



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 12th August 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports the IV fluid shortage has sparked the formation of a response group, announced on Friday by Health Minister Mark Butler, that will coordinate with the AMA and other health bodies to distribute rationed IV bags while searching for alternate global producers to shore up supplies.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that a study into psychological stressors experienced by judicial officers has recommended judges should be tested for PTSD, with the study revealing over a third surveyed reported experiencing moderate to high psychological stress.
- **[The Illawarra Mercury](#)** (page 4) reports that the union representing nurses at Wollongong hospital has applauded the implementation of staffing ratios, but said pay rises will be needed to incentivise the extra recruitment required to combat workforce shortages.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports a number of mental health organisations have called for a mental health support system outside of the NDIS to address a lack of community-based mental health care and staffing shortages across the country.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 7) reports that the Victorian Ambulance Union has said paramedics are being asked to take care of their patients in hospital to deal with staffing shortages, exacerbating already strained ambulance services among continued ramping.

- **The Courier Mail** (page 7) reports that satellite hospitals in Queensland are receiving patients with life-threatening injuries, with Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman saying people were misunderstanding how sick they were rather than mistaking the satellite clinics for emergency departments.
- **The Age** (page 8) reports that the rates of Victorian women giving birth while obese are rising, prompting warnings of increased risks of birth complications and health events for both the mother and baby.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 8) reports that peak medical organisations have criticised pay incentives offered to GPs in urgent care clinics, saying they are diverting doctors from smaller practices. Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinics “don’t replace the role of a normal GP ... GPs tell me that they like the variety of working in urgent care, and many of them do it complementary to their normal GP work”. *Also reported by: Herald Sun, Courier Mail, Adelaide Advertiser*
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 12) reports that a new radiation therapy for breast cancer at Hobart's Icon Cancer Centre has removed the need for tattoos to guide treatment, instead using optical surface tracking to monitor patients.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 12) reports that a NSW parliamentary inquiry into loneliness will look at the causes and effects of loneliness, a growing health issue since the Covid-19 pandemic that has been linked to a number of physical and mental health issues, according to the AIHW.
- **The Guardian** reports that a new insulin that adapts to blood sugar levels in real time has been developed, with experts calling it as close to a cure as exists and a “holy grail”, with a number of researchers in Australia, China and the UK now working on ways to refine the drug to be safe for use.

MINISTER BUTLER

Doctors' plea in IV fluid crisis

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 12/08/2024, James Dowling & Natasha Robinson, Page 3

The Australian Medical Association has expressed deep concern over the national intravenous fluid shortage and is pushing for a co-ordinated response across governments and stakeholders. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Friday announced a response group to monitor the shortfall in saline drip bags, which require specific methods of production.

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GPs' \$3000-a-day lure

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/08/2024, Lachlan Leeming, Page 8

Peak medical groups have hit out at the federal government's Medicare urgent-care clinics, amid fears soaring daily pay packets up to \$3000 in some cases are sucking GPs into the centres and away from other smaller practices. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said there had been more than 600,000 fully bulkbilled visits to urgent-care clinics across the country, and that the facilities "don't replace the role of a normal GP".

Also reported by: Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide), Herald Sun (Melbourne), Courier Mail (Brisbane).

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Pressure intensifies for federal government to deliver on aged care reforms before election

ABC Online, Other, 11/08/2024, Evelyn Manfield

Intense pressure is mounting on the federal government to deliver on promised changes to aged care, as advocates and providers fear the reforms won't be introduced before the next federal election. [...] Caption: Aged Care Minister Mark Butler, centre, says the act is a "once-in-a-generation reform".

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MINISTER WELLS

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Friends in need

Age, General News, 12/08/2024, Stephen Brook & Kishor Napier-Raman, Page 2

Federal parliament is back after a five-week winter break, and with it lobbyists, business chancers and sundry hangers-on will recommence their orbit around Parliament House. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney is also set to address the breakfast, hosted by the co-chairs of the Parliamentary Friends Group Bridget Archer and Andrew Giles.

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

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A 'silence that's always around you': The condition affecting one in four Australians

SBS, Other, 11/08/2024

For Melburnian Peter Gallagher, being diagnosed with a chronic heart condition ten years ago was life-changing, in more ways than one. [...] Australia hasn't followed that lead — although some have called for it to — but the federal parliament does have a Parliamentary Friends of Ending Loneliness group Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney says the government intends to do what it can.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

Health 'disaster' looms as common treatments dwindle across Australia

Perth Now, Other, 11/08/2024, Rachael Ward

When Jane Fletcher went into hospital for routine surgery, she never expected to come out with a superbug and a front-row seat to the "silent pandemic". [...] Federal authorities are looking at different funding models overseas and the government is considering a range of possibilities as part of a wider health review but is yet to respond, a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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ABC Radio Canberra, 12:00 News (Weekend), 11/08/2024

Staff at the Department of Health and Aged Care have voted to change the name of their building in Woden to better recognise First Nations people. The building is being renamed Yaradhang from its current name, Sirius, a reference to the flagship of the first fleet that brought convicts to Australia in 1788. The new name will take effect on 1 September.

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CORONAVIRUS

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Reframe the age of care for a better, sustainable system

West Australian, General News, 12/08/2024, Catherine Stoddart, Page 58

It's time to reconsider how we define ageing and eligibility for aged-care services and have a brave conversation about raising the age eligibility for these services to 70. Ageism still prevails when labelling someone as "old" and by extension, frail and less capable based merely on a number like 65.

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Chaffey's campaign begins with tour of electorate

Daily Liberal, General News, 12/08/2024, Mark Coulton, Page 4

Our Nationals' candidate for Parkes Jamie Chaffey has wasted no time getting out and about in the electorate following his preselection. Last week he joined me and Leader of The Nationals David Littleproud in Dubbo to mark the start of his campaign trail.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Childcare pay rises won't help nation's families one jot

The Australian, General News, 12/08/2024, Nick Cater, Page 11

"Come on, mate," responded Nova's Nathan Morris. [...] An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare survey in 2017 found 79 per cent of children aged 0 to two years had been read or told stories by a parent on three or more days in the previous week, while 44 per cent of them had libraries of between 25 and 100 children's books in their home.

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Ignoring COVID habits? That makes me sick

Age, General News, 12/08/2024, Jenna Price, Page 22

I do not miss COVID lockdowns. I could rarely pinch the cheeks of my middle-aged children or go for a walk on the beach.

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'Silent epidemic' of loneliness leads to inquiry

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/08/2024, Megan Gorrey, Page 12

Hunter Karam was an extrovert with plenty of friends and a job in construction when he noticed he was feeling an uncomfortable emotion he couldn't quite put his finger on while in his early 20s. [...]

Loneliness has been linked to premature death, poor physical and mental health, greater psychological distress and general life dissatisfaction, said the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Home where hurt is

Herald Sun, General News, 12/08/2024, Samantha Landy, Page 21

A third of accidents that require hospitalisation are happening in the home – but almost two in three Australians say no one in their household has learnt first aid. The alarming figures have been released by St John Ambulance Victoria as it pledges to provide more first aid classes in more locations, with the aim of doubling the number of people it trains annually to 300,000.

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

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BCHS calls for help to treat women's pain

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 12/08/2024, Ben Loughran, Page 7

Women's pelvic pain is real and a Bendigo health provider is calling for major reforms to funding and healthcare policy to deal with the crisis. The Bendigo Community Health Service carried out interviews and peer-reviewed research with women in the region experiencing pain with much of the feedback sharing the same theme of health professionals not believing the pain was real.

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Agents operating in haze

Daily Advertiser, General News, 12/08/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 1

More needs to be done in the fight against illegal tobacco and vape operations that are "popping up everywhere", according to Wagga property managers. Real estate agents say they are relying on hearsay, which isn't enough to evict, to find out if dodgy operators are setting up in their tenancies as authorities keep them in the dark.

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Spotlight on neglected period and pelvic pain

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 12/08/2024

As doctors, we need to move away from a surgical approach to period and pelvic pain and instead refocus on validating women's symptoms and giving them back their autonomy. Period and pelvic pain has been recognised by the World Health Organization as a neglected area of women's health.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

No need to get inked

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/08/2024, Sue Bailey, Page 12

Alison Ferguson is pleased she won't have a "tattoo for life" as a reminder of her radiation treatment for breast cancer. Ms Ferguson is one of the first patients using new world-class technology at Hobart's Icon Cancer Centre that eliminates the need for small but permanent tattoos on the chest to guide treatment to the right location.

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Queries on prostate test advice

Cairns Post, General News, 12/08/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 11

Prostate test guidelines are under review and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia is calling for clarity after University of Southern Queensland research showed more than two thirds of men felt the

current guidelines were ineffective. Current advice is for men to talk to their doctors about screening every two years from age 50, and recommends against testing after age 70.

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New move to fast track treatment for Parkinson's and dementia with Lewy bodies

Adelaide Now, Other, 11/08/2024, Clareese Packer

A group of non-profit organisations have banded together in a global approach to fast track Parkinson's and dementia treatment. Parkinson's, a degenerative neurological condition that impacts memory, thinking and movement, is one of the fastest growing neurological conditions in the world.

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Two students at the forefront of the battle to understand the 'enigma' of Endometriosis

ABC Online, Other, 11/08/2024, Claire Moodie

One is a third-year medical student, the other is a hotel manager-turned scientist and together they're on a mission. Akaiti James and Sarah Walsh have endometriosis, a condition which occurs when tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside it.

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Scientists hail 'smart' insulin that responds to changing blood sugar levels in real time

The Guardian, Other, 12/08/2024, Andrew Gregory

Scientists have developed a "holy grail" insulin that responds to changing blood sugar levels in real-time and could revolutionise treatment for millions of people with type 1 diabetes worldwide. Patients currently have to give themselves synthetic insulin up to 10 times a day in order to survive.

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Lauren had a perfectly 'normal' pregnancy. A week after giving birth everything changed

7news.com.au, Other, 11/08/2024

When Maddie was born earlier this year, her mother Lauren Burrough felt blessed after giving birth to a seemingly happy and healthy baby. However, just a week later, Maddie's heart rate was three times faster than it should have been.

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PRIMARY CARE

Grazed and confused

Courier Mail, General News, 12/08/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 7

More and more Queenslanders are mistakenly turning up to the state's satellite hospitals in urgent need of lifesaving care, sparking calls for a major education drive or risk the issue getting worse. The latest Queensland Health data shows 1578 patients with "imminently life-threatening ailments" turned up to satellite hospitals in just three months.

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

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Aussies choosing to go on own terms

When 82-year-old Graham Steel chose to end his life, he wanted two things - to die with his loved ones around him and to enjoy all his favourite little things. The Ballina local was one of more than 130 people who have used new voluntary assisted dying (VAD) procedures since they were introduced in NSW in November.

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Ambos are being used as nurses

Herald Sun, General News, 12/08/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 7

Paramedics warn hospitals are increasingly forcing crews to stay back and care for patients to cover staff and bed shortages, keeping ambulances from responding to triple-0 calls. A peak union has raised the alarm, warning crews are regularly asked to look after their patient once they arrive, including drawing their blood, taking them to the toilet and taking them to X-rays.

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

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Nurses' code yellow

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/08/2024, Simon Mcguire, Page 13

Tasmania's top nursing union has unofficially declared a code yellow at the emergency department of one of the state's major hospitals. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch issued the alert on Friday evening for the Launceston General Hospital emergency department, which has remained in place since.

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

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Surgeries on the rise as health staff work hard

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 12/08/2024, Keith Woods, Page 6

More than 1500 elective surgeries are taking place at Gold Coast hospitals each month as staff continue to cope with extraordinary levels of demand. Quarterly figures released by the state government show a 14 per cent increase in the number of planned surgical procedures conducted by the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services in April, May and June this year compared to the same period last year.

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Ambos, hospital battling

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/08/2024, Alexander Blain And Will Keech, Page 5

A Geelong couple is calling on the state government to step in and help Geelong's beleaguered health service after they waited 10 hours for treatment in the under-siege emergency department. David Ryall was three days into a Vietnam holiday with his wife Jules when he fell ill.

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Call for 'urgent' solutions to meet needs

Border Mail, General News, 12/08/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 4

Albury Council is set to discuss the city's hospital redevelopment in amotion that also calls on state governments to provide "urgent interimsolutions" such as extra beds. Councillor Jess Kellahan will move a notice of motion at the city's meeting tonight, which is likely to be the penultimate gathering of the council before September's local government election.

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

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No faith in system

A North-West woman awaiting open heart surgery says a hospital worker told her to present to the emergency department if she wanted to skip a long waiting list of people also needing the operation. Penguin's Ally Eden has been waiting more than three months for a heart bypass surgery after she was diagnosed with chronic heart disease earlier this year.

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Medicos sound warning

Daily Liberal, General News, 12/08/2024, Allison Hore, Page 1

Airline closures or cutbacks could leave regional centres without access to critical medical services, rural doctors warn. The warning comes after regional airline Rex found itself in financial trouble earlier in August, appointing a voluntary administrator and suspending operations between major cities.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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Geelong needs more

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/08/2024, Page 18

Ambulance after ambulance parked outside Geelong hospital. That was the scene on multiple occasions last week as the emergency vehicles were forced to ramp, the patients inside waiting to be seen by the hospital's under-siege medicos.

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Aussies warned about 'skin-crawling' danger of growing travel trend

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 11/08/2024, Nick Whigham

Flying overseas for a nip and a tuck, dermatological or even dental care can save you thousands of dollars. However Australians are being warned to exercise caution and be aware of the risks of so-called cosmetic tourism amid a reported boom in popularity.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 11/08/2024, Fauziah Ibrahim & Dan Bouchier

South Australia's Ambulance Union claims a man died while waiting five hours for emergency services in Adelaide's northeast last month. The union says a Triple Zero call was made on 10 July and the patient was initially triaged as a priority three. The case was eventually escalated to a priority one, but by the time the crew arrived, the patient had died. In a statement, SA Ambulance confirmed there had been a delay in attending to a patient in a residential aged care facility.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

How a teen went from hopeless to full of hope

Australian Financial Review, General News, 12/08/2024, Julie Hare, Page 8

Adolescence is rarely a high point and often a low point in the scripting of people's lives, but a school-based initiative that links older professionals with teenagers at risk of underperforming or dropping out is delivering praiseworthy results, says h...

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Burden of NDIS debt and illness too much to bear

The Australian, General News, 12/08/2024, Sarah Ison, Page 1

The parents of a 27-year-old NDIS participant with bipolar say their daughter took her life after the disability agency's debt collectors pursued her over \$28,000 in rejected claims, raising questions over whether people with severe mental ill-health should be able to self-manage their plans. Hannah

Friebel, an adjunct professor at Monash University and founder of a Melbourne dance school supporting people with mental illness, was described by friends and family as a "vibrant" young woman with a "colourful connection and energy" that she channelled into her work and advocacy.

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'Stressed judges need tests for PTSD'

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 12/08/2024, Ellie Dudley, Page 3

A third of Australian judges should be tested for PTSD, a study into the psychological distress of the judiciary has suggested, and more than a third turn to alcohol as a way to cope with the stress of the job. The study, commissioned by the NSW Judicial Commission but spanning all Australian judges, revealed judicial officers experience much higher levels of psychological distress than the general population.

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'Give mentally ill own support system'

The Australian, General News, 12/08/2024, Sarah Ison, Page 5

Commonwealth and state governments are facing demands to fund an entirely new system of supports for mental health outside the NDIS, hospitals and primary care worth billions of dollars, as thousands of Australians fall between the gaps with devastating consequences, such as the Bondi Junction tragedy. Ahead of the first meeting of federal and state ministers for health and mental health in years prompted by the killing of six people in Sydney's eastern suburb Bondi by a mentally ill Queensland man in April more than 80 peak organisations have launched a campaign calling on a new "cofunded system of supports" for mental health that would take pressure off overwhelmed GPs and hospitals.

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

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Man shot outside hospital

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 12/08/2024, Samantha Scott, Page 6

The boss of the Queensland Police Union has called for a Royal Commission into mental health following a spate of police shootings amid fears an "entire generation of officers" were being traumatised by health system failures. It comes after a man aged in his 50s allegedly armed with a knife was shot by police outside Kingaroy Hospital's emergency department on Friday night.

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Sean's driving force behind popular initiative

Burnie Advocate, General News, 12/08/2024, Sarah Fittock, Page 2

When Sean Thompson moved to Wynyard five months ago, he quickly noticed the need for mental health support in the community. "When I came down I could see, by just moving around the community," he said.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Rising maternal obesity rates heighten birthing risks

Age, General News, 12/08/2024, Wendy Tuohy, Page 8

More women are giving birth while statistically obese, a trend researchers say could have serious effects on the health of them and their babies. While the debate continues around what constitutes a healthy weight, Deakin University and Western Health researchers have been able to measure since 2009 the body mass index (BMI) of pregnant women in Victoria.

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

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Dedicated funding for miscarriage research a 'game-changer'

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 12/08/2024

Until this year, miscarriage – the most common of all pregnancy complication, which affects one in ten of the world's women – had never been given dedicated federal budget funding. Resilient and dedicated organisations and individuals who work to providing information, psycho-social support, medical services and medical research to the (up to) 150,000 Australian families a year that experience early pregnancy loss (some of them more than once) had faced chronic funding shortages for too long, considering the depth and breadth of people the issue affects.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor fails to over turn ruling over Facebook vaccine post

Border Mail, General News, 12/08/2024, Page 2

A Wangaratta doctor who was cautioned over a Facebook post during the COVID-19 pandemic has failed to overturn the ruling. [...] A complaint was made to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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Instant medical certificates, long term consequences

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 12/08/2024

Procuring online doctor's certificates for work or school has become a widespread practice. [...] It requires a real-time doctor-patient consultation for the doctor to assess the patient, provide any necessary treatment and decide whether a certificate is indicated," a spokesperson for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and the Medical Board of Australia said.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Healthy Harold is back to spread his message

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 12/08/2024, Tegan Guthrie, Page 3

Educational giraffe Healthy Harold will return to Goldfields-Esperance schools this week to encourage children to make healthier, safer choices. Life Ed's iconic mascot will visit the region from Monday to September 6 as part of its initiative celebrating the "Resilience of Country Kids".

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Navigating life beyond the wires

Daily Liberal, General News, 12/08/2024, Ciara Bastow, Page 3

"When you wake up in the morning, you either wake up with a smile on your face or a frown." These words of apprentice powerline worker Naomi Eccleston echo the sentiment of her Essential Energy colleagues taking part in the Life Skills program which provides apprentices with the skills to navigate work, financial, family, and friend-related stresses effectively.

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Older women living alone learn to use power tools to stay independent

ABC Online, Other, 11/08/2024, Gillian Aeria

Tracey Francisco bought a power drill about six months ago, but it sits idle, still in its original packaging. That could change now that she has built a wooden bug motel at a workshop aimed at teaching women how to use power tools.

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SPORT

Please don't scrimp

Herald Sun, Wrap, 12/08/2024, Hayden Johnson & Robert Craddock, Page 52

It's like comparing Godzilla to Wee Willie Winkie. When Brisbane Olympic officials walked into the grandiose Stade de France stadium this week they surely must have felt like sheepishly looking down at their shoes.

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Games costings slammed

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 12/08/2024, Callum Godde, Page 6

A consulting giant hired to crunch the numbers on Victoria's bid for the Commonwealth Games did not scrutinise the supplied costings. A long-running inquiry into the doomed 2026 Games resumed public hearings on Friday.

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Fan 'assaults player'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/08/2024, Ben Cameron, Page 7

North Geelong Football Club will make an official complaint to the GDFL after a parent of a Werribee Centrals player allegedly jumped the fence and assaulted the Magpies' captain on Saturday. Witnesses said the spectator ran on to the field at Galvin Park in the round 17 clash and allegedly assaulted Zac Schwennesen in the second term.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Three cups of coffee a day linked to brain decline that many people experience in old age - but tea may help PREVENT it

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/08/2024, Meike Leonard

Too much coffee can speed up the cognitive decline that many people experience in old age – while tea may help prevent it, a study suggests. Researchers examining data from thousands of Britons found those who drank more than three cups of coffee a day were, years later, more likely to have issues with their memory, reasoning and decision-making skills.

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Multiple sclerosis research grants celebrate outside-the-box ideas

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 12/08/2024

Three new incubator grants on the vanguard of medical research will search for its biological markers, improve social supports, and use AI to predict the progression of multiple sclerosis (MS) Dr Julia Morahan, MS Australia Head of Research, said the organisation awarded grants to Dr Xin Lin (University of Tasmania), Ms Isabelle Weld-Blundell (University of Melbourne) and Dr Dongang Wang (University of Sydney), with a focus on outside-the-box ideas.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Overcoming disparities in hepatocellular carcinoma outcomes in First Nations Australians: a strategic plan for action

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 12/08/2024

Every year, about 1800 Australians die of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), the most common type of primary liver cancer. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia (hereon respectfully referred to as First Nations Australians) are 2.5 times more likely to develop HCC and 1.4 times more likely to die from HCC than non-Indigenous Australians.

[Read More](#)

PM has no idea how to improve marginalised Indigenous People's lives, Jacinta Nampijinpa Price says

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/08/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Opposition spokesperson for Indigenous Australians, Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, says the Labor government has no idea how to improve the lives of First Nations people. The CLP Senator, who has drawn the ire of many Indigenous groups and Land Councils for her calls to abandon Indigenous-led responses to help close the gap, told 2GB's Ben Fordham the Prime Minister didn't have a plan B to the failed Voice referendum.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Spike in flu puts system at limit

Courier Mail, General News, 12/08/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 11

Queensland is on track for its most severe flu season in seven years, with the government set to spend tens of millions of dollars to urgently pump more hospital beds and resources into the health system. It comes as the latest health data shows the number of people hospitalised for the flu in Queensland this year, about 4000, has already eclipsed the whole of 2019, considered one of the state's worst flu seasons on record.

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Hep C out of prison

Courier Mail, General News, 12/08/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 21

Queensland is leading the country in driving hepatitis C out of the state's prisons with a high-intensity

test and treat program. More than 2900 prisoners were tested in the past year and the 430 that tested positive were offered antivirals that can cure the disease within 12 weeks.

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Flu straining system

Cairns Post, General News, 12/08/2024, Arun Singh Mann, Page 11

The Far North's health systems are feeling the pressures of unvaccinated residents as the region rides through a "higher than average" flu season, with reports of patients taking longer than average to recover. Across Queensland, almost 350 patients have been hospitalised with influenza since the start of the year, with nine people currently in hospital in the Cairns and Hinterland region, three in the Torres and Cape, two in the North West and five in Townsville.

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Hospital kid flu cases double

Cairns Post, General News, 12/08/2024, Page 14

The number of young children hospitalised after contracting the flu has more than doubled in the past week in one state. Queensland hospitals treated 28 children under the age of five with influenza last week, 15 more than the week prior.

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These photos look like I was having my dream holiday in Bali. It was anything but - here is my dengue fever warning every Aussie traveller should read

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/08/2024, Ashley Nickel & Brett Lackey

A dance teacher has described how she was left in crippling pain and coughing up blood after catching dengue fever during a 10 day trip to Bali Sydney woman Anjana Chandran, 30, and her partner left for the idyllic holiday island on July 8 to attend a friend's wedding and returned on July 18.

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Babies infected with syphilis are part of a growing tragedy – one that could be easily prevented

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 12/08/2024

Data just published online shows a worrying increase in infectious syphilis cases in women living in Australia aged 15–44 (referred to as "reproductive age") and a subsequent rise in transmission from pregnant parent to child. This is called congenital syphilis.

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‘When, not if’: H5N1 bird flu outbreak could reach Australia this spring, experts warn

The Guardian, Other, 12/08/2024, Aston Brown

Tens of thousands of seabirds swoop and squawk around us but just two come crashing through the canopy. They are providence petrels, summoned by the quavering, high-pitched call of Jack Shick, a birdwatcher and tour guide on Lord Howe Island .

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4BC, Weekends, 11/08/2024, Peter Fegan

Queenslanders are being urged to get a free flu vaccine before the worst of the season arrives. Hospitalisations have doubled in a week and 15 per cent of children in hospital with the virus haven't had a vaccine.

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A treatment on the up

West Australian, Business News, 12/08/2024, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 20

WA patients are among the first in the world to access a new nasal spray treatment for erectile dysfunction, developed by Brisbane-based biotech LTR Pharma that is promising results in just 10 minutes. [...] LTR Pharma founded in 2018 last week revealed Spontan had been prescribed to the first patients by Perth-based Restorative Health Clinic under the Therapeutic Goods Administration special access scheme.

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'Mind-boggling': Victorian health workers decry double standard for lifesaving overdose drug naxolone

The Guardian, Other, 12/08/2024, Adeshola Ore

Richie Goonan knows that when faced with a drug overdose, every second counts. But Goonan, who leads the community health team at the non-profit Youth Projects, says his frontline workers are hampered by a legal risk that slows them down when responding to an overdose.

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Home medical tests are on the rise – but do they really work?

The Guardian, Other, 11/08/2024, Agnes Arnold-Forster

A few years ago, I was in my early 30s, trying to get pregnant for the first time. Every morning I'd take the bus to work and sit, waiting, at the stop just outside my flat, next to a glowing ad for at-home fertility testing.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Harry's future looked bleak. Then he tried psychedelics

SBS, Other, 11/08/2024, Cameron Carr

One "seemingly unimportant" day, when father Ethan and son Harry (not their real names) were out surfing, Harry made a request his dad thought nothing of at the time. "If anything happens to me while I'm out surfing, or any other time, and if I get damaged beyond repair, promise me that you won't try and bring me back," Ethan recalled his son as saying.

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