



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 25th August 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 1) reports major concert promoter Frontier Touring has joined calls to build a \$6 billion Olympic stadium and precinct, after the state government rejected the plans in favor of its own plans to spend \$2.7 billion upgrading existing venues.
- **[The Sunday Tasmanian](#)** (page 2) reports a leaked email suggesting a scaling back of plans to expand the Royal Hobart Hospital ED has drawn criticism from AMA Tasmania branch president Dr Michael Lumsden-Steel, who says state spending needs to be prioritised to ensure a number of health infrastructure projects can be completed.
- **[The Sunday Canberra Times](#)** (page 3) reports ACT residents will now have publically funded access to Micra leadless pacemakers, reducing recovery times and the chance of complications for patients who previously had to travel to Sydney or Melbourne for the treatment.
- **[The Sunday Mail Adelaide](#)** (page 5) reports a private hospital patient was moved from Calvary Adelaide ED to a palliative care bed after suffering a reaction to chemotherapy as bed shortages mean SA Health is having to buy beds from the private sector.
- **[The Sunday Canberra Times](#)** (page 5) reports the National Mental Health Commission remains with only the chair position filled almost a year after a report commissioned by Health

Minister Mark Butler recommended governance reforms, with a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care saying appointments will be delayed until further reforms are undertaken.

- **The Sunday Age** (page 6) reports Independent MP Monique Ryan is backing calls to extend the Covid-19 Vaccine Claims Scheme beyond its September 30 end date and to increase its scope, with a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care saying claims submitted before the end date will continue to be assessed. *Also reported by: [Sun Herald](#).*
- **The Sunday Age** (page 7) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has called reports from the Pennington Institute on increasing instances of nitazene-laced drugs in Australia and record high overdose numbers as “concerning”, noting that “this is something we’re actively monitoring”. *Also reported by: [Sun Herald](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

Call to extend vaccine payments

Sunday Age, General News, 25/08/2024, Mary Ward, Page 6

Patients, academics and an independent MP are calling for the federal government to extend and expand compensation for people who experienced severe reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine, amid concerns the scheme was poorly managed and unfairly narrow in scope. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler referred questions about the report to the department, which did not directly answer them.

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

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Deadly opioid invading Melbourne

Sunday Age, General News, 25/08/2024, Amber Schultz, Page 7

Drug experts have warned substances more potent than those driving the United States' fentanyl crisis are landing on Australian shores, as the number of unintentional opioid overdose deaths continues to grow. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said he had been briefed on the increase in opioid harms in the community and the emergence of nitazenes.

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

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National mental health body in limbo

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 25/08/2024, Connor Pearce, Page 5

The federal government's peak body for advice on mental health remains without a permanent chief executive and a largely vacant advisory board more than a year after an independent review found issues with governance and the commission having the worst staff morale of any federal government agency. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said the government was holding off making appointments to the advisory board pending further reforms to the Commission.

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Gazan visa scheme is a sure sign of desperation

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 25/08/2024, Peta Credlin, Page 23

Be thankful you don't have to watch parliament for a living like I do, because the past week has been a shocker. [...] We've got ministers who are failing to get the basics right, like health minister Mark Butler who has allowed Australia to run critically low in essential IV fluids needed by our hospitals.

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

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Facebook advertises illegal vapes in breach of Australian law

The Border Mail, Other, 24/08/2024, Ayden Dawkins

Tech giant Meta is facilitating the sale of illegal vapes by allowing the advertisement of the banned devices to Australian users, ACM has found. [...] The department confirmed federal health minister Mark Butler had written to Meta requesting immediate action to remove advertising contravening the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Act 2023- which includes stronger restrictions on the advertising of e-cigarette and tobacco products.

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MINISTER WELLS

12 big ideas and six sitting weeks: It's crunch time for Albanese

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 24/08/2024, David Crowe

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: [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

Call to extend vaccine payments

Sunday Age, General News, 25/08/2024, Mary Ward, Page 6

Patients, academics and an independent MP are calling for the federal government to extend and expand compensation for people who experienced severe reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine, amid concerns the scheme was poorly managed and unfairly narrow in scope. [...] "Claims submitted by that date will continue to be assessed in line with the scheme policy," a spokesperson for the federal Department of Health and Aged Care said.

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

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National mental health body in limbo

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 25/08/2024, Connor Pearce, Page 5

The federal government's peak body for advice on mental health remains without a permanent chief executive and a largely vacant advisory board more than a year after an independent review found issues with governance and the commission having the worst staff morale of any federal government agency. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said the government was holding off making appointments to the advisory board pending further reforms to the Commission.

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Opinion: Allied health and reablement critical to quality aged care

Inside Ageing, Other, 24/08/2024, Bronwyn Morris

On 2 August, the Inspector-General of Aged Care released a progress report on the 148 recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care. [...] The Inspector-General's report urges the Department of Health and Aged Care to review the impact of AN-ACC and the care minutes on allied health provision.

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CORONAVIRUS

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

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POPULATION HEALTH

Why people are nuts for benefits of walnut milk

Sunday Territorian, General News, 25/08/2024, Page 40

Milk alternatives aren't new. Ever since the burst of soy milk into the mainstream market back in the late '90s, it would strike us as odd if we found ourselves in a busy cafe that didn't serve milk alternatives.

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Former chef on his battle with addiction and prescription medication

The Australian, Other, 24/08/2024, Emma Kirk

A former chef was fed prescription medication to overcome a drug addiction that left him feeling like a zombie. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows one in three people, or more than six million Australians, consumed risky levels of alcohol last year, and it was the most used substance for 50 per cent of people being treated for drug misuse.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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A practical approach to the gut microbiome

Australian Doctor, Other, 24/08/2024, Craig Haifer

There is increasing evidence linking the gut microbiome to the development and progression of the

vast majority of chronic illnesses. With the increase in direct-to-consumer microbiome testing, along with an ever-expanding nutraceutical industry, it is important to remember that patients are aware of the link and looking for ways to understand and influence it.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Mobile scans go bush

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 25/08/2024, Isabella Pesch, Page 27

A Queensland mobile healthcare company will expand nationally, delivering critical lung cancer screening to rural and remote communities. A \$45m federal investment, alongside other corporate money, will allow Heart of Australia to deliver five additional trucks to its fleet.

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

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Australia's diabetes disparity

Sunday Times, General News, 25/08/2024, Claire Sadler & Jessica Evensen, Page 18

Australia is lagging years behind in diabetes care, with many unable to afford the latest technologies due to a lack of financial help from the Federal Government, a world-renowned expert says. The cost of continuous glucose monitors small wearable sensors that automatically measure glucose levels are leaving many Australians with no choice but to pay up to \$5000 a year or self-monitor via antiquated finger prick tests.

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Hay fever sufferers warned Canberra could have 'earlier and above average grass pollen season'

ABC Online, Other, 24/08/2024, Lottie-Twyford & Peter-Jean

Hayfever sufferer Jackie Hattingh is gearing up for the most problematic time of year: Spring. [...] Asthma Australia board member and Victorian GP Chris Pearce said hospital admissions for asthma spike when pollen levels were high.

[Read More](#)

Shock diagnosis after 19yo finds lump on neck

The Mercury, Other, 24/08/2024, Brielle Burns

Josh Griffiths was less than a year into his army career when he noticed a suspicious lump on his neck late last year, marking the start of the biggest battle of his life. At the time, the then-19-year-old private was shaving before work in his apartment on an Adelaide army base when he spotted the firm lump, measuring roughly the size of a golf ball.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Life, death and the man in the mirror

Sun Herald, General News, 25/08/2024, Farrukh Tufail, Page 31

It was a routine, busy day in my skin cancer clinic. There were footy and weather discussions, laughs, some tears.

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Ambos CEO makes way

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 25/08/2024, Page 40

Jane Miller's sudden resignation from Ambulance Victoria this week wasn't entirely unexpected. The writing had been on the wall after two votes of no confidence in the organisation's executive and the failure of Ambulance Services Minister Mary-Anne Thomas to publicly back Miller and her team.

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World's smallest pacemaker hits ACT public system

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 25/08/2024, Georgie Preston, Page 3

John Wynd was doing something he does every morning, collecting the newspaper from the front of his house, when he felt something was wrong. The 82-year-old Queanbeyan local has bradycardia, or a slow heartbeat, and knew what he was feeling could be serious.

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'Freakout' on death ward

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 25/08/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 5

Adelaide hospitals are so full, a seriously ill but not dying cancer patient was warehoused in a palliative care centre. It was a move he described as "freaking me out".

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

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This isn't fair care

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Editorials, 25/08/2024, Page 71

It can only be described as a new low for the state's health system. So under pressure are our hospitals that a patient with private health insurance has ended up in a palliative care ward because there was no other bed available.

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Check cover to put a premium on saving big

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 25/08/2024, Anthony Keane, Page 50

Households hit by surging home, contents, car and health insurance premiums can potentially save hundreds of dollars per policy simply by taking a closer look at their cover. There were footy and weather discussions, laughs, some tears.

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Anger as government scales back RHH plan

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 25/08/2024, Amber Wilson, Page 2

Anger continues to build after it was revealed plans to expand the Royal Hobart Hospital emergency department could be dramatically scaled back. On Friday, it was reported that members of the department's management team told staff in a leaked email the redevelopment would not be fit for purpose or meet current or future needs, following a budget cut of \$19m to \$130m.

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New health city for Melbourne's east barely has a pulse five years on

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 24/08/2024, Adam Carey

In years gone by it's been the place for a drive-in cinema, a trash and treasure market, a caravan park and a disability support centre. But today most of this sprawling wedge of land just beyond EastLink lies empty and in ruins.

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'Cut and run': Border Medical Association speaks out on hospital plans

Revised plans to upgrade Albury hospital show the NSW and Victorian governments have no intention to fund further works, the Border Medical Association believes. Health ministers Ryan Park (NSW) and Mary-Anne Thomas (Victoria) unveiled new designs and details for the development on Wednesday, August 21.

[Read More](#)

Pru spent years campaigning for voluntary assisted dying in NSW. She didn't know one day she would use it

7news.com.au, Other, 24/08/2024

Pru Wawn, 68, spent years of her life campaigning for NSW residents to have the right to die peacefully. The public school teacher of 38 years had no idea she would one day decide to use the scheme.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Home of her own

Sunday Times, STM, 25/08/2024, Jade Jurewicz, Page 1

Home has been many things for Kayla George. It's been a place of volatility and trauma.

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Why experts say suicide rates are high in regional Qld

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/08/2024, Luke Williams

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 Health and Welfare shows 224 people died by suicide across the region between 2018 and 2022.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Forced to get second job

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 25/08/2024, Linda Silmalis, Page 24

Almost half of the state's frontline workers are taking on or considering a second job to make ends meet, while a similar number are considering moving to higher-paying interstate jobs. The findings are contained in a Unions NSW survey of more than 7000 union and non-union public sector employees and come as nurses, fireys and police ramp up their demands for pay rises.

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LifeFlight training academy prepares doctors for real-life rescue scenarios

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 on-board the AW139 Queensland Government Air helicopter fleet, which operates from bases in Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Telehealth one part of the solution for WA family amid national shortage of paediatricians

ABC Online, Other, 24/08/2024

When nine-year-old Henry Witham had a fall at the family farm in 2021, he suffered a traumatic brain injury. It was the beginning of a long journey of recovery.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Former French stayer Eliyass claims his second Australian stakes win and confirms his favouritism for the Group 1 The Metropolitan

The Australian, Other, 24/08/2024, Ray Thomas

Eliyass, the exciting former French stayer, showed why he is the early favourite for the Group 1 \$750,000 The Metropolitan with another impressive win at Royal Randwick on Saturday. [...] To honour Nathan's memory, Jersey Day asks workplaces and schools across the nation to allow their employees and students to wear their favourite sporting jersey to show their support of the DonateLife network.

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

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SPORT

Bold bid to bring NFL to Sydney

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 25/08/2024, Michael Carayannis & Brent Read, Page 5

Sydney could host an NFL game as soon as next year as the harbour city goes all out to steal Melbourne's thunder and secure a piece of the world's biggest sporting league. An image obtained by The Sunday Telegraph shows Accor Stadium's big screens welcoming the NFL as part of its pitch process to host a game as early as 2025.

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Youth blazes trail with Deek

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 25/08/2024, Page 9

Indigenous young South Australians now have a greater chance to follow in the footsteps of marathon legend Robert de Castella even if they have no running experience. The champion long-distance runner has set up an Adelaide base for his Indigenous Marathon Foundation (IMF), which selects 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young adults each year to train for the New York Marathon.

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Stadium support

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 25/08/2024, Greg Stolz, Page 1

One of Australia's biggest concert promoters has backed calls for a new Olympic stadium for Brisbane, declaring it would leave a legacy "that lives for decades beyond the Games". Frontier Touring, which has brought mega acts including Taylor Swift and Paul McCartney to Australia, has weighed into the controversy surrounding the Miles government's refusal to build a new innercity stadium.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Sleep link research

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 25/08/2024, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 41

The link between a hearty night's sleep and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is the focus of new medical research. In a first of its kind study, researchers from Flinders Uni and Flinders Medical Centre are working on ways to keep at bay the disease which can be debilitating and even life-threatening for some.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Heart in the right place

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Edition Changes, 25/08/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 20

They're the Queensland researchers transforming lifesaving heart transplant surgery. Technology developed by the Critical Care Research Group at Brisbane's Prince Charles Hospital can already keep a donated heart viable for 12 hours.

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Experts put us at the heart of innovation

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 25/08/2024, Page 62

The work being done by researchers at the Prince Charles Hospital is nothing short of extraordinary. It will literally save lives.

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How these Aussies are building the world's largest epilepsy database

The Australian, Other, 24/08/2024, Joseph Lam

What do 800 brains belonging to Australians afflicted with epilepsy have in common? A team of researchers, neurologists and tech experts is trying to find that out, and is running MRI scans through artificial intelligence as part of an ambitious new project which could save the nation billions of dollars each year.

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

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Ketogenic diet and cancer therapy may beat pancreatic tumours

The New Daily, Other, 24/08/2024, John Elder

About once a year or so, we get a hint of a genuine breakthrough in treating pancreatic cancer. At some point, one of them has to stick.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Thailand mpox alert

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 25/08/2024, Page 17

Thailand has confirmed its first case of a new potentially more deadly strain of mpox, becoming the first country in Asia and the second country outside Africa to report a case. A 66-year-old European man has tested positive for the Clade 1b mpox strain after arriving in Thailand from an unspecified country in Africa, where the virus formerly known as monkeypox is spreading.

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

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Cancer drug 'brainwashes' HIV

Sunday Times, General News, 25/08/2024, Page 14

Researchers have used a drug originally developed for cancer treatment to eliminate HIV in brain tissue, in a promising step towards eradicating the virus. The brain has been a difficult area for treatment due to the blood-brain barrier, a protective membrane that also blocks treatment of "viral reservoirs".

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Government must look further into vaccine injury

Sun Herald, Editorials, 25/08/2024, Page 30

As Mary Ward reports in today's Sun- Herald, patients and academics have expressed concerns about the management of the COVID-19 Vaccine Claim Scheme, which will end on September 30. The scheme existed to provide compensation to people who experienced incredibly rare, but also incredibly debilitating and devastating, reactions to a COVID-19 vaccine.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

'Indestructible': Chilling tap water warning

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/08/2024, Ben Graham

Aussies are being urged to take urgent action to protect themselves from cancer-causing "forever" chemicals that have been detected in drinking water. This week it was revealed the chemicals were detected in several drinking catchments which serve millions of Australians — at levels deemed unacceptable in other parts of the world.

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'Lipstick on a pig': The NT's controversial Middle Arm project, explained

SBS, Other, 24/08/2024

A senate inquiry report has laid bare deep divisions over the future of Darwin Harbour amidst accusations of "greenwashing" and an enormous subsidy for fossil fuels. The report, tabled on Wednesday night, relates to a controversial plan to develop a major industrial precinct the Northern Territory is calling the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct.

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