



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 6th August 2024

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (page 1) reports that the details of claims by three former Hawthorn Hawks players who say they experienced psychological and personal harm due to an ongoing and entrenched culture of racism at the club have been lodged with the Federal Court after mediation talks broke down. *Also reported by:* [Australian Financial Review](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#)
- **The Australian** (page 3) reports that leading medical organisations have called for the recognition of chronic UTIs, with recurrent UTI currently the only recognised type, meaning women are denied antibiotics due to misunderstandings about chronic forms of the infection.
- **The Newcastle Herald** (page 5) reports that plans by Anglican Care to sell an aged care facility acquired with liabilities for a dollar in 2017 have been criticised by community members who are calling on the government to fund a multi-purpose healthcare service on the site.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 7) reports that a pregnant woman who had a terminal stomach cancer diagnosis missed despite a biopsy showing signs of the carcinoma 12 months earlier is suing Rosebud Hospital for negligence she says led to the death of her baby and risked her own life.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 9) reports that an Alzheimer medication found to improve cognitive function in animals will launch a world-first human trial in Australia this week.

- **The Age** (page 10) leads widespread coverage reporting that the cooling tower likely responsible for Melbourne's legionnaire outbreak has been located and treated, according to Victoria's Chief Health Officer, who says a positive sample of Legionella was returned from a tower visited on July 30. *Also reported by: [Canberra Times](#), [The Guardian](#), [Bendigo Advertiser](#), [Northern Daily Leader](#)*
- **The Age** (page 10) reports that pain specialists are calling for evidence-based pain relief strategies for endometriosis, claiming invasive surgical treatment has not been proven effective.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### 'Troubling signal' as Ramsay flags lower earnings and weak capex

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 06/08/2024, Michael Smith, Page 20

Ramsay Health Care, the nation's largest private hospital operator, said full-year earnings came in at the lower end of analysts' forecasts as it tipped a higher than expected write-down on its underperforming European and UK businesses. In the company'...

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

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### Canberra cold on providing hospital help after Border plea

The Border Mail, Other, 05/08/2024, Anthony Bunn

A meeting involving federal Health Minister Mark Butler to discuss the Border's hospital needs and Commonwealth involvement appears unlikely to happen. A joint letter, signed by the mayors of Albury, Wodonga, Federation and Indigo councils, has been sent to Assistant Rural and Regional Health Minister Emma McBride soliciting her help in arranging a meeting with Mr Butler.

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### Child RSV cases spike in South Australia, calls grow for free immunisation program

The Courier Mail, Other, 05/08/2024, Natalie Vikhrov

South Australia will make "a big change" to how it tackles the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) for infants as cases of children being hospitalised with the virus mount – but it will stop short of a free vaccine for all babies. [...] "I have written to the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to encourage a national approach to the RSV monoclonal antibody next year via the National Immunisation Program," he said.

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### Unforgettable moments from PSA24

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 05/08/2024, Chloe Hava

A record number of attendees flocked to PSA24 over the weekend in Sydney to partake in cutting-edge education sessions, networking events and a world-class exhibition. [...] 'We were proud to have the Minister for Health and Aged Care the Honourable Mark Butler MP officially launch Pharmacists in 2030 i n a room full of engaged, passionate pharmacists, highlighting our growing roles in addressing the healthcare needs of the future.

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### The ZAP: latest health and aged care news, zinger quotes, and consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 05/08/2024, Melissa Sweet

As Australian Private Hospitals Association CEO Michael Roff left the organisation after 30 years (24 as CEO), he said the secret of his success was "to employ people who are smarter than me, and then... do what they tell me". [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells is apparently working so hard that she needs an assistant – who knew? Kate Thwaites (aged 44) has been appointed as Assistant Minister for Ageing.

## Butler backs 60DD, as PSA partners up

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/08/2024

The Federal Health Minister Mark Butler called 60-Day Dispensing (60DD) "difficult reform, but good policy" in his opening address at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) national conference, PSA24, on Fri. Butler announced that nine million scripts have been issued under 60DD, saving Australians more than \$50 million on their medicine costs, with the next round of medicines to be added in Sep.

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## PSA launches vision for future of pharmacists

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 05/08/2024

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) launched its flagship vision for the future of Australian pharmacy practice, Pharmacists in 2030, alongside Federal Health Minister Mark Butler at PSA24. An evolution of PSA's vision for the future of the pharmacy profession, and the steps that need to be taken to get there, Pharmacists in 2030 maintains focus on medicine safety, expanding scope of practice and integration of pharmacists into collaborative care teams.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### The ZAP: latest health and aged care news, zinger quotes, and consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 05/08/2024, Melissa Sweet

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### Retirement Living Council pleased to see ageing now in Federal Government's domain

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/08/2024, Ian Horswill

The Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's creation of an ageing portfolio is a major positive move for the retirement living sector, with Victorian MP Kate Thwaites, named the first Assistant Minister for Ageing. The significance is the fact the new Assistant Minister's portfolio is ageing , and not aged care, which is Anika Wells' portfolio.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Canberra cold on providing hospital help after Border plea

The Border Mail, Other, 05/08/2024, Anthony Bunn

A meeting involving federal Health Minister Mark Butler to discuss the Border's hospital needs and Commonwealth involvement appears unlikely to happen. A joint letter, signed by the mayors of Albury, Wodonga, Federation and Indigo councils, has been sent to Assistant Rural and Regional Health Minister Emma McBride soliciting her help in arranging a meeting with Mr Butler.

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## PSA celebrates its high achievers

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/08/2024

Dedicated professionals were recognised in front of their peers at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's national conference (PSA24) last week. [...] Among the new Fellows is Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and Rural and Regional Health - the only pharmacist currently serving in Parliament.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### The ZAP: latest health and aged care news, zinger quotes, and consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 05/08/2024, Melissa Sweet

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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### Ageing Aussies earn their own portfolio

Your Life Choices, Other, 05/08/2024, Andrew Gigacz

You may have heard that Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has reshuffled his cabinet. [...] Stepping up to the plate is Kate Thwaites .

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## DEPARTMENT

### Funding reform: 'time is of the essence', say experts

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 05/08/2024

If the federal government continues to delay on funding reform, then up to 75 per cent of aged care homes are predicted to operate at a loss, says a new report. [...] Before formally responding to the recommendations of the taskforce, the Department of Health and Aged Care has said it will continue to consult across the aged care sector "to ensure there is broad support for reforms to improve the standard of care."

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### Opioid safety kit

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/08/2024

Monash University has launched an online Opioid Safety Toolkit for consumers. [...] Funded by the Health Dept, the toolkit was created by pharmacists, consumers, and health professionals.

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### Medical council, DoHAC brave 'lion's den' to talk IMG fast track

The Medical Republic, Other, 05/08/2024, Laura Woodrow

Representatives of the Australian Medical Council and the Department of Health and Aged care entered the "lion's den" at this weekend's AMA24 conference to discuss the contentious fast-tracked registration pathway for overseas-trained doctors. Last December, an independent review of Australia's regulation of internationally trained doctors, known as the Kruk report, was endorsed by the national cabinet.

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## CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Fight to stop Anglican aged care sell-off

Newcastle Herald, General News, 06/08/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 5

Anglican Care's plan to sell Bulahdelah's Cedar Wharf Lodge has angered community members who say it breaches an agreement made in good faith. The facility is on the market, creating an increased sense of urgency to the community's calls for better access to health care services.

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### Bupa Aged Care COO seeks seed capital for recruitment startup

Australian Financial Review, Other, 05/08/2024, Kanika Sood, Sarah Thompson & Emma Rapaport

A new name in recruitment is seeking to tackle worker shortages in the healthcare and aged care sectors. Startup hopstep is working with aged care providers including Arcare Aged Care, Mercy Health and Medical & Aged Care Group to recruit staff.

[Read More](#)

### Our research shows 4 in 10 Australians in aged care are malnourished. What can we do about it?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 05/08/2024, Marie-Claire O Shea & Jonathan Foo

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.

[Read More](#)

## From Promise to Practice: Key Findings from the 2024 Aged Care Progress Report

HelloCare, Other, 05/08/2024, Jakob Neeland

Acting Inspector-General of Aged Care, Ian Yates AM, has released the 2024 Progress Report on the implementation of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's recommendations. This crucial document, presented to Parliament, offers a detailed examination of the status of all 148 recommendations made by the Royal Commission, effective from 1 January 2024.

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## Council agrees to work with Western Australian Government to provide retirement living In Karratha

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/08/2024, Ian Horswill

At the latest Council meeting last month, councilors voted to support the State Government to investigate options for retirement living in the City of Karratha. The council endorsed the Age Friendly Strategy 2024-2026 Implementation Plan and Monitoring Framework which includes scheduling fitness programming for senior residents, establishing a seniors community reference group and implementing a seniors parking scheme to improve access to city facilities.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Good sleep's deep secrets

Herald Sun, General News, 06/08/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 9

Phone use and waking up during the night are not always bad news for sleep quality, while getting out of bed in the middle of the night could be your ticket to a better snooze. At the same time, constantly thinking about whether you are getting enough shut-eye can also backfire, and make it harder to fall asleep in the first place.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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### Bullied out over menopause

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/08/2024, Emily Olle, Page 16

When Adelaide nurse Jodie was promoted into a senior role, it should have been an exciting milestone in the prime of her career. Instead, she began experiencing severe brain fog and a loss of confidence and, as a result, was so badly bullied in her workplace that she ended up resigning.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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### Why I want your husband

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 06/08/2024, Dr Elise Davey, Page 15

I want your husband. In fact.

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### Asthma control and management empowering patients

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2024, Tracey Cheung, Page 53

Taking a breath is something most of us take for granted. [...] Asthma causes AIHW reports that the

strongest risk factors for asthma include a combination of genetic predisposition and environmental factors.

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## **Esther Foundation survivor says private mental health, drug and alcohol rehabs need regulation**

ABC Online, Other, 05/08/2024, Emily Jb Smith

A survivor of a highly controversial religious rehabilitation facility in Perth's hills says it's disappointing the state government has largely failed to regulate similar centres. More than 70 witnesses appeared before the 2022 inquiry into the Esther Foundation, detailing practices ranging from exorcisms to gay conversion therapy and to tying patients to their beds for extended periods.

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## **Dental Health Week: the oral health issues facing older women**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 05/08/2024

While many oral health issues are common to both genders, there are some that are more prevalent in older women. [...] Osteoporosis and medication-related complications Osteoporosis (brittle or porous bones) is unfortunately common among menopausal and postmenopausal women, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reports that at 2022 over a quarter (26 per cent) of Australian women over 75 are affected by osteoporosis.

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## **Snug but unsafe: your heater may be harming your health. What are your safest choices?**

Your Life Choices, Other, 05/08/2024

We now have a dizzying array of heating technologies to consider, besides the fire that warmed our ancestors. Salespeople will highlight any number of features and minor conveniences.

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## **CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

### **New device cuts hepatitis C test wait to an hour**

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/08/2024, Gera Kazakov, Page 11

Test times for a disease that affects the liver have been slashed in the Red Centre, with a new machine cutting waiting times for results down from two weeks to an hour and it's free to use. Alice Springs Hospital now hosts a GeneXpert device worth about \$32,000 which is a new point-of-care testing device for hepatitis C.

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### **Chronic pain at high level**

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 06/08/2024, Page 10

There are 3.6 million Australians suffering from chronic pain, but most aren't getting access to the care they need. Chronic Pain Australia's 2024 National Pain Report shows that nine in 10 young people living with pain have been ignored or dismissed by health professionals, and one in two women with chronic pain experienced medical misogyny.

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### **From a bubbly, cheeky boy to critically ill**

Border Mail, General News, 06/08/2024, Sophie Else, Page 3

At seven months old, Henry was a bubbly, cheeky, happy little boy, "always full of life". He was born with stapes gusher syndrome, a genetic form of deafness, but never let his condition limit him.

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## Crystal clear ambition for \$75m vision, hearing centre

Daily Liberal, Other, 06/08/2024, Jack Gramenz

Australia's position as a world leader in combating vision and hearing loss will be bolstered with a \$75 million facility bringing together the best of research and industry. The NextSense centre for innovation will deliver services for people with hearing and vision loss as well as conducting research and professional training.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

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## ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 05/08/2024, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Dr Norman Swan discussing a study involving double mastectomies in breast cancer patients. Swan explains having a double mastectomy and reducing the risk of a recurrence on the other side doesn't reduce the risk of death. He urges breast cancer patients to focus on the original tumour and follow their doctor's recommended form of treatment to kill the cancer cells.

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## Radio National, Breakfast, 05/08/2024, Sally Sara & Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Health Report co-host Dr Norman Swan discussing a study involving double mastectomies in breast cancer patients. Swan says Canadian research found removing both breasts reduced the risk of cancer reappearing by 90% but increased the risk of death. He adds getting a bilateral mastectomy could save someone's life if they have one of the two breast cancer-causing genes.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### 'Chronic UTI must be better treated'

The Australian, General News, 06/08/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

The nation's medical leaders have called for the recognition of chronic urinary tract infection amid widespread evidence thousands of women are being misdiagnosed and undertreated. Urological Society of Australia president Helen O'Connell, Australian Medical Association president Steve Robson, Royal College of General Practitioners primary care guidelines expert Magdalena Simonis and Westmead pediatrics professor of urology Ani Deshpande have penned an article in the Medical Journal of Australia InSight journal calling on the medical profession to recognise chronic UTI is an infection embedded in the wall of the bladder as first reported by The Australian in a major series of articles this year.

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

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### Tabcorp backs crackdown on gaming ads

The Australian, Business News, 06/08/2024, Glen Norris, Page 17

Gaming giant Tabcorp says it backs a cut in gambling advertising amid speculation the Albanese government may be preparing to water down a proposed crackdown. [...] The document referred to by Ms Daniel mentioned 66 listed meetings but these included a range of stakeholders such as the Alliance for Gambling Reform, Relationships Australia, Suicide Prevention Australia and the Australian Medical Association

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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## Household pain: The price rises hurting you the most

The Australian, Business News, 06/08/2024, Anthony Keane, Page 21

Key household costs have ignored Reserve Bank of Australia efforts to keep price rises under control over the past two years, creating consumer pain and higher-for-longer home loan repayments. Since the RBA announced the first of its 13 interest rate rises in May 2022 to slow surging inflation, dozens of components of the Consumer Price Index have climbed much more than the overall CPI rise of 12 per cent.

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

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## Invasive surgery for endometriosis 'a waste of money'

Age, General News, 06/08/2024, Rachel Eddie, Page 10

Australia's top pain specialists have challenged the need for invasive surgery to diagnose and treat endometriosis as they question whether the lesions are a leading cause of women's pain. The Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists argued that a focus on endometriosis and laparoscopies actually delayed effective treatment and called on governments to fund evidence-based pain services instead.

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

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## I knew it wasn't morning sickness

Herald Sun, General News, 06/08/2024, Ashley Argoon, Page 7

Eliza Wilmot knew it wasn't morning sickness. The mum of two had never suffered the illness that took her to the emergency department again and again, only to be told, "It's pregnancy".

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## St Lukes Health dental clinic 'fills a gap'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 06/08/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 5

St Lukes Health has opened its first dental practice, aiming to "fill a gap" in the market and provide more Tasmanians with affordable and accessible oral health services. Located in their new seven-storey Cimitiere Street building, the practice features dentists, oral health therapists and hygienists under one roof.

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## Hospital experiences blow out in wait times

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 06/08/2024, Ben Silvester, Page 2

Health 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.

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## Opposition hits out at hospital situation

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 06/08/2024, Anneke De Boer, Page 13

The delays in the construction of Laverton Hospital have been labelled "appalling" by the WA Liberals leader after it was revealed a contractor had been allocated for the project's forward works. More than eight years after funding was first allocated for a new hospital in the remote Goldfields town of Laverton, ADCO Constructions has been appointed to deliver early works for the project.

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## Child RSV cases spike in South Australia, calls grow for free immunisation program

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/08/2024, Natalie Vikhrov

South Australia will make "a big change" to how it tackles the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) for

infants as cases of children being hospitalised with the virus mount – but it will stop short of a free vaccine for all babies. In the past week, 48 people have been hospitalised in SA with RSV – 32 of them young children.

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

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## Senior doctor with no plan to retire says 'everyone should be bulk-billed'

Newcastle Herald, Other, 05/08/2024, Damon Cronshaw

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".

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## Rockhampton Hospital forced to again rely on private hospitals

Cairns Post, Other, 05/08/2024, Aden Stokes

Rockhampton Hospital is hemorrhaging under patient overload, operating at 100 percent capacity with horror stories about patients not being able to use ED toilets, and claims others have not received important medications like insulin. One elderly woman, who will remain anonymous, was told by a nurse in ED to pee or poo in her pants, according to her husband.

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

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## O'Keeffe and Kealy unite against health budget cuts and mergers

Shepparton News Online, Other, 05/08/2024

Concerned residents of Shepparton met to discuss concerns about budget cuts and proposed hospital mergers at a gathering held by state Member for Shepparton Kim O'Keeffe. The meeting, held on Wednesday, July 24, with shadow mental health minister Emma Kealy, aimed to provide community members with more information about the proposed changes.

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## Mid-term blues: Vic poll shows Labor losing ground

The Border Mail, Other, 05/08/2024, Callum Godde

The spectre of looming hospital funding cuts has contributed to Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan leading Labor to its worst polling result in almost seven years. A survey of 1514 Victorians by independent polling outfit RedBridge between July 23 and August 1 has Labor and the coalition tied 50-50 on a two-party preferred (TPP) basis.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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## RACGP presidential candidate Dr Alan Bradley responds to the big questions facing GPs

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/08/2024

RACGP members will vote for a new president this month. Five GPs are campaigning for the role, and AusDoc has asked all five to answer the big questions on bulk-billing, scope of practice and how to inspire junior doctors to become GPs.

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## 'Horrific' yet 'almost normalised': Mental health patients in ED waiting hours for beds

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/08/2024, Rachel Carter

ED doctors are dealing with a huge rise in the acuity and severity of mental health presentations. "It is

incredibly distressing to see patients who need admission to a specialist mental health bed waiting for over 24 hours in ED," says Dr Sarah Whitelaw.

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## GP incentives review 'nothing but disrespectful'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 05/08/2024

A new review has recommended general practice incentives undergo a major overhaul, but it is a plan GPs have labelled a 'missed opportunity'. Authored by an Expert Advisory Panel, the review follows on from the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan 2022–23 and Strengthening Medicare Taskforce.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 05/08/2024, Michael Rowland & Lisa Millar

Tasmania's health minister has requested an urgent meeting with the state's nursing union amid staff shortages at Launceston's Emergency departments. Premier Jeremy Rockliff is reassuring the community patient safety isn't being compromised

*Also reported by: ABC (Adelaide), ABC (Albany), ABC (Brisbane), ABC (Canberra), ABC (Darwin), ABC (Hobart), ABC (Melbourne), ABC (Perth), ABC (Regional NSW), ABC (Regional Queensland), ABC (Regional Victoria), ABC (Sydney), ABC News (Adelaide), ABC News (Brisbane), ABC News (Canberra), ABC News (Hobart), ABC News (Melbourne), ABC News (Perth), ABC News (Regional NSW), ABC News (Regional Queensland), ABC News (Regional Victoria), ABC News (Regional West Australia)*

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Heal in the outdoors

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/08/2024, Simon Mcguire, Page 18

Nestled on a 21ha property over two land parcels about 15km south of Wynyard, Robin Krabbe and a team of volunteers from Live Well Tasmania are preparing to open up the site to the public for "therapeutic farming". Surrounded by forest plantations owned by Sustainable Timbers Tasmania, the organisation is planting trees, installing power, and repairing existing infrastructure with the aim of welcoming participants in late September.

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### Border role to help our most vulnerable

Border Mail, General News, 06/08/2024, Jodie O'Sullivan, Page 4

Albury has been included in a new federal program providing streamlined access to government payments and services for those experiencing homelessness, mental illness, or domestic and family violence. Services Australia (which oversees Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support) is providing officers across 27 sites to work with local non-government organisations supporting the homeless and others in at-risk circumstances.

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### 'Same struggles': NRL star tackles mental health stigma

Canberra Times, Other, 05/08/2024, Alex Mitchell

Rugby league legend Greg Inglis has found a new goal for his post-footy life - changing the narrative around men's mental health. Expanding on his mental battles, the former Melbourne and South Sydney superstar said he never again wants to see a person suffer in silence.

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

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### 'The system doesn't work': Grieving Geelong mum fights for local

## mental health support

The Courier Mail, Other, 05/08/2024, Lucy Crock

A Geelong mum who lost her son to suicide is fighting to change a system she says failed her family. Catherine Steel lost her 26-year-old son Liam last year, and has since joined the new local branch of Australians for Mental Health (AFMH).

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

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## Regional Australia has higher rates of self-harm than the cities. We need to address the problem

The Guardian, Other, 06/08/2024

In 2023, Ballarat launched the Live4Life mental health education and youth suicide prevention program . It came in response to a spate of suicides that had taken place across the city, including 15-year-old Bridie Cocks and her boyfriend, Nick Watts, as well as teenager Rohan Cosgriff who was the victim of a sextortion scam.

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## 'The system doesn't work': Grieving Geelong mum fights for local mental health support

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/08/2024, Lucy Crock

A Geelong mum who lost her son to suicide is fighting to change a system she says failed her family. Catherine Steel lost her 26-year-old son Liam last year, and has since joined the new local branch of Australians for Mental Health (AFMH).

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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## 'The system doesn't work': Grieving Geelong mum fights for local mental health support

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A Geelong mum who lost her son to suicide is fighting to change a system she says failed her family. Catherine Steel lost her 26-year-old son Liam last year, and has since joined the new local branch of Australians for Mental Health (AFMH).

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Hands-on experience helps to find the next health heroes

Daily Advertiser, General News, 06/08/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 3

Students considering careers in healthcare have pulled on the gloves as they were given the opportunity to explore different roles and gain some hands-on experience. The Be a Health Hero program introduces Year 10 students to careers in allied health and nursing allowing them to discover what they want for their futures.

## Come and try

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 06/08/2024, Page 6

The next generation of allied health workers have glimpsed the cutting edge technology shaping the sector. More than 80 students from schools across Bendigo came together on August 1 for hands-on workshops and talks from local practitioners.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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## SPORT

### AFL stars detail Hawks' racism

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/08/2024, William Ton, Page 6

Three former AFL players have detailed allegations of racism they faced while playing at the Hawthorn Football Club. Cyril Rioli, who played in four premierships at the Hawks under former coach Alastair Clarkson, is the lead applicant in a statement of clai...

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### The claims at the heart of Hawks racism case

Age, General News, 06/08/2024, Jake Niall & Peter Ryan, Page 1

Three former Hawthorn players, headed by club great Cyril Rioli, have provided detailed claims of their experiences as part of their racism court action against their former club. The document contains allegations of wrongdoing by club officials and alleges that a former Hawthorn premiership player made a racist remark about an ex-teammate's partner.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily](#)

[Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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## Coast drowning victim a top legal eagle

Courier Mail, General News, 06/08/2024, Greg Stolz, Page 12

A man who drowned during a Gold Coast ski paddle marathon has been identified as a prominent Brisbane lawyer and former surf lifesaving official. Brad Russell, 58, died near the end of the Australian Ocean Racing Championship, an 18km course from Snapper Rocks to Kurrawa Beach.

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

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## Hawks shocker

Herald Sun, General News, 06/08/2024, Michael Warner, Page 7

Documents have been lodged with the Federal Court alleging coach Alastair Clarkson told a Hawthorn player to break up with his partner and "tell her to terminate the pregnancy" or his football career would be "in jeopardy". Four-time Hawks premiership star Grant Birchall has also been named in the documents as the perpetrator, and now-Saint Bradley Hill as the victim, in an exchange where the former is alleged to have asked if the latter's girlfriend was a "boong".

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## We can be an elite sport destination: MP

Cairns Post, General News, 06/08/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 5

A field of dreams for the world's greatest athletes could be built in Far North Queensland with the state's Sports Minister eager to establish the region as a high-performance hub in a bid to diversify the city's economy. Member for Cairns Michael Healy has previously revealed his plans to make the city a "tropical sporting centre of excellence", instructing public servants to investigate establishing a Queensland Academy of Sport in the region.

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## AFL star's racist nickname

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 06/08/2024, Page 10

Hawthorn champion Cyril Rioli has claimed that he was nicknamed "Humphrey B Bear" among a long list of racist and culturally insensitive issues that forced him into AFL retirement, court documents have revealed. Mr Rioli, who retired in 2018 after winning four premierships with Hawthorn, is the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the club alleging that he was the subject of racism and racial discrimination during his time with the Hawks.

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# HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

## Trial pill may slow or reverse Alzheimer's

Herald Sun, General News, 06/08/2024, Lisa Wachsmuth, Page 9

A world-first trial of a pill that may reverse the decline in cognitive function in people with Alzheimer's disease will launch in Australia this week. After successful animal studies in the US, researchers from Sydney's St Vincent's and Adelaide's Flinders hospitals will recruit study participants to take a once-a-day pill that could be a "game-changer".

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## Embed mental health screening for prostate cancer diagnoses: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 05/08/2024

GP visits and antidepressant use are higher among men recently diagnosed with prostate cancer, a

new Australian study reveals, prompting calls for mental health care to be part of routine care. The University of South Australia-led study highlights the need for mental health screenings to be incorporated into routine prostate cancer diagnoses, after it found 15% of men began psychotropic medications directly after their diagnosis.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### PM's new focus 'safe, disappointing'

The Australian, General News, 06/08/2024, Sarah Ison & Paige Taylor, Page 2

Aboriginal leaders have warned Anthony Albanese risks "misleading" the public if he walks away from establishing a Makarrata Commission, with the federal government facing criticism it is "divided" and lacks the "political will" necessary to establish a clear platform on Indigenous affairs after its voice referendum failure. Former human rights commissioner Mick Gooda said the government needed to urgently clarify what it stood for, amid confusion about whether the Prime Minister was ruling out establishing a Makarrata Commission.

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

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### Indigenous bipartisanship is essential

Newcastle Herald, General News, 06/08/2024, Page 16

THE weekend's Garma Festival, the first for senator Malarndirri McCarthy as Indigenous Affairs Minister, was held just days after the release of another disappointing Closing the Gap report by the Productivity Commission. The 2024 report confirmed that any illusion of progress in closing the gaps in health, prosperity, employment opportunities, education and community inclusion between Indigenous Australians and the rest of the country was at best a case of "two steps forward, one step back".

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### PM's vow to Close the Gap by shared decision-making with First Nations people

The Mandarin, Other, 05/08/2024, Melissa Coade

Advocates for Indigenous Australians have praised the prime minister for his commitment to partnership and shared decision-making with First Nations groups following last year's failed referendum for a Voice to Parliament. Addressing the Garma Festival in East Arnhem at the weekend, Anthony Albanese said his optimism for a better future continued to burn brightly and that his trust in the resilience and wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remained strong.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Cooling tower likely source of outbreak

Age, General News, 06/08/2024, Jewel Topsfield & Henrietta Cook, Page 10

A cooling tower in Melbourne's west has been identified as the probable source of the Legionnaires' disease outbreak that has killed two Victorians and spread to almost 90 cases. Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Clare Looker, said tests had revealed a Laverton North cooling tower was likely behind the 78 confirmed and 10 suspected cases of the disease, the state's worst outbreak in more than two decades.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader](#)



[\(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News \(Shepparton\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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## Source of deadly disease outbreak found

Canberra Times, General News, 06/08/2024, Page 9

The source of Victoria's deadly legionnaires' disease outbreak has been pinpointed, with health authorities confident it has been contained. A cooling tower at Laverton North in Melbourne's west has been identified as the source after dozens in the suburb and neighbouring Derrimut were disinfected.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#).

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## Engineered stone seized in the face of national ban

Canberra Times, General News, 06/08/2024, Melissa Meehan, Page 11

Victoria's construction industry is on notice after surprise WorkSafe inspections uncovered not all businesses are adhering to a nationwide ban on engineered stone. A ban on the stone, dubbed modern-day asbestos, came into effect on July 1.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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## Mpox may be declared a global threat

Courier Mail, General News, 06/08/2024, Page 17

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 that 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.

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## Scabies outbreak affecting four Illawarra hospitals

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 06/08/2024, Page 4

Illawarra residents are being urged to look out for symptoms of scabies as an outbreak of the infectious skin condition affects four of the region's hospitals. To date, 11 patients and 23 staff have been diagnosed with scabies, which is affecting wards at Wollongong, Coledale, Shellharbour and Bulli hospitals.

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

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## Chance went home from school with a headache. Six days later he was dead

7news.com.au, Other, 05/08/2024

Thursday, June 20 was just like any old school day for 13-year-old Chance Peniongo from Echuca, Victoria. He woke up, had breakfast, said goodbye to his mother Regina Rose and waited for the school bus.

[Read More](#)

## South Australian health officials reveal plan to tackle surging RSV numbers

7news.com.au, Other, 05/08/2024

Pregnant women and some babies, not all, will have access to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation in South Australia next year. But the state opposition has called for broader access to the scheme, given the growing rates of children being admitted to hospital with infection.

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## Queensland is continuing to choose community pharmacies for influenza vaccines

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Other, 05/08/2024

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, said today Queenslanders were continuing to choose community pharmacies when it comes to accessing influenza vaccines. Mr Owen said that as of the end of July, more than 435,000 Queenslanders had chosen to receive their influenza vaccination in one of the over 1200 community pharmacies across the state.

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## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 05/08/2024, Yvonne Yong

When Legionella cases started turning up to hospitals across Melbourne in mid-July, concern turned to rooftops as the potential source of the outbreak, which is now Australia's worst in more than two decades. The outbreak is a bit surprising because the system in Melbourne is meant to be world class leading. Authorities believed a single cooling tower was responsible.

*Also reported by: ABC News (Adelaide), ABC News (Brisbane), ABC News (Canberra), ABC News (Hobart), ABC News (Melbourne), ABC News (Perth), ABC News (Regional NSW), ABC News (Regional Queensland), ABC News (Regional Victoria), ABC News (Regional West Australia)*

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### July Health Winners: Oncosil, Zelira lead as ASX biotechs power through another strong month

Adelaide Now, Other, 05/08/2024, Eddy Sunarto

The ASX Health sector gains momentum with expected Fed rate cuts. [...] Following completion, Memphasys plans to promptly analyse results and submit regulatory filings to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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### Health warning over 'explosion' of fake Ozempic weight-loss jabs

West Australian, Other, 05/08/2024, Kate Pickles

Pharmacists are warning of an "explosion" in fake weight-loss jabs fuelled by a dearth of Ozempic. Weight-loss medications have soared in popularity as wealthy countries grapple with an obesity crisis.

[Read More](#)

### Pharmacy leaders issue warning over fake weight-loss jabs

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 05/08/2024

Pharmacy leaders have urged people not to buy fake weight-loss jabs online as they said shortages of Ozempic are expected to stretch into next year. The National Pharmacy Association (NPA) warned of a possible "explosion in the unlicensed sale of medication online", with people risking their health by purchasing Ozempic and Wegovy (semaglutide) without proper checks.

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## TGA warns of sudden cardiac death risk with azithromycin

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/08/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

The TGA has slapped safety warnings on azithromycin over a very rare risk of acute cardiovascular death, particularly within the first five days of use. The regulator advised doctors to consider precautionary ECG screening in patients at high risk of prolonged QT and to balance the benefits and risks when prescribing.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Milk recall issued over fears of contamination

The Australian, General News, 06/08/2024, Duncan Evans, Page 6

A dairy producer has issued an urgent recall of two products because of safety concerns. [...] According to Food Standards Australia, listeria monocytogenes may cause severe illness in pregnant women, unborn babies, neonates, the elderly and immunocompromised people.

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

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## AICIS

### Poop ban and other FOGO nonos under new arrangements

Burnie Advocate, General News, 06/08/2024, Sean Ford, Page 5

Pet poop and kitty litter are no longer acceptable in FOGO bins, a North-West council is telling residents. [...] "Even if they claim to be compostable or biodegradable, these bags don't break down properly as they contain 'forever chemicals' PFAS and PFOS," the council said.

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