



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 8th 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](#)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Age \(page 14\)](#)** reports mental health advocates have called on the Federal Government to provide its response to the findings and recommendations in the National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing, which was provided to Health Minister Mark Butler in June 2023. Mr Butler noted that the May budget included increased funding for early intervention and on-call services at 61 Medicare mental health centres. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#),
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 24\)](#)** reports organisers of the World Beach Volleyball Championships, to be held in Adelaide in November 2025, have applied to Sport Minister Anika Wells for \$6 million in federal funding for the event. *Also reported by:* [Townsville Bulletin](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [Cairns Post](#)
- **[The Northern Rivers Times \(page 14\)](#)** reports Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride officially opened the Coffs Harbour Medicare Mental Health Centre. Ms McBride said, "The Albanese Government is building a network of Medicare Mental Health Centres so people can get free, walk-in mental health support and care, closer to home."
- **[The Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports the Victorian Government will provide an additional \$1.5 billion in funding for its health system, ruling out concerns that some regional services would be amalgamated. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#)

- **The Canberra Times (page 1)** reports the ACT Integrity Commission is investigating why unnecessary payments were made by ACT Health towards a \$110 million contract.
- **The Hobart Mercury (page 12)** reports Tasmania's Health Department has denied claims that industrial action by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation would result in a "code yellow" at Launceston General Hospital, and LGH executives said the hospital continued operating as usual. *Also reported by:* [Launceston Examiner](#)
- **The Daily Telegraph (page 16)** reports the NSW Government will continue its nurse recruitment drive as it prepares to introduce new "Safe Staffing Levels" requirements across emergency departments at 12 major hospitals.
- **The Australian (page 3)** reports scientists at Queensland's QIMR Berghofer Research Institute have developed a promising new glioblastoma immunotherapy treatment using genetically engineered immune cells to track and kill brain cancer cells.
- **The Courier Mail (page 13)** reports Queensland is leading a nation-first initiative allowing pharmacists to provide contraceptive medication to women aged 16 and older without visiting a doctor.
- **The Canberra Times** (page 20) reports the RACGP has said calls for mandatory health checks for older doctors need to be balanced against the need to retain GPs in the workforce and protecting patient safety. *Also reported by:* [ABC News](#), [ABC Radio National](#)

## MINISTER BUTLER

### 'Too-hard basket': Workplace stigma faced by one in five

Age, General News, 08/08/2024, Broede Carmody, Page 14

A quarter of bosses say they would not hire someone with depression or bipolar disorder, while the Albanese government has sat for a year on a national plan to combat mental health stigma in the workplace. The 130-page document, seen by The Age, calls on the government to introduce new laws to prevent vilification based on a person's mental health. The authors handed their report to federal Health Minister Mark Butler in June 2023.

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

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### Mayors fight for minister meeting

Border Mail, General News, 08/08/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 7

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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### SHPA shares PSA's vision

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 07/08/2024, Page 1

Hospital pharmacists welcomed the Pharmacists in 2030 report, launched by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) at PSA24. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Sim at PSA24.

*Also reported by:* [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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### Butler announces \$1.39m vape training funding

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/08/2024

Pharmacists are "absolutely the right people" to support patients who are looking to quit nicotine through vaping, health minister says.

[Read More](#)

## New body to guide workforce strategy

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/08/2024, Laura Woodrow

Scope of practice and workforce distribution are top of the to-do list. But will they find consensus? [...] Yesterday, the federal health minister Mark Butler announced the inauguration of the Medical Workforce Advisory Collaboration (MWAC), referencing, in particular, the "parlous state" of general practice.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 07/08/2024, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Australian Medical Association WA President Dr Michael Page about the result of blood tests in the public system. Page says that a lot of patients use My Health Record, a Federal Government platform for medical records, where they can access their results, tests, and letters from hospitals and specialists. Mitsopoulos notes that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stated that the current health system is frustrating and patients find it a waste of time and money.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### Minister blasted on volleyball snub

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/08/2024, Kathryn Bermingham, Page 24

Adelaide is set to squander its opportunity to cash in on the global popularity of beach volleyball because the federal government is refusing to fund a major international tournament, senior officials say. Organisers of the World Beach Volleyball Championships, to be held in Adelaide in November 2025, are pleading for federal Sport Minister Anika Wells to reconsider the government's position following the success of the sport in Paris.

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

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### 'Above and beyond'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/08/2024, Christopher Kelly

"Thanks for caring" is the message today to Australia's aged care workforce. Across the country, providers, residents and their families are participating in events to mark Aged Care Employee Day. [...] To mark Aged Care Employee Day, ACCPA has uploaded a series of video tributes on its website, including one from Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

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### Our Olympians represent the best of Australia: diversity, equality and opportunity

southbanklocalnews.com.au, Other, 07/08/2024, Josh Burns

It felt like the world needed the Olympics. [...] Just last month, The Minister for Sport Anika Wells addressed UNESCO's Change the Game Sport conference in Paris, and she said "I truly believe gender balance in sport in Australia has been permanently improved by the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup."

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### 4BC, Drive, 07/08/2024, Peter Gleeson

Gleeson says Australia's richest person Gina Rinehart reportedly contributes up to \$20m a year to swimmers and other sports involved in the Olympics, according to swimmer Elijah Winnington. He states that Rinehart pulled her \$4m funding from the National Netball Association after several players

criticised racist comments made by her late father Lang Hancock. Gleeson says after the Matildas' performance last year, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells promised \$200m for grassroots sports funding for young Australian women but no money has been distributed yet.

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Medicare Mental Health Centre officially opens in Coffs Harbour

Northern Rivers Times, General News, 08/08/2024, Page 14

This week, the Medicare Mental Health Centre in Coffs Harbour will celebrate its official opening, signifying a significant boost in mental health support in the region. [...] The Hon Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, was in Coffs Harbour this week to officially open the Centre: "The Albanese Government is building a network of Medicare Mental Health Centres so people can get free, walk-in mental health support and care, closer to home.

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### New advisory group to help reduce climate impacts on health

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 07/08/2024

The federal government has established the Climate and Health Expert Advisory Group to help reduce the impacts of climate change on the nation's health. The group will also support implementation of Australia's first National Health and Climate Strategy, launched at COP28 in Dubai last December by Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

### Focus on nuanced needs of older Tasmanians

Launceston Examiner, General News, 08/08/2024, Brigid Wilkinson, Page 23

Following recent calls by Rebekha Sharkie MP, it is pleasing to see the Albanese Government appoint Kate Thwaites as Assistant Minister for Ageing as part of the Cabinet reshuffle in late July 2024. COTA Tasmania has and will continue to advocate for a dedicated Minister of Ageing in Tasmania.

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### A new portfolio for ageing

Fleurieu Sun, Other, 07/08/2024

The Federal Government has moved to establish a new Minister for Older Australians, Ms Kate Thwaites, following a motion passed by private members on July 1, that would see the portfolio boost minority representation in the same way that similar portfolios have done for youth, women and multicultural affairs in recent years.

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[Back to Top](#)

## Health checks proposed for ageing doctors

Canberra Times, General News, 08/08/2024, Page 20

A push to roll out mandatory health checks for older doctors must strike a balance between protecting patient safety while also keeping medics in the shrinking workforce, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners says. [...] There is already a shortfall of almost 2500 general practitioners and that's expected to more than double by 2033, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care's GP workforce report released this week.

*Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), and syndicated widely across regional online*

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## Birthing insurance update

Plains Producer, General News, 07/08/2024, James Swanborough, Page 3

Recent developments regarding a change to Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) for Privately Practising Midwives (PPMs) has drawn criticism with the Department of Health and Aged Care stating consultations on the issue are ongoing. Developments involve a change to PII for PPMs providing home birth services, and the upcoming removal of an insurance exemption for those providing home birthing services from July next year.

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## Big Tech hoovered up Australian content without permission - Nine's 60 Minutes, ABC News, Junkee, SBS, The Conversation, NDIS and Unis scrapped by an open source AI institute whose initial donors included Canva

Mi3, Other, 07/08/2024, Ricky Sutton

Big tech firms such as Apple, Anthropic, Nvidia, and Salesforce used Australian content scraped from Youtube to train their databases without the permission of copyright holders, and contrary to Alphabet's rules, courtesy of an open-source AI Institute that scrapes content and then licenses the data. [...] The Australian Government and its agencies including The Australian House of Representatives, the National Archives, the Financial Security Authority, the Department of Education, Department of Health and Aged Care, Disability Employment Australia, NDIS Australia, the Australian Public Service Commission, the Australian Greens, and Labour MP for Bruce Julian Hill.

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## New state-federal partnership to overhaul health system

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/08/2024, Harriet Grayson

It's aimed at fostering more comprehensive data sharing, joint planning and patient-centred care statewide. [...] With collaborators including Queensland primary health networks, Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations, hospital and health services, Queensland Health and the Department of Health and Aged Care, the partnership will focus on three key areas to advance its vision "toward a dynamic and responsive health system", according to a newly released joint statement.

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## Digital prescription app now connected to national script service

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/08/2024

Digital health provider Oexa has integrated its ePrescription wallet app, Scripty, with the national Active Script List service. Queensland-based digital health provider Oexa has confirmed its free, digital prescription wallet app, Scripty, is now integrated with the Department of Health and Aged Care's Active Script List service, My Script List (MySL).

## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 07/08/2024, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar**

A Federal Government Health Department report shows that there's an unmet demand gap of around 370 full time equivalent GPs in South Australia, which is projected to grow to around 470 by 2028. South Australian Medical Association President Dr John Williams says GPS helps keep people out of the health system at a time of record high ramping statistics in July. A code yellow or an internal emergency was implemented across all South Australian public hospitals in May and is set to be lifted later this month.

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## **5AA, Mornings, 07/08/2024, Matthew Pantelis**

Interview with Royal Australian College of GPS President Dr Nicole Higgins about the Department of Health and Aged Care's GP workforce report showing a huge shortfall in South Australia. Higgins says the entire health and nurse workforce is facing high demand in the system. She states the Federal Government hasn't increased the number of places for medical students in the Commonwealth in the last decade.

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## **ABC South East SA, Breakfast , 07/08/2024, Becc Chave**

Interview with SA Health Minister Chris Picton about the Federal Health Department's report on GPs across Australia. Picton says all Australian health ministers have sent an open letter to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler calling for more investment in GPs and Medicare in primary care. He notes that there will be upgrades to the Mount Gambier Emergency Department and its mental health services.

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[Back to Top](#)

## **CORONAVIRUS**

### **Inquiry considers how COVID-19 railroaded Australian business, hears concerns APS capabilities post pandemic are slipping**

The Mandarin, Other, 07/08/2024, Melissa Coade

The public health measures introduced during the peak emergency period of the COVID-19 years and how they impacted local business operations have been examined by a special team, who say good relationships between government and industry are key during such a crisis.

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### **COVID-19 roundtable says public takes science for granted until it's needed**

The Mandarin, Other, 07/08/2024, Melissa Coade

On Monday, the federal government's special COVID-19 Response Inquiry scrutinised the challenges of communicating to the public complex science and risk messages during a pandemic. A roundtable hosted by senior mandarin and inquiry chair Robyn Kruk alongside panel member Professor Catherine Bennett heard about the experiences of communication experts during the public health crisis over the past few years.

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## **3AW, Mornings, 07/08/2024, Tom Elliott**

Interview with ANU Medical School Professor Peter Collignon about NSW Premier about former NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet regretting the implementation of the COVID vaccine mandate. Collignon agrees that the vaccine mandate was problematic but notes that lives were saved because around 90% of the Australian population voluntarily took the vaccine. He states that the mortality rate of

COVID was about 0.6%, which was disproportionate to those over the age of 50, and was lessened thanks to the AstraZeneca vaccine.

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[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Caring for others

Launceston Examiner, General News, 08/08/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 1

When Apsana Karanjit realised working in accounting wasn't her "cup of tea", she decided to branch out and do what she loved - serving others.

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### Priority on residents' oral health lacking

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/08/2024, Natasha Egan

More oral care time plus appropriate education and skills training could help turn around the poor oral health of aged care residents, says an expert. People working in aged care have an important role to play in improving the poor oral health of aged care residents, an aged care dentist has told Australian Ageing Agenda

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### Celebrating a special workforce on Aged Care Employee Day

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/08/2024, Caroline Egan

As aged care employers around the nation thank their hard-working staff on Aged Care Employee Day today, Aged and Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA) has announced the 15 winners of its ACCPA Excellence Awards. On a day dedicated to recognising the 370,000 aged care workers in Australia, the ACCPA Awards have been presented for the sixth year, recognising excellence in key aspects of aged care, including Customer Focus & Care, Innovation, Leadership, Volunteering, and Making a Difference.

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### NAB, CBA and Bank Australia provide \$260M to support For Purpose Aged Care Australia's acquisition of Signature Care

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/08/2024, Ian Horswill

In April, For Purpose Aged Care Australia (FPACA), the aged care provider established by social impact investment vehicle For Purpose Investment Partners (FPIP), announced it is buying 14 aged care homes, eight built and six in development, from Graeme Croft, the founder and director of private residential aged care operator Signature Care.

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### ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 07/08/2024, Lucy Breden

Interview with OneCare CEO Peter Williams about the Aged Care Royal Commission in Tasmania. Williams says he provided insights into the clinical governance in the aged care sector at the hearing.

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### ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 07/08/2024, Leon Compton

Interview with Snug Village CEO Glenn Hardwick about GP services in rural aged care. Hardwick says the Federal Government recently released a Medicare incentive package to attract and retain GPs in rural aged care services.

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[Back to Top](#)



## The Y WA launches School ReadY program in early learning centres to support young children with a head start

West Australian, Other, 07/08/2024, Sean Van Der Wielen

A new program has been launched in two South West early learning centres that will aim to improve the readiness of children attending to start school. [...] It comes as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found in 2018 that 22 per cent of kids were starting school "developmentally vulnerable", with the new program focused on play-based intentional learning.

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## Kids' dental issues mostly preventable, dentists declare in Dental Health Week

Bite Magazine, Other, 07/08/2024

The latest results from the Australian Dental Association's (ADA) Consumer Survey of 25,000 people reveals a litany of factors contributing to infant and child tooth decay - from excessive sugary drink consumption including fruit juice and soft drinks, to not starting dental visits early enough, not accessing government-funded free dental entitlements and only taking children to the family dentist when there's a problem.

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## Hernia surgeries

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/08/2024

Half of the 435,826 hernia repair procedures in Australia from 2017 to 2021 were for inguinal (groin) hernias, with men accounting for 89.6% of these surgeries, researchers from the University of South Australia found. The study, published in Critical Public Health, analysed data from the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, focusing on five types of hernia operations to identify high-risk age groups and genders.

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## Navigating the rise in homelessness as Australia approaches election year

The Mandarin, Other, 07/08/2024, Angus Crowther

Homelessness Week this year (August 4-11) will be critical for charities and not-for-profits in the social housing sector as they continue to raise awareness and seek to spur action among policymakers and politicians about the realities of homelessness. [...] A recent Australian Institute of Health & Welfare Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report found that out of the 272,700 supported by homelessness services a further 105,000 people sought help but were unable to be assisted because of shortages of staff, accommodation or other services.

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## Radio National, Life Matters, 07/08/2024, Hilary Harper and Beverley Wang

Panel discussion with George Institute for Global Health public health lawyer Dr Alexandra Jones and Deakin University Professor of Nutritional Psychiatry Felice Jacka about the Health Star Ratings in the food industry system. Jones says the World Health Organization recommends countries to adopt the Health Star Rating to address non-communicable diseases. Jacka states there's at least 70,000 different types of phytochemicals in plant foods that are no longer present once something is ultra processed which plays into the Health Star Ratings regarding the component parts of products.

Continuing interview on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)



## Cells being taught to fight cancer

The Australian, General News, 08/08/2024, James Dowling, Page 3

Australian scientists are teaching cells in the body to fight brain cancer on their own, and hope to slash rates of recurrence in one of the most aggressive types of tumour. Queensland's QIMR Berghofer Research Institute announced its new glioblastoma immunotherapy treatment on Thursday, CAR T cell therapy, which uses genetically engineered immune cells that track and kill brain cancer cells upon entering the body.

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

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## 'Good shot at saving lives'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 08/08/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 1

For Wagga's Kylie Manson-Stewart and her family, skin safety has always been of the utmost importance and education has been vital in saving some of their lives. Mrs Manson-Stewart is a stage 4 melanoma survivor and has spent more than 20-years ensuring her family received regular skin checks.

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## Radiation group meets minister

Border Watch, Other, 07/08/2024, Charlotte Varcoe

The Limestone Coast Radiation Working Group will continue to work alongside local health networks and the state government to improve cancer care. It comes following the "disappointed" outcome of a radiation treatment feasibility study which stated a treatment facility would not be feasible for Mount Gambier/Berrin.

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## Hysterical: Ignorance, stigma, shame: why they cause dangerous delays in diagnosis

SBS, Other, 07/08/2024, Catriona Stirrat

The average diagnosis for endometriosis is between 7 and 12 years, while a Senate inquiry is currently looking into issues related to perimenopause and menopause. At the same time, there are prevailing gaps in knowledge around other health conditions such as polycystic ovary syndrome.

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## Routine blood tests could help predict cancer risk

The New Daily, Other, 07/08/2024, John Elder

One of the great frustrations for many people, and their doctors, is intermittent and vague tummy discomfort or bloating. In the main there are relatively benign reasons for these symptoms.

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## Radio National, Breakfast, 07/08/2024, Sally Sara

Interview with Australian Catholic University Executive Dean of Health Sciences Professor Suzanne Chambers about a University of SA study finding 40% of men are at risk of mental distress after a prostate cancer diagnosis. Chambers says men need to seek quality psychological care after diagnosis to improve their wellbeing as well as their family's. She states that 30 years ago there was no support available for men in mental distress but there is now a network that works with the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

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[Back to Top](#)

## Parents' problematic decisions

The Australian, Editorials, 08/08/2024, Editorial, Page 10

The Supreme Court of Victoria directs that the mother of a 12-year-old child can consent to them being prescribed drugs to slow the onset of puberty. The biological male has identified as a girl since age seven and has the support of her loving mother.

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

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## Pill now over the counter

Courier Mail, General News, 08/08/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 13

Women aged 16 and older can now bypass their doctors and get contraceptive medication from pharmacists in Queensland under a nation-first expansion of prescribing powers. Trained pharmacists across Queensland can prescribe the contraceptive pill, injection or vaginal ring.

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

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## Tape used to hold together CT scanners at hospital

West Australian, General News, 08/08/2024, Jake Dietsch, Page 10

Shocking images of sticky tape used to hold together vital medical equipment at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital prove staff and patients are being put at risk every day, a health union has claimed. The photos of one of two CT scanners used to diagnose and monitor conditions including cancer at SCGH, come as members of Health Services Union WA are set to rally outside the hospital on Thursday amid public sector negotiations.

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## Game-changing clinic for the vulnerable

Ballarat Courier, General News, 08/08/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 3

Triston Clissold has been homeless "on and off" for half of his life, including a period of time 12 months ago when he lived in a tent in Bakery Hill. During that time, accessing even basic health services and medical care has been a challenge.

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## Thank you, ambos

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/08/2024, Editorial, Page 31

In today's Addy we read the compelling story of grandfather Brendan McDaid, who died three times in the back of an ambulance on his way to hospital. Were it not for the swift arrival and lifesaving skills of local paramedics, Mr McDaid would not be here to tell his tale.

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## Quarter of GP clinics have closed their books

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/08/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 4

A quarter of GP clinics in Hunter-New England and Central Coast have closed their books to patients and almost half are showing signs of financial trouble, a survey shows. The district's Primary Health Network released the survey this week in a report on "general practice business viability".

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## Margaret Strelow calls for independent review into Rockhampton Hospital

Cairns Post, Other, 07/08/2024, Aden Stokes

Horror stories of a patient being told by a nurse in ED to pee or poo in her pants and another not receiving important medications like insulin has resulted in a push for an independent investigation into

the Rockhampton Hospital. Independent candidate for the seat of Rockhampton Margaret Strelow called for an independent review into the Rockhampton Hospital on Wednesday following horror stories from residents and after having hospital staff raise concerns about resources, staffing, management and processes.

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

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## 'A ticking timebomb': patients unable to afford critical scans after bulk billing cut

Canberra Times, Other, 07/08/2024, Lucy Arundell

Canberra patients could be left unable to afford vital medical scans after a private provider said it could no longer afford to offer bulk billed services. The change in fees comes as waiting times for some scans at public hospitals head past the six month mark.

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## The unexpected comfort of taking a seat at a Death Cafe

SBS, Other, 07/08/2024, Kylie Walker

With a cuppa in hand, or over a meal, these small gatherings offer supportive spaces to discuss a death, grief and end-of-life planning. Talking about death is rarely easy, and you might think doing it with a group of strangers would be even harder – but perhaps in some ways, it's easier.

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## ABC Radio Darwin , Territory-wide Mornings, 07/08/2024, Meredith Lake

Panel discussion with Palliative Care Australia patient advocate Jodie Clarkson and palliative care social worker Sue Grant about end of life plans and care. Grant says that people should be able to talk to their families about advanced care planning and what they want after their death.

Continuing interview on: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Refugee men in Australia suffer high depression rates

Canberra Times, Other, 07/08/2024, Farid Farid

Refugee men in Australia have a higher likelihood of depression and mental distress compared to other men who are also at risk of chronic conditions. The Real Face of Men's Health report released by the Movember Institute of Men's Health and Welcoming Australia on Wednesday found around \$10.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#) and syndicated widely across regional online

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### When builder Jamie was struggling he broke an unwritten 'code'. It saved his life

SBS, Other, 07/08/2024, Jamie Shoobert

Australia loses one construction worker every second day to suicide. Jamie Shoobert, who works as a builder and grew up surrounded by tradies, says factors like workplace pressure, toxic masculinity and a drinking culture all contribute to mental health issues in the industry.

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### Excessive workloads risk mental health: study

"We need to see healthcare professionals as human beings... their resilience has limits," warns pharmacy researcher. Pharmacists are not invincible and need mental health support to help cope with increased work demands, pharmacist Dr Sarira El-Den, senior lecturer at the University of Sydney, said at PSA24 on Saturday (3 Aug).

[Read More](#)

## Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 07/08/2024, Laura Jayes

Interview with Movember Director of Men's Health Research Dr Zac Seidler about the destigmatisation around men's mental wellbeing to lower suicide rates at a Men's Mental Health Forum in NSW Parliament. Seidler says that NSW Minister Rose Jackson was aware of the complexity of the issue and allowed Movember to facilitate a conversation about it. He states that they are advocating towards gender-responsive healthcare together with Women's Health and LGBTQIA+ Health.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Health checks proposed for GPs over 70 as complaints about older doctors rise

9News, Other, 07/08/2024, Mikala Theocharous

Doctors aged over 70 are 81 per cent more likely to have a complaint filed against them by patients than doctors aged under 70, according to Ahpra. The overall rate of complaints against "late career doctors" has doubled over the past eight years in a "disturbing" increase, the medical board also said.

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### Complaints against older doctors are increasing and soon they could be forced to have medical check-ups to continue working

ABC Online, Other, 07/08/2024, Steven Schubert and Alison Branley

Older doctors could soon be forced to have regular health check-ups in order to continue working after the Medical Board found complaints against practitioners aged over 70 were increasing. The Medical Board of Australia has begun a consultation process with doctors on the proposed change with chair Dr Anne Tonkin saying the measures were aimed at ensuring patient safety.

[Read More](#)

### Nurse drive as NSW rolls out ED 'safe staffing levels'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/08/2024, Madeleine Bower, Page 16

Hundreds of extra nurses will need to be found as new "Safe Staffing Levels" in emergency departments are brought in at 12 major hospitals across NSW. The Minns government will attempt to recruit hundreds of nurses to bring the staffing ratio at hospitals EDs down to one nurse for every three patients.

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### Nurses dispute shades of yellow

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/08/2024, Simon McGuire, Page 12

The Department of Health has denied claims that industrial action by nurses forced the Launceston General Hospital Emergency Department to declare a code yellow. Launceston General Hospital ED

workers from the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) launched industrial action on Wednesday morning as part of an ongoing dispute over staffing and resourcing.

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

## **ANMF in call for code yellow at LGH**

Launceston Examiner, General News, 08/08/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 7

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmania Branch says it will support members at the Launceston General Hospital in taking industrial action in the form of a code yellow. A code yellow is declared when a hospital has either an infrastructure or other internal emergency affecting its service delivery.

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

## **Health checks proposed for ageing doctors**

Launceston Examiner, General News, 08/08/2024, Page 19

A push to roll out mandatory health checks for older doctors must strike a balance between protecting patient safety while also keeping medics in the shrinking workforce, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners says. Doctors would be required to undergo a health check every three years from their 70th birthday and every year after turning 80, under a Medical Board proposal.

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## **Ramsay Health Care nurses say 'no' to charge sheets, non-clinical duties as enterprise bargaining drags on**

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 07/08/2024, Toni Moon

Ramsay Health Care nurses and midwives are saying 'no' indefinitely to writing charge sheets and non-clinical duties as enterprise bargaining enters its 16th month. The action follows a four hour stop-work walk out at Port Macquarie's Private Hospital on August 1 – resulting in Ramsay Health Care cancelling scheduled elective surgeries due to a lack of appropriate staff.

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## **Medical board's plan for mandatory health checks for every doctor aged 70 and over**

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/08/2024, Paul Smith

The board says it is concerned about the complaint rates among older doctors. The Medical Board of Australia wants every late-career doctor to undergo mandatory health checks, pointing to figures showing that rates of patient complaints increase dramatically as doctors age.

[Read More](#)

## **RACGP election: Presidential candidate Dr Monirul Haque answers AusDoc's big questions**

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/08/2024

We asked all candidates if the end of near-universal bulk-billing was good for general practice. RACGP members will vote for a new president this month and AusDoc has asked the five candidates to respond to our burning questions about the specialty's future.

[Read More](#)

## **Resilient profession gets its reward**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/08/2024, Ajp Staff

Australia's pharmacy sector is set to benefit from the extraordinary certainty over the course of the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA), a business advisor tells our latest podcast AJP Podcast presenter Carlene McMaugh talks with Paul Hedley the principal partner of Hedley Partners about the 8CPA and its impact on the pharmacy market.

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## **Patients have 'a thirst' for expanded scope**

Healthcare consumers see pharmacists as part of the solution to improving access to care, former CHF chief executive says Patients are "universally concerned" that Australia's health system is strained but they believe pharmacists working to their full scope of practice could alleviate pressure, health consultant, Leanne Wells says.

[Read More](#)

## A rural life beckons

Medical Forum, Other, 07/08/2024, Cathy O'Leary

Medical specialists who had the chance to train in rural areas are almost three times more likely to choose to work there after finishing their training, according to an Australian-first study. Led by Notre Dame University, the study of 1220 medicine graduates from nine Australian universities also showed the impact of doctors' specialisations on their decision to work in rural areas later in their careers.

[Read More](#)

## Training subsidy

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/08/2024

The Australasian College of Pharmacy will now manage Queensland Health's subsidy distribution for pharmacists' training, for the state's Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice pilot (PD 26 Apr). Announced in Jun, the Queensland Government allocated \$6 million to support the pilot's rollout, making training more accessible.

[Read More](#)

## 5AA, Breakfast, 07/08/2024, Will Goodings and David Penberthy

Interview with South Australian Medical Association President Dr John Williams about the shortfall with doctors according to the Department of Health and Ageing. Williams says the payroll tax changes saw an increased cost to practices with the exemption of bulk billing. He states that they must reduce the demand on the system to improve medical care on the ground level.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 07/08/2024, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Interview with Royal Australian College of GPS President Dr Nicole Higgins about a consultation process on whether older doctors should be subject to regular health checks. Higgins says the Medical Board of Australia reported an increase in older doctors but they need to find a balance in the age of workers without being ageist.

[Play Now](#)

## Radio National, AM, 07/08/2024, Sabra Lane

Report by ABC News health reporter Steven Schubert. Doctors over the age of 72 may be forced to have regular medical check-ups following a rise in complaints. Orthopaedic surgeon Andreas Loeffler believes that age should not be a barrier to being a doctor. Medical Board of Australia Chair Dr Anne Tonkin says they are beginning a consultation process seeking opinions on a rigorous fitness test, a general check-up every three years, or an annual check-up once a doctor turns 80. Adelaide GP Dr Rod Pearce is not opposed to stricter safeguards for doctors but doesn't want them to be aged based.

Report continues on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Hub to take on med tech world

Herald Sun, General News, 08/08/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 17

A unique Melbourne medical technology research hub that partners with people living with disability is ready to take on the world. Medical Technology Victoria (MedTechVic) was launched in 2022 with support from the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund.

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

## First subcutaneous immunotherapy for lung and liver cancers added to PBS

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/08/2024, Kemal Atlay

Subcutaneous atezolizumab takes just seven minutes to administer, compared with 30-60-minute-long infusion required for the IV formulation. [...] On 1 August, Roche's subcutaneous formulation of atezolizumab (Tecentriq SC) became the first such programmed death-ligand 1 immunotherapy on the PBS.

[Read More](#)

## Is it still safe to use azithromycin?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 07/08/2024, Chloe Hava

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a warning after receiving reports possibly associating azithromycin with cardiovascular death in four patients, leading to death. The patients, who were of both sexes, ranged in age from 26 to 84.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### New school for deaf, blind to aid science

The Australian, General News, 08/08/2024, James Dowling, Page 5

Teachers at Australia's newest school for the deaf and blind will introduce children to a wider sensory world, while advancing disability science in the process. Charity NextSense's new Macquarie University facility opened on Tuesday at the heart of Sydney's disability research district in the university.

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

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### State retreats on health mergers

Age, General News, 08/08/2024, Kieran Rooney, Page 1

Jacinta Allan's government is retreating from its plans to restructure and amalgamate all the state's health services and instead will deliver \$1.5 billion in extra funding as it seeks to calm a public backlash. Victoria has been mulling mergers of hospital services for more than six months, with an independent committee providing recommendations to the government on a new health services plan, which outlines the changes.

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## Hospitals lifeline

Herald Sun, General News, 08/08/2024, Shannon Deery and Sarah Booth, Page 7

The Allan government has pledged to throw the state's hospitals a \$1.5bn lifeline after months of threatening to strip bare vital budgets. The government also committed to not forcing any mergers on hospitals, including Victoria's iconic Royal Children's Hospital which had privately lobbied the Department of Health to be spared.

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## Get a free flu jab with your Ekka showbag

Courier Mail, General News, 08/08/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 15

Queensland Health will be administering free influenza vaccines at the Ekka as cases hit their highest levels since 2019. The clinic returns after the success of the 2023 initiative, which saw 1800 people take up the opportunity to get a jab at the show.

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

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## Hospitals handed \$1.5b lifeline, spared forced mergers

Canberra Times, Other, 07/08/2024, William Ton and Callum Godde

Victorian hospitals will be given a \$1.5 billion funding injection after the state government backed down from plans to force health services to merge. The announcement comes as the government negotiates hospital funding arrangements for the 2024/25 financial year amid swirling claims that services could be forced to slash staff numbers if funding was cut.

*Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), and syndicated widely across regional online*

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## John went from a smartly-dressed engineer to a 'shaking wreck' who can't leave his house due to a crippling illness - but he still can't get NDIS funding

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/08/2024, Candace Sutton

The heartbreaking life story of a disabled man who has been rejected by the NDIS to the shock and anger of millions of Australians has been revealed for the first time. John G, 36, told Daily Mail Australia how he was a hard-working civil engineer on Sydney's biggest rail project before he became a 'shaking wreck'.

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## A tenant's disability meant she couldn't turn the taps in her house. Her landlord refused a \$200 fix, until a legal letter was sent

ABC Online, Other, 07/08/2024, Adam Holmes

If Jenna Lovell was home alone, she would need to make sure she had a container of water filled up. That is because her condition, hypermobile spectrum disorder, makes it impossible to turn on certain types of taps.

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[Back to Top](#)

## SPORT

### Aussie athlete in 'cocaine arrest'

The Australian, General News, 08/08/2024, Jon Ralph, Todd Balym and David Campbell, Page 1

The Australian athlete arrested in Paris after allegedly trying to buy cocaine has been identified as

Kookaburras star Tom Craig. Hockey Australia confirmed Craig to be the player in French custody on Wednesday morning, local time, in Paris.

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## Liveris learns how to play the Games

Australian Financial Review, General News, 08/08/2024, Zoe Samios, Page 8

Former Dow Chemicals chairman Andrew Liveris is dressed in green and gold, ready for his next tour. It's a visit to Paris' Olympic Village where most of Australia's best athletes have bunked during the tournament.

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## Online trolls threatening athletes taken downby AI

Australian Financial Review, General News, 08/08/2024, Paul Smith, Page 9

Artificial intelligence-based technology that tracks abusive sentiment in social media messages, including texts, images and even emojis, has prevented 4000 individually targeted threats towards Olympics competitors in the first week of the games, with de...

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## Australian hockey player arrested

Age, General News, 08/08/2024, Michael Chammas and Marta Pascual Juanola, Page 7

An Australian hockey player has been arrested for allegedly trying to buy cocaine in Paris, the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) has confirmed. The player, 28-year-old Tom Craig, was taken into custody after French police alleged an Australian was attempting to obtain the drug in a trendy Paris neighbourhood known for its theatres and shopping.

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## Huge payouts trigger new concussions crisis

Herald Sun, General News, 08/08/2024, Jay Clark, Page 7

Global insurance provider Zurich has shut the gate on concussion claims for new AFL players after a series of million-dollar payouts. The Herald Sun can reveal three former AFL players St Kilda and Sydney defender Paddy McCartin, Western Bulldogs and Brisbane Lions fullback Marcus Adams and Collingwood and Adelaide playmaker Paul Seedsman have received seven-figure payouts for head trauma.

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

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## Cokaburra

West Australian, General News, 08/08/2024, Jake Santa Maria, Page 1

Australian Olympic hockey star Tom Craig was last night in custody in Paris after allegedly trying to buy cocaine. French police claim the Kookaburra was spotted buying cocaine from a man in Paris' 9th district and found in possession of one gram of the party drug.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 07/08/2024, Steve Austin

Interview with Gabba Business Association Vice President Paul Hey about the Qld Government scrapping the \$450m rebuild of the Gabba for the 2032 Olympic Games. Hey says they have been trying to get more information on the economic developments of the Cross River Rail and Brisbane Metro after Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner suggested using the funding to expand the station.

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[Back to Top](#)

## Autism detectives link plastics chemical in mother's womb to spectrum disorder

The Australian, General News, 08/08/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Boys with lower levels of a key brain enzyme who are born to mothers with higher levels of plastic chemicals in their wombs are six times more likely to develop autism by the time they are a teenager, a world-first Australian study has found. A decade-long study by the Florey Institute has for the first time established a biological pathway between the plastic chemical bisphenol A (BPA), which is found in food and drink containers, cosmetics and packaging, and autism spectrum disorder.

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

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## Invoice payment 'failures'

Canberra Times, General News, 08/08/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 1

ACT Health bureaucrats may have wrongly paid a series of invoices for IT services as part of a multimillion-dollar contract to host the territory's digital health record. A damning internal audit has uncovered instances where the ACT Health directorate has been billed for services inconsistent with the terms of an estimated \$110 million contract.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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## Beating the superbugs

Herald Sun, General News, 08/08/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 17

A world-first model that can predict when a bacterial infection will become resistant to antibiotics has been invented in Melbourne. The world is on the "brink" of being unable to treat common infections with antibiotics, the researcher warned, with infections resistant to the drugs already killing 1.27 million people in 2019 alone.

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

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## Sudden death risks lowered

Courier Mail, General News, 08/08/2024, Page 12

The risk of sudden death is highest in the first month after someone has had a heart attack, according to UK research, but the good news is that current treatments have substantially reduced the rates of sudden death over the past 20 years. Sudden death is a leading cause of death after a myocardial infarction (MI).

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## Brave little Atti helping other bubs

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/08/2024, Lucy Crock, Page 7

A new study involving a Norlane baby has found a blood test can help predict which premature babies will go on to develop chronic lung disease, allowing for earlier diagnosis and more targeted treatments. Warwick Atticus Nation was born at 26 weeks, weighing just 807g, at Mercy Health in Werribee in February last year.

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## Medical Research Minister Stephen Dawson announces new unit to fight antibiotic resistant superbugs

West Australian, Other, 07/08/2024, Jake Dietsch

WA's first medical manufacturing facility to help patients battle antibiotic-resistant superbugs has been opened at Royal Perth Hospital. Medical Research and Science Minister Stephen Dawson announced the unit would research phage therapy, which are friendly viruses that can treat superbugs and bacterial infections such as staphs.

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[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### High price of locking kids up

West Australian, General News, 08/08/2024, Sandy Mckiernan, Page 48

Two years ago, I was one voice amongst lawyers, child and mental health experts, Aboriginal leaders, organisational leaders, and other experts that warned the Department of Justice: opening Unit 18, placing children inside of maximum-security Casuarina Prison, was untenable a violation of the basic rights of young people. Now, almost exactly two years since Unit 18 opened, part two of the coronial inquest into the tragic death of 16-year-old Cleveland Dodd in Unit 18 has commenced.

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### Mother of Cleveland Dodd wept after hearing her son's death in custody could have been averted

National Indigenous Times, Other, 07/08/2024, Rhiannon Clarke

Warning: This story discusses incidents of self-harm and contains the name and image of an Indigenous person who has died. The former director of the juvenile detention centre in which Cleveland Dodd took his own life has acknowledged he provided false information during a Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC) investigation subsequent to the incident.

[Read More](#)

### Damning report sparks calls for abolition of "inhumane" dry cells in Tasmania's prisons

National Indigenous Times, Other, 07/08/2024, Giovanni Torre

Justice advocacy group, the National Network, has urged the Tasmanian government to abandon the use of "dry cells" – isolation cells with no running water and lights on 24 hours a day – in the wake of a damning report by the state's Custodial Inspector. On Wednesday the Network noted the Inspector's report into the "inhumane treatment of prisoners in dry cells highlight appalling conditions that are not just unacceptable but tantamount to state-sanctioned torture", adding that prisoners "should not be subjected to conditions that violate their dignity or their fundamental human rights".

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[Back to Top](#)

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Radioactive site cleaned up after century of delay

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/08/2024, Ben Cubby, Page 1

Radiation doses over four times the legal level were detected during the clean-up of suburban blocks in Sydney, on the site of a former uranium refinery that several state governments had declared "safe". More than 3000 cubic metres of contaminated material has been removed from waterfront blocks in Hunters Hill some shipped to a troubled nuclear waste storage facility in the US.

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### Hospitals battle ancient infection

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 08/08/2024, Page 19

Hospitals in NSW are dealing with an outbreak of scabies. Residents are urged to be on high alert as four hospitals in the Illawarra Shoalhaven area work to contain the infamous infectious skin condition that has been observed in humans since ancient times.

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### Scabies outbreak infects 38 people across four NSW hospitals

7news.com.au, Other, 07/08/2024

A scabies outbreak hitting a handful of hospitals across the NSW Illawarra region has now blown out to

38 people. The first case was confirmed at Wollongong Hospital in late July, with NSW health urging residents to monitor for symptoms.

[Read More](#)

## ADF reveals five sources of contaminated soil, water at RAAF Amberley Base

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/08/2024, Grace Koo

The Australian Defence has unveiled the sources at RAAF Base Amberley which had been contaminating nearby soil and water for decades. Toxic chemicals were detected in every edible fish caught in nearby rivers , prompting the department for detailed site investigation and risk assessment.

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

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## Fears over dangerous new Mpox virus strain

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/08/2024

Fears are rife that a new strain of the Mpox virus — previously known as monkeypox — identified in DR Congo and now also in several neighbouring countries could further spread. Deadlier and more transmissible than previous forms, the Mpox strain surging in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since September, known as the Clade Ib subclade, is spread person-to-person.

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

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## WHO convenes urgent committee on mpox outbreak in Congo

West Australian, Other, 08/08/2024

The head of the World Health Organization says an emergency committee will be convened to discuss whether the current mpox outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo represents a public health emergency of international concern. WHO said that 50 more mpox cases had been confirmed and more were suspected in four countries - Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda - where cases have previously not been reported.

*Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), and syndicated widely across regional online*

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## UN health agency convening experts meeting to decide if mpox outbreak in Africa is global emergency

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/08/2024

The head of the World Health Organization said Wednesday he will convene an expert group to determine if the increasing spread of the mpox virus in Africa warrants being declared a global emergency. At a press briefing in Geneva, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that given the increasing spread of mpox cases beyond Congo, he has decided to ask independent experts to advise WHO "as soon as possible.

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[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### Harvest Snaps Baked pea crisps recalled after undeclared allergen found

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/08/2024, Tess McCracken

Popular snack Harvest Snaps baked pea crisps have been recalled from retailers across the country. [...] A Food Standards Australia recall notice said the recall included the 120g, 200g, 230g, 5x18g, and the 50x18g packs in the salted flavour and the 120g and 230g packs in the salt and vinegar flavour.

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

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### Popular snack recalled over allergy risk

Canberra Times, Other, 07/08/2024, Anna Houlahan

Popular snack food Harvest Snaps Baked Pea Crisps have been recalled from supermarket shelves over allergy risks. Food Standards Australia said an undeclared soy allergen was found in bags of the 'original salt' and 'salt and pepper' flavours.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), and syndicated widely across regional online

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### Harvest Snaps Baked Pea Crisps urgently recalled from Woolworths, Coles, Aldi, IGA, and 7-Eleven

7news.com.au, Other, 07/08/2024

The products were available at Woolworths, Coles and Aldi. Harvest Snaps pea crisps have been urgently recalled from supermarkets and retailers across Australia and online. An undeclared soy allergen was discovered in seven of the Calbee Australia products, including regular bags, big share bags, and multipacks of lunchbox-sized bags, the Food Standards Australia recall said.

[Read More](#)

### Calbee pea crisp snacks recalled from stores over soy allergen

9News, Other, 07/08/2024, Adam Vidler

A range of popular snacks have been pulled from stores around Australia. Calbee Harvest Snaps Baked Pea Crisps in original salted (120g, 200g, 230g, 5x18g, and 50x18g) and in salt and vinegar (120g and 230g) flavours are the subject of a recall notice from Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

[Read More](#)

### Harvest Snaps Baked Pea Crisps recalled from Woolworths, Coles and Aldi

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/08/2024, Pranav Harish

A popular brand of chips has been urgently pulled from the shelves of major supermarket stores due to an undeclared soy allergen. [...] Food Standards Australia issued a product warning for shoppers.

[Read More](#)

## Popular snack range recalled across Australia

The New Daily, Other, 07/08/2024, Staff Writer

A popular snack range has been pulled from the shelves of supermarkets and convenience outlets across Australia. [...] "Any consumers who have a soy allergy or intolerance may have a reaction if the product is consumed," Food Standards Australia and New Zealand said on Tuesday.

[Read More](#)

## 2CC, Canberra Live, 07/08/2024, Leon Delaney

Delaney says Food Standards Australia has issued a recall for Harvest Snaps' baked pea crisps after an undeclared soy allergen was found in bags of the original salt flavour and salt and pepper flavour. He states that the product can be found in most places such as Woolworths, Coles, Aldi, Costco, Amazon, IGA, and 7-Eleven.

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[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

### Source of RAAF poisons revealed

Courier Mail, General News, 08/08/2024, Grace Koo, Page 23

The source of toxins that have been poisoning the soil and water around RAAF Base Amberley for decades have finally been revealed by the Australian Defence Force. Toxic chemicals were detected in every edible fish caught in nearby rivers, prompting the Defence Department to make a detailed investigation and risk assessment of the site.

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### NSW waste industry faces crackdown on recycled soil after asbestos found in more than half facilities tested

The Guardian, Other, 08/08/2024, Lisa Cox and Catie McLeod

The New South Wales environment watchdog has vowed to crack down on the waste industry after new tests found asbestos at seven of 13 facilities producing or handling cheap landscaping products. A 15-month Guardian Australia investigation revealed earlier this year that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) had failed to act after compliance campaigns in 2013 and 2019 found potentially contaminated products had been distributed across the state – including at childcare centres, schools, residential areas and parks – thanks to widespread breaches by the industry.

[Read More](#)

## 4BC, Drive, 07/08/2024, Peter Gleeson

The Australian Defence Force has revealed the source of various contaminated soil samples taken from the RAAF base in Amberley. It comes after toxic chemicals were first detected in edible fish that was caught in rivers near the base as early as 2018. A public consultation session was told that the PFAS foam had come from a fire training pad, a waste water holding tank, a temporary stockpile area, a base sewage treatment and a former fire station all on site at the RAAF base

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[Back to Top](#)

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