



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 26th August 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Townsville Bulletin](#)** (page 1) reports that a congenital syphilis outbreak in northwest Queensland has killed four unborn babies, prompting calls for increased screening to curb what is the highest death count for the disease in a century.
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports a fixed-pricing model for private hospitals is among the possible solutions put forward by Federal Health Department Secretary Blair Comley on Friday, as a review into the ailing system commissioned by Health Minister Mark Butler is due to present its recommendations to Mr Butler shortly. Although Mr Comley did not reveal any of the recommendations, measures forcing insurers to pay more are not expected to be among them.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 3) reports that a new potency test for medicinal cannabis is expected to give prescriptions greater accuracy and consistent medication, with current products varying up to 10 per cent from labelled percentages. *Also reported by: [Courier Mail](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Hobart Mercury](#).*
- **[The Townsville Bulletin](#)** (page 4) reports that an Adelaide study is seeking to investigate the link between sleep quality and IBD, with fatigue and intermittent sleep consistent symptoms of the disease.

- **The Newcastle Herald** (page 5) reports that bulk-billing data is being skewed by GPs reporting add-ons as visits, according to one Newcastle doctor, with a spokesperson for the Federal Health Department saying that "using service rather than visit is technically correct, however it has insignificant impact on the bulk-billing rate".
- **The West Australian** (page 5) reports 300,000 skin cancers are predicted to be prevented over the next 20 years thanks to Cancer Council WA's SunSmart program, according to a study in Health Promotion International.
- **Border Mail** (page 7) reports Wodonga hospital's ED is slated to close by 2028, diverting emergency presentations to Albury hospital, with Better Border Health member Michelle Cowan criticising the decision for having "been put together in complete isolation of the community".
- **Canberra Times** (page 8) reports ACM has found Meta has breached Australian law by allowing the advertisement of illegal vapes on the platform since the devices were made illegal to sell outside of pharmacies from July 1.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 9) reports an additional 48 beds at Lyell McEwin Hospital have opened as part of the Adelaide government's plan to combat bed shortages and ambulance ramping that persist despite 150 new beds being made available this year.
- **Hobart Mercury** (page 11) reports the daughter of a man allegedly assaulted by another 80-year old who is also alleged to have caused the death of a woman after pushing her over has called on the ACQSC to remove the man from the Hobart nursing home the incidents occurred in, fearing for her father's safety.

MINISTER BUTLER

Insurance shouldn't be private hospitals' field of dreams

Australian Financial Review, General News, 26/08/2024, Terry Barnes, Page 35

Yet again, Australia's private hospitals and health insurers are at each other's throats.

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

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Private hospitals could get fixed prices

Australian Financial Review, General News, 26/08/2024, Michael Smith, Page 1

The federal government is considering introducing fixed prices for operations and other services in the country's 650 private hospitals under a raft of proposals designed to fix the sector, and has told key players it is willing to let more hospitals close...

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

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'Spinning the stats': bulk-billing data not accurate, says doctor

Newcastle Herald, General News, 26/08/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

A Newcastle doctor says the federal government should publish bulk-billing data in a way that gives a clear picture of the number of people receiving free medical treatment. [...] A Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said "using service rather than visit is technically correct, however it has insignificant impact on the bulk-billing rate".

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Albanese government and opposition to strike deal on aged care reform as deposit cap set to rise

Sky News Australia, Other, 25/08/2024, Oscar Godsell

The Albanese government has neared an agreement with the opposition to push aged care reforms through the Senate. [...] Aged Care Minister Mark Butler will hope his government will be able to pass the new aged care reforms in the Senate next week.

[Read More](#)

Health insurance price spikes – who's to blame?

Your Life Choices, Other, 26/08/2024, Andrew Gigacz

As they do every year in line with federal government legislation, health insurance premiums rose in April. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has launched a review of the sector with findings due in the near future.

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ABC, ABC News (Sunday), 25/08/2024, Alexandra Alvaro

A new Penington Institute report reveals the number of drug overdose deaths every year has almost doubled in two decades. The latest figures show more than 2300 people died in a single year. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has labelled the report findings as concerning and said the Government is actively monitoring the emergence of Nitazenes alongside continued reforms and investments in drug treatments.

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ABC Radio Hobart, 09:00 News (Weekend), 25/08/2024

The annual number of drug overdose deaths in Australia has almost doubled in 20 years. A Penington Institute report says there were more than 2300 drug-induced fatalities in 2022, 80% of which were unintentional. According to the report, unintentional overdose deaths were significantly higher among Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous Australians. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the findings are concerning and the Government is monitoring and taking action on opioid harms in the community.

Also reported by: Radio National (Hobart)

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MINISTER WELLS

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

New doctors for Charleville

Courier Mail, General News, 26/08/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 17

It will be easier for rural Queenslanders to see a doctor under a new trial to support up to six GP and rural generalist registrars training in the Charleville region. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said this is the first SEM trial to be led and delivered by an Aboriginal community.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

'Spinning the stats': bulk-billing data not accurate, says doctor

Newcastle Herald, General News, 26/08/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

A Newcastle doctor says the federal government should publish bulk-billing data in a way that gives a clear picture of the number of people receiving free medical treatment. [...] A Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said "using service rather than visit is technically correct, however it has insignificant impact on the bulk-billing rate".

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The accident that led to a career change

Daily Liberal, General News, 26/08/2024, Sarah Falson, Page 1

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.

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Fixed price operations could be coming to private hospitals

Australian Financial Review, Other, 25/08/2024, Michael Smith

The federal government is considering introducing a fixed-price funding model for the country's 650 private hospitals under a raft of proposals evaluated to fix the sector, and has told key players it is willing to let more facilities close rather than pr...

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Ozempic to 'impact stock market more than AI'

The Australian, Other, 26/08/2024, Danielle Long

Ozempic and similar GLP-1 medications for diabetes and obesity are set to dramatically transform the market as the drug's flow-on effects impact food, drinks, quick-service restaurant brands and beyond, New York University marketing professor, best-selling author and podcaster Scott Galloway says. [...] However, a representative for the Department of Health and Aged Care told The Growth Agenda: "The feasibility study on limiting unhealthy food marketing to children was extended to ensure appropriate public consultation processes".

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CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19 deaths in aged care facilities are still too common

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/08/2024

In 2024, hundreds of Australians are still dying from COVID-19, especially at-risk vulnerable elderly people in aged care facilities (ACFs). Indeed, in the three month periods leading up to July 2023 and July 2024, there were very similar numbers of deaths in ACFs from COVID-19: the total for 3 May to 26 July 2024 was 442 deaths, compared to the similar period, 5 May to 27 July 2023, with 439 deaths.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care home 'killer'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/08/2024, Amber Wilson, Page 11

A woman has raised the alarm over a Hobart nursing home, where a "volatile" 80-year-old man allegedly caused an elderly woman's death warning more lives were at risk. Last month, the Mercury reported that a violent elderly man inside an unnamed nursing home had allegedly been bashing other residents.

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Five factors that can really ruin an inheritance

Cairns Post, General News, 26/08/2024, Anthony Keane, Page 18

Ahead of trillions of dollars of wealth transferring across generations in the years ahead, talk of inheritances is increasingly rapidly both among ageing parents and their hopeful children and grandchildren. Inheritances are like a lottery, literally.

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

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How do you best choose an Australian aged care facility and what do the star ratings mean?

The Guardian, Other, 25/08/2024, Natasha May

The star rating system of aged care homes was introduced in December 2022 to help older people and their families compare the quality and safety of services and providers. Developed as a recommendation of the royal commission, the system has repeatedly come under scrutiny.

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

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Older Australians facing a loneliness epidemic

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/08/2024

There has been increasing awareness of the health impacts of loneliness, with the growing loneliness epidemic being labelled the next public health epidemic of the 21st century. Older people are particularly at risk of experiencing loneliness due to life transitions such as retirement, loss of friends or a spouse, loss of independence and declining health.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Older men at greatest hernia risk

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26/08/2024, Page 29

Older men are most at risk of requiring a hernia operation in Australia, a new study reveals. [...] Using Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data, researchers looked at five different types of hernia operations, identifying the age groups and genders at highest risk.

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World-first program could reverse peanut allergies in babies

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/08/2024

The National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE), hosted at Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), is partnering with ten paediatric hospitals across five Australian states, to provide free, standardised oral immunotherapy to babies aged under one year who have been diagnosed with peanut allergy. The ADAPT OIT Program is the first nationwide program model of its kind.

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Fruit flies best hope for Archie in fight against rare disease

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 26/08/2024, Angus Delaney, Page 15

Archie Melling was just like any other kid before a rare and destructive disease changed his life. At 13 months, he was "super active, a huge eater, he was already talking, he was almost walking", mum Ros Melling said.

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Study shows true value of WA SunSmart campaign

West Australian, General News, 26/08/2024, Claire Sadler, Page 5

Cancer Council WA's SunSmart program is saving lives as well as money, according to a study. Published in Health Promotion International, the research has revealed the SunSmart program is expected to prevent 300,000 skin cancers, save a 1000 lives, and return \$8.70 to the public purse for every dollar spent on the campaign over the next 20 years.

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

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'I was hanging in the gap between life and death'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 26/08/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Leah Makanda almost died twice earlier this year. Both times she had what are known as "near-death experiences".

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Crucial lung cancer screen expansion

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 26/08/2024, Isabella Pesch, Page 5

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: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Do you have knee pain from osteoarthritis? You might not need surgery. Here's what to try instead

ABC Online, Other, 25/08/2024

Most people with knee osteoarthritis can control their pain and improve their mobility without surgery, according to updated treatment guidelines from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. So what is knee osteoarthritis and what are the best ways to manage it?

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International expert flags how Australia is 'lagging' behind in diabetes care

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 26/08/2024, Claire Sadler & Jessica Evensen

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. 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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4BC, Weekend Breakfast, 25/08/2024, Olympia Kwitowski

A total of \$45m in Federal Government funding will keep the Heart of Australia mobile healthcare service pumping. Over the past decade, the organisation has covered more than 1,000,000km to bring

critical health care to 20,000 patients. Now, the fleet will be bolstered to deliver a lung cancer screening program.

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PRIMARY CARE

Health system in sick state

Daily Telegraph, General News, 26/08/2024, Emily Kowal, Page 17

Regional NSW is facing a health crisis, with patients left lying on emergency room floors and entire towns without maternity services or doctors. An investigation by The Daily Telegraph has found NSW's health system is at "breaking point", with a new report from the Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health revealing the state government is failing to adequately improve rural staff retention and recruitment.

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We need a road map for growth

Herald Sun, General News, 26/08/2024, Alex White, Page 8

Victoria's regions will face ongoing growing pains because of ageing infrastructure and a booming population. State household projections reveal that the regional population is expected to skyrocket from 1.7 million in 2023 to 2.3 million in 2051.

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Regions set for strong growth

Herald Sun, Editorials, 26/08/2024, Page 24

For the millions of people living and working in the city and suburbs, the regional centres, towns and open expanses beyond metropolitan Melbourne may often be seen as weekend getaways, with little thought given to their social and economic importance. So it might surprise some to learn that regional and rural Victoria is home to the nation's biggest food and fibre exporters, and is increasingly a primary source for rapidly growing markets in Asia and further afield.

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Extra beds to reduce ramping

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26/08/2024, Shashi Baltutis, Page 9

Northern suburbs residents will have access to almost 50 new hospital beds from Monday, with more fast-tracked for next year but authorities says it's not a "silver bullet" to curb ramping. The Lyell McEwin Hospital will open 48 new beds this morning the first part of a commitment to increase capacity by 80 beds by the end of 2025, including 12 new acute surgical beds.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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Cuts to hospitals a false economy

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/08/2024, Page 19

Only a few years ago, Premier Jeremy Rockliff announced the Tasmanian parliament would be expanded, showing great insight and empathy to the growing number of ministers resigning due to the crippling workload of multiple portfolios. This was a commendable act of leadership, recognising the ongoing issues affecting the efficiency and success of the Tasmanian parliament.

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'Dumbfounding' mistake

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/08/2024, Zizi Averill, Page 8

Remembering the endless whirr of her mother's ventilator and watching the tubes poked into her body, a Territory daughter said she knew the "strong woman" who raised her was already gone. "I touched

her body and felt her pulse, but it was the machine making her alive.

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Further stages 'a furphy'

Border Mail, General News, 26/08/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

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 last week.

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Wodonga will lose emergency department

Border Mail, General News, 26/08/2024, Blair Thomson, Page 7

A new plan shows the Wodonga hospital emergency department will eventually close with all emergency presentations to be diverted to Albury, raising concerns about the influx of thousands of emergency patients to the already strained Albury ED. The report doesn't give an exact timeline for the Wodonga closure, but Albury Wodonga Health chief executive Bill Appleby told the ABC the hospital would be a "non-emergency campus" by 2028.

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A visible property number can save your life in an emergency

Shepparton News, General News, 26/08/2024, Page 2

Ambulance Victoria is urging Victorians to ensure their property numbers are clearly visible from the street to assist emergency services in quickly locating addresses during emergencies. Acting executive director regional operations Michael Georgiou emphasised the importance of this simple measure.

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Check cover to put a premium on saving big

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 26/08/2024, Anthony Keane, Page 18

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. The cost of insurance has climbed almost three times faster than Australia's overall inflation in the past two years as extreme weather events, rising claims and higher building and repair costs flow through to premiums.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Therapy offers new hope

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 26/08/2024, Chris Mackey, Page 16

There is widespread community interest in the effectiveness of psychological therapies given that over 40 per cent of Australians will experience a mental disorder in their lifetime. One area of interest is how much of a therapy's effectiveness results from the techniques themselves as opposed to other factors.

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Horses help healing amid psychologist shortage in central Queensland

ABC Online, Other, 25/08/2024, Ashleigh Bagshaw

When Jen Guinea gets on the back of a horse, she feels free. The central Queensland mum's love of riding started when she was a little girl and it has helped in her recovery from the toughest time of her life.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Cash incentive helps 2000 health workers make move

Daily Telegraph, General News, 26/08/2024, Page 17

Almost 2000 health workers have taken up the NSW government's \$20,000 cash incentive to move to the bush but Premier Chris Minns says we still need more. The government doubled the cash incentive for health workers to move to the bush last August in a bid to tackle the shortage of critical workers in regional areas.

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Palestinian refugees left their whole life behind. Here's how Australia is helping them build a new one

The Guardian, Other, 25/08/2024, Rafqa Touma

The sound of chatter and the smell of flowers drifts out the door of a small studio in Brunswick East in Melbourne. Inside, a world away from war-torn Gaza, five Palestinian women work arranging fresh blooms from the Thursday morning market into bunches.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Keeping rural mothers in touch

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/08/2024, Stephanie Dalton, Page 1

Seasoned television journalist Stephanie Trethewey swapped the city for the country and launched head first into Tasmanian farm life with her husband and first baby. She quickly learnt the practical meaning of the proverb "It takes a village to raise a child".

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A banned promoter of cancer 'cures' was hijacked by genAI. Now the internet is 'flooded with garbage'

The Guardian, Other, 25/08/2024, Ariel Bogle

Five years ago, Barbara O'Neill was permanently banned from providing any health services in New South Wales or other Australian states. O'Neill, whose website describes her as "an international speaker on natural healing", was found by the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) in 2019 to have given highly risky health advice to vulnerable people, including the use of bicarbonate soda as a cancer treatment.

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How old's too old to be a doctor? Why GPs and surgeons over 70 may need a health check to practise

The first would require doctors over 70 to undergo a detailed health assessment to determine their current and future “fitness to practise” in their particular area of medicine. The second would require only general health checks for doctors over 70.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Ex-AFL player 'king hit' in game

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26/08/2024, Jon Ralph & Ashleigh Jansen, Page 5

AFL goal kicking legend David Cloke has called for the AFL to step in and act after the latest disgraceful football act that saw son Jason hospitalised after being coward-punched in a Queensland super rules clash. Queensland Police are investigating after the incident between the Broadbeach Cats and Burleigh Bombers.

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Research crucial to helping athletes reach golden heights

West Australian, General News, 26/08/2024, Justin Keogh & Lisa Gowthorp, Page 42

The key to Australia's swim team continuing their domination of Olympic Games might come down to something as simple as touch and go fractions of a second. [...] Therefore, the Australian Institute of Sport, Queensland Academy of Sport and Swimming Australia supported PhD projects (several of which have been done at Bond University) to improve these crucial aspects.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

The number two risk factor for heart attack and stroke

Age, General News, 26/08/2024, Sarah Berry, Page 17

It affects more than 20 per cent of the population, but few of us would think that constipation increases the risk of having a heart attack or stroke. However, a large new study has found that it may be a significant risk factor for serious cardiac events.

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

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Sleep link sought for inflammatory bowel disease

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 26/08/2024, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 4

The link between a hearty night's sleep and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is the focus of new

Adelaide 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: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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Accurate AI diagnosis as easy as poking out your tongue

Daily Liberal, General News, 26/08/2024, Mathew Dickerson, Page 11

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.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#).

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How to stay fit even if you only work out on the weekend

Australian Financial Review, Other, 25/08/2024, Gus McCubbing

Take heart weekend warriors. Experts say you can get the same mind and body benefits even you cram workouts into two days.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

First Nations health push

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26/08/2024, Page 8

Several million dollars will be invested into South Australian research projects that aim to lift health outcomes for First Nations women and their children. Five grants totalling \$4 million will be funded by the Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation.

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Support for First Nations families

Shepparton News, General News, 26/08/2024, Kayla Jones, Page 4

There are currently more than 30 requests posted to not-forprofit charity donation site GIVIT for assistance from First Nations people living in Greater Shepparton. Among those 30 is a request for a tent for a recently widowed, sick, single mother-of-two.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

The time to act is now

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 26/08/2024, Cameron Bates, Page 1

An outbreak of congenital syphilis, that originated in the state's northwest, has claimed the lives of four unborn babies. Health experts warn more will follow unless urgent action is taken.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Testing time

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 26/08/2024, Page 18

The resurgence of syphilis in Queensland, particularly its heartbreaking toll on unborn babies, isn't just

a public health crisis it's a stark reminder of how complacency and lack of awareness can turn a manageable issue into a full-blown debacle. Last year alone, four unborn babies tragically died from congenital syphilis the highest number recorded this century.

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Rapid tests needed to detect viruses or bacteria: Professor

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 26/08/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 2

GPs should have rapid tests for viral and bacterial infections to know if they should give patients antibiotics, Newcastle virologist Nathan Bartlett says. A shortage of antibiotics occurred this winter, with GPs prescribing more medication to treat a four-fold rise in pneumonia cases.

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Africa to finally receive first batch of vaccines for deadly mpox virus

The Guardian, Other, 25/08/2024, Robin Mckie

Africa's first batch of mpox vaccines will this week finally reach the continent , weeks after they have been made available in other parts of the world. The 10,000 shots, donated by the US, will be used to tackle a dangerous new variant of the virus, formerly known as monkeypox, after a 2022 outbreak triggered global alarm

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

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A case of visceral leishmaniasis masquerading as autoimmune hepatitis

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/08/2024

A 72-year-old man with a history of well controlled type 2 diabetes was admitted to a tertiary metropolitan hospital for investigation of fevers, night sweats and unintentional weight loss of 18 kg over six months. He had pancytopenia with no symptoms or signs to suggest a focal infection, malignancy or rheumatological disease.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Meta caught in vaping smokescreen

Canberra Times, General News, 26/08/2024, Ayden Dawkins, Page 8

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 TGA says it has not evaluated any nicotine pouches for quality, safety or efficacy in Australia.

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Experts call for 'urgent' scrutiny after weight loss drugs are linked to suicidal thoughts

SBS, Other, 25/08/2024

Semaglutide, a drug sold under the brand names Ozempic and Wegovy, is associated with suicidal thoughts, according to a new study. [...] Off-label prescriptions of Ozempic for weight loss have been driving shortages which the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) believes will last until 2025.

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Doctors should know about isotretinoin-induced dry eye disease

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/08/2024

Since the 1980s, Australian dermatologists have commonly prescribed isotretinoin for the treatment of acne and several skin conditions. Although literature for health professionals states that eye issues

associated with isotretinoin use are uncommon, isotretinoin use frequently induces dry eye disease (DED), which can cause significant ocular morbidity and substantially reduce quality of life.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Potent cannabis testing

Herald Sun, General News, 26/08/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 3

New Australian technology for testing marijuana could pave the way for better medicinal cannabis research and stricter standards, a local biotech firm says. Medicinal cannabis product strength can legally vary from labels by 10 to 20 per cent, but a new test, potentially available as early as next year, could change that.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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FOOD STANDARDS

Bakery fined over allergy

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 26/08/2024, Alexander Blain, Page 1

A prominent Geelong bakery has fronted court after a 15-year-old boy had an allergic reaction at the Eureka Skydeck. Routley's Pty Ltd, which trades as Routley's Bakery, appeared in Geelong Magistrates Court on Friday and pleaded guilty to a single breach of the Food Act.

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AICIS

'Indestructible': Expert's chilling tap water warning

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 26/08/2024, Ben Graham, Page 6

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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'Build acceptance': Sydney Water launches bid to introduce 'recycled water' to drinking supply by 2032

NEWS.com.au, Other, 25/08/2024, Frank Chung

Millions of residents across Sydney could be drinking recycled sewage by early next decade as water authorities, grappling with an ever-exploding population, campaign to "build acceptance and understanding" of the technology. So-called "purified recycled water" (PRW), which is already in use in around three dozen cities around the world including Perth, would be pumped into Prospect Reservoir starting in 2032 under a proposal released by Sydney Water last month.

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