



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 24th August 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian \(page 9\)](#)** reports that the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has labeled the ongoing national IV fluids shortage as "a serious threat to healthcare services across Australia", calling for a nationally coordinated strategy for the future procurement of vital medicines. Health Minister Mark Butler said "The TGA is aware that jurisdictions are alerting staff of the situation and instructing all staff to use IV stock judiciously. However, decisions on service prioritisation of available IV fluid stock are all matters managed at the state and territory level."
- **[The Saturday Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the secretary of Victoria's Health Workers Union, Diana Asmar, will face court after the Fair Work Commission filed civil proceedings alleging that she received over \$100,000 in questionable reimbursements and personally orchestrated a \$2.7 million cash-back transaction scheme for non-existent printing services.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the list of critical medical fluids impacted by a national shortage has grown to 25, prompting the Victorian Department of Health to reissue a directive for health services to conserve supplies and reduce dependence on IV fluids. Recommended strategies included encouraging women in labour and pre-surgery patients to drink more water.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 1\)](#)** reports that RACGP SA chairwoman Dr Sian Goodson has raised concerns that the state government's new payroll tax has resulted in patients being

double billed at GP clinics, stating: "It is patients who will bear the brunt (of the payroll tax)".

- **The Hobart Mercury (page 1)** reports that senior staff at the Royal Hobart Hospital emergency department believe a planned upgrade to the hospital's emergency department is not fit for purpose and won't meet current or future needs after the Department of Health reduced funding and the number of points of care from 121 to 113.
- **The Saturday Paper (page 11)** reports that various research projects and clinical trials are underway in Australia to determine the causes and potential treatments for long Covid, which has cost the Australian economy an estimated \$9.6 billion since the pandemic.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Surgeons call for medicines reform

Weekend Australian, General News, 24/08/2024, Natasha Robinson and Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 9

The nation's surgical college has described the ongoing national IV fluids shortage as "a serious threat to healthcare services across Australia" that if it persists may blow out elective surgery waiting lists and lead to the cancellation and delay of operations. [...] A special response group set up by federal Health Minister Mark Butler is working urgently to manage the crisis. [...] Royal Australian College of General Practitioners expert committee quality care chairman Mark Morgan said the federal Department of Health needed to clarify which organisation was ultimately responsible for ensuring adequate supplies of saline and outline what early warning systems were in place when shortages hit.

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

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### IV fluids shortage matched by lack of transparency

Weekend Australian, General News, 24/08/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 15

The critical shortage in many hospitals across the nation of one of the most vital medicines used during every surgical procedure has never been seen before in this country. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says jurisdictions "are bringing unprecedented collaboration to the issue, with a cross-jurisdictional response group convened by all states and territories and the commonwealth". [...] If that is the case, someone in charge in the federal Department of Health should tell the public.

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

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### Aged-care blowouts

The Saturday Paper, General News, 24/08/2024, Jason Koutsoukis, Page 4

Sweeping reforms to aged care have become a feeding frenzy for multinational consultants, with Accenture, Capgemini and Deloitte alone earning \$685 million in fees since the start of 2022. [...] As for the platform itself, last year federal Health Minister Mark Butler observed My Health Record was "a pretty outdated, clunky, PDF format system" that was in need of a major overhaul.

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

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### Covid's lost decade

The Saturday Paper, General News, 24/08/2024, Bianca Nogrady, Page 11

The acute phase of the Covid-19 pandemic might be over, but a lack of resources and knowledge continues to make the treatment of long Covid difficult. [...] Of the nearly \$15 million federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler awarded to long Covid projects in June this year, about a third went to a research project looking at best practice for tailored, multidisciplinary care for long Covid patients.

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

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### Hope stems from a gift of life

The Nightly, General News, 23/08/2024, Rebecca H, Page 14

Levi Tracy was just 19 years old when he died waiting for a perfect match. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler told The Nightly that was part of the issue, but said it "wasn't clear why Australia had moved so slowly" to introduce cheek swabs.

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## 'Betrayal': Disability advocates slam NDIS deal

Crikey, Other, 23/08/2024, Alex Cameron

A new law outlining what supports those on the NDIS can access has passed the House of Representatives, with disability advocates saying it will "rip the heart out" of the NDIS, according to Guardian Australia. [...] For example, barely a day goes by without Health Minister Mark Butler using a Dorothy Dixier to proclaim Peter Dutton to be the worst health minister ever.

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## Drug saving 60,000 hospital hours

Pharma In Focus, Other, 23/08/2024

Roche's Tecentriq won glowing praise on the floor of Federal Parliament from Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler this week, with a new formulation of the drug applauded for saving more than 60,000 hospital hours each year. A subcutaneous (SC) version of the cancer medicine - which cut administration time from an hour to just seven minutes - won a PBS listing this month

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Twelve big ideas and six

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/08/2024, David Crowe, Page 19

Anthony Albanese left parliament on Thursday night feeling chuffed about a surprise victory in the Senate at the exhausting end of a gruelling fortnight. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells tried to get a deal in the past week with her Coalition counterpart, Liberal senator Anne Ruston, but the changes are too ambitious to go through smoothly.

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

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## Alarming number of deaths recorded in latest National Drowning Report

Mount Evelyn Mail, Other, 23/08/2024, Callum Ludwig

The National Drowning Report 2024 was released on Tuesday 20 August, with a devastating 323 people drowning in 2023/24. [...] Federal Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells said the Australian Government was committed to supporting organisations like Royal Life Saving – Australia and Surf Life Saving Australia to raise water safety awareness and with some simple precautions, we can all enjoy the water safely.

Also reported by: [Lilydale Star Mail \(Online\)](#).

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## 4BC, Mornings, 23/08/2024, Bill McDonald

McDonald says the Albanese Government's aged care plan is recommending that self-funded retirees make greater personal contributions, which is all part of landmark new aged care laws that they're struggling at the moment to get-up and get through. He adds that the plan includes self-funded retirees paying a residential accommodation bond that would go up to \$49 a day or \$18,000 a year, which he believes could compromise an extra \$19 a day for everyday living expenses for them, as he adds that Aged Care Minister Anika Wells mentioned that the extra money being asked of self-funded retirees most of whom were homeowners is not too much.

Also reported by: 1071 AM (Kingaroy), 4K1G (Townsville), 4LG (Longreach), 4LM 666 (Mt Isa), 4RO (Rockhampton), 4VL (Charleville), 4ZR (Roma), West FM (Charters Towers)

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## DEPARTMENT

### Surgeons call for medicines reform

Weekend Australian, General News, 24/08/2024, Natasha Robinson and Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 9

The nation's surgical college has described the ongoing national IV fluids shortage as "a serious threat to healthcare services across Australia" that if it persists may blow out elective surgery waiting lists and lead to the cancellation and delay of operations. [...] A special response group set up by federal Health Minister Mark Butler is working urgently to manage the crisis. [...] Royal Australian College of General Practitioners expert committee quality care chairman Mark Morgan said the federal Department of Health needed to clarify which organisation was ultimately responsible for ensuring adequate supplies of saline and outline what early warning systems were in place when shortages hit.

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

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

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### AI used to speed up epilepsy research

Weekend Australian, Business News, 24/08/2024, Joseph Lam, Page 28

What do 800 brains belonging to Australians afflicted with epilepsy have in common? [...] It was started after a \$30m contribution from the Medical Research Future Fund under the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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### Aged-care blowouts

Sweeping reforms to aged care have become a feeding frenzy for multinational consultants, with Accenture, Capgemini and Deloitte alone earning \$685 million in fees since the start of 2022. [...] As for the platform itself, last year federal Health Minister Mark Butler observed My Health Record was "a pretty outdated, clunky, PDF format system" that was in need of a major overhaul.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Paper \(Online\)](#)

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## Sex changes, Blues and other modern stunners

Herald Sun, General News, 24/08/2024, Susie O'Brien, Page 65

For years, some things have been taken for granted in Melbourne. [...] Remember poor former health secretary Brendan Murphy who was asked a few years ago to define what a woman is? He couldn't say and eventually gave an answer that ran to 300 words.

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## 'Astounding' amount of data stolen in ransomware attack on national audiologist

Canberra Times, Other, 23/08/2024, Connor Pearce

A national audiologist may have been in breach of the law in retaining personal data of former patients and staff that has now been leaked in a ransomware attack. [...] A Department of Health spokesperson said the agency was aware of the hack and directed inquiries to Bloom Hearing.

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## Opal staff vote to stop work

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/08/2024, Christopher Kelly

Nurses and care workers for Australia's largest for-profit aged care provider Opal HealthCare have voted to take industrial action in a fight for better pay and conditions. [...] "The latest care minutes quarterly data from the Department of Health and Aged Care shows 20 out of Opal's 47 facilities did not meet their registered nurse care minutes targets, while 42 did not meet their total care minute targets," Ms Candish said.

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## What's happening to our acute care skills, the broken heart of general practice?

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/08/2024

Dr Ashraf Saleh says the GP colleges have 'lowered the bar' and promoted mediocrity. Dr Ashraf Saleh is a Queensland GP — for now. [...] Leaders of the health department need a reality check.

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## 'Lucky to be alive': Alaine's extraordinary journey to becoming a nurse

Daily Liberal, Other, 23/08/2024, Sarah Falson

Alaine Preston's life flashed before her eyes twice before she decided it was too short to spend being unfulfilled in her career. [...] According to the latest Nursing Demand and Supply Report by the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care, Australia is projected to face a nursing shortage of around 70,000 by 2035.

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

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## Aussie woman issues urgent warning after finding a 'weird splinter' on her stomach: 'It was throbbing... please be aware'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/08/2024

A hiker has told of the moment she noticed a 'weird splinter' on her tummy - only to discover it was actually a blood-sucking tick. [...] According to the Australian Government Department of Health, ticks are parasites that feed off human blood and they can significantly affect human health.

## MyMedicare is making the same My Health Record mistakes

The Medical Republic, Other, 23/08/2024, Jeremy Knibbs

MyMedicare still lacks a good reason why its two key stakeholders, doctors and patients, will use it. [...] "To properly account for the payroll tax ecosystem the Department of Health and Aged Care is going to need to treat individual tenant doctors like they may have thought of practices in the past," he said.

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## 98.9FM, 08:00 News, 23/08/2024

Consultations are underway to provide greater maternity choices for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. The Department of Health and Aged Care is currently seeking input from obstetrician, midwife and GP organisations on expanding the midwife professional indemnity scheme for low-risk home births. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has put forward its submission, saying while it recognises women having the right to choose their place of giving birth, the choices must be fully informed, and options must be safe.

Similar content in: [Ngaarda Radio \(Karratha\)](#).

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## Ngaarda Radio, Country Affairs, 23/08/2024, Sandy Dann

The Department of Health and Aged Care is currently seeking input from obstetrician, midwife and GP organisations on expanding the midwife professional indemnity scheme for low-risk home births. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has put forward its submission, saying while it recognises women having the right to choose their place of giving birth, the choices must be fully informed, and options must be safe.

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## CORONAVIRUS

### 'No good reason not to': Why some young people are still masking up

9News, Other, 23/08/2024, Zara Zadro

Job mobility drops back to pre-pandemic levels For most people, catching the common cold or another respiratory illness means a week or so of feeling sick. For Phoebe, 19, who was diagnosed with long COVID in 2022 after contracting the virus twice, face masks are one of the only things preventing a potentially debilitating infection that could set her back months in her recovery.

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### How can GPs best spot long COVID cases in children?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/08/2024, Chelsea Heaney

A new study has revealed paediatric long COVID cases could have vastly different symptoms than adults, and may be going unnoticed. The study found similar but distinguishable differences between long COVID in adults and children

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Self-funded retirees face the prospect of a higher cost for care

Weekend Australian, Business News, 24/08/2024, James Gerrard, Page 30

If you know what a basic daily fee is, chances are you have helped an elderly family member transition

into a retirement village, and as part of the process, learned all about the world of aged care accommodation. The rest of us are oblivious to the difference between a DAP and RAD.

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

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## Community for one and all

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Real Estate, 24/08/2024, Kaylee Cranley, Page 2

Ageing is a natural process, but one that can oftentimes be lonely and isolating, which is why cultivating connection in seniors living is an important issue many seek to solve. According to Advocate WA Acting CEO Erin Timu, finding a suitable solution is of utmost importance, considering Australian Bureau of Statistics data showed over the 20 years between 2000 and 2020, the proportion of the population aged 65 years and over increased from 12.4 per cent to 16.3 per cent, with no signs of slowing down.

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## No free RSV jab for seniors

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Edition Changes, 24/08/2024, Claire Sadler, Page 11

Australians most at risk of a severe respiratory virus could miss out on protection against the highly infectious disease after a decision to not nationally rollout free immunisations for seniors and infants. On Friday, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee rejected applications to fund two immunisations Arexvy for seniors and Beyfortus for infants meaning those in danger of severe RSV will have to fork out hundreds of dollars or go without.

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

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## Hell hath frozen over as the 'No-alition' and Labor find common ground on key legislation – but will it last?

The Guardian, Other, 24/08/2024, Karen Middleton

For the middle-majority of Australians, who are weary of our political leaders and their squabbling, 'their horizon is the end of the week' Something's changed in parliament of late. While the public politicking between the Coalition and Labor remains as poisonous as ever, on the legislative side they're finding uncommon common ground.

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## Aged Care Act 'beyond urgent'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/08/2024, Christopher Kelly

Stakeholders have been quick to express disappointment over the government's continuing failure to introduce the new Aged Care Act to parliament. The federal government has been negotiating with the coalition for months in an effort to strike a deal.

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## AI creating visual menus for people with dementia

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/08/2024, Christopher Kelly

Residents at Lutheran Services aged care homes in Queensland are participating in research involving artificial intelligence to support people with dementia to make food choices at mealtimes. Conducted by researchers from the University of Queensland and the University of the Sunshine Coast, the first phase of the study seeks to explore residents' attitudes towards images of food.

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## In-home care providers look to technology to help support clients

The Senior, Other, 23/08/2024, Eileen Wood

A new framework has been developed to help guide in-home aged care providers as they plan and deliver technology-supported services. Developed through a partnership between the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) and home care provider, Silverchain, the Framework for Enabling Technology Supported Aged Care at Home provides a practical step-by-step guide for in-home aged

care providers on how best to implement digital technologies when in provider everyday service delivery.

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## Opal HealthCare's NSW staff accept company's latest Enterprise Agreement

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/08/2024, Caroline Egan

Opal HealthCare's NSW nurses and care staff have voted "overwhelmingly" in favour of a new Enterprise Agreement (EA) that will deliver an additional increase of 10.7% over three years, backdated to 1 July 2023. Nearly three quarters of NSW staff (71%) supported the deal, which also included an additional three days of sick leave for infectious diseases, access to a sick leave pool for serious illness or injury, an additional two weeks' parental leave, and domestic violence leave of up to 20 days.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 23/08/2024, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

If older Queenslanders wish to stay in their home for as long as they can, there's plenty of support. It comes as seniors could get up to \$50,000 worth of Government help. Those with questions are urged to check the Department of Health and Aged Care website.

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## Sky News Live, Prime Time with James Macpherson, 23/08/2024, Danica De Giorgio

Panel discussion with Tania Mihailuk, NSW One Nation leader, and Tia McQueen, Sky News contributor. Compere says Some self-funded retirees that are entering the nursing home from July 2025 face an average of \$40,000 extra payment because of new laws. Mihailuk admits that in the end, the legislation is expected to be passed as it has been going on for so long. McQueen says this extra payment is a huge problem, particularly as there's a huge ageing population in the country.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### 'Ban gambling ads to stop DV'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/08/2024, Jessica Wang, Page 7

The Albanese government has been told it needs to ban gambling advertisements and restrict alcohol sales to counter a "national emergency" of domestic violence. A panel of six independent experts tasked with an emergency review of prevention methods to reduce the scourge of domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) in Australia said ending the "crisis" needed to be a national priority.

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### Long way back from Covid

Daily Telegraph, Weekend, 24/08/2024, Lisa Wachsmuth, Page 12

Wellness coach Lee Holmes struggled to regain her health after Covid-19. [...] The best estimate from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is between five and 10 per cent of people who contract the virus go on to develop the chronic condition.

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### Govt told to restrict alcohol, gambling

Canberra Times, General News, 24/08/2024, Eleanor Campbell, Page 8

Australia should restrict alcohol sales, ban gambling advertisements and provide a significant funding uplift towards crisis services to reduce high rates of domestic violence, according to the findings of a



major review. An expert panel tasked with conducting a rapid review to inform the federal government's 10-year plan to end violence against women and children handed down its final report on Friday.

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## Most of us lack a natural chill

The Nightly, General News, 23/08/2024, Sarah DiLorenzo, Page 31

Magnesium deficiency affects 80 per cent of Aussies but lower levels of this essential mineral can lead to health issues Magnesium deficiency in Australia is at crisis point with up to 80 per cent of the population deficient. There are few reasons why magnesium deficiency is so common.

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## One council wants to reduce bad habits in town centres

Burnie Advocate, General News, 24/08/2024, Rodney Woods, Page 13

The West Coast Council is looking to crack down on where people can smoke and vape in select areas of its towns. At its August 27 meeting, the council will note the findings of a community survey on the subject which revealed that residents and businesses were in favour of change to where smoking and vaping should occur.

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## A to-do list for council, medical centre concerns and a bypass wish: Letters to the editor

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 23/08/2024

As a retired businessman in Bathurst, I am concerned at the survival of small businesses in our city. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has reported that the recent surge in yearly cases to 26,368 (compared with 21,194 for breast cancer) is equivalent to 72 Australian men being diagnosed each day, while nearly 11 men will die from the disease every 24 hours.

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## Alzheimer's crisis may be fueled by common plastic entering our brains, early findings suggest

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/08/2024, Ellyn Lapointe

New research has found alarmingly high levels of microplastics in the human brain that could potentially be linked to the global rise in Alzheimer's disease. The study, led by researchers from the University of New Mexico , has been published as a pre-print online, which means it has yet to be reviewed by other scientists.

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## Bunnings: Lower blood pressure is just the beginning

The New Daily, Other, 23/08/2024, John Elder

So you go to Bunnings for advice about the best paint for your decking, the best trimmer for your hedge, and what's the best way to look good in your tool belt. What about checking out if you're at higher risk of having a stroke or heart attack any time soon?

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## Dire warning for five million Aussies as weather heats up: 'Significant trigger'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 23/08/2024, Michael Dahlstrom

Spring has come very early for many Aussies, as the hum of lawnmowers cutting long grass grows louder and gardens fill with thousands of blossoms blooming. But it's not all sunshine and lollipops for everyone.

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## 4BC, Afternoons, 23/08/2024, Sofie Formica

Interview with Meredith Staib, CEO, Royal Flying Doctor Service. Formica says in rural Australia,

access to medical services remains a significant challenge and according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, about 70% of Australians in remote areas don't have GP services nearby. Staib says they are delighted to have partnered with the North West Hospital and Health Service in a programme to see junior doctors being able to be given the opportunity to work across both services.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### 'Astounding' volume of data in hack

Canberra Times, General News, 24/08/2024, Connor Pearce, Page 18

A national audiologist may have been in breach of the law in retaining the personal data of former patients and staff that's now been leaked in a ransomware attack. This week, Bloom Hearing Specialists confirmed it was the subject of a ransomware attack which has compromised personal and medical records of current, former and prospective patients, and current and former staff.

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### Survivor: don't delay diagnosis

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 24/08/2024, Page 23

Thirty-three-year-old Andrew Phan's appreciation for everyday moments took a sharp turn in October 2021 when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. As a specialist working in the medical field in Western Australia, the irony that Mr Phan of all people, brushed it aside and ignored his symptoms for as long as he did is not lost on him.

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### Helping cancer patients

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 24/08/2024, Page 23

The journey from a family farm in Kojonup in the Great Southern region to an oncology unit at The Royal Marsden Hospital in London, UK is hardly a well-trodden path for many young Western Australian country kids. However, for Fiona Stanley Hospital Medical Oncologist Dr Tom Ferguson (pictured above), who specialises in genitourinary and colorectal cancer management, this path forged his commitment to advancing cancer treatment and helping Western Australians lead longer, healthier lives.

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### A top tip for blokes

Daily Advertiser, General News, 24/08/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 1

When Mike Murray was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2010 it was a tough situation to be faced with. "I was on a watch and wait program," Mr Murray said. "It went haywire and they just caught it in time."

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### More skin cancer scans

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 24/08/2024, Wade Stephens, Page 8

A newly forged partnership is aiming to increase accessibility to skin cancer detection and treatment locally. Mildura Health Private Hospital has aligned with Your Skin Scan, and plastic surgeons from Niche Plastic Surgery.

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### Breast cancer sufferer Brandi Allsop needs costly treatment for a chance to stay alive

Cairns Post, Other, 23/08/2024, Shelley Strachan

Hervey Bay mother of two Brandi Allsop is just 39, but she has been in the fight of her life for more than

three years against triple-negative breast cancer. With the return of the cancer in 2024, Brandi needs Lynparza (Olaparib), a drug that targets BRCA gene mutations, to continue her battle, but the drug is incredibly expensive and not covered by the Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), meaning her family would need to find an extra \$78,000 a year for her treatment.

Also reported by: [Fraser Coast Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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## My twin sister's symptoms were dismissed as 'girly issues' - then the unthinkable happened. These are the warning signs everyone should know

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/08/2024, Cindy Tran

Christina was 29 when she began complaining about stomach pains and cramps Just three months after her 30th birthday, she lost her fight to the disease Emily Poulos will never forget the day her twin sister died.

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## World-first lung cancer vaccine trials launched across seven countries

The Guardian, Other, 23/08/2024, Andrew Gregory

Doctors have begun trialling the world's first mRNA lung cancer vaccine in patients, as experts hailed its "groundbreaking" potential to save thousands of lives. Lung cancer is the world's leading cause of cancer death, accounting for about 1.8m deaths every year.

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## 'I'm enjoying life to the full': cancer survivor tells Wagga men to get checked

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 23/08/2024, Finn Coleman

When Mike Murray was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2010 it was a tough situation to be faced with. "I was on a watch and wait program," Mr Murray said.

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## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 23/08/2024, Manny Tsigas

Postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, more commonly known as POTS, is a disorder which affects thousands of Australians. Researchers say it's poorly recognised and has been linked to viruses like Covid-19, with some sufferers struggling with symptoms for months before being successfully diagnosed.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Born alive but left to die, with no comfort or love

Weekend Australian, General News, 24/08/2024, Gemma Tognini, Page 18

I want you to imagine a scenario in which you're walking down the street, going about your day perhaps, and you see a newborn baby. We've all read about those miracle stories where a stranger finds an abandoned baby in a bin or some such thing.

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

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### You're now paying twice at GP clinic

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/08/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 1

Patients are being double billed at GP clinics to accommodate the state government's new payroll tax. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners state chairwoman Dr Sian Goodson said some

practices were charging patients twice to pay for the new tax.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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## Compassion for dying babies - but only in Gaza

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/08/2024, Vikki Campion, Page 21

When Black Caviar's foal a colt sired by Snitzel passed away this week, there was a virtual day of mourning. He received "around-the-clock, world-class veterinary care, but unfortunately could not be saved", and headlines lamented devastation, with even ABC reporting that "late Black Caviar champion racehorse's final foal has died".

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## IV fluids run low

Herald Sun, General News, 24/08/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Victorian hospitals already rationing IV fluids have been told to reduce their use even further after an internal list of "at risk" products almost doubled in a fortnight. The move will lead to fewer patients receiving IV fluids amid an ongoing national shortage, with strategies employed such as encouraging women in labour to drink water.

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## Rogue MP's penalty doubled

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 24/08/2024, Page 27

A judge doubled former Liberal MP Andrew Laming's penalty for posting illegal election campaign messages on Facebook, lifting the total fine to \$40,000. The Federal Court in August 2023 found Laming contravened the Commonwealth Electoral Act via three social media posts.

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

## Under the knife

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/08/2024, David Killick, Page 1

The state government appears to have dramatically scaled back plans to expand the Royal Hobart Hospital emergency department. Senior RHH staff say the resulting upgrade to the hospital's emergency department is not fit for purpose and won't meet current or future needs as part of a \$149m "Expansion Phase 2" approved in February.

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

## Few prepared to speak up on assisted dying

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/08/2024, Zizi Averill, Page 13

Less than half of all Territory election candidates have voiced their support for a future voluntary assisted dying scheme. The Northern Territory Voluntary Euthanasia Society has released its polling of all 80 candidates ahead of the August 24 election, asking each of the political hopefuls if they would support Territorians having the same end-of-life options as the rest of the country.

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

## Anti-abortion 'dog whistling' hits NT election

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/08/2024, Zizi Averill, Page 17

An anti-abortion push that medical experts and prochoice advocates said would expose babies to "inhumane" suffering and unnecessary distress to women has become an election battleground in the Territory. In a scare campaign, Pro-Life Victoria has circulated election flyers and advertisements claiming that under Labor "even more babies would die", while the Australian Christian Lobby has reported the Country Liberal Party voiced its support for a controversial "Babies Born Alive" Bill.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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

## Meeting health-care challenges

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 24/08/2024, Terry Welch, Page 28

Hospitals are the lifeblood of any community. They are where many of us begin and end our lives, standing by our side in moments of greatest need and vulnerability.

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

## Medics ready to rescue

Weekend Post, General News, 24/08/2024, Emma Cam, Page 6

Three critical care helicopter doctors will be on the ground in Far North Queensland to help with rescues from crashes, waterfalls and other complicated terrain. The new recruits will be onboard the AW139 Queensland Government Air helicopter fleet, which operates from bases in Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane.

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

## Former MP Andrew Laming's fine doubled to \$40,000 after failing to disclose authorisation on Facebook posts

The Guardian, Other, 23/08/2024, Tory Shepherd

Former MP Andrew Laming's fine for Facebook posts that did not disclose his political links, including by writing in the third person, has been doubled. [...] The federal court found his posts on the "Redland Hospital: Let's fight for fair funding" Facebook page in the months before the 2019 federal election did not carry his name and town or city, as required for proper authorisation.

Similar Stories: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Mobile medics expand

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/08/2024

Street Side Medics, a mobile medical service for the homeless, is set to expand into Victoria next month, marking its first venture outside New South Wales. Founded by Dr Daniel Nour, the 2022 Young Australian of the Year, the not-for-profit organisation has delivered free primary healthcare to thousands of vulnerable Australians since its inception four years ago.

[Read More](#)

## GPs want more NDIS planning powers

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/08/2024

The Senate has now passed the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Bill. Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) President Dr Nicole Higgins emphasised the critical role GPs play in enhancing care for patients with disabilities.

[Read More](#)

## 'I just went, I can't do this': Practice closures continue

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/08/2024, Michelle Wisbey

Another general practice has added its name to an alarmingly long list of clinics shutting up shop, as the owners warn 'the situation is not improving'.

[Read More](#)

## GPs left in the dark amid looming payroll tax changes

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/08/2024, Michelle Wisbey

NSW doctors are demanding answers, saying they have been given no information on the tax changes, which are now just days away. More than 90% of respondents to a newsGP poll said they would be forced to raise their fees if they were hit with a payroll tax.

[Read More](#)

## Deni Hospital patient satisfaction soars

Shepparton News Online, Other, 23/08/2024, Zoe McMaugh

Patient satisfaction at Deniliquin Hospital is strong, and its workforce is continuing to grow, according to the latest reports presented to the Deniliquin Local Health Advisory Committee. Manager updates on activity across the health service are provided monthly to LHAC members, as well as discussion around new initiatives both within the health service and by LHAC.

[Read More](#)

## Greenfield fight meets council red light: mayor rejected hosting of forum

The Border Mail, Other, 23/08/2024, Anthony Bunn

Albury's Mayor told Better Border Health the council would not assist the lobby group because the organisations' hospital stances are in "conflict". Better Border Health approached Albury Council about supplying a venue, for a forum to discuss the need for a new hospital, in the wake of an event in Wodonga in July.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 23/08/2024, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

Elective surgeries are once again being cancelled across two Adelaide hospitals. The Royal Adelaide and Queen Elizabeth both postponing non-urgent procedures due to demand for beds.

[Play Now](#)

## 5AA, Mornings, 23/08/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Dr John Williams, President, AMA. Pantelis says each local health network has been directed to manage their elective surgery numbers in accordance with available bed capacity. Williams points out that this is a reflection of what is happening in the health system in SA right now, wherein there's no bed capacity to deal with health problems in the community, which in result is affecting elective surgery.

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 23/08/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Julian Schiller

Feldhoff mentions that some doctors in SA have been ordered to cancel some non-urgent elective surgery as the embattled system strains under huge demand and record ambulance ramping, as reported by the Adelaide Advertiser.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 23/08/2024, Lucy Breden

Interview with Dr Michael Lumsden Steel, Tasmanian President, Australian Medical Association. Compere mentions that they are receiving many texts from Royal Hobart Hospital employees who are tackling the issues pertaining to the hospital patient ramping. Steel says the Royal Hobart Hospital is the only public emergency department that serves southern Tasmania, and they are looking at a population of around 300,000 which they assist.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Australians' sense of belonging hits GFC lows

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/08/2024, Millie Muroi, Page 16

Australians have reported the lowest sense of belonging since the global financial crisis, with online abuse surging and loneliness among young people spiking. A wellness report measuring 50 indicators

beyond the usual economic data, published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics yesterday, revealed Australians' sense of belonging clocked in at 78 the lowest value since the index began in 2007.

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

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

## **An abject, tragic failure in our prison**

Canberra Times, Editorials, 24/08/2024, Page 38

A particularly wrenching story on our pages this week has had us reeling anew at the indignities that are so often experienced by prisoners and their families. And in the case of Luke Rich, it has been yet another example of how the Alexander Maconochie Centre has consistently failed to live up to its much-vaunted status as the first prison in Australia to be purpose-built to meet human rights obligations.

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

## **'A safe place for people to come'**

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 24/08/2024, Samantha Newsam, Page 16

For Chris\* Billabong Clubhouse is "a happy place"; a haven that has helped him manage his mental health struggles and stay "on the right path" for more than 20 years. He's not alone.

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## **Farmer fundraiser leading the way**

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 24/08/2024, Denika Anderson, Page 14

Members from the Northern Mallee Leaders program fundraising subcommittee have organised a film screening to raise awareness for men's mental health. Just A Farmer was inspired by writer and farmer Leila McDougall's personal experience, and the stigma surrounding mental health in rural communities.

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## **Remote suicide highest**

Weekend Post, General News, 24/08/2024, Luke Williams, Page 5

One person takes their life every six days in Far North Queensland, which is shockingly 50 per cent higher than the national average. The alarming data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows 224 people died by suicide across the region between 2018 and 2022.

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

## **Australians are called to roll up their flannelette sleeves for a good cause**

Adelaide Now, Other, 23/08/2024, Tamaryn McGregor

Thousands of Australians today will wake up, put on their best flannelette shirts and roll up their sleeves to "flaunt their flanno" for farmers across the country. To celebrate Flanno for a Farmer Day, people nationwide are being called by Farm Angels – a national farmer support charity, to rock their best plaid patterned shirts for the rest of the month.

[Read More](#)

## **The lonely struggle of too many Aussies is now in spotlight**

Canberra Times, Other, 23/08/2024, Emily Anderson

One in four Australians is persistently lonely, and Rodney Clifford is brave enough to admit he's one of them. When he decided he wanted to stay out of jail and better himself, he knew he needed more than himself to talk to about his struggles with loneliness and mental health.

[Read More](#)

## **Peak bodies for doctors and lawyers call for raising of the age, end to politicisation of youth justice**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/08/2024, Declan Brennan

The peak bodies for doctors and lawyers in Australia have said they are concerned about the

increased politicisation of youth crime in the country and have demanded action on the "national tragedy" of jailing children as young as 10. The joint statement from the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Law Council of Australia comes after Australia's National Children's Commissioner tabled a report on Tuesday labelling the treatment of children as young as 10-years-old in the criminal justice system is one of the most urgent human rights issues facing Australia today.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Union boss in court over \$2.7m 'ghost printing roort'

The Saturday Age, Edition Changes - Metro General News, 24/08/2024, Kieran Rooney, Page 1

The Fair Work Commission has launched legal action against Health Workers Union boss Diana Asmar, alleging she approved payment of more than \$2.7 million to a printing business and got cash back. The commission filed civil proceedings against Asmar, her husband, David Asmar, and five senior members of the HWU executive team in the Federal Court yesterday.

*Similar Stories:* [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### My hospital colleagues keep calling in sick

The Saturday Age, Business News, 24/08/2024, Jonathan Rivett, Page 8

As a hospital specialist I am often saddled with the additional supervision of junior doctors to make up for sick colleagues. It's exhausting and dispiriting to keep being asked to make up for absentees when my work is already highly demanding.

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

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

### Real legend banned over Strong words

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 24/08/2024, Page 60

One of Australia's most respected doctors says he has been banned from Princess Alexandra Hospital, where he worked for 31 years, for being "outspoken". Dr Russell Strong was barred from weekly rounds for mildly suggesting at a private talkfest that a surgery may have been done better, his colleagues said.

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

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

### Chance to step it up in support of Willow

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 24/08/2024, Ashlee Falvo Winton, Page 29

In many ways, Mildura's Willow Hura is just like any other little girl. According to mum Maddy, the threeyear-old is "sassy, cheeky and full of life."

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

### Breaking news: RACGP announces its next president

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/08/2024, Antony Scholefield

Michael Wright will succeed Dr Nicole Higgins as RACGP president after a narrow win in the college's presidential election over current vice-president Associate Professor Michael Clements.



Similar Stories: [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Thousands of ambulance workers caught in super stuff-up

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 23/08/2024, Callum Godde

Thousands of Victorian ambulance service staff were paid the incorrect amount of superannuation for more than six years. Three days after Ambulance Victoria's CEO resigned amidst a protracted pay dispute, an external review has revealed about 3000 employees were affected by payment errors between July 2017 and December 2023.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Apply Code of conduct when using AI

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/08/2024

AHPRA and the Pharmacy Board of Australia back the safe use of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare Health practitioners are being urged to consider the practical and ethical issues associated with using AI in a healthcare setting. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards said they "support the safe use of

Similar Stories: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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## SPORT

### Katter's question was truly 'Roman' around

Courier Mail, General News, 24/08/2024, Des Houghton, Page 60

The irrepressible Bob Katter summed up the decline in Western Civilisation in under a minute this week. It happened with one of the most bizarre questions I have ever heard asked in federal parliament.

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

## Anger at Survival Day clash

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/08/2024, Talara McHugh, Page 1

Indigenous leaders say the last day of next year's Tour Down Under falling on January 26 means they will be shut out of Victoria Square on one of the most important days of their year. Survival Day organiser and actor Natasha Wanganeen said Victoria Square was the traditional meeting place for an annual Survival Day march, but this could not happen next year because of a clash with the final stage of the TDU a six-lap course that takes in the same venue.

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

## Vic Gay Games bid backlash

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/08/2024, Alex White, Page 20

Victoria is in the running to host the international 2030 Gay Games, but its state government move has been criticised after ex-premier Daniel Andrews' shock dumping of the Commonwealth Games. Melbourne is one of 10 cities (Adelaide among them) in the running for the 10-day event, which promotes lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and sports stars on the international stage.

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## Home on the Grange: Soccer's big win

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/08/2024, Erin Jones, Page 26

The home of the SA Amateur Soccer League will be replaced with a \$6.25m twostorey clubroom allowing it to host final competitions in Grange for the first time. Cyrill Baxter Hall, at Grange Recreation Reserve, will become a multipurpose building with four change rooms, a medical room, canteen, umpire rooms, offices and a function space.

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## Football complex 'fallback'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/08/2024, Rob Inglis, Page 1

With Rosny's proposed AFL high performance centre mired in uncertainty after an elector poll, work is quietly under way to prepare Kingston's Twin Ovals as a "fallback" option should the state government decide to walk away from its preferred site. The Kingborough Council unsuccessfully bid to have the \$70m facility built in the municipality's sporting precinct, with the government and the AFL instead opting to establish the home base for the Tasmania Devils club at Rosny.

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

## What the Olympics tells us about excellence

The Nightly, General News, 23/08/2024, Brad Stulberg, Page 22

We are drawn to stories of individuals who not only embody the pursuit of excellence, but also have humility. Think of the American gymnast Simone Biles, who worked through mental health issues that kept her mostly sidelined at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and went on to win three gold medals at the Paris Games.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### A rugby legend, a PR queen and a miracle baby

Weekend Australian, Business News, 24/08/2024, Damon Kitney, Page 26

A chance meeting between two couples is one that will potentially change the lives of thousands of parents struggling to conceive a child. Three years ago public relations queen Malyon "Maz" Coote wed Brett Barnes at the iconic Icebergs Dining Room and Bar, perched above the surf of Sydney's Bondi Beach.

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

## Accurate AI diagnosis as easy as poking out your tongue

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 24/08/2024

In the ever-evolving landscape of technology, one of the most fascinating developments is the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and medical diagnostics. The true power of AI lies in its ability to access and process vast amounts of data.

[Read More](#)

## Proteomics testing pinpoints future kidney disease risks

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/08/2024, James Pearson

Proteomics International Laboratories testing using its "PromarkerD" device that employs a simple finger-prick blood test has shown a high accuracy in being able to predict future kidney disease in type 1 diabetes patients. The company has told this week's Australasian Diabetes Conference in Perth that testing has confirmed its excellent predictive qualities in detecting the possibility of future renal decline, marking the first time it has shown potential for forecasting chronic kidney disease (CKD) in type 1 patients.

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

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## The 'simple change' that could help save the lives of kids like Charlie

SBS, Other, 23/08/2024, Cameron Carr and Alex Anyfantis

Charlie was born prematurely and faced his fair share of health battles. His family says he was luckier than others, who have "extensive" ongoing health problems.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### 'I never step back'

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 24/08/2024, Vitoria Laurie, Page 6

A boxing studio, a slender woman leans on the ropes while her coach wraps bandages on her hands before the gloves go on. Tracy Westerman has just flown back to Perth after a gruelling week addressing judges, police officers and child protection workers in different states, and it's time to de-stress.

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

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### One doctor, two artists and an unstoppable vision

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 24/08/2024, Page 22

In a new collaboration with artists Tarris and Sarrita King, Specsavers aims to donate half a million dollars to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health. Even in the dry season, the serpentine Adelaide River is one of the most striking features of the Top End landscape, its coils stretching hundreds of kilometres south from the mouth of the Timor Sea to Litchfield National Park.

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

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### Elder's alert on widening gaps

Courier Mail, General News, 24/08/2024, Christopher Burns, Page 12

Townsville elder and activist Gracelyn Smallwood has warned of the inequity of Indigenous health outcomes, as she criticised crime stereotypes she believed were causing harm. Professor Smallwood said there was only a small group of Indigenous youth actively "creating havoc", but that this was creating a harmful stereotype for the rest who were doing the right thing.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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

## Calls for minimum alcohol floor price to remain in the NT

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/08/2024, Tiesha Hewitt

The Australian Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory has urged all sides of politics to commit to maintaining the minimum unit price, or floor price, of alcohol in the Northern Territory. AMSANT (Aboriginal Medical Services Northern Territory) CEO, Dr John Paterson, said removing the floor price would lead to more alcohol abuse, more crime and more disadvantage.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Quake hits near proposed nuclear site

The Saturday Age, General News, 24/08/2024, Ben Cubby, Page 7

A magnitude 4.7 earthquake struck near Muswellbrook, NSW, just after midday yesterday, a few kilometres from the site where the Coalition has pledged to build a nuclear power plant, damaging some buildings in the town and sending tremors as far away as Sydney. [...] Nuclear facilities can be designed to withstand quakes of magnitude 4.8 and above, according to the World Nuclear Association and studies prepared by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation for the Lucas Heights reactor in southern Sydney.

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

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### Monkeypox in Australia

Courier Mail, General News, 24/08/2024, Page 18

Aussies have been warned to be vigilant as cases of mpox spike. In Victoria, case numbers have hit a new peak with 121 reported this year.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#). Similar Stories: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

### Australia conducts first maintenance of US nuclear submarine

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/08/2024

A U.S. nuclear-powered submarine will undergo maintenance in Australia for the first time on Friday, a key step by AUKUS partners to deter aggression in the Indo-Pacific, the defence ministers of Australia, Britain and the United States said. [...] Allaying concern about nuclear waste storage within Australia, which lacks a nuclear power industry, its defence department said no radiological material would be transferred ashore during maintenance.

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

[Read More](#)

### SBS, World News Australia, 23/08/2024, Catalina Florez

The AUKUS defence program has reached a milestone, with newly trained Navy crew back in Australian waters for the first time, the USS Emory has joined Virginia class submarine USS Hawaii at the Navy base near Perth for the first time in Australian waters. Despite AUKUS moving forward, community fears about nuclear waste remain.

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## High times

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 24/08/2024, Richard Clune, Page 26

Prescriptions for medicinal marijuana have skyrocketed but political support for legalising recreational use is at a standstill. [...] Scripts issued for medicinal cannabis, which was legalised in 2016, have recently climbed beyond a million; 316,879 were penned in 2022 compared to 292 in 2018, according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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## Escape valve

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 24/08/2024, Jonathan Seidler, Page 12

This rising "It" drug looks like designer chocolate and is taken in microdoses in monied, middle-class circles particularly, it seems, by young mums. And it's illegal. [...] About a year ago, Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) made global headlines for a highly irregular decision, in which it changed the ranking of psilocybin from a prohibited substance that could only be used in trials to a drug that could be prescribed selectively to those suffering from treatment resistant depression.

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

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## Dementia drug greenlit

Herald Sun, General News, 24/08/2024, Page 33

Dementia Australia has welcomed the regulatory decision to approve lecanemab for use in the UK. Also approved in the US, Japan, China, South Korea and Israel, the drug is being evaluated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use in Australia.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications.

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## She deserves justice

Courier Mail, General News, 24/08/2024, Luke Williams, Page 15

A Cairns woman died after using a "suicide kit" she was able to buy online from a Brisbane business via eBay. Caitlin Maree Hungerford, 22, bought a toxic poison used to cure meats via a West End business in 2021. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration said because of reports of "promotion of the substance as a suicide agent", selling it was highly restricted.

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

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## Facebook advertises vapes in breach of Australian law

Ballarat Courier, General News, 24/08/2024, Ayden Dawkins, Page 14

Tech giant Meta is facilitating the sale of illegal vapes by allowing the advertisement of the banned devices to Australian users, ACM has found. [...] ACM also found advertisements running for nicotine pouches. The TGA says it has not evaluated any nicotine pouches for quality, safety or efficacy in Australia.

Widely syndicated across regional publications

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## Tragic death

Weekend Post, General News, 24/08/2024, Page 38

Suicide, and the ripple impact it has on families and communities, is tragically devastating in any circumstance. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration said because of reports of "promotion of the substances as a suicide agent" selling the substance became highly restricted.

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

## Are SSSIs fit for purpose?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/08/2024, Megan Haggan

Pharmacists say SSSIs should not be required for substitutions which amount to "doing primary school maths sums". In their submissions to the Therapeutic Goods Administration's Medicines Shortages in Australia – Challenges and Opportunities consultation, both the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia pointed out different challenges associated with the Serious Scarcity

[Read More](#)

## Cost of new Alzheimer's drug could put it out of reach for many in Australia

SBS, Other, 23/08/2024

The development of the first drug in 30 years that modifies the disease - and not just the symptoms - of the most common form of dementia has given hope to patients. [...] Lecanemab is being evaluated by the medicines regulator in Australia, the TGA.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### More Australians using medicinal cannabis, meanwhile legalisation debate stalls

The Australian, Other, 24/08/2024, Richard Clune

Around the bends that signify the start of the moneyed tip of Sydney's Northern Beaches, and into an evening dinner party. A backyard affair.

[Read More](#)

### Could cannabis ease suffering for rural palliative care patients?

The Senior, Other, 23/08/2024, Rowan Cowley

Terminally ill people in rural Australia have fewer options when it comes to symptom relief. Could medicinal cannabis be the answer?

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### 'Filthy, disgusting kitchen'

Herald Sun, General News, 24/08/2024, Paul Shapiro, Page 29

A grubby Melbourne restaurant infested with rats and cockroaches and littered with rodent droppings could have exposed customers to deadly diseases, a magistrate declared. The owner of city restaurant Old Durbar Flinders pleaded guilty in Melbourne Magistrates Court to Food Act safety breaches.

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### The hidden truth behind baby food - and why this Aussie brand is changing the game

7news.com.au, Other, 23/08/2024

When over 300 baby and toddler food products were analysed, they all failed in terms of nutrients. Do you shop in the teenager aisle?

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## AICIS

No relevant coverage

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