



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 18th August 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 1) reports that an investigation has been ordered into why a pregnant mother at Toowoomba Base Hospital was told there were no NICU cots available in the state before losing her baby in the womb two days later, despite Queensland Health since saying there were beds available.
- **[The Sunday Tasmanian](#)** (page 3) reports that new data suggests 33 per cent of Tasmanians will be living alone by 2046, with over half of those aged 65 or over, leading for the Council on the Ageing Tasmania to call for housing solutions that can support an ageing and increasingly isolated population.
- **[The Sunday Canberra Times](#)** (page 4) reports that a spokesperson for Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has said daily talks are continuing with the Coalition to ensure the Aged Care Act is passed as soon as possible, with pressure mounting to pass the legislation before Parliament breaks for the year in eight weeks.
- **[The Sunday Mail Adelaide](#)** (page 4) reports that the AEC is declining to comment on whether nominees for the ANMF SA had their nominations blocked by the union, although branch secretary nominee Emma Smith says she was told an executive meeting was held where all three were ruled as ineligible by the Commission.

- [The Sunday Herald Sun](#) (page 9) reports that a rise in ADHD diagnoses in recent PBS data shows an almost 300 per cent increase in the last decade, with RANZCP president Dr Elizabeth Moore saying increasing awareness has led to more patients presenting for assessment. *Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#), [Sunday Tasmanian](#)*
- [The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#) (page 10) reports that a proposal has been put forward for a private-public partnership to build a \$6 billion mega precinct centred around an Olympic Stadium on a 150 hectare site at Northshore, which would also include a shopping precinct, hotel and athletes village.

MINISTER BUTLER

Three Maitland nonagenarians honoured for lifelong contributions

Newcastle Weekly, Other, 17/08/2024, Meta Time &, Rod Thompson

Three deserving nonagenarians have been acknowledged for their lifelong contributions to the Maitland community. [...] Jacqueline is a patient advocate for the foundation, presenting on TV, radio, a panel hosted by Ita Buttrose, addressing politicians, including Mark Butler and receiving an invitation to morning tea at Government House to meet Governor General The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO.

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MINISTER WELLS

'They'll be stuck': MPs losing patience on aged care reform

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 18/08/2024, Eleanor Campbell, Page 4

Aged care advocates and MPs have grown increasingly frustrated over secrecy and delays shrouding reforms that are hoped to transform how people are cared for at the end of their lives. [...] A spokesperson for Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said "daily" discussions with the Coalition were under way to ensure the government "gets it right."

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Boost to research

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Edition Changes, 18/08/2024, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 27

Seven key Queensland health projects will share funding under a \$15.8m boost from the federal government. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said the Albanese government's contribution will support the research industry and help save lives.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Lone households on rise

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 18/08/2024, Sue Bailey, Page 3

One third of Tasmanian households are projected to be living alone by 2046 prompting calls for more suitable housing for an ageing population. Leading demographer Lisa Denny says recent Australian Bureau of Statistics household and family data points to Tasmania having the lowest proportion of family households and the highest proportion of lone person households in Australia.

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Analysis Is it OK to lie to someone with dementia?

ABC Online, Other, 17/08/2024, 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 a particular franchise.

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POPULATION HEALTH

A sight to behold

Sunday Times, General News, 18/08/2024, Bethany Hiatt, Page 18

Eyes are known as the windows to the soul but with the help of ground-breaking artificial intelligence tools being pioneered in WA's Pilbara, they can also provide a window to people's health. Aiming to save people's lives as well as their sight, a team from Lions Outback Vision is travelling the outback in a van to provide screening checks using Australia's first hand-held retinal camera with AI integration.

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

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Woman who survived ovarian cancer hopes future early detection tests will save lives

ABC Online, Other, 17/08/2024

When Queensland woman Jo Yates started needing the toilet more often and feeling overly full after eating, she thought it might be due to a change in her diet. [...] An estimated 1,050 women died from ovarian cancer last year, according to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

'The uptake has been incredible': Rural women flocking to new pregnancy service

The Mercury, Other, 17/08/2024, Daneka Hill

A travelling obstetrician and sonographer with a portable ultrasound machine, a wifi dongle and a tiny, chartered airplane has spent the last year testing a novel approach to rural women's health – and it's working. Right now Townsville's Dr Cecelia O'Brien is travelling monthly to remote Aboriginal communities of Palm Island, Mornington Island, Doomadgee and the rural towns of Karumba, Burketown and Normanton.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

'Hole in bucket' heart failure

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 18/08/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 20

Adelaide researchers are investigating a "hole in the bucket" theory to explain why people with diabetes have an increased risk of heart failure and what can be done to combat it. The concept suggests leaky blood micro-vessels are the culprit, and that a standard treatment may result in vessels being leakier than ever.

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'Getting sick made me drop that ego': The reinvention of Michael Klim

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 17/08/2024, Luke Benedictus

The swimmer stands calmly on the bottom of the pool, dressed in Speedos. Behind the goggles, his face is as impassive as a Greek sculpture, his torso cast in heavy shadows that fail to obscure the rippling might of the shoulders and arms that taper into clenched fists.

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PRIMARY CARE

The last of more than 2 million patients leaves emergency

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 18/08/2024, Jasper Lindell, Page 14

By noon, just one patient was left in the Canberra Hospital's old emergency department. And they were about to move out, too.

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Credit threat

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 18/08/2024, Shannon Deery & James Campbell, Page 1

Victoria is at risk of a record low credit rating if it pushes ahead with the \$34.5bn Suburban Rail Loop, damaging the state's finances and hitting taxpayers with an even greater debt bill. Global ratings giant Standard & Poors warned the state's credit rating could be slashed if the Allan government pressed on with the SRL without federal funding.

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Baby Benson never given a chance

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 18/08/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

A young pregnant mum in early labour claims she was told there were no neonatal intensive care beds critical to her premature baby's chances of surviving available anywhere in Queensland. Two days

later, tiny Benson Leslie died in his mother's womb.

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

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ADHD finally has attention

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 18/08/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 9

The rising number of ADHD diagnoses is likely to continue, as growing awareness sees people who once "fell through the cracks" get answers to lifelong symptoms. The jump in formal diagnoses should not be mistaken for an actual increase in ADHD's prevalence, multiple experts say, and is instead a correction of decades of under-diagnoses.

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

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Why primary health care access is vital for remote and rural Tasmanian communities

The Mercury, Other, 17/08/2024, Stephanie Dalton

According to new data, rural and regional Tasmanians are up to 2.11 times more likely to prematurely die from heart, stroke and vascular disease than their metropolitan counterparts. The latest Royal Flying Doctor Service Best for the Bush report found that poorer health outcomes, such as heart disease, went hand in hand with limited access to primary health services.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

From Carrie Bickmore to Jackie 'O' Henderson: Aussie stars who have been open about their mental health struggles after ABC star Nate Byrne suffered a panic attack on live TV

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/08/2024, Stephen Bisset

The topic of mental health has been in the spotlight this week after ABC star Nate Byrne suffered a panic attack on live TV. The News Breakfast weather presenter was forced to halt his report in the middle of Tuesday morning's broadcast after suffering a panic attack.

[Read More](#)

Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists NT Chair calls for funding to bolster staff

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/08/2024, Zizi Averill

Doctors on the frontline of the Northern Territory's mental health crisis have called for urgent funding to boost their workforce and provide support to more people in need. The latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data has revealed the Territory has the lowest number of psychiatrists in the country, with only 11 psychiatrists per 100,000 people.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Job market mismatch hits regions

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 18/08/2024, Rachel Riley, Page 21

Regional Australia has the largest gap in job vacancies and demand, with nurses, teachers and mechanics among the occupations most needed. But a lack of affordable housing is stifling the ability of workers to move to regions where their skills are desired.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#).

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AEC coy on union election claims

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 18/08/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 4

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is refusing to confirm or deny claims several candidates in election for positions on the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation SA branch had their nominations blocked as ineligible by the union. The AEC, whose core business is to conduct fair elections, refused to comment on claims it had to hold an executive meeting to consider the nominations that then ruled them as eligible.

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

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50 Years of blood, sweat and overtime

Sunday Times, General News, 18/08/2024, Gabrielle Becerra Mellet, Page 25

On the worst days of our lives, they are the ones caring for us and in the midst of a global pandemic, they're the ones working overtime. Nurses are the unsung heroes of healthcare and their position in the medical world and education sector has endured an evolution.

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Sexism an ongoing burden for Victoria's female paramedics

ABC Online, Other, 17/08/2024, Sarah Buchecker

As she assisted a man with a broken leg needing medical attention, paramedic Sandra Tozer was confronted by a stark reminder that women were looked at differently in society. On finding out that Ms Tozer was driving the ambulance transporting him to a healthcare facility, the patient jumped out of the ambulance and refused to re-enter until a man drove.

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The issue with healthcare in the bush for family with high medical needs

The Mercury, Other, 17/08/2024, Chris Burns

For a Hughenden family with a three-year-old son with high medical needs, the biggest issue with health services in the bush is the turnover of staff. Because each time they bring their son Conall, who has a very rare genetic disorder called Gould Syndrome, into the local hospital it seems to father Hugh Westcott they have to reintroduce his complicated and lengthy medical history for the doctor to learn about.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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'Burnt out' and 'undervalued': MP backs nurses, midwives' push for pay

fix

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 17/08/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf

Wagga nurses and midwives have made an emotional plea for better pay, with their voices heard in state parliament this week as the sector ramps up negotiations with the Minns government. The NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) are demanding a 15 per cent increase in pay in a year, while the government has offered 10.5 per cent over three years.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

New model to give clubs and kids a sporting chance

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 18/08/2024, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 5

A fundamental rethink of the approach being taken to keep young people in sport or get them back playing is urgently needed, SA researchers say. They have devised a "first of its kind" model that aims to do just that and it is garnering interest across the globe as concerns around screen-time use, rates of obesity and mental health issues among children and young people grow.

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Young US worker with silicosis needs lung transplant to live as Australia's ban on engineered stone comes into effect

7news.com.au, Other, 17/08/2024

The choice to use artificial stone slabs for kitchen benchtops and the like could be contributing to an emerging health risk, experts have warned. Silicosis, a condition characterised by irreversible lung damage, primarily affects workers who cut engineered stone, a joint investigation by the NBC4 I-Team and Telemundo 52 Investiga revealed.

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SPORT

Sporting heroes and big biz back arena

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Edition Changes, 18/08/2024, Greg Stolz Taylah Fellows, Page 10

Two of the state's top businessmen have joined leading sports stars in backing a bold plan for a privately-funded Olympic stadium on the Brisbane River as part of a \$6bn mega precinct. Events king Harvey Lister and Howard Smith Wharves boss Luke Fraser have applauded the proposal for a new 60,000-seat waterfront stadium on the Northshore site between Hamilton and Eagle Farm.

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Cricket pitch a disaster warning

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 18/08/2024, Greg Stolz & Brendan O'Malley, Page 11

Cricket Queensland bosses have called on the state's politicians to be bold about building a new Brisbane stadium, with fears for the sport's future if "innovative" options aren't explored. As Cricket Australia today officially confirms that for the first time in 50 years the Gabba will not host a Test match in 2026-27, it has called for a "definitive commitment" on a new fit-for-purpose stadium.

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Stadium is Olympic gold

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 18/08/2024, Page 70

The proposal for an iconic \$6bn stadium and precinct at Northshore at Hamilton for the 2032 Olympics and beyond is a game-changer, because it shows what is possible when the risk-averse politicians are not involved. The Olympic dream of an entire state stands to be reignited by a renowned group of architects and engineers who want to transform that part of the Brisbane River into a world-class Olympic precinct.

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Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 17/08/2024, Chris Bath

A bold idea has been put forward which would see a new stadium built on the banks of the Brisbane River for the 2032 Olympics. A team of architects, engineers and planning experts has proposed building a 60,000-seat stadium, along with a hotel and an athletes village, mostly funded by the private sector.

Also reported by: West Digital Television (Albany)

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4BC, Weekends, 17/08/2024, Peter Fegan

An Olympic, mega precinct with a 60 000 seat over water stadium will be built on the Brisbane River in a bold \$6 billion proposal that would be privately funded and not cost taxpayers an extra cent. A group of globally renowned architects, including a firm that's behind some of the world's best stadiums, has put forward the plan to transform Brisbane's north shore into a one stop Olympic precinct in time for the 2032 Olympic Games.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Weekend Breakfast, 17/08/2024, Olympia Kwitowski

A global group has put forward an idea for a mega overwater stadium on the Brisbane River for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics. A large structure with a stadium in the middle taking over a section of the Brisbane River would be privately funded if the state government hands over the 150 hectare site.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Apps are earning healthy respect

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 18/08/2024, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 12

Digital health tools such as mobile apps, websites and text messages really can boost health and wellbeing, new Adelaide research shows. The Uni SA researchers looked at how and if health and fitness apps could impact people's health.

More babies underweight and pre-term after floods: study

Sun Herald, General News, 18/08/2024, Mary Ward, Page 18

Babies born early and at a lower weight followed catastrophic Australian floods, a new study has found, as doctors raise concerns about the impact of climate change on pregnant women. The researchers found mothers who likely experienced a flood incident in the six months leading up to their pregnancy had higher rates of low birth weight for babies born full-term, and babies being small for their gestational age.

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Meet five inspiring South Australian scientists to watch tackling how endometriosis is diagnosed and how men think about sperm

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/08/2024, Brad Crouch

From a PhD student on a mission to reduce the time it takes to receive an endometriosis diagnosis to a male fertility specialist changing the way we think about sperm, South Australia is home to many inspiring research scientist. Alison Deslandes and Dr Nicole McPherson are among five inspiring women at different stages of their careers with a message for young women considering a career in medical research which can be summed up as: "Go for it!"

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

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Why Australians live longer than other English-speaking countries

The New Daily, Other, 17/08/2024, Imma Perfetto Health

New research comparing life expectancies across six English-speaking countries reveals Australian women live nearly four years, and men nearly five years, longer than their American counterparts. According to the study published in BMJ Open, Australians have the greatest life expectancies at birth compared to people in Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the US.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Retiring bush GP thanks telehealth and tech for extending a colourful 50-year career

ABC Online, Other, 17/08/2024, Giulia Bertoglio

Dr Toby McLeay's love and respect for traditional bush life attracted him to the desert but it was new technology and innovation that allowed him to keep working there for almost 50 years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised this article may contain images and voices of people who have died.

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The mental health gap that's killing Aboriginal men

Canberra Times, Other, 17/08/2024, Nyk Carnsew

Nathan Appo's father is his "best mate". But when his dad fell into depression, he felt shut out of his life.

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

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We have to stop kidding ourselves with dud data on Closing the Gap

Surely this time there will be someone in the federal government or the upper echelons of the Commonwealth public service who will address the obvious question asked by First Nations peoples - why does progress with Closing the Gap continue to be so limited? What policies and services would have to be done for the goals and targets to be achieved and what would it cost?

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Mpox alert widens

Sunday Times, International News, 18/08/2024, Page 39

Health officials have ordered doctors to look out for cases of mpox as a deadly strain was confirmed to have reached Europe. The World Health Organisation declared a global health emergency its highest alert after an outbreak in Africa.

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Mpox jab need urgent, says WHO

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 18/08/2024, Page 24

The World Health Organisation has urged manufacturers to ramp up production of mpox vaccines to slow the spread of a more dangerous strain of the virus. The WHO this week declared the mpox surge a public health emergency of international concern its highest alert level with Clade 1b cases soaring in the Democratic Republic of Congo and spreading beyond its borders.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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Young US worker with silicosis needs lung transplant to live as Australia's ban on engineered stone comes into effect

7news.com.au, Other, 17/08/2024

The choice to use artificial stone slabs for kitchen benchtops and the like could be contributing to an emerging health risk, experts have warned. Silicosis, a condition characterised by irreversible lung damage, primarily affects workers who cut engineered stone, a joint investigation by the NBC4 I-Team and Telemundo 52 Investiga revealed.

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Whole of Australia impacted by 'perfect storm' this flu season

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/08/2024, Nathan Schmidt

Millions of Australians are bracing for a "perfect storm" this flu season with one sunny state on the brink of a seven year record-breaking high in hospitalisations. More than 270,000 cases of influenza have been confirmed from the start of the year until August 2, according to government data compiled by the Immunisation Coalition.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Urgent warning about return of dormant killer diseases as vaccination fatigue takes hold during 'perfect storm' of sickness

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/08/2024, Nathan Schmidt, Nca Newswire & Pdraig Collins

Medical experts have warned of the potentially fatal return of dormant diseases, with Australia in the midst of a 'perfect storm' of illness and 'vaccination fatigue' across the country. Vaccination rates are so low in some areas that killer conditions such as polio, tetanus and whooping cough could make a shocking and fearful return.

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Friends, lend me your ears

Sunday Times, General News, 18/08/2024, Ben Harvey, Page 24

Here's the good news about today's column: if you make it to the end, you will discover you may be eligible for a nifty little device that might just change your life.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 17/08/2024, Johanna Nicholson & Fauziah Ibrahim

Interview with Dr Daisy Cole, George Institute for Global Health. Ibrahim says new research released this week has found more than three-quarters of baby food sold in Australian supermarkets is failing to meet nutritional guidelines set by the World Health Organisation. Cole points out that they have looked at over 300 packaged foods designed and marketed for infants and toddlers.

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

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