



# **TODAY'S NEWS**

Wednesday, 31st July 2024

Minister Butler | Minister Wells | Assistant Minister McBride

| Assistant Minister Kearney | Assistant Minister Thwaites | Department

| Coronavirus | Ageing and Aged Care | Population Health

| Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions | Primary Care

| Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

| Health Workforce | Technology Assessment and Access

| Medicare Benefits and Digital Health | Benefits Integrity

| Health Systems Strategies | Sport | Health Economics and Research |

First Nations Health | Interim Australian CDC | Therapeutic Goods Administration

| Office for Drug Control | Food Standards | AICIS

## LINKS

Click here to view full print articles in this report

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- <u>The Age</u> (page 1) reports Australian paediatric hospitals will offer children aged under 12 months to 10 years old a free peanut allergy treatment in a world-first program Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney said would hopefully "stop this terrible allergy in its tracks". *Also reported by: <u>Sydney Morning Herald</u>, <u>ABC Online</u>*
- The <u>Adelaide Advertiser</u> (page 1) reports SA Health has cancelled 820 elective surgeries across the past two months, but officials say only a fraction are due to an ongoing Code Yellow in place since May 30.
- The <u>Adelaide Advertiser</u> (page 1) reports South Australia's coroner's office has refused to address claims it only has one forensic scientist on staff after a family said it was yet to receive the body of a grandparent more than three weeks after his death.
- The <u>West Australian</u> (page 1) reports whooping cough cases have risen more than 600 per cent across Margaret River, Dunsborough and Bridgetown in WA's southwest, with data showing the area has significantly lower vaccination rates than the rest of the state.
- The <u>Courier Mail</u> (page 8) reports Queensland saw almost four times as many flu cases as COVID over the past week, with doctors warning record low vaccination rates were placing the population at greater risk.

- The <u>Herald Sun</u> (page 14) reports Melbourne has confirmed 33 cases of Legionnaires disease, with 10 more suspected, but doctors are concerned the outbreak is yet to peak. *Also reported* by: <u>The Australian</u>, <u>Canberra Times</u>, <u>ABC Online</u>, <u>The Guardian</u>
- <u>ABC Online</u> reports officials at Victoria's Royal Children's Hospital are believed to be concerned the government is trying to oust CEO Bernadette McDonald after she was told to reapply for her job despite having the board's endorsement. *Also reported by: <u>ABC Online</u>*

## MINISTER BUTLER

## Monash welcomes funding for new national centre for mRNA medicines

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 30/07/2024

Monash University has welcomed Health Minister Mark Butler's \$19 million investment in six mRNA research projects via the Medical Research Future Fund. The other funded projects are at The University of Queensland, the Australian National University, the Hudson Institute of Medical Research, the University of Technology Sydney, and a second project at Monash University.

#### Read More

## Channel 7, 7 News Morning Edition, 30/07/2024, Mike Smithson

A critical shortage of IV fluid is threatening to cancel surgeries across the country as hospitals wait for emergency supplies from overseas. The shortage is caused by a combination of manufacturing issues and unprecedented demand for saline solution, and it's now forcing hospitals to conserve supplies of the fluid. The AMA says this problem has come with very little warning. Health Minister Mark Butler says it is something they are monitoring very closely and the Therapeutic Goods Administration is working very hard to make sure that Australia has enough supply.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Aged care regressing before reforms begin

Canberra Times, General News, 31/07/2024, Rachel Lane, Page 16

The Albanese government came into power promising to "fix the aged care crisis", two years on and aged care remains in a crisis that seems to be deepening. The queue of people waiting for a Home Care Package has grown from 49,717 in June 2022 to 59,751 atMarch 30 this year. [...] The report was released in March with Aged Care Minister Anika Wells saying: "Australia's aged care system is under stress.

Also reported by: <u>Burnie Advocate (Burnie)</u>, <u>Ballarat Courier (Ballarat)</u>, <u>Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong)</u>, Warrnambool Standard (Warrnambool), <u>Bendigo Advertiser (Bendigo)</u>, <u>Northern Daily Leader (Tamworth)</u>

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### Single assessment system for a smoother aged care journey

Healthcare Channel, Other, 30/07/2024, Ritchelle Drilon

The Albanese Government has taken a significant step towards simplifying the aged care system with the introduction of the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) on 1 July 2024. This innovative tool marks the beginning of a Single Assessment System for aged care, addressing longstanding issues identified by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, emphasised the importance of this reform: "Older Australians deserve to have a better experience with aged care, starting at the front door."

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Help coming to Warwick

Warwick Today, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 12

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.

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### NBN Tamworth, NBN News, 30/07/2024, Jane Goldsmith

A mental health service by Headspace has reopened in Armidale after extensive expansion works. The provider is taking a new approach to combat a rise in the number of young people struggling. Assistant Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride says the ABS data shows us that in the last 12 months, more than 1 in 5 young people were experiencing distress.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

#### Medics hope nut powder will help fix baby allergy

Age, General News, 31/07/2024, Henrietta Cook, Page 1

Australia has become the first country in the world to implement a national program to treat babies with peanut allergies by giving them a daily dose of peanut powder in the hope of overcoming the potentially life-threatening condition. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney hoped the new care model can "stop this terrible allergy in its tracks".

Also reported by: <u>Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney)</u>, <u>Sydney Morning Herald (Online)</u>, <u>WA Today (Online)</u>, <u>Brisbane Times (Online)</u>

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### Passing the baton

Koori Mail, General News, 31/07/2024, Page 1

Northern Territory senator Malarndirri McCarthy has been elevated to the federal cabinet and will take on the Indigenous Australians portfolio, becoming only the second Indigenous woman to do so after direct predecessor Linda Burney. Ms Burney announced last [...] Ged Kearney was named assistant minister for Indigenous health on top of her assistant aged care and health ministries .

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## Burke gets call-up for Home Affairs and Immigration

Pilbara News, General News, 31/07/2024, Dylan Caporn and Dan Jervis-Bardy, Page 9

Andrew Giles has been dumped as immigration minister and Clare O'Neil shifted from home affairs under a Federal Cabinet reshuffle that puts Tony Burke in charge of both politically charged portfolios. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese unveiled a new look frontbench on Sunday that attempts to draw a line under the immigration detention saga that has plagued his Government for the past nine months. [...] Ged Kearney MP Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care; Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health.

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## Babies with peanut allergy to be offered oral immunotherapy under first national model of care

ABC Online, Other, 31/07/2024, Melanie Vujkovic

It's the first time oral immunotherapy will be offered in mainstream care, outside a clinical trial setting. Any baby under the age of 12 months, diagnosed with a peanut allergy and being cared for at one of

#### the participating hospitals is eligible. [...] Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney said today was a big step toward combating life-threatening peanut allergies in babies.

### Locals encouraged to talk about organ donation this week

5CS 1044 AM, Other, 30/07/2024, Alison Hall

Locals are being urged to become organ and tissue donors this DonateLife Week. Around 1,800 Australians are on the waitlist for an organ donation, and Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing Ged Kearney says Spencer Gulf locals could be the reason someone gets a second chance at life.

Also reported by: Magic 89.9 (Online), Radio 5CC (Online)

### Your chance to save lives: DonateLife Week

Hope 103.2, Other, 30/07/2024, Mike Crooks

Parents of children whose lives were saved by organ donation are calling on all Australians to register as donors. [...] Hope 103.2 is proudly supported by You can register for organ donation here "This DonateLife Week, I'm calling on everyone to register as a donor and to talk about organ and tissue donation," Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney said "One day, the life of a child you know just may depend on it."

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#### Does Australia need more sovereign manufacturing capability?

The Medical Republic, Other, 30/07/2024, Laura Woodrow

As intravenous fluids join the long list of vital medical commodities in shortage, the voice for local production needs to be louder. AMA president Professor Steve Robson suggests that Australia may need to reconsider its sovereign manufacturing capacity for vital medical supplies amid a global intravenous fluid shortage. [...] The regulator suggested that supply would likely be constrained throughout the year, prompting some hospitals to warn ward staff to err on the side of caution when using saline fluids, according to Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney.

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## Babies offered peanut allergy treatment program under new national model

#### Science Media Exchange (Scimex), Other, 31/07/2024

Babies with peanut allergies in Australia will be offered a treatment program under a world-first model aiming to transform allergy care. At a Glance: Babies with peanut allergies in Australia will be offered a treatment program under a world-first model aiming to transform allergy care [...] Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney said: "The Albanese Labor Government is funding life changing medical research to save lives while building capacity and capability, which is so critical in allergy research.

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Advocates are calling on all eligible Australians to become registered organ donors this DonateLife Week. Around 1800 Aussies are still on the waiting list for life-saving organ and tissue transplants. Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing Ged Kearney says increasing awareness is crucial.

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## 5CS, 08:00 Local News, 30/07/2024

Organ and tissue donations are in demand as 1800 Aussies are on the wait list for a second chance at life. Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing Ged Kearney says Spencer Gulf locals could be the difference between life and death. Kearney adds this DonateLife Week, they are encouraging all locals to register and to talk about organ and tissue donation with their family and friends.

## 2SM, 12:00 News, 30/07/2024

#### 2NM, 06:30 Local News, 30/07/2024

Upper Hunter residents are being urged to consider registering as organ and tissue donors. It's DonateLife Week, with around 1800 Aussies currently on the waiting list for organ donation. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney says it can be the reason someone gets a second chance at life.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

#### Pat Conroy promoted to Cabinet amid ministerial overhaul

Defence Connect, Other, 30/07/2024, Robert Dougherty

Minister for Defence Industry Pat Conroy has been promoted into Federal Cabinet under a series of ministerial arrangements. Minister for Defence Industry Pat Conroy has been promoted into Federal Cabinet under a series of ministerial arrangements. [...] Ged Kearney has been appointed Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care; Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health.

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## DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

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## CORONAVIRUS

#### Middlemen, masks and missing millions

Australian Financial Review, General News, 31/07/2024, Liam Walsh and Neil Chenoweth, Page 10

The two-deck yacht was cruising Sydney Harbour, the party on board in full swing, and among those enjoying themselves was import businessman Jack Reuben.

Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online)

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Grinch videos in final cut

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/07/2024, Genevieve Holding, Page 16

A Swansea aged care provider that took social media by storm with its Grinch video series has received national recognition for its innovative approach to resident care. The May Shaw Health Centre team created a series of videos for their social media accounts at Christmas last year centred around the Grinch arriving to become a resident.

#### Read Plain Text Read More

## Building skills and capacity for daily living

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/07/2024, Page 26

Home Caring Newcastle supports clients with NDIS or home care packages, helping people make the most of their funding. The HomeCaring teamare not just trained professionals, they're also locals who

do everything with heart. Nowhere is that more evident than at Home Caring's new New Respite Day Centre at Minmi.

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#### Aged home care services coming under federal watchdog's microscope

Newcastle Herald, Other, 30/07/2024, Gabriel Fowler

Home-based 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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## POPULATION HEALTH

#### Don't brush off mouth health

Herald Sun, General News, 31/07/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 15

It is enough to wipe the smile off the face of adult Australians. A survey has found most do not care for their gums properly, if at all, which puts many on a fast track to serious dental and other health issues. The Australian Dental Association says a lack of gum care is no laughing matter as one in four adults has gum inflammation and a third suffer the infection periodontitis. This damages the soft tissues around the teeth and can lead to tooth and bone loss as well as other complications.

Also reported by: Geelong Advertiser (Geelong), Cairns Post (Cairns)

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#### Futures Expo on horizon

Shepparton News, General News, 31/07/2024, Page 10

Cobram and District Specialist School will once again host a futures expo this year, designed to help students connect with different NDIS providers in the area. [...] Data released on June 6 by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare revealed that cardiovascular-related diseases were the leading cause of death across the nation for females and males.

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## In a parliament obsessed with playing party games, voters are the losers

Canberra Times, Other, 30/07/2024, Zoë Wundenberg

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 Let's say that again.

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## Gender dysphoria information is 'influenced' by activists Gender dysphoria information is 'influenced' by activists

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/07/2024

Senior Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Dr Jillian Spencer says private practitioners in the area of gender dysphoria are "dependent" on their sources of information which is "influenced by activists". There is continuing concern about the use of hormone treatments and puberty blockers on children in the public health sector, but also the rise in privately prescribed treatments for young Australians identifying with gender dysphoria.

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#### Is body acceptance the missing ingredient to better health?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/07/2024, Hannah Vanderheide

The bathroom scales have long taunted women and girls. Many of us watched as our mothers dutifully stepped on, hearts pounding in anticipation, waiting for the screen to flash a number with the authority to determine the course of their day Did the number go down? 'I must have done something right!' Did it stay the same? 'Well, I'll have to try harder!' Did it go up? 'I can't believe I'm failing... again.'

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## Jess Bradley set-up a Facebook group Find a Friend after celebrating her birthday alone

#### Adelaide Now, Other, 30/07/2024, Kate Uren

Sick of having no friends, Jess Bradley created an online group to find companionship. To her surprise, she soon had 7000 people also looking for the same. [...] Gen Z and millennials are now two of the loneliest generations, according to the latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data that puts 15 to 24 year olds and 25 to 34 year olds near the top of the scale, just behind 35 to 44 year olds.

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## An elderly woman comes to hospital every second day. It breaks my heart to send her home

#### The Guardian, Other, 31/07/2024

If frontline professionals began to remedy loneliness, who would tackle accidents, heart disease and asthma? "I like you, that's why I come here. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare considers loneliness a "subjective unpleasant or distressing feeling of a lack of connection to other people, along with a desire for more, or more satisfying, social relationships".

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## Three times the risk: Why you shouldn't avoid treatment for anxiety

The Senior, Other, 30/07/2024, Rowan Cowley

People living with unresolved anxiety may be three times more likely to develop dementia , according to a new study. The study followed 2132 participants of a Hunter-based community study, with an average age of 76 for an average of 10 years. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, an estimated 10-15 per cent of older Australians living in the community experience anxiety or depression.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

#### Ali's winning her battle

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2024, Anna Vlach, Page 8

Four days after having a mastectomy, Mix 102.3's Ali Clarke has made a return to brekky radio on the Max and Ali in the Morning show. Just after 7am Tuesday, she chatted to Max Burford and Hayley Pearson, who is keeping her seat warm. The guest appearance by phone is a week after Clarke stunned listeners by revealing on-air that she was battling breast cancer.

Also reported by: Adelaide Now (Online)

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#### Fadh's leukaemia upends family's life

Northern Territory News, General News, 31/07/2024, Harry Brill, Page 9

Darwin-born baby Fadh will spend at least six months in a Melbourne hospital undergoing chemotherapy treatment after being diagnosed with leukaemia, with her parents picking up their lives and moving to be by her bedside. In June, Sara Hoolan and Nathan Derich had been enjoying their beautiful baby and, like other new parents, learning to navigate the newborn era.

Also reported by: Northern Territory News (Online).

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#### From heartbreak to hope

Ballarat Courier, General News, 31/07/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Samantha and Rob Whittle are hopeful they will one day watch their healthy child grow up and celebrate each milestone their little one meets. Also watching on will be that child's big sisters Freya and Hallee, who lost their lives to an incurable genetic disease that doctors had never seen before in Australia.

Also reported by: Ballarat Courier (Online)

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#### Cutting-edge Gait Lab revolution in rehab

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/07/2024, Page 24

Neuro Alliance has announced the launch of its state-of-the-art Gait Lab, set to revolutionise gait rehabilitation for individuals with neurological conditions. Situated in Thornton, the facility has quickly become a beacon for clients across NSW seeking to optimise their walking function.

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## One Nation Senator Pauline Hanson chips in for Queensland's Byrnes family

The Australian, Other, 30/07/2024, Duncan Evans

One Nation firebrand Pauline Hanson has shocked a working Queensland mum with a striking act of kindness, agreeing to personally shell out for a surgical operation to help the mother's nine-year-old daughter get back on track in life. Mum Kahlia Byrnes' daughter Kadee suffers from chronic tonsillitis and has reportedly waited seven years for procedure at a public hospital to fix the distressing condition.

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## How surviving blood cancer taught Dr Simon Grove how to seize the day

#### ABC Online, Other, 30/07/2024

In a letter to his younger self, zoologist and author Dr Simon Grove describes how a near-death experience helped him move past his depression to cultivate a sense of wholeness, in a lifetime defined by shell collecting and studying nature around the world.

#### Read More

## Murray Brown survived a double lung transplant but now the Aussie dad-of-four faces another life-threatening health battle

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/07/2024, Pranav Harish

An Aussie dad who recovered from a double lung transplant more than a decade ago has now been told he may only have a few months to live after he was diagnosed with brain cancer Murray Brown, 31, who lives in Berwick, in Melbourne 's south-east, was given the devastating news by surgeons last year when they had found a tumour after he had a seizure.

#### Read More

#### Shared-care tech platform helps deliver better chronic condition care

#### Nursing Review, Other, 30/07/2024

Collinsville registered nurse Grace Paulson says chronic conditions are at the heart of health care due to their lasting impact on people's health and wellbeing. "Chronic diseases represent two-thirds of all deaths worldwide, and mental health conditions represent a significant component of the chronic disease burden," Ms Paulson said.

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## PRIMARY CARE

#### Hundreds of surgeries cancelled

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 7

SA Health has cancelled more than 820 elective surgeries in the past two months, with no end in sight for its internal code yellow emergency. Dozens of non-urgent elective surgeries are being postponed each weekday 90 were cancelled on Monday but officials say only a fraction are due to the code yellow.

Also reported by: Adelaide Now (Online)

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### Questions on health cuts fire up debate

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/07/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 11

Tasmania's Labor Opposition has used the return of parliament to continue its political attack on the government's handling of the state's health portfolio, accusing Premier Jeremy Rockliff of refusing to rule out forced redundancies in the public hospital system. After a six-week hiatus, question time returned to the House of Assembly, with Labor health spokeswoman Ella Haddad asking the Premier whether a redundancy program would be introduced by the Department of Health to help achieve the efficiency dividends required in the upcoming state budget.

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### **Hospital celebrations**

Border Watch, General News, 31/07/2024, Sophie Conlon, Page 18

Several groups have come together to organise a special celebration of 100 years since the Tatiara Soldiers' Memorial Hospital was opened. Bordertown Memorial Hospital staff, the Health Advisory Committee, the Women's and Children's Hospital Auxiliary and the Bordertown Hospital Ladies Auxiliary worked together to organise the August 9 event.

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#### **Developers ask for discount**

Launceston Examiner, General News, 31/07/2024, Joe Colbrook, Page 1

Launceston councillors have been given more time to consider tossing a sweetener to the developers of a \$175.2 million health facility. The proponents of the Launceston Health Hub redevelopment asked City of Launceston councillors to lump three development applications into one and waive nearly \$50,000 in development fees.

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## CEO of Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital told to reapply for job despite board's support

ABC Online, Other, 30/07/2024, Rafael Epstein

Senior staff at Victoria's Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) are worried the hospital's CEO is being forced out of her position by the state government amid tensions over health funding. The ABC understands RCH CEO Bernadette McDonald has been told to reapply for the job she has been doing for three years. Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas met with the chair of the hospital's board on Monday and said the CEO would need to reapply for the role, even though the board wanted to reappoint her.

Also reported by: ABC Online (Online)

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

## Woman 'ended life' of husband in panic

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2024, Isabel McMillan, Page 7

A woman trying to stop her husband from committing suicide has ended up taking his life in "an act of defence" after he turned on her in what has been described as "tragic, unusual circumstances", a court has heard. Appearing in the Adelaide Magistrates Court via video link from custody, Caroll Hopkinson, 58, cried quietly as her defence lawyer revealed the events leading up to her husband's alleged murder in their Taperoo home this month.

Also reported by: Daily Mail Australia (Online)

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### Top cop talks on shock loss

Border Watch, General News, 31/07/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

The state's top cop will travel to Penola later this year to help promote mental health. South Australian Police commissioner Grant Stevens will visit the region as part of the Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation 'Mates, Meals and Mental Health' where he will be the key speaker.

Also reported by: Border Watch (Online)

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#### Sowing healthy seeds

Border Watch, General News, 31/07/2024, Page 15

Boosting the physical and mental health of rural communities is the focus of a new partnership between grassroots health initiative Fat Farmers and charity the Hospital Research Foundation Group (HRFG). The HRFG is now a Fat Farmers major health partner, to help the program expand into more towns and encourage exercise and social connection amongst isolated farmers.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

#### Abortion and contraceptive services rolled out in country Australia

Canberra Times, Other, 31/07/2024, Anna Houlahan

Almost three dozen general practice (GP) clinics in regional Australia will offer abortion and contraceptive services to women living far from city-based specialists. Women living in regional or remote areas have limited access to reproductive health care and are 1.4 times more likely to experience an unintended pregnancy than women living in cities.

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## 'Not fully costed': hospitals question nursing pay rise funding

The Border Mail, Other, 30/07/2024, Ben Silvester

Victoria's public hospitals say a billion-dollar nursing pay deal with the state government has not been fully funded, fuelling a budget crisis that poses a significant risk to health services. The Victorian Healthcare Association, which represents the state's public hospitals, said baseline funding appeared to be available under the deal, but there was no evidence that a range of extra costs had been taken into account.

Also reported by: Warrnambool Standard (Online)

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#### Embracing forensic nursing: bridging healthcare and justice

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 30/07/2024, Tracey Markham

As a nurse practitioner, I love working in the unique niche area of forensic nursing. This specialised area allows me to apply clinical nursing skills alongside forensic science principles for patients who experience acute and potentially long-term consequences associated with violence, particularly after sexual assault and or domestic violence assault.

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## Transforming nursing handover: Leadership crucial in driving practice change

Nursing Review, Other, 30/07/2024, Laura Chien

Nursing handovers are the backbone of ward communication, critical for ensuring seamless continuity of patient care from one shift to the next. Ineffective communication can compromise patient safety and inhibit patient involvement in their care.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Minister coy on execs

Herald Sun, General News, 31/07/2024, Mitch Clarke, Page 12

Health and Ambulance Services Minister Mary-Anne Thomas has refused to back in the besieged Ambulance Victoria executive. Ms Thomas, speaking outside parliament on Tuesday, said she has expressed her concern to Ambulance Victoria chair Shelly Park about the "untenable situation" surrounding the organisation.

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## Delivering Tasmania the care it deserves

Burnie Advocate, General News, 31/07/2024, Guy Barnett, Page 15

Since our nation-leading healthcare recruitment blitz kicked offin late April, we have welcomed more than 500 additional staffinto our health system. This is fantastic news for our state, with more doctors, nurses, paramedics, and support staffjoining the ranks and providing Tasmanians with the health care they expect, and deserve, right around the state.

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## Questions on cuts remain as recruitment 'raid' targets Victoria

Launceston Examiner, General News, 31/07/2024, Benjamin Seeder, Page 8

The state government has taken out expensive full-page recruitment advertisements in mainland newspapers as part of what it has dubbed a "raid" to attract interstate health workers to Tasmania's system. Health Minister Guy Barnett said the Health Service had already recruited 500 workers from the mainland over the past three months, and that the recruitment ads would help pull more talent to the island.

Also reported by: Burnie Advocate (Burnie)

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## Australian doctor who 'almost died' writes landmark guidance on how to safely stop using antidepressants

The Guardian, Other, 31/07/2024, Melissa Davey

Dr Mark Horowitz, an Australian based in London, said he "almost died" coming off antidepressants because of severe withdrawal effects. When he tried to stop taking antidepressants, after 15 years of use, the insomnia, panic attacks, dizziness and anxiety felt so unbearable he considered suicide. Then in his early 30s, Horowitz researched his symptoms online and found "thousands of people saying the exact same thing as me" on internet forums.

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## More than words: Just how easy is it to ditch the term 'junior doctor'?

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/07/2024, Mohana Basu

The AMA says that over the last few years it has deliberately adopted the term 'doctor in training'. As the British Medical Association has announced that it will officially ditch the use of the term 'junior doctor' in November, a similar debate may be brewing again here.

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## Sim re-elected

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 30/07/2024

Leading an experienced team for a third term, A/Prof Fei Sim has been re-elected as National President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) (PD breaking news). CEO Steve Morris said, "under her continued leadership, the Board continues to drive a strong vision for the future of pharmacy practice".

Also reported by: Australian Journal of Pharmacy (Online).

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## **Reflux relief guidelines**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 30/07/2024

The Australasian College of Pharmacy's new guidelines on the management of gastroesophageal reflux will provide evidence-based recommendations for community pharmacists on the assessment of reflux symptoms. The guidelines will also refine the criteria for management of reflux, non-pharmacological interventions, safe and effective use of non-prescription medicines, patient counselling, and when to refer for further medical advice.

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## Channel 10, 10 News First, 30/07/2024, Jennifer Keyte

Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas has refused to back in the leadership of Ambulance Victoria as staff at the organisation revolt against the executives. Meanwhile, elective surgery is under threat of cancellation amid a wage dispute by a small but important part of the workforce.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

## Calls for more frontline workers to be armed with drug-overdosefighting medicine

#### ABC Online, Other, 30/07/2024, Max Chalmers

When Tony woke up on a street in central Sydney, he had no idea naloxone had just saved his life. He had overdosed on heroin. [...] In the 2018 financial year, just 1,197 units of naloxone were supplied through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Also reported by: ABC Online (Online)

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### Consider Shingrix for varicella-vaccinated patients: ATAGI proposal

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/07/2024, Kemal Atlay

The advisory group also said the requirement for serological testing in immunocompromised patients should be scrapped. Adults who have received an indicated varicella vaccine should be eligible for the recombinant herpes zoster vaccine Shringrix, according to ATAGI.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## **BENEFITS INTEGRITY**

## Give back grandpa

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 7

A grieving family trying to retrieve a grandfather's body for burial for the past three weeks says it has been told by the State Coroner's office there is just one employee who can sign the body out, but "we don't know when that person will be working next." Ms Kylie Underwood said the family had already suffered the indignity of having her father John Grant Griffith's body moved from Modbury Hospital where he died to Lyell McEwin Hospital after being told "the morgue at Modbury was full".

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## Doctor allowed to practise again

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 31/07/2024, Page 14

A surgeon who had two patients die and was caught by police buying cocaine in the middle of a Sydney street will be allowed to practise medicine again. William Wall Mooney had worked as an ear, nose and throat surgeon until April 2022, when his registration was cancelled due to findings of serious professional misconduct.

Also reported by: <u>Newcastle Herald (Newcastle)</u>, <u>Newcastle Herald (Newcastle)</u>, <u>Canberra Times (Online)</u>, <u>West</u> <u>Australian (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Mail Australia (Online)</u>

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## 'Quite appalling': State failed nurse whose daughter died in hospital

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/07/2024, Sean Parnell

A nurse who was working at Queensland Children's Hospital when her daughter was diagnosed with cancer and later died there has won an industrial dispute over the lack of support provided by her employer. Hannah Pringle, who has worked for Queensland Health for more than a decade, has previously shared her daughter Ruby's story and campaigned for more funding for research into diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma.

## Read More

# AHPRA urged to give more guidance on doctors' crimes and their medical board punishments

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/07/2024, Paul Smith

The watchdog is currently consulting on changes to the standards used to assess whether a practitioner with a criminal history is still fit to practise. The RACGP is calling for doctors to be given more detailed case studies on the sort of criminal behaviour which would lead the Medical Board of Australia to place conditions on their registration. AHPRA has been consulting on changes to the standards used to assess whether a health practitioner with a criminal history is still fit to practise.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

## Governments urged to fund disability reform

The Australian, General News, 31/07/2024, Stephen Lunn, Page 2

Federal and state governments must back up their coming response to the recommendations of the disability royal commission with enough funding to end the violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability, advocates say. With federal and state governments expected to formally respond to the commission's final report shortly, the disability community is on tenterhooks about which of the 222 recommen- dations will be supported.

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## DonateLife Week 2024 kicks off with theme 'be the reason someone

#### gets a second chance at life'

Northern Territory News, Other, 30/07/2024, Gera Kazakov

With only 16 per cent of Territorians registered organ donors, a campaign is now under way to raise that figure – with one medical professional saying a single donor "can save the lives of up to seven people". With more than 1200 Territorians registering as organ and tissue donors last year , a campaign is again under way to get more people to donate – with one kidney recipient sharing how donation changed her life.

Also reported by: Northern Territory News (Online)

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## DonateLife ensure support and specialist care are there for families when loved ones become organ donors

ABC Online, Other, 30/07/2024, Elyse Armanini

Nigel Palk has spent 17 years supporting families during and after their loved ones have died and donated their organs. A young Riverland woman got the gift of life thanks to an organ donor, and takes her gifted lungs on adventures.

Also reported by: Sunraysia Daily (Mildura), Burnie Advocate (Burnie).

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#### NSW consumers given voice on provision of public care services

The Mandarin, Other, 30/07/2024, Melissa Coade

The NSW Health Consumer, Carer and Community Advisory Council will work alongside the Health ministry to identify and develop better policies, programs and services. The council, comprised of service consumers, carers and community members, offers advice and perspectives to help shape health services planning and design.

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#### SPORT

#### 'Disorganised' Matildas coach's future in doubt

The Australian, General News, 31/07/2024, Jessica Halloran, Page 1

Matildas coach Tony Gustavsson's reign is due to finish after this Olympics, as questions have been raised about his management of the team during the Games. Football Australia is yet to say if his contract will be renewed but the signs are he is unlikely to be given a new deal.

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#### Collingwood football club hit by fresh racism claims

Age, General News, 31/07/2024, Katie Bice and Mathew Dunckley, Page 1

Collingwood chief executive Craig Kelly has been accused of making repeated racist slurs and physically assaulting a First Nations club employee. Former head of First Nations programs Mark Cleaver makes a series of untested claims filed as part of a court application against his dismissal.

Also reported by: <u>Herald Sun (Melbourne)</u>, <u>Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide)</u>, <u>Herald Sun (Melbourne)</u>, <u>West</u> <u>Australian (Perth)</u>

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#### **Aussies unite**

The Australian, Olympic Supplement, 30/07/2024, Jackie Epstein and Jessica Montague, Page 16

The Olympics sure can draw an all-star crowd. Billionaires, corporate heavies and business movers and shakers mixed with Aussie sporting legends on Monday. The Australian Olympic Committee's soire at the Australian Embassy attracted big name guests including Olympics legend Dawn Fraser and billionaire Jack Cowin of Hungry Jack's fame. Nine Entertainment chair Catherine West was a quiet presence, but chief executive Mike Sneesby was conspicuously absent.

#### Also reported by: Herald Sun (Melbourne), Hobart Mercury (Hobart), Gold Coast Bulletin (Gold Coast)

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#### Academy offside

Northern Territory News, General News, 31/07/2024, Nathaniel Chambers Harry Brill, Page 5

Voices in the Northern Territory football community are in uproar over the perceived conflict of interest between the peak body and the running of its academy program. The Northern Australia Football Academy (NAFA) is a revised program from what was known as the National Training Centre, a part time training program. NAFA is a more intensive program requiring the full commitment of players, comprising a minimum of three days training each week.

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#### City sports shake-up

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 31/07/2024, Glen Humphries, Page 1

Three years of sporting cancellations across Wollongong have forced the council to take action to mitigate the effects of climate change on the thousands of players forced offthe city's sodden sportsgrounds. With concerns about mental health, the council has agreed to extend the winter sports season and look at improvements to grounds to help address the problem.

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#### What Comm Games have brought to Gold Coast

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 31/07/2024, Jeremy Pierce, Page 7

A new report has revealed the sporting legacy of the Gold Coast's Commonwealth Games has already been worth an estimated \$300m 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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## Cyril Rioli is taking the Hawks to the Federal Court for racism complaints

#### SBS, Other, 30/07/2024

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. Cyril 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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## Dardi Munwurro family violence service set to kick new goals by launching inclusive footy club

National Indigenous Times, Other, 30/07/2024, Jarred Cross

A Victorian specialist Aboriginal family violence service are embarking on their latest initiative by lacing up the boots, pulling on a guernsey and running out onto the park to play some footy for camaraderie and community as well as physical and mental health. Dardi Munwurro (Strong Spirit) works 'to break the cycle of inter-generational trauma in Aboriginal families and communities' delivering a range of programs extending a hand to those needing one, wanting to change and towards creating safer environments for the future.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

#### ASX companies jockey to be next biotech winners

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 31/07/2024, Tom Richardson, Page 24

To make blockbuster returns in the sharemarket, you've got to find the winners of tomorrow, not today. It's easier said than done, but not impossible. As shareholders in Neuren Pharmaceuticals, Pro Medicus or Telix Pharma will tell you after watching the value of their shareholdings rocket between 10 and 100-fold over a few years.

Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online), The Australian (Online).

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#### Weighty case for quit drug

Herald Sun, General News, 31/07/2024, Page 18

People with type 2 diabetes could find it easier to quit smoking by using the diabetes and weight loss drug semaglutide. Past research had raised interest in the effect of semaglutide on quitting, so Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in the US compared it with seven other medications.

Also reported by: <u>Geelong Advertiser (Geelong)</u>, <u>Cairns Post (Cairns)</u>, <u>ABC Online (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Mail Australia</u> (<u>Online</u>), <u>Daily Mail Australia (Online</u>)

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#### Blue pill spray raises interest

Courier Mail, Business News, 31/07/2024, Glen Norris, Page 47

Brisbane-based LTR Pharma has attracted some big bucks from new investors as it seeks to replace the little blue pill in the bedroom with a simple nasal spray. LTR has raised \$10.5m through a share placement to new sophisticated and institutional investors to advance regulatory approvals for its erectile dysfunction nasal spray marketed as SPONTAN.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online).

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#### Blood test can help predict cancer risk

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2024, Page 7

When patients have non-specific tummy issues, routine blood tests could help better diagnose if they have cancer. University of Melbourne researchers looked at data from about 470,000 patients over age 30, who had seen a GP for abdominal pain or bloating.

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#### At-home test to detect dementia step closer

Launceston Examiner, General News, 31/07/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 9

Tasmanian scientists are a step closer to developing a computer test that can detect dementia, decades before any memory symptoms emerge. In 2020, researchers from the University of Tasmania's Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre developed "TAS" Test - a new computer screening test that picks up changes in hand movements that could indicate an increased risk of dementia occurring 10 to 20 years later.

Also reported by: Burnie Advocate (Burnie)

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#### Prevention is underfunded

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 31/07/2024, Page 10

Health Prevention may be better than cure, but it is also less well funded. An analysis of the projects and grants issued through the Australian government's Medical Research Future Fund found that despite public health being a clear priority, many research projects classified as being about "public health" or "prevention" were more focused on clinical aspects, such as treatment and cure.

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#### Losing a loved one could make you age faster, according to research

West Australian, Other, 30/07/2024

Those of US who have lost a loved one know how devastating it can feel. Now scientists have discovered that bereavement has such a strong effect on us that it may speed up the ageing process.

The researchers found that study participants who had lost someone had an older "biological age" than those who hadn't. And the effects of a loss might be more severe in childhood or early adulthood, they discovered.

Also reported by: Daily Mail Australia (Online)

#### Read More

### Could the Shingles vaccine lower your risk of Dementia?

HelloCare, Other, 30/07/2024, Jakob Neeland

A recent study has suggested Shingrix, a relatively new vaccine given to protect older adults against shingles, may delay the onset of dementia. This might seem like a bizarre link, but actually, research has previously shown an older version of the shingles vaccine, Zostavax, reduced the risk of dementia.

#### Read More

#### OA stem cell therapy relief in sight

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 30/07/2024

New research by Australian biotechnology company Magellan Stem Cells shows promising therapeutic benefits of an off-the-shelf donor stem cell therapy for a debilitating knee joint disease.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

#### Axed prison commissioner: 'I was a scapegoat'

West Australian, General News, 31/07/2024, Rebecca Le May, Page 5

WA's axed Corrective Services commissioner says he was the "scapegoat" for WA's juvenile detention system chaos which culminated in the death of Cleveland Dodd and blames the Premier, Roger Cook, for him losing his job. Mike Reynolds, testifying at the coronial inquest into the 16- year-old's death on Tuesday, said former director-general Adam Tomison broke the news to him.

Also reported by: <u>Canberra Times (Online)</u>, <u>West Australian (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Mail Australia (Online)</u>, <u>National</u> <u>Indigenous Times (Online)</u>, <u>West Australian (Online)</u>

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#### Sharing ancient culture

Koori Mail, General News, 31/07/2024, Marion Williams, Page 7

Jordan Nye readily admits it is a big job. He is on a mission to share his people's ancient culture with Indigenous and non- Indigenous people alike. [...] Mr Nye's desire to share culture has led to a string of different jobs to understand how to bring about change. These include working in Aboriginal health, the federal government's mental health department, local government and as Aboriginal Education Officer at Moruya High School.

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### Indigenous students blaze health path

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 31/07/2024, Page 12

With new skills, 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have had experience working in a hospital. With a Certificate III in Health Support Assistance, year 12 students from the inaugural Deadly Start Program in Townsville were congratulated on Tuesday. Zali Tambo has followed in her mother's footsteps and is looking to start her career in healthcare.

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## NT Aboriginal health alliance urges consultation on CLP pharmacy proposal

National Indigenous Times, Other, 30/07/2024, Giovanni Torre

The Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory has raised concerns with the Country

Liberal Party about its proposal to allow pharmacists to treat more medical conditions currently treated by GPs. The Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services peak body said the proposal "blurs the line" between diagnosis and treatment for a range of potential complex medical conditions.

#### Read More

## \$5.9m invested into post-grad scholarship for indigenous cancer research

#### Nursing Review, Other, 30/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Expressions of interest are now open for Aurora Education Foundation's First Nations Cancer Scholarship , a \$5.9 million investment to support Indigenous health professionals and researchers complete postgraduate study or research in a cancer-related field. [...] "This scholarship represents a significant investment in Indigenous talent and expertise, paving the way for advancements that can make a real difference to people with cancer in our communities, " Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy said.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

#### Please, get the flu jab: Experts

Courier Mail, General News, 31/07/2024, Mikaela Mulveney and Jackie Sinnerton, Page 8

Health experts are pleading for families to get vaccinated as the numbers of patients in Queensland hospitals with influenza surge above patients with Covid for the first time this year. Queensland Health has revealed to The Courier-Mail that 257 people were hospitalised for influenza as of Sunday July 28 five patients more than had Covid.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online)

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#### Outbreak is exploding

Herald Sun, General News, 31/07/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 14

Legionnaires cases are spiralling up Melbourne's Legionnaires outbreak has grown "significantly" to 33 confirmed cases plus another 10 suspected but officials fear it is yet to peak. Authorities expect the outbreak which has jumped from 22 confirmed cases and six suspected on Monday will continue to rise.

Also reported by: <u>Herald Sun (Melbourne)</u>, <u>Geelong Advertiser (Geelong)</u>, <u>The Australian (Online)</u>, <u>Canberra</u> <u>Times (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)</u>, <u>West Australian (Online)</u>, <u>West Australian (Online)</u>, <u>ABC</u> <u>Online (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Mail Australia (Online)</u>, <u>The Guardian (Online)</u>, <u>The Guardian (Online)</u>, <u>SBS (Online)</u>, <u>3AW</u> (<u>Online)</u>, <u>9News (Online)</u>, <u>9News (Online)</u>,

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#### Cough cough cough

West Australian, General News, 31/07/2024, Kate Emery, Page 1

Babies across WA are at higher risk of catching potentially deadly whooping cough after cases surged in the State's anti-vax capital of the South West. Cases are up more than 600 per cent and the region, which encompasses Margaret River, Dunsborough and Bridgetown, has dramatically lower vaccination rates than the rest of the State. The region had 11 cases of the illness in 2023 but has so far counted 81 cases this year.

Also reported by: West Australian (Perth), West Australian (Online)

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#### ABC News, News Breakfast, 30/07/2024, Lisa Millar and James Glenday

Victoria's Health Department is urging Melburnians to seek urgent medical care if they have symptoms of Legionnaires' disease following an outbreak in the city. People who are experiencing symptoms need to get in contact with their health professional quickly to just make sure that it's not Legionnaires'

disease. Doctors are also being urged to be on the lookout for anybody who might be from susceptible groups.

Play Now

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

#### Aussie made: ASX firms boosting local health & medical manufacturing

The Australian, Other, 30/07/2024, Nadine Mcgrath

Several ASX healthcare companies are proudly manufacturing products in Australia Polynovo, Optiscan and Trajan Group all have manufacturing facilities in Melbourne Orthocell says government funding can boost manufacturing capabilities of Aussie biotechs. [...] "Wherever its relevant all our products are registered with the TGA and now we've gone into the US and they have recognised the capability of the our manufacturing."

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#### Weight loss jab may help stop people smoking: study

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/07/2024, Adrienne Tam

A "promising link" between people using semaglutide - a medication used to treat diabetes - and decreased tobacco use has been discovered. [...] According to TGA's website, they are asking health professionals not to prescribe Ozempic to new patients to conserve supply for patients who are already stabilised on this medicine and who do not have suitable alternatives.

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## Australian unions call for 10 days paid reproductive leave to support women dealing with menopause and perimenopause

ABC Online, Other, 30/07/2024, Rachel Hayter and Zena Chamas

Australian women with menopause are leaving the workforce early over a lack of support, unions have told a Senate inquiry into menopause and perimenopause. Unions have called for 10 days paid leave to help keep women at work. [...] In 2023, Pharmaceutical companies, Sandoz and Juno, notified the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) about shortages of all strengths of their estradiol and combination estradiol and norethisterone transdermal patch products.

#### Read More

#### Why surgeries could be cancelled across the country from next week

7news.com.au, Other, 30/07/2024

Australia's public health system is at risk of "coming to a grinding halt" due to an unprecedented shortage of intravenous fluids. [...] Manufacturing issues and unexpected increases in demand are behind a global shortage which is likely to continue through 2024, according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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#### New therapy on the way

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/07/2024, Chris Brooker

A smoking cessation medicine newly available and approved in Australia has been listed as a Schedule 3 (Pharmacist-Only) medicine. A proposal to schedule cytisine as an S3 medicine was approved by the TGA scheduling delegate, for use in divided oral and oromucosal preparations with...

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## TGA seeks views on therapeutic goods testing regulations

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 30/07/2024

The Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking industry feedback on potential reforms to Part 5 of the Therapeutic Goods Regulation (the Regulations) 1990 to develop a modernised framework. Part 5

of the Regulations sets out procedures for the examination, testing and analysis of goods to be conducted under the TGA's regulatory framework.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Call for drug laws update

Herald Sun, General News, 31/07/2024, Mitch Clarke, Page 19

AFL coaching greats Damien Hardwick and Alastair Clarkson have joined champion jockey Damien Oliver to call on the government to overhaul Victoria's driving laws. The sports stars have created a video urging the government to give medicinal cannabis drivers a legal defence to get behind the wheel without the threat of losing their licences.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)

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## FOOD STANDARDS

## 'Doesn't necessarily equal healthy': Sports dietitian addresses uproar over supposedly vegan-focused menu at Olympics village

Sky News Australia, Other, 30/07/2024, Laura Grassby

Advanced sports dietitian Simone Austin has addressed the uproar surrounding the menu options at the Olympic village in Paris, declaring that "vegan doesn't necessarily equal healthy". Organisers recently announced they would be ordering more meat and eggs to meet the demands of athletes after some delegations reportedly complained about the offerings.

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## AICIS

No relevant coverage

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