



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 27th July 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Saturday Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that an inquiry into the COVID pandemic has heard Australians were left with poorer physical and mental health. Experts told the inquiry "More emphasis is needed on community resilience and on strengthening the system ahead of the next emergency."
- **[The Saturday Age \(page 4\)](#)** reports that former AFL player Cyril Rioli is suing the Hawthorn Football Club along with several other past players and their wives, in a human rights case against the club accusing them of racism.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 12\)](#)** reports that paramedics have called for the dismissal of Ambulance Victoria's executives following 97.8 per cent of Victorian Ambulance Union members voting to support a vote of no confidence.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 11\)](#)** reports that doctors fear surgeries could be delayed and Queensland hospitals are rationing saline drips amidst a global shortage with a spokesman for the TGA stating: "To improve supply, the TGA has allowed the importation and supply of multiple overseas-registered alternative saline fluids and has further applications for supply under consideration".

- [ABC Online](#) reports that several health departments across the country have issued health alerts as cases of Mpox increase with 152 cases recorded so far this year.

MINISTER BUTLER

Costly bill of health a pain

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 27/07/2024, Abby Walter, Page 9

A Geelong doctor says patients are the ones who suffer as the shortfall on the Medicare rebate means general practice clinics have to juggle expenses to keep their doors open. [...] Health and Aged Care minister Mark Butler said the government was committed to making it easier for people to see a bulk-billing doctor.

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

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Australian psychologists call for 40 rebated sessions for victim-survivors of childhood trauma

ABC Online, Other, 26/07/2024, Rachel Clayton

Australian psychologists are calling on the federal government to increase the number of Medicare-rebated psychology sessions available to victims of complex childhood trauma from 10 to 40. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says additional sessions for people with complex needs are not the solution and his department has instead funded 61 free, walk-in mental health clinics.

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Using mRNA vaccines to prevent UTI, cancers

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 26/07/2024

A team from the University of Technology Sydney, will receive \$1.8 million from the Medical Research Future Fund's (MRFF) Global Health Initiative to develop an mRNA vaccine to prevent recurrent urinary tract infections (UTI) caused by the Escherichia coli — or E. coli — bacteria, the most common cause of community acquired UTIs. [...] Production, research infrastructure Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said, "Cancer affects so many families, and mRNA vaccines are a promising new approach.

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ABC Radio Darwin , 12:00 News, 26/07/2024

The federal Health Department says increasing the number of Medicare rebated psychology sessions for people with complex trauma is not a solution. Rachel Clayton has more. [...] The Australian Association of Psychologists is calling for victims of childhood sexual abuse to access 40 rebated sessions, but a spokesperson says the federal Health department stands by Health Minister Mark Butler's comments last year that additional sessions with the psychologist for people with complex needs was not a solution.

Also reported by: [Triple J \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 26/07/2024, Samantha Donovan

In recent years, inquiries like the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sex Abuse have told that childhood trauma can affect a person's mental well-being for the rest of their lives and now psychologists are calling for the Federal Health Department to boost the number of therapy sessions that victims could claim through Medicare. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler disagreed and says an increase is not the solution.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 08:00 News, 26/07/2024

The Federal Health Department reports an increasing number of Medicare rebated psychology sessions for trauma patients. The Australian Association of Psychologists are urging childhood sexual abuse trauma patients to access up to 40 sessions despite the 10-session limit. A Federal spokesperson for Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's office argues that there is a \$361m extra funding mental health package with up to 60 sessions.

Similar content in: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#)

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MINISTER WELLS

Sky News Live, Erin, 26/07/2024, Erin Molan

Interview with Opposition leader Peter Dutton. Molan points out that up to four in 10 nursing home residents continue to be malnourished. Dutton says people who have contributed to their society for their lifetime deserve dignity and respect in their retirement and particularly in aged care facilities. He believes that Aged Care Minister Anika Wells is talking a big game and shouting and screaming in Parliament, but the situation in the field has not improved.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Unlocking full potential for Australian farming

Hamilton Spectator, General News, 27/07/2024, Page 13

Big questions about the health, wellbeing and safety of farmers, farming families and the agricultural workforce will be explored in Canberra next month. [...] These sessions will be introduced by the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Rural and Regional Health; the Honourable Emma McBride MP; Shadow Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Senator Hollie Hughes; and President of the National Farmers Federation, David Jochinke.

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Mental health care move

Bundaberg Today, Other, 26/07/2024

Knowing that many people had been struggling to find mental health support in regional communities and that distress was rising, Rural and Regional Health Assistant Minister Emma McBride visited Bundaberg to share positive news about mental health and wellbeing in the region. When visiting Bundaberg on Thursday 18 July, Ms McBride said that many people had been struggling to find mental health support, especially since Covid, with previous natural disasters and also the continuing cost of living.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

MIX FM 102.3, 08:00 News, 26/07/2024

Today, a big funding boost for student nurses will be unveiled here in Adelaide. Former nurse are now Assistant Minister for Aged Care Ged Kearney will announce the \$4.2 million programme at the Primary Healthcare Nurses Association Congress. It'll mean the number of funded student placements in things like GPS and schools and prisons

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ABC Radio Adelaide, 14:00 News, 26/07/2024

South Australian doctors and nurses will no longer be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19, with SA Health abandoning its vaccine mandate. The Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved the importation of saline alternatives to ease demand amid a global shortage. Assistant Federal Health Minister Ged Kearney is also a former nurse and says saline is crucial for healthcare. This is a global supply shortage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

EY's AUKUS contract doubles in price

Canberra Times, General News, 27/07/2024, Connor Pearce, Page 7

A critical Defence contract to design Australia's future naval nuclear regulator handed to consultancy Ernst & Young has blown out to more than double the original amount and is running a year late. [...] ANSTO, the operator of the Lucas Heights reactor, sits within the Department of Industry, while ARPANSA sits within the Health Department.

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Gympie man exposes potential \$12m funding rort

Gympie Today, General News, 26/07/2024, Donna Jones, Page 6

When Gympie local Tony Jakeman wrote to us saying he was stunned at the amount of money one local My Aged Care Package recipient was paying to their provider (see Letters to the Editor section, Page 14), it got us thinking about what checks and balances are in place to ensure providers don't over-extend into money that is supposed to be helping older Australian's remain independent for longer. [...] We contacted the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care to find out what kinds of checks and balances the federal government has in place to ensure providers are not exploiting their clients.

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Residents fed on \$6 a day

Newcastle Herald, General News, 27/07/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 1

As food quality and nutrition in nursing homes comes into sharper focus, more than one in five Hunter-Central Coast residential care services have reported spending \$10 or less per day per resident on fresh food. [...] The Department of Aged Care has referred 753 services to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission that reported spending less than \$10 per day per resident on fresh food and ingredients in the past two years. Of those, 188 spent less than \$6 per day.

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Is an increase in GPs a band-aid solution?

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 27/07/2024, Wade Stephens, Page 7

Structural challenges in the general practice sector have made addressing the region's GP crisis an incredibly complex task. [...] Caption text: Department of Health and Aged Care figures about the number of GPs in the Murray and Western NSW Primary Health Networks.

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Whiddon exec appointed to nursing advisory body

Whiddon's deputy chief executive officer Alyson Jarrett has been appointed to the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Reference Group. An advisory body to the Department of Health and Aged Care, the NMSRG plays a key role in determining nursing and midwifery policy.

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Meet Fiona Le Gassick

Shepparton News Online, Other, 26/07/2024

Welcome all. Recently I had a coffee with Greater Shepparton City Council chief executive Fiona Le Gassick — and I was nervous. [...] Craig Chadwick is Commonwealth executive director of operations for Victoria and Tasmania for the Department of Health and Aged Care, including Australian National Aged Care Classification operations nationally.

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Movers & Shakers: DHA boss steps down, first NSW biosecurity commissioner

The Mandarin, Other, 26/07/2024, The Mandarin

[...] Kristopher Arnold has gained a promotion in the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 16:00 News, 26/07/2024

The Federal Health Department is defending its decision not to increase the number of Medicare-subsidised psychology sessions for people with complex trauma. Under the Government's Better Access Scheme, people can access up to 10 appointments but the Australian Association of Psychologists wants it to be increased to 40 sessions.

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CORONAVIRUS

COVID left us poorer and sicker, inquiry told

The Saturday Age, General News, 27/07/2024, Shane Wright, Page 1

COVID-19 has left Australians with poorer physical and mental health, helped fuel inflation because of too many government handouts and encouraged people into the black economy, the first wide-ranging inquiry into the pandemic has heard. Businesses, unions, health experts and the education sector have told the inquiry, due to report in weeks, that Australia needs to prepare for future pandemics to avoid repeating mistakes made across all levels of government that are still being felt in some parts of the nation.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Home dementia test way ahead of its time

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/07/2024, Sue Bailey, Page 21

In a world first, Tasmanian researchers are closer to developing a computer test that can be done at home to detect dementia decades before symptoms emerge. Neurologist Associate Professor Jane Alty, from the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, said in 2020 researchers developed TAS Test, a computer screening test that picks up changes in hand movements that could indicate increased risk of dementia occurring 10-20 years later.

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Support in calling out elder abuse

Daily Liberal, General News, 27/07/2024, Allison Hore, Page 3

It impacts one in six seniors and can have deadly consequences. but many people in the community can't recognise it.

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'It brings you back': the suburban choir helping people living with dementia reconnect

The Guardian, Other, 27/07/2024, Claire Keenan

Leigh Scully looks to her husband, and asks: "Have you been enjoying singing, darling?" "Music. Music. Music. I love it," Peter Scully says, with a smile and a drumbeat between each word. Peter, who is living with dementia, fell in love with the Everly Brothers when he was a young teen.

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Unmanaged pain an issue for seniors

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 26/07/2024, Christopher Kelly

Although a significant number of older Australians regularly experience pain, it often goes unmanaged. "Pain is not well treated at all," Giulia Jones – chief executive officer of advocacy body Pain Australia – told Australian Ageing Agenda Ms Jones said, all too often, people have a tendency to dismiss pain as an exaggeration or a weakness of character, "but we know scientifically that's not the case.

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VMCH receives telehealth grant

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 26/07/2024, Christopher Kelly

Aged care provider VMCH has secured funding to introduce telehealth to its aged care residents in Victoria. The not-for-profit provider has been awarded \$192,000-worth of federal government grants to establish the technology in eight of its aged care homes.

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Looking for a new career? Find out the jobs in demand in Ballarat

Ballarat Courier, Other, 26/07/2024, Michelle Smith

Aged care, disability care, manufacturing and trades are among the careers to focus on for people looking for jobs in Ballarat now and in to the future. Hundreds of jobs, careers, training options and businesses were in the spotlight at the annual Ballarat Jobs and Training Expo which this year drew a bigger than usual number of adult job seekers and those looking for a career change.

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Older people's risk of abuse is rising. Can an ad campaign protect them?

HelloCare, Other, 26/07/2024, Jakob Neeland

Elder abuse is an emerging public health and safety issue for communities of high-income countries. The most recent data from Australia's National Elder Abuse Prevalence Study , which surveyed 7,000 older people living in the community, found one in six self-reported being a victim of some form of abuse.

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Seniors missing out on pain relief due to misconceptions, cognitive decline

The Senior, Other, 26/07/2024, Rowan Cowley

Many older Australians are being under-treated for chronic and recurrent pain , according to research. A survey conducted by Bolton Clarke Research Institute found 54 per cent of retirement village residents experienced pain at least one day per week with 30 per cent experiencing it five or more days a week.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Cashless card's axing unleashes carnage

Weekend Australian, General News, 27/07/2024, Alan Tudge, Page 15

At 10pm on a Friday night earlier this month, the government quietly released the independent report on the impacts of scrapping the Cashless Debit Card. That it released it in the dead hours, and only when forced under FOI, is no surprise: the report is a devastating assessment of the carnage created, including for children.

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How the rich defy death

AFR Weekend, General News, 27/07/2024, Mark Ellwood, Page 38

A two-day, \$42,000 diagnostic appointment is just the beginning for perfectly healthy people seeking to optimise their wellbeing...

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Exclusive: Health department suppressed violence research

The Saturday Paper, General News, 27/07/2024, Kristine Ziwick, Page 1

A little over a decade ago, Australia set out on an audacious and ambitious strategy to end violence against women and their children before it starts. Today, however, police reports of sexual assault have risen for the 12th consecutive year. In 2022/23, femicide was up 28 per cent.

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Get up, stand up, stand up for your own health

The Saturday Age, Business News, 27/07/2024, Jonathan Rivett, Page 7

I have started using a standing desk atwork and have been a little surprised to find it has been greeted with doubt from people Iwork with. One person is making fun ofme it is lighthearted but still a little prickly.

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Farmers cite daylight saving's work and health impacts, vote for it to be cut back

ABC Online, Other, 25/07/2024, David Claughton

Farmers in NSW are calling for daylight saving to be cut back from six months to four. There is growing scientific evidence to back their call, but Premier Chris Minns has ruled out any change.

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Broome dog attacks seven times the national average, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

West Australian, Other, 26/07/2024, Cain Andrews

Dog attacks in Broome are seven times the national average it has been revealed with Broome Regional Hospital tending to four dog bite per week on average. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the average amount of dog bites across the country is 20 per 100,000 people but in Broome it is seven times the rate with 142 bites per 100,000 people.

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Queensland government workers to get 10 days of reproductive health leave

7news.com.au, Other, 26/07/2024

Thousands more workers in one Australian state have scored 10 extra days of leave. Public sector staff in Queensland will have access to reproductive health leave entitlements from September 30.

Droopy, stinging, too loud? Central West men can gain discrete health help

Daily Liberal, Other, 26/07/2024, Sarah Falson

What to do about erectile dysfunction, and why men snore more than women, will be topics covered at free men's health clinics in the Central West. [...] Almost half of Australia's male population is living with one or more chronic health conditions, such as arthritis, diabetes, or cancer, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Homelessness, harm, health risks for refugee women

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/07/2024

Specialist homelessness services say domestic violence is the main reason for women who are refugees in Australia seeking their help. An Australian Institute of Health Welfare report on Friday found that one in eight humanitarian entrants (male and female) received support from specialist housing services, compared to one in 50 from the permanent migrant population.

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

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Free program that helped 1145 youngsters set to close, despite crisis

Newcastle Herald, Other, 26/07/2024, Damon Cronshaw

A free service for people in Port Stephens will close next month unless it can secure new funding. [...] An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report on mental health, released this week, found one in seven youngsters aged four to 17 experienced a mental health disorder in the past 12 months.

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Refugees in Australia face far higher risks of homelessness and assault, report finds

SBS, Other, 26/07/2024, Sydney Lang

Specialist homelessness services say domestic violence is the main reason refugee women in Australia seek their help. [...] An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report published on Friday found that one in eight humanitarian entrants (male and female) received support from specialist housing services, compared to one in 50 from the permanent migrant population.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Roundup ruling a relief for farmers

Weekend Australian, General News, 27/07/2024, Charlie Peel, Page 9

Australian farmers are relieved by a Federal Court ruling that the commonly used herbicide Roundup does not cause cancer. Regarded as a key tool for controlling weeds in agricultural crops, Roundup's manufacturer, Monsanto has been hit by a barrage of legal action across the world in recent years.

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

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DIY research at Peter Mac

Herald Sun, General News, 27/07/2024, Page 16

World leading cancer treatment and research centre Peter Mac will open its doors to the public for Open House Melbourne over the weekend. Run by the city council, the Open House Melbourne experience encourages visitors to look at more than 150 historic buildings, places and spaces.

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Dog cancer drug may help us

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/07/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 25

A drug showing promise for human breast cancer patients may help dogs with the disease, which are being recruited for a trial that may help refine the drug for human use. Dogs are being sought to join the University of Adelaide's FiDo (First in Dog) trial where a pellet will be inserted just under the skin near the tumour to slowly release a drug over three months.

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Ear to the ground for staff

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 27/07/2024, Tom O'Callaghan, Page 1

Bendigo's public hospital wants to outsource audiology services after a year-long struggle to hire someone with the right skills. Bendigo Health closed its onsite hearing service last August because it no longer had an audiologist on staff with the training and experience to diagnose issues for babies.

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Farmers roundly welcome weedkiller court decision

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 27/07/2024, Page 9

Agricultural groups have broadly welcomed a Federal Court finding that common weedkiller Roundup cannot be proven to cause cancer, saying it reinforces its safety for use in food production. Justice Michael Lee ruled on Thursday there was not enough evidence to say glyphosate - the active ingredient in Roundup - was capable of causing non- Hodgkin lymphoma in humans.

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PRIMARY CARE

Just let the scum rot in prison

Daily Telegraph, General News, 27/07/2024, Jake McCallum, Page 12

Victims advocates and corrections staff are pleading with the state government to ban prisoners from accessing voluntary assisted dying laws, claiming the process perverts the course of justice. Moral warfare has broken out over the issue, with violent criminals and murderers who are serving decades-long sentences behind bars now having access to taxpayer-funded voluntary assisted dying support.

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These lowlives don't deserve easy way out

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 27/07/2024, Page 68

The ethical dilemmas raised by euthanasia are complex and vexed enough without adding the ultimate question of whether it should be extended to the most heinous criminals. And yet, as we shift to increased acceptance and legalisation for voluntary assisted dying, these fraught questions will inevitably raise their thorny heads and we, as a society, have to answer them.

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New parents need more help to get them through the troubling stages with infants

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/07/2024, Dr Marita Jones, Page 40

Tasmania's rising birthrate means parents deserve increased support from the state government, writes Dr Marita Jones Australia's national birthrate is declining, but not for Tasmania where we are the only state to have bumped up baby numbers in the past year. As reported in the Mercury on July 24, there were 5850 births in Tasmania in 2023.

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'Go to private sector': delayed surgery adds to Peter's pain

A 73-year-old Rutherford man said his experience at Maitland hospital was "absolutely dreadful", after he was "mucked about" for three days over a serious leg injury. Peter Hayes went to the emergency department on Monday, on the advice of his GP, seeking treatment for the leg.

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GP to lead AMA

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 26/07/2024

Queensland-based GP, Dr Danielle McMullen, has been appointed as the next president of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) McMullen the organisation's current vice president will assume the presidency on 1 October, after nominating unopposed, succeeding Dr Steve Robdson.

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Vaccination market domination within pharmacy's grasp

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 26/07/2024

Pharmacy owners are being urged to continue the promotion vaccination services, as the Pharmacy Guild of Australia targets market domination by 2026. Speaking at the State of the Industry Roadshow in Sydney last week (Thursday 18 July 2024) Professor

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'Grinding halt': shortage could cause hospital chaos

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/07/2024

Australia is being urged to boost onshore medical manufacturing as hospitals and veterinary clinics navigate an unprecedented shortage of intravenous fluids. Hospital surgeries could be cancelled as soon as next week, the Australian Medical Association has warned, while veterinarians have been told to conserve supplies.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#)

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Shane Warne Legacy which provides free heart tests in the wake of the cricket legend's death at age 52 reaches huge milestone

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/07/2024

The Shane Warne Legacy has reached an amazing milestone. The organisation, which provides free heart tests, announced on Friday that it has managed to provide 156,721 checks since December.

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Parties in NT pitch for expanded scope

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 26/07/2024

Territorians may soon benefit from expanded health services through community pharmacists, as both major parties seek to enhance healthcare access ahead of the Northern Territory's Aug election. Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro announced the Northern Territory Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice program, which would allow pharmacists to treat up to 21 conditions if the Country Liberal Party wins the election.

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New medical equipment at Sunshine Coast University Hospital for women's health

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 26/07/2024, Madeline Grace

Less Sunshine Coast women will have to travel to Brisbane for women's health issues and surgery, thanks to a piece of medical equipment worth \$87k that was fundraised for by a local charity. Less Sunshine Coast women will have to travel to Brisbane for important women's healthy issues and surgery, thanks to a new piece of medical equipment worth \$80k which was fundraised for by a local charity.

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[...] Seven news revealed ambulance ramping is at 44.7%, slightly down from the record high of 45.5. Median emergency department wait times from 16 to 15 minutes, the busiest June quarter. But data on elective surgery and specialist wait times are yet to be released.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Old people scare me gen Z

AFR Weekend, General News, 27/07/2024, Julie Hare, Page 38

Teens are baffled previous generations did so many adult things so young...

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Depression spirals over cost of living

Daily Telegraph, General News, 27/07/2024, Page 29

A shocking number of Aussies have lost sleep, battled anxiety or experienced depression due to rising living costs. In a Compare the Market survey of 1000 Australians, 46 per cent said the cost of living had affected their mental health, while 75 per cent had lost sleep over money stress.

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I was crumbling inside

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 27/07/2024, Lisa Mayoh, Page 16

From the outside, Sigourney Cantelo had the perfect life. The career, the family, the lifestyle. Happiness oozes from each social media post. Supportive husband, picture-perfect kids one of each with smiles on their faces and outfits as stylish as their fashionista mum.

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Last hurrah a helping hand for teens

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 27/07/2024, Katherine Fleming, Page 27

When Maggie Dent held the first copy of her 10th and final book in her hands, the WA-born parenting expert was overcome with emotion. It is a book Dent never intended to write, until worsening statistics about mental illness, self-harm and suicide among Australia's teenagers, and the knowledge that she could help them and their overwhelmed parents, began to keep her up at night.

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Sym attempted murder conviction a preventable tragedy

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 27/07/2024, Deborah Childs, Page 131

Emotional scenes erupted in WA's Supreme Court recently when Wendy Sym, a registered nurse, collapsed in the dock after being sentenced to nine years for attempting to murder her husband. Ms Sym, who had spent decades caring for Perth's sickest children, reached her breaking point after nearly 10 years of being the sole carer for her dementia-stricken partner.

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Action overdue on prison supports

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/07/2024, Jake Smith, Page 41

The Custodial Inspector's Adult and Youth Health Care reports were released this month highlighting the severe lack of mental and physical health supports for all adults and youths in our prison and remand settings (Mercury, July 18). From the last set of reports, the Custodial Inspector Richard Connock stated only 12 of 46 recommendations made in the five years between inspections have been implemented in the adult settings.

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Minister & families fed blatant lies and empty promises

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 27/07/2024, Rebecca Le May, Page 6

The Department of Justice blatantly lied about how Unit 18 would operate when proposing it to the minister in a briefing note that the former director-general now says he is embarrassed to have signed. The inaccuracies were not disputed at the inquest into the suicide death of Aboriginal 16-year-old Cleveland Dodd on Friday when Adam Tomison testified for the third day and counsel assisting the coroner Anthony Crocker combed through various documents promising great things for the youth detention wing.

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Colourful next step in city's mental health unit build

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 27/07/2024, Fiona Ferguson, Page 2

We all love a good colouring-in competition. And some of our city's youngest 'colourists' have been putting their skills to the test in recent weeks, to mark the start of the next stage of work on the new mental health unit at the Tamworth hospital campus.

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Call for more rebate help

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 27/07/2024, Page 9

The peak body for psychologists is calling for survivors of sexual abuse and other childhood trauma needing mental health support to be able to access 40 rebated sessions per year through Medicare. The Australian Association of Psychologists executive director Tegan Carrison said the currently available 10 sessions per year were inadequate in treating people with mental health needs as a result of past trauma.

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Dad's plea after son 'lost it'

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 27/07/2024, Jessica Paul, Page 24

The father of a Gold Coast man who locked his dad out on a balcony before dousing their home in petrol and setting it alight says his son has been let down by the mental health system. An argument broke out between Liam Zachariah James McNamara and his father on June 23 last year after McNamara had to walk home from work due to his dad being delayed.

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Townsville CQU students aim to alleviate overloaded mental health system

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/07/2024, Nikita McGuire

For Ayr resident Nikita Crosswell, the support of her university campus, staff and fellow students has been the reason for her weekly travel to Townsville for lectures and tutorials. The 35-year-old, who received the highest grade for her written assessment in her cohort, is the first in her family to attend university and is also juggling the roles of partner and mother.

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

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

Canberra Times, Other, 26/07/2024

"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.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Police reject pay deal, ambos escalate dispute

The Saturday Age, General News, 27/07/2024, Mathew Dunckley and Caitlin Powell, Page 5

Industrial trouble is deepening in Victoria's emergency services after police members voted down a proposed pay deal already endorsed by their union and the state's paramedics called for executives at Ambulance Victoria to resign. Police Association secretary Wayne Gatt expressed surprise at his members' rejection of a pay proposal that would have delivered what he said were significant pay rises as well as addressing concerns such as rostering and unpaid work.

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

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Sack our bosses: ambos

Herald Sun, General News, 27/07/2024, Sarah Booth and Mitch Clarke, Page 12

Paramedics have called on the government to sack Ambulance Victoria's executives in a damning move, as the agency's chief executive acknowledged "far-reaching change" was needed in an email to staff. A staggering 97.8 per cent of Victorian Ambulance Union members passed a vote of no confidence in the agency's executive on Friday, calling on the board and Ambulance Services Minister Mary-Anne Thomas to "take urgent action to appoint new management".

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

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Last job off the rank for nurses

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 27/07/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 33

SA Health has dumped its mandatory Covid vaccination policy for employees in patient facing-roles. In a surprise announcement, Department of Health and Wellbeing chief executive Robyn Lawrence said from Friday Covid jabs are no longer mandatory for staff.

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

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

Wake-up call for ambo bosses

Canberra Times, General News, 27/07/2024, Page 25

Paramedics say they cannot continue working "like robots" as almost 98 per cent of their union condemn the executive board of Ambulance Victoria with a vote of no confidence. On Friday 97.8 per cent of the state's ambulance union endorsed a motion that said the membership had lost confidence in the service's executives.

Similar Stories: [3AW \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

Nurses in fight on security

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/07/2024, David Killick, Page 11

The nurses union says it will fight plans to train nurses to conduct patdown searches of hospital patients suspected of having a concealed weapon. The Tasmanian branch of the Australian Nurses and Midwifery Federation said the Royal Hobart Hospital was training associate nurse unit managers how to find weapons on patients.

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Nurses label pay rise offer 'demeaning'

Albury nurses, frustrated at being paid less than their Wodonga colleagues, have chanted "if better pay is 10 minutes away, why would we stay?". The healthcare workers did the shout-out yesterday at a rally held in Albury's QEII Square calling for a 15 per cent pay increase from the NSW government.

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Nurses send message on staff retention

Daily Liberal, General News, 27/07/2024, Allison Hore, Page 9

Regional NSW risks losing more nurses interstate if pay is not improved, one local nurse warns. Gilgandra nurse Sheree Staggs said she knows many nurses in the Dubbo region who are considering walking away from their jobs and taking up better paid roles in Victoria and Queensland.

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

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Warning from midwives

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 27/07/2024, Rachel Clark, Page 1

Mums-to-be in Tamworth are being warned they could be turned away and have to drive hours to give birth at another hospital. It comes as staffing issues at Tamworth hospital reach breaking point.

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Nurses say they're being left behind

Western Advocate, General News, 27/07/2024, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 8

Three degrees, 20 years of experience working in a vital profession, and still unable to buy a house, get a new car, or take an overseas holiday. This is the reality of nurses and midwives in Bathurst, who have joined the calls across the state for a 15 per cent pay increase and improved conditions.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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Leaked docs reveal jobs face the chop at Ambulance Victoria headquarters

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/07/2024, Mitch Clarke

Ambulance Victoria is embarking on a major restructure of the entire organisation with leaked documents revealing dozens of jobs within its headquarters could be cut in a bid to rein in spending. The Herald Sun can reveal that a second union — separate to the powerful paramedics union — has now launched a no-confidence motion against the scandal-plagued Ambulance Victoria executive, calling on the board and Ambulance Services Minister Mary-Anne Thomas to appoint new management to rebuild public trust.

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

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SA Health drops staff COVID vaccination mandate

In Daily, Other, 26/07/2024

SA Health says it has changed its policy and that COVID-19 vaccinations will no longer be mandatory for medical staff with patient-facing roles. SA Health announced the new policy after midday on Friday, saying it followed consultation with staff and "recognition of the changing environment around COVID-19 immunity in the community".

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, News Night, 26/07/2024, Rhiannon Elston

[...] Ambulance Victoria concedes paramedics work under enormous pressure. In a statement, Chief Executive Jane Miller says they're negotiating in good faith to deliver a fair agreement. I am concerned that we are seeing this clear, challenges in the relationship between management and paramedics. Victoria's Health Minister is seeking further advice from her department and will meet ambulance Victoria leadership next week.

Sky News Live, News Night, 26/07/2024, Rhiannon Elston

[...] A culture crisis engulfing Ambulance Victoria has deepened, where the union for paramedics demanding a categoric change in leadership. The organisation is under pressure to resolve an ongoing pay dispute and unreasonable overtime.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Sex and drugs GP banished

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 27/07/2024, Lucy Rutherford, Page 25

A doctor who gave a woman prescription and illegal drugs before having sex with her has been disqualified from general practice for four years. But because the debarment by the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal was backdated to his suspension date in 2021, Dr Robert James Byrne, 39, will be able to reapply in January.

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Coroner: Former GP's mercy killing of mum

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/07/2024, Amber Wilson, Page 8

A former Hobart doctor has been found by a coroner to have deliberately caused his elderly mother's death, injecting her with a lethal cocktail of drugs. On Friday, Coroner Simon Cooper handed down his findings into the deaths of devoted Sandy Bay couple David Edwards, 90, and Nelda Edwards, 88, who married in 1948 and died within two days of each other in March 2016.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

After losing sons, dads seek legacy of life

Weekend Australian, General News, 27/07/2024, David Penberthy, Page 9

Two prominent South Australian fathers who lost their teenage sons under tragic circumstances are urging a national overhaul of organ donor registration so that more ailing Australians can benefit from the lifesaving donations their children made. SA Police Commissioner Grant Stevens and Adelaide real estate executive Oren Klemich lost their 18-year-old sons Charlie and Jack 15 years apart, with the premature deaths of the young men giving life to seven other Australians.

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SPORT

Games burn flame of unity in uncertain global times

Weekend Australian, Editorials, 27/07/2024, Page 14

The 2024 Paris Olympics finally are here, an opportunity to celebrate and a welcome show of global unity at a time of heightened international tension. For two weeks, billions of people around the world will share in the drama, excellence and achievements of athletes who have dedicated their lives to perfecting their sport.

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

Conflicted Aussie coach spared the axe

AFR Weekend, General News, 27/07/2024, Zoe Samios and Hans Van Leeuwen, Page 12

A swimming coach who threw his support behind a Korean champion swimmer will remain in Paris working with the team for the Olympic Games despite being labelled "un-Australian".

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

How Australia breeds gold medal swimmers

AFR Weekend, General News, 27/07/2024, Zoe Samios, Page 20

The rise of learn-to-swim schools in Australia has delivered an unexpected benefit: generations of elite athletes faster than anyone else on Earth...

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99 not out: Cricket signs seven-year radio deal with ABC

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 27/07/2024, Mathew Dunckley, Page 41

The ABC will produce radio coverage of the Big Bash League under a new deal with Cricket Australia that will also boost coverage of women's cricket on commercial radio. At the conclusion of the seven-year-deal the ABC will have broadcast Australian cricket on the radio for 99 years.

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Hawks hit by Rioli human rights case

The Saturday Age, General News, 27/07/2024, Mathew Dunckley, Page 4

Former Hawks champion Cyril Rioli is suing the Hawthorn Football Club along with several other past players and their wives. A new filing on the Federal Court of Australia's online portal listed Rioli as the lead applicant in a human rights case against the club.

Similar Stories: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Olympics' terror fears

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 27/07/2024, Hayley Goddard and Peter Badel, Page 2

Australia's International Olympic Committee supremo John Coates says the threat of terrorism is "real" as a number of our athletes prepared to withdraw from Friday night's opening ceremony to launch the Paris Olympics. The build-up to the opening ceremony has been rocked by "co-ordinated acts of malice", including pre-dawn arson attacks, that have hit the highspeed rail network.

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Lions' \$40k fine for breach

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 27/07/2024, Ed Bourke, Page 82

Brisbane has been hit with a hefty fine for breaching AFL concussion protocols by delaying a test for star defender Harris Andrews against the Sydney Swans on Sunday. The AFL fined the Lions \$40,000

after taking into account a previous \$10,000 suspended fine for a breach of protocols during the 2023 AFLW grand final.

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

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Games ruling means pubs with no cheer

Courier Mail, General News, 27/07/2024, Greg Stolz and Shaye Windsor, Page 16

Bars and clubs have slammed the Queensland government's decision not to allow blanket extended trading during the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games as "shortsighted" and "a missed opportunity". The government will not fall into line with other states, including NSW, which are allowing venues to trade through the night until as late as 8am during the Games.

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Coach calls for legacy assets to grow flagship sport

Courier Mail, General News, 27/07/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 17

Brisbane's Olympic and Paralympic Games must deliver legacy swimming facilities or host the flagship sport in a venue big enough for tens of thousands of people, Australian swimming head coach Rohan Taylor says. Speaking in Paris ahead of the Dolphins' Olympic campaign, Taylor revealed he was "envious" of the United States swim trials in June when a dropin pool at an Indianapolis s t a d i u m drew a crowd of more than 20,000.

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Gold medal for Games debacle

Courier Mail, General News, 27/07/2024, Kylie Lang, Page 65

Remember when Queen Anna said the Olympics would be cost-neutral? Actually, John Coates said it first, back in 2019 when he was president of the Australian Olympic Committee and the Games idea was being floated, but the former Premier enjoyed repeating it.

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Sportswomen still chase equality

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 27/07/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 12

For the first time ever half the competitors at the Olympics will be women. But University of Wollongong researcher Associate Professor Deirdre McGhee says there is still a long way to go before there is equality for women in sport.

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Time to look past the politicking and soak up the Olympic spirit

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/07/2024, The Editor

And just like that, it's here. Three years after the Covid-19-delayed and curtailed Tokyo "2020" Olympics, we will now see how Paris can put its customary panache on the world's greatest sporting event.

[Read More](#)

Paris Olympics tips and tricks on how to stay awake

ABC Online, Other, 26/07/2024, Daniel Miles

Sleep and nutrition experts from Victoria University have outlined the best strategies to stay awake for the Paris Olympics Avoiding foods that are high in salt and sugar and catching up on sleep the next day are key The Games start on Saturday Australian time and run until August 12, with coverage on the Nine Network and ABC Radio.

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Shingles vax helps prevent dementia

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/07/2024, Page 9

The new shingles vaccine is more protective against dementia than its predecessor. A University of Oxford study shows there was at least a 17 per cent reduction in dementia diagnoses in the six years after treatment with the recombinant shingles vaccination Shingrix, equating to 164 or more additional days lived without dementia.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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One in 14 women of reproductive age have uterine fibroids: Aussie-first study

Australian Doctor, Other, 26/07/2024, Mohana Basu

Women experiencing headaches or migraines, fatigue and urinary incontinence were more likely to be diagnosed. One in 14 Australian women have been diagnosed with uterine fibroids before the age of 50, according to the first national estimates of the prevalence of the gynaecological condition.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today, 26/07/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

[...] A world first mRNA vaccination could end the pain of urinary tract infection, which impacts half of all Australian women. Trials of that are expected in the next three years.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Eyes on the sky as virus wings its way to Australia

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 27/07/2024, Mike Foley, Page 23

Binoculars at the ready, scanning the sky and peering into wetlands, an army of field workers is anxiously watching for birds carrying signs of a virus experts warn could be catastrophic for Australia's wildlife. The H5N1 strain of bird flu has killed millions of birds around the world in recent years, with outbreaks on every continent except Australia.

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

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Mpox is on the rise in Australia, prompting calls to limit intimate partners and keep contact tracing details

ABC Online, Other, 26/07/2024, Annika Burgess

Mpox is on the rise across Australia, with 152 cases recorded so far this year after only 26 in 2023. Several states have issued health alerts after clusters of the virus spiked over recent weeks.

Similar Stories: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Amanda Stoker buries nuclear waste before QLD election

Has politician Amanda Stoker pulled the plug on her pro-nuclear stance, just as she's about to make the transition from federal to state politics? Or is the usually loquacious Stoker attempting to stop her devotion to nuclear fission widening the fissure between her old colleague Peter Dutton , and her new leader David Crisafulli on the issue?

[Read More](#)

Radio National, AM, 26/07/2024, Sabra Lane

Doctors are urging the federal government to ramp up syphilis awareness campaigns amid an unabating rise of preventable STI in Australia. A national surveillance report shows more than 6000 cases of the infectious disease were recorded in 2023, and there was also a record-high number of infant deaths from congenital syphilis. A health department spokesperson says the government has made notable progress in the management of STIs in recent years, but Royal Australian College of General Practitioners president Doctor Nicole Higgins says more investment in education is required.

Similar content in: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#)

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Fears over drip drought

Courier Mail, General News, 27/07/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 11

Saline drips are being rationed at Queensland hospitals to cope with a global shortage and doctors fear surgeries could be delayed to ensure the critical IVs are available for medical emergencies. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) told The Courier-Mail that the shortages in the state's hospitals and across the country are due to manufacturing issues and unexpected increases in demand.

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WA blood buy beats the global shortage

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 27/07/2024, Bethany Hiatt, Page 20

Emergency supplies locked in A global shortage of crucial blood culture bottles threatening patient care has forced the Cook Government to buy emergency backup supplies for WA. It comes as WA Health is also grappling with a worldwide shortage of intravenous fluids, due to an issue with an overseas manufacturer.

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ASX Small Caps Weekly Wrap: Who are we blaming it on this week? It's China again, right?

The Australian, Other, 26/07/2024, Gregor Stronach

It's Friday afternoon, and it's the end of a harrowing week for a number of reasons - the most germane of which to this regular story is the tale of woe that came screeching like a banshee on bald tyres out of the ASX this week. [...] Tissue Repair (ASX:TRP) won the day on Thursday, with a great big new approval from the local TGA (Therapeutic Goods Admin), which in short says that TRP "has secured a TGA approval for TR Pro+TM the Company's first advanced wound healing gel product containing the proprietary active ingredient, Glucoprime (0.1%), derived from yeast."

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

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Delorean leaves broken-down movie namesake for dust

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/07/2024, Andrew Todd

Yes punters, it is again that time of the year when company directors reveal on the ASX where all of the hard-earned money tipped in by investors is being spent – or, in a much less common scenario for

small-cap companies, perhaps being generated. [...] Tissue Repair also finished the week strong, running up 80 per cent to top out at 45c from a close of 25c last week after revealing it had secured the vital TGA approval for its "TR Pro+" product.

[Read More](#)

The five big issues facing the AMA's next president

Australian Doctor, Other, 26/07/2024, Antony Scholefield

From pharmacist prescribing to specialist IMGs, Dr Danielle McMullen has plenty on her mind as she takes over the AMA presidency. [...] The NT Government is the latest to let pharmacists prescribe medications that the TGA considers for doctors only.

[Read More](#)

Fear surgeries will be cancelled over IV fluid shortage

Canberra Times, Other, 26/07/2024, Rachael Ward

Surgeries at Australian hospitals could be cancelled as soon as next week due to an "unprecedented" shortage of intravenous fluids. [...] Manufacturing issues and unexpected increases in demand are behind the global shortage of multiple intravenous fluid products, according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

[Read More](#)

Natalie Boyce death: Sad text after Melbourne woman died five weeks after Moderna vaccine Covid booster

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/07/2024, David Southwell

The mother of a 21-year-old woman who died after receiving the Moderna Covid vaccination received a excruciating reminder a year on from the tragedy. [...] Australia's medical watchdog the Therapeutic Goods Administration later listed Natalie as a fatality caused by the vaccines, one of only 14 Australian deaths attributed to the jabs and the sole one attributed to Moderna.

[Read More](#)

AMA warns surgeries may be cancelled due to 'unprecedented' shortage of IV fluids across Australia

The Guardian, Other, 26/07/2024, Natasha May

Surgeries could be cancelled as soon as next week due to an "unprecedented" shortage of intravenous fluids in Australian hospitals, the peak doctors' body has warned. The medicines regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), issued a shortage alert on Friday for multiple intravenous (IV) fluid products, which are used in surgery and critical care.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 26/07/2024, James Glenday and Emma Rebellato

Health services and vet clinics across the nation are conserving stock of intravenous fluids amid a global shortage of saline solutions. The Therapeutic Goods Administration says it's because of manufacturing issues and also an unexpected increase in demand and now, the TGA says that it's impacting all states and territories amid this global shortage.

Similar content in: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 26/07/2024, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Compere mentions a medication shortage for the past few years in the wake of COVID-19 for saline solutions. She states that according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, all States and Territories have been affected by the shortage and the Australian health services and veterinary clinics are conserving their stocks of intravenous fluid.

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FOOD STANDARDS

McCain's product recall

Courier Mail, General News, 27/07/2024, Page 29

A number of McCain frozen products have been recalled from supermarkets with Aussies being told to return the items because of possible chemical contamination. [...] Food Standards Australia and NZ said the products were sold at Indian Grocery Stores in NSW, ACT, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#). Similar Stories: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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4BC, Drive, 26/07/2024, Peter Gleeson

Gleeson says there has been an urgent recall of several McCain frozen products from supermarkets across the country due to possible chemical contamination. He adds that according to Food Standards Australia and New Zealand, the products have been imported from overseas and have been available for sale at Indian grocery stores in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT.

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