



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 24th July 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Northern Territory News \(page 3\)](#)** reports Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Malarndirri McCarthy has announced \$24 million in federal funding will be provided to establish six new bulk-billing urgent care clinics across the Northern Territory by the end of the year. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph Australia \(online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(online\)](#), [Channel 9 Darwin](#), [ABC Radio Darwin](#)
- **[The Guardian \(online\)](#)** reports Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney has called on food manufacturers to ensure foods marketed to parents of infants or toddlers meet the “absolute highest standards” and health claims should be “accurate and appropriate”. Ms Kearney will chair a meeting of ministers responsible for food regulations on 25 July to discuss improving standards.
- **[The Australian \(page 3\)](#)** reports Australian Olympic team chef de mission Anna Meares said the Australian Olympic team’s strict athlete code of conduct meant athletes with serious convictions would not be selected to represent the Australian team. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#)
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 7\)](#)** reports around 20,000 Victorians are living with an undetected hepatitis B infection after a drop in testing rates according to an urgent Cancer Council warning.

- [**The Herald Sun \(page 7\)**](#) reports the Penington Institute will make a formal submission to the Victorian Government later this year calling for a regulated cannabis regime following a review of systems already operating in foreign jurisdictions.
- [**The Illawarra Mercury \(page 3\)**](#) reports nurses and midwives represented by the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association rallied at some NSW hospitals yesterday demanding better pay and conditions. *Also reported by:* [**Newcastle Herald**](#), [**Channel 7 Sydney**](#).
- [**Nursing Review \(online\)**](#) reports the Department of Health and Aged Care's Nursing Supply and Demand Study has forecast that demand for nursing staff will continue to outweigh supply for more than a decade and has highlighted the need for more young people to enrol in nursing studies.
- [**7news.com.au \(online\)**](#) reports aged care sector workers are at a high risk of psychosocial injuries according to a new Safe Work Australia report.

MINISTER BUTLER

If they build it, will they come?

Bay Post, General News, 24/07/2024, Victoria Silk, Page 3

With site preparations underway for construction of the Eurobodalla Regional Hospital, pressure remains on South Coast health services. [...] When Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler visited the Batemans Bay Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) on Tuesday, July 9, the question was put to him.

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

Young people at centre of health clinic

Bay Post, General News, 24/07/2024, Staff Writer, Page 7

Of the more than 6000 presentations to Batemans Bay's Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC), the largest proportion were people under the age of 15. The figures were shared with Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler.

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Batemans Bay and surrounds benefitting from 'vital' health services, MP says

About Regional, Other, 23/07/2024, Morgan Kenyon

Batemans Bay Medicare Urgent Care Clinic and Headspace Batemans Bay are making "a real difference" in South Coast communities according to Federal Member for Gilmore, Fiona Phillips. During a visit to both health services in early July with Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, Mrs Phillips described them as "vital" to those living in Batemans Bay and its surrounds.

[Read More](#)

6PR, Mornings, 23/07/2024, Gary Adshead

Interview with Professor Patrick McGorry, Executive Director, Orygen, on the issue of overdiagnosis and overcharging in the mental health sector. McGorry says there's been a very substantial increase in genuine mental illness in young people and they have seen a 50% rise in prevalence of mental ill health since 2007. He adds, however, that around the edges of it, and certainly in younger and older age groups, there is a risk of overdiagnosis, but there's also a side-side with underdiagnosis of other people too. McGorry says Bill Shorten and Mark Butler have both been concerned about the level of diagnosis of autism in younger children, especially in young boys.

Interview continues on: [**6PR \(Perth\)**](#).

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ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 23/07/2024, Ross Solly

Interview with Professor Patrick McGorry, leading Australian psychiatrist, regarding his warning that

medical profiteering is occurring. McGorry says they see the problem, particularly in psychiatry, where there's a huge unmet need because of the funding problems which is very significant. He adds they don't have an equitable system anymore and people with the capacity to pay have got better access. McGorry says he has spoken to Bill Shorten and Mark Butler and they are concerned about the overdiagnosis of autism.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).

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MINISTER WELLS

Two in every three aged care homes are failing to meet mandatory care minute targets as 109 homes fail to supply data

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/07/2024, Caroline Egan

36% of aged care homes are achieving both their total care minutes and RN care minutes targets, according to data for the March 2024 quarter, released by the Department of Health and Aged Care today (Tuesday). [...] "Fewer rural and remote aged care providers have sought an exemption from the 24/7 RN responsibility in its second year, as they have been able to meet or surpass the minimum RN coverage threshold," a statement from the Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 23/07/2024, Jerrie Demasi

Aged care providers have urged the government and opposition to work together to pass reforms recommended by an aged care task force and supported by unions and residents. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has also signalled her support. But even after this consultation and the Royal Commission that spawned it, the opposition is demanding the government fully release the draught laws to inform the community more before it signs on.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Help coming to Warwick

Warwick Today, Other, 23/07/2024, Jin Hui

Health authorities have announced a free mental health support service will launch in Warwick later next year. Federal assistant mental health minister Emma McBride visited Toowoomba, where she unveiled plans to open a walk-in Medicare mental health centre in Warwick

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

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WIN Ballarat , WIN News, 23/07/2024, Bruce Roberts

As regional Australia struggles with a GP shortage, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is hoping the second round of its training program will help alleviate some of the pressure. The initiative aims to encourage more graduates to practise primary care throughout Australia. When recently asked about the regional GP shortage, Federal Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride insisted the Government is making progress but admits the struggle is far from over.

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How Australia's infant food labelling's 'health halo effect' risks leaving babies under-nourished

The Guardian, Other, 24/07/2024, Charlotte Thou

Andrea Hipsher felt saddled with guilt when she found out the packaged infant food she was feeding her toddler may have contributed to his nutritional deficiencies, despite the products claiming to be "natural" and full of health benefits. [...] The assistant health minister, Ged Kearney, who will chair the meeting, said that food marketed to parents of infants or toddlers should meet the "absolute highest standards" and any health claims should be "accurate and appropriate."

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'Nurses can be at the frontline' – UniSA certificate in allergy nursing

Nursing Review, Other, 23/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Over four million Australians are currently affected by allergies and, although precise statistics are not known, medical professionals agree that allergies and rates of anaphylaxis are on the rise. [...] At the announcement Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney expressed the importance of supporting postgraduate education for the country's nurses.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

Clinics get \$24m prescription

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/07/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 3

Six new bulk-billing urgent care clinics are expected to be operational in the Northern Territory by the end of the calendar year after receiving commonwealth funding to the tune of about \$24 million. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health, federal Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, said the new clinics would support the health and wellbeing of the predominantly Indigenous Territorians who populate the six townships.

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

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Regional and remote NT to receive six new bulk-billing urgent care clinics

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/07/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Six new bulk-billing Urgent Care Clinics are being built in the Northern Territory, with assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy saying they will support the health and wellbeing of the predominantly Indigenous Territorians in the new locations. On Tuesday, the Labor Senator was joined by Chief Executive of the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT (AMSANT) John Paterson, and FCD Health Ltd chief executive Bernie Cummins, to announce the new clinics at Ali Curung, Galiwinku, Alyangula, Wurrumiyanga, Lajamanu and Maningrida.

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Federal government boosts funding for Indigenous-led cancer care

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/07/2024, Giovanni Torre

The federal government has announced a \$16.9 million initiative that aims to improve cancer care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health, Malarndirri McCarthy said the federal government is "working every day to close the gap" in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Territory-wide Mornings, 23/07/2024, Rick Hind

Pre-recorded press conference with Malarndirri McCarthy, Federal Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health, John Paterson, CEO, AMSANT and Bernie Cummins, CEO, Palmerston Urgent Care Clinic, on the Commonwealth announcing six new urgent care clinics across the NT. McCarthy says there are going to be 29 more urgent care clinics across Australia and in the NT, they will see an additional six. She adds she thanks the NT Government and AMSANT for the work they've done in identifying these locations which include Alyangula, Wurrumiyanga, Maningrida, Galiwinku, Lajamanu, and Ali-Curung.

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DEPARTMENT

Young regional men facing drinking risk

Murray Pioneer, General News, 24/07/2024, Page 21

Living in regional Australian areas, such as the Riverland, can lead to increased drinking among young men, according to a new report. [...] Ten to Men, a longitudinal study funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care, has been tracking over 16,000 boys and men for the past decade.

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Making the Transition Less Daunting

Buloke Times, General News, 23/07/2024, Page 12

A new resource from the Paediatric Palliative Care National Action Plan Project has been designed to empower the decisions and thinking of the young people and families who walk in these shoes. [...] The Paediatric Palliative Care National Action Plan Project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care and is a collaboration between Palliative Care Australia and Paediatric Palliative Care Australia and New Zealand.

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Two in every three aged care homes are failing to meet mandatory care minute targets as 109 homes fail to supply data

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/07/2024, Caroline Egan

36% of aged care homes are achieving both their total care minutes and RN care minutes targets, according to data for the March 2024 quarter, released by the Department of Health and Aged Care today (Tuesday). [...] "Fewer rural and remote aged care providers have sought an exemption from the 24/7 RN responsibility in its second year, as they have been able to meet or surpass the minimum RN coverage threshold," a statement from the Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said.

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Can a crack squad of GPs on govt salaries fix this state's workforce woes?

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/07/2024, Rachel Carter

GPs who join the Tasmanian Government's rapid response team to parachute into practices that need help will be paid \$210,000-\$288,000 as a base salary, according to job advertisements. [...] "GP NOW will provide support in 'thin market' areas where existing private general practice is experiencing challenges," a Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson told AusDoc

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What you need to know about the new aged care incentive

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/07/2024, Rachel Carter

The incentive is the second to be rolled out under MyMedicare. Rural practices accessing the new aged care incentive can provide four of their eight annual visits via telehealth if required, the Department of Health and Aged Care says. The incentive, for patients enrolled in MyMedicare, will start rolling out next month.

Why would you encourage your employees to volunteer?

Inside Small Business, Other, 23/07/2024, Tina Hogarth-Clarke

Everyone is busy and workforce pressures are rife. So, why would you encourage your employees to become an Aged Care Volunteer Visitor? [...] The Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme (ACVVS) is a Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care funded program that seeks to address the growing issue of social isolation among older Australians.

[Read More](#)

Supply and demand: Nursing shortfall predicted to grow

Nursing Review, Other, 23/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

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

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Shingrix to roll out again

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/07/2024

Shingrix vaccine supply will be rolled out to medical practices, Aboriginal Medical Services and pharmacies across Australia from 01 Nov, informed the Department of Health and Ageing. The announcement comes amid media reports nationwide about the scarcity of the vaccine since Apr, with several clinicians saying they were frustrated about having to "ration" doses to their patients.

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Advocates slam government's lack of action on dental report

Your Life Choices, Other, 23/07/2024, Jan Fisher

Key health advocates have slammed the government's inquiry into dental services as a wasted opportunity for older Australians. [...] The government recommended establishing a task force within the Department of Health and Aged Care to identify and improve opportunities to integrate oral and dental health care into primary health care.

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Safe Work Australia finds 'psychosocial hazards' common for workers in the aged care sector

7news.com.au, Other, 23/07/2024, Hayley Taylor

'Role overload, low job control, conflict or poor workplace relationships and bullying' are all considered significant hazards. A new Safe Work Australia report has revealed that workers in the aged care sector are at a high risk of psychosocial injuries.

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Gold Coast Health to create specialised dementia unit after investigation into cases including Kevin Farr death

An investigation following the death of a former police officer who was attacked in a Robina Hospital ward has recommended the creation of a specialised unit for dementia patients. Kevin Farr, 68, was in his room at Robina Hospital when a patient with dementia assaulted him on October 8, 2023.

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Fears of widespread disruption when 3G is switched off

Canberra Times, Other, 23/07/2024, Stephanie Gardiner

Fears are mounting emergency medical devices will be disrupted when the 3G mobile network is switched off, while construction and farming work could grind to a halt. It is not known how many 3G-reliant medical devices, such as personal cardiac alarms, need to be upgraded before the network closure, National Rural Health Alliance chief executive Susi Tegen said.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

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We have too few aged care workers to care for older Australians. Why? And what can we do about it?

HelloCare, Other, 23/07/2024, Hal Swerissen

In a country like Australia, we all expect that when we get old, we'll be able to rely on a robust aged care system. But aged care providers can't find staff and a crisis is brewing. If the problem isn't fixed, there are serious risks to quality and access to services for older people who need support.

[Read More](#)

Qld long-stay hospital patients hits 1000 milestone

The Courier Mail, Other, 23/07/2024, Madura McCormack

The number of Queenslanders languishing in hospital longer than needed has surpassed 1000 for the first time. Here's why.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 23/07/2024, Lisa Millar and Emma Rebellato

Interview with Tom Symondson, Aged and Community Care Providers Association, on aged care homes that are using the cost of living crisis gripping the country to argue they too are struggling to keep the lights on. Symondson says the future looks pretty bleak if they don't see those recent Federal Government taskforce recommendations implemented. He adds those recommendations include having wealthier Australians pay more for their care.

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Channel 7, Seven News at 4, 23/07/2024, Mike Smithson

Aged care providers fear a political standoff is jeopardising the survival of multiple nursing homes, with residents at risk of being evicted. The hold-up is over reforms the Aged Care Task Force put forward, chiefly making wealthier aged care residents pay for care and potential criminal penalties for providers. Aged care providers say the changes among 22 others must be implemented.

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POPULATION HEALTH

City in baby drought as living cost crisis bites

Age, General News, 24/07/2024, Josh Gordon, Page 1

Melbourne is Australia's least fertile state capital, with birth rates plunging across inner and middle suburbs as a lack of affordable housing and other cost-of-living pressures force growing numbers of

people to shelve plans for children. Nationally, 289,100 babies were born last year, down 4.6 per cent compared with 2022.

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

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Pregnant pause

West Australian, General News, 24/07/2024, Matt McKenzie and Claire Sadler, Page 1

WA is in a baby drought not seen for almost 20 years with the cost-of-living crunch and housing crisis blamed for families not having kids. Perth's baby rate dropped 6 per cent in four years even with a COVID birth spike while regional WA fell a massive 8 per cent.

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Lifesaving heart test

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/07/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 9

Melbourne scientists have developed a revolutionary new blood test set to save lives by identifying thousands of Australians not on the radar for a heart attack or stroke. The world-first test will, says scientist Peter Meikle, prevent many having potentially fatal cardiovascular events.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

20,000 risking death

Herald Sun, General News, 24/07/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 7

Almost 20,000 Victorians are unaware they have a chronic infection that can cause cancer if left untreated, after a drop in hepatitis B testing. Half of liver cancer cases are linked to the viral infection, but new data has estimated onethird of all Victorians living with hepatitis B do not know they have it, prompting an urgent Cancer Council warning.

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

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The Ali effect: 'Instant uptick'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/07/2024, Anna Vlach, Page 13

The "Ali effect" has already taken hold, with a noticeable increase in the number of women booking mammograms with BreastScreen SA. On Tuesday morning, Mix 102.3 breakfast presenter Ali Clarke announced that she was battling breast cancer and would be having a mastectomy later this week.

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

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Welcome (home) to our cancer warriors

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/07/2024, Judy Augustine, Page 3

Australians of year ON TASSIE TOUR Australian of the Year Richard Scolyer has opened up about his cancer journey as he and his co-recipient continue their mission to reduce the number of melanoma deaths to zero. Professor Scolyer, who is Tasmanian, was recognised alongside Professor Georgina Long this year.

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Girls' type 1 diabetes risk drops after 10

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/07/2024, Page 3

The risk of developing type 1 diabetes (T1D) decreases markedly in girls after age 10, while the risk in

boys stays the same, according to UK research. The risk of T1D is also significantly higher in boys with a single autoantibody than their female counterparts, suggesting the sex could be linked with autoantibody development, University of Exeter Medical School researchers say.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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Celebrate peoplemaking a real difference

Ballarat Courier, General News, 24/07/2024, John Hanscombe, Page 1

The science of INSPIRATION As 2024 Australians of the Year, melanoma researchers Professor Georgina Long and Professor Richard Scolyer are relishing the opportunity to share their inspiring story with school students. "We're also energising them about science," Professor Long says. With nominations for the 2025 Australian of the Year Awards closing in a week, Professor Scolyer says nominating someone who inspires you is important because "there are many Australians to be celebrated".

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Nurse living with obesity champions fight to help others

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 23/07/2024, Robert Fedele

There's a strong family history – one of her parents underwent bariatric surgery. While a close relative died from obesity-related conditions.

[Read More](#)

System only as good as the prevention it delivers

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 23/07/2024

Health systems are more effective when designed to meet the community's diverse needs. Throughout National Diabetes Week and with the report Diabetes in Australia 2024, being tabled by the House of Representative Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport, our health system is not where it needs to be in preventing chronic diseases such as diabetes.

[Read More](#)

New survey results suggest dangerous unintended outcome of zero-alcohol drinks

SBS, Other, 23/07/2024, Alex Anyfantis

A new report from the Cancer Council shows zero-alcohol beverages could lead young people to alcohol consumption later in their lives. The survey shows the over a third of youngsters have consumed a zero-alcohol drink, with the majority of them admitting they look rather appealing.

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Radiopharm gets crucial nod for brain cancer imaging trial

West Australian, Other, 23/07/2024, James Pearson

Radiopharm Theranostics has been given the nod of approval by the United States Food and Drug Authority to use its brain cancer-fighting technology in late-stage trials, with a first patient expected to be dosed later this year. The company's "F18-Pivalate" agent is designed to seek out and define a fatty acid that is overexpressed in brain tumours, but not in normal cells.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 23/07/2024, Max Fletcher

Australian scientists have developed a new way to test a patient's risk of having a stroke or heart attack. The tool helps identify thousands of Australians not considered in the high-risk category, but still in need of urgent care.

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Channel 9, Today, 23/07/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Melbourne researchers at La Trobe University have developed a new artificial intelligence tool, which

can identify thousands of Australians not on the radar for heart attack or stroke. Trials of the tests will begin next year.

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 23/07/2024, Kieran Gilbert

According to new research from Curtin and Sydney universities, tens of thousands of Australians are being routinely exposed to dangerous cancer-causing fumes at work. It has outraged advocacy groups and prompted demands for stronger enforcement of safety standards at welding sites.

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PRIMARY CARE

Boy died of overdose while in state care

Age, General News, 24/07/2024, Erin Pearson and Simone Fox Koob, Page 1

A 15-year-old boy who died of a heroin overdose on the bathroom floor of his mother's home, a few hundred metres from Richmond's supervised injecting room, was in state care at the time. An inquest yesterday into the death of Tyrone Woxvold heard the teenager had been using illicit drugs while in the care of child protection for some time, but had expressed an intention to seek help for his drug habit only weeks before his death.

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

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Hospital bed blue

Courier Mail, General News, 24/07/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 18

The number of Queenslanders languishing in hospital longer than needed due to a lack of aged care or disability help has surpassed 1000 for the first time, with some spending as long as seven weeks in limbo. New Queensland Health data has revealed there are now 1013 long-stay patients across the state's public system enough to fill every bed at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

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

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Call for specialist unit

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 24/07/2024, Keith Woods, Page 2

An investigation following the death of a former police officer who was attacked in a Robina Hospital ward has recommended the creation of a specialised unit for dementia patients. Kevin Farr, 68, was in his room at Robina Hospital when a patient with dementia assaulted him on October 8, 2023.

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No time to waste

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 24/07/2024, Jami Roberts And Jami Roberts, Page 1

A Townsville doctor is warning people are risking death by not wearing a helmet on motorised vehicles, as extreme airlift delays of up to seven hours or more are putting patients' lives on the lines. Townsville University Hospital (TUH) doctor Matan Ben David said he had seen the worst outcomes for people with head injuries after they chose not to wear a helmet when riding electric scooters, quad bikes or motorcycles.

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Hit hardest

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 24/07/2024, Editorial, Page 20

Head trauma isn't something we like to think about. It's not even really something we like to talk about. The muted debate and callous attitude towards head knocks in sport, as the various Australian codes

have tried to reform the rules to prevent it, is evidence of that.

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Warning over cuts and amalgamations

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 24/07/2024, Ben Silvester, Page 2

Victoria's public hospital lobby says the state government is seriously endangering its plans to reshape the health system by slashing hospital budgets. Health Minister Mary- Anne Thomas will soon decide whether to amalgamate health services across Victoria, but she has just slashed hospital budgets in a bid to control the Health Department's spiralling finances.

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Hope for PA Hospital spinal unit patients as cash injection increases

The Courier Mail, Other, 23/07/2024, Jackie Sinnerton

Upgrade of the beleaguered Princess Alexandra Hospital spinal injuries unit has been given extra funding as tenders for work are released. The upgrade of Brisbane's beleaguered Princess Alexandra Hospital spinal injuries unit has been given an extra \$9m boost bringing the , with tenders for the rejuvenation of the facility released on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#)

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State Government signs \$800 million contract to improve aeromedical services

West Australian, Other, 23/07/2024

The State Government has announced more than \$800 million will be invested to expand aeromedical services in regional WA, improving response capabilities and performance. The new 10-year contract with the Royal Flying Doctor Service WA prioritises the patient journey and aims to ensure a streamlined service delivery approach that incorporates the latest clinical and aviation standards.

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Roadmap leads the way to a better public health system

The Mandarin, Other, 23/07/2024, Peter Gearin

Dr Umair Shah is on a mission to transform public-sector healthcare. The secretary of the Department of Health for Washington State in north-west US has guided the development of a roadmap to help his and other jurisdictions "reimagine health".

[Read More](#)

Menopause relief in spotlight

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 23/07/2024

Monash University researchers are working to achieve the goal of improved support and treatment for women experiencing serious physical and/or mental symptoms during menopause. Professor Susan Davis, who heads the Monash University Women's Health Research Program in the School of Public Health and Preventive medicine, is leading the four studies.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 23/07/2024, Kate Freebairn

Doctors say nothing's changed since the Royal Adelaide Hospital was sensationally ordered to fix working conditions, with the union conducting another snap inspection today. The hospital was slapped with a notice to make improvements and it was lifted by a satisfied SafeWork SA two weeks ago but doctors are demanding safety inspectors return to the site now. The union says morale is still low, nothing has improved and the only change, they say, is the highly publicised presence of rats in the non-clinical areas of the emergency department.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 23/07/2024, Peter Mitchell

Ambulance Victoria's CEO is facing a vote of no confidence from union members, claiming low morale, delays and an unsustainable workload are being ignored. Paramedics say the executive members are leaving them unsupported.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9 Darwin, Nine News, 23/07/2024, Aislin Kriukelis

An additional six Medicare urgent care clinics will be established across remote NT as part of a \$227m expansion of the Medicare UCC program. The after-hours clinics will give communities access to free urgent care services, reducing the need for expensive aeromedical services.

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2CC, Breakfast, 23/07/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, regarding their invite for junior doctors to apply for specialist GP training with the RACGP for a career that offers a unique connection to patients and communities. Higgins says they have got a 7% increase in applications and also a 6% increase in rural which is very important.

Interview continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Tasmania takes a lax approach

Burnie Advocate, General News, 24/07/2024, Isabel Bird, Page 1

Stressed out parents worried about their kids' access to social media will find no help from the state government, which is taking a softer, wait-and-see approach to teenage Facebook, TikTok and Instagram bans. Politicians in other Australian states have voiced public support for banning under 16 teens from social media by raising the sign-up age to social media platforms from 13 to either 14 or 16.

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

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 23/07/2024, Kieran Gilbert

Interview with Patrick McGorry, top psychiatrist, on him accusing some medical specialists of overcharging and overdiagnosing which in turn has led patients to pay inflated medical bills. McGorry says it's a systemic problem because we have a market-based or a small business model for medical care in Australia. He adds the problem is it increases inequity in the system and some people who have the capacity can pay for certain diagnoses, but other people can't.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Unions unleash part-time IR battle

Unions will push for restrictions on part-time work, including minimum four-hour shifts and 28 days' advance notice of rosters during a major review of parttime employment conducted by the Fair Work Commission. But employers have accused unions of "demonising" flexible forms of work, and will seek new provisions allowing part-time employees to agree to work additional hours without overtime.

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

Labor's new IR laws set to bite

The Australian, Editorials, 24/07/2024, Page 10

There is nothing casual for workers and employers who value making their own arrangements about work. The Albanese government's new employment laws are so complex that it took several attempts to introduce them the existence of the Fair Work Amendment (Closing Loopholes Number Two) Act, which is about to apply, makes the point.

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

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

'Dire': Wagga nurses ready to rally

Daily Advertiser, General News, 24/07/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 2

Nurses and midwives at Wagga Base Hospital will dedicate their own time to fighting for better working conditions, before situation worsens according to trade union branch president. Members of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) are seeking a new public sector award.

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Surgeries cancelled as private hospital nurses walk out

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 24/07/2024, Nadine Morton, Page 3

As nurses and midwives walked offthe job at Wollongong Private Hospital demanding better pay, the facility's administrators hit back at them for forcing surgery cancellations. The doors to operating theatres were slammed shut and patients told their procedures were cancelled, as staffcontinue their 16-month long push for better pay and conditions.

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

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'OurEDis sostretched it's not funny'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 24/07/2024, Samantha Newsam, Page 3

Nyomie Hofman loves being a midwife. But she admits she is seriously considering changing professions. [...] The NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) is calling on the state government to step in to try to stop the drain, and are proposing a one-year 15 per cent "pay lifeline", which NSWNMA Tamworth branch secretary Jill Telfer said would make them more competitive with other states and help attract more staff.

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

'Lowest paid nurses in the country'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/07/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

Nurses and midwives held rallies at Hunter hospitals yesterday for fair pay and respect for their "female-dominated professions". Rallies were held at John Hunter,Maitland, Belmont, Morisset, Singleton and Muswellbrook hospitals.

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

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Highest in a decade: Shock churn rate as doctors leave

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/07/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 4

Queensland's exhausted frontline health staff are leaving the service in droves, with nurse turnover skyrocketing since the pandemic and doctors quitting at the highest rate seen in a decade. The Australian Medical Association Queensland has called on the government to change the culture of the

health system and protect those who speak out about issues, as staff face burnout, bullying and harassment.

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

‘The system is broken’: Doctor still fighting for permanent residency after 10 years in Australia

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/07/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Even though she is married to an Australian, Dr Tessa de Speville has not been offered permanent residency. When Dr Tessa de Speville came to Australia from Mauritius aged 18, she had no idea of the bureaucratic limbo that awaited.

[Read More](#)

\$35m for new Cairns TAFE for care and support workers

Nursing Review, Other, 23/07/2024, Erin Morley

A \$35m investment will be made into a new aged care, disability support and mental health care and support TAFE centre in Cairns in an effort to fill gaps in industries facing skills shortages. The boost comes as part of a larger plan to build a network of up to 20 TAFE Centres of Excellence in areas of high skills needs around the country.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 23/07/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Public sector nurses and midwives will launch rallies across NSW today as they fight for a 15% pay increase. Staff at the Royal Prince Alfred, Westmead Kids, Canterbury and Blacktown hospitals are stopping work for an hour today.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 23/07/2024, Sarah MacDonald

Nurses and midwives across New South Wales are protesting today as part of over 50 planned rallies this week. The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association is asking for a 15% pay increase. It says the wage rise is needed to retain staff and ease pressure on the public health system.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Cybercrime expert confident stolen Australian data has been sold

ABC Online, Other, 23/07/2024, Ange Lavoipierre

The sensitive data of almost 13-million Australians may have already been sold on the dark web, according to a cybersecurity expert. Last week it was revealed that electronic prescription company MediSecure had been hacked.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

'We would not have picked rapist athlete'

The Australian, General News, 24/07/2024, Jessica Halloran, Page 3

Child rapist Steven van de Velde, a Dutch beach volleyball player, would not have been picked for the Australian Olympic team, chef de mission Anna Meares says. Meares, who stepped in to answer a question about convicted rapist van de Velde, which was directed to Australia beach volleyball Olympic medallists Taliqua Clancy and Mariafe Artacho del Solar, reinforced the Australian Olympic team's strict athlete code of conduct.

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

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Child rapist 'would not be in team'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/07/2024, Tom Decent, Page 5

A convicted child rapist in the Netherlands Olympic team would not have been selected for Australia, according to chef de mission Anna Meares. The Dutch Olympic Committee has allowed Steven van de Velde to represent the Netherlands in beach volleyball despite being sentenced to four years in jail for raping a 12-year-old girl when he was 19.

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No uniform, athletes told, if out in city

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/07/2024, Marta Pascual Juanola Jordan Baker, Page 5

Paris: Security advisers for the Australian Olympic Committee have reiterated their advice to athletes against travelling alone and wearing their Olympic uniforms while out in Paris following the alleged gang rape of an Australian woman in a popular nightlife district. On Tuesday morning (Paris time), Australia's chef de mission Anna Meares said she had been informed about the case but hadn't been given much detail.

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Doc and flaw

Herald Sun, Sport, 24/07/2024, Sam Landsberger, Page 64

The AFL issued "please explain" letters to Carlton, Melbourne and Adelaide on Monday regarding their handling of head knocks at the weekend. Dr Barry Rigby, the head of the AFL Doctors' Association, said club doctors as well as the ARC should be empowered to notify field umpires to stop the game so a player can be taken from the field for a proper assessment.

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

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Stingers positive to Covid

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 24/07/2024, Todd Balym, Page 59

A second Australian women's water polo team member has tested positive to Covid as officials scramble to keep the illness contained. The Australian Olympic Committee confirmed the second case

just over four hours after Anna Meares revealed the first.

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

\$1bn figment of labor's imagination

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 24/07/2024, Taylah Fellows and Madura McCormack, Page 6

The original \$1bn price tag to demolish and rebuild Brisbane's Gabba stadium was not based on any government analysis Queensland's top bureaucrat has revealed. Department of Premier and Cabinet director-general Mike Kaiser confirmed the \$1bn figure for the Gabba redevelopment was effectively conjured up, marking the first time the government has made the concession since the price tag appeared in 2021.

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Gabba confession needs explanation

Courier Mail, Editorials, 24/07/2024, Editorial, Page 24

That the much-repeated \$1bn cost for the now-shelved rebuild of the Gabba the centrepiece of former Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's Olympics bid was simply, totally, just made up, boggles the mind. What sort of operation was Ms Palaszczuk presiding over where such a significant piece of public infrastructure was costed literally by someone sticking their thumb in the air?

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

'Matilda effect' is about to take hold

Courier Mail, General News, 24/07/2024, Katherine Rawe, Page 41

Hosting major sporting events, like the Olympic and Paralympic Games, can bring significant benefits to the host country, including improved infrastructure, increased employment and national pride.

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

Green and gold ban

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/07/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 1

Australia's Olympic athletes have been warned not to wear team uniforms outside the village amid a heightened security threat and news an Australian tourist was gang-raped in the heart of Paris just days before the opening ceremony. Police and military personnel now form a "ring of steel" around the city.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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

Ready to blast off

Daily Telegraph, Sport, 24/07/2024, Pamela Whaley, Page 64

A boom in TV ratings can put the NRLW on a fast track to full-time professionalism as the game prepares to cash in on record-breaking State of Origin audiences this season. On the eve of the seventh season, which kicks off with Newcastle and Sydney Roosters in a stand-alone game on Thursday night, NRL boss Andrew Abdo has outlined plans for a professional women's competition that is likely to tie in with a new broadcast deal in 2028.

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Future Olympians stifled

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/07/2024, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 14

Pipeline hurt as kids forced out of costly sports Families are being priced out of the Olympic dream as cost-of-living pressures force children out of expensive sports programs, sparking calls to increase funding for free and low-cost alternatives. One in three Aussie primary school kids dream of becoming an Olympian, but nearly half of the 1000 parents quizzed in a new survey said the cost prevents their children from playing more sports.

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Games organisers vow to 'Shine Brightest, Together'

A slogan has already been finalised for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics, as organisers mark eight years to go. The 2032 board director and former sprint star Patrick Johnson says lessons learned from the next two Olympics will earn Brisbane the much sought after tagline: 'best Games ever'.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

\$10m booster for naturopathy centre

The Australian, Higher Education, 24/07/2024, Page 21

Marcus Blackmore has used part of his fortune from natural health to give \$10m to Southern Cross University for research and education in naturopathic medicine. The donation, from the Blackmore Family Foundation, adds to a previous \$10m gift in 2018 that helped establish the university's National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine.

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Work with business to boost R&D: Go8

The Australian, Higher Education, 24/07/2024, Tim Dodd, Page 21

Group of Eight universities have urged the federal government to adopt a 10-year plan to lift Australia's investment in research and development to 3 per cent of GDP to boost the nation's capacity for productivity growth. A new Go8 paper lays out steps for the public and private sectors to work together to increase R&D investment, which has fallen sharply as a percentage of GDP since 2008.

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

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ASX Health Stocks: Focus on retina-disease drug study draws eyes

The Australian, Other, 23/07/2024, Eddy Sunarto

PYC Therapeutics (ASX:PYC) has received official approval to expand its current study of an investigational drug for Retinitis Pigmentosa type 11 (RP11). The approval has been granted in the US by the Institutional Review Board governing ongoing clinical trials in RP11.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Queensland failed to act on report into 'devastating' experiences of people with disability in justice system

The Guardian, Other, 24/07/2024, Ben Smee

The Queensland government has failed to act on the findings of a report that lays bare the "devastating" experiences of people with disabilities in the criminal justice system, including allegations of brutality, mistreatment and other failures. Guardian Australia has obtained the unpublished report, commissioned by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in 2022, that details the experiences of people living with disability, including in police watch houses.

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Walking pneumonia cases spike: What Aussies must know

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/07/2024, Adrienne Tam

The respiratory illness known as walking pneumonia is on the rise in Australia, with an increase in cases documented across NSW, Victoria and Queensland. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) President Dr Nicole Higgins recently said GPs should keep respiratory infections on their radar, especially due to the current antibiotics shortage.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Warning for illegal 'sex power' meds

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/07/2024, Page 15

Health authorities are warning men struggling with intimate moments in the bed to steer clear from a dangerous medicine that promises to increase sexual power. The Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued an urgent warning for imported "Robust Extreme" capsules, which claim to help men suffering from erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation.

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TGA issues urgent health alert over 'Robust Extreme' capsules

9News, Other, 23/07/2024, Emily McPherson

Australian health authorities have issued a warning about a potentially unsafe type of men's supplement being sold online on overseas websites. The "Robust Extreme" capsules, which claim to treat erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation, pose a serious health risk and should not be taken, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said in a

[Read More](#)

TGA issues 'Robust' warning

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/07/2024, Staff Writer

Patients urged to take 'Robust Extreme' capsules to their local community pharmacy for safe disposal. Consumers who have purchased a product labelled 'Robust Extreme' capsules are being advised to stop using the medication, which contains undeclared amounts of o-propyl vardenafil. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) warned that the capsules "pose a serious risk" to users. This content is restricted to registered users only.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

'Legalise pot to thwart gangs'

Herald Sun, General News, 24/07/2024, Mark Buttler, Page 7

Cannabis is supercharging Australian organised crime and should be sold in a regulated market, a leading drug reform body says. The Penington Institute will later this year make a formal submission to the state government for a regulated cannabis regime after completing a study of systems already operating in foreign jurisdictions.

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Huge haul of tobacco, cigarettes and vapes seized by Australian Border Force officials

West Australian, Other, 23/07/2024, Phil Hickey

A huge haul of tobacco, cigarettes and vapes have been seized following a fresh wave of targeted raids and searches led by Australian Border Force officials. [...] WA Department of Health officers also helped seize more than 3000 vapes as part of the investigation.

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

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South Australia Police adds another illicit drug to roadside testing

West Australian, Other, 23/07/2024, Max Davies

South Australia Police (SAPOL) will test drivers for cocaine as national average consumption of the substance reaches its highest recorded level to date. Currently, SAPOL officers use roadside testing to detect methamphetamine, cannabis, and MDMA (ecstasy), but cocaine will be added to the list from early 2025.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 23/07/2024, Unspecified

Cocaine will be added to the list of drugs that can be detected during roadside testing in SA. Police say the move is in response to increasing use of the drug and a growing number of fatal crashes linked to it.

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FOOD STANDARDS

High caffeine brands seized

Shepparton News, General News, 24/07/2024, Page 10

Hundreds of highly caffeinated beverages have been removed from shelves in a crackdown on potentially harmful energy drinks. [...] Under the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, it is illegal to sell energy drinks which contain more than 320mg/L of caffeine.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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South Australian businesses targeted over non-compliant energy drink sales

7news.com.au, Other, 23/07/2024

Some energy drinks sold in South Australian stores have double the maximum permitted level of caffeine, health authorities found during a recent blitz. [...]

[Read More](#)

Energy drinks containing excessive caffeine seized as SA health authorities target suppliers

ABC Online, Other, 23/07/2024

Hundreds of products have been seized since the start of a crackdown on energy drinks containing unsafe levels of caffeine, SA health authorities say. [...] Food Standards Australia New Zealand has capped the permissible caffeine content of energy drinks at 320 milligrams per litre, the SA government

said that some drinks detected in shops and on shelves during the so-called "blitz" contained almost twice that amount — "equivalent to nine cans of Coca-Cola or three shots of coffee".

[Read More](#)

Paris Olympics 2024 official kids drink bottles recalled over chemical scare

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 23/07/2024, Michael Dahlstrom

Ahead of the Paris Olympic Games starting this week, scrutiny on the the city has focused on the polluted River Seine which tests have shown to be unsafe for humans on multiple occasions. [...] And that's something Food Standards Australia and New Zealand agree on. Its current advice is "there are no safety concerns at the levels people are exposed to", according to the majority of global research.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 23/07/2024, Jerrie Demasi

More than 100 retailers were inspected during the SA government's nine month blitz on illegal energy drinks, and the results were alarming. These are just some of the 700 drinks seized from Adelaide shelves as part of the crackdown, and popular labels are among the worst offenders. G fuel, bhang and raise energy drinks were all found to have almost double the legal amount of caffeine set under the Australian Food Standards Code. That equates to nine cans of Coca-Cola or three shots of coffee, but it's who the drinks are marketed for that has health authorities here on alert.

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