



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 5th August 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](#)

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Geelong Advertiser](#)** (page 5) reports that Ambulance Victoria data has revealed ramping wait times have increased alongside an increase in cases, up 6.8 per cent from last year, while average times for commencing care have reduced.
- **[The Northern Territory News](#)** (page 7) reports that unprecedented rates of influenza continue to rise in three states, with Australians urged to get vaccinated as 80 per cent of hospital admissions found to be for unvaccinated individuals.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 7) reports that former NRL player Greg Inglis will speak at the NSW Men's Mental Health Forum, with the NSW Mental Health Minister calling the forum "an important step" towards addressing mental health and suicide among males. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#)*
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 9) reports that the \$200 million "play our way" grant program has received over 1600 applications, according to a spokesperson from the Department for Health and Aged Care, while documents show Sports Minister Anika Wells sought approval to announce the program early during the FIFA Women's World Cup as the Opposition claims the government is not implementing the scheme fast enough. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Hobart Mercury](#)*

- **The Age** (page 10) reports that a man in his 60s has died from legionnaires, the second to die during the ongoing outbreak in Melbourne's western suburbs, with 54 of the 100 cooling towers in the area disinfected, a single tower suspected as the most likely cause. *Also reported by: Herald Sun, Illawarra Mercury, Cairns Post*
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 11) reports that documents have revealed the SA government had concerns about the company granted the tender to run a pediatric cancer program that is now at risk of failing before it reaches completion, despite having had a four-storey concrete bunker purpose-built to contain the equipment.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 12) reports that ongoing concerns about Victoria's health budget from health professionals that say they will mean cuts to hospital funding and programs have yet to be addressed, with Premier Jacinta Allan maintaining that talk of cuts are "scare mongering" and that the budget will not equal cuts to frontline services.
- **The Guardian** reports that a Melbourne surgeon is being sued by a patient who alleges he failed to inform her that the device he was implanting in her jaw was an experimental device, with the device and classification system for deciding she needed the device invented by himself.

MINISTER BUTLER

Hospitals seek right to boycott big insurers

Australian Financial Review, General News, 05/08/2024, Michael Smith, Page 1

Struggling not-for-profit hospital operators want to change how they negotiate funding deals with health insurers, including being allowed to collectively boycott Medibank Private, Bupa, NIB, HCF and HBF Health. Catholic Health Australia, repr...

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

Call for change to 'archaic' IVF rules

Age, General News, 05/08/2024, Kate Aubusson, Page 14

Australia's peak fertility organisations say Medicare's definition of infertility is outdated and discriminatory, urging the federal government to give equal access to reproductive services regardless of a person's relationship status, sexual orientation or gender identity. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Ageing said the government was considering the implications of the proposed change.

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

Snug patients left on edge

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/08/2024, Rob Inglis, Page 15

Another general practice clinic in southern Tasmania is set to close its doors, with local residents decrying the loss as a blow to the regional community. [...] Mark Butler, the federal Health Minister, said general practice had been left in a "parlous state" across Tasmania due to "decades of cuts and neglect to Medicare by the Liberal government" but the situation was beginning to improve.

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

The path to reform is long and complex

Daily Advertiser, General News, 05/08/2024, Page 8

While the anger felt by many in the disability community over what they see as the government's "too little, too late" response to the disability royal commission report is understandable, it is, to some extent, misplaced. [...] The fact it has taken the Minister for Social Services Amanda Rishworth, Minister for the NDIS and Minister for Government Services Bill Shorten, and Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler so long to respond suggests they are taking the issues identified very seriously.

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

Kids still sniffing out banned vapes despite new laws

The scent of sickly sweet vapes are still flooding teenagers' bedrooms and school bathrooms, despite new laws banning their sale. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said efforts to stop illegal vape sellers were "ramping up" with NSW Health Authorities visiting dozens of stores since July 1.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Reproductive Specialists Expand Definition of Infertility Beyond Disease

RANZCOG, Other, 04/08/2024

An alliance of Australia's peak fertility associations has officially endorsed an expanded definition of infertility, paving the way for equal access to reproductive care regardless of relationship status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. [...] The group has written to Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler advising him of the expanded definition and calling for the federal government to apply it to Medicare funding for Assisted Reproductive Services in Australia.

[Read More](#)

New healthcare clinic to offer more choices for non-emergency treatment in Queanbeyan

RiotACT, Other, 04/08/2024, Claire Sams

A new healthcare clinic has opened in southeast NSW to help patients needing non-emergency care. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said the clinics provided a space where people could seek care as an alternative to a hospital.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Power play that could cost USA an Olympics

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 05/08/2024, Roy Masters, Page 40

The detaining of the World Aquatics chief executive by the FBI five weeks ago under the draconian powers of a controversial US act, and the subsequent response of the International Olympic Committee to protect its sports officials and WADA, threatens the future of the Olympic movement. [...] It is not fanciful to pose a situation where Australia's federal sports minister Anika Wells, a member of the foundation board of WADA, is barred from entering the US for the LA Olympics, or not granted a visa, should she be a Labor minister in 2028.

Also reported by: [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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

Cash for women still on blocks

Herald Sun, General News, 05/08/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 9

A \$200m program to improve women and girls' sporting facilities is yet to get any cash out the door almost a year after being announced. [...] Documents released under Freedom of Information last year show that Sport Minister Anika Wells sought agreement for an "early announcement" less than a week before the end of the tournament.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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

State is beating nations

Courier Mail, General News, 05/08/2024, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 11

Queensland is punching above its weight in the Paris Olympics, its eight gold medals outstripping those of many entire countries. [...] Federal Sport Minister and proud Queenslander Anika Wells

echoed the sentiment that the results proved the Sunshine State was the best.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Call for change to 'archaic' IVF rules

Age, General News, 05/08/2024, Kate Aubusson, Page 14

Australia's peak fertility organisations say Medicare's definition of infertility is outdated and discriminatory, urging the federal government to give equal access to reproductive services regardless of a person's relationship status, sexual orientation or gender identity. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Ageing said the government was considering the implications of the proposed change.

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

Bad sports with cash to boost females

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/08/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 8

A \$200m program to improve women and girls' sporting facilities is yet to get any cash out the door, almost a year after being announced. [...] A federal health department spokesman said it had received more than 1600 applications across both streams.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

Failure to launch

Herald Sun, Editorials, 05/08/2024, Page 26

Once again in politics, a big announcement has no resemblance to the reality. [...] While the federal Health Department continues to "assess" funding applications, girls in some areas continue to have to use male changerooms.

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

Elderly Geeveston residents denied support just an hour's drive from Hobart

Adelaide Now, Other, 04/08/2024, Sue Bailey

A Tasmanian MP has highlighted the plight of elderly residents approved for home support who are struggling to access basic cleaning and gardening services – which a lobby group says threatens their health. [...] A Department of Health and Aged Care spokesman said the Department was aware of the increasing need for assistance through the CHSP and many services were in high demand.

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

[Read More](#)

Jack Reuben ran electronics company Bdirect, but won taxpayer-funded contracts worth \$110million to supply mostly-useless Covid masks. Then he went on a massive oceanfront Sydney property spending spree...

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/08/2024

A Sydney businessman was given up to \$110million by the government during the Covid pandemic to import gowns and face masks, most of which were useless, before he splashed millions on oceanfront properties. [...] The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care confirmed the \$109 million deal to Daily Mail Australia.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CORONAVIRUS

Incidental COVID-19 infection linked to higher ICU mortality

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 05/08/2024

New research published in the Medical Journal of Australia has shown that the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues to impact mortality rates in intensive care units (ICUs), despite widespread vaccinations and improved treatments for COVID-19. The research used data from the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS) adult patient database to compare the in-hospital mortality and ICU length of stay for people admitted to Australian and New Zealand ICUs during 2022–23 with COVID-19 pneumonitis, incidental or exacerbating SARS-CoV-2 infections, or without SARS-CoV-2 infections.

[Read More](#)

Abstract

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 05/08/2024

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has been a worldwide public health emergency. During the early waves of the pandemic, many people infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) developed critical illnesses, and short and long term mortality was high.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Research shows 4 in 10 Australians in aged care are malnourished

Your Life Choices, Other, 05/08/2024

In the next 40 years in Australia, it's predicted the number of Australians aged 65 and over will more than double, while the number of people aged 85 and over will more than triple. If you're not really interested in aged care, you should be.

POPULATION HEALTH

Mums urged to donate milk to save babies

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/08/2024, Kate Aubusson, Page 12

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood is urgently calling on breastfeeding mothers to donate their excess milk to help save the lives of premature babies in neonatal intensive care units. High rates of cold and flu have almost wiped out Lifeblood's regular donors, leaving only seven mothers booked in to donate breastmilk used to protect the tiniest and sickest babies from deadly infections.

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

The tooth hurts for athletes

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/08/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 23

Elite athletes are being urged to take extra care of their teeth, and not just so they are picture perfect for the cameras. Dentists have warned that athletes including swimmers and weightlifters are exposed to additional oral health risks because of the nature of their sport.

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

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

People sleeping in tents, in cars

Central Western Daily, General News, 05/08/2024, Nick McGrath, Page 3

Entire families living in cars. [...] Homelessness data released at the start of 2024 revealed some Local Government Areas in our region suffered booms as high as 700 per cent over the last nine years. The data released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows the number of people receiving assistance at specialist homelessness services has risen across the state.

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

2SM, 08:00 News (Weekend), 04/08/2024

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler reveals the TGA blocked 12 websites allegedly advertising vape products following News Corp reports about social media sites where people can buy illegal vapes.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Man on a mission for his mum

Burnie Advocate, General News, 05/08/2024, Sarah Fittock, Page 3

When Chris Lancaster's mum Barbara suffered a stroke in May 2021, it was a difficult time from him and his family. "Your life changes in an instant," Mr Lancaster said.

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

Undiagnosed hepatitis can lead to serious illness

Shepparton News, General News, 05/08/2024, Bree Harding, Page 4

In Shepparton, an estimated 344 people are living with chronic hepatitis B but only 15 per cent are engaged in treatment or monitoring, according to LiverWELL chief executive Elaine Montegriffo. Viral hepatitis is the most dominant blood-borne illness in Australia, and hepatitis B is the most dominant bloodborne illness in Victoria, with 58,268 Victorians affected.

People with chronic pain missing out on vital care

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 05/08/2024

There are 3.6 million Australians suffering from chronic pain, but despite these high numbers, a recent survey has found that most aren't getting access to the care they need. The 2024 National Pain Report highlighted how pain colours the world of not just those living with chronic pain but society as a whole.

[Read More](#)

It's time we recognised chronic urinary tract infection

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 05/08/2024

Urinary tract infection (UTI) accounts for a large workload in general practice and as many as one in eight preventable admissions to Australian hospitals. So common and distressing is acute UTI that it has become a political issue with government-funded "prescribing trials" aimed towards women experiencing symptoms out of hours.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Neck and neck

Herald Sun, General News, 05/08/2024, Shannon Deery, Page 7

Voters are abandoning the Allan government amid concerns over cuts to health spending, with a new poll revealing the Coalition and Labor are neck and neck for the first time in almost seven years. The survey by bipartisan pollster Red Bridge reveals just 31 per cent of Victorians would vote Labor if an election was held now, while support for John Pesutto's opposition has surged to 40 per cent.

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

Jitters grow on clinical budgets

Herald Sun, General News, 05/08/2024, Sarah Booth & Fergus Ellis, Page 12

Victorian hospitals and patients are still waiting for the government to make a call on controversial budget plans as fears over cuts to services continue to grow. The government and hospitals have been locked in tense negotiations after the latter were ordered to submit plans on how they would meet financial targets they say fall short of health care's true costs.

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

Cancer bunker 'unproven'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/08/2024, Andrew Hough, Page 11

An embattled US company awarded a lucrative taxpayer contract to create a world-leading Adelaide cancer centre had a "clinically unproven" system, a confidential official assessment warned. The \$500m Australian Bragg Centre, formerly SAHMRI 2, was last year due to operate the southern hemisphere's first proton beam therapy unit in a fortified, four-storey concrete bunker.

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

Payroll tax on doctors blasted

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/08/2024, Tara Miko, Page 17

Regional South Australia would have a designated health minister to improve services and reduce ramping under a Liberal government, Opposition Leader David Speirs says. Mr Speirs has revealed his party, if it wins the 2026 election, would create a regional health minister, scrap the GP payroll tax, and invest heavily in mental health services across the state.

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

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

Tribunal decision on drugs demand

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/08/2024, Amber Wilson, Page 10

A tribunal has not intervened in the case of a young woman who refused medical treatment unless she received "huge, unsafe" doses of opioids. The woman, 21, was recently in a Tasmanian hospital suffering complications from diabetes and refusing treatment.

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

GPs' new base a genuine family clinic

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/08/2024, Page 15

A Hobart brother and sister who grew up aspiring to careers in medicine have taken the big step to partner up and open their own GP clinic in the city. Dr Jay Shoemaker and his sister Dr Emma Shoemaker on Monday open the doors to Australian Family Medical, a new general practitioners' clinic in Davey St.

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

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

Victoria's regional hospitals buckling

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 05/08/2024, Ben Silvester, Page 8

Emergency department wait times have blown out in Victoria's major regional hospitals despite statewide waits declining, according to the latest government hospital statistics. The data from the Victorian Agency for Health Information showed most health services managing rising patient demand between April and June 2024, but key regional hospitals struggling to cope.

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

Ten agency nurses called in amid unplanned LGH absences

Burnie Advocate, General News, 05/08/2024, Benjamin Seeder, Page 7

The Health Department has brought in agency nurses and has again "re-deployed" staff from Hobart to cope with unplanned absences at the Launceston General Hospital this weekend, a top health boss confirmed on Saturday. Health deputy secretary Dale Webster said up to 10 agency nurses would be brought in to cover shifts at the hospital until longer term recruitment can be concluded.

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

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

Costs bite as Aussies shirk dental visits

Cairns Post, General News, 05/08/2024, Page 7

Two-thirds of people only visit the dentist when they have a problem, and affordability is the main reason that keeps them away. New data from the Australian Dental Association's annual oral health survey of 25,000 people found that only onethird (31 per cent) go for a regular check-up.

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

A hit to our health if airline is grounded

Daily Advertiser, General News, 05/08/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 3

A Wagga health sub-specialist is certain health services would be lost and patients left untreated if Regional Express was to cease regional operations. A question of the local community since Tuesday's announcement that Rex Airlines was entering voluntary administration has been what will happen to healthcare services.

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

Pressure ramps up for ambos

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 05/08/2024, Chelsea Bunting & Abby Walter, Page 5

Ambos are under "enormous strain" as wait times for patients most in need of emergency cares increases, new data shows. Paramedics in the Barwon South West region faced one of their busiest

quarters from April to June, with more than 7550 code one emergencies.

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

Crisafulli vow of 'hope' over fear

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 05/08/2024, Ryan Keen, Page 7

LNP leader David Crisafulli vows to campaign on "hope over fear", tackling four major issues: youth crime, house supply, health shortages and cost-of-living. The Broadwater MP told a TSS Business Breakfast fundraiser on Friday: "I'm choosing hope over fear."

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

Night shift minus doctor

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 05/08/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

Queensland's biggest hospital has no doctor working at night in the psychiatric emergency unit and distressed patients are often left to lie on the floor or on couches due to "bed block" and this has been the horror story at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital for years. While demand for mental health care surges in the night hours, there is no psychiatric registrar rostered from 10.30pm until the morning shift.

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

Hospital progress

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 05/08/2024, Tegan Guthrie, Page 1

More than eight years after funding was first announced for a new Laverton Hospital, a contractor has been appointed to deliver forward works for the project. The appointment of ADCO Constructions which plan to begin works in early 2025 marks the biggest step for- Contractor locked in for hospital at Laverton ward for the long-awaited project which has stalled for years.

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

Patients get a travel boost

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 05/08/2024, Carwyn Monck, Page 3

A scheme which helps Goldfields patients reduce the cost of accessing medical services in Perth has received a boost in recognition of rising fuel costs. The State Government announced on Saturday it would invest more than \$13 million to increase the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme fuel subsidy in response to significant increases in fuel costs and cost-of-living pressures.

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

PATS increase still not enough, say WA Libs

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 05/08/2024, Neil Watkinson, Page 3

The State Government's Patient Assisted Travel Scheme fuel subsidy increase is a pittance which means it still lags behind other States, the WA Liberals say. Shadow health minister Libby Mettam said WA Labor had gutted the regions since coming to office in 2017, taking billions in royalties while regional health services went backwards.

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

Analysis Labor and CLP come out of the blocks with promises as NT election campaign formally starts

ABC Online, Other, 04/08/2024, Matt Garrick

As the Olympics swing into full gear in Paris, another, far less publicised contest formally kicked off this week – the race to take government in the Northern Territory. Out of the blocks, the funding pledges and policy shifts charged forward.

[Read More](#)

Former Wolston Park Mental Hospital patients reveal dark past of alleged abuse, beatings and shock therapy

ABC Online, Other, 04/08/2024, Eden Gillespie

A razor wire fence towered over the terrified teenager. She wasn't in prison but rather, at Wolston Park Mental Hospital – an asylum in Wacol about halfway between Brisbane and Ipswich.

[Read More](#)

Bed blockage, Premiers show lack of interest in helping

The Border Mail, Other, 04/08/2024, Anthony Bunn

An urgent plea to the NSW and Victorian premiers to have modular units set up at Albury hospital to address a bed shortage has failed to prompt any commitment. Wodonga mayor Ron Mildren wrote to NSW leader Chris Minns and his Victorian counterpart Jacinta Allan on July 24 calling for an immediate investment in the wards.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Gonski hails move to measure impact

The Australian, Business News, 05/08/2024, Damon Kitney, Page 17

One of the pioneers of philanthropy in Australia, veteran business leader David Gonski, has lauded a landmark move by the Geoff Wilson-founded listed philanthropic fund manager Future Generation Group (FGG) to quantify the collective social impact of its not-for-profit partners for the first time. FGG has donated \$44m to Australian charities and philanthropic institutions over the past decade.

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

Inglis talks about demons

Courier Mail, General News, 05/08/2024, Lachlan Leeming, Page 7

Former NRL superstar Greg Inglis has opened up about his mental health battles – ahead of a landmark forum aimed at cutting soaring rates of male suicide – revealing he sought psychiatric treatment just two months ago. The South Sydney and Melbourne Storm legend will be one of the keynote speakers at the inaugural Men's Mental Health Forum at the NSW Parliament today.

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

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

Wiggle's anguish of a lonely life

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/08/2024, Julie Cross, Page 17

On stage he was the yellow Wiggle - the all-dancing, singing, high energy children's act - but behind the scenes Greg Page would spend all his time alone in his room, crippled with loneliness. For the first time, the original lead singer of the Wiggles revealed that back in the mid 2000s he only connected with other members of the group on a "superficial" level and that he was unable to open up to any of them about his problems for fear of being judged.

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

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

Girls don't have to struggle alone

Daily Advertiser, General News, 05/08/2024, Sophie Else, Page 2

Bronte Johnson never saw her problems as worth talking about while growing up. It meant the Riverina 19-year-old kept her struggles to herself, navigating what she saw as the confusing, traumatic and isolating teenage years in silence.

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

'Compassionate' approach to hoarding

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/08/2024, Simon McCarthy, Page 10

At any moment, Lake Macquarie City Council has estimated it could have as many as 20 cases of

hoarding and squalor on the books. And while squalor cases refer to conditions that have become unhygienic through neglect or the collection of waste items that pose a health and safety risk to residents, hoarding cases can be more difficult to define and negotiate.

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

Share or comment on this article: India plans tougher ad curbs on liquor makers such as...

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/08/2024

India's new rules could reshape alcohol advertising Stakes are high for Pernod, Diageo in \$45-bln market New rules to ban ads that mislead consumers Industry in talks with New Delhi, rules likely in a month By Aditya Kalra Such "surrogate ads" often get round the ban by ostensibly showing less desirable items instead, such as water, music CDs or glassware garbed in logos and hues linked to their key product, and often promoted by popular Bollywood film stars.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Every patient should be bulk-billed, says top doc

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/08/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 2

A senior Hamilton doctor with no plans to retire has urged the best medical students to become GPs, amid a serious shortage in the field. When Dr Marie-Anne Hockings was a student, "they used to say you shouldn't train girls to do medicine because they'd just go off and have babies".

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

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Ozempic maker wants new drug subsidy

Australian Financial Review, General News, 05/08/2024, Nick Bonyhady, Page 3

Danish drug giant Novo Nordisk wants taxpayers to subsidise access to its blockbuster weight loss medication Wegovy after generating \$605 million in revenue from Australia last year. The company will soon make its third attempt at persuading the...

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

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

Australians need better access to Medicare-funded cardiac MRI

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 05/08/2024

In this article, we focus on inequitable access to guideline-indicated cardiac MRI. We do so because it directly impacts our most vulnerable patients.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Authorities refuse to intervene over young woman refusing hospital treatment

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/08/2024, Amber Wilson

A tribunal has refused to intervene in the case of a young woman who refused medical treatment unless she received "huge, unsafe" doses of opioids. The 21-year-old woman was recently in a Tasmanian hospital suffering complications from diabetes and refusing treatment.

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

[Read More](#)

Melbourne surgeon failed to tell patient he invented 'experimental' device used to replace jaw joints, court documents claim

The Guardian, Other, 05/08/2024, Melissa Davey

A Melbourne surgeon failed to tell a patient undergoing major jaw surgery that the device she was being implanted was an "experimental" one that he invented, and that he also created the classification system used to diagnose her condition as severe enough to warrant removing her jaw joints, according to documents filed in a Victorian court case accusing him of negligence.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Brisbane off and running towards \$2bn goal

The Australian, Business News, 05/08/2024, John Stensholt, Page 15

Brisbane 2032 Olympic officials could head to the sponsorship market a year ahead of schedule, as it tries to hit its huge \$2bn commercial revenue target. Under its agreement with the Australian Olympic Committee, Brisbane will gain access to the Olympic brand on January 1 2027, with the AOC receiving a payment in return for signing over the sponsorship rights.

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

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

Sideline shockers

West Australian, General News, 05/08/2024, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 1

WA's junior sporting codes have been ordered into a crisis meeting with the Government this week as it fights to stop a concerning surge in sideline violence from parents. Fights at a number of children's games brought on the meeting with everyone from AFL to surfing attending.

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

Interview with former Professional Boxing and Combat Sports chair Bernie Balmer on removing boxing from the Olympics. Balmer thinks boxing shouldn't be removed from the Olympics because of the risk of concussion. He says it's important to look at the safety aspect of the sport and how strict the rules are when it comes to the result of a TKO or KO.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Plastic is not so fantastic

West Australian, General News, 05/08/2024, Roger Dobson, Page 7

Drinking from plastic bottles can raise blood pressure as a result of microplastics entering the bloodstream, a study has suggested. But microplastics have also been found in fluids in glass bottles, according to other research, and experts say the associated higher blood pressure can lead to an increased risk of heart disease.

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

Woman's best friend good for health

West Australian, General News, 05/08/2024, Page 9

It seems man's best friend could actually be better for women. According to research, having a pet, especially a dog, may alleviate anxiety and depression in women, especially those with a history of abuse.

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

Grief ages your body, science proves it

The New Daily, Other, 04/08/2024, John Elder

You may have heard it said, or probably said it yourself. When a friend has lost a spouse or a child, suddenly or otherwise, it seems they have aged 10 years overnight.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

PM: economy, not Makarrata

The Australian, General News, 05/08/2024, Paige Taylor, Page 1

Anthony Albanese's post-referendum economic development push is a chance to put Indigenous policy back on "non-contentious" footing and pull apart the red tape that has held remote communities back, Indigenous leaders at the Garma Festival and beyond have declared. The Prime Minister on Sunday finally ruled out the creation of a Makarrata commission to oversee truth-telling and treaty, and all but ended his government's pursuit of implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

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

First Nations remarks by PM 'confusing'

Age, General News, 05/08/2024, Shane Wright & Caroline Schelle, Page 12

An architect of the Uluru Statement has said Makarrata was not meant to be a "vague vibe or a series of casual conversations", after Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in effect ruled out a formal commission or institution that would supervise agreement-making and truth-telling. Albanese said that instead of a formal Makarrata body, the government must focus on engaging with Indigenous communities to find new ways to deal with chronic problems.

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

A call for a new approach to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health through specialist medical education

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 05/08/2024

Creating a curriculum that meets the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities involves many considerations. In 2006, the Australian Medical Council (AMC) set specific standards for primary medical education, setting in motion the developmental journey to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health challenges through medical education.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Second Legionnaires' disease death revealed

Age, General News, 05/08/2024, Ashleigh Mcmillan, Page 10

A second person has died following an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in Melbourne's western suburbs, as contact tracers continue to narrow down the cooling tower believed to be the source of the infections. There have been 77 confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease and another seven suspected cases linked to the outbreak since mid-July.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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

Disease's new victim

Herald Sun, General News, 05/08/2024, Tess Mccracken, Page 7

A second person has died amid Victoria's largest outbreak of legionnaires' disease in more than two decades. A man in his 60s reportedly became unwell with the harmful disease on July 27, before dying in hospital on Thursday.

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

NT hit by wave of flu

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/08/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 7

The Northern Territory is second behind only New South Wales in influenza notifications in 2024, as the respiratory illness washes across Australia at rates not seen since the national register was established in 1990. According to the latest fortnightly bulletin of the Australian Respiratory Surveillance Report (July 15-28), there have been 2206 influenza notifications in the NT in the year to date a rate of 873.8 per 100,000 population, second only to NSW with a rate of 1552.4 per 100,000.

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

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

Woman dies amid disease outbreak

Cairns Post, General News, 05/08/2024, Page 7

A woman has died after contracting Legionnaires disease, in Victoria's largest outbreak of the illness in more than 20 years. Victorian chief health officer Clare Looker said a woman in her 90s fell ill with the disease on Tuesday before dying that night.

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

State pushes school flu vax

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 05/08/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

Every child in Queensland would be eligible for the flu jab at school under an ambitious proposal by the

state government after a worrying spike of influenza hospitalisations. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has called on Canberra to expand the National Immunisation Program to include influenza shots for school students.

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

Pertussis outbreak warning for parents

Ballarat Courier, General News, 05/08/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 4

Parents and families of young babies are being warned to be on the looking for symptoms of whooping cough as an outbreak sweeps the state. The number of reported cases of pertussis, better known as whooping cough, is just the tip of the iceberg warns Grampians Public Health Unit chief strategy and regions officer Rob Grenfell.

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

World Health Organisation considering declaring mpox outbreak in Africa an international health emergency

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/08/2024, Anthony Piovesan

The World Health Organisation is considering whether the growing mpox outbreak in Africa should be declared an international emergency. WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said an expert committee could be convened to make the determination as the UN health agency and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, among other major bodies, increase their response to the outbreak of the infectious virus formerly known as monkeypox.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

From possible side effects to reviewing dosage, experts explain what you need to know about ADHD medications

ABC Online, Other, 04/08/2024, Peter Jean

As the number of people diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) increases, so does the amount of information about the condition and medications used to treat it on social media sites such as TikTok. But studies have shown a lot of the information on social media about ADHD, and the medications used to treat it, is factually incorrect.

[Read More](#)

Allison was prescribed a medicine every Aussie has used... this is her urgent warning after a terrifying reaction left her completely changed forever

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/08/2024, Freddy Pawle

A mother-of-two claims she has been living in torture every day after she was prescribed an antibiotic by her doctor. [...] Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) launched an investigation into the potential side effects of fluoroquinolone in 2020 following a 'safety signal'.

[Read More](#)

Hospitals worldwide are short of saline. We can't just switch to other IV fluids – here's why

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 05/08/2024

Last week, the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration added intravenous (IV) fluids to the growing list of medicines in short supply. The shortage is due to higher-than-expected demand and manufacturing issues.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Steroid black market pumped

Cairns Post, General News, 05/08/2024, Luke Williams, Page 8

Authorities are struggling to shut down a growing "wild west" of image-enhancing drug trading on websites and social media, as health organisations track an increase in the number of people injecting steroids across the state. The Cairns Hospital and Hinterland Health Service said in a statement that for "several years now, the number of people who inject steroids have been increasing in attendance at needle syringe programs across the state".

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)
[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.
See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

