



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 30th July 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Ballarat Courier](#)** (page 2) reports that access to cystic fibrosis medication Trikafta on the PBS will be extended to children aged two to five years-old from Thursday. "Because this disease is progressive, the earlier you're able to get the life-changing impacts of this Trikafta drug, the better their lifelong chances are going to be," said Health Minister Mark Butler.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells has responded to criticism of the government's Olympics sports funding strategy, saying that funding is not "unlimited" and that the government is trying to be "thoughtful" about its spending decisions. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Northern Territory News](#)
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 7) reports that industrial action by biomedical engineers at Victorian public hospitals may result in the cancellation of elective surgeries.
- **[The Northern Territory News](#)** (page 8) reports that \$250,000 in grants to aid suicide prevention programs and awareness campaigns have been awarded to 28 community organisations across the Northern Territory, with the territory currently having the highest rate of suicide in the country.

- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 9) reports that the Tasmanian government has taken out full-page ads in Victorian papers to attract interstate health workers as a continuation of its recruitment program, with the Rockliff government saying they intend to spend \$12.1 billion on the healthcare system over the next four years.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 9) reports that a former nurse at the state-run Oakden aged-care home has been disqualified for three years for professional misconduct after the SA Civil and Administrative Tribunal ruled that Arthur Moutakis "failed to manage complaints and adequately perform his roles and responsibilities".
- **The Newcastle Herald** (page 9) reports that the quarterly performance report from the ACQSC has found 35 per cent of aged care providers are not up to assessment and planning standards, with over 75 per cent found to be lacking ample organisational governance
- **The Herald Sun** (page 10) reports that the Ambulance Managers and Professionals Association has joined the Victorian Ambulance Union in moving a vote of no confidence against Ambulance Victoria, writing a letter to Ambulance Services Minister Mary-Anne Thomas on Monday to voice their "severe concerns about the current leadership" of the embattled agency.
- **The Newcastle Herald** (page 9) reports that members of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) have led industrial action at Lake Macquarie Private Hospital, walking off the job for four hours and launching protected action that included bans on working overtime, leading the hospital to cancel "several patients' surgeries".

MINISTER BUTLER

No bailouts for hospitals disrupted by 'virtual care'

Australian Financial Review, Editorials, 30/07/2024, Page 38

The deep dive by The Australian Financial Review's new health editor, Michael Smith, into the stand-off between private hospitals and health insurers is the jumping-off point for discussing the principles that should drive the modernisation of Australia's...

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Make the cap fit, bosses and unis tell PM

The Australian, General News, 30/07/2024, Rosie Lewis, Page 4

Business leaders and Australia's biggest universities have seized on Anthony Albanese's reshuffle in home affairs and immigration to demand an overhaul of Labor's "devastating" planned caps on international students. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said skills and training were part of the employment portfolio and would still have cabinet representation through Murray Watt.

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

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Textbook succession plan, but timing far from ideal

The Australian, Business News, 30/07/2024, Cameron England, Page 17

NIB's succession planning for the exit of long-time leader Mark Fitzgibbon appears textbook, but that doesn't mean the timing is great. [...] Pressure has been building for some time over what the Australian Private Hospitals Association flagged as an "acute financial viability crisis" in a report a year ago, and which culminated in Health Minister Mark Butler announcing an urgent review of the sector in June to report back by August.

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Cystic fibrosis medication win

Ballarat Courier, General News, 30/07/2024, Page 2

A "life-changing" medication for cystic fibrosis will be extended to toddlers and preschoolers living with the condition, at a fraction of the price families would normally pay. [...] The medication had been

previously listed on the PBS for those aged six and up with cystic fibrosis, but Health Minister Mark Butler said the extension would see an extra 330 families gain access to the subsidised treatment.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Area News \(Online\)](#), [Redland City Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Oberon Review \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Narromine News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Wellington Times \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#).

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Funding to grow primary care nursing workforce

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 29/07/2024

The federal government's \$4.2 million investment in the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) National Nursing Clinical Placements Program (NNCPP) will help grow the next generation of primary care nurses and tackle staff shortages, according to APNA. [...] "The NNCPP provides the pathway for the creation of a new PHC workforce and we thank the Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney for their ongoing support," he said.

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Funded placements for trainee nurses in general practice

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/07/2024, Laura Woodrow

The Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association is looking to combat workforce shortages through its clinical placement program, by funding thousands of nurse trainees in primary care. [...] "The [program] provides the pathway for the creation of a new primary health care workforce and we thank the Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney for their ongoing support."

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Sky News Live, Credlin, 29/07/2024, Peta Credlin

Interview with Tim Harris, Catholic Bishop of Townsville, on six essential drugs that are used for palliative care, including morphine, that have been withdrawn from the market in the past year. The move has prompted the Australian New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine to call for a longer notification period to be introduced if essential drugs are going to be taken off the market. They also want substitutes to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme as soon as possible. Harris has written to Health Minister Mark Butler, warning that the lack of alternative medications could leave people to seek out euthanasia, even if that's not their preference.

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4BC, Afternoons, 29/07/2024, Sofie Formica

Formica says the CEOs from Australia's largest healthcare companies sat down in face-to-face meetings last week with the Albanese Government to outline the dire situation. She adds the healthcare sector is worth \$22b and it is struggling because of rising costs, increasing wages, a declining number of patients, issues with maternity and mental health services being hit hard and closures happening across the board. Formica says there has also been a clash between hospital operators and health insurance that's intensifying because the hospitals are calling for Government support and the insurers are arguing for greater efficiency, fearing increased financial obligations on their part. She adds Health Minister Mark Butler has led an inquiry into the sector and he is hoping that it will uncover the financial issues and determine any necessary reforms.

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MINISTER WELLS

'We can't dole out unlimited money'

Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells has hit back at critics of the government's Olympics sports funding strategy, saying "We can't give unlimited money to all the good ideas in sport". Ms Wells, who spent almost a week in Paris before flying back to Australia on Sunday, France-time, also called on sports such as swimming to hire more female coaches and said the government was correcting an "injustice" by doubling its Paralympic funding.

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

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Aged care sector at a 'crisis juncture'

CathNews, Other, 29/07/2024, Rebecca Comini

Persistent losses across almost 2000 residential care facilities through to at least 2029 would inevitably see more closures, especially in rural and regional areas, at a time Australia's ageing population requires more beds and more services, the report by leading aged care accountancy firm StewartBrown finds. [...] It was chaired by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells and run by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Families of donor recipients use launch of DonateLife Week 2024 to urge more Australians to register

ABC Online, Other, 29/07/2024, Mike Lorigan & Nate Woodall

There are 1,800 Australians waiting for an organ transplant and a further 14,000 on dialysis for kidney failure. Only around 1 in 3 Australians are registered to be a donor. Families are using this week's DonateLife Week to urge more Australians to sign up to be organ donors.

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PM sends government agencies scrambling to prepare for new ministers

About Regional, Other, 29/07/2024, Chris Johnson

Anthony Albanese's new-look front bench is all sworn in, with the Prime Minister promising to take this Cabinet to the next federal election. [...] Matt Thistlethwaite is Assistant Minister for Immigration; Ged Kearney, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care and for Indigenous Health; Tim Ayres, Assistant Minister for a Future Made In Australia and Trade; Anthony Chisholm, Assistant Minister for Education, Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Agriculture; Kate Thwaites, Assistant Minister for Social Security, for Ageing and Assistant Minister for Women; Josh Wilson, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy; and Julian Hill, Assistant Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs.

Also reported by: [Region Riverina \(Online\)](#), [Cape York Weekly \(Online\)](#), [RiotACT \(Online\)](#).

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Details of the reshuffled federal Ministry

Croakey, Other, 29/07/2024, Melissa Sweet

Below are details of changes in the Federal Ministry (and the full Ministry can be seen here Of note: Senator Malarndirri McCarthy is now in Cabinet as Minister for Indigenous Australians, and her previous role as Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health has been given to a non-Indigenous MP, Ged Kearney, who also remains in her previous role as Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care.

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Albanese's Cabinet Overhaul: New Ministers for Home Affairs, Employment, and Indigenous Australians

The Australia Today, Other, 29/07/2024, Julius Sans

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has announced changes to the Cabinet and Ministry, drawing on the strength and depth of the Parliamentary Labor Party. [...] Ged Kearney MP has been appointed Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health.

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Funding to grow primary care nursing workforce

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 29/07/2024

The federal government's \$4.2 million investment in the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) National Nursing Clinical Placements Program (NNCPP) will help grow the next generation of primary care nurses and tackle staff shortages, according to APNA. [...] "The NNCPP provides the pathway for the creation of a new PHC workforce and we thank the Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney for their ongoing support," he said.

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NEW FM, 07:30 News, 29/07/2024

There are currently around 1800 Australians on the waiting list for an organ donation including several children in urgent need of a kidney transplant. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney is urging local people to be the reason someone gets a second chance at life.

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3AW, Drive, 29/07/2024, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with Ged Kearney, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, on her reminder to all Australians to register as organ and tissue donors this DonateLife Week. Kearney says what they focus on is to make sure that somebody who donates their organs is having a conversation with their loved ones because it's their next of kin and your loved ones that give that final consent at that really awful time.

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DEPARTMENT

No winners in parliament's party games

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 30/07/2024, Zoe Wundenberg, Page 12

Is there anything more frustrating than childish party political antics? Frankly, I find the blame game that epitomises the Australian party system embarrassing. [...] This, despite the Australian government Department of Health and Aged Care stating that almost half of all Australian adults will face mental ill-health during their lives, with the AIHW stating that suicide was the main cause of death for Australians aged 15-44 in 2022.

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Smart applications are fast becoming a vital tool in the provision of aged care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 29/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

From dementia education and virtual companionship to physical activities and entertainment, mobile applications are becoming increasingly present in the provision of aged care in Australia. The Department of Health and Aged Care has recently announced a two year trial of its SPACED app, designed to support Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) providers to "better understand what supports exist, where and how to access them, and who to contact for more information.

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Escalating Prices Force Meals on Wheels to Turn Away Seniors

HelloCare, Other, 29/07/2024, Jakob Neeland

Meals on Wheels, an essential service for many elderly Australians, is struggling to maintain operations amid escalating costs, leading to the exclusion of some seniors from their meal delivery programme. This alarming trend has seen some branches teetering on the edge of closure.

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CORONAVIRUS

COVID could cause 'extra' deaths for years to come

West Australian, General News, 30/07/2024, Page 11

Australia could continue to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic for years as more people die because of the virus and its impacts. About 8400 more people died in 2023 than would have been expected before the pandemic, according to an Actuaries Institute report, released on Monday.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Better deal for seniors could help all

Burnie Advocate, General News, 30/07/2024, Sean Ford, Page 7

Indexing concessions for seniors could drive down the cost of essential services for all Tasmanians, the state government has been told. Lobby group National Seniors Australia said there was a need to increase the rate of concessions for pensioners and other low-income seniors to match increasing expenses and relieve financial stress.

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Watchdog increases home aged care scrutiny

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/07/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 9

Home-based aged care services are emerging as a rising area of concern with more than one in three services failing to meet quality standards. Finance management, fees and charges account for three out of the top five most complained about issues regarding aged care home service providers nationally.

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

Aged Care Insite, Other, 29/07/2024, 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.

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Henwood launches healthy ageing consultancy

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/07/2024, Natasha Egan

Former academic and aged care executive Dr Tim Henwood has stepped out on his own to help service providers realise better health outcomes for older people through evidence-based solutions. This week's launch of AgeFIT Solutions follows Dr Henwood's recent departure from Southern Cross Care SA, NT & Vic after more than seven years with the aged care provider, most of which in the role of group manager of health and wellness.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Smoke war law on backburner

Herald Sun, Editorials, 30/07/2024, Page 22

Despite the more than 71 firebombings, a suspected murder and a slew of assaults, threats and extortion, the Allan government has left a key reform that could help tackle one aspect of the violent tobacco wars on the backburner. As revealed in Monday's Herald Sun, Victoria Police is urging the government to move on recommendations to impose a tobacco licensing scheme for retailers but legislative reform appears to be on the go-slow, stuck in some bureaucratic review or in the fading memory of a ministerial commitment.

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Stop thinking of menopause as secret women's business

West Australian, General News, 30/07/2024, Paul Maginn, Page 56

If you're a regular reader of a newspaper, radio listener, television watcher, podcast apostle, or social media lurker there's a fairly high chance that you will have heard or seen quite a bit of discussion about menopause in recent times. Menopause came to the fore of the public consciousness, not only here in Australia but also globally, back in 2023 when a guest, Imogen Crump, on ABC News Breakfast halted an interview declaring live on air that she was experiencing a perimenopausal hot flush.

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Smokes on the order from black market

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 30/07/2024, Page 10

As a parent of teens, I know all about the vape craze at schools, and I've heard that old-school cigarettes are on the increase among Gen Z, but, as a non-smoker, I didn't realise the black market had become so mainstream. But apparently I'm the only one.

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

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Push to host drug forum

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 30/07/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 1

A campaign to build Tamworth's first 24-hour drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility is picking up steam as it seeks a space for open advocacy and discussion. The state government has announced a two-day summit in Sydney in December to bring together experts and stakeholders to build consensus on the way NSW deals with drug use and harms.

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Stark numbers reveal dire vaping problems in Aussie schools

Adelaide Now, Other, 29/07/2024, Clareese Packer

Children as young as six years old have been found vaping in schools, new data has revealed. More than 600 cases of children vaping and e-cigarette usage was reported in Queensland primary schools

over 18 months, Education Queensland data has found.

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Online gamblers bet big as reforms remain handicapped

Canberra Times, Other, 29/07/2024, Adrian Black

Online gambling has spiked sharply over the past year, new data shows, re-stoking calls to reform the sector. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, studies show each year Australians lose more on gambling per person than any other country - around \$25 billion.

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Menopause 'culture of silence' sparks early retirement

West Australian, Other, 30/07/2024, Poppy Johnston

Menopause remains a taboo subject and a lack of workplace support means many women retire early, the peak union body will tell a parliamentary hearing as part of a push for paid reproductive leave. The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) wants 10 days' leave for menopause and fertility issues affecting both women and men, as well as flexible working arrangements.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Scientists who should be household names

Canberra Times, Other, 29/07/2024, John Hanscombe

Norman May's electrifying poolside race call at the 1980 Moscow Olympics echoed loudly last week, fuelling the warm glow of national pride deep inside me. But it had nothing to do with sport. Nothing to do with the goings-on in Paris, either.

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Myeloma Australia expands information and support sessions to Great Southern with inaugural Albany event

West Australian, Other, 29/07/2024, Melissa Sheil

People diagnosed with a rare blood cancer in the Great Southern will soon have access to community support and education through an event coming to Albany for the first time. [...] "Nurses and the doctors are going to give you pamphlets with lots of information in and all the medical stuff but maybe I want to go travelling and need information on the best travel insurance to get, because when you've got something like a cancer, a lot of people may not want to insure you or maybe I want a remedial massage which I can get for free at the wellness centre at Cancer Council.

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PRIMARY CARE

Howto end the \$22b private healthwar

Australian Financial Review, General News, 30/07/2024, Page 40

Mark Fitzgibbon quips there's a simple reason he's retiring as chief executive of NIB after a 22-year stint: "I didn't want to do a Joe Biden." But fittingly for an insurance boss, Fitzgibbon, who turns 65 in November, has done the numbers.

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NIB boss set to retire amid St Vincent's row

The Australian, Business News, 30/07/2024, Cameron England, Page 17

NIB's long-time managing director, Mark Fitzgibbon, has announced his intention to retire in the midst of a crucial stoush with private hospital group St Vincent's, which has warned it will walk away from their payments deal. Mr Fitzgibbon has told the ASX he will provide notice of his retirement some time from September 1, which is a month before the October 3 date St Vincent's has given as the deadline for a better deal to be struck between the provider and the insurer.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Businesses keep faith in cloud cover

The Australian, Technology, 30/07/2024, Jared Lynch, Page 22

Cloud computing is still the most secure and efficient environment for businesses to operate despite CrowdStrike's outage costing the global economy billions of dollars, the head of the world's biggest multimedia and information company says. Business leaders are completing their own autopsies of the world's largest tech outage triggered by a botched software update which knocked out big banks, hospitals, retailers and grounded airlines in a level of disruption similar to a cyber attack.

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Surgery at risk

Herald Sun, General News, 30/07/2024, Mitch Clarke, Page 7

Elective surgeries at Victorian public hospitals could be cancelled as a group of specialised healthcare workers threaten to refuse requests to fix crucial medical equipment used in operations over a pay claim. Biomedical engineers responsible for installing and maintaining medical equipment in areas such as neonatal and pediatric care, oncology, theatre, intensive care and other settings are set to start industrial action today for the first time in a decade.

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

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My father's final days were confronting, demanding, inspiring, and a good and bad insight into healthcare

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/07/2024, Bruce Levett, Page 22

Death is not something we talk about. Maybe this is because we are so busy with our daily routines and this busyness tends to drive our focus and thoughts distracting us from thinking and discussing things that matter.

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\$3m centre support

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 30/07/2024, Tegan Guthrie, Page 1

A \$3 million therapy centre for Goldfields children that has been five years in the making is now one step closer following council development approval. Full Circle Therapies received unanimous support at last week's Kalgoorlie-Boulder council meeting for development of its new purpose-built centre which will host eight allied health specialists in psychology, speech and occupational therapy.

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Call for women's and family hub

Launceston Examiner, General News, 30/07/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 2

A co-located women's and family hub in Launceston would have "numerous benefits" to the community, addressing social, economic and health needs, the Women's Legal Service Tasmania says. A stakeholder conversation held at Head to Health Launceston on July 29 asked the community what services they would like to see co-located.

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Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital patient forced to sleep in corridor hours

before brain surgery

7news.com.au, Other, 29/07/2024

The family of a 79-year-old father says he has been left "broken" after he was forced to spend the night in a Perth hospital corridor just hours before undergoing major brain surgery. Air Force veteran Malcolm Sweetman's family is outraged after he was put next to a cleaner's room at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital on Sunday, the fifth time he had been moved since being admitted on Tuesday.

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What should GPs charge patient no-shows? \$50 appears to be the magic number

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/07/2024, Antony Scholefield

Patients not showing up at appointments is a growing problem in general practice, according to an AusDoc survey of GPs, as well as Dr Mukesh Haikerwal. Dr Haikerwal, a former AMA president and Melbourne GP, is trialling a \$50 fine for no-shows to stem losses of thousands of dollars a week.

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118-year-old practice faces closure because no GP will take it on

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/07/2024, Rachel Carter

"I have an angel sitting above me. "It was given to me by a patient who underwent a double lung transplant, an incredibly brave woman," Dr David Snedden says.

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Launch of space-aged 'Tesla of Euthanasia' death pod in Switzerland is scrapped as inventor admits 'first patient' - a US woman in her 50s - needs 'psychological care rather than assisted suicide'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/07/2024, Elena Salvoni

The debut of a 'death capsule' designed to carry out assisted suicides at the push of a button has been 'aborted', its creator has revealed. Euthanasia expert and inventor Dr Philip Nitschke, said the first person expected to use the device was suffering from 'deteriorating mental health'.

[Read More](#)

Malcolm Sweetman: Vietnam veteran spends night in hospital corridor before brain surgery

West Australian, Other, 29/07/2024, Bethany Hiatt

A Vietnam veteran has been forced to spend the night in a hospital corridor while waiting for brain surgery, in yet another example of the dire state of WA's over-stretched hospital system. Malcolm Sweetman, 79, was put into a ward corridor at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital on Sunday afternoon, the night before an urgent operation to remove a golf ball-sized brain tumour.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 29/07/2024, Sandra Sully

Queensland teachers say kids behaving badly is crushing them under a crippling workload and hours of paperwork. More than a million incidents were recorded last year alone, with each one taking 15 minutes away from face to face class time. Many behavioural issues can stem from undiagnosed conditions like ADHD, but with strains on the public system and a visit to the GP unaffordable for many families, it can be a lengthy wait. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President Dr Nicole Higgins says it can be months to years in some cases to get assessment and access a diagnosis and support for those kids who are really in dire need.

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6PR, Afternoons, 29/07/2024, Julie-anne Sprague

A new health facility is now open south of Perth, with 80 new beds becoming available for patients who need to make the transition out of tertiary hospitals. As part of the Murdoch Square development, the

MediHotel will house those who are unable to be discharged from hospital but who don't need acute care.

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Radio National, Life Matters, 29/07/2024, Hilary Harper & Beverley Wang

Doctors say a global shortage of intravenous fluids is approaching critical levels in Australia. The Australian Medical Association says around 80% of the country's fluids come from just one supplier which is having trouble meeting demand. AMA President Professor Steve Robson says while the TGA has approved several alternative suppliers, the shortage will take some time to ease.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 29/07/2024, Sally Sara & Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Professor Steve Robson, President, Australian Medical Association, on Australia facing a critical shortage of intravenous fluids, which are used for tens of thousands of patients in hospitals across the country every day. The Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved overseas substitute products to help minimise the shortage, but the peak doctors body has warned the health system could come to a grinding halt this week if the scarcity isn't dealt with. Robson says it's an unprecedented situation because intravenous fluids are fundamental to most health care, and they have never seen anything like it before.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Diagnosis far more than a label

Age, General News, 30/07/2024, Mike Knapp, Page 16

I've always felt like a "normal" person. A bit quirky, sure, but otherwise your garden variety computer dork who, thanks to a fortunate upbringing, was on an exciting career trajectory.

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Stop buying your kids smartphones

The Nightly, General News, 29/07/2024, Kate Emery, Page 15

Parents: stop buying your kids smartphones. You'll regret it and you're doing them harm, raising their risk of depression and anxiety, a shorter attention span and aggression.

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\$250,000 for suicide prevention

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/07/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 8

Twenty-eight community organisations in the Northern Territory have shared in more than \$250,000 after successfully applying for the government's 2024-25 Suicide Prevention Grants program. The money will go towards delivering local activities to create positive and inclusive spaces to strengthen community resilience and raise awareness about suicide prevention.

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Guests to get 'raw and real' at gathering

Border Mail, General News, 30/07/2024, Jodie O'Sullivan, Page 9

Former AFL footballer and born-and-bred Brocklesby boy Justin Koschitzke will join one of Australia's most respected community leaders, Reverend Tim Costello, as guests of this year's Corryong Spirit. The pair will speak at the annual community gathering on August 16 that aims to recognise the courage of people in the Upper Murray and reflect on the lives lost after the 2019 bushfires.

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All they need is love, says the founder of The Youth Shed

Central Western Daily, General News, 30/07/2024, Nick McGrath, Page 2

Darren Wooding has a small shed but a big heart and he's using both to help tackle a massive challenge facing Orange. Mr Wooding is a specialist mentor and coach who focuses on the fundamentals of life and encourages productiveness through his not-for-profit organisation The Youth Shed.

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A new space for youth mental health

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 30/07/2024, Rachel Clark, Page 1

A New "bright and welcoming" space for young people has officially opened in Tamworth. headspace Tamworth has relocated to 201 Marius Street, and celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on yesterday after staff moved in last week.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Second ambo union revolts

Herald Sun, General News, 30/07/2024, Mitch Clarke, Page 10

Managers and corporate staff at Ambulance Victoria have taken the unprecedented step to vote in support of a no-confidence motion against the agency's under-fire executive. A second union separate to the powerful Victorian Ambulance Union that represents paramedics wrote to Ambulance Services Minister Mary- Anne Thomas on Monday to voice their "severe concerns about the current leadership" of Ambulance Victoria.

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

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More pay pain for state

Herald Sun, Editorials, 30/07/2024, Page 22

Yet another troublesome industrial front has opened up on the Allan government, which was already dealing with multiple claims from its frontline workforce. As reported in today's Herald Sun, the latest to threaten action after protracted negotiations are biomedical engineers in the public hospital system.

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Ads for health workers

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/07/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 9

The Tasmanian government has ramped up its health recruitment campaign by taking out full-page ads in the Herald Sun and The Age to entice Victorians across Bass Strait. Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Guy Barnett, said the ads were intended to send Victorians healthcare workers the very clear message that the Tasmanian government was hiring for roles right across the state's hospital system.

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Flow-on effects in childcare desert

Border Mail, General News, 30/07/2024, Adrian Black, Page 4

For psychologist and mother-of-two, Tegan Podubinski, a lack of childcare access will leave her North

East community 20 weeks poorer in mental health services this year. "We have a very limited mental health workforce," Wangaratta-based Dr Podubinski said.

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Private hospital nurses strike

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/07/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 9

Nurses and midwives walked off the job for four hours at Lake Macquarie Private Hospital yesterday to rally for better pay and conditions. The four-hour strike sought to highlight the "unacceptable pay and conditions offer" from the hospital's owner Ramsay Health Care in a new enterprise agreement.

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Joint boost for health services

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/07/2024, Nikita McGuire, Page 11

A signed document has solidified the collaboration of the Townsville Hospital and Health Service and CQUniversity in the future of healthcare outcomes for North Queensland. Representatives from the THHS and the university signed the papers on Monday morning, with the promise of future opportunities for education, training, research and workforce development.

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Decision for career was a no-brainer

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/07/2024, Jami Roberts, Page 11

Breanna Balchin has always been fascinated by the brain, and decided to pursue a career studying the organ after a family member received a shock diagnosis. "I've always been interested in how brains work; they're such complicated little blobs that live in our heads and manage so many things that go on in our everyday lives," Ms Balchin said.

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Cancer survivor Melanie Jones studying to become a nurse

Cairns Post, Other, 29/07/2024, Lexa Smith

Melanie Jones was alone and terrified when she was given her cancer diagnosis while living in Alaska. Twenty-one years later it is a different and uplifting story.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

National pharmacovigilance of seasonal influenza vaccines in Australia

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 29/07/2024

The early detection of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) is essential to protect public health and to maintain confidence in vaccination. Vaccine pharmacovigilance — the monitoring, detection, investigation and actioning of vaccine safety signals — occurs across a collaborative landscape that includes the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the nationally funded surveillance initiative AusVaxSafety, and state and territory health departments.

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New PBS listing for cystic fibrosis in kids

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/07/2024

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Trikafta (elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor and ivacaftor) will be on the PBS from 01 Aug. The drug listing is for the treatment of cystic fibrosis (CF) in children ages two through to five years old, who have at least one F508del mutation in the CFTR gene.

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A life saving treatment for cystic fibrosis is being made cheaper for children aged from two to five. Access to the drug Trikafta will be expanded under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and it will help families save hundreds of thousands of dollars, meaning 330 additional families can access the medication under the scheme.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Digivate expanding its health tech nationwide

Adelaide Advertiser, Business Journal, 30/07/2024, Giuseppe Tauriello, Page 24

Health technology start-up Digivate Health has launched a national expansion plan as it looks to more than double the size of its consulting team over the next 12 months. The move comes less than a year after ex-PwC director Lara Spence established Digivate to fill a gap in the market for a specialist consulting firm that helps healthcare organisations unlock efficiencies in the private and public systems through digital technologies.

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Medicare in urgent need of CPR

Canberra Times, General News, 30/07/2024, Crispin Hull, Page 17

Medicare is in urgent need of some CPR. Not just the pulmonary and cardio, but a resuscitation of every part of the human body and the medical procedures that can be applied to it.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Disgraced nurse disqualified

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/07/2024, Charlie Dadds, Page 9

A disgraced ex-nurse at the infamous state-run Oakden aged-care home, whose job included investigating family complaints, has been reprimanded and disqualified for three years for professional misconduct. The SA Civil and Administrative Tribunal ruled Arthur Moutakis, who held multiple roles over his 10 years at Oakden, "failed to managed complaints and adequately perform his roles and responsibilities" to the standard expected of registered nurse.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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RACGP further responds to Ahpra criminal history standard

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/07/2024

The RACGP has provided a submission to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) on its Criminal history registration standard. It comes following college feedback to the September 2023 National Boards' current version of the criminal history standard, as part of a consultation on other work being undertaken for the Boards' blueprint to improve public safety in health regulation.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Importance of chat with loved ones

Ballarat Courier, General News, 30/07/2024, Melanie Whelan, Page 5

Nurse Larna Woodyatt wants people to have what she knows is not an easy conversation, but maybe in a less-intense, generalised way. Perhaps at the dinner table or at half-time in the football.

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Harvey a gift still giving

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 30/07/2024, Samantha Landy, Page 13

'We feel he does live on' Harvey Williams loved the outdoors, had an "infectious laugh", was academically gifted and looked out for his younger sister, Imogen. The apprentice diesel mechanic from Tambo Upper in Gippsland was always willing to help others including as a member of Surf Life Saving Lakes Entrance, where he was named "most promising lifesaver" while completing his Bronze Medallion.

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Many still die on wait lists

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 30/07/2024, Page 13

More than 50 Australians died while on the waitlist for an organ transplant last year, spurring a call for all registered donors to recruit a "plus one" to the lifesaving cause. The plea from Australia's Organ and Tissue Authority comes as it launches DonateLife Week an annual campaign to encourage people to support organ and tissue donation.

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Mother on mission to increase donors

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 29/07/2024, Lewis Nancekivell, Page 2

A young organ-donation recipient will help her mother give out cupcakes and stickers as part of an awareness campaign taking place in Robinvale this week. DonateLife Week, run by the Federal Government's Organ and Tissue Authority, got under way nationally yesterday and will run until this Sunday.

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

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Art classes help Mallacoota residents process bushfire trauma and find connections

ABC Online, Other, 29/07/2024, Jessica Schremmer

When the catastrophic 2019 bushfire ripped through the small coastal town of Mallacoota in Victoria's far east, it changed the vibrant community's fabric forever. For some residents, the fire turned everything they owned into ash.

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SPORT

What the MCG should do with its newfound wealth

Age, General News, 30/07/2024, Andrew Jones, Page 16

CEOs in sport are accustomed to dealing with problems. Disgruntled players, fans or stakeholders and challenging negotiations with sponsors, media partners and venues.

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Games legacy \$300m

Courier Mail, General News, 30/07/2024, Jeremy Pierce, Page 19

A new report has revealed the sporting legacy of the Gold Coast's Commonwealth Games has already been worth an estimated \$300 million to the region's economy. The GC2018 Legacy: Beyond the Games report, compiled by leading consultants Ernst and Young, showed the value of permanent additions to infrastructure, such as indoor sports centres and upgraded outdoor facilities.

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Athletics legacy? Pfft, this is politics

Courier Mail, Editorials, 30/07/2024, Page 24

Ok, let's try explaining what is being proposed by Premier Steven Miles for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in another way: He plans to spend \$1.6bn of taxpayer money building a new 14,000-seat venue exclusively for track and field, a massive outlay that he says is worthwhile because it will deliver a legacy for the sport of athletics. But here's what he is actually proposing to burn \$1.6bn of your money literally replacing what is already a world-class track-and-field facility that has hosted 11 Australian athletics championships and that annually already welcomes 527,000 participants and spectators for local school and community carnivals.

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You can't blame the beds

Northern Territory News, Wrap, 30/07/2024, Julian Linden, Page 47

Australia's golden swimmers have been told to ignore the mounting problems with the Olympic Village so they don't lose focus on what they are there to do. It's become the worst-kept secret of the Games that the Athletes' Village in Paris isn't some fancy five-star hotel.

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Former Hawks take racism complaint to Federal Court

National Indigenous Times, Other, 29/07/2024, Oliver Caffrey & Shayne Hope

AFL premiership star Cyril Rioli has lodged a statement of claim in the Federal Court against his former club Hawthorn, as he and others continue to pursue legal action over alleged racism. Rioli is the lead applicant alongside his wife Shannyn Ah Sam-Rioli, former players Carl Peterson and Jermaine Miller-Lewis, his partner Montanah-Rae Lewis, and Hawthorn's former Indigenous liaison officer Leon Egan.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Alzheimer's blood test

Courier Mail, General News, 30/07/2024, Page 15

A test looking at certain molecules in the blood, known as biomarkers, could help predict the risk of Alzheimer's disease, international researchers say. Skane University Hospital researchers in Sweden and a team from UNC School of Medicine in the US looked at the presence of biomarkers in patients who were being assessed for Alzheimer's.

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Doubts on breast removal

Courier Mail, General News, 30/07/2024, Page 21

The double mastectomy, undertaken by some breast cancer patients as a precautionary measure against the disease, provides no advantage to sufferers for their survival, a new study has found. The findings, published in JAMA Oncology last week, are based on more than 660,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer during 2000 and 2019.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

Alzheimer's test breakthrough

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/07/2024, Page 13

A simple blood test could help diagnose Alzheimer's disease more quickly and accurately, a new study has found. The research, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and conducted at Sweden's Lund University, was based on 1213 patients with the condition the most common form of dementia in Australia.

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Diabetes from fathers

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/07/2024, Page 15

Kids are almost twice as likely to develop type 1 diabetes (T1D) if their dad has the condition than if their mum has it, UK research reveals. Cardiff University and University of Exeter researchers suggest being exposed to T1D in the womb protects children against the condition, so if Dad rather than Mum has T1D, kids aren't protected in this way.

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AI leaves no stone unturned

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/07/2024, Sue Bailey, Page 17

A team of Hobart-based doctors has successfully used artificial intelligence to diagnose gallstones in the common bile duct or choledocholithiasis. Their research involved 222 patients admitted to the Royal Hobart Hospital between 2018 and 2023.

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Lifestyle changes can beat dementia

West Australian, General News, 30/07/2024, Shaun Wooller, Page 3

Nearly half of dementia cases could be prevented if people adopted healthier lifestyles, according to researchers. And it is far easier for individuals to protect themselves from the disease than many believe, a study has found.

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Study finds a vegan diet 'makes you younger in just eight weeks'

West Australian, Other, 29/07/2024, Georgina Noack

Eating a vegan diet for just two months may reduce a person's biological age and help them to lose weight, a study suggests. The research involved 21 pairs of identical twins aged 39.

[Read More](#)

How cutting out one donut's worth of sugar per day can make you biologically younger, according to fascinating new study

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/07/2024, Emily Joshu

Cutting out just 10 grams of sugar every day could 'significantly' lower your biological age, a study suggests. Researchers at the University of California - San Francisco recruited nearly 350 women to measure how diets rich in vitamins and minerals, as well as those packed with sugar, affected the participants' 'epigenetic clock.

[Read More](#)

Losing a loved one may speed up ageing - study

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/07/2024

Losing a loved one may make you age faster, a new study suggests. Suffering a loss at any age could have an impact on health, but researchers say the effects might be more severe during childhood or early adulthood.

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Share or comment on this article: Vegan diet could be linked to reduction in biological...

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/07/2024

Eating a vegan diet may reduce a person's biological age, research suggests. After eight weeks of a plant-based diet, there were also decreases in the ages of the heart, hormone, liver, and inflammatory and metabolic systems, the study found.

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Share or comment on this article: Scottish scientists to spend two years studying MRSA...

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/07/2024

Scientists at a Scottish university are to spend two years researching whether an enzyme in MRSA bacteria from the 1950s could put an end to antibiotic resistance. Dr Jo Hobbs, from St Andrews University's school of biology, and her team are hopeful that they can find the secret to avoiding or reversing the bug's resistance to drugs.

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Bereavement in early life may accelerate ageing, research shows

The Guardian, Other, 30/07/2024, Ian Sample

The stress of bereavement may accelerate the ageing process, according to researchers who found evidence that losing a loved one early in life had an impact long before people reach middle age. Scientists spotted biological markers of faster ageing in people who had lost a parent, partner, sibling or child, but the signs were absent in others who had not experienced the death of someone close to them.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Police have power to close the gap

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/07/2024, Don Weatherburn, Page 16

Law enforcement says it shouldn't be responsible for the high rates of Indigenous people in jail, but there is a lever it can pull. Australian state and territory governments got together in July 2020 and established a National Agreement on Closing the Gap, one aim of which was to reduce the number of Aboriginal adults in prison by 15 per cent by 2031.

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Healing Foundation welcome appointment of minister who understands the "complex challenges" for Stolen Generation survivors

National Indigenous Times, Other, 29/07/2024, Dechlan Brennan

The Healing Foundation has welcomed the appointment of Senator Malarndirri McCarthy as Minister for Indigenous Australians, saying she will bring a "nuanced understanding" and "lived experience" to her new role. Senator McCarthy, a Saltwater woman from the Yanyuwa Garrawa people, grew up in Borroloola - a remote Aboriginal community over 1000 km East of Darwin and 50 km upstream from the Gulf of Carpentaria.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Health experts issue urgent warning for Legionnaires' disease amid Melbourne outbreak

The Australian, Other, 29/07/2024, Lauren Ferri

Health authorities have issued an urgent warning for a dangerous disease, after multiple people were admitted to hospital with severe issues. Victoria's Department of Health has revealed it is investigating an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease after a "significant increase" in cases across Melbourne since Friday.

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

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Legionnaires' disease outbreak in Melbourne

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/07/2024, Sarah Booth

An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in Melbourne is under investigation, after multiple people were admitted to intensive care with severe pneumonia. There have been 22 confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease — and a further six suspected — in Melbourne since Friday, with health authorities now searching for the source of the chest infection outbreak.

[Read More](#)

Fewer Australians are getting their annual influenza vaccine, national data shows

ABC Online, Other, 29/07/2024, Andi Yu & Madi Chwasta

It's peak influenza season but about 540,000 fewer Australians have had a flu shot compared to this time last year. A national survey conducted to find out why people were choosing not to get an influenza jab found some thought the flu vaccine would give them the flu, or that it wouldn't work at all.

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Young father-of-two Eli Eyb, 32, died after catching a common illness at his son's birthday party. Now his family are asking why paramedics wouldn't bring him in

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/07/2024, Max Aitchison

A father-of-two who died after catching the flu at 32 has been remembered as an 'outgoing guy who had a heart of gold', as his family claim he would be alive today if paramedics had admitted him to hospital. Eli Eyb, 32, was left bedridden for a week after catching the common illness influenza A strain at his son's seventh birthday party on the second weekend in July.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 29/07/2024, Georgia Stynes

The Federal Government has awarded almost \$2m to a team of microbiologists in Canberra and Sydney to develop a vaccine to prevent recurring UTIs.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Testosterone 'not the missing link'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/07/2024, Wendy Tuohy, Page 11

Widespread claims that testosterone can restore energy, reduce abdominal fat and protect the heart, brain and bones are leading Australian women in mid-life to seek the primary male hormone for conditions it is unproven to treat. [...] "If you use compounded doses which are not TGA regulated, or male [testosterone] formulations on women, there is the potential for harm.

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Widely advertised hormone test unreliable as fertility prediction tool, researchers say

The Guardian, Other, 29/07/2024, Melissa Davey

Accredited fertility clinics are among companies misleading women about a blood test used to indicate fertility, resulting in women potentially making misinformed health decisions, researchers say. [...] Guardian Australia has contacted the Therapeutic Goods Administration for comment.

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Australia faces shortage of 'crucial' IV fluids

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/07/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

A critical shortage of IV fluids has hit the Australian health system with "very little warning" and could eventually impact non-cancer elective surgery. [...] The TGA said supply would be "constrained" throughout the rest of the year due to manufacturing issues, unexpected increases in demand and global supply limitations.

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The TGA's position on oral phenylephrine as a nasal decongestant

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 29/07/2024

The TGA is aware that the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee met in September 2023 to discuss the available efficacy data for oral phenylephrine used as a nasal decongestant and whether it should be reclassified from being 'Generally Recognized as Safe and Effective' (GRASE) due to its efficacy. The FDA's advisory committee makes non-binding recommendations to the FDA, which generally follows the recommendations but is not legally bound to do so.

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If phenylephrine doesn't work, what does?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 29/07/2024, Chloe Hava

It's been a tough winter, with a potent soup of respiratory viruses comprising respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), new COVID-19 variants, influenza A and pertussis striking down many a patient, likely to seek symptomatic relief through their local community pharmacy. [...] While aware that the FDA's Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee discussed the available efficacy data for oral phenylephrine used as a nasal decongestant and whether it should be reclassified from being 'Generally Recognized as Safe and Effective (GRASE)' due to its efficacy, a TGA spokesperson told Australian Pharmacist that the TGA is not aware of any safety concerns identified by the FDA, nor a decision that phenylephrine is ineffective.

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Vapes surrender starts

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/07/2024

To align with the new vaping regulations under the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Act 2024, the Federal Government has introduced transitional arrangements in Australia. [...] Eligible businesses, including pharmacy and non-pharmacy retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, importers, exporters, and transport or storage providers, must notify the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) by 01 Sep, via email at vapereturn@health.gov.au.

[Read More](#)

Concern for rural practices as IV fluid shortage bites

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/07/2024

A global shortage of multiple intravenous (IV) fluid products is threatening healthcare offerings across Australia, and there are fears it will be rural patients bearing the brunt. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has revealed there are currently shortages from all three Australian suppliers: Baxter Healthcare, B.Braun, and Fresenius Kabi.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

10 signs of adverse events to psychotropic medicines

Aged Care Insite, Other, 29/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

In a bid to empower carers and minimise drug-related harm in older people, a recent study by Monash University has identified the top 10 signs of adverse drug events to look for in aged care residents using psychotropic medication. Researchers from the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety (CMUS), within the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS), led the international study, which included psychiatrists, clinical pharmacologists, GPs, pharmacists, nurses, and carers from 13 different countries across the Asia Pacific, Europe, and North America.

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