injured that often, but when they do, they are often severely injured.

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Boom in new medtech firms

Courier Mail, Business News, 19/07/2024, Glen Norris, Page 27

Brisbane's burgeoning medtech sector continues to grow. Eleven homegrown medtech start-ups will be supported by the city of Brisbane to fast-track their global expansion through an accelerator program attracting investment and jobs.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

Look good for longer

West Australian, General News, 19/07/2024, Xantha Leatham, Page 46

The label "supermodel granny" may conjure up images of Jane Fonda look-alikes but, in this case, it refers to mice. When the rodents were given a new drug, their lifespans dramatically increased and their youthful appearance was significantly extended.

Similar Stories: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

More pain, more gain

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 19/07/2024, Page 4

Exercise could be especially useful for managing symptoms of depression in people with high levels of osteoarthritis-related pain. Victoria University, University of Melbourne and Orygen researchers found that patients with the highest pain may have the greatest benefits.

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

Non-animal tech for medical research

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/07/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 8

A \$4.5 million project to help reduce animals in medical research will involve the Hunter, but the chances of ending animal experiments appears to be decades away. The Minns government, which announced the funding on Thursday, said "non-animal technologies" were "beginning to exceed the performance of animal models".

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Beyond resources: WA aims to be medical and life sciences powerhouse

The Australian, Other, 18/07/2024, Nadine McGrath

Western Australia, long celebrated as a world-leading powerhouse of natural resources, is now setting its sights on a new frontier – health and medical life sciences. Known for its rich deposits of minerals and energy resources, WA's burgeoning health and medical life sciences sector was on show at the recent Bioshares Biotech Summit in Fremantle.

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

[Read More](#)

Animal testing to be reined in with medical tech push

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 18/07/2024

A state-first network of experts will be set up to develop technology that will help cut out the use of animals in medical research and deliver better treatments for patients. The Non-Animal Technologies Network will be set up with \$4.5 million of NSW government funding to explore alternatives to animal testing.

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

[Read More](#)

Sparrows may be 'canary in the coal mine' for lead poisoning in children: study

Sparrows are often considered pests, but scientists say they can help us monitor lead exposure in children. A study found the birds accurately predicted lead levels in children in two Australian towns affected by mining.

[Read More](#)

Scientific breakthrough into Gulf War Syndrome reveals it's cause

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 18/07/2024, Emily Jane Davies

Gulf War veterans suffering from a debilitating and baffling illness for decades was likely caused by exposure to biological and chemical agents during the war. They finally have an explanation after world-first research unearthed a likely cause for Gulf War Illness (GWI), also known as Gulf War Syndrome.

[Read More](#)

Peanut introduction in infancy shown to prevent peanut allergy into adolescence

Medicine Today, Other, 18/07/2024, Melanie Hinze

Early peanut consumption, from infancy to age 5 years, results in lasting tolerance to peanut into adolescence, irrespective of peanut consumption during childhood, research published in NEJM Evidence has shown. Sponsored by the US National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the LEAP-Trio trial was a long-term follow up study of 508 participants from an earlier randomised peanut consumption trial – the Learning Early About Peanut Allergy (LEAP) trial.

[Read More](#)

Menstrual pain in adolescent girls and missed activities

Medicine Today, Other, 18/07/2024, Emily Lathlean

A longitudinal survey study has found a large proportion of adolescent girls in Australia experience period pain that affects their participation at school and in other activities. The study, published in the Medical Journal of Australia, analysed survey data from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children.

[Read More](#)

Bisoprolol does not reduce COPD exacerbations, finds study

Medicine Today, Other, 18/07/2024, Rebecca Jenkins

Treatment with the cardioselective beta blocker bisoprolol does not reduce exacerbations in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a UK randomised controlled trial has found. Analyses of observational and interventional studies of beta blockers used for cardiovascular indications had shown that cardioselective beta blockers were well tolerated in patients with COPD and associated with reductions in exacerbations and mortality, UK researchers wrote in JAMA.

[Read More](#)

Phage surprise finding to fight bacteria

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/07/2024

A recent study has uncovered that a protein used by phages, viruses that infect bacteria, can bind both DNA and RNA. This dual binding ability marks an advancement in understanding how phages can be used as alternatives to antibiotics both in human health and agriculture.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 18/07/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Aussie researchers have discovered a pregnant woman's diet could have long term consequences for her baby's heart health. Sophie Walsh explains. Researchers found increasing the intake of fibre rich foods in pregnant mice protected the health of their offspring's hearts well into the future. Fibre triggers the release of molecules called short chain fatty acids, which are then passed on from the mother through the placenta, altering the baby's DNA structure, leading to healthier hearts long term.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'Someone to talk to': Trainee improves kids' mental health in NSW bush town

Daily Liberal, Other, 18/07/2024, Sarah Falson

When Wiradjuri woman Shaana Daley was growing up in Warren , she wasn't aware of anywhere Indigenous kids could go to talk about their mental health. Now, aged 30, she is in training to become an Aboriginal wellness worker at the Warren Youth Centre and Community Hub

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 18/07/2024, Janice Petersen

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have some of the highest rates of type-2 diabetes in the world, but many don't have access to healthcare leading to higher rates of hospitalisation and death. As part of National Diabetes Week, advocates are calling on the Government to invest in making diabetes management technologies more affordable and accessible. A spokesperson for the health minister says the government is currently reviewing the report and is also considering the approach proposed by Diabetes Australia

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

'Sex bubbles' urged to curb mpox

Age, General News, 19/07/2024, Henrietta Cook, Page 3

The state's chief health officer is urging Victorians to create "sex bubbles" and maintain contact details of all their sexual partners to curb an outbreak of mpox. Victoria is in the grip of its largest mpox outbreak, with 76 cases detected in three months, compared with just eight cases for all of 2023.

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

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Rocko's radioactive waste hub gets go-ahead

West Australian, General News, 19/07/2024, Page 8

A facility for storing "low-level" waste from nuclear-powered submarines at HMAS Stirling has been approved by Federal regulators, which found radioactive doses to people outside of the base would be "negligible". The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency received more than 160 submissions about the licence application for the facility but the "stringent" approvals process will continue, including applications for building, operation and decommissioning.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#).

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Ag ministers raise 'serious' concerns over plans

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/07/2024, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 4

Farmers deserve answers on how the federal coalition's nuclear energy plan could impact food production, with Australia's agriculture ministers joining forces to raise concern. Ministers from every state and territory affected by the opposition's nuclear proposal released a joint statement on Thursday, saying they had a duty to protect the future of the agriculture industry.

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Shingrix demand may have peaked

More than a million eligible patients have received at least one dose of the Shingrix vaccine since it was added to the National Immunisation Program (NIP) on 1 November 2023. Speaking at a Senate Estimates hearing on 5 June 2024, Kelly Fisher, the department's assistant secretary for immunisation, said that initial orders of the vaccine were made based on Australian Bureau of Statistics forecasts of eligible populations, and uptake of other new vaccines on the NIP.

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South Australia grapples with spike in RSV cases, prompting calls for free child immunisation program

9News, Other, 18/07/2024, Kelly Hughes

"It started out with flu like symptoms, then as the days went by I started getting the tight chest...coughing..and wasn't able to talk properly," she said. "I was losing my voice and I was very bed-ridden. "I definitely would have caught it from children."

[Read More](#)

Nuclear debate moves to contamination threat to thousands of farms

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 18/07/2024, Shelley Strachan

Sky News Political Editor Andrew Clennell says the Coalition's nuclear plan will involve "compulsory acquisition" to establish power plants at their proposed sites. Nationals Leader David Littleproud has scoffed at claims 12,000 farms - 2400 of them in the South Burnett and Darling Downs, and 1040 in Callide - would be at risk of contamination if Peter Dutton's nuclear plan for Australia went ahead.

[Read More](#)

Revolutionising RSV infection prevention and control: unveiling new options in the fight against RSV

Medicine Today, Other, 18/07/2024

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) poses significant challenges, particularly in infants and older individuals. The advent of new vaccines and monoclonal antibodies in Australia marks a revolutionary shift in RSV infection prevention and control.

[Read More](#)

\$6.9m to avian flu defence

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/07/2024

The risk of H5N1 reaching Australia is increasing, though we remain the only continent free from the H5N1 strain of avian flu, despite recent outbreaks of the H7 variant in Victoria, NSW, and the ACT, The Australian reported. In response to the southern migration of birds in spring to Australia, surveillance of chicken farms and wild bird populations is going to be increased by the Federal Government.

[Read More](#)

War chest of \$6.9m to protect Australia from H5 avian influenza welcomed by agriculture industry

West Australian, Other, 18/07/2024, Rebecca Turner

Australia's agricultural industry has welcomed a war chest of \$6.9 million to protect Australia from a potential outbreak of H5 high pathogenicity avian influenza. The funding comes despite there being no reported outbreaks of H5 HPAI in the country.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 18/07/2024, Yvonne Yong

Australia's nuclear safety regulator has approved the plan to build a facility storing low level waste from nuclear submarines at HMAS Stirling Naval Base on Garden Island, south of Perth. But some Rockingham locals remain sceptical about its safety and security, concerned over what they say is a lack of information available to the public.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 18/07/2024, Natalie Barr and Michael Usher

Interview with Dr Ginni Mansberg, Sunrise GP. Barr says there are urgent calls this morning from experts to make the whooping cough vaccine-free, amidst the alarming outbreak of the infection with cases surging to more than 11,000 over the past six months. Mansberg says that currently, the vaccine costs around \$60 in a pharmacy, which she mentions is a lot of money, particularly for pensioners or people who are watching every single dollar at the moment. She states that the vaccine only lasts for 10 years, so its recommended that people update their vaccine in 10 years.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 18/07/2024, Jason Chong

The mayor of Rockingham in WA says the Australian Submarine Agency and governments have engaged with the local community about a radioactive waste facility on Garden Island. The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency has issued a licence to the Submarine Agency to prepare a site for a low level waste management radiation facility.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Telix climbs on revenue guidance

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 19/07/2024, Michael Smith, Page 14

Cancer diagnostics specialist Telix Pharmaceuticals has upgraded its full-year revenue forecast following a strong second quarter, sending the market darling's shares to a record high.

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

Oral contraception: a pharmacist's guide

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 60

A guide to what pharmacists need to know about the composition, use, safety profile and efficacy of oral contraceptives. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) estimates the background risk of a thromboembolic event in the age group using Almost 80% of Australian women use or have used contraception.

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

Recurrent UTIs and non-antibiotic treatment options: an update

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Chrysa Giannellis, Page 64

Cystitis is the most common type of urinary tract infection (UTI), particularly in women. [...] Pharmacists should be aware that there is currently no Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) requirement for cranberry supplements to be formulated with standardised levels of PACs.

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

Chronic spontaneous urticaria: an overview

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 78

Pharmacists may be the first contact point for patients experiencing symptoms of chronic spontaneous urticaria. [...] 8. Australian Product Information – Xolair (omalizumab) solution for injection and powder for solution for injection. Cited 20 Jun 2024. Available at:

<https://www.ebs.tga.gov.au/ebs/picmi/picmirepository.nsf/pdf?OpenAgent&id=CP-2009-PI-00304-3&d=20240630172310101>

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Psychedelic science

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 99

Psychedelics are known to elicit altered states of consciousness, but can they provide therapeutic benefit? [...] Psilocybin has been rescheduled by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) from

Schedule 9 to Schedule 8, but only for prescription by approved psychiatrists through the Authorised Prescriber scheme, only for treatment-resistant major depressive disorder, and only in conjunction with clinical psychotherapy.

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

Aussie family ‘torn apart’ over \$1.8m bill as two-year-old faces deportation

NEWS.com.au, Other, 18/07/2024, Rebekah Scanlan

A little boy born with a "life-limiting" condition in Perth has been dealt a "heartbreaking" blow from Australia. [...] Trikafta has been billed as a "lifesaving treatment" for those living with the lung condition, that according to the TGA, is "indicated for the treatment of cystic fibrosis in patients aged 6 years and older".

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

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Evenings, 18/07/2024, Rebecca Levingston

Interview with Dr Aaron Raynor, Brisbane doctor and arcade player. Raynor discusses his love for playing arcade games like Donkey Kong. He notes that he's an assessor at the Therapeutic Goods Administration, during the day.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Trial option: Hospitality owners call for change to laws after Brisbane cafe forced to shut out dogs

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/07/2024, Toby Crockford and Tayla Couacaud

Hospitality owners are calling for the state to exercise its powers to amend "outdated" laws to allow dogs in cafes and bars. [...] "During this time, the proposed changes must be considered Food Standards Australia New Zealand and if it is not agreed nationally to introduce such a requirement into the Food Standards Code, Queensland would need to rescind the requirement," a spokesman said.

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

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