



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 9th August 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports disability service providers have called for \$2 billion additional funding as industry leaders and data analysts claim assumptions underpinning the NDIS' Disability Support Worker cost model are based on a "broken" mathematical formula.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports Victoria's government has ruled out forcibly merging public hospitals and will instead group them by regions sharing the same back-of-house operations while keeping their independent boards and branding. *Also reported by:* [The Age](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Herald Sun](#), [ABC Online](#), [The Guardian](#)
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports medical experts have called for an overhaul of plastic regulations following new research by Melbourne's Florey Institute linking neuroendocrine-disrupting chemicals found in household items to the development of autism in newborns.
- The **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 4) reports world first computer modelling developed by Monash University-led researchers can predict when bacterial infections will stop responding to treatment.
- The **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 5) reports myGov's security controls are not potent enough to protect customers from fraud, a Commonwealth Ombudsman report has found, with hackers

found to have used personal information obtained through data breaches and phishing scams to access customer accounts.

- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 7) reports NSW Health Minister Mark Ryan has called on federal counterpart Mark Butler to secure more funding under the next National Health Reform Agreement as new data shows the state faces a shortage of over 1,000 GPs within the next four years. *Also reported by: Daily Telegraph, 2GB*
- The **Herald Sun** (page 7) reports a new Australian-developed AI tool PlacentaVision could help predict a baby's future health issues, including stroke and heart disease by analysing the mother's placenta. *Also reported by: Daily Telegraph*
- The **Courier Mail** (page 7) reports children overexposed to digital devices and screen time can be left behind developmentally and fail to learn how to use facial expressions, neuroscientists have warned.

MINISTER BUTLER

Doctor drought a sick joke

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/08/2024, Lachlan Leeming, Page 7

NSW will be hit with a shortfall of 1000 doctors within four years, with the lack of GPs set to increase the already dire crowding of our emergency departments. [...] NSW health Minister Ryan Park has demanded his federal counterpart Mark Butler "step up" and do more to plug the gap following the alarming forecasts, contained in a new federal health report covering the growing demand - and diminishing supply of GPs in Australia.

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Supply of doctors on death's door

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 09/08/2024, Page 70

There is no service more vital than the health professionals who tend to us in our greatest hours of need. And yet for years even a wealthy first world nation such as Australia has suffered from a chronic shortage of GPs, let alone bulk-billing ones. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler must do whatever it takes to fix this mess before it becomes a full-blown crisis.

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Seas the deal for new over 55s apartments

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/08/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 27

A major new development to help ease Adelaide's housing squeeze opens today with the \$90m Avista Glenelg, offering a "premium lifestyle" for the over 55s. It comes as the dream of home ownership "is out of reach" for many young people and policy changes are needed to unlock housing stock, says the property developer. [...] More than 180 guests are expected to attend the official opening, including federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler, Trade and Tourism Minister Don Farrell and Human Services, Seniors and Ageing Well Minister Nat Cook.

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As Urgent Care Clinics roll out across the country, what difference are they making?

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

To date, 67 Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs) have been opened across Australia, with most located in relatively well off areas, according to the analysis below. While some medical organisations continue to raise concerns about the clinics, they appear to be popular with communities, and there also are hopes the model will be useful for First Nations peoples' healthcare. [...] Jason Staines writes: At the start of August, Health Minister Mark Butler announced the opening of a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) in the Queensland suburb of Morayfield.

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A message from Lucy Clynes, CEO, Hepatitis Australia

Hepatitis Australia, Other, 08/08/2024

It's my great pleasure to introduce myself as the new CEO of Hepatitis Australia. [...] Below you can read about the recent 14th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference, and national World Hepatitis Day activities, including our Parliamentary event, which I was very pleased to attend alongside Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care and Hon Ged Kearney MP, Assistant Minister for Health.

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'Helluva lot of good policy': AMA launches 10-year vision

Oncology Republic, Other, 08/08/2024, Laura Woodrow

Despite early sharp elbows and plenty left to do, the AMA and federal government broke bread together last week with goodwill and no fisticuffs ... or ticking bombs. [...] Speaking at AMA24, federal health minister Mark Butler said he was excited to read the document in full, but from an initial review it appeared to contain "a hell of a lot of good policy".

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Millions for hearing loss

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/08/2024

Nextsense, a new \$75 million centre for research innovation, was officially opened this week by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, at Macquarie University, Sydney. The centre will support ongoing research, education, and treatment to enhance the lives of people living with hearing and vision loss nationwide. [...] Meanwhile, across town in Western Sydney, The Shepherd Centre's new facility for children with hearing loss was also opened by PM Albanese and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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New vaccine shows potential to reduce dementia risk

Starts at 60, Other, 08/08/2024, Nicole Keramos

A new vaccine used to fight a common infection in older people may reduce your risk of developing dementia, according to a recent UK study. [...] When announcing the program, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said "Older Australians will now have free access to the best protection against shingles through one of the most comprehensive and widely available vaccination programs in the world."

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MINISTER WELLS

You are ACE! ACCPA Excellence Awards celebrates aged care employees

Aged Care Insite, Other, 08/08/2024, Stefanie Schultz

The Aged and Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA) wants every Australian aged care worker to know that You are ACE! Aged Care Employee Day, August 7th, aims to recognise and celebrate the hard work and dedication the aged care sector requires and to give thanks for all that workers do. [...] Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission – Aged Care Employee Day, #Thanksforaring Source: Aged & Community Care Providers Association In a #Thanksforaring message, Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said her immense gratitude for the aged care workforce is personal because her mother worked in the industry for more than 15 years.

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\$8M boost for dementia respite programs across Australia

Healthcare Channel, Other, 08/08/2024

A \$8 million investment has been announced to broaden the scope of innovative respite support programs for individuals living with dementia and their carers. This latest funding boost is part of the 'Improving respite care for people with dementia and their carers' program, which has now allocated a

total of \$60. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells emphasised the importance of this initiative: "The Albanese Government is committed to delivering practical, high-quality dementia-focused initiatives to support people with dementia, their families and carers."

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Government allocates \$8M for eight new dementia respite programs

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

Minister for Aged Care and Sport, Anika Wells, on Tuesday announced the awarding of eight new grants worth \$8 million in total to providers with the aim of expanding respite support programs for Australians living with dementia and their carers, as part of the Australian Government's 'Improving respite care for people with dementia and their carers' program.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Seniors' forums deliver valuable information

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 08/08/2024, Page 10

More than 100 people attended seniors' forums at Toukley 50 Plus Leisure & Learning Centre and Long Jetty Over 50s Club, hosted by Member for Dobell Emma McBride. The events offered invaluable opportunities for residents to hear directly from their Federal Member of Parliament and gain insights into the government's efforts to support seniors on the Central Coast.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Leading pharmacist tapped for climate role

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/08/2024, Megan Haggan

Adjunct Associate Professor Steve Morris has been selected to be part of an expert advisory group to provide advice on reducing the impacts of climate change on the nation's health. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said that the Climate and Health Expert Advisory Group will also support implementation of Australia's first...

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Key stakeholders overlooked in government's Climate and Health Advisory Group

Health Industry Hub, Other, 08/08/2024

Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney MP, has established an expert advisory group to tackle the [...] More News & Trends - MedTech & Diagnostics Medtech, pharma and patient advocacy leaders reveal highlights from CSANZ meeting

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Indoor air quality shapes as pandemic-sized policy challenge

InnovationAus, Other, 08/08/2024, Joseph Brookes

The Prime Minister's top scientific advisers are backing a multi-faceted response to airborne infections with air quality interventions that can be tailored to specific buildings like hospitals or classrooms to guard against the next pandemic. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney requested the report as an evidence base ahead of a government plan to improve Australia's preparedness for future pandemics, expected to be developed after the Covid-19 response inquiry hands down its report next month.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

Minister call to continue

Burnie Advocate, General News, 09/08/2024, Page 55

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 here in Tasmania.

Also reported by: [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#).

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DEPARTMENT

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CORONAVIRUS

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Victorian Government boosts aged care with investment

Shepparton News Online, Other, 08/08/2024

The Victorian Government is making significant investments in aged care services across the entire state. Victorians now have a wealth of options with 171 public sector residential aged care facilities spread across the state, providing a reliable alternative to private services. State Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes emphasised the crucial role these facilities played in caring for vulnerable Victorians with complex needs and limited finances, or those without other housing options.

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

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'Dying to Know Day' highlights the role of community in end of life planning

Aged Care Insite, Other, 08/08/2024, Stefanie Schultz

The nation's palliative care communities are calling on Australian's to get 'dead set' today for Dying to Know Day. This year the national campaign, an initiative of home support services provider Proveda, is highlighting the "role of community in fostering conversations around death and dying, and encouraging individuals to consider and talk about their own unique wishes for end of life.

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Rural Australia delivers quality aged care, despite many homes doing it tough

Aged Care Insite, Other, 08/08/2024, Nicole Sutton and Michael Woods

Around half of Australian aged care homes are losing money, prompting concerns about their long-term financial viability and the potential for closures – particularly in the country. Aged care homes in

rural and remote areas face many specific challenges. Servicing a dispersed population of older people in need, they tend to be smaller in scale, find it hard to attract and retain staff, and face high costs and ongoing losses.

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Is UI overlooked in RMMRs?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/08/2024, Megan Haggan

What are the most-commonly prescribed urinary incontinence-inducing medicines in Australian residential aged care patients with dementia? A poster session presented at the recent Pharmaceutical Society of Australia conference, PSA24, has looked at the prevalence of UI induced by medications in residents with dementia in Australian RACFs.

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Aged Care provider sets out to tackle loneliness

Australian Seniors News, Other, 08/08/2024

With research from Monash University revealing that Australians aged 65 and older often feel "abandoned", "rejected" and "left to die", a leading aged care provider has launched an initiative ahead of Loneliness Awareness Week. Infinite Care is championing social wellbeing and combating loneliness with their Long Table events, an innovative, year-round concept that has already numerous residents form new friendships.

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Accenture gobbles up govt's \$540m aged care tech transformation

InnovationAus, Other, 08/08/2024, Joseph Brookes

Accenture will be paid more than half a million dollars a day for the next two years by the federal government to supply contractors for the digital transformation of its aged care systems around the country. The \$289 million contract is Accenture's biggest federal deal ever and its third for active tech work at the Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC), having already landed a \$157 million deal to build a provider management software system.

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8,900 beds needed annually with aged care construction in freefall: Govt report

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

Demand for residential aged care beds is forecast to double in the next 20 years, but aged care building development has stalled, the Government's latest Financial Report on the Australian Aged Care Sector 2022-23 states. Though some of the financial data is now a year old, it reveals new sector data and forecasts that highlight worrying trends for residential aged care.

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Crunch time: countdown on for new Aged Care Act to pass Parliament this year

The Weekly Source, Other, 08/08/2024, Lauren Broomham

With just 31 sitting days left in this calendar this year, the window for the new Act to be legislated this year is closing fast – does this mean that the Government's response to the Aged Care Taskforce is finally imminent? According to the Parliamentary sitting calendar , there are only eight sitting weeks left in 2024 with politicians set to return to Canberra for two weeks starting from 12 August – next week.

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Government must commit to “needs-based” aged care system: Acting Inspector-General

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

The Acting Inspector-General of Aged Care Ian Yates AM, in his 166-page 2024 Progress Report on the implementation of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's recommendations,

has called on the Government to make "needs-based" or "demand-driven" aged care the cornerstone of reforms.

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Aged care providers losing \$15.65 per resident per day on operations

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

The aged care sector made a net loss of \$1.7 billion in 2022-23, or a loss of \$25.31 per resident per day, an improvement on the net loss of \$2.3 billion recorded in 2021-22, according to the Australian Government's Financial Report on the Australian Aged Care Sector 2022-23.

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Catherine Nance and Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly appointed to The Mayflower Group board

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

Victorian Not For Profit aged care provider The Mayflower Group has appointed two new board members, Catherine Nance and Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, effective 1 July 2024. Catherine Nance has more than 20 years' experience in the financial sector, including 19 years as a Partner and Actuary at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

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Catherine Daley, longstanding CEO of integratedliving, retires

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

Home care provider integratedliving has farewellled longstanding CEO Catherine Daley after 21 years with the organisation. Catherine has overseen integratedliving's growth to its current position as a significant provider of aged care support services with more than 22,000 clients in regional, rural and remote areas of Queensland, New South Wales, and Tasmania.

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SA Govt to reopen facility for aged care residents as 220 lie in hospital beds

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

The South Australian Government has reversed a decision to close Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre, a 120-bed facility 13km north of Adelaide's city centre, with more than 200 people waiting for an aged care bed lying in hospital. Instead the Government's Care of the Older Person and Community Transition service will establish 70 beds at the facility, consisting of 50 beds for older hospital patients and 20 for low complexity Memory Support Unit patients.

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Bega Valley Shire Council latest to stop providing home care

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

Bega Valley Shire Council, on the New South Wales Far South Coast, has announced it will quit home care services in four months' time. A 2023 review of the Council's families, ageing and disability services prompted the Council to conclude the services would be more efficiently and effectively delivered by other providers.

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\$23M Govt contracts awarded to Accenture and Scyne to roll out new Aged Care Act

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

The Department of Health and Aged Care has awarded consultants Accenture a \$10.5 million contract and former PwC consultants Scyne Advisory a \$12.8 million contract to deliver 'computer services' related to implementation of the new Aged Care Act. Both contracts are set to conclude on 31 October 2025, in line with the Government's planned 1 July 2025 rollout for the new laws.

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POPULATION HEALTH

No fluoride means need for vigilance

Daily Liberal, General News, 09/08/2024, Ciara Bastow, Page 3

After five years without fluoride, a Dubbo dentist is using Dental Health Week to emphasise the importance of dental care. Local dentist Sophie Halpin has observed a troubling trend in her practice. "We're seeing a significant increase in dental problems, especially tooth decay, since fluoride was removed from our water supply," she said.

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'Can-do' community kicking goals with a fewmilliondollars

Launceston Examiner, General News, 09/08/2024, Isabel Bird, Page 14

A single mother of a child with a disability saysmany people in smaller communities 'don't know what the internet's even about', whichmakes loneliness in the regions a difficult thing to bear. The Northern Tasmanian woman took part in a state-funded health literacy project designed to increase awareness of health services, and drive preventative health in regional Tasmania.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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'They have to choose which kid to take to the doctor': patients struggling

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

A quarter of 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 " business viability".

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Rising number of elderly finding themselves homeless

Shepparton News Online, Other, 08/08/2024

The homelessness crisis in the region is being put under the microscope during Homelessness Week, with Beyond Housing reporting that 345 people aged over 55 sought the organisation's help in the last financial year. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, older Australians are now the fastest-growing group in the homeless population.

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Almost 58% of people entering residential aged care have a mental health condition

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

The figure, published in the latest data from the Federal Government's Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), has been obtained through aged care assessments data between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2022, and includes mental health conditions such as mood disorders, anxiety, and psychotic disorders.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Push continues for improved cancer services

Border Watch, General News, 09/08/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 5

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 "disappointing" outcome of a radiation treatment feasibility study which stated a treatment facility would not be feasible for Mount Gambier/Berrin.

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Acting FAST: A survivor's crucial advice

Daily Advertiser, General News, 09/08/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 4

A wagga stroke survivor has encouraged people to seek help if something in their body isn't right, echoing similar sentiments of health professionals. It is National Stroke Week and the message from everyone is if something is wrong, act FAST - Face drooped?, Arms can't be raised, Speech slurred or confused?, Time is critical! Call 000.

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Lanyon's sleep solutions

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/08/2024

Two in three adults (66%) are living with at least one sleep-related problem, hugely affecting their daily lives and overall health. Poor sleep is a known cause that exacerbates chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and mental health issues.

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Dead three days later: Lyndey's heartbreaking loss an all too common story

The Senior, Other, 08/08/2024, Rowan Cowley

If only he had received treatment one week sooner, things could have been different - this is the knowledge Lyndey Milan will live with for the rest of her life. The celebrity cooking and media personality's son Blair was diagnosed with blood cancer in 2011.

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospitals might fight for resources under revamp

Age, General News, 09/08/2024, Rachel Eddie, Page 1

Victoria's biggest hospital shake-up in 20 years has sparked fears of a Hunger Games-style competition between health services for staff and funding while introducing another layer of bureaucratic red tape. Premier Jacinta Allan yesterday released a 179-page Health Services Plan and ruled out forcibly merging the state's 76 independently governed health services, but the opposition accused the government of "amalgamation by stealth".

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [3AW \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Mandarin \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Breaking ground

Border Watch, General News, 09/08/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Staff at the Mount Gambier and Districts Hospital are excited work has started on upgrades at its emergency department, according to a health network representative. Limestone Coast Local Health Network chief executive officer Emma Poland welcomed the next steps of the \$24 million upgrade of the hospital, stating staff were excited for the outcome.

ED assists 5000-plus since its expansion

Cairns Post, General News, 09/08/2024, Arun Singh Mann, Page 7

Flow and functionality improved for staff and patients One month since it became operational, Cairns Hospital's expanded emergency department has taken in more than 5000 patients, with its suite of upgrades enhancing care for visitors. The \$26.4m project expanded the floor space of the emergency department by 298sq m and it now features six additional beds, more acute care rooms, a family room, an upgraded waiting room and a dedicated X-ray suite.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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Ambos call for faster patient offloading

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/08/2024, Chelsea Bunting and Abby Walter, Page 7

The ambulance union wants paramedics cleared to offload patients more quickly after 11 ambulances were seen ramped at Geelong hospital this week. News of Wednesday afternoon's ramping backlog comes as local paramedics operate under "enormous strain".

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MIDAP approve plans for new St John of God Ambulance paramedic training facility on Great Eastern Hwy, Belmont

West Australian, Other, 09/08/2024, Jessica Evensen

State planners have approved plans for a new St John of God Ambulance paramedic training facility in Perth's east. The Metro Inner Development Assessment Panel approved the \$20 million project at 191 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont, on July 25.

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Three North East councils urged to push for single-site hospital for region

The Border Mail, Other, 08/08/2024, Ted Howes

Three North East councils have been urged to reject theredevelopment of Albury hospitaland lobby federal and state governments to build a new hospital on a greenfield location. Loginor signup to continue reading Alpine, Towong and Indigo shire councils, all of which depend on services provided by Albury Wodonga Health,will discuss the region's health woes at a meetingat Beechworth on August 13.

[Read More](#)

Urgent call for MICA units in southern Hume's critical healthcare

Shepparton News Online, Other, 08/08/2024, Faith Macale

State Member for Euroa Annabelle Cleeland is calling for specialised Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance units to serve the southern Hume region's critical healthcare needs. MICA paramedics, with their advanced training and ability to perform critical medical procedures, are currently unavailable in many parts of the region, leaving a significant gap in emergency care.

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'Hotel' option to free up Adelaide hospital beds

In Daily, Other, 08/08/2024

SA Health wants a facility with up to 25 beds – possibly within a hotel – up and running within two months to care for patients who are medically ready to leave hospital and occupying desperately needed beds. Health Minister Chris Picton said "we need to consider all options" to free up hospital beds, with hotels among the possible options.

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Kids face tech fears

Courier Mail, General News, 09/08/2024, Tayla Couacaud, Page 7

Children exposed to too much screen time are being left behind developmentally, with many kids not learning to use their facial expressions. The medical phenomenon, dubbed "still face syndrome", was among the many hazards facing children raised at a forum last night where hundreds of Queensland parents gathered to learn how to best protect their kids in the digital age.

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Powerful serve of help

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 09/08/2024, Chloe Grimshaw, Page 35

The practitioner behind an Australian-first eating disorder recovery program has revealed how alternative treatment options are restoring hope to sufferers, including herself. The Sunshine Coast charity, EndEd, was founded in 2015 by local couple Mark and Gay Forbes to provide a muchneeded residential care option for those recovering from eating disorders.

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Increasing arts participation for mental health

ABC Online, Other, 08/08/2024, Isabel Moussalli

A new mental health campaign in Western Australia is encouraging people to immerse themselves in the arts for two hours a week. Researchers at the University of Western Australia are behind the push. They say while many of us are aware exercise can help our mental wellbeing, the benefits of things like listening to music, going to a show or dancing aren't as well publicised.

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Heartbreaking development after Aussie mum died just weeks after giving birth

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/08/2024, Brett Lackey

A husband has spoken out to raise awareness about post natal depression in the hope it could save a life after his own wife's death. Stephanie Castellanos, 28, from Dee Why on Sydney Northern Beaches died suddenly on July 13 leaving behind husband Harry Kelleher and their six-week-old daughter Valentina. Police are not treating her death as suspicious.

[Read More](#)

GP support for antidepressant withdrawal

Medical Forum, Other, 08/08/2024

Australians have been urged to see their GP for help stopping long-term use of antidepressants following the Royal Australian College of GP endorsement of the new Maudsley Deprescribing Guidelines. RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins said that even while antidepressants were a helpful and effective treatment option for many people, they were not generally advised for longer use than six to 12 months, or enough time to allow the patient to deal with the underlying causes of their depression.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Union casts doubt on promise to lift hospital nurse numbers

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/08/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 7

John Hunter Hospital's emergency department is next in line for a boost in nursing staff numbers as part of a promised rollout of major reform. The Safe Staffing Levels initiative aims to improve patients' experience and boost the retention and capability of staff in NSW's public hospitals.

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

Nursing numbers boost

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 09/08/2024, Fiona Ferguson, Page 1

Nurses and midwives say they are "relieved" Tamworth hospital is now on the list for safe staffing levels to be rolled out, but say it will still be challenging. Recruitment will get underway soon in a bid to bolster nurse numbers in more of the state's hospital emergency departments as part of Safe Staffing Level reforms being rolled out across NSW, and announced on Thursday by health minister Ryan Park.

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Kits supply 'safer' birthing environment

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 09/08/2024, Emma Downey, Page 4

Every 90 seconds a woman living in a developing country dies of complications related to pregnancy and childbirth - in round figures, this is about 525,000 women annually. The cause of many of these deaths is due to preventable infections. Zonta Club of Tamworth member Debrah Hubbard said it was these horrifying statistics that prompted Zonta International to take action.

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Twelve major hospitals to get hundreds more nurses this year

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/08/2024, Madeleine Bower

The RPA, Nepean and Bankstown Hospitals are among 12 major hospitals set to get hundreds more nurses this year as safe-staffing ratio rollout widens. Hundreds more nurses will need to be found after new safe staffing levels in emergency departments will be enforced at 12 major hospitals across the state including Bankstown, Campbelltown, St George and Nepean and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

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Wollongong ED promised more nurses, but union fears recruitment drive will fail

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 08/08/2024, Natalie Croxon

The NSW government has promised that Wollongong Hospital will have more nurses in its emergency department as it continues to roll out minimum staffing levels, but the union is concerned that extra staff will not eventuate without a pay rise. Wollongong Hospital will introduce a one-to-one nurse-patient ratio for resuscitation beds and a one-to-three ratio for treatment spaces and short-stay beds on all shifts in the emergency department under the Safe Staffing Levels initiative

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Young doctors put study to good use

Northern Territory News, General News, 09/08/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 7

Two young general practitioner registrars have found not only friendship but success after moving to Nhulunbuy to continue their training at Gove District Hospital, with the pair both awarded scholarships worth a combined \$15,000. Dr Sophie Yeates and Dr Ella Heggen were both recognised as part of General Practice Registrars Australia's inaugural Northern Territory Scholarships program.

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Health heroes grow

Border Watch, General News, 09/08/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Waiting times for ambulance officers may soon decline with Mount Gambier/Berrin welcoming 18 new recruits. Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton made the announcement during his visit to the Limestone Coast this week with 24 additional ambulance officers on the road across the region.

Also reported by: [Border Watch \(Online\)](#)

GP shortage worsening

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

The Department of Health and Aged Care's GP workforce report has revealed a significant shortage of 2,460 full time equivalent GPs in Australia, projected to grow to 5,560 by 2033 and 8,900 by 2048. Released this week, the report confirms pharmacy organisations' long-held fears around a nationwide GP shortage.

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

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Trainee doctors spread their wings with new RFD program

ABC Online, Other, 08/08/2024, Scott Wales

Remote and rural health care is a tough business. For the clinicians who provide care to people outside our cities and big regional centres, the hours can be long, and the work challenging and stressful.

[Read More](#)

What doctors' health experts think of the medical board's mandatory older doctor checkup plan

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/08/2024, Antony Scholefield and Heather Saxena

Three GPs who treat other doctors react to the board's proposals. "It's like being an actor. "The best time to leave is when you're on centrestage, the crowd is roaring for more and bouquets are being thrown and the curtains are closing. "It's not when the fruit is being thrown and they are pulling you off with a sheep crook."

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

[Read More](#)

RACGP election: Presidential candidate Dr Palmyra De Banks on the big questions for general practice

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/08/2024

Dr Palmyra De Banks says the Scope of Practice Review is an opportunity for GPs, not something to fear. The RACGP presidential election is underway, and AusDoc has asked all five candidates to answer the big questions around bulk-billing, membership fees and scope of practice.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Mornings, 08/08/2024, Ray Hadley

The Department of Health and Aged Care released a report revealing Australia is facing a shortage of over 2000 full-time equivalent GPs. The report also shows the full-time equivalent GP dropped by 2.5% between 2022 and 2023.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Calculation on NDIS price 'totally broken'

The Australian, General News, 09/08/2024, Sarah Ison, Page 1

Disability service providers are demanding a \$2bn-a-year top-up to fix a major "mathematical error" in how prices are set by the agency running the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which is leading to thousands of providers being underpaid by up to 10 per cent and becoming "financially unviable". In a call that undermines Labor's goal of slashing the NDIS's annual growth to 8 per cent within two years, industry leaders and data analysts allege the set of assumptions underpinning the Disability Support Worker cost model are "completely broken".

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Hacker used myGov 'side entrance' to commit tax fraud

Canberra Times, General News, 09/08/2024, Brittney Levinson, Page 5

In one phone call, a fraudster managed to hack a Centrelink customer's account, change their address and banking details before lodging a false disaster recovery payment claim. A few days later, the customer's account was breached again when the fraudster called Medicare to change their address and request a new card. The fraudster then used the Medicare details to lodge and receive a fraudulent tax return.

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

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More health audits could show 'failures'

Canberra Times, General News, 09/08/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 8

Pressure to publicly release further reports ACT Health authorities are under pressure to publicly release more audits after it was revealed the directorate may have wrongly paid a series of invoices related to the digital health record. The government is trying to determine what information it can release after the ACT Integrity Commission has confirmed it is investigating executives involved in the rollout of the project.

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

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

Patients can't afford vital scans after bulk billing cut

Canberra Times, General News, 09/08/2024, Lucy Arundell, Page 15

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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How Galaxy AI and Samsung Health helps empower Australians to achieve health and wellness goals

Canberra Times, Other, 08/08/2024, Miranda Aitken

This is sponsored content for Samsung Hide the biscuit tin and look busy, because the latest version of Samsung Health with Galaxy AI [2] has arrived, and it's here to improve your overall wellness routine. Although Australians are globally renowned for leading healthy and active lifestyles, many of us are only just scratching the surface of understanding our health.

[Read More](#)

ECG Medicare changes coming home to roost

The Medical Republic, Other, 08/08/2024, Holly Payne

The 2020 decision to defund GP interpretation of ECGs has likely led to increased out-of-pocket costs for patients, the AMA says. The AMA is urging the Department of Health and Aged Care to urgently restore GP ECG rebates, accusing the Health Minister of "prolong[ing] decisive action" with endless reviews.

[Read More](#)

Health experts warn of great GP divide

Your Life Choices, Other, 09/08/2024, Andrew Gigacz

Last week i popped into my local GP for an appointment. Fortunately, I have no serious health

problems, and this was just a check-up on the basics such as blood pressure. With all things in pretty good order, I left the consultation room feeling relatively happy. However, had another measurement been taken when I was given the bill, a spike in my blood pressure may have shown up. It wasn't so much the amount – \$92 – that took me aback, but the rebate.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Fake hormone doctor pleads guilty

Age, General News, 09/08/2024, Henrietta Cook, Page 7

A Melbourne mother who pretended to be a hormone doctor and administered supplements that caused "debilitating pain" to a patient, has escaped conviction. Keti "Kate" Cvetkov, 48, met her victim by chance at Melbourne Airport in January 2016, claiming to be a doctor and hormone specialist on her way to a medical conference. Krista Weymouth, a lawyer representing the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), told Heidelberg Magistrates' Court the woman had been diagnosed with hormonal imbalances and chronic fatigue syndrome and took down Cvetkov's details, contacting her for advice later that month.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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Students told 'do not use' free 'condoms'

Canberra Times, General News, 09/08/2024, Sarah Lansdown, Page 2

ACT college students have been warned not to use free condoms they received from a sexual health program because some of the products were not condoms at all. Five public schools have been caught up in a product recall after Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT admitted to distributing lubricated probe covers as condoms at public events since January.

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

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Mental hospital probed

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 09/08/2024, Brendan O'Malley, Page 23

Claims of horrific past abuse and deaths at notorious mental facility Wolston Park in Brisbane's southwest will be aired at a new inquiry after Health Minister Shannon Fentiman bowed to pressure from survivors. One former patient, Debbie Manson, said the inquiry must lead to the identification of hundreds of people interred at nearby Goodna cemetery in unmarked graves.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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Rape trial shown footage of Perth dentist allegedly spiking woman's drink

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/08/2024, Rebecca Peppiatt

A Perth dentist has gone on trial this week over explosive allegations he drugged and raped multiple young women over two months of 2022 after meeting them on dating apps Tinder and Bumble. Farzam Mehrabi, 34, is accused of meeting the women, all aged between 18 and 20, in various Perth bars before inviting them back to his parents' house in Shelley.

[Read More](#)

'No concern about the safety of the vaccine': Doubt over flu shots from Chemist Warehouse Townsville

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 08/08/2024, Daneka Hill

An unknown number of Chemist Warehouse Townsville customers have been informed via email their flu vaccinations might be invalid due to incorrect storage. The mass email was sent out on Thursday

morning, August 8, by Chemist Warehouse Townsville manager Daniel Jeffery. A copy of the email was provided to the Townsville Bulletin.

[Read More](#)

Patients 'misled' on fertility prediction power of anti-mullerian hormone assessment

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/08/2024, Mohana Basu

The 'egg-count' test is not an ultimate test of fertility, researchers. IVF clinics are increasingly pushing anti-mullerian hormone assessment as a fertility test even though it cannot reliably predict the chances of conceiving, researchers say.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Experts call for regulation of plastics

The Australian, General News, 09/08/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

Medical experts have called for an overhaul of plastics regulation in Australia as growing evidence indicates that neuroendocrine disrupting chemicals found in disposable water bottles, food containers, canned food packaging and cosmetics are linked with the development of autism. Groundbreaking research published by Melbourne's Florey Institute this week found children with low levels of a key brain enzyme who were born to mothers with higher levels of plastic chemicals in their wombs were six times more likely to develop autism by the time they were a teenager.

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

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SPORT

Hockey star 'embarrassed' after arrest for cocaine

Age, General News, 09/08/2024, Michael Chammas and Marta Pascual Juanola, Page 4

Australian hockey player Tom Craig has apologised and expressed embarrassment after escaping conviction for allegedly buying cocaine in a Paris street. On Wednesday afternoon, Paris time, a photo emerged of Craig being taken into custody after he was spotted allegedly purchasing the drugs on a street in the 9th arrondissement, a neighbourhood known for its theatres and nightlife.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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Gambling bosses blocked from speaking to Albanese

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/08/2024, Paul Sakkal, Page 3

Gambling bosses are hoping to sweet-talk Labor ministers in a bid to overturn a proposed ban on sports betting advertising on social media at a series of events this week, after being blocked from talking to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and the minister in charge of the legislation. Betting giant Sportsbet has paid for a \$110,000-a-year "platinum" membership that gives it access to Labor's fundraising forum, whose major gathering, which started on Wednesday night and finishes today, is attended by the prime minister and his cabinet.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Paris joy turns to thoughts of Brisbane

Canberra Times, Editorials, 09/08/2024, Page 70

It seems ironic that at the same time Australia is enjoying its greatest moment in Olympics history, the institution created to build this kind of success is in need of life-saving investment and repair. The Australian Institute of Sport was a reaction to the national sense of failure after we left the Montreal Olympics in 1976 without a single gold medal.

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Extra steps to improve gender equity

Ballarat Courier, General News, 09/08/2024, Melanie Whelan, Page 4

Even if it be the seemingly simple changes, there is always room to improve gender equity and inclusion in football netball clubs, Sebastopol vice-president John Lyon says. The Kookaburras have been working towards becoming a chartered club with AFL Victoria.

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No bail for Jarrah over allegation of drug possession

Border Mail, General News, 09/08/2024, Albury Court, Page 5

A month after being sentenced for supplying illicit drugs, former top Border footballer Jarrah Maksymow has been arrested for alleged possession of methamphetamine. Maksymow was visibly shaken when his bid to be freed on bail failed earlier this week.

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Scott likes it a lot

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/08/2024, Ben Cameron, Page 5

Geelong Cats coach Chris Scott has welcomed a proposal for a boutique stadium at Kardinia Park, saying it could also potentially be used for junior footy. Scott's endorsement comes after the Addy revealed the City of Greater Geelong's blueprint for the site had been put on hold until after the local government elections.

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Cable sex trial could be pushed back to '26

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 09/08/2024, Rebecca Le May, Page 4

Disgraced AFL "legend" Barry Cable may have to wait until 2026 for his day in court over historic child sex abuse allegations and has again fronted a media pack for one of his preliminary hearings. The Shelley-based 80-year-old had to face Perth Magistrates Court on Thursday for a police committal hearing, so it could not be adjourned by consent.

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Clarko blames lawyers for prolonging racism saga

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 09/08/2024, Page 17

North Melbourne coach Alastair Clarkson claims the "legal eagles" have prevented the long-running Hawthorn racism saga from already being resolved. Documents revealed the statement of claim from the Federal Court case, headlined by former Hawthorn star Cyril Rioli, on Monday.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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

Athletes ready to play ball at inclusion festival

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/08/2024, Sage Swinton, Page 8

The Paralympics may be weeks away, but Newcastle's own athletes with disabilities will be in action from Friday as part of a new sport inclusion festival. City of Newcastle launched the first Count Us In Sport festival on Thursday.

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Bees' royal jelly may ease autism's sting

Australian Financial Review, General News, 09/08/2024, Jill Margo, Page 3

After 10 years of research, Melbourne's Florey Institute has demonstrated a connection between a common chemical in plastic and a form of autism. It has also identified a fatty acid that has the potential "to ameliorate" this adverse chemical impact.

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

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Food packaging link to autism, study reveals

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/08/2024, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 16

A groundbreaking Australian study has linked plastic chemicals that are commonplace in food packaging and widespread in the environment to increased chances of a child developing autism, with the peerreviewed paper coming months before a final round of global talks to curb plastic pollution. The study, published in Nature Communication, found boys exposed to bisphenolA(BPA) chemicals in the womb were 31/2 times more likely to have autism symptoms by age two and six times more likely to be diagnosed by age 11.

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

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Big boost in fight against a global health threat

Canberra Times, General News, 09/08/2024, Page 4

A world-first computer model that can predict when a bacterial infection will stop responding to treatment could offer a much-needed boost in the fight against one of the top global health threats. Some 1.27 million deaths were linked to antimicrobial resistance in 2019, which occurs when bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi stop responding to treatments.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Baby, it's your future

Herald Sun, General News, 09/08/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 7

A new AI tool could help predict a baby's future health issues, such as stroke and heart disease, just from looking at the mother's placenta. Melbourne mums were central to Australia's first pilot study of the tool that was able to assess the health of the placenta from a picture captured immediately after birth on a digital device.

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

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Kids lapping up the sugar

Herald Sun, General News, 09/08/2024, Page 25

Children and adolescents across the globe drank close to a quarter more sugarsweetened beverages in 2018 than in 1990, say US, Canadian and Mexican researchers. A Tufts University team looked at 450 dietary surveys that included commercial or homemade soft drinks, energy drinks, fruit drinks, punches and lemonades but not 100 per cent fruit and vegetable juices and sweetened milk from 118 countries.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Heavy cannabis use ups risk of cancers

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/08/2024, Page 25

US scientists say there is a link between heavy cannabis use and increased risk of head and neck cancers. University of Southern California researchers looked at data for more than four million people, 116,076 of whom had a diagnosed cannabis-related disorder. They found the heavy cannabis users

had an increased risk of all head and neck cancers, as well as oral, nasal, salivary gland, and larynx cancer, compared with a group of similar people from the non-cannabis group.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Hooked on painkillers

West Australian, General News, 09/08/2024, Page 3

One in three people who take painkillers could become addicted, a major analysis has found. The Bristol University study, involving more than 4.3 million adults with chronic pain, found nearly one in 10 prescribed opioids became dependent.

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Norlane baby's battle contributes to scientific breakthrough

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 08/08/2024, Lucy Crock

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 just 26 weeks, weighing in at just 807g, at Mercy Health Days later the bub, known as Atti, was diagnosed with bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD), also known as chronic lung disease.

[Read More](#)

Melbourne study discovers new way to predict chronic lung disease in premature babies

ABC Online, Other, 08/08/2024, Rachel Clayton

Sim Nation was about halfway through her pregnancy when her waters broke. She was raced to Mercy Hospital in Melbourne's west, where she was told her placenta was infected.

[Read More](#)

Popular sugar substitute erythritol linked to increased risk of heart attack, stroke

NEWS.com.au, Other, 09/08/2024, Tsn Flex and Tracy Swartz

Artificial sweetener aspartame is expected to join the World Health Organisation's list of possible human carcinogens. They've soured on this sugar substitute. Consuming foods that contain erythritol, a popular artificial sweetener and common ingredient in keto diet products, increases the risk of heart attack and stroke, a new US study warns.

[Read More](#)

BPA plastic in womb linked to autism, world-first study finds

NEWS.com.au, Other, 08/08/2024, Brielle Burns

Pregnant mothers who gave birth to boys with autism were found to have had higher levels of a plastic chemical commonly used in food packaging in their wombs, according to Aussie scientists in a world-first study. A long-term peer-reviewed study by the Florey Institute in Melbourne found boys with lower levels of a key brain enzyme aromatase and were born to mothers with high levels of the plastic chemical bisphenol A (BPA) in their wombs are three-and-a-half times more likely to have autism symptoms by the age of two.

[Read More](#)

Consider trialling triptans when headaches affect daily activities, neurologist urges

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

Dr Bronwyn Jenkins says patients do not need severe migraine pain to justify a treatment trial. A neurologist is encouraging GPs to consider trialling triptans for headaches that affect day-to-day function even in the absence of "show stopper" migraine symptoms.

[Read More](#)

\$150 million site upgrade to fight AMR

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/08/2024

Pfizer has invested \$150 million to enhance pharmaceutical production in Australia, focusing on new antimicrobial treatments to combat rising antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Victorian Minister for Jobs and Industry, Natalie Hutchins, visited the site to mark the installation of key technology, including lyophilisers, and advanced robotics.

[Read More](#)

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

Researchers from the Murdoch Children's Institute in Melbourne developed a new blood test that can help predict which babies born prematurely may develop chronic lung disease.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 08/08/2024, Peter Mitchell

Researchers at The Florey found a link between autism and children and their mother's exposure to BPA's.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 08/08/2024, Max Futcher

Researchers at QIMR Berghofer are developing a new risk-free treatment where special T-cells are isolated and genetically trained to target aggressive cancers before being injected back into the patient. Other than brain cancer, researchers say the groundbreaking treatment could also treat patients with breast, lung, and prostate cancer, as well as melanoma.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 08/08/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Researchers at QIMR Berghofer have developed a groundbreaking treatment for glioblastoma involving injecting immune cells genetically modified to boost their ability to target the cancer.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

New program for Pacific paediatric teams to help children in palliative care live their best lives

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

A new program for Pacific paediatric teams aims to help children in palliative care live their best lives. A joint venture between Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland's School of Nursing and Te Poutoko Ora a Kiwa, Centre for Global and Pacific Health, will see Pacific clinicians take part in a multi-phase Paediatric Palliative Care programme.

[Read More](#)

Closing The Gap leaves remote communities behind according to new report

West Australian, Other, 08/08/2024, Cain Andrews

Young Aboriginal people living in remote areas have experienced rising rates of suicide and placements in out-of-home care, says a recently released report on Closing The Gap from the Productivity Commission. It comes off the back of preliminary data released by the commission in

February which flagged most of the outcome targets in the Closing The Gap initiative were either not on track or had worsened.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

RSV jab program hits a major milestone in WA

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 09/08/2024, Jake Dietsch, Page 2

In just four months, 20,000 babies in WA have been vaccinated against a highly infectious respiratory virus, in a sign of success for a free new immunisation program. Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson announced the milestone for the rollout of the State Government's nation-leading \$11 million immunisation program for respiratory syncytial virus on Thursday.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Scabies outbreak explained: The symptoms and how to treat it

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/08/2024, Zoe Smith

Multiple outbreaks of scabies have caused chaos at four Australian hospitals, with fears cases of the contagious skin disease will increase. Residents in NSW have been warned to be on the alert after the disease was detected at four hospitals in the Illawarra Shoalhaven area.

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

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WHO issues 'superbug' warning

Medical Forum, Other, 08/08/2024

The World Health Organisation has issued a warning about a superbug, hypervirulent *Klebsiella pneumoniae* sequence type 23 (hyKp ST23), which has been reported in at least one country in all six WHO Regions – including Australia. The WHO said that new *K. pneumoniae* strains have been identified with increasing frequency, are often resistant to last-line (carbapenem) antibiotics, and can cause severe infections, even in healthy individuals.

[Read More](#)

Deadly Legionnaires outbreak contained

Medical Forum, Other, 08/08/2024

With one woman in her 90s and a man in his 60s dead, and another 77 confirmed cases, Victoria's recent incident of Legionnaires disease has become the second largest Australian outbreak on record. Four Victorians died in Melbourne in April 2000 out of 125 confirmed cases.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

TGA issues safety alert for *Garcinia gummi-gutta* in medicines

The Australian, Other, 08/08/2024, Duncan Evans

An ingredient thought to help with weight loss and embedded in a range of medicines and herbal supplements could pose serious liver injury risks, Australia's medicines watchdog has warned. The Therapeutic Goods Administration issued a new safety alert for *Garcinia gummi-gutta* and hydroxycitric acid on Thursday, warning the ingredient, which comes from the *Garcinia* fruit rind, is linked to an increasing number of liver injuries.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

Weight loss supplement linked to liver damage

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

An ingredient used in weight loss supplements has been linked to liver damage and has contributed to one Australian patient requiring a liver transplant. Rind of the tropical fruit *Garcinia gummi-gutta* used in medicines and herbal supplements, became popular amid claims it could speed up weight loss, reduce appetite and boost exercise endurance. But *Garcinia gummi-gutta* and the chemical compound hydroxycitric acid (HCA), found in the skin of the fruit, had been linked to liver injury in rare cases, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said on August 8.

[Read More](#)

Inside Queensland's psychedelic drug trials for PTSD and depression

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/08/2024, Tonya Turner

In an ordinary room at a medical centre in Brisbane, extraordinary things are about to happen. Psychiatrist Anja Kriegeskotten scans the space, describing how it will look once Australia's biggest clinical trial using psychedelics to treat depression starts. [...] Specifically, the psychedelic drugs were downgraded from "prohibited drugs" to "controlled drugs" for treatment-resistant depression (psilocybin) and post-traumatic stress disorder (MDMA) by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, giving new hope to many.

[Read More](#)

The itch that doesn't die: Dapto family's scabies hell

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 09/08/2024, Angela Thompson

Kylie Slawski had never heard of scabies until the mite made hosts of her entire family. Her mother, a regular visitor to the Slawski's Dapto home, was the first to complain of itching as far back as March. [...] Lyclear has been in short supply in Australia for months, prompting the TGA to temporarily approve the supply of another 5% Permethrin cream, Encube.

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

[Read More](#)

Women 'bombarded' on social media by untested claims about menopause products, Senate inquiry hears

ABC Online, Other, 08/08/2024, Isabella Carbone

Women are being targeted on social media with advertising for products purporting to address the symptoms of menopause and perimenopause, a Senate inquiry has heard. But the inquiry has heard product claims are not necessarily "substantiated". [...] Therapeutic products sold in Australia are regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), which uses a two-tiered system.

[Read More](#)

IV supply 'constrained throughout 2024'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/08/2024, Megan Haggan

Pharmacists are calling for local manufacturing to help reduce shortages, as the TGA issues guidance on IV fluids. The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has highlighted the shortage of sodium chloride 0.9% and Hartmann's intravenous fluid bag in different sizes, which it says has been "all over the news" and "we have responded".

[Read More](#)

GLP-1 agonists – the online dealer's drug of choice?

Medical Forum, Other, 08/08/2024

With everything from diabetes to obesity, smoking and CVD positively impacted by using GLP-1 agonists, it is no surprise that online, and sometimes highly questionable sales have surged across here and abroad. [...] Lead author Dr Tim Mackey, from the Global Health Program, said that while genuine patients may struggle to access supplies for diabetes, internet savvy consumers were still able to order supplies quickly and easily, though without the guaranteed quality control that came with TGA or FDA approval.

[Read More](#)

Wegovy available

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/08/2024

Novo Nordisk has a new brand of semaglutide to target weight loss, Wegovy, available in Australia from this month. Semaglutide is the same active ingredient found in Ozempic, a type 2 diabetes treatment, which has been subject to intermittent shortages since 2022. The TGA has published a web statement about the availability of Wegovy, which includes updated advice for prescribing for the drugs Ozempic and Wegovy.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Town's water supply switched after radiation detected

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/08/2024, Jamieson Murphy, Page 4

The drinking water from the Merriwa water supply groundwater bores has shown radiation levels above the national standards. As a precaution, Upper Hunter Shire Council has moved the town's supply to the two groundwater bores with the lowest radioactivity while further investigations take place.

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

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

Hundreds of new homes slated for Williamtown PFAS contamination zone

Newcastle Herald, Other, 08/08/2024, Matthew Kelly

Fullerton Cove has been earmarked for 840 new homes despite remaining part of the It comes four years after local residents shared in a \$132.7 million class action payout from the federal government for loss of value to their land resulting from (PFAS) contamination.

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