



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 16th August 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports a global shortage of IV fluids is behind rationing of the vital medical substance in Australian hospitals, the Therapeutic Goods Administration says, but medical and pharmaceutical insiders say bad procurement policy is to blame. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#), [Canberra Times](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports health and mental health ministers from state and territory governments will meet with federal Health Minister Mark Butler Friday to consider the data of a Commonwealth report showing the extent of underservice across Australia's mental health care system.
- The **[Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports birthing services have been paused at Camperdown Hospital in Victoria's southwest to allow for an investigation into a recent "series of unexpected birthing events".
- The **[West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports dental therapists' vacancy rates in West Australia's School Dental Service have tripled over the past year, with a regional clinic saying consequences have been "horrific" for children's oral health.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports the aged care sector has called for a review into the government's visa scheme designed to fast-track international workers into the aged-care

sector amidst revelations only 418 visas have been granted so far.

- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 3) reports more than 1,200 hospital beds in New South Wales are filled by patients awaiting placement in aged care homes or the NDIS.
- **The Australian** (page 10) reports the WHO has declared the rapid spread of Mpox a global health emergency, with director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus saying "a co-ordinated response is essential to save lives". *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [West Australian](#), [ABC Online](#)
- **The Guardian** (online) reports the government has announced an Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry to modernise human tissue laws, the first major review since 1977.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Five reasons health funds shouldn't bail out private hospitals

Australian Financial Review, General News, 16/08/2024, Rachel David, Page 29

The shortsighted arguments of vested interests would just increase costs for those contributing to their own healthcare. Australian health insurance funds, and the money they manage on behalf of their members, are under attack.

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

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### Mentally ill patients not getting assistance

The Australian, General News, 16/08/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

A landmark health meeting will be presented with shocking figures on the number of people with severe psychiatric conditions who are receiving few or no services in the community, as ministers come together to formulate a national response to the nation's growing mental health crisis. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has acknowledged the extent of the under-servicing of some of the nation's most vulnerable citizens and is negotiating a national plan with the states to address the crisis, following decades of neglect of community healthcare.

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

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### IV fluids crisis should not occur in First World nation

The Australian, Editorials, 16/08/2024, Page 12

The shortage of IV saline bags that is causing chaos in hospitals, forcing overdue births to be delayed after pregnancies reach 42 weeks, and jeopardising emergency procedures and operations, defies reason in a First World country. [...] This crisis must be a catalyst for Health Minister Mark Butler to implement a new approach to monitoring supplies and, if necessary, a central coordination of the procurement process.

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

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### Intravenous scandal: the excuses are fluid

The Australian, Other, 15/08/2024, Natasha Robinson and Joanna Panagopoulos

A shortage of intravenous IV fluid bags that is causing chaos in Australian hospitals is being dubbed "the ultimate example of poor procurement policy", as the medicine regulator's claims of a widespread global shortage is contradicted by health authorities around the world. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler.

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### Critical IV fluid shortage forcing extended hospital stays, with doctors warning they are 'in the dark'

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2024, Stephanie Dalzell

Patients are having to stay in hospital care units longer because doctors are rationing IV fluids amid a

worldwide shortage. An internal email sent at one major Sydney hospital on Wednesday night, obtained by the ABC, tells staff there had been instances of patients who had "little or no" IV fluid administered during an operation having to stay in the recovery unit for longer because of hypotension and dehydration. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has convened an urgent response group to look at the shortage, comprised of the states and territories and various health stakeholders.

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## **'Tough journey': Riding the \$800 billion weight-loss wave**

Forbes Australia, Other, 15/08/2024, Anastasia Santoreneos

What does the ex-head of marketing for a mattress company really know about health and weight loss? "I've had that question asked of me often – and heard it with a bit more of a malicious undertone," Tim Doyle, CEO and co-founder of telehealth company Eucalyptus, retorts. "But I'd never built a mattress before, either." [...] Traditionally, compounded medicines have been used as an option when a medicine approved by the TGA is not currently available or prescribed to a patient).

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## **Curvebeam's "weight-bearing CT scanner" to gain more traction after FDA clearance**

Stockhead, Other, 15/08/2024, Eddy Sunarto

Curvebeam's innovative products are revolutionising cone beam CT imaging The company's HiRise offers weight-bearing CT scans directly to a surgeon's office The enhanced HiRise has recently received FDA clearance The medical devices segment can offer appealing opportunities for investors. [...] Flanked by polities including Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, last May BXal opened its own lab in the Sydney suburb of North Ryde, equipped with advanced Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (LCMS) technology.

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

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## **"Next to nothing": the aged care bed drought is real**

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2024

Applications to build stand-alone aged care homes have dried up. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister, Mark Butler told radio this week : "They [the Opposition] have been very constructive at trying to reach a bipartisan position on reform to aged care that leads the aged care sector to build all of the beds that we need, not just now, but particularly over the coming five or 10 years as the large baby boomer population starts to reach the age of residential aged care."

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## **WIN Orange, WIN News Central West, 15/08/2024, Christian Jantzen**

Regional patients will miss out on life-saving surgeries amid a national shortage of IV fluids. The Federal Government established a task force to keep track of the dwindling supply. In a statement, Health Minister Mark Butler said the Federal Government is working with state and territory governments to minimise impacts on patient care.

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## **ABC News, ABC News Day, 15/08/2024, Ros Childs**

A worldwide shortage of IV fluids is forcing patients to stay in hospitals longer than necessary. Doctors are warning that it could impact some elective surgeries more than expected. Health Minister Mark Butler has convened an urgent response group to examine the issue.

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## **ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 15/08/2024, Georgia Styne**

The Australian Medical Association says the federal government must make sure scarce IV fluids are available to the hospitals and surgeries that need them most with Health Minister Mark Butler convening an urgent response group to examine the impact of a global shortage.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 15/08/2024, Steve Austin

The Australian Medical Association says the federal government should ensure scarce IV fluids are available to hospitals and surgeries that need them most. Health Minister Mark Butler has convened an urgent response group to examine the shortage and minimise any impact on patient care.

Similar content in: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).

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## ABC Riverland SA, 07:30 News, 15/08/2024

Doctors claim they're being left in the dark about the extent of IV fluid shortages. Warning some elective surgeries could be impacted. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has convened an urgent response group to look at the shortage.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Raygun was fun, but Olympics were a win for women

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2024, Tanya Plibersek, Page 13

Like so much of the world, I spent a fortnight feeling proud of our athletes at the Olympic Games. From Jessica Fox to Nina Kennedy, it's not hard to assume these athletes are an entirely different species from the rest of us. [...] This year, Minister for Sport Anika Wells announced Play Our Way the largest ever fund for women and girls sporting infrastructure.

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

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### Our city's most influential players

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/08/2024, John Rolfe

Who's on the way up, and who's taken a fall? The Power 100 rates the city's key movers and shakers for 2024. [...] In announcing the choice, federal Sports Minister Anika Wells said: "To carry the flag is the highest recognition of achievement and leadership that can be conferred on any athlete in an Australian sport or multi-sport team."

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### Government's shame: 2,500 people stuck in hospital beds when they should be in aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2024, Caroline Egan

The Australian Government's lack of a response to the recommendations of the Aged Care Taskforce, chaired by its Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells, is diminishing the final days of older people's lives, Catherine Stoddart, the CEO of Western Australian Not For Profit aged care provider Brightwater Care, has written.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Headspace helping hundreds of young people

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 15/08/2024, Page 28

Since opening its doors in 2022, headspace Wyong has provided more than 1,000 sessions to more than 350 young people. Many of the young people accessing headspace Wyong are aged 12-14, just under 40 per cent, and the most common reasons for presentations were sadness, depression, and

anxiety. [...] Member for Dobell and Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, visited headspace Wyong recently to meet with clinical staff and representatives of the Youth Reference Group.

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## Mental health service opens in Muswellbrook

Hunter River Times, Other, 15/08/2024

A much-needed service opened in Muswellbrook when the ribbons were cut at the Muswellbrook Medicare Mental Health Centre. "Medicare Mental Health Centres offer free walk in information, support and care," Emma McBride, assistant minister for mental health and suicide prevention, assistant minister rural and regional health, said at the opening.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### Pain and prejudice

Marie Claire, General News, 01/09/2024, Page 54

Women are more likely to suffer chronic pain but less likely to seek medical help. When they do, they are often dismissed. [...] Ged Kearney, the assistant minister for health and aged care, was a nurse for 20 years before moving into federal politics.

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### Australia's definition of death preventing use of latest organ transplant technology

The Guardian, Other, 15/08/2024, Natasha May

Australia's definition of death is holding organ transplantation back from using the most up-to-date technology and achieving the best outcomes. On Thursday the government will announce it will establish an Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) inquiry looking to modernise human tissue laws last comprehensively reviewed almost 50 years ago. [...] The federal assistant minister for health, Ged Kearney, said she looked forward to considering options for reform as "it's been almost 50 years since Australia's tissue laws were comprehensively reviewed".

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### New report puts forward a treatment plan for the global health menace of fossil fuels

Croakey, Other, 15/08/2024, Melissa Sweet

The health sector has been given a playbook for squarely naming and addressing fossil fuels as a public health threat that is causing a global health emergency. A new report from Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA), released at Parliament House this week in the presence of many MPs, identifies the wide-ranging harms caused by the "extraction, processing, utilisation and waste disposal of fossil fuels". [...] The Assistant Minister for Health and Aged, Care Ged Kearney, who has charge of the National Health and Climate Strategy, hosted the launch.

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### Silverchain launches tool to help home care providers increase uptake of technology

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2024, Caroline Egan

The national home care provider, in partnership with the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI), has launched a first-of-its-kind national framework to help home care providers achieve greater uptake of technology-based services. The ' Framework for Enabling Technology Supported Aged Care at Home ' (FETCH) was launched by the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Ged Kearney MP in Melbourne on Wednesday .

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## ABC News, ABC News Tonight, 15/08/2024, Danny Tran

Health authorities are seeking to reassure Australians after the ABC revealed some patients were staying in hospital care units for longer because of a global shortage of IV fluids. Ged Kearney, Assistant Health Minister, says this is a global shortage and its out of their control.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

### Key committee report into social media delayed over chair change

The Australian, Other, 15/08/2024, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer

A highly-anticipated report on the effects of social media on Australian society has been delayed. The Joint Select Committee on Social Media and Australian Society has been tasked with probing the "influence and impacts" of social networks on Australians amid growing community concerns of wide-ranging corrosive effects. But following the ministerial reshuffle last month, the head of the committee, Labor MP Kate Thwaites has been replaced after being promoted to an assistant minister.

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## DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

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## CORONAVIRUS

### Vaccines need a shot in the arm

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/08/2024, Tayla Couacaud, Page 3

While the Covid pandemic may seem like a distant memory, there are still hundreds of cases officially reported in Queensland every day, while there is every chance thousands more are going unreported. Yet, vaccination hesitancy continues to rise a worrying trend considering the state is experiencing one of its nastiest waves in more than five years, and older and vulnerable people are paying the price.

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### How to tell if it's time for your next COVID-19 booster shot

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/08/2024, Mia Erickson

Four years since the beginning of the pandemic that changed the world, life has largely returned to normal. But, as experts recommend, it's important to remain vigilant with how often we protect ourselves against new strains of the virus. After four long and testing years, there isn't a person on Earth who isn't sick of hearing, reading and talking about COVID-19. The entire media landscape has been consumed by the ongoing devastation and management of the pandemic since it first rocked the world.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

**Labor's aged-care visa scheme flops as only 418 granted in first year**

Fewer than 500 visas have been granted in the first year of a Labor scheme designed to fast-track foreign workers into the aged-care sector, prompting calls for the government to review the program's viability. The information come as the aged-care sector continues to wait on crucial reforms to ensure the industry's financial sustainability, with industry leaders declaring the chance to pass long-awaited legislation before the next election is "slipping through our fingers".

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

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## Hospital bed fiasco is just sick

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2024, Lachlan Leeming, Page 3

More than 1200 NSW hospital beds are being locked up by patients waiting for placements in aged care or the NDIS, with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park taking aim at his federal counterparts over the backlog. The latest figures from NSW Health state there are 538 patients in hospital beds, operated by the state, waiting for an NDIS placement, with a total of 24,033 days spent occupying a hospital bed.

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## Older people's risk of abuse is rising. Can an ad campaign protect them?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 15/08/2024, Joseph Ibrahim

Elder abuse is an emerging public health and safety issue for communities of high-income countries. The most recent data from Australia's National Elder Abuse Prevalence Study , which surveyed 7,000 older people living in the community, found one in six self-reported being a victim of some form of abuse.

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## Is it OK to lie to someone with dementia?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 15/08/2024, Steve MacFarlane

There was disagreement on social media recently after a story was published about an aged care provider creating "fake-away" burgers that mimicked those from a fast-food chain, to a resident living with dementia. The man had such strict food preferences he was refusing to eat anything at meals except a burger from the franchise.

Also reported by: [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

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## New VR dementia education to improve dining experience in aged care

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 15/08/2024, Ted Vr

Dementia Australia has launched an innovative workshop, Dine with Ted (VR) to support care workers to improve the dining experience of people living with dementia. Dine with Ted (VR) uses virtual reality technology and best practice principles to deliver world class dementia education.

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

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## Former Ingenia Communities CEO Simon Owen appointed CEO of rental retirement village operator Eureka Group

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2024, Ian Horswill

Simon, who led two small village operators to being listed in the ASX and took Ingenia Communities from an unloved basket case to a thriving \$1.65 billion sector leader, today said he has returned to the sector "sooner than I expected". Eureka Group Holdings told the ASX this morning that Simon has been appointed Chief Executive Officer from 12 September 2024.

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## Infinite Care buys first Victorian aged care home – less than \$200K per bed

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2024, Caroline Egan

The private aged care operator, which has 17 aged care homes across South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales, has bought its first Victorian aged care home with the purchase of a vacant facility in Windsor, 5km southeast of Melbourne's city centre, for \$11.75 million.

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## **Increased use of external staff for care sends home care profitability to five-year low**

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2024, Caroline Egan

The Federal Government's Financial Report on the Australian Aged Care Sector 2022-23 showed the declining profitability of home care operators. Home care providers recorded an average EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization of \$1,007 per care recipient per day in 2022-23, down from \$1,232 per recipient per day in 2021-22.

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## **BlueCross aged care home fined \$66,000 for heater burn that led to resident's death**

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2024, Caroline Egan

Broadmeadows Magistrates' Court has fined the Melbourne-based aged care provider after it pleaded guilty to a single charge of failing to ensure a safe workplace. In October 2021, a 90-year-old resident at BlueCross in Glenroy, 12km north of Melbourne's CBD, in 2021 who was unable to walk, fell out of his bed, landing with his feet against a hydronic wall heater.

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## **Accenture awarded \$289M - nearly \$400,000 per day - in another Department of Health and Aged Care contract**

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2024, Caroline Egan

The Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care has awarded professional services giant Accenture a \$289.4 million contract to supply staff to ensure aged care digital systems are supported by the Department's permanent workforce throughout the continued rollout of significant aged care reforms, including the New Aged Care Act and Support at Home

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## **Hotels could put up hospital patients waiting for aged care beds: desperate SA Govt**

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2024, Caroline Egan

There are currently 273 patients in South Australian hospitals who have been assessed as ready to be discharged, but are unable to leave hospital due to the unavailability of an aged care bed or suitable accommodation in the community. Of those, 209 have had their ACAT assessment, and are awaiting an aged care bed.

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## **COVID-19 vaccinations double after Janet Anderson's warning to boards of aged care operators**

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2024, Caroline Egan

The increase comes after the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) put aged care providers "on notice" in June, warning them "there is no excuse for any residential aged care service to be under-prepared for COVID-19", and saying they will make unannounced visits to aged care homes that allow vaccination rates to languish.

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## **Younger people with disabilities would be assessed for aged care under Exposure Draft of new Aged Care Act**

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2024, Caroline Egan

The Exposure Draft of the new Aged Care Act contains an exemption for the first time what will allow



people under the age of 65 to be assessed for aged care services. In the "eligibility" rules for an aged care needs assessment, the Exposure Draft states, "The System Governor must not make an eligibility determination for an aged care needs assessment.

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## Aged care regulator lashes industry reforms as 'too slow'

Your Life Choices, Other, 16/08/2024, Brad Lockyer

The body in charge of overseeing the implementation of recommendations from the Aged Care Royal Commission has lashed the government's efforts, saying it is taking "too long" to make critical changes to aged care. The Office of the Inspector General of Aged Care (OIGAC), established in 2023 after being recommended by the royal commission, has released its first report into how the government is tracking on implementing the changes.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Kids' dentist plea to stop the rot

West Australian, General News, 16/08/2024, Jake Dietsch, Page 1

The vacancy rate among dental therapists who check up on school kids has more than trebled in just one year, with a clinic in regional WA saying the consequences for children's oral health have been "horrific". The School Dental Service provides free care for students at Dental Therapy Centres. But it has been revealed following questions in Parliament from Kalgoorlie and Broome-based Liberal MLC Neil Thomson that the program was down 22 staff on average in 2022-2023. Last year it was only down six, and the year before there were no vacancies.

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### Support essential as cancer numbers rise

West Australian, General News, 16/08/2024, Page 8

As many as 209,000 Australians will be diagnosed with cancer in 2034, with health advocates stressing support services must keep pace with the increase. Data released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on Thursday reveal survival and mortality rates have improved dramatically over the decades.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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### Close to home

Shepparton News, General News, 16/08/2024, Page 1

In the wake of Homelessness Week, alarming statistics continue to emerge about the crisis, with family violence pinpointed as one of the leading causes of homelessness, particularly for women and children escaping unsafe homes. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, women might cite 'other' for various reasons that don't necessarily fit into predefined categories.

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### Picnics hosted by Conscious Connections help people feeling lonely form new friendships

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2024, Molly Slattery

Gathered in a leafy inner-city park, 50 young women are sprawled across picnic rugs laughing like lifelong friends. An hour before they were complete strangers with one common problem, they were all sick of feeling lonely. [...] According to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, social isolation and feelings of loneliness jumped after the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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## Is CrossFit pushing people too far?

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2024, Dave Marchese

The CrossFit Games have just wrapped up, but the tournament was overshadowed when a competitor died during an event. Now the community is reeling, and some are turning away from the sport all together.

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## Report into missing and murdered First Nations women

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2024, Brooke Fryer

A two-year inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women will report to Federal parliament today. The inquiry heard repeatedly that government authorities and law enforcement either dismissed or didn't follow up on cases of missing or murdered first nations people. [...] And that's based on data collected by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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## Woman with terminal cancer auctions off time in Sydney living art exhibit for cancer research

7news.com.au, Other, 15/08/2024

'Time is a very valuable thing ... a thing cancer can take away too much of.' "Time is for living in the present." It is a simple message often taken for granted, but what if you could see the minutes of your life slipping away? [...] Making the most of minutes Cancer is the leading cause of death in Australia, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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## 'Bad for you': Car gadget shows act you should never do

NEWS.com.au, Other, 15/08/2024, Brielle Burns

In a now-viral video, US TikTok user Sheldon, who goes by the username @thisdadtiktoks, shared how the HEPA filter in his new Mercedes-Benz "opened his eyes" to the effects of vaping on air quality. "Oh my God, I can't even talk," he said the video, which has wracked up 18 million views. "Do you want proof that vaping is bad for you? Let me show you something."

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## Lack of service and access to rural healthcare causing more hospitalisations

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 15/08/2024

Troubling figures released today show many illnesses among rural, regional and remote Australians could have been prevented or treated better with accessible primary care, thus avoiding the need for hospitalisation. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), many parts of rural Australia have higher rates of potentially preventable hospitalisations, highlighting the need for early interventions and ongoing care, particularly for non-communicable diseases.

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## Channel 10, 10 News First, 15/08/2024, Jennifer Keyte

The battle to stop young people from becoming addicted to vaping products has taken a new direction. With the help of some big-name sporting stars, the "Uncloud" campaign encourages young people to share their experiences in the hope of convincing their peers the habit isn't worth the risk.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 15/08/2024, Ryk Goddard

Interview with Robert Mallett, CEO, Tasmanian Small Business Council. Goddard points out that a business surrender scheme for vaping goods has been launched. Mallett points out that this is similar to what happened in the past wherein they've gotten rid of wholesale sales tax and the Government

then refunded wholesale tax to businesses across the board so they could then add GST to their products.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Cochlear sees huge growth opportunity

The Australian, Business News, 16/08/2024, Cameron England, Page 15

Digitally savvy seniors and an expanding body of research on the benefits of hearing to cognition underpinned Cochlear's huge long-term growth trajectory, CEO Dig Howitt said, as he delivered a set of results that undershot expectations. The annual profit and guidance miss was only modest, however, and Mr Howitt dismissed the sharp fall in the company's share price as the market getting ahead of itself.

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

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### Riding off without expensive surgery

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/08/2024, Kate Aubusson and Liam Mannix, Page 15

Orthopaedic surgeon Christopher Vertullo finds himself regularly talking patients out of having surgery. Roughly one in three people walk into his practice bracing for a grim prognosis: major surgery, thousands of dollars and weeks of recovery, only to be told that they have osteoarthritis and the best thing to do is get moving.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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### Miracle man

Age, General News, 16/08/2024, Carolyn Webb, Page 1

Thinking back to the moments after he accidentally shot a nail into his own heart, it's the pressure more than the pain that Mark Hardeman remembers. While working on a timber wall frame in November, the 62-year-old mistakenly sent the 7.5-centimetre metal projectile into his chest with a nail gun. Hardeman fell to the floor of his home garage in Cheltenham, in Melbourne's south-east, and lay there unable to move.

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### Abbey's stepping up to share epilepsy journey

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 16/08/2024, Anneke De Boer, Page 3

A young Kalgoorlie-Boulder local is using her story as a "helping hand" to others living with epilepsy as she takes on a month-long step challenge to raise awareness and funds. Kalgoorlie-born Abbey Cullen was 19 when she began hallucinating during a movie and suddenly lost consciousness for close to half an hour.

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### Shock find in routine act

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 16/08/2024, Chloe Grimshaw, Page 25

The first time Noosa woman Jo Yates heard of ovarian cancer was when she learned both her ovaries would need to be removed. Now she's on a mission to raise more awareness about the symptoms with young women. Ms Yates was an active 42-year-old when she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer during a routine pap smear, which revealed both her ovaries were riddled with tumours and needed to be removed immediately.

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## Little Ayden needs a hand to get around

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/08/2024, Nikita Mcguire, Page 5

Five-year-old Ayden Wall from Ayr is a testament of strength as he continues to defy the odds, following a diagnosis from doctors saying he was unlikely to survive in the womb while his mum was pregnant with him and his twin sister. "I was coming up (to Townsville) every week because I was high-risk,"she said.

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## Desperate plea to help bring Aussie Yang Yang Chen home after devastating accident in China - as staggering cost for emergency flight is revealed

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/08/2024, Freddy Pawle

The family of an Australian man are pleading for help to pay for his repatriation flights from China where he has been in a coma for over a month. Yang Yang Chen, 34, was about to fly home to Sydney on June 20 after a three-week holiday when a nasty fall left him with severe skull fractures.

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## Canberra Health Services apologises for video that left endometriosis advocates 'appalled'

The Guardian, Other, 15/08/2024, Natasha May

Canberra Health Services has removed a video it acknowledged was "not well executed and open to misinterpretation" after "appalled" advocates of endometriosis accused the government organisation of diminishing the acute pain of people living with endometriosis and arthritis. The video, intended to provide an overview of how emergency departments worked as part of a larger health literacy campaign, has since been deleted from Canberra Health Services' Instagram account. It is still visible on ABC News.

[Read More](#)

## US cancer expert reveals 'every new patient' is under 45

NEWS.com.au, Other, 15/08/2024, Brielle Burns

A cancer doctor has sounded the alarm on a worrying pattern, revealing "every new patient" who comes to his clinic is under the age of 45. Oncologist Dr Nicholas DeVito, from North Carolina's Duke University, said he and his colleague have noticed "too many" young people with cancer are attending their clinic, with Dr Devito drawing a connection with junk food.

[Read More](#)

## NSW mum paralysed in Uganda reveals update on health after flying back to Australia for treatment

7news.com.au, Other, 15/08/2024

An Australian mother left paralysed and twice close to death in Uganda says she is back on her feet and making a slow and steady recovery, even if her future is uncertain. Wave after wave of serious health conditions combined to leave Leah Makanda unable to move and triggered an emergency effort to return her to NSW for specialist treatment.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## How to stop having a heart attack twice

The Senior, Other, 15/08/2024, Eileen Wood

The Heart Foundation has launched a new program aimed at reducing the likelihood of a person experiencing a repeat heart attack or other heart event. After a heart attack , survivors often feel worried, confused or overwhelmed and struggle to find reliable sources of information about their condition and recovery.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### ACT health services 'conserving' IV fluid stock

Canberra Times, General News, 16/08/2024, Bageshri Savvasachi, Page 4

While other state departments have issued safety alerts amid a national shortage of intravenous fluid the ACT has "several" weeks of stock left, health officials said. IV fluids, which contain saline and other additives, are used in medical care to prevent dehydration and maintain blood volume.

Also reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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

### Feds won't buy into squabble, says Ley

Border Mail, General News, 16/08/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 3

Member for Farrer Sussan Ley says no federal health minister would be wanting to enter the "current squabble" surrounding the future of Border hospital services. The former Coalition government health minister was speaking after Indi MP Helen Haines repeated her view the Commonwealth should invest in a new Border hospital and expressed disbelief at Victoria and NSW not pursuing that aim via correspondence.

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

### Lack of cleaning putting patients at risk

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/08/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 4

A lack of cleaning of shared equipment in public hospitals is causing infections that would lead to complications and deaths, a prominent Lake Macquarie academic says. Professor Brett Mitchell oversaw a study, published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal this week, that found "strong evidence that cleaning can save lives".

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

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

### Euroa Hospital under GV Health umbrella

Shepparton News, General News, 16/08/2024, Page 3

Euroa Hospital officially became a campus of Goulburn Valley Health on Monday, August 12. Its role will include providing acute care services to the local community as part of the Victorian public health system. This transition secures long-term hospital services in Euroa, following the successful transfer from former private operator Euroa Health Incorporated to GV Health.

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

### Lawsuit over McLaren Vale Hospital's future hears from Chris Overland

Adelaide Now, Other, 15/08/2024, Sean Fewster

The battle over a closing, debt-ridden hospital became "energised", "unruly" and "unpleasant" as "people's emotions got the better of them" and refused to accept the situation, a court has heard. On Thursday, former McLaren Vale and Districts War Memorial Hospital chair Chris Overland took the witness stand in the Supreme Court as part of a lawsuit over its fate. He denied allegations of "clandestine" behaviour and membership-stacking, made by those opposed to a plan to transfer the hospital's land to an aged care provider.

[Read More](#)

### Black plastic, lack of natural light, points to hospital construction woes

The Border Mail, Other, 15/08/2024, Anthony Bunn

The impact on patients of Albury hospital being an ongoing construction site has been highlighted by the blacking out of windows in a ward during recent work, a nurse says. The proposed redevelopment of the medical hub has been criticised by Albury branch president of the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association Geoffrey Hudson on the grounds it will disrupt patients and carers at the hospital for the next 10 years.

## **Anam Cara House suggests it receives \$2m of Barwon Health's funding to open four public beds**

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 15/08/2024

A private palliative care facility wants \$2m of Barwon Health's funding to open beds for public patients in a bid to reduce ambulance ramping. Victoria's health crisis has continued to worsen in recent weeks with 18 ambulances ramped outside Geelong hospital's emergency department (ED) on August 9. Geelong man David Ryall recently waited for 10 hours to receive treatment at the ED after he fell ill with pneumonia and glandular fever on an overseas holiday.

[Read More](#)

## **Chronic delays sees 56 ambulances ramped, 23 patients kept waiting, union says**

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2024

Ambulance Employees Association (AEA) general secretary Leah Watkins told ABC Radio Adelaide 56 ambulances were ramped outside five public hospitals on Wednesday, with 23 emergency cases in the community "uncovered". She is pleading for an extension of the code yellow at the state's public hospitals, which SA Health says will end on Friday after being in place for more than two months. "There were 17 [ambulances ramped] at Flinders [Medical Centre]; many of them were ramped up to five hours each but some up to seven hours," Ms Watkins said.

[Read More](#)

## **Queenslanders' petition for compassionate assisted dying**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 15/08/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) laws have been passed in all Australian states and territories with the exception of the Northern Territory. Currently VAD availability in Australia is limited to people with a terminal diagnosis, with decision-making capacity and the support of a doctor.

[Read More](#)

## **Call to reform Code for VAD**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/08/2024

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is urging the government to reform the Commonwealth Criminal Code to allow electronic communication in the delivery of voluntary assisted dying (VAD) care (PD 04 Dec 2023). The call follows a Federal Court ruling that telehealth consultations about VAD are illegal.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 15/08/2024, Georgia Styne**

The ACT Branch of the Australian Medical Association says that there's a strategy in place to rotation on intravenous fluids in the ACT amid the national shortage.

[Play Now](#)

## **ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 15/08/2024, Adam Shirley**

Interview with Dr Kerrie Aust, ACT Branch Secretary, AMA. Shirley says IV fluids are a basic, straightforward way a crucial way to treat so many health ailments in an emergency setting and other settings and yet there's a chronic shortage. Aust points out that if they are talking about a national level, then the IV fluid shortages are quite critical. She states that the shortage comes from manufacturing issues on the fluids and an increase in demand.

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## Plea for mental support

Courier Mail, General News, 16/08/2024, Samantha Scott, Taylah Fellows and Iwan Jones, Page 19

Police have increasingly been first responders in mental health crises despite lacking the "skills and knowledge" for the role, an expert says. It comes after Queensland Police Union president Ian Leavers called for a national royal commission into mental health services following the latest spate of police shootings. Mr Leavers said the shootings had "damaged" a generation of police and blamed a breakdown in healthcare.

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## Fighting a rising tide of loneliness

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2024, Alexandra Koster, Page 32

The loneliness epidemic is upon us. We've heard time and time again that loneliness is on the rise among Australians and some of us might even be feeling it ourselves. But in concerning news, new data reveals that a quarter of Australians are persistently lonely. The data, published by Ending Loneliness Together, found that one in four Australian adults have felt this way this year alone.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#).

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## 'Epidemic' needs to be tackled head-on: expert

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/08/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 3

Experts have called for a public health-style campaign and greater investment in mental health to help rein in the epidemic of online harm caused by cyber abuse, trolling and online bullying. Federation University Associate Professor Evita March, who has been working in the field for more than a decade, said recent years had seen a surge in the normalisation of cyber abuse which could lead to potentially disastrous outcomes for victims.

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

## We must act now on youth mental health pandemic

The Australian, Other, 15/08/2024, Patrick McGorry

The Lancet Psychiatry, the world's leading scientific journal covering mental health, has released its eagerly awaited Commission on Youth Mental Health. Assembled over five years by a unique global consortium of clinicians, researchers and young people, and led from Australia, it shines a spotlight on a silent public health crisis that threatens the lives and futures of a whole generation.

[Read More](#)

## Men's mental health: It's time for Australia to shift the system

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/08/2024, Cameron Bayley

A new Movember report reveals worrying stats about male mental health – but also a way forward. Nathan Appo, a proud Mamu man from Innisfail in Queensland with connections to Goreng Goreng and Bundjalung Country, could see his dad was suffering. "He wasn't sleeping, he had very high anxiety, he wasn't leaving his room, and didn't really want to talk to anyone."

[Read More](#)

## Parenting survey reveals overwhelming concern for kids

Parkes Phoenix, Other, 15/08/2024

This National Bullying No Way Week (12th-16th August), Triple P is reminding the community to help children stay safer online and stop cyberbullying before it impacts children. Carol Markie-Dadds, Triple P International Country Director, highlighted the urgency of this issue, noting Triple P's largest-ever survey of parents and carers found 8 out of 10 parents are concerned about keeping children safe from online dangers like cyberbullying.

[Read More](#)

## 'I offended my sister but I don't care - she is ruining her kid's life'

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 15/08/2024, Laura Jackel

"He's reclusive and it's obvious from just looking at him that he's skipping meals." An Aussie woman's desperate plea for advice about her nephew has gone viral after she shared her observations on the AITA Reddit forum. She describes how her sister and husband have a 10-year-old boy who she calls 'Jimothy' that she looks after on occasional weekends and mornings.

[Read More](#)

## **Anthony Albanese's bizarre new rule that could make tax returns a very distressing experience for Aussies becomes the law of the land**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/08/2024, Peter van Onselen

Confusion reigns as the Albanese government's bizarre new laws forcing tax professionals to disclose mental health problems to their clients take effect. The chairman of the Tax Practitioners Board (TPB) - the body that will assess such matters on behalf of the government - has said that mental health 'could possibly be relevant' as a matter for disclosure to clients.

[Read More](#)

## **Liv died from a 'sinister' disorder. This is her grieving dad's message**

7news.com.au, Other, 15/08/2024

'The claws were in so deeply she couldn't see a place to recover.' Sparked by schoolyard bullying and fanned by Instagram. That is how Robb Evans sees his late daughter's battle with anorexia nervosa, which ended in tragedy in April 2023. "The claws were in so deeply she couldn't see a place to recover," he said of his 15-year-old, clutching her urn under his right arm.

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

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## **Kylee will never forget the day she met a woman near the cliff.**

Mamamia, Other, 15/08/2024, Isabella Ross

It was 1997. A clear summer's day in early December. Kylee Dennis was called to a cliff-top spot, where a young woman appeared to be distressed. Kylee and her team had been tasked with trying to save this woman's life. Police Rescue services were on standby metres away. Psychologists were also on-call if needed.

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## **CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE**

### **Hospital bub alert**

Herald Sun, General News, 16/08/2024, Carly Douglas and Sarah Booth, Page 1

Labour and delivery services have been suspended at a regional hospital, pending an investigation into a recent "series of unexpected birthing events". Camperdown Hospital, in the state's southwest, has quietly paused childbirth care, with local mums now forced to travel up to an hour to Warrnambool to give birth and staff shocked by the sudden change.

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### **Westmead Private Hospital nurses to strike August 16**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/08/2024, Joanne Vella

Operating theatres will come to a halt when nurses in Sydney's west strike to fight for better pay and safer staffing ratios from the country's largest private health operator. @Parramatta\_News Parramatta Advertiser Westmead Private Hospital nurses will strike on Friday morning in a fight against "unacceptable pay and conditions" they claim the country's largest private hospital operator has imposed.

[Read More](#)

### **New CEO at ACN**



The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) has appointed Dr Kathryn Zeitz FACN as its new CEO, announced at the ACN National Nursing Forum in Cairns yesterday. Dr Zeitz is a distinguished health administrator, academic, researcher, and nursing leader with extensive experience in the healthcare sector and commitment to patient-centred care.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Premier to snub ambos probe

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/08/2024, Shannon Deery and Alex White, Page 5

Premier Jacinta Allan says she will refuse to appear before a parliamentary inquiry into the state's crisis-riddled ambulance service. The Victorian upper house this week voted for the Legal and Social Issues Committee to investigate core issues impacting Ambulance Victoria, including major concerns over workplace culture, paramedics working conditions, issues with dispatch and hospital ramping.

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### Evandale clinic eyes expansion after successful year

Launceston Examiner, General News, 16/08/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 2

With multiple regions across the North and North- West crying out for rural doctors, one clinic in Evandale is making a difference in its first year. Dr Vasuki Annamalai opened Evandale General Practice one year ago with her husband Darren Bowkett - a nurse at the clinic - and two receptionists.

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### Changes add to GP crisis

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 16/08/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 1

A recent survey reveals one in four GP clinics in our region aren't taking on new patients and nearly half are struggling financially. The "General Practice Viability" survey contacted 217 general practice businesses across northern NSW from February to March and was run by the Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network (PHN).

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### Future doctors get taste for rural life

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 16/08/2024, Phoebe Doyle, Page 6

Medical students from four universities gathered in Mildura this week for an inaugural event seeking to promote collaboration within rural education and practice. Known as the tri state muster, the first of a kind event was hosted by Monash Rural Health Mildura and the University of Sydney's Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health.

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### The moment Jim closed his eyes – and exposed Ambulance Victoria's 'festering sore'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/08/2024, Jewel Topsfield and Henrietta Cook

Veteran paramedic Jim Avard had been working for 18½ hours when he fell asleep at the wheel. His shift started at 7am on June 26. He was about to knock off when he was dispatched from Wangaratta Hospital to a job in Corowa, almost 50 kilometres away.

[Read More](#)

### GP shortage to hit 4600 within the decade, govt predicts

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/08/2024

Supply by both FTE and by headcount is already lower than demand in meeting patients' health needs, report shows. Australia will be around 4600 GPs short of meeting patients' health needs by 2033, even

assuming that 90% of GP training places are filled, the government's workforce analysis suggests.

[Read More](#)

## **Payroll tax: Do governments know how many GP practices will be hit?**

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/08/2024

Apparently, it's a tough question. Accountants call it an existential threat to general practice, yet chief ministers say it will have little impact. In the six-year GP payroll tax saga that has dogged every jurisdiction bar WA, there has remained a missing piece. How many practices pay enough in GP 'wages' to enter the payroll tax firing line?

[Read More](#)

## **Are doctors and illicit drugs an innately dangerous mix? This GP says no**

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/08/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Professor Moira Sim treated a patient who used heroin once a year. She says people can use drugs 'in a controlled way'. Should regularly using illicit drugs away from work automatically disqualify you from practising medicine? Some argue that doctors using recreational drugs hurts the medical profession's reputation, reflects poorly on their risk analysis and will affect their work eventually.

[Read More](#)

## **Wipe uni debt for rural pharmacists**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/08/2024

Governments at both state and federal levels need to collaborate to address Australia's rural health workforce crisis, a National Party MP says.

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## **TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS**

### **Tom Elliott supports the idea of subsidising weight loss drug Ozempic**

3AW, Other, 15/08/2024, Tom Elliott

There has been a push for new effective weight loss drugs such as Ozempic to be on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Tom Elliot supports the idea to subsidise Ozempic, as willpower and self-control seems to not work at times.

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### **3AW, Mornings, 15/08/2024, Tom Elliott**

Elliott mentions a text that suggests that they should put weight-loss drugs like Ozempic under the PBS and that it should be subsidised by the Government.

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## **MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH**

### **Health apps**

Daily Mercury, General News, 16/08/2024, Page 11

Health and fitness apps pack a real punch when it comes to getting results, University of South Australia researchers say. They found that digital health tools including mobile apps, websites, and text messages can significantly improve health and wellbeing by keeping a person active, boosting steps, and improving both diet and sleep.

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## Period products to be classified as 'lifestyle related' like vapes and gaming consoles under NDIS plan

The Guardian, Other, 16/08/2024, Stephanie Convery

The federal government has proposed excluding period products from the National Disability Insurance Scheme despite recent research suggesting 78% of people with disability who menstruate cannot afford them. In August, seeking feedback, the government released a draft list of items it proposed to exclude from NDIS coverage in an attempt to cut spending on the scheme by \$27.

[Read More](#)

## Sports med one step closer to higher rebates

The Medical Republic, Other, 15/08/2024, Holly Payne

MRAC is reconsidering whether to allow fellowed sports doctors to bill group A4 MBS items. Sport and exercise physicians may finally catch a break, as the government considers whether to reclassify them as consultant physicians rather than specialists.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Dumped in the deep end: Locum doctor 'too junior' to manage toddler who later died of meningitis

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/08/2024, Carmel Sparke

It was his first time at the hospital yet his induction lasted possibly just minutes, coroner says. Just minutes into his first shift, following a hasty introduction to a rural hospital's ED, a locum doctor diagnosed Noah Souvatzis with gastroenteritis. Two days later, the toddler died of bacterial meningitis.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Curtin spearheads national genetic registry

Medical Forum, Other, 15/08/2024

Curtin University's Professor John Olynyk has played a leading role in establishing a new national patient registry launched in Federal Parliament, which could help improve the lives of Australians living with haemochromatosis. Curtin Medical School's Associate Dean, Professor Olynyk, was part of a collaboration of healthcare professionals who worked with Haemochromatosis Australia, the peak patient advocacy group for those who suffer with this disease, to develop the registry.

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## SPORT

### Three bookmakers back jersey ad bans

Australian Financial Review, General News, 16/08/2024, Sam Buckingham-Jones and Ronald Mizen, Page 1

Three of Australia's biggest betting companies have called for a ban on wagering logos appearing on jerseys and signs around fields in live sport, conceding they make no sense alongside a blanket blackout on television advertising. Sportsbet, Point...

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

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## Mitchell to front Rabbitohs board

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/08/2024, Jessica Mcsweeney, Page 1

It was meant to be a weekend of meeting fans and supporting local Indigenous footy, but instead Latrell Mitchell's visit to Dubbo will be remembered for a notorious "white powder" photograph. The NRL yesterday formally issued Mitchell with a breach notice after an integrity unit investigation over the picture of the Rabbitohs star leaning over a table in a Dubbo hotel room near what appeared to be a white substance. Mitchell has five days to respond.

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## AOC furious over anti-Raygun petition

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/08/2024, Billie Eder, Page 6

The Australian Olympic Committee has labelled a petition, which accuses breaking athlete Rachael Gunn of manipulating the Olympic selection, "vexatious" and "misleading" after it received more than 45,000 signatures, and videos endorsing the claims began circulating online. Gunn, 36, who competes under the moniker Raygun, has been the subject of criticism and ridicule after receiving a score of zero for her routine, which included moves imitating a kangaroo.

*Also reported by:* [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#)

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## Aker calls for Gabba rebuild

Courier Mail, General News, 16/08/2024, Taylah Fellows and Callum Dick, Page 1

Lions legend Jason Akermanis has called on the state government to transform the Gabba into the centrepiece of the 2032 Games. Report P13 'Get on with the Gabba' AFL great's Olympics call A Lions AFL hall of famer has called on the state government to stop wasting time and fork out whatever funds are necessary to transform the Gabba into the centrepiece of the 2032 Games.

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## Our Devils winning support in Canberra

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/08/2024, Simon McGuire, Page 3

It is an event held for the past decade but, for the first time, Tasmania was invited to the party. The annual Parliamentary Friends of the AFL event took place in Canberra this week with representatives of the Tasmania Football Club (TFC) in attendance.

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## Sting of rejection for NT side

Northern Territory News, General News, 16/08/2024, Page 1

A major sporting body is exploring options abroad after their application to join Australia's premier hockey competition was turned down. The Territory Stingers' bid to become a Hockey One League expansion club in 2025 has been rejected, despite strong backing. However, Hockey NT is now in discussions with international associations to provide a pathway for talented Territory players.

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## Major parties make big investments into NT sport

Northern Territory News, General News, 16/08/2024, Nathaniel Chambers, Page 22

The clp has promised a big investment for NT Cricket to help increase Indigenous and female participation in the sport. Cricket is one of the biggest sports worldwide and is among the dominant codes locally during the Dry Season, with the Top End Series currently in full swing. Opposition leader Lia Finocchiaro has made a \$500,000 per year commitment to the sport to support a team of fulltime First Nations Cricket development officers.

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## MMA not a 'game'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/08/2024, Brendan Bradford, Page 1

Toowoomba's Tom 'Big Train' Nolan is among a host of Aussie and New Zealand UFC stars who believe there is no place for mixed martial arts at the Olympic Games. With the Paris Games wrapping up last weekend, debate MMA fighters do not want Olympic battles The majority of the biggest UFC stars from Australia and New Zealand believe mixed martial arts doesn't belong at the Olympics.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Putting the sting on mozzies

Army News, General News, 15/08/2024, Marina Power, Page 13

Not all superheroes wear capes - some wear safety glasses, white coats and carry insect repellent. There are more than 300 species of mosquitoes in Australia, and about 50 of them are capable of transmitting disease to humans, leading to significant illness and, in some cases, death. Mosquitoes are the focus of the Australian Defence Force Malaria and Infectious Disease Institute.

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### Melbourne scientists make world-first discovery to slow the effects of ageing

9News, Other, 15/08/2024

Melbourne scientists have made a world-first discovery to tap into the body's fountain of youth and slow the effects of ageing. Researchers from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) found that scar tissue is acting as a defect and compromising the function of the thymus organ, which fights disease.

[Read More](#)

### Handbasin hygiene

Medical Forum, Other, 15/08/2024

For all those who use paper towels to open the door and turn the handles in public bathrooms, new research from Flinders University may justify people's germophobia. A new study has found that handbasins are hotspots for dangerous microbes that can cause illnesses including pneumonia, Legionnaires' disease, and wound infections, with basin biofilms containing a diverse range of pathogens including microbes typically found both in and out of water.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### 'Too many deaths'

Cairns Post, General News, 16/08/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 1

First Nations leaders have called for a radical overhaul of healthcare in Cape York and the Torres Strait. Frustrated mayors are lobbying the state government to de-merge a major service and say preventable deaths and a lack of culturally-appropriate care has been a major concern for years.

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### Health services reveal dire state of remote facilities ahead of 2024 NT election

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2024, Matt Garrick and Lillian Rangiah

Health services are appealing to the NT's major parties ahead of the upcoming election on August 24, calling for upgraded equipment and infrastructure. Doctors treating patients in clinic corridors, specialists working from shipping containers, rusted beds and electrical cords dangling from the ceiling.

The NT's remote health services say aging facilities and staff accommodation is having a dire impact on the territory's healthcare system.

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

[Read More](#)

## Change Em Ways addresses Inter-generational trauma

West Australian, Other, 15/08/2024, Natasha Clark Broome

A lot of men coming through the Change Em Ways program express that they are violent because their father was, according to the program's cultural guidance worker Nelson Bieundurry. The Change Em Ways program is delivered by Men's Outreach Services Aboriginal Corporation (MOSAC) in Broome, offers myriad intensive workshop sessions followed by outreach support to break patterns of family and domestic violence and foster healthy family units.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 15/08/2024, Rick Hind

Interview with Dr Michael Binks, Senior Research Fellow, Menzies School of Health Research. Hind points out that Menzies is researching how Vitamin D could help reduce respiratory infections in the first month of a baby's life. He states that the trial will be conducted among Indigenous Australian children. Binks says Vitamin D is known for its role in calcium metabolism and bone health.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 15/08/2024, Adam Steer

Interview with John Paterson, Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance Northern Territory, about the lack of upkeep in medical services in remote areas. Paterson points out that according to a survey they've launched, nine of 11 medical services do not believe they have sufficient resources provided by the Government to maintain their facilities.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 15/08/2024, Adam Steer

Ageing and poorly maintained health clinics in the remote parts of the Northern Territory are compounding the pressures on the already strained Northern Territory health sector, according to Aboriginal peak bodies.

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# INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

## WHO says Mpox now worldwide emergency

The Australian, International News, 16/08/2024, Nicholas Bariyo, Page 10

The rapid spread of Mpox in Africa constitutes an international health emergency, the World Health Organisation has said, marking the second time in two years that the virus has triggered such an emergency declaration by the UN agency. Cases of Mpox, which is transmitted through close physical contact, including sexual intercourse, have been surging in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the virus is circulating in several camps for displaced people in the country's troubled east.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Medical Forum \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Restrictions ease after bird flu outbreak

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/08/2024, Adamspencer, Page 2

Restrictions on the movement of some birds in the Meredith area have been eased, following an avian influenza outbreak in Victoria. A poultry housing requirement was put in place after highly pathogenic H7N3 strain of the virus was detected at seven properties close to Meredith in May, with detections of the H7N9 strain in the Terang area.

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## Girl, 4, among Qld's horror flu death toll

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/08/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 13

A four-year-old girl is one of 72 Queenslanders who have lost their lives to the flu so far this year, with data showing mums and dads also among the tragic toll and hospitalisations are already 1000 above the horror flu year of 2019.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Department of Health issues measles alert after traveller from Europe returns to State, see exposure locations

West Australian, Other, 15/08/2024, Lauren Price

West Australians are being warned to "be aware" of the risk of measles after a traveller from Europe returned with a confirmed case of the disease. The Department of Health issued the alert on Thursday, saying the traveller had visited several public venues in the Perth metro area while infected between the period of August 6 and August 11.

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## Child in serious condition amid meningococcal B outbreak in Yarrabah community near Cairns

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2024, Holly Richardson and Christopher Testa

A child is in a serious condition in intensive care with meningococcal disease amid an outbreak in a Far North Queensland community. Two cases of meningococcal B have been detected in Yarrabah, an Indigenous community near Cairns, with authorities on the lookout for more infections. Contact tracing has begun with close contacts of the infected children to be given antibiotics.

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

[Read More](#)

## Gonorrhoea getting more drug-resistant and 'may become untreatable'

The Guardian, Other, 15/08/2024, Andrew Gregory

Rise in super-strength cases in England reaches highest level since records began, UKHSA says  
Gonorrhoea is becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics, and could be untreatable in the future, health officials have warned as a report reveals a rise in super-strength cases in England.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 15/08/2024, Georgie Gardner

The number of flu cases in NSW has dropped by 15% in the past week, although cases remain at a high level. The latest health data also shows COVID cases declining now at a low level.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/08/2024, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

The World Health Organisation has declared the Mpox virus a public health Emergency of International Concern, the highest level of alarm under international law. AMA's Steve Robson says while Australian Mpox cases are locally acquired, the situation is volatile.

## 4BC, Drive, 15/08/2024, Peter Gleeson

Experts warn it's not too late to get vaccinated. With the flu season yet to peak in Queensland, just 10% of the 4000 people hospitalised with influenza this year.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Southern Queensland, Breakfast , 15/08/2024, David Iliffe

The Federal Health Department says it is monitoring the rise of Mpox in Australia and overseas. Mpox is a virus spread through close personal contact, including sexual contact. A total of 237 cases have been detected so far this year, a steep increase from the 144 cases recorded when it was first detected in Australia in 2022.

Similar content in: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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# THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

## IV scandal: excuses are fluid

The Australian, General News, 16/08/2024, Natasha Robinson and Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 1

A shortage of intravenous IV fluid bags that is causing chaos in Australian hospitals is being dubbed "the ultimate example of poor procurement policy", as the medicine regulator's claims of a widespread global shortage is contradicted by health authorities around the world. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration is insisting that there is a global shortage of IV fluids such as saline "due to global supply limitations, unexpected increases in demand and manufacturing capacity constraints".

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

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## ASX Health Stocks: PYC to start trials for rare eye disease; OncoSil device successful in tumour removal

The Australian, Other, 15/08/2024, Eddy Sunarto

Pyc Therapeutics (asx:pyc) has received approval to start human trials for its new drug candidate, PYC-001, targeting Autosomal Dominant Optic Atrophy (ADOA), a rare and blinding eye disease. The company has already notified the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and plans to begin these trials in Australia this quarter.

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## Vape crackdown continues

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/08/2024

Thousands of vaping devices have been seized by authorities over the last seven days as part of the Taskforce Morpheus campaign. A coordinated series of inspections by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the Australian Border Force's Illicit Tobacco...

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## 'Tough journey': Riding the \$800 billion weight-loss wave

Forbes Australia, Other, 15/08/2024, Anastasia Santoreneos

What does the ex-head of marketing for a mattress company really know about health and weight loss? "I've had that question asked of me often – and heard it with a bit more of a malicious undertone," Tim Doyle, CEO and co-founder of telehealth company Eucalyptus, retorts. "But I'd never built a mattress before, either." [...] Traditionally, compounded medicines have been used as an option when a medicine approved by the TGA is not currently available or prescribed to a patient).

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## Fractures emerge in pharmacy care plan

Medical Forum, Other, 15/08/2024

The WA Government has announced a commitment to expand the role of pharmacists in treating a range of health conditions including shingles, acne, dermatitis, musculoskeletal pain and inflammation, nausea and vomiting, and wound management. [...] "The Therapeutic Goods Administration determines the rules for medicines to protect the health of Australians and has transparent processes in place for safety," she said.

[Read More](#)

## Australia urged to take action in response to new mpox emergency

NEWS.com.au, Other, 15/08/2024, Frank Chung

Australia has been urged to step up its screening of travellers entering the country amid growing concern about "the most dangerous strain yet" of mpox, which health experts say is increasingly spreading via everyday touch rather than sexual contact. The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday declared the mpox surge in Africa a global public health emergency, sounding its highest possible alarm over the worsening situation.

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

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### False health claims against baby food and not meeting WHO standards

SBS, Other, 15/08/2024, Omoh Bello

Babies and toddlers may be missing out on the nutritional value needed for healthy growth because some baby foods in Australia don't meet W-H-O standards. Many baby food companies put fake labels on their products, misleading parents and caregivers into believing that their products are healthy.

Also reported by: [Medical Forum \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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## AICIS

### 'We don't count': West fumes at toxic fires

Age, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 16/08/2024, Cara Waters, Page 8

Sheridan Rose Shaw thought she'd picked the ideal spot to open her beauty salon in Footscray until the old Kinnears factory next door caught fire twice in the past month. "I was just terrified that the fire was literally coming for us," she said.

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### Check on outback weapon testing

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/08/2024, Paul Starick, Page 6

Weapons testing laws at the world's biggest land-based range at Woomera, in South Australia's outback, will be reviewed. Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles has ordered the review of Woomera Prohibited Area laws, governing access to the 122,000sq km site, 500km northwest of Adelaide.

## Survivor says effects of nuclear tests still linger

Northern Territory News, General News, 16/08/2024, Gera Kazakov, Page 22

A grandmother who's also a nuclear test survivor told the Red Centre how the effects of nuclear weapons are still being felt, saying how her great-granddaughter died of "genetic complications" after being alive for one day. Kokatha elder Sue Haseldine spoke at the fifth Yami Lester memorial address, held in Alice Springs on Saturday, August 10.

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## Major research breakthrough in the removal of PFAS from water systems

Newcastle Herald, Other, 15/08/2024, Matthew Kelly

Scientists have developed a new catalyst system that can break down per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances more efficiently than previous methods. PFAS, a so-called "forever chemical", was the primary ingredient in fire fighting foam used at defence bases, including RAAF Base Williamtown, for decades.

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