



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 29th August 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **ABC News (online)** reports Health Minister Mark Butler has announced that Australia has secured the supply of an additional 22 million bags of IV fluids over the next six months, which he said would be "more than enough to meet Australian demand over that period." *Also reported by:* [The Mandarin](#), [ABC Radio Sydney](#), [ABC Radio Melbourne](#)
- **Channel 7 (broadcast)** reports the advanced breast cancer treatment medication HER2 has been added to the PBS, making it available to patients for around \$31 per script rather than \$160,000. Health Minister Mark Butler said, "This new cutting edge treatment for this type of advanced breast cancer will give, we think, around 1700 patients, new hope and a new treatment every single year." *Also reported by:* [Channel 9](#), [ABC Radio Sydney](#), [ABC Radio Pilbara](#),
- **The Australian (page 6)** reports Little Green Pharma, located in Busselton, WA, is leading an emerging industry by growing marijuana for export, under strict protocols overseen by the Office of Drug Control and the Therapeutic Goods Administration.
- **The Courier Mail (page 3)** reports Property Council Australia research estimates Queensland will need 55 new hospitals and 70 medical centres across the state's south east to ensure adequate access to healthcare beyond 2046.

- [The Hobart Mercury \(page 5\)](#) reports a Tasmanian Health Department investigation could not find evidence to substantiate a claim that a baby died at Royal Hobart Hospital due to understaffing. *Also reported by:* [ABC News](#)
- [The Sydney Morning Herald \(page 1\)](#) reports WaterNSW has shut Medlow Dam in the Blue Mountains after it was found to be contaminated with PFAS chemicals. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [ABC News](#), [Channel 9](#)
- [The Canberra Times \(page 1\)](#) reports the implementation of ACT's digital health records program was \$40 million over budget despite officers reporting the project was under budget.
- [The Canberra Times \(page 12\)](#) reports Monash University researchers have developed a world-first finger-prick blood test that can detect the early hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease before symptoms progress. *Also reported by:* [Channel 9](#)
- [The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 11\)](#) reports rural doctor Melanie Considine has said perceptions about the role and expertise of GPs need to change to encourage more doctors to practise in regional communities.
- [The Australian \(online\)](#) reports the federal government has issued a warning to overseas travellers about the risks of bird flu outbreaks.

MINISTER BUTLER

Health closer to home

PerthNow Joondalup, General News, 29/08/2024, Erick Lopez, Page 10

ECU has officially launched its new health centre in Yanchep, offering a range of primary care and mental health services. The ECU Health Centre Yanchep East aims to provide better health care services for the rapidly growing far-northern corridor. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the health centre reflected the Federal Government's support for multidisciplinary care.

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

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Federal government secures 22 million IV fluid bags amid global shortage

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2024, Stephanie Dalzell

The federal government has sought to assure Australians they'll have "more than enough" bags of IV fluids over the coming months, following revelations patients were having to stay in hospital recovery for longer as doctors rationed the crucial medicine. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the additional bags would ensure there was "more than enough to meet Australian demand over that period."

[Read More](#)

'Once in a generation opportunity' to transform healthcare via digital innovation

The Australian, Other, 28/08/2024, Nadine McGrath

Digital technologies are now an integral part of our daily life but according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) their applications to improve the health of populations remain largely untapped. [...] "Digital health technologies enable more efficient and collaborative healthcare for both patients and practitioners," Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said.

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

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'1000 pages': Aussie dad's 'cruel' three-year wait for vaccine injury compensation

A Melbourne dad who had to "learn to walk again" after a life-changing reaction to AstraZeneca has warned there "will be suicides" if the government does not urgently rethink its support for those suffering Covid vaccine injuries. [...] Dr Ryan previously signed a letter to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Health Minister Mark Butler and Social Services Minister Bill Shorten calling for an "urgent review and extension" of the scheme.

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

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Temporary IV fluid supply fix as cross-jurisdictional response group secures 22 million bags

The Mandarin, Other, 28/08/2024, Melissa Coade

The Commonwealth and state governments have scrambled to tackle the domestic implications of global IV fluid shortage, securing an extra 22 million bags to "stabilise the situation" in most Australian jurisdictions. In a statement on Tuesday, Health Minister Mark Butler said private hospitals and primary care stakeholders were represented in the response group, reflecting the broader health system.

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AZ, Daichii win big in breast cancer

Pharma In Focus, Other, 28/08/2024

AstraZeneca and Daiichi Sankyo's antibody drug conjugate (ADC) Enhertu is set to become the first targeted therapy subsidised in Australia for HER2-low breast cancer. During a press conference in Adelaide this morning, Health Minister Mark Butler, announced that Enhertu will be expanded on the PBS for HER2-low unresectable or metastatic breast cancer as of 1 September.

[Read More](#)

New grants fund cancer research

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 28/08/2024

Cancer Australia has announced the awarding of two additional grants totalling \$1.19 million to fund important research into chemotherapy and children's cancer treatment. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP said, "The Australian Government is dedicated to supporting cutting-edge cancer research."

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 28/08/2024, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

A life-changing treatment will soon be within reach for the hundreds of Australians living with advanced breast cancer. The medication HER2 will be added to the PBS, meaning patients will pay just over \$31 per script rather than \$160,000. Health Minister Mark Butler said, "This new cutting edge treatment for this type of advanced breast cancer will give, we think, around 1700 patients, new hope and a new treatment every single year."

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Channel 9, Nine News WA First , 28/08/2024, Monika Kos

The advanced treatment for breast cancer Enhertu has been added to the PBS. For patients fighting the most serious form of the disease in HER2 targets, breast cancers, which have spread, or which can't be removed surgically and is considered life prolonging. Health Minister Mark Butler says this new cutting-edge treatment for this type of advanced breast cancer will give 17000 patients new hope.

Similar content in: [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Ngaarda Radio, Breakfast, 28/08/2024, Tangiora Hinaki

The Federal Government has secured an extra 22 million bags of IV fluid following a national shortage.

Earlier this month, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said he had worked with local producers to secure the supply, which be rolled out over the next six months.

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ABC Pilbara, Statewide Drive, 28/08/2024, Andrew Collins

Australians diagnosed with a type of metastatic breast cancer will soon have access to a life prolonging treatment under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme From next week, the treatment, known as Enhertu. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the new treatment option can deliver remarkable results.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 22:00 News, 28/08/2024

More than a thousand Australians may benefit from a new treatment for metastatic breast cancer. Her2 has been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from September without subsidy. Patients would have to pay more than \$160,000 for it. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the PBS listing means it'll be at most \$31 per script, or much less than that with a concession card.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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ABC Radio Sydney, 17:00 News, 28/08/2024

Health Minister Mark Butler says Australia will have more IV fluid bags than it needs over the next six months, after the government secured additional supply. The Government has obtained 22 million bags of IV fluids on the back of pressures to guarantee supply amid a worldwide shortage.

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

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MINISTER WELLS

Additional funding for dementia health care

[agedhealth.com.au](#), Other, 28/08/2024

Monash University will receive \$1.3 million in federal government funding to update guidance for dementia care. [...] "We want our health professionals to have access to up-to-date and research-informed clinical guidelines so they can continue to provide the highest standard of care to Australians living with dementia," said Anika Wells, Minister for Aged Care.

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Dementia guidelines refresh underway

[Australian Ageing Agenda](#), Other, 28/08/2024, Christopher Kelly

Monash University has received more than \$1 million of government funding to update the country's clinical guidelines for dementia care. [...] The updated guidelines will ensure dementia care continues to be "current and effective", said Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells.

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Disability Support Guide

[Disability Support Guide](#), Other, 28/08/2024

The Paralympics start today, August 28, 2024, and the government recently announced that financial incentives for podium-placing Australian Paralympians will be equal to those paid to successful Olympians. [...] Minister for Sport Anika Wells is currently in Paris as a government representative to support the Australians who are competing to be the best in the Paralympics.

[Read More](#)

How Much Australian Paralympic Athletes Are Being Paid In 2024

Marie Claire (Australia), Other, 28/08/2024, Ruby Feneley

The Paris 2024 Paralympics have kicked off, so how much are Australia's best athletes being paid? [...] They have received the good news with Sports Minister Anika Wells announcing these payments had been added to the record-breaking \$54.9 million in funding allocated to the Paralympics in the 2024-2025 federal budget.

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Sue Hunt appointed CEO of the Australian Sports Foundation

Women's Agenda, Other, 28/08/2024, Brianna Boecker

Sue Hunt AM has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Sports Foundation, following an extensive national executive search and competitive selection process. [...] Minister for Sport, Anika Wells echoed this sentiment as well, saying "Hunt's proven expertise in fundraising and community engagement will be pivotal in enhancing the Foundation's ability to secure vital resources for athletes and sports clubs nationwide".

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Mental health help

Western Sydney Express, General News, 01/08/2024, Page 1

The locations of four additional Medicare Mental Health Centres for NSW have been announced and two are in Western Sydney. [...] Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, said: "The struggles of day-to-day life are placing increasing pressure on people and demand on our services which is why we are pleased to announce an additional four locations in NSW: Blacktown, here in Western Sydney, Campbelltown in South-West Sydney, Broken Hill and Central Darling in Western NSW."

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

Questions on sexuality and gender have been cut from the 2026 census. Why are LGBTQI+ people saying it's an omission?

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2024, Esther Linder

It comes around every five years and gives the nation an idea of who we are — but next year, the census won't ask about who we love or how we identify. [...] Current estimates put LGBTQI+ people as representing 11 per cent of the population but there is a lack of data on the sexual orientation,

gender identity and variations in sex characteristics of the Australian population, a Department of Health study says.

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Free flu vaccinations in Queensland cost \$47m without improving take-up

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2024, Mark Rigby

Vaccination rates have gone backwards in Queensland despite the state spending \$47 million on a free influenza vaccine program in the past two years. [...] Federal health department data shows influenza vaccination rates dropped significantly in every Australian state and territory in 2023, and have fallen again in 2024.

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LGBTQI census questions axed to avoid 'divisive debate'

Canberra Times, Other, 28/08/2024, Andrew Brown

A decision not to include questions about sexual orientation in the next census was made to avoid "divisive debates" on the issue, the acting prime minister says. [...] It's estimated one in 10 Australians identify as being in the LGBTQI community, according to a 2019 report by the federal health department.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), and syndicated widely across regional online

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Father has to learn to walk again after rare reaction to Covid vaccine - as he shares grave warning

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/08/2024, Brett Lackey

An Australian dad whose Covid vaccine left him with a crippling injury that forced him to quit his 'dream job' has blasted the government's treatment of those who suffered adverse reactions to the jab. [...] The scheme which is administered by Services Australia for the Health Department has paid out \$29.8million in total to 378 successful applications but another 663 are still being assessed.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 28/08/2024, Peter Overton

Changes are coming in September to boost your bank account from energy rebates to cheaper medicines and rental assistance. There will be savings at the pharmacy as too many patients can receive twice the amount of medication for the cost of a single prescription from September. This will apply to around 300 medicines on the PBS. To see the full list, go to the Department of Health website and search cheaper medicines.

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

'No help': Stressed aged care nurse threw lifesaving medication in bin

The Courier Mail, Other, 28/08/2024, Vanda Carson

An endorsed enrolled Queensland nurse who threw vital medication for more than a dozen vulnerable elderly nursing home residents in the bin, then faked records to cover her tracks, has been found guilty of misconduct. In a decision handed down by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal deputy president Geraldine Dann on August 27, nurse Michelle Anne Patricia Hewitt was reprimanded for misconduct and disqualified from applying for registration for six months.

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New telehealth training to boost healthcare access for aged care clients

Shepparton News Online, Other, 28/08/2024, Lua Ikenasio

A new telehealth training package offering free upskilling for staff in Commonwealth-funded aged care homes was recently announced.

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Frustration and dismay

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 28/08/2024, Christopher Kelly

When stakeholders learnt workers won't receive pay rises until next year, the disappointment was palpable. In late June, determining stage 3 of the aged care work value case, independent workplace tribunal the Fair Work Commission announced that aged care workers will have to wait until next year for their pay upgrades.

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Nurses may have to wait years for wage hike

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 28/08/2024, Christopher Kelly

In a submission to the independent workplace tribunal regarding the ongoing nurses and midwives work value case, the federal government is calling for any wage increase over 3 per cent to be phased-in over a period of up to three years. The government's 26 August submission to the Fair Work Commission reads: "The commonwealth notes that further wage increases for registered and enrolled nurses in the aged care sector is not without cost to the commonwealth and requires significant additional funding to be provided to the aged care sector.

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Not enough beds: Aged care funding crisis a cause for concern

HelloCare, Other, 28/08/2024, Alex Jacobs

There are major concerns that the aged care bed shortage could get worse if the Government and opposition party cannot agree on the new Aged Care Act and funding instruments. Industry projections from aged care accounting firm StewartBrown suggest the sector will be 21,200 beds short of projected demand by 2030 if there's no major funding increase to aged care.

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Channel 9, Today , 28/08/2024, Charles Croucher and Sarah Abo

Interview with Tom Symondson, CEO, Aged & Community Care Providers Association. Abo says Australia's aged care industry is on the brink of a crisis, as a lack of funding is threatening to rid the sector of more than 21,000 beds. Symondson says they've already had a Royal Commission that reported that this needs to be fixed, over three years ago and its number one recommendation was to establish a new Aged Care Act, but it's not yet introduced to Parliament, which should have been a couple of weeks ago.

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2GB, Drive, 28/08/2024, Chris O'Keefe

Interview with Tom Symondson, CEO, Aged & Community Care Providers Association. Compere says thousands of aged care places over the next five years are facing potential funding crisis, as he adds that there has been a \$5b loss collectively in the sector. Symondson points out that even if they get back to breakeven, they won't be able to pay the \$5b that they have essentially subsidised the Government because this is a government-funded and community-funded services.

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POPULATION HEALTH

LGBTQ census questions ditched 'to avoid division'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/08/2024, Paul Sakkal, Page 14

The Albanese government decided not to count the number of LGBTQ Australians in the census to avoid a divisive debate, Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles has said, as LGBTQ leaders threaten to boycott the national survey. The government risks becoming embroiled in another highly charged culture war and faces a test of its progressive credentials, having recently shelved plans to overhaul religious discrimination laws and disappointed anti-gambling activists with its plan for only a partial sports betting advertisement ban.

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

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Blood reserves drained

Courier Mail, General News, 29/08/2024, Tayla Couacaud, Page 5

Queensland blood bank has recorded the highest rate of cancellations by donors in five years due to cold and flu symptoms as cases continue to surge. The state has recorded 62,611 influenza cases and 52,452 Covid-19 cases in this year's flu wave leading to an urgent call for those who are healthy and fit to boost the supply by 1000 over the next week to replenish stock.

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

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Commissioner 'shocked' by LGBTQIA+ census snub

Canberra Times, General News, 29/08/2024, Eleanor Campbell, Page 4

Australia's Sex Discrimination Commissioner has written to the federal government urging it to reverse a contentious decision to exclude questions about people's gender and sexuality in the 2026 census. It comes as federal Labor fields significant backlash after it advised the Australian Bureau of Statistics against testing for new census topics, despite years of extensive consultation with LGBTQIA+ organisations.

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Asbestos an Aussie killer

Cairns Post, General News, 29/08/2024, Page 3

Australia has one of the highest measured incidence rates of mesothelioma in the world. Each year in Australia, between 700 and 800 people are diagnosed with the rare and aggressive cancer, which is usually linked to asbestos exposure, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows.

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Smokers never learn

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 29/08/2024, Page 3

Smoking while pregnant could lead to reduced academic outcomes for the baby later at school. In a systematic review of 19 studies and 1.25 million participants, researchers at the University of South Australia, along with a team at Curtin University, SAHMRI, Harvard University and others found that 79 per cent of studies reported reduced academic achievement in children exposed to maternal prenatal smoking.

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Donor breast milk protects premature babies. Here's how mums can donate

When Kavita Krishnan's son Sashi was born at 27 weeks, he received breastmilk from a donor. The perinatal GP and lactation consultant says knowing her premature baby was able to be fed breastmilk while she established her own supply was comforting.

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Australia is ignoring the silent victims of domestic violence

Canberra Times, Other, 28/08/2024, Ben Silvester

Thousands of Australian children are victims or witnesses of domestic violence every year but a lack of documentation and support could create a vicious cycle of abuse. [...] New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) revealed more than 500 Australian children also end up in hospital each year because of family and domestic violence.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#) and syndicated widely across regional online

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Coffs Harbour man Aravind Periasamy pleads guilty to helping traffick heroin into Australia from Malaysia after ABF find

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 28/08/2024, Savannah Pocock

A northern NSW man was busted helping smuggle more than a kilogram of pure heroin into the region after Australian Border Force tipped police off about a package sent from Malaysia. [...] Out of 1693 drug-induced deaths in the nation in 2022, a total of 455 - or more than a quarter at 27 per cent - were due to heroin, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Prevention or patch-up? Being led into temptation

The Mandarin, Other, 28/08/2024, Geoff Edwards

I front up to the counter to pay for petrol, and find myself separated from the operator by four shelves of chocolates and other sweets. At the post office, an entire queue divider is covered with packets of sweets. [...] 'The Australian Institute of Health & Welfare reports that in 2022, some 66% of Australian males and 26% of Australian children were overweight or obese, reflecting a steady increase over time.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 28/08/2024, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Interview Seven news has spoken to the shocked parents of an underage boy who bought a vape here three weeks ago. It's causing huge issues in schools for families and no doubt, long term health effects as well.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Gout risk higher for men who drink beer

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/08/2024, Page 7

Drinking more booze is associated with a higher risk of gout - a painful form of arthritis characterised by severe pain, redness and tenderness in joints - but more so for men than women. After looking into biobank data from more than 400,000 people, Chinese researchers at the Suzhou Medical College of Soochow University also found that drinking beer or cider was associated with a higher risk of gout, compared with other drinks.

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Holidays locked in thanks to red bus

Ballarat Courier, General News, 29/08/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 3

For patients who rely on dialysis because of failing kidneys, getting away for a holiday is usually an impossible task. But the Big Red Kidney Bus is working to change that.

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Hepatitis C is now curable but eliminating the disease from Australia comes with large challenges

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2024, Adam Harvey

Australia's goal of removing hepatitis C from the population is under threat. It is estimated 70,000 Australians have the virus but many of them do not know it.

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PRIMARY CARE

Ambulance Victoria hit in coffers by billing ban

Age, General News, 29/08/2024, Jewel Topsfield and Cassandra Morgan, Page 1

An indefinite ban on paramedics taking billing details from patients is significantly affecting the financial sustainability of the troubled Ambulance Victoria service, an internal Health Department document has warned. The frank assessment of the impact of protracted industrial action by paramedics over pay and conditions, such as excessive overtime, is contained in a briefing note written by former Ambulance Victoria chief executive Jane Miller in April.

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

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Probe into 'unacceptable' ambulance ramping incident

Herald Sun, General News, 29/08/2024, Sarah Booth, Angus McIntyre and Carly Douglas, Page 5

The government has announced a review after specialist paramedics had to be sent into a Melbourne emergency department to treat an "urgent" patient waiting on a stretcher. The Herald Sun revealed on Wednesday MICA had to be sent into Maroondah Hospital, after staff told a ramped ambulance crew there was no bed for their deteriorating cardiac patient.

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Call triple-0 for strokes

Herald Sun, General News, 29/08/2024, Page 10

Australians are putting themselves and others at risk by not knowing that a stroke always requires a triple-0 call. Stroke Foundation data shows there has been a significant drop in the number of Australians who know the right thing to do when someone is having a stroke.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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Hospital 'gap fee' savaged

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/08/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 7

A senior Liberal backbencher has floated the idea of charging emergency department patients a gap fee if they are not admitted as a way to cut ramping, sparking an attack from the state government. As the government wrestles with the political nightmare of record ramping as well as falling ambulance response times, the Liberals' new leadership under Vincent Tarzia now faces claims it has a "secret patient tax" plan.

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Hospital building crisis is growing

Courier Mail, General News, 29/08/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 3

At least 55 new hospitals and 70 medical centres will need to be built in the South East over the next two decades if Queenslanders want adequate access to healthcare beyond 2046, a damning report has found. Queensland's infrastructure challenges have been laid bare in a new report by the Property Council Australia, which has found a minimum of 4200 public hospital beds, 3000 private beds, 560 mental health beds and 2200 extra GPs will be required to service the state's mammoth forecast population growth.

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

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Claim baby died due to understaffing not verified

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/08/2024, Rob Inglis, Page 5

Tasmania's Health Department says that it has been unable to corroborate a claim that a baby died in the Royal Hobart Hospital's maternity unit due to understaffing, noting the investigation was still in its "early days". Deputy secretary hospitals and primary care Brendan Docherty moved to reassure the community on Wednesday that they would continue to receive "world-class, top-quality" care in the state's health service, including the maternity unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH).

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Biloela hospital upgrade delayed

Cairns Post, General News, 29/08/2024, Rachel Riley, Page 25

Construction on the Biloela Hospital has been delayed until mid-next year, with the upgrade now expected to include maternity and birthing suites. The hospital this week clocked up two years on birthing bypass and has still been unable to recruit a general practitioner with obstetric skills, despite government incentives.

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

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Doctor shortage shocks new resident

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 29/08/2024, Page 2

A woman who moved to Warrnambool for work was shocked with how difficult it was to book a doctor's appointment. Emma Langstaff moved to the city this week and said she rang every clinic.

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Tasmanian health department investigating claim maternity ward short-staffing led to baby death at Royal Hobart Hospital

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2024, Adam Langenberg

Tasmania's health department says it has been unable to corroborate a claim from the state's nursing and midwifery union that a baby died as a result of understaffing in the Royal Hobart Hospital's maternity ward. The claim comes amid other understaffing issues at the hospital alleged by the union, including that there had been a staffing ratio of 13 patients-to-one midwife, some babies were not tagged with their IDs after birth and women were waiting multiple days to be induced.

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Ambulance ramping at Maroondah Hospital forces paramedics to call for back-up to treat patient

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2024

An investigation will be launched following reports an Ambulance Victoria crew was forced to call back-up paramedics to treat a patient when the Melbourne hospital they had arrived at was full. Paramedics transporting a patient with a heart arrhythmia arrived at Maroondah Hospital on Tuesday only to be ramped due to a lack of beds.

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SHPA enters an 'Advanced' new era

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has begun trading as Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha), reflecting a new era in patient care. With Australians taking more medicines than ever before, the rebrand comes in response to the increasing needs of patients, and a pharmacy profession outgrowing traditional workplace boundaries.

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Dire hospital staffing 'putting mothers at risk'

Canberra Times, Other, 28/08/2024, Ethan James

Claims a baby died during understaffing at a major hospital and regular checks on mothers aren't being completed are being investigated by Tasmania's health department. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation has written to the department seeking urgent action to address "dire" staffing levels at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

ADF suicide plea

The Nightly, General News, 28/08/2024, Ellen Ransley, Page 9

Senator Jacqui Lambie has called on governments and the military to take meaningful action quickly to address the litany of systemic failures that led to thousands of suicides in the defence and veteran community. The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicides will hand down its final report to the Government next month, bringing to an end a mammoth three years that included almost 5900 submissions, about 800 private sessions and 12 public hearings.

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Farmers battling mental health

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 29/08/2024, Emily Olle, Page 10

Schooling farmers in financial literacy will be critical for future drought protection both practically and mentally, according to Grain Producers SA CEO Brad Perry. Mr Perry praised the federal government's Future Drought Fund for focused spending on educating farmers on creating drought-resilient finances, as the state's forecast suggests dire straits for the industry.

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Mental health response team expands reach

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/08/2024, Simon McGuire, Page 10

An emergency mental health service that the government says provides "respectful, dignified, and compassionate care" has been expanded to a third Tasmanian location. The Mental Health Emergency Response (MHER) service is rolling out in Devonport.

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'Once in a lifetime' chance to act on suicides

Canberra Times, General News, 29/08/2024, Page 11

The Australian Defence Force and federal departments cannot be trusted to solve military suicides alone, sparking a plea for the government to overrule bureaucrats and take advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to save lives. That's according to Royal Commissioners at the end of a three year probe into the suicides of former and serving members of the nation's defence forces, described as a crisis and national tragedy.

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More psychologists aren't the only answer

Canberra Times, General News, 29/08/2024, Deborah Childs, Page 18

It is true Australia is suffering a critical shortage of psychologists to address the growing mental health demands of the country. And it's crucial to acknowledge the significance of having a well-trained workforce.

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

Rising demand for mental health therapy sign of the times

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 29/08/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 5

Housing prices, interest rate rises and the increasing cost-of-living is taking its toll on Dapto residents' mental health, a local psychologist who is seeing an increasing demand in the area says. Suzy Schilder, who opened her private practice The Pine Tree Clinic earlier this year, says she has been surprised by the number of people - adults and children - presenting to her service.

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Time to end the mantra: 'delay, deny and wait for us to die'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 29/08/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 5

Delay, deny, and wait for us to die. As the curtain closed on the three-year Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide yesterday, those tuned in were reminded of how that slogan was earned.

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

PTSD, hazing and a 'culture of silence'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 29/08/2024, Page 12

In World War I, soldiers spoke of having "shell shock" and doctors referred to "war neuroses". In World War II, the obvious traumas of war were captured in the term "combat fatigue".

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Tax agents won't have to disclose mental health help: government

Australian Financial Review, Other, 28/08/2024, Tom McIlroy and Edmund Tadros

The government has again sought to quell unfounded fears that tax agents will have to disclose private mental health information to clients, while saying it is open to tweaking the final wording of proposed laws to rein in rogue agents.

[Read More](#)

Gambling ads fuel a public health crisis - banning them is a no brainer

Canberra Times, Other, 28/08/2024, Michael Baigent and Malcolm Battersby

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: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#) and syndicated widely across regional online

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Struggle to keep staff in regions

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/08/2024, Emily Olle, Page 11

Rural doctor Melanie Considine said reshaping perceptions about GPs will encourage greater numbers of doctors to the regions, with lack of medical practitioners one of the biggest problems facing communities. She said it was time to "change the narrative" when it came to general practitioners, emphasising the challenges and rewards of the role and putting greater emphasis on fostering rural high school students into GP training.

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New ambos boss on leave

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 29/08/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 5

Ambulance Victoria's new boss is going on leave for more than seven weeks, less than a month after taking over the troubled organisation. Andrew Crisp was appointed interim chief executive just a week ago, after former boss Jane Miller resigned amid a lengthy industrial dispute and a union vote of no confidence in the agency's executive.

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

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Nurses and midwives ramp up pay efforts

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 29/08/2024, Fiona Ferguson, Page 5

Public sector nurses and midwives at Tamworth hospital are ramping up their call for better pay and are not ruling out work bans as the next step in their battle. A stop work meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon, with nurses and midwives walking off the job for an hour as they continue their fight for a 15 per cent pay increase.

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New Ambulance Victoria boss on leave after first week

9News, Other, 28/08/2024

The newly appointed boss of Ambulance Victoria will take nearly two months of leave a week after accepting the job.

[Read More](#)

Women and babies' lives are at risk due to staffing levels at RHH maternity ward, says ANMF

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2024, Leon Compton

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation says the Royal Hobart Hospital's maternity ward is facing "unsafe staffing levels". As Tasmanian Branch secretary Emily Shepherd explains, women due for induction are being sent home due to staff shortages, putting them at real risk of "adverse outcomes".

[Read More](#)

New Ambulance Victoria boss's seven-week holiday amid industrial dispute

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/08/2024, Cassandra Morgan

Ambulance Victoria's new boss will take leave for more than seven weeks amid an escalating industrial dispute and only days after his appointment to the role. Former emergency management commissioner Andrew Crisp was announced as the agency's interim chief executive last week after Jane Miller resigned following 18 months in the job.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 28/08/2024, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor, Western Sydney University. Williams says they are looking to take in some international students who are looking to alleviate some of the

big skills shortages, particularly in nursing where they've got some 10,000 nurses that they need in Western Sydney.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 28/08/2024, Georgia Stynes

Interview with Rachel Stephen-Smith, ACT Health Minister. Stephen-Smith says at the moment they are looking to see payrises through to doctors and health professionals to get them to stay to the ACT. She states that Canberra Health Services monitors the hours that these professionals put on their work, and they are encouraging everyone to report every hour that they are working.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 28/08/2024, Georgia Stynes

Interview with Jeffrey Looi, Branch President, Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation of the ACT. Stynes mentions that they need more nurses, and they know that there have been certain things that have made to be keeping nurses. She adds that according to Dr Kerrie Aust, ACT President, AMA, doctors who have been in the ACT healthcare system are taking jobs elsewhere. Looi admits that the issue has been dragging on for two and a half years now.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Women's health PBAC boost

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/08/2024

Endometriosis, ocp drug listings recommended to increase access and multiple treatment options for women The PBAC has recommended unrestricted benefit listings of drospirenone with ethinylestradiol (Yaz and Yasmin) oral contraceptive pills (OCPs) to increase the options available to women who require the drug, used for contraception as well as acne and premenstrual dysphoric disorder.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Audit finds 'misleading' reporting of millions

Canberra Times, General News, 29/08/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 1

Bureaucrats told a board overseeing the digital health record that the program was under budget but it ended up being \$40 million over. An audit found there was inconsistent and misleading reporting to the board, with the project going millions of dollars over budget.

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2CC, Breakfast, 28/08/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Cenatiempo says the team behind the ACT's digital health record says they were focused on delivering the project without any regard to cost and were operating millions of dollars over annual budgets, in accordance with audits. He adds that one of them found a massive blow-out of more than \$160m in the cost to deliver the digital health record, which doesn't work properly.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Kennedy's health deal could grow Down Under

The Australian, Business News, 29/08/2024, Robert Gottliebse, Page 21

When Robert F. Kennedy Jr decided to pull out of the US presidential race he approached the Democrats to do a deal. The backing of the great Kennedy name would have probably locked in a Kamala Harris victory.

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Ciggie tax a raging fire

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 29/08/2024, Page 11

The federal government has been accused of "pouring petrol on an already raging and out-of-control fire" with plans to raise the price of legal cigarettes this weekend. Australia already has the world's most expensive cigarettes, sending record numbers of smokers to the black market, and experts say a 6.8 per cent hike on Sunday will only exacerbate clashes between crime syndicates.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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

Vape laws anything but minor

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/08/2024, Natalie Vikhrov, Page 19

Retailers who supply vapes to minors could be fined up to \$1.5m under new laws proposed by the state government. The legislation, introduced to parliament on Wednesday, will bring the state in line with national laws that ban retail supply of e-cigarettes but also prohibit anyone supplying them to minors, even if they have a prescription.

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Roll up your sleeves now

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 29/08/2024, Dr Sarah, Page 15

I have had the privilege of working in many areas of medicine in my career, but the vast majority were in areas related to critical care and trauma. This means that I have had to prescribe more than one blood transfusion in my career and I have literally seen the product save lives in a variety of settings from people fighting cancer, to women with bleeding after childbirth to people who have had nasty accidents and beyond.

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Industry gnashes teeth at free dental care pitch

Canberra Times, General News, 29/08/2024, Brittney Levinson, Page 11

Free dental care is one of the initiatives the Greens say they would introduce if elected at the next federal election, paid for by the extra taxes they would impose on big corporations. But the dental industry says the cost of government-run dentistry would be "astronomical", and that's if the workforce was even there to support it.

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Savings up in smoke

Herald Sun, General News, 29/08/2024, Page 13

More Australians are using roll-your-own tobacco or bulk-buying cartons of cigarettes in order to save money, and these behaviours could be stopping them from quitting. A University of Queensland study found between 2007 and 2008, just over half of Australians who smoked used one cost-minimising behaviour, but in 2018 this had increased to two-thirds.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 28/08/2024, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

SA will soon have the toughest anti-vape laws in the country, with fines of up to \$1.5 million for anyone caught selling them illegally.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 28/08/2024, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

South Australia is poised to introduce the toughest fines in the nation for illegally selling vapes, and authorities have revealed they're sending kids into shops to act as undercover customers.

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SPORT

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

New Alzheimer's test a step closer

Canberra Times, General News, 29/08/2024, Page 12

Alzheimer's disease could soon be detected by GPs using a small, handheld device developed by Australian experts. Monash University engineers have developed the first-of-a-kind finger-prick blood test to detect the hallmark protein in early Alzheimer's before symptoms progress.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Medical research suffers from sex and gender bias. New standards hope to change that

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2024, Olivia Willis

When Cheryl Carcel was in medical school, little attention was paid to the role that sex and gender can play in the detection and treatment of many major diseases. "We weren't taught that men and women might present differently or have different outcomes."

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News Late, 28/08/2024, Natalia Cooper

Australian engineers have developed a world first finger prick test to detect Alzheimer's disease earlier. The device is sensitive and accurate, but needs more funding for clinical trials before it can be launched in the next few years.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

NT Justice Agency urges new Territory government to not play politics with children's lives

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/08/2024, Dechlan Brennan

The Northern Territory's largest Indigenous legal organisation has become the latest group to criticise the new government's plan to lower the age of criminal responsibility. The CLP's pre-election plan to ignore the advice of medical, legal and human rights groups and combat youth crime by lowering the age of criminal responsibility was officially adopted on Monday, when Chief Minister-elect Lia Finocchiaro told reporters it's "important to hold people accountable for the crimes they're committing".

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Mpox fears grow

The Nightly, General News, 28/08/2024, Brazzaville, Page 18

Scientists say the new strain of the virus is mutating much faster than expected 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.

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Mpox mutating faster than feared

Canberra Times, International News, 29/08/2024, Page 14

London scientists studying the new mpox strain out of Congo say the virus is changing faster than expected, and often in areas where experts lack funding to track it. That means there are numerous unknowns about the virus itself, its severity and how it is transmitting, complicating the response, scientists in Africa, Europe and the US have said.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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Travel warning issued for Aussies travelling to Europe, North and South America and Asia over bird flu concerns

The Australian, Other, 28/08/2024, Clareese Packer

The Australian government has issued a warning to travellers over bird flu outbreak concerns. Strains of Avian Influenza, known as the bird flu, are circulating across the globe, with smarttraveller.gov.au warning of outbreaks in Europe, North and South America and Asia.

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

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'Unprecedented crisis' from drug 500 times stronger than heroin

9News, Other, 28/08/2024, Adam Vidler

There are calls for action this week over a deadly synthetic opioid up to 500 times stronger than heroin that is growing increasingly prominent in the drug trade. The Health Services Union joined with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Unharm, the Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA), NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA), UNSW's drug police modelling program, and crossbench MPs Alex Greenwich and Jeremy Buckingham, to call for preparations on a potentially imminent overdose crisis.

[Read More](#)

Vulnerable Aussies remain unprotected against RSV

The Immunisation Foundation of Australia have expressed mounting concerns that Australians at the greatest risk of severe Respiratory Syncytial Virus will miss out on protection from lung infection after the government failed to commit to a national RSV immunisation program "Australia urgently needs a nationwide RSV immunisation program," said Catherine Hughes AM, Founder and Director of the Immunisation Foundation of Australia.

[Read More](#)

Jack got mpox. He was in pain for six weeks.

SBS, Other, 28/08/2024

A man who contracted mpox says he's traumatised after enduring pain for six weeks. 35-year-old Jack attended several dance parties over the King's Birthday weekend in Melbourne and decided to have a sexual health screen after noticing some sensitivity in his rectum.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

New jabs target variants

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/08/2024, Page 13

Two new Covid vaccines could soon be available in Australia, with major pharmaceutical companies lodging applications with the TGA. The new vaccines, from Pfizer and Moderna, will target the JN.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#)

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Death of the Instagram face: Gen Z embracing unique over perfection

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/08/2024, Kate Smithers

It's a face that's become ubiquitous. [...] Earlier this year, the Therapeutic Goods Administration updated its guidelines so clinics are no longer allowed to use the words dermal filler and anti wrinkle fillers.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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Australians could get two new COVID-19 vaccines — but they have something missing

SBS, Other, 28/08/2024, Madeleine Wedesweiler

Australia could roll out two new COVID-19 vaccines if they're approved, though they won't be targeting the KP.2 and KP.3 subvariants that make up the majority of the country's caseload. [...] Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) records show Pfizer and Moderna have recently applied for approval on new COVID-19 vaccines.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

High hopes for medicinal marijuana

The Australian, General News, 29/08/2024, Charlie Peel, Page 6

Somewhere in the vicinity of Busselton in Western Australia is the production powerhouse of one of the nation's lesser known export industries. [...] Meeting those stringent requirements, overseen by the Office of Drug Control and the Therapeutic Goods Administration, has positioned Little Green Pharma to become a global frontrunner in growing the consistently perfect crop to meet the exacting demands

of countries like France, which has been using the company's products in trials and is on the cusp of medicinal cannabis legalisation.

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

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Cops seize 24k cigarettes, illicit drugs

Canberra Times, General News, 29/08/2024, Hannah Neale, Page 9

Officers allegedly seized almost 24,000 cigarettes and 180 vapes after an investigation into drug supply in the Snowy Mountains region. In June, NSW Police established Strike Force Snaith to investigate the supply of prohibited drugs in the Monaro district.

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Deadly opioid addiction

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 29/08/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 1

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.

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South Australia proposes \$1.5 million fines for illegal vape sales

9News, Other, 28/08/2024, Josh Hohne

New legislation is being introduced in South Australia that could see fines for illegally selling vapes to minors blow out to \$1.5 million.

It comes as SA police seized dozens of boxes of the addictive vapes.

[Read More](#)

Vaping crackdown could involve 'sting operations' in which children are sent undercover into shops

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2024, Stephanie Richards

South Australian children could be used in "sting operations" to catch retailers illegally selling vapes or tobacco to minors, under proposed new laws introduced to state parliament. The legislative change has been proposed by the SA government as part of a broader suite of reforms to crack down on the illicit vape and tobacco market.

[Read More](#)

I did MDMA therapy before it was legal. For me it was transformative – but I have some concerns

The Guardian, Other, 29/08/2024, Rebecca Huntley

To quote Eliza Doolittle from My Fair Lady, I'm a good girl, I am. I am scrupulous with my tax return, obey speed limits and send thankyou cards after I've been invited to someone's place for dinner.

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Dam closed after 'forever chemicals' discovered

Sydney Morning Herald, Wrap, 29/08/2024, Carrie Fellner, Page 1

Authorities have dramatically shut a dam in the Blue Mountains that has been identified as the source of "forever chemicals", which have contaminated the water supply of 41,000 people in the world heritage-listed area. The escalation comes after authorities were pressured into action by a Herald investigation in June which challenged the official position that routine monitoring of tap water was unnecessary because there were "no known PFAS hotspots in the catchment".

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Damshut as tainted water site revealed

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/08/2024, Carrie Fellner, Page 3

Authorities have dramatically shut a dam in the Blue Mountains identified as the source of "forever chemicals" which have contaminated the water supply of 41,000 people in the world heritage-listed area. [...] A Department of Health spokesman said there were different methods for developing safety guidelines for drinking water and environmental water, depending on the specific sensitivities of the organisms they were protecting.

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WaterNSW disconnects Medlow Dam in the Blue Mountains as investigations continue into presence of 'forever chemicals' in water

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2024, Jean Kennedy

Authorities have shut a small dam in the Blue Mountains after tests found traces of cancer-linked PFAS "forever chemicals", and are now investigating the source of the contamination. WaterNSW has confirmed that Medlow Dam returned elevated traces of PFAS in tests that were carried out in recent days.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 28/08/2024, Peter Overton

A dam in the Blue Mountains has been shut due to dangerous chemicals. Water New South Wales says tests on Medlow Dam have returned elevated levels of PFAS.

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