



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 16th July 2024

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that Melbourne researchers have revealed a link between antibiotic exposure and childhood asthma, with a gut bacteria that produces lung-protecting molecules destroyed by the medication. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#)
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 2) reports that an unprecedented outbreak of three separate strains of avian flu has led the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness to declare that the chances of the pathogenic H5N1 strain coming to Australia are “much higher” than previous outbreaks. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [The West Australian](#)
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 3) reports that a Grattan Institute report has found vaccination rates vary greatly for different GP clinics, with Grattan Institute health program director Peter Breadon calling for increased funding in lower socioeconomic areas to aid in boosting immunisation rates. *Also reported by:* [The Herald Sun](#), [The Guardian](#)
- **[The Age](#)** (page 3) reports that recruitment freezes and job losses due to budgetary constraints in Victoria are leading some healthcare workers to consider moving interstate as their contracts are lapsing without renewal offers.
- **[The Daily Advertiser](#)** (page 3) reports that silica dust is still present on worksites as silica-containing materials such as brick and concrete are not included in the engineered stone ban

legislation enacted earlier this month.

- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 3) reports that wait-times to access the public health system for seven different specialties in South Australia are longer than 5 years, down from up to 16 years in 2018.
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports that Diabetes Australia has urged the government to spend \$200 million to subsidise continuous glucose monitoring and insulin pump devices that are costing diabetes patients \$100 a fortnight.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### \$350k fight for life

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2024, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 15

A family of five is considering moving overseas to ensure access to cutting-edge treatment not available in Australia for their son, who was diagnosed with a life-threatening cancer. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced earlier this month that every Australian child and young adult with high-risk neuroblastoma would have free access at hospitals to DFMO (difluoromethylornithine) a medicine shown to reduce the risk of relapse and improve the survival of patients suffering neuroblastoma.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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### Grim reading on aged-care vax

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/07/2024, Peter Breadon, Page 17

You probably know someone who has flu or COVID. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler should take his initial funding reforms further, to ensure clinics with sicker and poorer patients get more money.

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

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### MM2024: It starts with a spark

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 12

Early bird registrations are now open for Medicines Management 2024 (MM2024), SHPA's annual conference the largest scientific pharmacy conference in Australia. [...] The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, will deliver a Ministerial Address at the Opening Plenary of MM2024, whilst Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, will open Plenary 2.

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### Federal polities 'light up' at cigar club

Canberra Times, Other, 15/07/2024, Dana Daniel

The Department of Parliamentary Services has ordered the removal of flyers advertising a cigar club and a related company selling cigars inside Parliament House. [...] Let's hope no one from tough-on-tobacco Health Minister Mark Butler 's office has taken up the habit.

[Read More](#)

### The Zap: warm up with all the latest health and aged care news – and check out these consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 15/07/2024, Melissa Sweet

Last week was the first week of the winter recess for the Australian parliament. It also saw widespread cold weather for the winter school holidays. [...] Ministerial and government Minister Mark Butler visited the Batemans Bay urgent care clinic and Headspace on his way to the Shoalhaven and then Sydney.

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## New head for health regulator

Executive Career, Other, 15/07/2024

The government body in charge of protecting Medicare and the PBS has a new director. Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care, has announced the appointment of Associate Professor Antonio Di Dio as the new Director of the Professional Services Review (PSR).

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## Australians' health reviewed

Executive Career, Other, 15/07/2024

Experts say the overall health of Australians remains robust when compared to similar countries. [...] The biennial report, launched by Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care, provides an overview of the nation's health status.

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## Roadmap to improve blood pressure control rates

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 15/07/2024

National Hypertension Taskforce has published a roadmap with an aim to improve Australia's blood pressure control rates from the current 32% to 70% by 2030. [...] In response to this issue, a Call to Action was published in 2022, leading to the establishment of the National Hypertension Taskforce, by Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care.

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## Councils take a united stand with federal approach to Border hospital

The Border Mail, Other, 15/07/2024, Beau Greenway

Wodonga and other Border and North East councils will table a report to the Australian Health Minister Mark Butler in the continued fight to have a new hospital built on a greenfield site. A seven-point motion was put forward as urgent late business by Wodonga mayor Ron Mildren at the council meeting on Monday night, July 15.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 15/07/2024, Mark Ferguson

They may be banned, but it seems our tough new vape laws haven't changed a thing. A Seven News investigation has found vapes are being sold illegally right across Sydney, and they're easy to see if people know where to look. Health Minister Mark Butler says they are working closely with state and territory governments to ramp up an enforcement program in Sydney.

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## 5AA, Mornings, 15/07/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Michael Roff, CEO, Australia Private Hospitals Association, on private hospitals that are on the verge of collapse. A lot of public patients waiting for more than a year for surgery and the overstretched hospital system is seeing an influx of private patients as a result of hospitals being gone. Roff says the Federal Health Department has been instructed by Minister Mark Butler to have a very close look at what's happening across the sector. He adds they're looking at all the financial arrangements and policy settings that the Federal Government is responsible for.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Could Micro Towns be the future of dementia care?

Aged Care Guide, Other, 15/07/2024, Georgie Waters

Minister Anika Wells recently visited the Micro Town aged care community in Bellmere, which aims to

resemble a 'typical suburban community equipped with a grocery store, community centre, hairdressers and much more.' The Micro Town located in Queensland provides a safe and enjoyable residential environment for older Australians including people with dementia or other cognitive difficulties.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### New urgent care clinic to relieve pressure on Toowoomba's emergency departments

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 15/07/2024, Michael Nolan

Patients with severe cuts, broken bones and sore heads are being encouraged to check into the new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic instead of the emergency department. [...] Federal Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Assistant Minister Emma McBride toured the centre on Monday and said it was already helping to reduce wait times at the public hospital.

Also reported by: [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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## DEPARTMENT

### 'I wanted to come back'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 16/07/2024, Page 1

Dr Rachel Henderson has never lived in a city bigger than Newcastle.[...] Professor Jenny May, Director of UON Rural Health, said they are affirmatively recruiting regional/rural students because they are more likely to return.

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### QUIZ: What do you know about common winter illnesses?

Perth Now, Other, 15/07/2024

Winter is in full swing, and with it comes many runny noses, sore heads and throats, and a plethora of other undesirable symptoms that you'll want to avoid. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, there have already been 37,700 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza across Australia so far this year, up 40 per cent over the same period last year.

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## CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Framework to stop elder abuse deemed a 'success' in uniting Australian governments

The Mandarin, Other, 15/07/2024, Melissa Coade

An independent report evaluating a national plan to respond to the abuse of older Australians has given the government framework top marks for achieving system coordination. The policy framework National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians 2019-2023 was designed on the basis of a 2017 Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) recommendation.

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### Could Jail Time For Aged Care Managers And Directors Fix the Sector?

HelloCare, Other, 15/07/2024, Jakob Neeland

The question of whether the threat of jail time could rectify the numerous issues plaguing Australia's aged care sector has become a focal point of recent debates. In a discussion on the 7am podcast The Saturday Paper's senior reporter Rick Morton spoke with aged care advocate Sarah Holland-Batt about the potential impact of new laws proposed by the federal government.

[Read More](#)

### Older Aussies are tech savvy – but worried about online safety

Your Life Choices, Other, 15/07/2024, Brad Lockyer

Research has revealed older Australians are more tech savvy and connected than ever before – and certainly more than they're given credit for. But at the same time, they're wary of scammers and concerned about their digital security.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Students reveal extent of school vaping crisis

The Australian, General News, 16/07/2024, Tricia Rivera, Page 7

Victorian students as young as primary school age are turning to vapes out of desire to experiment and fit in with their peers, and senior pupils who continue to use ecigarettes are most likely addicted, an inquiry has been told. The Victorian Student Representative Council fronted the state's public accounts and estimates committees' probe into vaping and tobacco controls on Monday and said punitive measures against young people would not stamp out use of the harmful products, and instead trust needed to be built between students and teachers.

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### On vapes, is it swift action or policy on run?

Border Mail, General News, 16/07/2024, Page 15

The federal government has spruiked its new vaping laws as the cure for a national health problem, but that may be a premature assessment. On June 26, the Australian Senate passed the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024, significantly tightening regulations on recreational vaping.

## A house built by wisdom

Central Western Daily, General News, 16/07/2024, Grace Dudley, Page 1

From a caravan to a seven-bedroom boarding school, a church in Orange is taking significant steps to address the social housing crisis. [...] The church's plans have come after the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released a report that shows social housing has not kept pace with population growth.

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## New drug hub to help address ice issues

Daily Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 4

When it comes to tackling problematic drug usage, Wagga has been identified as a priority population - which is why the city has been given a new drug recovery hub. The NSW government has allocated \$4 million to The Salvation Army Wagga for its newly launched recovery hub for delivering alcohol and other drug (AOD) services, Premier Chris Minns and Health Minister Ryan Park have announced.

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## No 'handbook' for people supporting family members with drug dependence

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 15/07/2024, Monique Patterson

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 both facilitated by the organisation.

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## Drug policy summit

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/07/2024

The upcoming NSW Drug Summit is seen as an opportunity to update drug policies to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, according to the Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA). Chief Executive Dr Robert Stirling emphasised the need for clear policy direction and adequate funding for community drug and alcohol services around the country.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Call for 'life-changing' diabetes monitors

The Australian, General News, 16/07/2024, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 7

New modelling has revealed the cost-effectiveness of continuous glucose monitoring devices for type 2 diabetics, despite the "lifechanging" technology not being available for many who suffer from the devastating disease. Diabetes Australia chief executive Justine Cain has called on the federal government to invest \$200m in increased subsidies for continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps which DA says could give 400,000 people access to the technology.

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

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### Asthma breakthrough

Herald Sun, General News, 16/07/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Melbourne scientists have discovered a crucial link between antibiotics and asthma, a finding set to pave the way for lifesaving treatments. [...] National Asthma Council Australia director and respiratory physician Peter Wark said the study suggested "even short-term use" of antibiotics in babies altered gut bacteria.

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

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## Zero hero in teen tipples

Herald Sun, General News, 16/07/2024, Page 9

Australian teenagers aged 15- 17 say zero alcohol products look appealing. Fifty-six per cent of teens in a Cancer Council survey felt this way, and more than a third (37 per cent) had tried zero alcohol products.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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## Newheroes in skin cancer detection

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2024, Stefan Mazy, Page 12

Australia is infamously known as the melanoma capital of the world, but in the fight to curb increasing skin cancer numbers an unlikely hero is emerging. Beauty therapists and hairdressers are helping screen for deadly melanomas and taking pressure off already stressed healthcare system.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#).

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## Benchtop ban no silver bullet for trades

Daily Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 3

A government ban means home renovators can no longer choose silicon stone benchtops, but when it comes to bathroom tiles, silica dust is still in the air. [...] Each year, around 230 people develop lung cancer because of past exposure to silica dust at the job site, according to Cancer Council Australia.

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

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## Shutdown of crucial gene helps world's deadliest cancer grow rapidly - study

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/07/2024

A crucial gene that helps many organs in the body function properly could hold the key to taming one of the world's deadliest cancers, research suggests. Scientists have discovered pancreatic cancer is able to shut down certain molecules in the HNF4A gene to help it spread and grow aggressively.

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## 'He was covering one of his eyes ... it would turn our lives upside down'

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 15/07/2024, Joel Erickson & Alexandra Feiam

Ollie was only six years old when his parents Nathan and Naomi noticed one of his eyes was "turned inward". "Ollie was watching TV when Naomi noticed he was covering one of his eyes," Nathan said.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## 'Enough talking': Government called upon to help GPs treat diabetes

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/07/2024

The Australian Government is facing mounting pressure to improve diabetes screening and support patients at risk, as National Diabetes Week kicks off. The RACGP and Diabetes Australia joined forces on Monday to call on the Commonwealth to do more, as the State of the Nation 2024 report shows significant spikes in diagnoses.

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## Scientists make DNA discovery that could help find pancreatic cancer cure

The Guardian, Other, 15/07/2024, Andrew Gregory

Hope for new treatments after researchers find spread of disease is aided by shutting down of molecules in key genes Scientists have made a crucial DNA discovery that could help cure one of the deadliest cancers. A team of researchers from the UK and US have found that pancreatic cancer is able to shut down molecules in one of the body's most important genes, helping the disease to grow and spread rapidly.

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

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## Channel 7, Sunrise, 15/07/2024, Natalie Barr & Michael Usher

Interview with Dr Sam Hay, general practitioner. It's the breakthrough drug best known for helping people lose weight but now it's been revealed Ozempic has even more benefits. New research has found the diabetes drug can now be used alongside existing treatments to reduce heart and kidney complications. Hay says these drugs are starting to become almost a wonder drug out there.

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## Channel 9 Darwin, Nine News, 15/07/2024, Paul Murphy

Former AFL star Paddy McCartin has joined the fight for more Federal Government funding to help people with diabetes access, potentially life-saving technology. The former Saints and Swans player is one of an estimated two million Australians living with the condition and says his insulin pump saved his life.

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## 6PR, Afternoons, 15/07/2024, Julie-anne Sprague

Diabetes Australia wants the federal government to increase subsidies for technology that helps to monitor diabetes patients. Some people who are living with type one diabetes have no access to glucose monitoring devices or insulin pumps because they're too expensive.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Lucky to be seen in years

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 3

Waiting time to see a specialist - to then get put on another wait list if elective surgery is needed - stretches beyond five years in seven specialties across the metropolitan public hospital system. The good news is these wait times are a vast improvement on recent years when the wait time for various specialists had ballooned out to more than 16 years in 2018 and was still beyond seven years for several specialties two years ago.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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### Too many years on health's waiting list

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 16/07/2024, Page 16

A lot can happen in five years. A pandemic, for example.

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## Bendigo bulk billed GP visits up 10 per cent



Bulk billed general practitioner visits are up almost 10 per cent in Bendigo since November 2023. On November 1 2023, the federal government tripled the bulk billing incentive, meaning free trips to the doctor for children under the age of 16, pensioners and patients with a concession card.

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## ED cut claim denied

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 15/07/2024, Phoebe Doyle, Page 1

Mildura Base Public Hospital and Victoria's Health Minister have both quashed claims that access to local emergency care could end amid budget cuts. Yesterday a Melbourne-based media outlet reported the MBPH board had agreed to a proposal sent to the Department of Health to shut the emergency department and end paediatric care in order to break even this financial year.

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## Toddler milk 'a myth that needs to be busted'

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 15/07/2024, Page 12

Marketing guidelines for infant and toddler formulas need to be scrapped and replaced with a stricter code of practice, leading health organisations say. The Australian Medical Association (AMA) wants the voluntary, selfregulated industry agreement on the marketing of formula to be removed because it does not cover drinks for children between 12 months and three years.

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

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## Missions are in full flight

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/07/2024, Cameron Bates, Page 9

Aeromedical crews across state's north set records for assistance LifeFlight Australia flew a record number of missions from its Townsville base in the 2024 financial year. In total, Townsville's Life- Flight aeromedical crew flew 153 missions to assist 322 people, a 13 per cent increase of the previous financial year.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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## Mt Druitt, Sydney: Family call out hospital and paramedics after boy dies

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/07/2024, Lisa Edser

A teenage boy whose parents claim hospital staff and paramedics dismissed his symptoms as a stomach bug and the flu died from a brain infection just days later. Treva Ashton, 15, from Mt Druitt in Sydney 's west, first went to the doctor with his mum on June 24 after feeling unwell for about three days.

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## Opinion: Time's up for Qld Labor's own Dead Parrot Sketch

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/07/2024, Mike O'Connor

If you are not familiar with the Dead Parrot Sketch as made famous by John Cleese and the Monty Python crew, it goes something like this. Cleese brings a parrot into the pet shop where he had bought it a few hours earlier and complains that it is dead. Plainly, it has deceased. Not so, says the pet shop owner. It's sleeping.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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## Rockhampton Hospital escalated to Tier 3 status

Cairns Post, Other, 16/07/2024, Aden Stokes

For the past three weeks, Rockhampton Hospital has been operating under its highest alert level amid an "extremely busy" winter that has seen the hospital at full capacity. Central Queensland Hospital and

Health Service Chief Executive Lisa Blackler said Rockhampton Hospital was in Tier 3 because of "a significant demand for services" during an "extremely busy" winter.

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

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## **Lest we forget: Minns shows his mettle for long-haul pokie revenue battle**

The Mandarin, Other, 15/07/2024, Julian Bajkowski

The NSW government has revealed it will ban mainstream retail trading in the state on Anzac Day to the confected horror of the major supermarkets, yet allow major sports and gambling institutions to remain open to take punters' cash. [...] It's far from recognised or celebrated by opponents of the lockout laws, but the regulatory shutdown stemmed from a concerted regulatory change campaign by the NSW Police Association, the Nurses Federation and the Australian Medical Association, especially salaried emergency room doctors.

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## **'More aligned with the community's needs': New times for after hours GP clinic**

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 15/07/2024

The times have changed at a long-running local after hours GP clinic after what has been described as extensive consultation. The clinic began back in 2012 treated almost 1500 patients in its first year of operation and played an important role in Bathurst during the COVID years in taking the pressure off the hospital's emergency department.

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## **Study funds severity of healthcare worker violence rising**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/07/2024

The frequency of attacks against frontline medical staff, including GPs, is rising, but if nothing changes, experts fear more Australians could be at risk. RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins has urged more funding for Public Health Network education to tackle violence against medical professionals.

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## **Another government looking at pharmacist prescribing for wounds, impetigo and more**

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/07/2024, Antony Scholefield

NT pharmacists could soon prescribe S4 medicines for wounds, otitis media and impetigo under what the territory government is calling "a commonsense" proposal. Last week, NT Chief Minister Eva Lawler launched a consultation on what conditions pharmacists should be allowed to treat with S4 medicines "in line with reforms across the nation".

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## **Home care quadrupled in the last decade**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 15/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Data released by the Australian Health and Welfare Institute reveals the number of older Australians accessing home care has grown by over 200,000 in the past 10 years. Between 2013 and 2023, the number of people opting to receive care at home increased more than fourfold – from 57,000 to 258,000 people (357 per cent).

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## **Private hospitals on the verge of collapse**

6PR, Other, 15/07/2024, Oliver Peterson

The future of Australia's private hospital sector is in question, with nearly 80 private hospitals closing within five years. Private patients are being forced onto the overstretched public system – pushing wait times up for tens of thousands of public patients.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/07/2024, Lisa Millar & Bridget Brennan

A new Hospital Avoidance Centre to divert people from busy hospitals is opening in Adelaide and it aims to help keep people out of the state's emergency departments if they don't need to be there. It is this is particularly important as SA, like plenty of other places in the country, is grappling with ambulance ramping and people can be referred here for urgent but not life-threatening medical issues.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/07/2024, Lisa Millar & Bridget Brennan

Incentives on offer in Victoria and Queensland are being blamed by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners for a doctor trainee shortage in regional NSW. About 80 GP trainee positions have gone unfilled across rural and regional towns in New South Wales this year.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 15/07/2024, Ryk Goddard

A successful East Coast dental program run by Tasmania's Royal Flying Doctor Service has been expanded. The expansion was a Tas Government election promise but has been brought forward. The RFDS currently provides some services to the east coast out of Swansea and a mobile service visits schools.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### New law is a 'step to preventing suicide and promoting life'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 16/07/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Newcastle-based suicide prevention expert Shayne Connell has welcomed the Minns government's plan to create a new law to "drive down suicide rates in NSW". The government announced on Sunday it was working on suicide prevention legislation to be introduced into parliament next year. The law was aimed at driving "a cultural shift within government".

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### How 'Oi. You Got This' founder Telesha Ballinger's inspiring story led her to spread positivity on clothes

Adelaide Now, Other, 15/07/2024, Jami Roberts

On a mission to share her mental health journey after an upbringing experiencing the loss of loved ones to drug addiction and sexual assault, a Townsville mother is seeking to help others through their own struggles through positive messaging and support. Telesha Ballinger, founder of 'Oi. You Got This', said she was just a young girl when she was sexually assaulted and after her mother and other loved ones lost their battle to drug addiction, she was left battling severe depression and anxiety.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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### 'More than a piece of paper': suicide prevention law with 'accountability'

Newcastle Herald, Other, 15/07/2024, Damon Cronshaw

Newcastle-based suicide prevention expert Shayne Connell has welcomed the Minns government's plan to create a new law to "drive down suicide rates in NSW". The government announced on Sunday that it was working on suicide prevention legislation to be introduced into parliament next year.

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### Movember advocate Charlie Jia talks top mental health first aid tips

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.

[Read More](#)

## Seven Toowoomba, Seven Local News, 15/07/2024, Rob Brough & Joanne Desmond

A new service providing free mental health care is in the works for Warwick. Locals will have a say in the final design and location of the facility. Warwick is the latest town to receive the go-ahead for a new clinic, and the exact location is yet to be determined, but it will be covered by Medicare.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### 'Giving birth is the most dangerous thing most women will face'

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/07/2024, Katja Hrovat Schaale

My name is Katja Hrovat Schaale. I am a medical research scientist and a mother of two, a European who immigrated to Australia seven years ago for career reasons.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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### Public maternity wards in Australia put on bypass as locum doctors are paid \$3500 to help with births

The Mercury, Other, 15/07/2024, Sue Dunlevy

Private hospital maternity wards are paying up to \$3500 a day for fly in fly out locum obstetricians to help women they have never met before give birth. Many public maternity wards have already been put on bypass as they fail to cope with the increased demand caused by private hospital closures.

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### Tailored contraceptive advice key for CALD patients: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/07/2024

An act as simple as watching a 13-minute video is having life-changing impacts for Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community, as GP researchers investigate how best to deliver contraceptive advice. A new study from the SPHERE Centre of Research Excellence at Monash University found advice delivered in a person's own language is key to increasing birth control knowledge of women from multicultural backgrounds.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Doctors look to leave state as cuts bite

Age, General News, 16/07/2024, Henrietta Cook, Page 3

Victorian healthcare workers are considering moving interstate for work following job losses and recruitment freezes at the state's cash-strapped public hospitals. Some doctors have discovered their contracts have ended with no ongoing work offered, while others have had full-time roles converted to part-time, as the Victorian government's budget crackdown forces health services to find savings.

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## We really need to listen to the health workers: GreensMP

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 16/07/2024, Jacob McMaster, Page 5

"Without staff a hospital is just a building," says Greens MP Dr Amanda Cohn. "The critical issues in NSW right now are pay and conditions for health workers."

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## CDU's big year continues as NT prepares for its own medical school

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/07/2024, Camden Smith

What began as a year of frustration for Charles Darwin University has taken a turn for the better in recent months as it ticks-off on a number of project milestones. Just seven months ago as 2023 was winding down, university management was told by the Commonwealth it had missed out on funding to launch a stand-alone Territory medical school.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### 60-day prescribing: GPs accuse pharmacists of refusing to fill scripts to protect their cash flow

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/07/2024, Antony Scholefield

Dozens of GPs say pharmacists have rejected their 60-day scripts — sometimes with no better justification than protecting their revenue. The Federal Government undermined pharmacies' dispensing fee revenue in 2023 when it finally allowed GPs to write 60-day scripts for hundreds of common long-term medications.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### New system for registering babies' births

Canberra Times, General News, 16/07/2024, Bageshri Savvasachi, Page 9

Parents may find it easier to register and enrol their newborn in services like Medicare after a new system was rolled out in Canberra hospitals on Monday. The trial, using the myGov website, is aimed at reducing the need to enter birth details multiple times to apply for health services.

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

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### Stanhope health clinic is virtually a first in Victoria

Shepparton News, General News, 16/07/2024, Jemma Jones, Page 7

Gone are the days of health consultations being only face-to-face - more virtual appointments are on the horizon. Stanhope Health is expanding, with a state-first health service opening in August.

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

### New body to drive digital health strategies and tech innovation

Aged Care Insite, Other, 15/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

The Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre (DHCRC) has announced a national, cross-university network in a bid to advance Australia's digital health systems. The Australian Council of Senior Academic Leaders in Digital Health (the Council) will bring together academic leaders from 36 universities to "advance the application of digital technology, informatics and data science to health in Australia.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Fraud claims

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 16/07/2024, Grace Crivellaro, Page 1

A former aged care employee accused of draining more than \$16,000 from an elderly client has denied the claims, saying she loved her and that it was the woman's son who stole the funds. "I absolutely loved Jan to bits and I didn't like the way Martin (her son) treated her," the accused woman, Joanne Whyte, told Port Kembla Local Court yesterday.

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

### 'Neurosurgeons have circled the wagons': Dr Charlie Teo a year after his disciplinary hearing

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/07/2024, Carmel Sparke

A year after he was sanctioned over his management of two patients, Dr Charlie Teo says neurosurgeons have "circled the wagons" to ensure he cannot operate in Australia. [...] "It's not licensing, and it's not AHPRA or the Health Care Complaints Commission.

[Read More](#)

### 'Real risk': doctor fails in appeal against medical ban

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 15/07/2024, Melissa Meehan

A former doctor has failed to overturn his ban on practising medicine, 10 years after first being suspended for alleged misconduct involving patients. John Barry Myers was not a "fit and proper person to hold general registration", the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal has ruled.

*Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).*

[Read More](#)

### 'Almost three years': The doctor trying to overturn his COVID suspension

The Border Mail, Other, 15/07/2024, Ben Silvester

A doctor has appeared at a tribunal seeking to overturn an indefinite suspension for allegedly breaking COVID-19 health orders. [...] AHPRA spells out those responsibilities," Dr Higgins said.

*Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).*

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Partnership helping more kids in the region have access to fruit

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2024, Page 3

A partnership with Bendigo Community Health Services will help a grassroots fresh fruit program grow. The McKern Foundation has collaborated with the health organisation to boost its Fresh Fruit Fridays program, helping more kids in the Bendigo region have access to fruit.

## SPORT

### Stadium search as netball rebounds hard

Herald Sun, General News, 16/07/2024, Peter Rolfe, Page 13

Netball's surge in popularity has produced record crowd, membership and participation rates and sparked a search for a bigger Melbourne venue to play before the masses. On the cusp of the Super Netball finals, Melbourne Vixens have enjoyed a 17 per cent increase in home attendances with more than 60,000 fans packing the stands this season.

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### Raise the roof

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 15/07/2024, Paul Weston & Andrew Potts, Page 1

The Gold Coast is to make a stunning play to host the world swimming championships – aiming for it be a platform to securing the Southport Aquatic Centre for the 2032 Olympics. Gold Coast City Council will investigate plans for both permanent and temporary roofing needed at the City's 2018 Commonwealth Games pool for the Gold Coast to secure the 2028 world swimming championships

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### SEQ 2032 'will' dwarf GC 2018

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 15/07/2024, Paul Weston, Page 1

The 2032 Olympics will be bigger for the Gold Coast than the 2018 Commonwealth Games providing a \$2 billion economic injection and more visitors, according to the latest research. But the big win for the city will be the lack of capital expenditure required courtesy of the city hosting the 2018 Games.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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### Olympics - promises versus the hard reality

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 16/07/2024, Tom Tate, Page 6

Queensland is a unique Australian state in terms of size and geographic distribution of the population. The 2032 Olympic Games were sold to the public as a Games for all Queensland that would be delivered at a price we could afford.

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### League investigating St Kilda youngster over homophobia

Launceston Examiner, General News, 16/07/2024, Page 25

St kilda youngster Lance Collard is being investigated by the AFL for allegedly directing homophobic slurs towards opponents in a VFL game. First-year player Collard, who has played three senior games since he was drafted

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### Nine set to lose \$60m on Olympics

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/07/2024, John Stensholt, James Madden & Sophie Elsworth, Page 14

Nine could lose as much as \$60m from its Paris Olympics TV broadcast as the cost of the Games coverage mounts while the advertising market is softening. Nine is spending a total of at least \$120m on the Games, including about \$100m on its broadcast deal with the International Olympic Committee, plus \$20m or more in soaring production costs.

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### Female change rooms a policy priority

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 16/07/2024, Katrina Lovell, Page 4

Women and girls who don't have access to proper toilets and showers at Warrnambool's sporting facilities have been prioritised in a new city council policy. Mayor Ben Blain said the Fair Access and Use Policy - which was adopted at the June council meeting - was aimed at ensuring equal access to sporting opportunities and facilities for female and male participants.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### New virus genome pipeline paves way for disease and pandemic cures and prevention

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 15/07/2024

Tens of millions of still-unknown or misunderstood viruses can cause diseases – as well as new pandemics – and affect the health of valuable terrestrial and marine environments. A new pipeline to investigate the 'virophere,' or all the genomes of viruses and bacteriophages (viruses that attack bacteria) of the world has been developed by an international collaboration led by Flinders University.

[Read More](#)

### 'These drugs are not harmless': The Aussies tackling antidepressant deprescribing

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/07/2024, Rachel Carter

"Antidepressants are a whole lot easier to start than they are to stop." Professor Katharine Wallis, believes that, where existing guidelines are followed, can change some patients' lives.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Dead after 'bullying' on first day atwork site

Australian Financial Review, General News, 16/07/2024, Nick McKenzie, Page 1

When Melbourne man Ben Nash left for work on January 24, a day before his 19th birthday, all his mother Tammie knew was that her son was heading to a job he loved. "He was drawn to civil construction," she says of Ben, a proud Gunditjmarra man and devoted ...

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

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### Empathy is lifesaving

West Australian, General News, 16/07/2024, Emma Garlett, Page 13

JC desperately needed support. So why did she end up dead?

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### Territory men 3.5 times more likely to die young, Movember Institute of Men's Health finds

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 15/07/2024, Jason Walls

Men living in the Northern Territory are more than 3.5 times more likely to die young than those living in inner city Sydney, alarming new research has found. The research released by the Movember Institute of Men's Health on Monday reveals the electorate of Lingiari, which encompasses most of the NT, has the highest premature mortality rate of anywhere in Australia.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).



## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### CSL wins global H5 avian flu vaccine contracts as outbreak risk rises

Australian Financial Review, General News, 16/07/2024, Tom Burton, Page 9

Australian pharmaceutical giant CSL has won contracts to supply avian flu vaccinations to Europe and the United States, as countries including Australia ramp up preparations for the dangerous H5N1 avian flu virus. Health authorities around the world are p...

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### Outbreak fears as vaccine levels stall

The Australian, International News, 16/07/2024, Page 11

Global childhood vaccination levels have stalled, leaving millions more children un- or under-vaccinated than before the pandemic, the UN said on Monday, warning of dangerous coverage gaps enabling outbreaks of diseases such as measles. Up to 84 per cent of children, or 108 million, last year received three doses of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP), with the third dose serving as a key marker for global immunisation coverage, according to the UN health and children's agencies.

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

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### Dangerous bird flu strain on way

Herald Sun, General News, 16/07/2024, Jessica Wang, Page 2

Australia is currently suffering through an "unprecedented" triple strain outbreak of bird flu, with government, agricultural authorities and industry bodies preparing for the potential arrival of the dangerous H5N1 strain devastating the Northern Hemisphere. As it stands, Australia is the only continent, including Antarctica, that has yet to detect the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain, which has spread to livestock and mammals like sea lions in Argentina.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).

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### Poor miss out on jabs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/07/2024, Page 3

Too many Australians are missing out on lifesaving vaccinations, experts warn, prompting calls to give more money to GPs in poorer areas. A Grattan Institute report released today reveals that some GPs had 10 times the adult vaccination rates for the flu, Covid, shingles and pneumococcal than patients at other clinics.

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

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### Free vaccination program spreads wider

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 16/07/2024, Tayla Couacaud, Page 10

More Queenslanders will have access to free meningococcal vaccinations without a doctor's appointment, in a statewide vaccination rollout. About two-thirds of the state's community pharmacies have now registered to be part of the national immunisation program, administering critical vaccinations to Queenslanders.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

## Tassie hit by 'vaccine fatigue'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/07/2024, Genevieve Holding, Page 3

A new report from a public policy think-tank says Tasmania has some of the lowest rates of vaccination in people over the age of 65, with one GP calling it the result of "vaccine fatigue". Grattan Institute health program director Peter Breadon said vaccinations for Covid and flu were down across the board, including low rates for agedcare facilities.

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## Bird flu fears rise

West Australian, General News, 16/07/2024, Page 3

Australia is suffering an "unprecedented" triple strain outbreak of bird flu, with government, agriculture and industry bodies preparing for the potential arrival of the dangerous H5N1 strain that is devastating the northern hemisphere. Australia is the only continent, including Antarctica, that has yet to detect the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain, which has spread to livestock and mammals like sea lions in Argentina.

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## Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness warns of potential arrival of H5N1 bird flu strain

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2024, Fiona Broom

The Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness says the H5N1 strain has been detected to Australia's north and south. The strain has been detected in farm workers in the US and in a range of animal species.

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## New vaccine could lead to 'really serious' attempt to eradicate malaria

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/07/2024

Hundreds of thousands of lives could be saved this decade thanks to a new malaria vaccine, the head of the jab development team has said. Sir Adrian Hill, professor of vaccinology at the University of Oxford, said he hoped the vaccine, the second of its kind, would pave the way for a "really serious" attempt at eradicating the disease.

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## New RNA blueprint to help unlock medical sector's \$8 billion potential

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 16/07/2024

The \$8 billion potential of the nation's RNA sector is set to be unleashed with a new blueprint drawn up to seize the golden medical science opportunity. Industry and Science Minister Ed Husic will on Tuesday unveil a new strategy to guide the development of the industry during a visit to Perth.

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

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## Cryptosporidiosis cases on the rise: Gastro surges through Aussie families

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/07/2024, Elizabeth Jane Elliott

As a mother, I know the dread of hearing a gastro bug is going around the daycare, school or netball team. Diarrhoea and vomiting can stun a healthy child for days and wreak havoc on a family for weeks.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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## Seniors: protect health as illnesses rise Advertising Feature

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 15/07/2024

Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN) is encouraging seniors to protect themselves from

respiratory illnesses such as influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) this winter. MPHNS Acting CEO Narelle Mills said vaccines are an important way to reduce the risk of serious illness and help ensure Murrumbidgee residents have a healthy and enjoyable winter season.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Moving the needle on ageing

West Australian, Today, 16/07/2024, Katie Hampson, Page 1

Thousands of Australians are turning to acupuncture, a key component of traditional Chinese medicine, to fight the signs of ageing. While the treatment modality has been around for more than 2500 years to help with all kinds of ailments, facial acupuncture for anti-ageing has become an increasingly popular non-surgical beauty trend since celebrities such as Gwyneth Paltrow, inset, embraced it in lieu of Botox.

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### Optiscan gets nod for in-surgery breast cancer imaging

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/07/2024, Craig Nolan

Optiscan Imaging has received the nod of approval from the Royal Melbourne Hospital to start taking real-time in-human images during surgery for breast cancer patients using its cutting-edge, microscopic "InVue" technology. The vital "ethical clearance" for the recently-revealed device paves the way for an in-vivo study aimed at better diagnosing cancer cells in a trial that is expected to enrol 50 patients.

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### Should smartwatches be used in chronic disease management?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 15/07/2024, Chloe Hava

Smartwatches, owned by around one in three Australians, can provide a handy, continuous, and integrable monitoring platform that greatly facilitates this process. But they are not without drawbacks. [...] Some are even validated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, including the AppleWatch electrocardiogram algorithm – which alerts users if an irregular heart rhythm (atrial fibrillation) is identified.

[Read More](#)

### TGA fines telehealth business over \$300k

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/07/2024

The TGA issued 21 infringement notices totalling \$319,260 to four businesses and three individuals for the alleged unlawful advertising of prescription-only medicines. The infringement notices were issued to Advert Digital, Eveadam Health, Chronic Therapy, Reda Compounding Chemist, three sole traders in NSW and Victoria, primarily for weight loss ads on their websites.

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