



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 28th August 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)
| [Coronavirus](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |
[First Nations Health](#) | [Interim Australian CDC](#) | [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#)
| [Office for Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#) | [AICIS](#)

LINKS

[Click here to view all print articles](#)

[Click here to view today's front pages](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that the left-wing minor Greens party have proposed a series of taxes to fund new policies, including the expansion of Medicare to include dental coverage.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 4) reports that Minister of Health Mark Butler has announced that the federal government has succeeded in securing 22 million bags of IV fluids over the next six months, a quantity that is expected to exceed projected demand. The Department of Health has also confirmed that Baxter, Australia's sole onshore IV fluid manufacturer, will expand its operations so that local production of IV bags can be increased.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that residential aged care operators are warning that more homes may be closed than built within the next five years if current federal rules are not changed, leaving the sector short of 21,200 beds. *Also reported by:* [The Age](#)
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that a nine year-old boy in Adelaide has suffered major complications from an influenza infection, including a cardiac arrest while on the operating table, after which he was placed into an induced coma.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that an intensive care ambulance was called to treat a patient in a corridor at Victoria's Maroondah Hospital, after transporting paramedics were told that the patient could not be admitted because there were no beds available.

- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 1) reports that medical professionals at the Mercury Bush Summit are calling on Tasmanian health service leaders to recognise the skills of rural generalists, who are currently unable to help fill shifts in state hospital systems, and sometimes fly interstate to cover shifts instead. *Also reported by: [Adelaide Now](#), [Cairns Post](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#)*
- **The Ballarat Courier** (page 1) reports that drug and alcohol experts in Ballarat are concerned about the emergence of nitazenes, a new synthetic opioid stronger than fentanyl, which have already been linked to deaths in Victoria and NSW.
- **ABC News** (online) reports that doctors in rural and remote communities are calling on the federal government to investigate the discontinuation of a US-manufactured test used to determine if a pregnancy has progressed to premature labour, amid fears that patients' health will be jeopardised and increased pressure placed on emergency services in its absence.
- **ABC News** (online) reports that a rise in the prevalence of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and nitazenes has health professionals advocating for the distribution of naloxone to pubs, bars, and nightclubs in Australia, in an effort to prevent deaths by accidental overdose.

MINISTER BUTLER

Butler secures 22 million IV fluid bags

The Australian, General News, 28/08/2024, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 4

The federal government has secured 22 million bags of IV fluids amid a major supply shortage of the vital saline products. [...] Baxter, Australia's only onshore IV fluid manufacturer, will also expand its western Sydney manufacturing plant "so that more IV fluid bags can be made locally", the Health Department said.

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

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

Scamps backs ban on gambling ads

Pittwater Life, General News, 01/09/2024, Page 33

Mackellar MP Dr Sophie Scamps says she fears the Albanese Federal Government is continuing to prioritise the pecuniary "health" of a few big media players and gambling companies ahead of the health of families, children and taxpayers, who bear the cost of problem gambling. She said she had asked Health Minister Mark Butler whether the Government would act to deal with the serious public health issue that gambling poses for our children.

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

Health Minister Mark Butler makes significant announcement in response to nationwide IV fluid shortage

Sky News Australia, Other, 27/08/2024, Laura Grassby

Labor has announced it has secured the supply of an extra 22 million IV fluid bags to ease demand amid a nationwide shortage of the critical medical supplies, a situation characterised by the Coalition as a "crisis of the government's own making". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Tuesday announced a response group has been formed to tackle the shortage head on and said the general consensus was the situation was stabilising in most jurisdictions.

[Read More](#)

Additional 22m IV bags secured to overcome critical supply constraints

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/08/2024

While hospitals are being told to use the supply 'judiciously', IV fluid stock will now exceed demand over the next six months, says Mark Butler. The federal government has secured an additional 22 million IV fluid bags to be distributed nationwide over the next six months, with supply now expected to outpace demand for the remainder of the year.

[Read More](#)

Hope 103.2, 15:00 News, 27/08/2024

The Federal Government has secured a supply of 22 million bags of IV fluids amid a global shortage of the medical product. Doctors have been forced to ration intravenous fluids for critically ill patients, postpone inductions of labour and deliver medications by alternative injection methods. In a statement, Health Minister Mark Butler says the Government has been working with local producers and suppliers to secure supplies over the next six months.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Afternoons, 27/08/2024, Michael McLaren

McLaren says according to Health Minister Mark Butler, to ease demand, the Albanese Government has worked with local producers and suppliers to secure a supply of over 22 million additional IV fluid bags for the affected product lines over the next six months, both locally produced and imported.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 27/08/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Julian Schiller

Feldhoff and Schiller are joined by Evelyn Manfield, ABC Political Reporter. Manfield says aged care providers and bodies that represent older Australians want the new Aged Care Act introduced into Parliament soon and discussions between the major parties have been going on for months now. She adds Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler and his counterpart Anne Ruston have been talking about it for months, trying to get a shared position on what's going to happen with aged care.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, 17:00 News, 27/08/2024

The Federal Government has secured an additional 22 million bags of IV fluid amid a national shortage. Unexpected increases in demand and manufacturing capacity constraints are behind the shortage. Health Minister Mark Butler says the additional supply means stocks are now higher than forecast demand.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Paralympic gold brings cash reward

The Australian, Sport, 28/08/2024, Will Swanton , Page 24

Paralympic victories are worth their weight in gold. And some cash. [...] Sport Minister Anika Wells made the announcement at a function in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower on Tuesday.

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

Drowning numbers alarm

Mount Evelyn Mail, 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. [...] 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.

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

Aussie Paralympics medal winners to take home cash reward

9News, Other, 27/08/2024, Adam Vidler

Aussie medal-winners at the Paralympic Games in Paris will take home not just glory, but a cash reward in line with their Olympian peers. [...] Sport Minister Anika Wells has announced that gold

medallists will be awarded \$20,000, silver medallists \$15,000, and bronze medallists \$10,000.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Early Afternoons, 27/08/2024, Katherine Feeney

Feeney is joined by Joel Spreadborough, ABC. Feeney reports that Australian Para-athletes are celebrating a bit of a win before the torch is even lit. Spreadborough says Sports Minister Anika Wells has confirmed that the Australian Government will provide Australia's Para-athletes with the same financial incentives for winning medals at the Paris Games as Olympians.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

A minister for ageing is good news for seniors

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/08/2024, Patricia Sparrow

The appointment of Labor MP Kate Thwaites as the Assistant Minister for Ageing was largely overshadowed by higher-profile changes in the recent Albanese Government reshuffle. But we think it was a pretty big deal that probably warranted greater focus.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Butler secures 22 million IV fluid bags

The Australian, General News, 28/08/2024, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 4

The federal government has secured 22 million bags of IV fluids amid a major supply shortage of the vital saline products. [...] Baxter, Australia's only onshore IV fluid manufacturer, will also expand its western Sydney manufacturing plant "so that more IV fluid bags can be made locally", the Health Department said.

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

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

Home help hole hurts aged

Lilydale Star Mail, General News, 27/08/2024, Callum Ludwig, Page 5

Older residents of the Yarra Ranges in need of support at home are still finding themselves without the help they need. [...] The Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care advises older people who are unable to access specific services due to lack of a Registered Home Care Package providers in their area to contact My Aged Care at www.myagedcare.gov.au or free call 1800 200 422 for advice.

Over fifty aged care homes fail to comply with Aged Care standards in a month

HelloCare, Other, 27/08/2024, Georgie Waters

Around 185,000 older Australians currently live in residential care facilities and with Australia's population continuing to age, finding appropriate and comfortable aged care is an important task for many people. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care , compliance is measured by: one star: significant improvement needed; two stars: improvement needed; three stars: acceptable; four stars: good; and five stars: excellent.

[Read More](#)

DoHAC still mum on new chronic condition rebates

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/08/2024, Holly Payne

In just over two months, GP management plans and team care arrangements will be overhauled. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has released new detail on its incoming chronic condition management plan modernisation ... but it's not the detail anyone has been waiting for.

[Read More](#)

ABC Northern Tasmania, Country Hour (Tas), 27/08/2024, Tony Briscoe

Report regarding Animal health experts are warning that H5N1, a highly contagious strain of bird flu that has spread overseas could be in Australia as soon as spring. H5N1 has now spread to every continent except Australia killing millions of wild birds and tens of thousands of mammals. Wildlife Health Australia Program Manager for Emergencies Dr Simone Vitali says the prognosis for infected animals is to be euthanised, to spare their suffering and to curb disease threat, and it's best to avoid direct contact with dead animals. Vitali adds if people can have a look at the Department of Health and Aged Care websites, they can get more information on how to keep themselves safe.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CORONAVIRUS

Nasal COVID-19 vaccine set to be 'gamechanger' NSW university says

9News, Other, 27/08/2024, Sarah Swain

Vaccinations against COVID-19 could be delivered via the nose for patients who are scared of needles. Research from Griffith University in NSW, published in Nature Communications, has been testing the efficacy of delivering a coronavirus vaccine via the nasal passages.

[Read More](#)

Call for more Paxlovid prescribing to prevent COVID-19 deaths in aged care

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/08/2024, Carmel Sparke

A leading infectious diseases specialist has urged GPs to prescribe nirmatrelvir–ritonavir more readily for patients in aged care facilities, who are still dying of COVID-19 in unnecessarily high numbers. Professor Robert Booy says, while COVID-19 deaths in the community have come down considerably, the graph is stuck for those living in nursing homes.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Elderly face care beds time bomb

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/08/2024, David Crowe, Page 1

A funding crisis is tipped to leave older Australians without thousands of aged care places over the next five years because providers will not invest under federal rules, building pressure on Labor and the Coalition to strike a deal. The shortage could leave the sector without 21,200 beds as residential aged care operators warn of financial pressures that will force them to close more homes than they build.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Over whelming or overblown? The evidence for breast feeding

Age, General News, 28/08/2024, Liam Mannix, Page 4

Back when having a baby still felt like a distant dream for Evelyne McMillan, she told friends there was absolutely no way she was going to breastfeed. "Why would you want to put your body through all that pain," she says, "when you can simply feed your baby with formula?"

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

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

Cots for tiny tots born from tragedy

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/08/2024, Emily Kowal, Page 12

As Liam Finnane grieved the sudden death of his wife days after childbirth, he was forced to endure the added anguish of being separated from his newborn daughter. Midwife Torie Finnane died from bacterial meningitis in December 2020 at the age of 34, just three days after giving birth to her third child, Maisie, in Orange in NSW's central west.

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

Danger drug dread

Ballarat Courier, General News, 28/08/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 1

An emerging new drug type stronger than fentanyl is concerning Ballarat drug and alcohol experts. Nitazenes, a type of synthetic opioid, have not yet been detected in Ballarat but it is only a matter of time, having been linked to deaths in Melbourne and NSW.

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

Shocking extent of region's period poverty

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 28/08/2024, Natalie Croxon, Page 9

Two-thirds of people who menstruate in the Shellharbour area find it difficult to afford period products, with some turning to toilet paper and even newspaper to manage their periods instead. The charity Share the Dignity conducted a nationwide survey of more than 153,000 people to measure period poverty in Australia and target those areas most in need.

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

Stop illegal vapes right at the border

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 28/08/2024, Page 17

Of all the public health issues that have emerged in the past decade, none are bigger and potentially more troubling than vaping. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare statistics show that in 2019 9.6 per cent of Australians aged 14 to 17 had used e-cigarettes.

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

Senior drug abuse spike

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 28/08/2024, Lydia Roberts, Page 1

A spike in synthetic drug use, particularly among older residents, is concerning authorities across the New England. Heroin substitutes fentanyl and nitazene, as well as methamphetamines, are now the drugs of choice for users aged over 50, according to North West Health Services regional manager Jessica Tool.

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

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

Cairns Post, Other, 27/08/2024, Blair Jackson

The number of Australians hooked on highly addictive medicines and illicit drugs is spiking hard and drawing comparisons with a devastating marker. As Australian overdose deaths double the national road death tally, patients with opioid issues have tripled.

[Read More](#)

Common drugs being laced with deadly potent synthetics

Canberra Times, Other, 27/08/2024

Vapes, depressants and ecstasy are being laced or replaced with extremely potent synthetic drugs, say experts who fear an imminent overdose crisis. Nitazenes, a group of synthetic opioids, have already caused dozens of overdose deaths in Australia in 2024, harm-reduction advocates said on Tuesday.

[Read More](#)

Vapes by the kilo: TGA launches investigation into e-cigarette importer

Canberra Times, Other, 27/08/2024, Matthew Kelly

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.

Also reported by: [Forbes Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Narooma News \(Online\)](#), [Harden Express \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional outlets online.

[Read More](#)

Illawarra overdose deaths rise amid opioid addiction treatment shortage

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 28/08/2024, Kate McIlwain

Nearly 250 people in the Illawarra have died from an accidental drug overdose in the past 15 years, prompting calls for better access to opioid addiction treatment programs and prevention strategies. New research based on coronial system reports published this week shows there were 166 unintentional drug-induced deaths in Wollongong and a further 79 in Kiama and Shellharbour since 2008.

[Read More](#)

Emergence of deadly synthetic opioids prompts calls for pubs and clubs to stock anti-overdose medication

ABC Online, Other, 27/08/2024, Liz Gwynn

"They shouldn't be left to die because they made a mistake." [...] In Australia, synthetic opioids like fentanyl and nitazenes are increasingly being found in other substances like cocaine, MDMA and cannabis vapes, which puts occasional or first-time recreational drug users at greater risk of an overdose.

[Read More](#)

Test used to assess signs of premature labour will no longer be

available, leaving pregnant women in rural and remote areas at risk

ABC Online, Other, 27/08/2024, Lucy Barbour

A test used to detect whether pregnant mothers are in premature labour has been discontinued, leaving rural and remote women most at risk. The rapid fetal fibronectin (fFN) test helps medical teams decide whether women who present with contractions early in pregnancy should be evacuated to major hospitals, or whether they're safe to return home.

[Read More](#)

Doctors lose 'main tool' for determining preterm labour

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/08/2024

Rural doctors say the fetal fibronectin test helps them decide whether preterm labour is real. Doctors say they have lost their main tool for determining preterm labour after manufacturers of the rapid fetal fibronectin test announced plans to withdraw it from sale.

[Read More](#)

Radio National, AM, 27/08/2024, Sabra Lane

Report on a test used to detect whether pregnant women are in premature labour that has been discontinued, leaving rural and remote women most at risk. Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' Scott White says without the test, doctors in rural and remote areas will be forced to err on the side of caution, meaning that more women will be transferred to city hospitals even if they don't end up giving birth for weeks.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

The oncologist who saw people were 'choosing to die' and decided to act

Daily Liberal, Other, 27/08/2024, Orlander Ruming

When oncologist Florian Honeyball moved to Dubbo ten years ago he started to notice a trend in the people coming to the city for cancer treatment. As he looked into the data and spoke to health professionals out west, a stark reality emerged.

[Read More](#)

Recently pregnant women are more likely to develop breast cancer, study finds

9News, Other, 27/08/2024, Mikala Theocharous

The joint study involving University of New South Wales, the University of Melbourne and the Columbia University Irving Medical Centre used a predicted absolute risk score (PARS) to determine the risk of developing breast cancer. Women with higher risk scores were 1.5 times more likely to develop breast cancer after giving birth, compared to women who had never given birth with similar risk scores.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Health insurers say soaring costs to spark fee rise

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 28/08/2024, Michael Smith, Page 17

Private health insurers say soaring specialist fees and the cost of medical devices will drive premiums even higher, with benefits paid to hospitals hitting record highs, despite patient numbers struggling to recover to levels before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shock new health low

Herald Sun, General News, 28/08/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 1

A specialist ambulance crew had to be sent inside a Melbourne hospital to treat an "urgent" cardiac patient waiting in a corridor because the emergency department was full. Victorian Ambulance Union general secretary Danny Hill said he'd never seen a crew sent to treat a patient inside a hospital before and slammed it as a waste of ambulance resources.

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

Boy's heart stops after horror flu

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/08/2024, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 1

An Adelaide nine-year-old's heart stopped on the operating table after he contracted a horror flu infection. Maxwell Hann was placed in an induced coma after his heart stopped for 60 seconds at Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital.

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

Council on board for hospital fight

Border Mail, General News, 28/08/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 5

Federation Council has committed to lobbying for a new Albury-Wodonga hospital. At its final meeting before next month's local government election, the Corowa-based council decided yesterday to make a stand on a greenfield medical hub.

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

Fight for radiation therapy

Border Watch, General News, 28/08/2024, Page 2

Member for Barker Tony Pasin will not give up the fight to bring radiation therapy to the Limestone Coast and will contest the feasibility study which found the treatment option was not sustainable in the region. With guidance from Radiation Oncology Access Coalition (ROAC), Mr Pasin said the state government did not have "any justifiable reason to redirect \$4.3 million of funding away from its intended purpose".

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

AMA visits the region

Border Watch, General News, 28/08/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 16

Australian Medical Association of South Australia (AMASA) president John Williams will seek an update on the Limestone Coast's anaesthetist shortage. Mr Williams will visit the region this week where he will meet with local doctors to discuss a range of issues affecting their practice.

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

Retiree died in hospital after trying to access toilet unassisted

Burnie Advocate, General News, 28/08/2024, Helen Kempton, Page 7

The death of a retired farmer in his room in the North West Regional Hospital has prompted a coroner to call for staff to be better trained in falls prevention. Dennis Edward Wragg was 95 years of age, widowed and lived independently at Somerset before he was admitted to Burnie's public hospital in October last year.

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

MP asks when city's promised PET scanner will arrive

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 28/08/2024, Page 3

South West Coast MP Roma Britnell has slammed the state government for failing to provide a date when the city's PET scanner will be installed. Labor promised eight PET scanners for hospitals across the state in the lead-up to the 2022 state election.

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

Western Hospital's stark woes laid bare in new administrators' report

Adelaide Now, Other, 27/08/2024, Brad Crouch and Andrew Hough

Western Hospital was trading insolvent "from as early as October 2019" and its board of directors may face legal action if the claims of insolvent trading of up to \$15.5m are sustained, a bombshell administrators' report reveals. The board may also face further legal difficulties with the administrators listing three "potential breaches" which may warrant further investigation.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

'It will happen again': Paramedic says broken system cost 20 crucial minutes getting to Torquay boy Joshua Ruff

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 27/08/2024, Will Keech

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. Joshua Ruff's mother has also spoken about the devastating day she lost her "beautiful" son.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Territory doctor Simon Quilty's unpaid overtime could be 'tip of iceberg' costing taxpayers millions

Northern Territory News, Other, 27/08/2024, Jason Walls

The doctors' union says 'the government will almost certainly say doctors claimed X hours of overtime and we paid 99 per cent of those claims', but that's not the whole story. NT doctors union president Thomas Fowles says a claim for thousands of hours of unpaid overtime by Simon Quilty could be 'the tip of the iceberg'.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

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

Kalgoorlie Miner, 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.

[Read More](#)

Bridging healthcare in the community

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/08/2024

Essential healthcare services will be brought directly to one Tasmanian community thanks to Priceline Pharmacy in Bridgewater proactively taking steps to close the primary care gap. With the shortage of general practitioners in the area, the pharmacy has stepped up to fill the void, offering blood pressure checks and other vital health screenings.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today , 27/08/2024, Charles Croucher and Amelia Adams

South Australian hospitals are seeing ambulance response times plummet amid ongoing ramping issues. The number of priority one calls attended within target dipped by nearly 6% in the eight months to July this year, while priority two calls hit 55%. July also saw a record of just over 5500 ramping hours.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 27/08/2024, Adam Steer

UnitingCare has announced plans to terminate its hospital agreements with more than 20 private health insurers. It follows a collapse in negotiations between UnitingCare and the Australian Health Services Alliance. If a new deal can't be reached. 2.5 million fund members may no longer be able to use their hospital cover at several different hospitals.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 27/08/2024, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Interview with Dr Nick Yim, President, Australian Medical Association Qld. From November this year, private health funds that are part of the Australian Health Service Alliance will no longer be covered at UnitingCare hospitals like the Wesley and Saint Andrews War Memorial Hospital in Brisbane. It comes as negotiations between the not-for-profit hospitals and these health funds have reached an impasse. Yim says the policyholders are the ones who are stuck in the middle and are potentially facing high out-of-pocket expenses after November.

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

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

McGorry 'taken out of context' by van Onselen

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/08/2024, Edmund Tadros & Myriam Robin, Page 6

Leading mental health expert Patrick McGorry says he was taken out of context in an opinion article by Chartered Accountants ANZ chief executive Ainslie van Onselen about proposed new laws to rein in rogue tax agents.

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

Inertia blamed for ADF tragedies

The Australian, General News, 28/08/2024, Stephen Lunn, Page 2

Australia's military disciplinary system has been "weaponised against those who complain", contributing to the trauma among the nation's serving and former defence population, Defence and Veteran Suicide Royal Commission chair Nick Kaldas warns. And "Defence's default position is to defend Defence" in its response to a national tragedy of an average three suicides a fortnight among former and serving Australian Defence Force personnel over the past decade, fellow commissioner Peggy Brown says.

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

Albanese faces Port Arthur moment

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/08/2024, Tim Costello, Page 19

The prime minister can't hedge his bets on the crucial issue of gambling ads. There are moments in every prime minister's life where they face real tests.

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

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

Tragedy a catalyst for mental health change

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/08/2024, Chelsea Bunting, Page 2

Damian McKeegan is determined to help improve the mental health of players at St Mary's Sporting Club. After a young player died by suicide several years ago, Mr McKeegan started a support program at the club focussing on mental health.

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

It's a no brainer to ban ads fuelling public health crisis

Canberra Times, General News, 28/08/2024, Michael Baigent & Malcolm Battersby, Page 18

Online gambling ads are relentless. Whether you're watching your favourite team play on TV, mindlessly scrolling through social media, or even trying to scan an important document using what you thought was a credible app - there are flashy, high-octane, almost impossible-to-skip ads calling you to "bet big and win big."

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional outlets.

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

Answering the call

Daily Advertiser, General News, 28/08/2024, Taylor Dodge, Page 1

June's Sofia Heszterenyiova has dedicated the walls of her home to nine friends lost to suicide. On September 10, Sofia will take part in Out of the Shadows, a Lifeline event in which participants walk in honour of the many lives lost each day while raising money for the 24-hour counselling service.

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

Prominent doctors slam psychiatrist Dr Andrew Amos for 'harmful' trans views

Cairns Post, Other, 27/08/2024, Luke Williams

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

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Rules block rural docs

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/08/2024, Simon Mcguire, Page 1

Rural GPs with the skills to also fill positions in Tasmania's hospitals are instead flying interstate to cover shifts. The GPs, known as rural generalists, have had extra training and experience to provide services such as obstetrics and other specialties.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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

Long way to go for health

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 28/08/2024, Page 18

Dr Sally Street is a rural generalist living in Penguin on the state's North West Coast with a set of skills Tasmania is crying out for. A rural generalist is a GP who has extra training and experience in other specialist areas which allows them to also work in the hospital system.

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

UnitingCare Qld considers cutting ties with health insurer

Nursing Review, Other, 27/08/2024, Stefanie Schultz

After months of negotiations UnitingCare Queensland has given notice to health insurance conglomerate Australian Health Service Alliance (AHSA) that its contract will be terminated, should they not reach a reasonable funding agreement within three months. UnitingCare owns and operates four not-for-profit hospitals in Queensland, as well as a range of other allied health services such as aged and disability care.

[Read More](#)

All health students should have paid prac, sector says

Nursing Review, Other, 27/08/2024, Erin Morley

Placement poverty experienced by students studying clinical allied health sciences is being ignored, Australia's council of allied health deans has said in its response to teaching, nursing, social work and midwifery students gaining paid work placements. Announced in May, eligible students are to receive \$319 a week to cover the costs associated with completing mandatory and historically unpaid work placements as a requirement to completing their degrees.

[Read More](#)

Opal staff agree to pay offer

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/08/2024

Opal Healthcare workers have voted in favour of a new enterprise agreement that will see nurses and care workers receive a 10.7 per cent pay rise over three years. Acceptance of the offer means Australia's largest for-profit aged care provider has avoided the threat of industrial action by the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Greens go 'Robin Hood' in \$514bn big business tax threat to Labor

The Australian, General News, 28/08/2024, Geoff Chambers, Page 1

Adam Bandt will demand a \$514bn tax hit on big business in return for the Greens supporting Labor in a hung parliament, under what the party trumpets as "Robin Hood" reforms targeting miners, coal and gas companies, banks, telcos and retailers. [...] He will use projected tax revenue windfalls to underwrite other expensive Greens policies including putting "dental into Medicare, for everybody, because your teeth should be included as basic healthcare".

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

Health bureaucrats lost sight of costs in digital health record rollout

Canberra Times, Other, 27/08/2024, Lucy Bladen

The team behind the ACT's digital health record were focused on delivering the project without any regard to cost and were operating millions of dollars over annual budgets, audits have found. Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith has released two additional audits into the management of the territory's digital health record.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doll-bashing nurse found guilty of misconduct

Daily Advertiser, General News, 28/08/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf, Page 1

A Riverina nurse has been found guilty of engaging in professional misconduct over a "callous and deplorable" doll-bashing incident that tormented an elderly dementia patient in her care. The NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal has ruled Sudiksha Ahuja, a former enrolled nurse at the Junee residential aged care facility, guilty of professional misconduct and unsatisfactory professional conduct over the 2021 incident, as well as an attempt to collude with a fellow nurse over what occurred.

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

Chemist took drugs for personal use

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/08/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 4

The former director of pharmacy at a Hunter public hospital has been disqualified for two years for swiping drugs for herself and members of her family. Susan Murtagh, who was registered as a pharmacist in NSW in 1985, went on to work as the director of pharmacy at a public Hunter hospital from 1987 until her resignation in 2021.

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

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Syphilis killing babies

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 28/08/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 6

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 Queensland's northwest is now widespread, and Greater Brisbane is now a hotspot.

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

Rebrand for Telethon Kids Institute

West Australian, General News, 28/08/2024, Page 16

Western Australia's largest medical research institute dedicated to improving kids' health and wellbeing has undergone a major rebrand. Formerly the Telethon Kids Institute, it is now The Kids Research Institute Australia as it looks to reimagine its research to "improve the health and happiness of children and young people everywhere".

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

Toowoomba Hospital orthopaedic specialist urges residents to lose weight to reduce joint replacements surgeries

Cairns Post, Other, 27/08/2024, Tom Gillespie & Kevin Farmer

Toowoomba's growing obesity crisis has led to the rise of a certain type of surgery – something a leading specialist believes is completely reversible. 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.

[Read More](#)

Progressive prostate treatments work best with early detection

Canberra Times, Other, 27/08/2024

It was when he was competing at the pinnacle of his sport at the Masters Games in Alice Springs that Chris Jelliffe finally acknowledged something was going wrong. "I actually won a gold medal in clay target shooting," he said. [...] Enlarged prostate or benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), where the

prostate gland enlarges and obstructs the urethra resulting in urinary issues, is a common medical issue for men over 50, affecting up to 70 per cent of men sixty years or older.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Australian conservatives claim babies are sometimes 'born alive' after an abortion. What's the truth?

The Guardian, Other, 28/08/2024, Tory Shepherd

Some religious groups and conservative politicians in Australia have claimed babies are being "born alive" after abortions and left to die alone. But experts warn "born alive" campaigns are riddled with misinformation, use misleading statistics and could threaten women's access to abortions.

[Read More](#)

Knowing your blood pressure could save your life

The Guardian, Other, 28/08/2024, Ranjana Srivastava

"I feel fine," she says, brushing the crumbs off her top. [...] Hypertension, defined as a blood pressure over 140/90, is by far the leading risk factor for preventable deaths.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Other half of dementia

Herald Sun, General News, 28/08/2024, Page 11

You may be at higher risk of developing dementia if your spouse has a heart disease related event such as a heart attack or stroke, according to US researchers. The Boston University team says cardiovascular diseases are a known risk factor for dementia, but they wanted to investigate whether being close to someone with a major heart incident carried risks as well.

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

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

Mammogram participation ups screening rates for other cancers: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/08/2024

A simple prompt reminding women to utilise cancer screening programs could be enough to boost participation rates, researchers say. Australian participation rates in cervical screening are around 68%.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Health 'in her blood'

Cairns Post, General News, 28/08/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 7

A "little Cape York kid" is aspiring to become a First Nations trailblazer and carry on her family's remarkable legacy of helping others across Far North Queensland. [...] The talented Cairn State High

School student is completing a traineeship in health administration with Queensland Health and hopes to study psychiatry upon graduation.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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

Boosting cultural safety in mental healthcare for Aboriginal kids

West Australian, Advertising feature, 28/08/2024, Page 22

Displaying the Aboriginal flag or artwork and having Aboriginal staff would help alleviate fears of young Indigenous people regarding clinical healthcare services, a cultural safety project has found. The project identified that concerns regarding entrenched racism and biases and historical fears about the Stolen Generation were preventing Aboriginal young people from accessing mental health support services.

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

Early Childhood Alliance urges new NT government to support First Nations-led services

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/08/2024, Dechlan Brennan

The new Northern Territory government has been urged to take action to help Territory families struggling to access childcare and allied health services. After their election victory on Saturday, the CLP are facing a cost-of-living crisis in the NT, along with high levels of debt, Indigenous incarceration, and poverty.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Mpox strain changing faster than expected: scientists

Canberra Times, Other, 27/08/2024, Jennifer Rigby & Julie Steenhuisen

Scientists studying the new mpox strain that has spread out of Democratic Republic of Congo say the virus is changing faster than expected, and often in areas where experts lack the funding and equipment to properly track it. That means there are numerous unknowns about the virus itself, its severity and how it is transmitting, complicating the response, half a dozen scientists in Africa, Europe and the United States told Reuters.

[Read More](#)

Qld residents' biosecurity responsibilities as bird flu, varroa pose threats

ABC Online, Other, 27/08/2024, Megan Hughes

Karen Johns Karen Johns' hobby is a bit more intensive than reading or painting; she breeds chickens. [...] While authorities are responding to outbreaks of avian influenza in southern states, there are fears a more deadly strain of the H5N1 virus could reach Australian borders as birds migrate this spring

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Approval of cytisine for smoking cessation takes step forward

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/08/2024

The RACGP is updating its smoking cessation guidelines to now include cytisine, ahead of the medication gaining final approval. [...] While the treatment has never been made accessible in

Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) states 'there are reports of unregistered cytosine lozenges already available to consumers'.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Call for change to work drug test rules

Herald Sun, General News, 28/08/2024, Shannon Deery, Page 9

Victoria needs better workplace drug testing laws to deal with an explosion in the use of medicinal cannabis, a parliamentary inquiry has found. In a report published on Tuesday the upper house's Legal and Social Issues Committee found employees using medicinal cannabis had been unfairly discriminated against and some had lost their jobs because of inadequate laws and regulations governing its use.

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

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.
See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

