



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 27th August 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 1) reports Queensland Premier Steven Miles has pledged to build a new satellite hospital in Mackay, a marginal Labor constituency, sparking accusations of Labor pork-barrelling. *Also reported by: [Courier Mail](#)*
- The [Northern Territory News](#) (page 1) reports a Supreme Court action has been launched against the Territory government by a doctor alleging he is owed thousands of hours in unpaid overtime, a problem he says is widespread and systemic across the health sector.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 1) reports parents in WA have raised concerns over waiting times of up to 40 months for children to see a paediatrician in the state's public health system.
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 2) reports regional director of training for the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine Tasmania, Doctor Sally Street, has called on governments to encourage innovation in rural and remote communities to find solutions for attracting and retaining medical workers.
- [The Australian](#) (page 3) reports UnitingCare Queensland says it has been unable to reach an agreement with the Australian Health Service Alliance, meaning its agreement with more than 20 private health funds, which allows 2.5 million fund members to use their hospital cover at the Wesley Hospital in Brisbane and other private hospitals in the state, will be terminated.

- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 3) reports ambulance response times have worsened in South Australia, new data has revealed, despite ongoing government efforts to staunch the delays.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 5) reports congenital syphilis has claimed the lives of four unborn babies in Queensland this year, and doctors are calling for increased STI screening to bring the outbreak under control. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Canberra Times](#), [ABC Online](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

NIB calls plan to fix hospital pricing 'crazy'

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 27/08/2024, Michael Smith, Page 17

Nib, one of the nation's biggest health insurers, says a proposal to introduce a fixed-pricing model for procedures and services in private hospitals is "crazy" and would result in patients paying more for care. The warning came as a second funding spat b...

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

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UnitingCare axes private health deal

The Australian, General News, 27/08/2024, Stephen Rice, Page 3

UnitingCare Queensland has terminated its agreement with more than 20 private health funds, meaning 2.5 million fund members may no longer be able to use their hospital cover at the Wesley Hospital in Brisbane and other private hospitals in the state. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has ordered an urgent review into the viability of the nations' more than 600 private hospitals, with concerns an increasing number of closures will force patients into the already overburdened public system.

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

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Bulk-billing 'very small' in Newcastle, says GP who questions federal data

Newcastle Herald, Other, 26/08/2024, Damon Cronshaw

A Newcastle doctor says the federal government should publish in a way that gives a clear picture of the number of people receiving free medical treatment. said more accurate figures were needed to show what patients were "paying or not". [...] When asked how much funding the clinic will get annually and how many doctors it will fund daily, federal Health Minister Mark Butler's office did not directly answer the question.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 26/08/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Panel Discussion with Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek and Nationals MP Barnaby Joyce on 'Forever Chemicals' in Australia's drinking water. Plibersek discusses the government's approach to PFAS and related chemicals, announcing that Australia will ban the importation of several chemicals next year. She notes that Health Minister Mark Butler has expedited a review of drinking water guidelines.

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5AA, Breakfast, 26/08/2024, Will Goodings and David Penberthy

Interview with SA Health Minister Chris Picton. Picton announces new beds at Lyell McEwin Hospital to address ramping and bed shortages. He acknowledges that Minister Mark Butler's efforts to improve the bulk billing rebate have led to a slight increase in rates but argues that more action is needed to ensure vulnerable groups can access bulk billing. He also calls for additional measures from Ministers Mark Butler and Anika Wells to address aged care issues and alleviate hospital overcrowding.

Interview continues on: [5AA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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MINISTER WELLS

New medal incentives announced

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 27/08/2024, Sophie Aubrey, Page 8

Australia's Paralympians will receive up to \$20,000 for bringing home a medal in Paris, as the federal government declares it will match the financial reward given to the country's Olympians. The Albanese government has announced medal incentives of \$20,000 for gold, \$15,000 for silver and \$10,000 for bronze - the same amounts the Australian Olympic Committee gives its medalwinning athletes. [...] Sport Minister Anika Wells said the payments were on top of \$54.9 million in funding that was allocated to Paralympic sport in the 2024-25 federal budget.

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

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Drownings spark concern

Mountain Views Mail - Healesville, General News, 27/08/2024, Callum Ludwig, Page 4

The National Drowning Report 2024 was released on Tuesday 20 August, with a devastating 323 people drowning in 2023/24, including three separate drownings in the Yarra River in the Outer East. On Wednesday 29 May 2024 at about 3pm, a man was walking across an offshoot of the Yarra River behind the popular Redwood Forest in East Warburton when he fell into a relatively deep part of the river. [...] 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.

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Further delays to aged care act, as negotiations pushed to September

Aged Care Insite, Other, 26/08/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Following months of anticipation, new details pertaining to aged care reform have been released. During last weeks parliamentary sitting, the parties took significant steps towards bipartisan collaboration but no formal agreement has been reached. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said that for reforms to succeed "there must be bipartisanship," The Australian reports "We can't have this change from government to government.

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Bumma Bipperra Media, National Talk Black, 26/08/2024, Trendy Trev

Interview with Lauren Miller, senior research and policy officer, Royal Life Saving Australia on the National Drowning Report. Host says this year's report, released by Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells, reveals a troubling 14% increase in drowning incidents, with 323 deaths over the past year. Mill says that drownings among those aged 65 and older have become a significant concern, accounting for over a quarter of the total fatalities.

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5AA, Breakfast, 26/08/2024, Will Goodings and David Penberthy

Interview with SA Health Minister Chris Picton. Picton announces new beds at Lyell McEwin Hospital to address ramping and bed shortages. He acknowledges that Minister Mark Butler's efforts to improve the bulk billing rebate have led to a slight increase in rates but argues that more action is needed to ensure vulnerable groups can access bulk billing. He also calls for additional measures from Ministers Mark Butler and Anika Wells to address aged care issues and alleviate hospital overcrowding.

Interview continues on: [5AA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Channel 10, 10 News First, 26/08/2024, Jennifer Keyte

The federal government is urging workplaces to enhance support for staff who experience miscarriage. New data shows 75% of workplaces are not equipped to help those dealing with miscarriage and two-thirds of women report a lack of support from HR. Samantha Payne, CEO of Pink Elephants, describes the lack of support as deeply troubling. Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney urges workplaces to offer leave, support, or understanding to ensure no one suffers in silence.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

South Australia overhauls civics education

WEB Education Daily, Other, 26/08/2024, Claire Halliday

Ensuring South Australians are better prepared to combat misinformation is a motivating factor behind the introduction of a new civics education program set to roll out across the state's schools. The program will embed civics and citizenship in the state's education system via specialist classes and integrated learning. [...] The need for a national conversation about civics education was sparked in the midst of the misinformation environment during the Voice to Parliament Referendum A Federal parliamentary inquiry is currently examining the implications and solutions to this at the national level, with committee chair Kate Thwaites saying the trends were concerning.

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DEPARTMENT

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Home-care help hold-up

Ranges Trader Mail, General News, 27/08/2024, Callum Ludwig, Page 4

Older residents of the Yarra Ranges in need of support at home are still finding themselves without the help they need. Many residents have been assessed and are eligible for a variety of different services

offered under Home Care Support such as garden maintenance, shopping assistance or respite hours for carers, but there are no local providers available.

Also reported by: [Upper Yarra Mail \(Online\)](#)

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Celebrity chef Maggie Beer hospitalised after fall

The Australian, Other, 26/08/2024

Revered celebrity chef and aged care advocate Maggie Beer is recovering in hospital following a fall at her home in the Barossa Valley. Ms Beer, 79, suffered several injuries, including multiple fractures, according to a post on her official Instagram account by the food author's family.

Also reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#)

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Alarm that lives could be at risk from violent elderly man at Hobart aged care home

The Mercury, Other, 26/08/2024, Amber Wilson

A woman says she is terrified her father, or other elderly residents, could be at risk of serious harm or death at the hands of a violent Hobart nursing home resident. Older Australians can be left waiting for up to a year for a home care package.

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Doors open at Hawthorn House's new \$2 million overnight dementia respite facility to service Great Southern

West Australian, Other, 26/08/2024, Georgia Campion

A new \$2 million respite centre at Hawthorn House for people living with dementia in the Great Southern was opened on Friday, doubling the facility's capacity for overnight respite care. The facility is named Don's Cottage in honour of Don Brandenburg, a Newdegate man who retired to Denmark in 2005, who set up a foundation in his name to invest and distribute money from his estate to groups or organisations in the Great Southern.

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LPA appoints Galiazzo GM

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 26/08/2024, Natasha Egan

Lorraine Poulos and Associates has promoted senior consultant Marisa Galiazzo to general manager. Experienced aged care executive Marisa Galiazzo has been appointed general manager of Lorraine Poulos and Associates to assist with the growth of the Sydney-based consultancy and training organisation as well as the evolving sector.

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Aged Care Act: delayed, not derailed?

HelloCare, Other, 26/08/2024, Alex Jacobs

Despite expectations the new Aged Care Act was ready to be presented to Parliament last week, the once-in-a-generation reform has been delayed yet again. There are concerns that if this legislation is not introduced and legislated this year, it could be too late to help improve aged care for some older people and providers.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 26/08/2024, David Bevan

Interview with Professor Jen Tieman, Director, Research Centre for Palliative Care, who offers advice for families and individuals approaching end-of-life care. Tieman highlights resources like CareSearch, funded by the National Palliative Care Program through the Department of Health and Aged Care, as well as Carer Gateway and My Aged Care.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 26/08/2024, David Bevan

Interview with David Militz, CEO, Carers SA, on the challenges faced by unpaid carers. Militz says that these carers often experience significant impacts such as lower health and well-being, social isolation, and financial stress. He calls for enhanced support through state and federal programs, including the Carer Gateway.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 26/08/2024, Steve Cannane

Interview with Michelle Grattan, chief political correspondent for The Conversation and professorial fellow at Canberra University. Grattan says a deal on aged care reforms is expected to include increased costs for care packages in both residential and home care. She acknowledges the need for change to ensure the system's sustainability but warns that the reforms are likely to be unpopular due to higher out-of-pocket expenses for individuals.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Inside Perth's hottest new wellness trend

West Australian, Today, 27/08/2024, Katie Hampson, Page 1

Long a staple in Scandinavia, saunas are popping up all over Western Australia as more and more people seek to experience the joy of sweat. But are the benefits backed up by science? The traditional practice of Finnish sauna bathing has emerged as one of the key wellness trends of 2024. "Saunas are breaking down cultural norms in the best way," James Browne, director of Alchemy Saunas, says.

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Closure of Mission Australia rehab centre at Berrimah to make way for prison a blow to justice: Lawyers

Northern Territory News, Other, 26/08/2024, Alex Treacy

Top End lawyers say the closure of a 40-bed alcohol and drug rehab facility at Berrimah to make way for a new prison will lead to more recidivism and longer periods on remand, clogging the system and slugging taxpayers. Stringybark Centre, in Berrimah, will be repurposed into a women's prison. [...] At a macro level, recent Australian Institute of Health and Welfare figures show the Territory is delivering publicly funded AOD treatment at a tapering rate: just 1424 clients per 100,000 population were seen in 2022–23, compared to 1796 per 100,000 in 2019–20.

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Celebrity chef Maggie Beer hospitalised after fall

Aged Care Insite, Other, 26/08/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Revered celebrity chef and aged care advocate Maggie Beer is recovering in hospital following a fall at her home in the Barossa Valley. Ms Beer, 79, suffered several injuries, including multiple fractures, according to a post on her official Instagram account by the food author's family. [...] An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report shows that incidents like these were the leading cause of hospitalised injuries and injury deaths among older Australians between 2019-20.

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Jordan's joy at double miracle

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 27/08/2024, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 8

Influencer and Crohn's disease advocate Jordan Lambropoulos was told she would be infertile following a life-changing stem-cell transplant she underwent last year. In an attempt to save her chances of creating her dream family she underwent "incredibly invasive" egg retrieval surgery before that.

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

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Doctor's plea amid city's obesity crisis

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 27/08/2024, Tom Gillespie and Kevin Farmer, Page 3

A leading Toowoomba specialist says the Darling Downs' obesity crisis is contributing to increasing rates of joint replacements a phenomenon he says is potentially reversible with weight loss. Toowoomba Hospital's director of orthopaedics Dr Chris Wall has urged people who are overweight or obese to lose weight to help avoid hip and knee replacements, which have risen sharply in recent years.

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Timing is everything

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 27/08/2024, Page 12

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing Australians who have once again embraced National Stroke Week, which ran earlier this month. This year, we urged the community to keep looking at their loved one, their mate, their mum or dad, to ensure someone in every household and workplace in Australia can recognise the F.A.S.T.

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Perimenopause is no fun alone – so why not have a party?

The Guardian, Other, 27/08/2024, Nina Lansbury

Taboos are funny beasts. No one invites them in, but they hold back some of the conversations that we most need to have. I've recently found that having the guts to push past taboos and utter a few bold words can open a floodgate of much-needed dialogue.

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Hearing tests done in shipping containers highlight 'dire' state of primary care in the Top End

Australian Doctor, Other, 26/08/2024

Remote health centres and staff quarters 'falling apart', says peak body. GPs seeing patients in corridors, hearing tests conducted in shipping containers and poor accommodation are examples of the "dire" health facilities that have been reported across the NT.

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PRIMARY CARE

Ambos hit the ramp again

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 27/08/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 3

The state government's failure to "fix" ramping - so far - has taken an ominous turn with new data showing ambos' response times plummeting. Both priority 1 (emergency) and 2 priority (urgent) call responses have been falling in the past few months, including in July when ramping soared to a record 5539 hours of ambulances with patients being stuck in hospital car parks.

'Satellite hospitals' all in Labor orbit

Courier Mail, General News, 27/08/2024, Fergus Gregg and Hayden Johnson, Page 1

Premier Steven Miles has laughed off claims of porkbarrelling despite expectations that every single new "satellite hospital" he will announce between now and the October 26 election will be for Labor-held seats. Mr Miles promised another of the clinics yesterday for the at-risk Laborheld electorate of Mackay adding to the seven already operational, of which six are located in Labor seats and the only other one in the LNP's most marginal electorate of Currumbin.

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Healthcare should be above politics

Courier Mail, Editorials, 27/08/2024, Page 20

If they were not such a shameless political stunt then we would back the state government's so-called "satellite hospital" health clinics. Sadly, they are. And so we can't. In a world of rising healthcare costs and fewer GPs bulk-billing, it makes perfect sense to reduce the pressure on overwhelmed public hospital emergency departments by creating publicly funded primary care clinics, particularly in areas not well served by those hospitals.

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

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You have got to be kidding

West Australian, General News, 27/08/2024, Claire Sadler, Page 1

Behind the gorgeous smile of two-year-old Kobe Thurlow lies another distressing tale of WA's ailing health system. Kobe was born with some birth defects and he still can't walk properly but he just can't get in to see a paediatrician. His mum, Louise Thurlow, has already been waiting for an appointment for 18 months after Kobe was waitlisted for an autism assessment.

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

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No helipad, 'no big worry'

Border Mail, General News, 27/08/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

Albury Wodonga Health's chief executive has defended the dropping of a helipad from the redevelopment plans for Albury hospital. Bill Appleby was commenting after designs and images of the new clinical services building were released last week with a helipad omitted despite being promised by the NSW and Victorian governments.

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Make health top budget priority: AMA

Launceston Examiner, General News, 27/08/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 2

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) Tasmania says the state's health facilities were failing to meet the needs of Tasmanians today, let alone in the future. As the delayed state budget looms closer, AMA Tasmania branch president Dr Michael Lumsden-Steel says investment in critical health infrastructure should be a "top priority" for the government.

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Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson rejects calls for rescue helicopter base in Geraldton after crash

West Australian, Other, 27/08/2024, Jessica Moroney

Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson says the State Government has no intention to establish a dedicated rescue helicopter base in Geraldton despite desperate pleas from volunteers and leaders in the Mid West region. A triple-fatal car rollover in a remote part of the region late on Saturday, August 10, which killed Gabrielle Brockman, 21, her aunty Marrika Brockman, 33, and Marrika's five-week-old son Levi Ashwin, has sparked reiterated calls for a rescue helicopter to be based in the region.

Channel 7, Seven News, 26/08/2024, Max Futcher

Qld Premier Steven Miles has announced Mackay as the first location for a satellite hospital outside southeast Queensland. The project, costing over \$78 million, will be funded through borrowings if Labor is re-elected. Miles says the new facility would help reduce pressure on the busy emergency department.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 26/08/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Julian Schiller

Interview with SA Health Minister Chris Picton. Picton announces the Lyell McEwin Hospital has opened 48 new beds to address high patient demand and reduce emergency department access block. He notes plans to add 600 beds across the system by the end of 2025. He refutes SA Opposition Leader Vincent Tarzia's criticisms of the government's handling of the elective surgery backlog, noting ongoing expansions and the hiring of 100 additional staff at the hospital.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Australia's demoralised kids need some hope

Daily Telegraph, General News, 27/08/2024, Kevin Donnelly, Page 13

While going largely unnoticed when released, the WCommission On Youth Mental Health report just published by the journal The Lancet Psychiatry deserves to be widely read. It presents a deeply concerning global picture of anxiety and depression among the young.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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Home help available for youngsters

Burnie Advocate, General News, 27/08/2024, Helen Kempton, Page 5

An \$8.5 million pilot service which provides in-home mental health care for people aged between 15 and 24 has already helped 10 young people with more virtual beds to open soon. Child and Youth Mental Health Service acting regional director Dion Butler says he expected to see many positive outcomes from the Youth and Mental Health Hospital in the Home program which send specialists out to houses within a 40 kilometre radius from its hub in Devonport.

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'As bad as smoking 15 cigarettes a day': What happens when men don't prioritise friendship

SBS, Other, 26/08/2024, Nicolas Zoumboulis

Fabrizio Spada has lived in Australia for almost 14 years and has experienced cultural differences in how men bond here compared to his home country Italy. "Everybody's friendly, everybody has to go out for a beer, everybody on a first name basis, but then to get from arm's length to you to the person, it takes a very long time," he said.

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5AA, Afternoons, 26/08/2024, Stacey Lee

Interview with John Mannion, CEO, Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation, and Professor Shane Pill, Flinders University, on the Big Talks for Little People program. Pill says the Medibank-funded program is being adapted to address the well-being of Indigenous youth. Mannion notes it aims to prevent long-term mental health issues through early intervention.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses escalate action as part of pay push

Daily Advertiser, General News, 27/08/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 2

Fed up Wagga nurses will stop going above and beyond as months of industrial action continues to ramp up. On Monday afternoon, members of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) Wagga branch walked off their shifts to show the state government they deserve better and to hold a stop work meeting.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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ED nurses staff crisis: Union

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 27/08/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 2

Wollongong Hospital emergency department has been trying in recent weeks to implement the state government's promised staffing ratios, but can't find enough nurses willing to do the work due to low pay. That was one of the angry messages from fired-up nurses at a large rally held outside the hospital on August 26, when hundreds of Wollongong nurses and midwives walked off the job over an ongoing pay dispute with the government.

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

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Health system needs a fulltime minister

Launceston Examiner, General News, 27/08/2024, Emily Shepherd, Page 15

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 workloads. This was commendable leadership, recognising ongoing issues affecting the efficiency and success of the Parliament.

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Nurses' fury over 'disgusting' treatment

Newcastle Herald, General News, 27/08/2024, Jessica Belzycki, Page 7

Daniel Mackay is a third-generation nurse but his daughters will not be following in his footsteps. They have seen that the job is just too hard for the little money they get in return, the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association delegate says. "When I started working, it was a career where you could go to work and bring home enough money to provide for your family, you can't do that anymore," Mr Mackay said.

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

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Condobolin mums fear health system has abandoned them

The Courier Mail, Other, 26/08/2024, Emily Kowal

A town in NSW's central west is experiencing a baby boom, but the local mothers say they have been abandoned by the healthcare system. If a baby cries in the middle of the bush, and there are no midwives to hear it, does it really make a noise? These are the thoughts that haunt regional mums, who say the health system has abandoned them.

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Study exploring factors that shape RNs' engagement in mandatory reporting of child maltreatment

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 26/08/2024

Child maltreatment has significant impacts on Australia's children and children globally. Early

identification is key to supporting children and families towards favourable outcomes. Mandatory reporting therefore plays an important role in the identification and response to child maltreatment worldwide, with many countries implementing legislation mandating certain people (usually professionals) report suspected cases of child maltreatment. Registered nurses (RNs) are often among those mandated to report, occurring in all states and territories in Australia.

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Midwives say home birth insurance limits autonomy

The Medical Republic, Other, 26/08/2024, Holly Payne

No one is happy with the government's proposal to subsidise insurance for private practice midwives doing low-risk home births. Doctors and midwives are finally in agreement on one point: that the Commonwealth's proposed subsidised funding scheme for private practice home birth is no good.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Doctor has prescription for helping rural people

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/08/2024, Philip Young, Page 2

Rural doctor Sally Street believes many of the challenges facing regional and remote communities can be solved - if people living in those communities are given the power to find their own solutions. Dr Street, who has worked across the country in many rural and remote communities, says rural people are resourceful and used to solving problems yet the one-size-fits all fixes imposed by governments and bureaucracy often fail to meet the needs of people living in the bush.

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Tasmania staying well ahead of the curve with our healthy recruitment numbers

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/08/2024, Guy Barnett, Page 16

Since our nation-leading healthcare recruitment blitz kicked off in late April, we have welcomed more than 720 additional staff into our health system. This is fantastic news for our state, with more doctors, nurses, paramedics, allied health professionals, and support staff joining the ranks and providing Tasmanians with the health care they expect, and deserve, right around the state.

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Diagnosis: 'ripped off'

Northern Territory News, General News, 27/08/2024, Jason Walls, Page 1

Doctors working unpaid overtime is "endemic" in the Territory and throughout Australia, with a Supreme Court action launched by prominent NT medico Simon Quilty labelled "the tip of the iceberg". Dr Quilty is suing the Territory government for thousands of hours of unpaid overtime during a period of almost a decade working in Territory hospitals, with the doctors' union warning he is unlikely to be alone.

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Ambos call out house numbers

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 26/08/2024, Phoebe Doyle, Page 2

Making sure property numbers are visible from the street can be crucial in an emergency, Ambulance Victoria says. Paramedics want residents to check that their house numbers are in clear view. Ambulance Victoria acting executive director regional operations Michael Georgiou said paramedics were sometimes called to properties with inaccurate, unclear or missing property numbers.

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'I'm not particularly smart': Dr Karl shares the secret to his success

Adelaide Now, Other, 26/08/2024, Lisa Wachsmuth

At 76, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki is still full of wonder. "Look at this," he says as he greets me at the door of his house in Sydney's eastern suburbs, a home as colourful as the man himself with a rainbow splashed across the front wall and a Jolly Roger flag blowing in the sea breeze. Inside it's a similar story, with walls of turquoise and pink adorned with stunning artworks, each piece holding a memory for the author and science commentator known to most simply as Dr Karl.

[Read More](#)

New RACGP head

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 26/08/2024

Dr Michael Wright has been named the new President of the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP). He will assume the role at the RACGP's Annual General Meeting on 21 Nov, succeeding Dr Nicole Higgins, whose two-year term concludes.

[Read More](#)

Watson the influencer

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 26/08/2024

Well-known pharmacist and Managing Partner at WholeLife Pharmacy and Healthfoods Redland Bay, Fiona Watson, has been named Vice President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland (PGAQ) branch committee. The Guild stated Watson's appointment highlights her long-standing dedication to community pharmacy and her focus on improving patient outcomes.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Preparing for Ozempic-type drugs to be a health staple

Australian Financial Review, General News, 27/08/2024, James Thomson, Page 40

During his 22 years running private health insurer NIB, chief executive Mark Fitzgibbon has never been one to pull his punches. At his final profit announcement yesterday, he delivered a couple of big calls.

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Biologics' insights

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 26/08/2024

Pharmacy Connect 2024 will feature a session on the complex patient journey to biologic therapy, which is known to involve multiple failed treatments and extensive diagnostics. Attendees will hear how biologic drugs are among the top PBS expenditures, with many nearing patent expiry or having biosimilar medicines, such as adalimumab.

[Read More](#)

John had aggressive prostate cancer. He had to pay for his own treatment

The Senior, Other, 26/08/2024, Eileen Wood

John Boland thought he running out of time and out of options. With a diagnosis of aggressive prostate cancer and the usual treatments mainly ineffective, the prognosis for the retired Navy Reserve Lieutenant Commander was not looking good. Then he was offered a groundbreaking therapy - the only downside, he would have to pay for it himself as it was not yet on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme - a possible \$80,000.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Pleas 'ignored' before death, court hears

Age, General News, 27/08/2024, Melissa Cunningham, Page 9

Satya Taraporeddi's enduring memory of the day her daughter died is of frantically pressing an emergency buzzer next to a bed at the Monash Children's Hospital as the child struggled to breathe and complained her chest hurt. Taraporeddi says she pressed the buzzer for her eight-year-old, Amrita Lanka, at least seven times.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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'He shouldn't be dead': Families sue Frankston Hospital over suicides

Age, General News, 27/08/2024, Henrietta Cook, Page 10

Two grieving families are suing Frankston Hospital for failing to provide appropriate psychiatric care to their loved ones, which allegedly led to two people taking their own lives. The law firm acting for these families is also representing at least 10 other Victorians who are preparing to sue other public mental health facilities following the suicide of their relatives.

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

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

Fury at 'harmful trans mental health' claims

Cairns Post, General News, 27/08/2024, Luke Williams, Page 3

A James Cook University psychiatrist has likened transgenderism to mental illness, drawing ire from doctors and the LGBTIQ community. JCU's Dr Andrew Amos, who is also the chairman of the Queensland Section of Rural Psychiatry, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP), says claims that gender-diverse identities do not involve a mental illness are "ridiculous", "unscientific" and the result of "political pressure" from a "small minority".

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We should have been there sooner

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 27/08/2024, Will Keech, Page 1

A paramedic says a broken call system cost her 20 crucial minutes responding to an asthma attack that took the life of a Torquay boy. And she's warned "it will happen again" if things don't change. Deb Baumgartner, a Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance (MICA) paramedic based in Leopold, was returning to Geelong hospital from a lowpriority job in Norlane shortly after 7pm on March 9, 2022 when staff at the hospital began yelling at her.

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GP suspended for prescribing pills to addicted patient

Canberra Times, Other, 26/08/2024, Melissa Meehan

A doctor increased the dosage of sleeping pills to a patient despite knowing she was "doctor shopping" to get her hands on more of the addictive medicine, a tribunal has found. Melbourne general practitioner Michael Kozminsky was suspended after he faced the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal on August 21 accused of professional misconduct in relation to a patient he treated between July 17, 2017 and May 31, 2019.

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

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Prescribing framework review

AHPRA is set to review the Prescribing Competencies Framework – Embedding quality use of medicines into practice, second edition AHPRA noted in a statement that the framework, originally developed and hosted by NPS MedicineWise, is currently in its scoping phase until September.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

NIB boss warns of growing pressure on health system

The Australian, Business News, 27/08/2024, Matt Bell, Page 15

Extreme pressure on the public health system is driving more people to take up private health insurance, NIB Holdings says, after the insurer's profit growth came in less than expected. The group's outgoing chief executive Mark Fitzgibbon told The Australian that the public health system was buckling under the weight of a shrinking pool of taxpayers and a rapidly rising number of retirees requiring care.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Wrong-doing, truth-telling, burden-bearing: The ethics of parading disability for unpromised justice

ABC Online, Other, 26/08/2024, Elena Filipczyk

How much do I tell them? That was basically what it came down to. My twin sister is autistic, bipolar, and has a permanent toilet disability. A few weeks ago, her application to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was rejected for the second time. Fuelled by furious indignation, I promised to write about it. To advocate for change. But how much can I tell the public before I cross a line? And when does educating lawmakers and broader society become an invasion of privacy and dignity?

[Read More](#)

Why have the Cass Review's alarming findings had no effect on Australia's gender clinics?

Australian Doctor, Other, 26/08/2024, Andrew Amos

Compared with the usual calm of public policy debates, the Cass Review represents a political and medical firestorm. Its findings led UK health services to ban puberty blockers for routine use in those under 18 with gender dysphoria — a ban which in my view should also be adopted in Australia, to protect vulnerable children from harm.

[Read More](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 26/08/2024, Steve Cannane

Interview with Nicky Bath, CEO, LGBTQ+ Health Australia. Cannane reports that the 2026 Australian Census will not include questions on sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex characteristics. Bath argues it could hinder efforts to address critical health disparities as primary health networks depend on census data for resource allocation. She highlights that this gap is particularly concerning given the high rates of mental health issues and suicides within LGBTQ+ communities.

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SPORT

Civic stadium nudges \$3b

Canberra Times, General News, 27/08/2024, Jasper Lindell, Page 1

The cost of a new stadium in Civic could be close to \$3 billion, the ACT government has revealed in a set of figures significantly higher than previous estimates. The government says the price of a new 30,000-seat city stadium with minimal surrounding infrastructure on the Civic pool site would sit between \$2.128 billion and \$2.9 billion.

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Calls for 'bottle' arrest

Herald Sun, General News, 27/08/2024, Page 2

There are calls for the person who threw a half full bottle of water into the back of a goal umpire's head at Marvel Stadium on the weekend to be arrested, on top of any life ban from AFL games. The fan threw the water bottle from close range at umpire Steven Piperno amid heated scenes early in the Carlton-St Kilda clash.

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Big cash splash on pool facility

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/08/2024, Judy Augustine, Page 3

Glenorchy is getting a new pool - and much more - in an aquatic and health precinct set to cost in excess of \$72m. More than a year after the Glenorchy Memorial Pool was shut down, it's been decided the community will have new and improved facilities which the mayor says will serve future generations.

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Shock 'sex shirt' probe

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 27/08/2024, Tom Boswell, Page 1

A junior triathlete has been left disillusioned following a national school sport incident involving children as young as 11 wearing shirts brandishing the picture of an official with the words 'I have sex with bikes'. The School Sport Australia Triathlon and Aquathlon Championships in March became the scene of a "living nightmare" for 17-year-old Gold Coast resident Zoe Wogan who is still suffering prolific amounts of bullying, both online and in person, to this day due to the event.

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Former footy star dies after heartbreaking battle with dementia that left him unable to feed, dress or talk to his wife of 43 years

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/08/2024, Josh Alston

Former Balmain, Wests Magpies, and South Sydney forward John Bilbija has died at age 65, succumbing to early onset dementia after a decade of battling the debilitating disease. The ex-footballer, who had lost much of his cognitive ability, died peacefully in his sleep at his Penrith home.

[Read More](#)

Australian kids see betting as 'part of sport' - can banning ads help?

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 27/08/2024, Hannah Ritchie

Like so many in Australia, Sam grew up in a community where having a punt was synonymous with sport. "Our friends, our family would ask 'Oh who are you betting on this week?' That was the normal conversation that occurred," his sister Amy - who is not using her real name - says.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Quadrant Growth deal maker invests in fast-growing medtech

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 27/08/2024, Page 16

Quadrant Private Equity's Johnny Zhang has signed his first deal for his new employer. Street Talk can reveal Zhang - who was lured across from Navis Capital Partners to the Sydney buyout firm by its chairman, Chris Hadley, in March last year - has agreed...

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

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Institute turned cancer success into \$66m fund

Australian Financial Review, Technology, 27/08/2024, Tess Bennett, Page 23

Australia's oldest medical research institute has begun making venture capital investments from a \$66 million fund aimed at turning scientific breakthroughs into blockbuster drugs and medical devices.

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

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

Why NIB caught a post-COVID cold

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 27/08/2024, James Thomson and Anthony Macdonald, Page 30

Retiring NIB chief executive Mark Fitzgibbon was left scratching his head at the market's savage reaction to the private health insurer's full-year result: revenue up, net profit up, shares down 15.2 per cent. The shares sold off after NIB's Australian pr...

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Weight loss fast track

Herald Sun, General News, 27/08/2024, Page 8

Intermittent fasting may be as effective as a continuous low-calorie diet for teenagers with obesity. Researchers from the University of Sydney, Monash University, University of Newcastle, University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, Hunter Medical Research Institute and the University of Queensland examined the effectiveness of two types of diets for 141 teens with obesity and related health complications.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Less falls with antidepressants

Courier Mail, General News, 27/08/2024, Page 12

In older adults with depression, getting treatment could also decrease the risk of falls. A University of Pittsburgh team looked at data from 101,953 adults over 65 diagnosed with depression and whether their depression was being treated. They found that those on first-line antidepressants had a reduced risk of falls and related injuries compared with those who were not receiving treatment.

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

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Pregnancy increases breast cancer risk

Courier Mail, General News, 27/08/2024, Page 12

Women who have had a recent pregnancy are at a higher risk of developing breast cancer than women who have never given birth. The study of more than 17,000 women found the risk was even greater for women with a family history of breast cancer or a genetic predisposition to breast cancer, according to researchers from the University of NSW, The University of Melbourne and Columbia University Irving Medical Centre in the US.

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

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Sing to your heart's content

West Australian, General News, 27/08/2024, Page 9

Singing Amazing Grace for 10 minutes can help reverse the effects of heart disease, a study has

found. US researchers studied the impact of singing four songs on the blood vessels of older people with heart disease. Results showed the blood flow of 22 per cent of the volunteers improved when they sang Amazing Grace, written by John Newton in 1772.

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HealthInvest 2024 set to show off latest ASX healthcare innovators

The Australian, Other, 26/08/2024

As investor interest in the healthcare sector resurges, driven by rapid growth and notable successes, Stockhead is teaming up with investor relations firm IR Department and broker Morgans to host HealthInvest 2024 in Sydney next month. The event is set to highlight some of ASX's leading and up-and-coming health and life sciences companies.

[Read More](#)

Radiopharm ups stake in US cancer-fighting venture

West Australian, Other, 26/08/2024, Andrew Todd

Radiopharm Theranostics has boosted its stake in a United States-based joint venture (JV) with the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center to 75 per cent after promising early results in a wide range of solid tumour therapies. The company says it has increased its hold in the "Radiopharm Ventures" JV from 51 per cent by committing an additional US\$4 million (AU\$5).

[Read More](#)

'My children wouldn't be here without it'

West Australian, Other, 26/08/2024

"If it weren't for the investment in medical research, neither of our children would be here today," grateful Western Australian mum Tahnae Hammond said. "I try not to take any moment we have together as a family for granted because I know how close we came to losing both of them.

[Read More](#)

UnitingCare Queensland flags split with country's largest health insurance buying group Australian Health Service Alliance

ABC Online, Other, 26/08/2024, Jessica Black and Emma Pollard

The not-for-profit behind four Queensland hospitals has given notice to end its contract with Australia's largest health insurance buying group. UnitingCare Queensland announced on Monday negotiations with Australian Health Service Alliance (AHSA) had reached an impasse. AHSA's 20 members have more than 2 million policyholders — 570,000 of them in Queensland, the group said.

[Read More](#)

Green fuels, food, medicine probed by \$60m research hub

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/08/2024

Steaks made without animals, jet fuel made without oil, and fish food created using gases are among the carbon-cutting goals of a \$60 million research facility opened to help businesses reach net zero. The University of Queensland launched its Biosustainability Hub on Monday, with funding from government and industry, and several projects under way with companies including LanzaTech, Rio Tinto and Woodside Energy.

[Read More](#)

Study reveals effective smoking cessation approach

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 26/08/2024, Chloe Hava

Ahead of the downscheduling of therapeutic vapes on 1 October, pharmacists should be aware of a treatment option combining established therapies that could help patients kick their smoking habit. Researchers from Monash University's Centre for Medicine Use and Safety (CMUS) – in collaboration with Monash's School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and Flinders University – led a clinical trial combining varenicline and nicotine lozenges, with the dual therapy significantly improving abstinence compared to use of varenicline by itself.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 26/08/2024, Angela Cox

Sydney scientists have made a breakthrough in developing a blood test for early detection of ovarian cancer, targeting DNA from all major types. The research, funded by fashion label Camilla and Marc, could significantly improve survival rates. Clinical trials for the test are expected to begin by 2026.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#)

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 26/08/2024, Hugh Riminton

Australian scientists are nearing a breakthrough with a new early-detection test for ovarian cancer that can identify DNA from all major types. Clinical trials are expected to start within the next two years.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Afternoons, 26/08/2024, Sofie Formica

A new study has found that constipation can double the risk of having a heart attack. An analysis of over 400,000 healthy adults over nearly two decades reveals that individuals who experienced constipation were twice as likely to suffer a cardiac arrest. The risk further increases by 34% for those with both high blood pressure and constipation.

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4BC, Afternoons, 26/08/2024, Sofie Formica

Interview with Professor John Fraser, Director, Critical Care Research Group, Prince Charles Hospital, on groundbreaking technology that could extend the viability of donor hearts from 12 to 48 hours using hypothermic oxygenated perfusion technology (HOPE). Fraser highlights that this advancement, which has shown a 100% survival rate in clinical trials, enables hearts to be preserved and transported over longer distances.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Healthy homes a right

West Australian, General News, 27/08/2024, Emma Garlett, Page 13

Without safe, healthy housing, we will never close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Without a stable and clean place to live, we can have no expectation of good physical and mental health. But thousands of West Australians public housing tenants in Aboriginal communities are continuing to suffer, sharing their falling-apart homes with pests, without access to safe drinking water.

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13YARN and DrinkWise launch new campaign showing support options for Mob wanting help

National Indigenous Times, Other, 26/08/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Indigenous mental health organisation 13YARN have partnered with DrinkWise and Indigenous superstar Daniel Rioli in a campaign about alcohol consumption. The new advertising campaign is designed to remind First Nations people that there is help, support and advice available for themselves or someone they know who is having trouble with alcohol.

[Read More](#)

AMSANT commits to working with new NT government to help close the gap

National Indigenous Times, Other, 26/08/2024, Dechlan Brennan

The peak Aboriginal medical body in the Northern Territory has congratulated the CLP on winning

Saturday's election, saying they look forward to working with the new government to improve the health of Aboriginal Territorians. The landslide election on the weekend ended eight years of Labor rule and will see Lia Finocchiaro this week sworn in as the NT's new Chief Minister.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Syphilis rise kills unborn babies

Courier Mail, General News, 27/08/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 5

Doctors are warning that a syphilis outbreak is claiming the lives of unborn babies across the state, with the worst death toll this century. The outbreak of the disease that began in North West Queensland is now widespread and Greater Brisbane is now a hot spot. Last year four Queensland babies died from congenital syphilis, which occurs when a baby is infected with the disease in the womb by their mother.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Shingles vax take-up soars

Courier Mail, General News, 27/08/2024, Page 17

Shingles vaccinations in Australia are at a record high. About 1.25 million Shingrix doses have been administered up to April 30, 2024, new data from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance has revealed. The surge in vaccinations coincides with Shingrix replacing Zostavax last November as the only free vaccine for the prevention of shingles in Australia.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Science Media Exchange \(Scimex\) \(Online\)](#).

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Northern Rivers grapples with slew of infectious illnesses as winter comes to an end

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/08/2024, Catherine Piltz

Northern NSW residents have increasingly been struck by a raft of particularly nasty illnesses as winter comes to an end, ranging from the flu to whooping cough. NSW Health and Northern NSW Local Health District confirmed health workers have been dealing with influenza, pneumonia, Covid, respiratory syncytial virus and whooping cough doing the rounds.

[Read More](#)

Mpox cases in Australia are less severe than in Africa. Here's what to know about the strain spreading here

Aged Care Insite, Other, 26/08/2024, Adrian Esterman

Adrian Esterman University of South Australia Western Australia and Victoria both issued health alerts this week over cases of mpox. WA has seen two cases, while Victoria has recorded 125 cases so far this year. New South Wales, which has had 135 cases, also published a public health notice on mpox this month.

[Read More](#)

'Insidious onset of symptoms': Holiday sandfly bite triggers rare parasitic disease two years later

Australian Doctor, Other, 26/08/2024, Carmel Sparke

The patient was first diagnosed with autoimmune hepatitis after six months of symptoms. An Australian man's sandfly bite in Greece two years previously triggered a diagnostic dilemma culminating in a rare diagnosis of visceral leishmaniasis, Melbourne doctors report.

[Read More](#)

Govt slammed for no national RSV program

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 26/08/2024

The Immunisation Foundation of Australia has raised concerns that vulnerable people may miss out on protection from the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Despite global efforts to embrace new RSV immunisations, the Federal Government has not added any RSV immunisations to the National Immunisation Program.

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5AA, Mornings, 26/08/2024, Matthew Pantelis

The addition of a shingles vaccine to the National Immunisation Program has seen record uptake of the shot.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Vapes by kilo: TGA launches investigation

Canberra Times, General News, 27/08/2024, Matthew Kelly, Page 10

The Therapeutic Goods Authority has launched an investigation into a Chinese company advertising that it can supply illegal vaping products by the kilogram to a buyer's door. The case is the latest example of the uphill battle that Australian health and law enforcement authorities face in the crackdown against the advertisement and sale of illegal vaping products. [...] Importers must also notify the TGA regarding compliance of vapes with relevant standards.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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Illegal vapes must be stopped at border

Newcastle Herald, General News, 27/08/2024, Page 16

Of all the public health issues that have emerged in the past decade, none are bigger and potentially more troubling than vaping. Across the community, young and old, have taken up the practice in droves. [...] The TGA works closely with digital platforms, including Meta, to deter and remove advertising of unapproved therapeutic and vaping products.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Tryptamine completes world-first Phase 1b psilocin IV-infusion trial

The Australian, Other, 26/08/2024

Tryptamine completes Phase 1b trial lead program TRP-8803. Pic: Getty Images. [...] "These results will then allow us to advance additional clinical trials using TRP-8803, in close collaboration with our partners and the Therapeutic Goods Administration focusing squarely on specific clinical indications of high unmet patient need," he said.

[Read More](#)

Caitlin Maree Hungerford: 22yo Cairns girl dies after digesting 'suicide kit'

Adelaide Now, Other, 26/08/2024, Luke Williams

The heartbroken mother of a young woman who screamed for help says she wants justice for her daughter. The Cairns Post Caitlin, a prolific reader, was regarded as an intelligent and warm person with a "Julia Roberts smile" who had struggled with mental health issues for a long time before

allegedly coming across Kenneth Law's suicide advocacy site. [...] In a statement to the Cairns Post, the Therapeutic Goods Administration said because of reports of "promotion of the substance as a suicide agent" selling the substance became highly restricted.

[Read More](#)

From cannabis gummies to chocolate shrooms, what's the deal with microdosing?

ABC Online, Other, 26/08/2024, Richelle Hunt and Daniel Miles

Microdosing involves taking a low dose of a psychedelic or mind-impairing drugs to enhance performance or to reduce stress and anxiety, but are they safe and could they lead to addiction? Last year the TGA approved the use of medicines containing psychedelic substances, but more and more microdosing isn't exclusively occurring under medical supervision, it's becoming an illicit social drug taking trend.

[Read More](#)

Is this the revolution for patient consults that GPs actually want?

Australian Doctor, Other, 26/08/2024, Mohana Basu

Dreams and typos remain a concern with the rise of the AI scribes. Let's be blunt. Amid the myriad dystopian futures resulting from the nervous embrace of artificial intelligence, there is a real-world promise of freedom for doctors. [...] If it is classed as a tool purely for record-keeping then it is not a medical device subject to TGA regulation.

[Read More](#)

New drug approved overseas that could treat alzheimer's disease

HelloCare, Other, 26/08/2024, Alex Jacobs

A relatively new drug called Lecanemab has been approved for use in the United Kingdom and there are hopes it will also be approved in Australia as an effective treatment for Alzheimer's Disease. Lecanemab is currently available in the USA, Japan, China, South Korea and Israel. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is determining whether to join the UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency in approving the drug.

[Read More](#)

BLS' cannabis 'gummies'

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 26/08/2024

Breathe Life Sciences (BLS), through its subsidiary Bioxyne, has delivered its first pharmaceutical grade cannabis pastilles. The company stated the 'gummies' were produced under the Good Manufacturing Practice certification from the TGA, marking a step forward in the domestic medicinal cannabis market.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 26/08/2024, Sarah MacDonald

Interview with Doctor Norman Swan, presenter of The Health Report. Swan discusses the increasing use of Ozempic and reports that suggest some users may experience suicidal ideation. He says Ozempic and similar drugs pose risks for a vulnerable subset of users, particularly those on anti-depressants. He explains that international and local bodies, including the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), rely on inaccurate and incomplete data once drugs are on the market, making the monitoring of side effects difficult.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

New Shellharbour alcohol, drug service

A new hub helping people with alcohol and other drug issues has opened in Shellharbour, filling some of the gap in services available to residents of the Illawarra. A team of four clinicians works from the Australian Community Support Organisation's (ACSO) Shellharbour Alcohol and Other Drug Hub, providing treatment and other support to those facing issues with substance abuse and addiction.

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Elite rehab centre finds opioid use spikes three-fold among people needing help

The Australian, Other, 27/08/2024, Blair Jackson

As Australian overdose deaths double the national road death tally, patients with opioid issues have tripled. Australian Federal Police have seen growing numbers of highly potent synthetic opioids called nitazenes being imported into Australia in the past two years.

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

[Read More](#)

The 'free heroin' behind thousands of violent crimes in NSW

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/08/2024, Perry Duffin

Thousands of people are perpetuating violent assaults and life-ruining scams each year to feed gambling addictions, with research for the first time proving just how many crimes would be prevented if government clamped down – even slightly – on the pokies. The "disturbing" study, by NSW's renowned crime researcher, confirms the warnings of a man in prison for a multimillion-dollar fraud: gambling, like illegal drugs, pushes addicts into a life of crime.

[Read More](#)

Victorian glasshouse tipped to receive \$80 million-plus offers

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/08/2024, Tallis Miles

The flagship glasshouse of one of Australia's largest medicinal cannabis producers has hit the market where it is expected to receive significant offers. The ASX-listed Cann Group are selling their 13.5ha industrial site, located 10km from the Mildura CBD, two years after the first commercial cannabis crops were grown.

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FOOD STANDARDS

A sweet discovery: Food packaging that can kill viruses and extend shelf life

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/08/2024, Liv Casben and Jennifer Dudley-Nicholson

Brisbane researchers have discovered how to turn sugarcane waste into a new form of bio packaging, which can extend the shelf life of produce and kill viruses and bacteria with its antimicrobial coating. The novel technology has been developed by the University of Queensland's Nasim Amiralian and her team.

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

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AICIS

Nuclearwaste 'safely stored' at Mount Piper

Western Advocate, General News, 27/08/2024, Reidun Berntsen, Page 3

The Coalition has responded to concerns about nuclear waste after Member for Calare Andrew Gee revealed it would be stored onsite at the proposed Mount Piper facility. Mr Gee, who has been consulting with residents about the Coalition's proposed nuclear reactor, said he spoke with the Shadow Minister for Energy.

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

Water minister backs tap as PFAS inquiry launched

Canberra Times, Other, 26/08/2024

The discovery of "forever chemicals" in Sydney's drinking water has not turned federal minister Tanya Plibersek off the tap as she backs an inquiry into the potentially cancer-causing substances. The parliamentary probe will examine the environmental, economic and health impact of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, collectively known as PFAS chemicals.

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

[Read More](#)

Senate inquiry launched into PFAS

Inside Water, Other, 26/08/2024, Chris Edwards

Independent Senator Lidia Thorpe will chair a Senate inquiry into the dangers of PFAS and forever chemicals to the Australian public. The report is due in August 2025 According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, exposure to certain PFAS chemicals including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) has been linked to an increased risk of testicular and kidney cancer.

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