



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 20th August 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)
| [Coronavirus](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports medical sector leaders have rejected government claims supply shortages are easing, saying Australia's lack of manufacturing and dependence on commercial interests has exacerbated the problem. *Also reported by:* [Sky News](#)
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 1) reports PFAS chemicals were detected for the first time in low levels across Sydney's drinking water catchments in June, new data from Sydney Water has shown.
- The **Canberra Times** (page 1) reports a range of everyday items made from plastic carry a 95 per cent chance of seriously harming human health, a world-first study by Plastics and Human Health at the Munderoo Foundation has found. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#).
- The **Herald Sun** (page 1) reports Victoria needs an extra 8,500 blood donors within the next seven days to help deal with high demand, Australian Red Cross Lifeblood says, with the organisation on Monday rating supplies of O and A negative blood types as "very low".
- The **Courier Mail** (page 1) reports over 11,000 Queensland students are being home-schooled due to high levels of bullying and admission issues for children with neurodivergence.

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 2) reports aged care directors would no longer be criminally liable for failing to provide essential care standards after the government gave ground to the Coalition amidst ongoing negotiations over sector reform. *Also reported by:* [The Age](#)
- [The Australian](#) (page 4) reports that NDIS service providers have called for the government to pause scheme reforms, saying they could be forced to cut services if they pass parliament in their current form.
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 4) reports Tasmania's nurses and midwives will begin industrial action 7am Tuesday, including working to rule and reporting on staffing levels, in protest of what they said were unreasonable workloads and "dangerous" clinical conditions.
- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports people with rare cancers face lower quality of care than other patients, risking late diagnosis and lack of access to specialists, due to a lack of awareness among oncologists, a report from Rare Cancers Australia says.

MINISTER BUTLER

IV crisis: morphine now low

The Australian, General News, 20/08/2024, Stephen Rice and Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Supplies of several crucial medicines are running short around the nation, including morphine products vital to ease the suffering of palliative care patients, as some medical specialists reject claims by the nation's health ministers that the shortage of IV fluids which has thrown hospitals into chaos is easing. [...] The Australian has obtained correspondence showing Health Minister Mark Butler was warned nine months ago that palliative care patients were in danger of losing access to vital opioid analgesic medicines, particularly liquid morphine, but it appears no effective action was taken.

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

Patients with rare cancers feel abandoned by health system

The Australian, General News, 20/08/2024, James Dowling, Page 7

New research reveals those with rare cancers receive a lower quality of care than other patients, despite recent breakthroughs. The five-year survival rate among rare and uncommon cancers, at 62 per cent and 45 per cent respectively, is far below the 77 per cent common cancer survival rate, as shown by a report from advocacy body Rare Cancers Australia. [...] On Monday she received the Jeannie Ferris Cancer Australia Recognition Award from Health Minister Mark Butler, honouring her work.

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

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'Gaslighting': federal government's bulk-billing narrative exposed

Newcastle Herald, Other, 19/08/2024, Damon Cronshaw

The average out-of-pocket cost for Hunter patients to see a GP has risen by 58 per cent in a decade, Medicare data shows. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said this was "the largest investment in bulk-billing in Medicare's 40-year history".

[Read More](#)

Shadow health minister Anne Ruston blasts Albanese government for inaction on major IV fluid shortages smashing hospitals

Sky News Australia, Other, 19/08/2024, Gemma Crotty

Shadow health minister Anne Ruston has slammed the Albanese government as a major IV crisis threatens to cripple hospitals until at least the end of the year. Healthcare providers are paying as much as ten times the normal price to import intravenous fluid bags into the nation.

[Read More](#)

The Zap: the latest developments in health and aged care, plus a comprehensive list of consultations not to miss

People in western Queensland are far more likely to experience a potentially preventable hospitalisation than people living in the north Sydney region, according to new data highlighting stark health inequalities. The column this week also examines the laws governing organ and tissue donation, aged care matters, a vision for hospital pharmacy, calls to action for the next Northern Territory Government, and suggests that Health and Mental Health Ministers have failed to address the sector's call for serious action to improve access to supports and care.

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Imminent aged care reforms to increase costs for wealthier Australians

Inside Ageing, Other, 19/08/2024, Amy Clarke

As reported by the AFR , the government is expected to release long-awaited reforms within a week, requiring individuals with greater financial means to contribute more to their aged care. [...] These reforms initially planned for the May budget, have been delayed as the government, led by Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler, negotiates with the Coalition.

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Feds knew about IV fluid shortage a year ago: Ruston

The Medical Republic, Other, 19/08/2024, Cate Swannell

The federal government knew a year ago that a shortage of IV fluid was a possibility, according to opposition health spokesperson Senator Anne Ruston, as Friday's health ministers' meeting promised continue monitoring the situation. [...] Senator Ruston said Health Minister Mark Butler "must immediately stand up and assure Australians that their federal government is guaranteeing our supply of these critical fluids".

[Read More](#)

Better Access: no point gatekeeping if there's nothing on the other side

The Medical Republic, Other, 19/08/2024, Laura Woodrow

It's taken over 18 months but the federal government has finally released its response to the independent evaluation of the Better Access scheme, with one expert saying it was time for "serious commitment" and no more "snakes and ladders". [...] In early 2023, the health minister Mark Butler halved the subsidised sessions.

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Kate Vines gives 'heartfelt thanks'

Pharma In Focus, Other, 19/08/2024

Rare Cancers Australia (RCA) co-founder, Kate Vines, has been honoured for her contribution to the cancer sector, receiving the 2024 Jeannie Ferris Award. The award, established by Cancer Australia in 2013 recognises outstanding achievements in improving equity of outcomes for Australians affected by cancer and was presented to Vines by Health Minister, Mark Butler, at a ceremony this morning at Parliament House.

[Read More](#)

Seven Orange, Seven Local News, 19/08/2024, Nick Hose

Pressure is mounting on the federal government to support an incentive scheme for GPs to work in rural areas. A recent program by the Royal Australian College of GPs, which offered up to \$45,000 and relocation assistance, successfully encouraged over 150 doctors to move to remote locations. Health Minister Mark Butler confirms that rebuilding general practice is a top priority for the government.

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4BC, Drive, 19/08/2024, Peter Gleeson

Interview with retired Navy Reserve Lieutenant Commander John Boland and Professor Jeff Dunn, Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, on delayed access to life-saving prostate cancer medications in Australia not listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Boland shares his personal experience with expensive lutetium therapy in his fight against cancer. Dunn calls for Minister Mark Butler to

streamline the lengthy approval process for such drugs under the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

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2CC, Breakfast, 19/08/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Professor Steve Robson, President, Australian Medical Association, on the IV fluids shortage. Robson says it is due to transport issues, increased global demand, and manufacturing challenges. He praises Minister Mark Butler's government's task force for addressing the issue but stresses the need for improved supply planning.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 19/08/2024, Adam Shirley

Interview with ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith on the opening of a new hospital facility and the IV fluids shortage. Stephen-Smith says that while rationing of fluids is in place, patient safety remains a priority. She says the ACT currently does not face critical interruptions in services. She notes the national response group, led by Health Minister Mark Butler, is addressing the issue.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).

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MINISTER WELLS

Labor backs down, aged care deal in sight

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 20/08/2024, David Crowe, Page 2

Labor has given ground in hardfought talks with the Coalition to overhaul aged care services for hundreds of thousands of older Australians, clearing a key obstacle towards a new regime that asks wealthier people to pay more for their care. [...] The concession removes one of the sticking points in the negotiations between Aged Care Minister Anika Wells and her Coalition counterpart, Liberal senator Anne Ruston, on a broader deal on the funding overhaul.

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

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

Govt. funds targeted research into infection prevention

Aged Care Insite, Other, 19/08/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Healthcare-associated infections are the most common hospital-acquired complication in Australia, leading to readmissions, poorer patient outcomes and increased emotional and financial burden. Older Australians and those living in residential aged care are at a heightened risk of infection. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the health care sector must be proactive when addressing the risk of infection for vulnerable Australians.

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Funding to update guidelines for dementia care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 19/08/2024, Stefanie Schultz

In a bid to remodel best-practice principles for dementia care, the Albanese government will inject \$1.3 million into the development of updated Clinical Practice Guidelines and Principles of Care for People with Dementia. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said it is the government's priority that the Australian healthcare system remains at the forefront of dementia care and this funding will ensure clinical practice guidelines stay current and effective, reflecting best practice principles and the latest medical evidence.

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Fears aged care reforms will be sidelined until after federal election

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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Imminent aged care reforms to increase costs for wealthier Australians

Inside Ageing, Other, 19/08/2024, Amy Clarke

As reported by the AFR, the government is expected to release long-awaited reforms within a week, requiring individuals with greater financial means to contribute more to their aged care. [...] These reforms initially planned for the May budget, have been delayed as the government, led by Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler, negotiates with the Coalition.

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ABC, 7:30, 19/08/2024, Sarah Ferguson

Report by Hagar Cohen on criticism of the aged care facility star rating system. Shaz Campbell recalls her mother's death after developing sepsis due to severe neglect, a month before Aged Care Minister Anika Wells announced the star rating system for nursing homes. Former compliance officer Rodney Jilek calls the system 'deceptive' as it often rates non-compliant homes highly. Wells' department has stated that the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission oversees the monitoring of aged care homes, with Aged Care Commissioner Janet Anderson defending the star rating as accurate and reliable.

Report continues on: [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#).

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ABC News, Breakfast, 19/08/2024, Thomas Oriti

ABC investigative reporter Hagar Cohen reports on the flaws in Australia's aged care star rating system. Cohen says non-compliant homes receive high ratings as the system does not always adjust ratings based on compliance. She says the Aged Care Act, recommended by the Royal Commission three years ago, has not yet been introduced into Parliament. She notes Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells has not provided a clear timeline for its introduction.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Headspace Kiama opened

949 Power FM, Other, 19/08/2024, Peter Andrea

Young people on the NSW South Coast now have access to free mental health care and support with the establishment of a new headspace service in Kiama. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride said the Albanese Government was meeting growing need by expanding and enhancing the headspace network, which offers wrap around mental health support and care.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

'Silent killer': \$15.8m for breakthrough medical research to save lives

Northern Territory News, Other, 18/08/2024, Mikaela Mulveney

Ovarian cancer, diabetes, maternal health, OCD and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health will be

targeted with a \$15.8m investment in medical research in Queensland. Professor Carlos Salomon said this research was eight years in the making. [...] 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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The Zap: the latest developments in health and aged care, plus a comprehensive list of consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 19/08/2024, Melissa Sweet

People in western Queensland are far more likely to experience a potentially preventable hospitalisation than people living in the north Sydney region, according to new data highlighting stark health inequalities. The column this week also examines the laws governing organ and tissue donation, aged care matters, a vision for hospital pharmacy, calls to action for the next Northern Territory Government, and suggests that Health and Mental Health Ministers have failed to address the sector's call for serious action to improve access to supports and care.

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Australian Government Invests \$56.5 Million in Midwifery Care

HealthTimes, Other, 19/08/2024, Rahima Saikal

The Australian Government is set to enhance maternal care with a significant investment in midwifery. As part of the 2024-25 Budget , \$56.5 million will be allocated to expand the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) , improving access to flexible and high-quality midwifery care. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney MP, highlighted the benefits of a continuous, woman-centered care model.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

Triple M Coffs Coast, Moffee for Breakfast, 19/08/2024, Michael Moffett

Interview with Assistant Minister for Social Security, Ageing, and Women Kate Thwaites on Equal Pay Day. Thwaites says women earn about \$0.89 for every dollar a man makes, translating to a weekly pay gap of approximately \$230. She says the gender pay gap has recently decreased to 11.5% due to government initiatives like increasing wages in female-dominated sectors such as aged care and early childhood education.

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hit WA, Breakfast, 19/08/2024, Robbie and Carly

Interview with Kate Thwaites, Assistant Minister for Women, on Equal Pay Day and the 11.5% gender pay gap. Thwaites says that women, on average, must work 50 extra days each year to earn the same as their male counterparts. She notes that while progress has been made, such as increased wages in female-dominated sectors like aged care and childcare, more work is needed.

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DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

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CORONAVIRUS

Long COVID led to \$9.6bn hit to productivity

Canberra Times, General News, 20/08/2024, Sam Mckeith, Page 12

More than 1 million Australians who contracted long COVID at the height of the pandemic cost the national economy almost \$10 billion in lost productivity. Academics from the Australian National University, University of NSW and Melbourne University found around 100 million labour hours were lost in 2022 due to adults with the condition being unable to work or cutting hours.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Brookfield's Aveo sells SA portfolio before \$3.5b auction

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 20/08/2024, Page 16

Canadian giant Brookfield has agreed on terms to sell Aveo's South Australian portfolio to the Uniting Church, before a \$3.5 billion-plus auction for the broader business. Street Talk can reveal that Brookfield and Uniting Church signed a deal at the week...

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [The Weekly Source \(Online\)](#).

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Isolation another burden for those with dementia

The Australian, General News, 20/08/2024, Stephen Lunn, Page 7

People living with dementia are routinely avoided by people they know and left out of family and social gatherings, new data shows. And many become increasingly isolated from friends and family who no longer keep in touch with them as they once did, it finds. Using data from more than 1000 carers, family and friends of someone either living with dementia or who has died from it, the Ipsos poll finds 36 per cent say the person with dementia is never or rarely invited to social functions, and a similar proportion is often or always avoided by people they know.

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

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Protecting the protectors

The Nightly, General News, 19/08/2024, Nick Bruining, Page 23

How to prevent accusations of elder abuse being levelled against those trusted with an enduring power of attorney to manage the affairs of older people It is a question directed to lawyers and financial advisers when someone is charged with looking after the affairs of another: "Exactly what can I do with an enduring power of attorney and at what point do I run the risk of being accused of elder abuse?" Fortunately, some forward planning on the part of the donor can protect against elder abuse, while providing the flexibility needed.

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Call for unpaid carers to speak up

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 20/08/2024, Page 15

Australia's unpaid carers have been urged to speak up about their experiences to help shape a national strategy. Consultation has opened on a federal government discussion paper for carers to suggest what can be done to provide better support and services. It's estimated more than three million Australians are unpaid carers, which represents almost 12 per cent of households nationwide.

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Industry leaders say developers need 'bonuses' to spur retirement village construction in SA

Adelaide Now, Other, 19/08/2024, Brad Crouch

The state's planning system for retirement village developments tops the nation, as a "silver tsunami" of retirees looks at their future housing options. However, industry leaders say much more is needed including "significant zoning or development bonuses" to encourage retirement village developments "akin to those given to social and affordable housing".

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Aged ratings

ABC Online, Other, 19/08/2024, Hagar Cohen

Aged care experts say the sector's in bad shape and a much-anticipated Aged Care Act recommended three years ago in the Aged Care Royal Commission still hasn't been introduced into federal parliament. On top of that, a recent government performance review found worrying rates of neglect and abuse in nursing homes.

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

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How art can boost the well-being of aged care residents living with dementia

HelloCare, Other, 19/08/2024, Jakob Neeland

Art, design principles and neuroscientific insights can come together to create aged care spaces that improve the wellbeing of residents living with dementia by stimulating their sense of "beauty and wonder", says artist Sharron Tancred. The founder and creative director of Brisbane-based Tailored Artworks has pioneered utilising art and design for dementia-friendly environments, transforming dozens of aged care homes around Australia, and is a speaker at International Dementia Conference 2024 in Sydney, September 5-6.

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Aged care home that failed all 8 standards had a 5-star rating

HelloCare, Other, 19/08/2024, Jakob Neeland

Australia's aged care star-rating system was initially touted as a one-stop-shop for prospective aged care residents looking to compare the quality of competing residential care services. However, despite promises of increased transparency for the general public, an upcoming story on the 7.30 report is set to shatter the illusion. Dr Rodney Jilek, Managing Director of Community Home Australia and a seasoned aged care consultant with 30 years of experience, has been outspoken about the serious shortcomings of the current rating system.

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Older people could die sooner as rural health services starved

The Senior, Other, 19/08/2024, Hazel Bradley

Four years working in outback Australia have left GP Dr Sonia Henry in awe of the country's beauty, but also angry "A lot of older people in remote areas can't afford to leave or don't want to leave and their life may actually end sooner because they can't access the same kind of care as their metropolitan counterparts," she said.

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Why Fire and Rescue NSW is visiting retirement villages and lifestyle communities throughout the State

The Weekly Source, Other, 19/08/2024, Ian Horswill

Life-saving advice about the dangers of fire to try and help protect seniors comes after 11 people have died in residential fires in NSW this winter, three of them aged in their seventies. "Of the 58 people killed in residential fires across the state over the past five winters, at least 18 or 31% were aged over 65, 46% aged 50 and over, prompting FRNSW to step up efforts to protect those among our most vulnerable," said the NSW Government agency in a statement on 16 August.

Channel 10, 10 News First, 19/08/2024, Hugh Riminton

Australia is struggling to accommodate its aging population, with retirement village projects facing significant delays. The Property Council of Australia reports that two-thirds of development applications are taking over a year to be assessed.

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ABC Radio Canberra, AM, 19/08/2024, Sabra Lane

Report by Hagar Cohen. The Aged Care Act, recommended three years ago by the Aged Care Royal Commission, has yet to be introduced into federal parliament. A recent government performance review also revealed concerning rates of neglect and abuse in nursing homes. The Albanese government's star rating system, designed to enhance transparency, has been criticised by a former compliance officer Rodney Jilek as deceptive. Rodney Reed, whose wife received care under the Charles Brownlow facility, says his wife was neglected and developed sepsis in a highly-rated nursing home.

Also reported by: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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Radio National, AM, 19/08/2024, Sabra Lane

Interview with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on ongoing reforms in gambling legislation, NDIS, and aged care. Albanese notes ongoing efforts to reform aged care in response to the Royal Commission's recommendations. He says significant changes have already been implemented, such as ensuring 24/7 nursing in 99% of facilities and increasing care minutes by 3.6 million daily.

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

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POPULATION HEALTH

A partial ban is a weak alternative

Launceston Examiner, General News, 19/08/2024, Alex Fair, Page 15

Gambling advertising in Australia has well and truly got out of control. Watch pretty much any sports broadcast and you see this, where the talk of odds and different markets are intertwined with the actual analysis of the contest. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare figures show Australians lose more money gambling per capita than anyone else in the world, with \$25 billion lost on legal forms of gambling every year.

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

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Reflecting on a lifetime of dementia research and care

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 19/08/2024

Professor Henry Brodaty reflects on his career after receiving a lifetime achievement award from Dementia Australia for his contributions to dementia research and care. [...] The Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW) has created a National Dementia Information Hub. The Australian Dementia Network (ADNET) has established a Clinical Quality Registry aiming to enrol all persons diagnosed with dementia or mild cognitive impairment to improve quality of diagnosis and management.

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New fitness tools

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 19/08/2024

A range of new tools and guides to mitigate side effects of weight loss medication and encourage

proper nutrition are now on the MyFitnessPal app. Users of the app can track their progress and medication timeline to ensure compliance alongside their medical weight loss treatment program.

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Cancer numbers jump more than 90 per cent in past 20 years, data shows

Your Life Choices, Other, 19/08/2024, Brad Lockyer

New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has revealed the number of cancer cases diagnosed each year in Australia has increased by more than 90 per cent in the past two decades. While those numbers are certainly cause for concern, they are broadly in line with population growth during that time, as well as an ageing population overall.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Push to break the sound barrier

West Australian, Today, 20/08/2024, Katie Hampson, Page 1

Health Soccer powerhouse Mackenzie Arnold opens up on how addressing hearing loss has improved her quality of life. Matildas star Mackenzie Arnold has revealed she's finally being treated for hearing loss after years of struggling to listen. The 30-year-old has shared details about her health battle with The West Australian, including that she started treatment last year and is now relieved that she can finally hear properly. The Australian goalkeeper says that until recently she had been lip-reading to keep up with conversations most of the time.

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Join the cancer fight

Shepparton News, General News, 20/08/2024, Page 2

The impact of cancer in Greater Shepparton is significant, with about 432 people diagnosed in 2022. This underscores the importance of Cancer Council Victoria's call for Victorians to support Daffodil Day on Thursday, August 22, to fund crucial cancer research. Cancer Council Victoria head of fundraising and communications Lyrian Fleming-Parsley emphasised the need for continued investment in cancer research.

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Peter Goers thanks RAH for surgery after SA Health row

Adelaide Now, Other, 19/08/2024, Brad Crouch

Sunday Mail columnist Peter Goers has had surgery to remove the cataract in his right eye, after an unexpected delay saw him launch a broadside at SA Health. Mr Goers posted a photo of himself with his heavily bandaged eye on Facebook on Monday. "Cataract operation done and successful and thanks to all at Adelaide Day Surgery via RAH," he posted. "Special thanks to the nurse who held my hand during the op.

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Clinics in regional SA providing specialist women's health services

ABC Online, Other, 19/08/2024, Elyse Armanini

Women in South Australia's Riverland now have access to more specialist health clinics, offering physiotherapy and menopause care. The operators behind the two clinics hope that their services can inspire other health providers to consider offering a wider range of healthcare and support.

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Emily is dying. So why is she selling off her remaining time to strangers?

The Guardian, Other, 20/08/2024, Dee Jefferson

This 32-year-old Australian has terminal cancer, but she has taken part in a daring, moving public project to raise money for research – and encourage us to consider how we live. It's sunny on Saturday morning when I enter Carriageworks in the Sydney suburb of Eveleigh, and the farmers market is in full throttle outside.

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

[Read More](#)

Palmerston Parkrun volunteer Alison Reidy opens up on massive stroke that changed her life

NEWS.com.au, Other, 18/08/2024, Alex Treacy

Alison Reidy was a fit and healthy 38-year-old who had recently completed a personal best time in the weekly Palmerston Parkrun when stroke changed her life in February 2022. After battling persistent headaches, fatigue and dizziness, the Coolalinga woman booked in to see her GP.

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'1,000 days': Australians battling severe illnesses forced to wait for critical medications

4BC, Other, 19/08/2024, Peter Gleeson

Retired Navy Reserve Lieutenant Commander John Boland and Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia Professor Jeff Dunn, joined Peter Gleeson on 4BC Drive to discuss how many Australians battling life-threatening illnesses are being forced to wait hundreds of days for critical medication.

Also reported by: [2GB \(Online\)](#).

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A new approach to managing OA of the knee

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 19/08/2024, Chloe Hava

Around 2.1 million Australians are affected by osteoarthritis (OA), with the knees a commonly affected area. With the condition more prevalent in those over 45 years of age, and Australia's population continuing to age, the number of people living with knee OA skyrocketed by 126% between 1990 and 2019.

[Read More](#)

Many men diagnosed with prostate cancer experience poor mental health. We need to support them better

Medicine Today, Other, 19/08/2024, Tenaw Tiruye and Kerri Beckmann

Every year more than 24,000 Australian men are diagnosed with prostate cancer, making it the most frequently diagnosed cancer among Australian men. Despite high survival rates – around 96% of men diagnosed with prostate cancer will survive for at least five years – prostate cancer can significantly affect mens' mental wellbeing.

[Read More](#)

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

Medicine Today, Other, 19/08/2024, Skye McGregor, Belinda Hengel and Robert Monaghan

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

[Read More](#)

Eye Connect, helping you see the way forward

The Senior, Other, 19/08/2024, Eileen Wood

A routine eye test for retiree Helen last year was the start of a journey to understand and have treatment for Australia's leading cause of severe vision loss and blindness. An optometrist's scan

revealed Helen, had signs of macular degeneration and she was referred to an eye specialist who diagnosed her with wet age-related macular degeneration in both eyes and explained the need for injections as treatment.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 19/08/2024, Samantha Donovan

In SA's Riverland region, Dr Corina Sims and physiotherapist Elizabeth Eske have established menopause and women's health clinics in Renmark, addressing the service gap in regional Australia. Dr Sims' Together Through Menopause and Perimenopause clinic and Eske's specialist clinic for women's and pelvic health aim to inspire similar expansions in rural areas. Susie Tegen, CEO of the National Rural Health Alliance, urges more support and training for healthcare professionals to bridge the gap between city and regional healthcare services.

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PRIMARY CARE

More than 500 patients attend new ED

Canberra Times, General News, 20/08/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 4

The first full day in Canberra Hospital's new emergency department was the busiest Sunday the department has ever faced, the ACT's Health Minister has said. More than 500 patients presented to the new emergency department over the weekend. There were nearly 300 patients alone on Sunday. This was 10 per cent higher than the average number of presentations on a Sunday.

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La Trobe eyes city centre

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 20/08/2024, Tom O'Callaghan, Page 1

La Trobe University wants to stick 240 beds in Bendigo's city centre in a move that could breathe new energy into the neighbourhood. Vice-chancellor Theo Farrell said the university was eyeing sites as it attempted to ramp up its presence in the middle of town. "One of the things we are going to be doing is increasing our presence in the CBD," he said during an interview ahead of 2024's Open Day. "We are looking at appropriate sites." La Trobe already has buildings dotted in and around the city centre, including at Bendigo Hospital.

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Proposal to reduce chronic bed shortage at hospital 'dumped'

Border Mail, General News, 20/08/2024, Ted Howes, Page 7

A plan to ease a critical shortage of beds at Albury hospital has received no support from the Victorian or NSW governments. Correspondence between the two health departments obtained by The Border Mail outlines a plan to lease and operate a 20-bed inpatient unit at Mercy Health. The proposal, supported by Albury Wodonga Health, was for a three-year lease of \$20.8 million to be shared by the Victorian and NSW governments.

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

A cramped, inadequate hospital

Border Mail, General News, 20/08/2024, Page 18

I recently had the misfortune to spend a week and a bit between the Wodonga and Albury hospitals. Thankfully, I am on the mend and up and up, unlike that of the "new Albury hospital". The quality of care administered by the doctors, nurses and others was of an A grade standard. However, I saw firsthand the cramped/ chaotic already out of date "new revamped Albury ED", talk about a snake oil sales job sprouted by a hospital team of gutless, kowtowing hospital executive carpetbaggers.

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

Queensland Premier denies no beds in state

Premier Steven Miles has denied there were no NICU beds in the entire state, despite a young pregnant mum claiming she was told there was no availability for her son who died in her womb. Brianna Walong, 24, who attended Toowoomba Hospital, was desperate for her premature baby to be given a chance to survive but says she was told while she was in labour there were no NICU beds available in the entire state.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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

Graham St upgrades delayed

Shepparton News, General News, 20/08/2024, Djembe Archibald, Page 5

Residents, commuters, ambulances and hospital patients will have to wait until at least 2025 for work to start on traffic lights and safety upgrades at the intersection of Graham St and Numurkah Rd in Shepparton. After a recent traffic incident at the intersection, state Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell addressed the Victorian Government in parliament and spoke about the lack of tangible follow through on a 2022 funding promise.

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

Man's long wait ahead after stroke

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 20/08/2024, Katrina Lovell, Page 2

A south-west businessman who recently suffered a major stroke now faces a 55-month wait for a urology appointment. The man's wife said that news was the icing on the cake of just how bad things had got in the state's under-pressure health system. She is speaking out about what she and her husband have been through since he suffered a stroke in March to highlight the issues facing our hospitals and ambulance service.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#)

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

'It's my story': Sue's words about her own death matter

Canberra Times, Other, 19/08/2024, Jonathan Hawes

Sue Venables died on Tuesday morning this week in a way many of us would want to go; surrounded by friends, family, and loved ones. After four years of battling cancer and months of palliative care, she opted for Voluntary Assisted Dying, which has been available to terminally ill patients in NSW for less than a year.

[Read More](#)

Labor 'admitted' they knew about a potential IV fluid shortage over a year ago

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 19/08/2024

Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston discusses an IV fluid shortage which the government admitted they "knew there was a potential shortage pending over a year ago". "The really shocking thing about all this is that the government admitted last week that they knew there was a potential shortage pending over a year ago," Ms Ruston said to Sky News host Peta Credlin.

[Read More](#)

Adelaide hospitals on 'code white' as emergency departments buckle under overwhelming demand

Adelaide Now, Other, 19/08/2024, Brad Crouch

The health system was teetering at breaking point on Monday afternoon with metropolitan emergency departments trying to handle 562 patients despite an official capacity of 332. At 3pm every hospital was on code white — operating above official capacity — such as the flagship \$2.7bn Royal Adelaide Hospital where clinicians were treating 87 patients in its 69 capacity ED with 35 waiting or arriving by ambulance.

[Read More](#)

IV fluids at critical shortage level in WA

6PR, Other, 19/08/2024

Oliver Peterson can reveal that doctors, nurses and Perth Children's Hospital clinical staff were emailed this morning advising IV stock levels are now at critical shortage levels. They've been instructed to conserve IV fluid, with a guidance document advising them to use smaller bag sizes and slower rate infusions.

[Read More](#)

6PR, Perth Live, 19/08/2024, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Dr Michael Page, President, Australian Medical Association WA, on the critical shortage of IV fluids at Perth Children's Hospital. Peterson reports that doctors, nurses, and clinical staff at Perth Children's Hospital were informed of a critical shortage of IV fluids and instructed to conserve supplies by using smaller bag sizes and slower infusion rates. Page notes that elective procedures might be postponed to prioritise emergency and cancer surgeries. He suggests similar guidance may soon be issued to other hospitals.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Bullied out of school

Courier Mail, General News, 20/08/2024, Rose Innes, Page 1

Home-schooling enrolments have reached a record high in Queensland, as parents desperate to protect their children from bullying abandon traditional education facilities. [...] Australian Psychological Society CEO and Bullying Zero deputy chair Zena Burgess said the after-effects of bullying in children included severe anxiety, depression and PTSD and could last a lifetime.

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

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

Healthy Mind Solutions offers RTMS and ADHD therapy in Shepp

Shepparton News, General News, 20/08/2024, Page 5

Healthy Mind Solutions, a mental health clinic in Shepparton, is expanding its services to improve support for locals with various mental health challenges. The clinic, which aims to help people of all ages, has been offering repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation for the past two years. RTMS is a non-invasive procedure that uses magnetic fields to stimulate nerve cells in the brain. It's being used to help with conditions such as chronic pain, tinnitus and depression, and even to assist with quitting smoking.

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Rocky Manu fights for release from forensic mental health order 12 years after the death of flatmate Jasmine Roennfeldt

Northern Territory News, Other, 19/08/2024, Zizi Averill

Alice Springs mental health advocate Jasmine Roennfeldt, also known as Gwyynyth Cassiopeia-Roennfeldt, was stabbed by her flatmate Rocky Manu on 14 November 2011. A man whose violent decline led to a reckoning within the Territory's mental health system could soon be released from the forensic order he has lived under since the brutal killing of his "gentle, caring" flatmate.

[Read More](#)

Mental health highlighted

Border Watch, Other, 19/08/2024

Meals, mates and mental health was of high priority for more than 100 people over the weekend. Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation members travelled to the Penola Coonawarra region, promoting and breaking down barriers around mental health. During the visit, mental health first

aid trainers from the foundation visited both Lucindale Area School and Penola High School, providing mental health young awareness programs.

[Read More](#)

5AA, Mornings, 19/08/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Chris Stone, director of policy and government relations, Suicide Prevention Australia, who criticises the delay in the federal government's suicide strategy. Panetelis says despite the draft being completed, the lack of public consultation is causing concern among organisations that need it for planning and responses. Stone says he hopes it will be released for public consultation around World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

'Happy to comfort babies born alive after abortion': midwife

The Australian, General News, 20/08/2024, Joe Kelly, Page 7

An Australian midwife has spoken publicly for the first time about her experiences of babies being born alive following abortions and, in some cases, surviving for up to five hours before dying after gasping for air and fighting to stay alive. Louise Adsett, a clinical midwife who has worked in maternity and birthing units for about 14 years, told a parliamentary hearing in Queensland that some babies born alive after an abortion were never held by their parents but were instead placed in witches hats, taken out of the room and left to die.

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

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

Nursing union ramps up industrial action

Hobart Mercury, General News, 20/08/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 4

Fed-up nurses and midwives in Tasmania's public health system have described planned industrial action as a last resort in overcoming "dangerous" clinical conditions for both patients and staff. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian branch secretary Emily Shepherd said unreasonable workloads and an ongoing lack of resources caused by unfilled vacancies was making the effective provision of safe and quality healthcare services impossible.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Strike force

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 20/08/2024, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

Illawarra's private hospital nurses and midwives marched along Crown Street yesterday, demanding better pay and conditions from owner Ramsay Health Care. They want an 18 per cent rise over three years and the introduction of nurse-to-patient ratios, amid negotiations with their employer that have been ongoing since March last year.

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

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

Donated eggs and masturbation may be out: The barriers facing Muslim patients with fertility issues

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/08/2024, Kate Hammond

For those experiencing fertility issues, cost can be a major barrier to becoming a parent. Rebates and other public funding aim to make access to fertility healthcare fairer. Australia's first public fertility clinics in Victoria, for example, were announced in 2021 to ensure "bank balance is no barrier" to fertility treatment. But money is not the only barrier. Muslims who experience fertility issues also face specific cultural and religious barriers — but they are often overlooked.

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 19/08/2024, Ryk Goddard

Interview with Emily Shepherd, branch secretary, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, on the ongoing industrial action by nurses in Tasmania. Shepherd says the action is due to chronic issues with excessive workloads, staffing shortages, and inadequate resources that have worsened over time.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Recognition for those improving lives of others

West Australian, General News, 20/08/2024, Bethany Hiatt, Page 14

A physician pioneering new methods to stop patients dying from high blood pressure and a psychologist improving the quality of people's working lives are this year's winners of WA's most prestigious science award. Internationally-renowned clinical researcher Markus Schlaich and world-leading analyst Sharon Parker were on Monday night jointly named Scientists of the Year in the Premier's Science Awards.

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

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Pharmacists ready and willing' to help

Daily Liberal, General News, 20/08/2024, Sarah Falson, Page 5

A central west pharmacist is joining calls to allow his industry to provide treatment for minor, everyday ailments, in the face of the regional GP shortage. Dubbo pharmacist and business owner of Tim Koerstz Pharmacy, Angus Koerstz, said he had prescribed numerous treatments for uncomplicated urinary tract infections as part of a NSW Government trial.

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Russell's GP of 40 years is about to retire, and that's got him worried

Canberra Times, Other, 19/08/2024, Lucy Bladen

Russell McGowan has been navigating Canberra's health system with a chronic illness over the past 30 years. He said he could relate to new survey results showing Canberrans have one of the nation's lowest satisfaction rates with the state of healthcare, but said he had some better experiences due to his familiarity with the system.

[Read More](#)

'My patients like my dog more than me!': GPs tell all about their canine companions

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/08/2024, Heather Saxena

Whether at work or home, a loyal dog companion is just what the doctor ordered AusDoc prides itself on sniffing out a story, so we're feeling a little hangdog that we didn't spot this earlier — a Facebook group with 1,200 members, entirely dedicated to GPs' dogs. Here is just pawful of the GPs talking about their treasured friends.

[Read More](#)

I needed a break from my paediatric training, but why was hitting the pause button so tough?

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/08/2024, Nimisha Aithal

Medicine is a marathon, not a sprint — this is a mantra we hear repeatedly from the beginning of medical school. It's embedded in our culture that to be successful we must be perpetually productive and work without interruption. After all, no one wins a marathon by having a nap in the middle.

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

NDIS reforms spark warnings of service cuts

The Australian, General News, 20/08/2024, Sarah Ison, Page 4

Bill Shorten's strategy to rein in the cost of the \$40bn-a-year NDIS has come under attack from major disability providers catering for 30,000 recipients, warning they may have to cut services as Labor faces growing opposition to its scheme overhaul. A warning from 12 major notfor-profits that they are being "rendered unsustainable" by a fifth year of zero indexation comes as Labor faces demands from peak disability groups that it pause the progress of its landmark NDIS legislation, which would help the government meet its target of reducing the scheme's annual growth from about 15 per cent to 8 per cent by 2026.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#)

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Fed Govt mulls direct GP referral for MBS-funded CTCA

The Limbic, Other, 19/08/2024, Geir O Rourke

GPs would be able to initiate requests for CT coronary angiograms without cardiologist input under a radical proposal being considered by the Federal Government. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has already publicly endorsed the plan, which was first floated by an MBS Review Taskforce committee more than half a decade ago and was placed back on the agenda by health officials in April.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Ex-Canberra psychiatrist suspended in Australia

Canberra Times, General News, 20/08/2024, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

A psychiatrist who Canberra patients accused of going "AWOL" has been suspended from practising in Australia. Matthew Peter Sellen, 44, left Canberra in March 2023. [...] Several complained to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra), saying they were unable to get in touch with the psychiatrist.

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Psych on charges of rape

Courier Mail, General News, 20/08/2024, Nicola McNamara, Page 14

A registered psychiatrist has faced court after being charged with rape in a Brisbane suburb earlier this year. Johannes Christiaan Ernst Scheepers, 70, faced Brisbane Arrest Court on Monday. [...] Dr Scheepers, who was born in South Africa, has been registered as a medical practitioner in Australia since 2002, according to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. There are currently no specific conditions on his registration.

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Mum says doctor joked about rape and tried to buy her baby

West Australian, General News, 20/08/2024, Rachel Fenner, Page 5

A Rockingham doctor who made rape jokes and admitted to hitting his wife has been banned from practising indefinitely. Mohammad Amin Souraki Azad, who is also accused of trying to buy a patient's baby son, got his medical degree in Iran in [...] In 2023, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency suspended Dr Azad's registration believing he posed a serious risk to patients.

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

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13yo dies just days after leaving hospital

West Australian, General News, 20/08/2024, Jerrie Demasi and Claire Sadler, Page 7

A 13-year-old Perth girl has died after contracting the flu, just days after she was discharged from a major Perth hospital. Sharney Lee Mitchell was found by her parents unresponsive in her bed on Sunday morning. Paramedics were called but she could not be saved. Her parents spoke out to 7NEWS in the hope it would raise some awareness of how serious influenza can be.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Blood supply red alert

Herald Sun, General News, 20/08/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 1

An extra 4200 blood donors are urgently needed in Victoria, after a spike in cancellations coincided with the highest demand in more than a decade. Australian Red Cross Lifeblood has called for an extra 8500 Australians to donate blood in the next seven days, warning it will "struggle to meet patients' needs if cancellations continue and appointments aren't filled".

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SPORT

Ex-ref's big claim in NRL case

The Australian, General News, 20/08/2024, Steve Zemek, Page 7

After being defeated on three previous occasions, a former NRL referee is suing rugby league's governing body, arguing that he was unlawfully dismissed after being subjected to "bullying" and "discrimination", his lawyer has told a court. Tim Alouani-Roby is suing the game despite his tenure ending when a fixed-term contract finished at the end of the 2020 season.

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Violence at junior football, teen banned

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 20/08/2024, Page 10

A teenage boy charged with assaulting an opposition player during a junior football match has been banned from his club after the incident left his alleged victim in hospital. NSW Police have charged the 17-year-old Blue Mountains FC player with assault occasioning actual bodily harm after he allegedly punched a 16-year-old Emu Plains FC player during an under-17s match at Glenbrook on Sunday.

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

Thunda struck

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 20/08/2024, Simeon Thomas-Wilson, Page 1

The Port Adelaide Football Club's mascot was left with a bloodied nose before what was an ill-

tempered Showdown between the Power and Adelaide on Saturday. "Thunda" was punched in the face by a minor, authorities have said, before the first bounce on Saturday night. It comes as Port Adelaide called out an "abhorrent and unacceptable" racist post directed at Indigenous small forward Willie Rioli.

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

\$2bn for 2032 site

Courier Mail, General News, 20/08/2024, Brendan O'Malley, Page 1

A 150 ha Hamilton site proposed for a visionary 2032 Games precinct would be worth well more than \$2bn, with the government being called on by the idea's backers to buy half of it. The Brisbane Design Alliance has revealed concepts for a \$6bn Northshore Games precinct, which would include a new 60,000-seat stadium, hotel and a 2500-apartment athletes' village.

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

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Dutton and WA Liberals get behind Perth's Western Bears NRL bid

West Australian, General News, 20/08/2024, Page 7

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton made an eleventh hour pledge to support a bid for a Perth-based rugby league team in the latest sign his party is trying to win over WA voters. All 10 of the Federal Liberals from WA signed a letter to accompany the bid, sent to the National Rugby League last week as the deadline closed for those seeking a new team in their patch.

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

ABC News, News Breakfast, 19/08/2024, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan

Queensland Cricket faces a significant setback as the Gabba will not host any test matches in 2026 and 2027 due to the state government's decision to abandon its redevelopment plan. The decision means the Gabba will miss out on hosting test matches for the first time in nearly 50 years. Queensland Cricket has criticised the decision, calling for leaders to make bolder, long-term plans for sports infrastructure.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 19/08/2024, Kate Freebairn

The AFL is investigating a racist attack on Port Adelaide player Willie Rioli. Despite being fierce rivals on the field, the Adelaide Crows and Port Adelaide have united to condemn the social media abuse.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Pharmacy deal still on the counter

The Australian, Business News, 20/08/2024, Bridget Carter, Page 14

Deal makers working on the backdoor listing of Chemist Warehouse into Sigma are believed to be confident that they can get a transaction past the competition watchdog without any major adjustments. That's the chatter in the market. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is due to announce the findings on October 24.

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

Household plastics pose '95 per cent' chance of health risks

Canberra Times, General News, 20/08/2024, Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 1

Drinks cans, food containers, even a cyclist's shorts - these everyday items made from different plastics carry a 95 per cent chance of seriously harming human health, a world-first study has found. Believed to be the most comprehensive review of health risks posed by chemicals in plastics, the study

revealed evidence none of the products made from five classes of chemicals could be "considered safe".

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Constipation heart risk

Herald Sun, General News, 20/08/2024, Page 5

An international study led by Monash University researchers has found a surprising connection between constipation and an increased risk of major adverse cardiac events, including heart attacks, strokes and heart failure. The research team analysed data from 408,354 individuals, identifying 23,814 cases of constipation.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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

Age factor in addiction

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 20/08/2024, Page 11

Australians entering alcohol and drug treatment are likely to have a dependency on different substances depending on their age. Nearly 9500 clients enrolled in the Lives Lived Well study, with a fifth under 25, a third under 35 and just under half over 35.

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Video game changer

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 20/08/2024, Page 3

Playing video games may have a positive effect on our mental wellbeing, Japanese researchers say. The Nihon University study of more than 100,000 people found the people who had a gaming console, and played games on them, had improved mental health over their peers. However, those people who played for more than three hours a day saw diminishing additional benefits.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Damian Oyong could save millions of lives. We almost lost him to the US

Australian Financial Review, Other, 19/08/2024, Julie Hare

Australia's PhD-qualified research workforce, which is heavily reliant on overseas students, will be further diminished as the government's migration crackdown takes a toll, leading research and philanthropy figures warn. Experts say slashing the number o...

[Read More](#)

ASX Health Stocks: CBL targets more reimbursement revenue for NeuroNode device

The Australian, Other, 19/08/2024, Eddy Sunarto

Control Bionics (asx:cbl) believes it is set to benefit significantly from a new US insurance code that approves reimbursement for its NeuroNode device, which will be effective from October 1. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in the US has granted a new HCPCS Level II code, E2513, for the NeuroNode, which will now qualify for a US\$4,300 reimbursement. The NeuroNode is an advanced assistive device that uses muscle signals to control communication tools, aiding individuals with severe speech and motor impairments.

[Read More](#)

Residents' lungs aged 'more rapidly' after exposure to smoke from Hazelwood coalmine fire, research shows

The Guardian, Other, 20/08/2024, Petra Stock

Retired secondary school teacher Howard Williams remembers watching "a gumtree literally explode

from the heat". It was the beginning of the Hazelwood coalmine fire, which broke out on 9 February 2014 in the middle of a hot, dry summer. Williams says he watched as the fire raced across the mine and towards an SEC administration building. At the time, Williams was living in Morwell in Victoria's LaTrobe Valley, separated from the mine by a fence and a freeway.

[Read More](#)

Could the shingles vaccine lower your risk of dementia?

Medicine Today, Other, 19/08/2024

A recent study has suggested Shingrix, a relatively new vaccine given to protect older adults against shingles, may delay the onset of dementia. This might seem like a bizarre link, but actually, research has previously shown an older version of the shingles vaccine, Zostavax, reduced the risk of dementia.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 19/08/2024, Peter Overton

High blood pressure, obesity, and smoking have long been linked to heart disease, but researchers are now adding constipation to the list. Melbourne's Monash University analysed data from over 400,000 people and found that those suffering from constipation were more than twice as likely to experience heart attacks, strokes, and heart failure.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Ending the trauma cycle

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 20/08/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 1

Aunty Sue Smith says it was a rainy Saturday morning when she discovered her son's body. "I was whistling. I picked up the newspaper, walked through the gate, and bang," Ms Smith said. Darren had been fighting a losing battle against depression and substance abuse. His partner and children were visiting extended family in Sydney at the time. But Ms Smith barely had time to grieve as Darren's death had a profound impact on her other son, Arthur.

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

Conference centres First Nations voices to help close the gap

National Indigenous Times, Other, 19/08/2024, Dechlan Brennan

When the Closing the Gap agreement was signed in partnership between Australian governments and the Coalition of Peaks, one of the important factors was holding governments accountable for decades of speaking for Indigenous people, rather than listening to them, on solutions to assist First Nations communities.

[Read More](#)

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Warning for travellers as region records four mpox cases

Newcastle Herald, General News, 20/08/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 4

Four cases of mpox - formerly known as monkeypox - were recorded in Hunter New England last month, health data shows. This was also the total number of cases recorded in the district this year, following one last year and one the year before. University of Newcastle Professor Nathan Bartlett said mpox was "a relative of the now eradicated human pathogen variola virus - the causative agent of smallpox".

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Medicine Today \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

Whooping cough cases surge across Geelong

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 19/08/2024, Tamara McDonald

Cases of a highly contagious respiratory infection that is particularly dangerous for young babies have surged in Geelong. Greater Geelong has already recorded more than 100 cases of pertussis – commonly known as whooping cough – so far this year. The area recorded 20 cases for the whole of 2023 and 18 the year prior, according to health department data.

[Read More](#)

Perth teen Sharney Lee Mitchell dies from influenza A just days after she was sent home from Joondalup Health Campus

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 20/08/2024, Zak Wheeler

The grieving parents of a young girl who died at home five days after being discharged from hospital are now demanding answers. Paramedics were unable to save Sharney Lee Mitchell, 13 from Brabham in Perth 's north-east, after her parents found her in bed unresponsive and couldn't wake her just before midday on Sunday.

[Read More](#)

Fatal tetanus infection a timely reminder for vaccination: Aussie case

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/08/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Women and patients over 60 need particular attention for booster vaccinations, doctors say. Australian doctors have reported the first death from tetanus in NSW in over three decades, while stressing the importance of older patients staying up to date with vaccinations. The case series involved two adults in their 80s who were unvaccinated against Clostridium tetani , treated by doctors at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Liverpool Hospital.

[Read More](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 19/08/2024, Sally Sara

Interview with David Munkley, zonal director for Eastern DRC, World Vision, on a new lethal variant of Mpox that has emerged in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Munkley says the variant has a mortality rate of up to 10%, with children under five being disproportionately affected. He calls for tackling the outbreak at its source to prevent a larger crisis.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

IV crisis: morphine now low

The Australian, General News, 20/08/2024, Stephen Rice and Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Supplies of several crucial medicines are running short around the nation, including morphine products vital to ease the suffering of palliative care patients, as some medical specialists reject claims by the nation's health ministers that the shortage of IV fluids which has thrown hospitals into chaos is easing. [...] The Australian has obtained correspondence showing Health Minister Mark Butler was warned nine months ago that palliative care patients were in danger of losing access to vital opioid analgesic medicines, particularly liquid morphine, but it appears no effective action was taken.

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

Rare cancer patients 'slipping through cracks'

Canberra Times, Other, 20/08/2024, Kat Wong

Survival rates for people with some rarer cancers have declined and advocates say the government is not doing enough to tackle the health inequities these patients face. Though there is a low incidence of each rare or less common cancer, the 40,000 people who receive these diagnoses each year make up

one quarter of Australians with cancer - more than any single common cancer type. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration has a very high threshold for clinical trial data.

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

[Read More](#)

Mobile phone overhaul literally a matter of life and death

Canberra Times, Other, 19/08/2024, Carol Bennett

Many Australians are doing it tough right now and the challenges confronting rural and remote parts of the country are especially acute. The bush has always struggled to secure essential services, be it doctors, teachers or trades. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration and the medical devices industry have an important role to play here.

[Read More](#)

Some spinal cord simulators cancelled by TGA amid calls to have the 'dangerous' devices banned

ABC Online, Other, 19/08/2024, Adele Ferguson

The TGA will release its review looking into 91 spinal cord stimulators individually. Spinal cord stimulators used by some pain specialists to treat chronic back pain are being slapped with conditions or cancelled by Australia's medical devices regulator amid a review into the safety and performance of the controversial products.

[Read More](#)

State launches pharmacy prescribing pilot for depot contraceptives and vaginal rings

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/08/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

The RACGP is critical, but another GP says she is remaining open-minded. Dozens of pharmacies across Queensland can now initiate 12-month scripts of depot medroxyprogesterone acetate injections, oral contraceptives and vaginal rings to patients aged 16 and up. [...] Dr Hester pointed to the TGA's 2021 decision to keep oral contraceptives S4, which said pharmacy consultations were insufficient "to ensure safety, particularly over extended periods of time".

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The Zap: the latest developments in health and aged care, plus a comprehensive list of consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 19/08/2024, Melissa Sweet

People in western Queensland are far more likely to experience a potentially preventable hospitalisation than people living in the north Sydney region, according to new data highlighting stark health inequalities. The column this week also examines the laws governing organ and tissue donation, aged care matters, a vision for hospital pharmacy, calls to action for the next Northern Territory Government, and suggests that Health and Mental Health Ministers have failed to address the sector's call for serious action to improve access to supports and care.

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Wider access for Spontan

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 19/08/2024

LTR Pharma's nasal spray for Erectile Dysfunction (ED) Spontan is now available to patients under the TGA's Authorised Prescriber Scheme (APS). The move follows Spontan's first prescriptions dispensed via the TGA's Special Access Scheme earlier this month.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 19/08/2024, Leon Delaney

Delaney reports concerns are mounting about the 3G network shutdown, particularly in rural and remote areas of Australia. About 200,000 medical alert devices still depend on 3G, potentially impacting many users. He says the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has information about

affected devices and advises users to check with their device manufacturers to ensure continued functionality and safety.

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4BC, Drive, 19/08/2024, Peter Gleeson

Interview with retired Navy Reserve Lieutenant Commander John Boland and Professor Jeff Dunn, Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, on delayed access to life-saving prostate cancer medications in Australia not listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Boland shares his personal experience with expensive lutetium therapy in his fight against cancer. Dunn calls for Minister Mark Butler to streamline the lengthy approval process for such drugs under the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 19/08/2024, Richard Glover

ABC senior Investigative reporter Adele Ferguson reports on recent changes by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) regarding spinal cord stimulators. The TGA has cancelled 12 devices and imposed conditions on 52 others due to safety concerns. These devices, used to treat chronic back pain, have been controversial due to serious side effects, including electric shocks, infections, and in severe cases, paralysis.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 19/08/2024, Sally Sara

ABC Investigations' Adele Ferguson reports the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has cancelled 12 spinal cord stimulator devices and imposed conditions on 52 others due to concerns about their safety and performance. These devices, which cost around \$58,000 each and are covered by Medicare, have been linked to severe side effects like electric shocks and infections.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Age of dependency

Hobart Mercury, General News, 20/08/2024, Page 4

Australians entering alcohol and drug treatment are likely to have a dependency on different substances depending on their age. Nearly 9500 clients enrolled in the Lives Lived Well study, with a fifth under 25, a third under 35 and just under half over 35. Researchers from the University of Queensland, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre and the University of NSW say under 25s were more likely to have cannabis as their drug of concern compared with methamphetamine for under 25s and alcohol for over 35s.

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Wellnex launches cannabis brand

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 19/08/2024

Wellnex Life, in partnership with OneLife Botanicals, has launched a medicinal cannabis brand, Wellness Life, under the Special Access Scheme (SAS). Wellness Life began selling last month, with prescriptions being dispensed by registered medical professionals and available in pharmacies through The Entourage Effect, a medicinal cannabis distributor.

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FOOD STANDARDS

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Cancer chemicals in city water supply

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 20/08/2024, Ben Cubby and Carrie Fellner, Page 1

Sydney Water has confirmed for the first time that cancer-linked "forever chemicals" have been detected across the city's drinking water catchments. In quietly releasing data on its website, Sydney Water revealed that PFAS chemicals were detected in June at low levels in key water filtration plants, including Warragamba, Prospect Reservoir, and Orchard Hills, and in higher levels at the Cascade Dam in the Blue Mountains and North Richmond.

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

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Toxic-free childcare guide to keep kids safe

Canberra Times, Other, 20/08/2024, Abe Maddison

A new Toxic-free Childcare Guide will deliver trustworthy advice for childcare centres and preschools on where potentially harmful chemicals may be found. The resource, published by the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney, will help the industry make changes to keep children safer. [...] For example, PFAS chemicals can be found in carpets, cleaning products, clothing, cookware, food packaging, furnishings, outdoor apparel and paints.

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

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