



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 6th September 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports three in four young drug users tested at music festivals were affected by substances they did not report taking, a study found.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 3) reports NSW Health is set to add conditions including middle ear infections, acute nausea and acute minor wounds and to pharmacists' scope of practice as GP numbers continue to decline.
- [The Age](#) (page 3) reports that 245 patients died or were seriously harmed by medical errors in Victorian hospitals in 2022-23, slightly more than in the previous year.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 3) reports that 50,000 NSW Nurses and Midwives Association members will strike for 12½ hours next Tuesday in pursuit of a pay deal.
- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports that ophthalmologist Dr James Muecke says he has successfully treated diabetes-related macular oedema with a high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 7) reports a Melbourne GP told a court she was "traumatised" by a criminal's use of her identity to fraudulently claim \$464,658 in Medicare payments.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 9) reports the Health Services Union of WA is warning of industrial action after unanimously rejecting the state government's three-year, 12 per cent pay offer.

### Hospital deal leaves a sick feeling

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/09/2024, Jemima Whyte, Page 3

The bidding war for Healthscope, Australia's second-biggest hospital group, lasted months. But when its fate was decided in May 2019, it took just 19 minutes for shareholders to overwhelmingly approve Brookfield's \$4.1 billion cash bid.

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

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### Playing Solomon on bitter divisions in private health

Australian Financial Review, Editorials, 06/09/2024, Page 28

Australia's health system generally gets the balance right. The taxpayer-funded Medicare scheme combined with a strong private health system is better than the alternatives. Our system avoids the lengthy waiting times that are a feature of the British...

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

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### Taking a 'moonshot' for RA remission

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 05/09/2024, Page 4

The Federal Government is investing \$11.54 million in a University of Queensland project that aims to put rheumatoid arthritis into remission, potentially eliminating the need for lifelong immunotherapy. [...] At the launch of the project, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler commented that "the chronic pain associated with this condition can take a very heavy toll on a person's mental health and affect their ability to function and take part in normal day to day activities".

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

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

### \$10.3 million a day: aged care the loser as political cycle drags out

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/09/2024, Lauren Broomham

With Parliament to resume next Monday, all eyes are on Canberra – and whether the Government will finally introduce the long-awaited new Aged Care Act with the recommendations from the Aged Care Taskforce. [...] Last Sunday, Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, stated yet again that the Government is "working so hard on our aged care reform package."

[Read More](#)

### New life for free medical clinic

Star Community, Other, 05/09/2024, Cam Lucadou-Wells

A Dandenong South clinic that's diverting up to 500 patients a week from Dandenong Hospital emergency department is now being federally funded. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the clinic offered "high quality, timely and free care".

[Read More](#)

### Top of scope needed for pharmacists, techs: Butler

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 05/09/2024, Megan Haggan

A health workforce scope of practice review report is due to be finalised "very shortly," says the health minister in welcoming a new look for one pharmacy organisation. Speaking at a webinar to introduce Advanced Pharmacy Australia – a new identity for the former Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia – health minister Mark Butler...

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Ahead of the next federal election, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says doctors who charge membership fees to patients for bulk billing are breaking the law and are likely to face consequences. Data shows almost 100 clinics around Australia are charging membership to access bulk billed medical care. Mr. Butler says he's asked his department to look into the issue urgently. [clip: Minister Butler]

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## **ABC Radio Sydney, 22:00 News, 05/09/2024**

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler wants urgent advice from his department about general practitioners who are charging membership fees for bulk billed medical care. The minister says the government is aware of reports of the practise which he says is a clear breach of the rules. He says audits will likely follow, but he's declined to specify what action would be taken against those found to have broken the rules, including whether they'll be made to repay any Medicare benefits. [clip: Minister Butler]

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## **MINISTER WELLS**

### **WIN Wollongong, WIN News, 05/09/2024, Bruce Roberts**

A major investment into aged care beds aims to ease wait lists for rooms. The federal minister today visited Wollongong to announce \$16.5 million has been allocated to fund an additional 48 beds at IRT Unanderra. The upgrades aim to ease pressure on Wollongong Hospital, currently restricted by its 150 aged care bed waitlist. [clip: Minister Wells]

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### **ABC Illawarra, Drive, 05/09/2024, Lindsay McDougall**

Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells visited the Illawarra today to announce \$16 million for 48 new aged care beds. The minister visited IRT Marco Polo Aged Care Centre in Unanderra as she promises the funds. Currently, there are 150 older people or people with disability who are living in hospitals in the Illawarra who are not acutely unwell, but there is no appropriate care place for them to go to.

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### **i98 FM, 14:00 News, 05/09/2024**

The Marco Polo Aged Care Centre in Unanderra has secured a \$16.5 million grant from the federal government to complete vital refurbishment works. The upgrade will see another 48 new aged care beds become available and a new dementia wing delivered. Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells says the investment is desperately needed, with a growing number of beds at Wollongong Hospital being occupied by elderly patients waiting for an aged care placement.

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## **Funding for 100 additional aged care facilities for rural and remote communities**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 05/09/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Further government funding has been made available for 100 regional and rural aged care providers to either expand a current facility or set up a new one. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the Albanese government is committed to helping older Australians choose where and how they age.

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## **One hundred extra aged care places will be made available in rural and remote Australia**

HelloCare, Other, 05/09/2024, Alex Jacobs

[...] Currently, the Australian Government funds 3,293 residential care places across 183 sites run by

29 providers through the Multi-Purpose Service, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells expressed the importance of allowing older Australians from rural areas to choose where they receive care later in life.

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## **Bipartisan agreement on Aged Care Taskforce reforms “very close”: Anika Wells**

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/09/2024, Caroline Egan

Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells has told The Dementia Centre's International Dementia Conference 2024 this morning that she is "hopeful" that bipartisan support for reforms recommended by the Aged Care Taskforce is "very close". She acknowledged the Government's response to the Taskforce is the "number one issue in the sector" and said, "the Albanese government is absolutely committed to bringing aged care back from the brink."

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## **ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 05/09/2024, Greg Jennett**

Here's a quick update on a policy we've been waiting for several months now, we're talking about aged care. It's been mired by delays in, as best we can tell, political level negotiation. But it does appear that some form of agreement on aged care reform could be struck maybe as soon as next week. At least that's according to the minister, Anika Wells. [clip: Minister Wells]

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## **Channel 9, Today , 05/09/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo**

Interview with Minister for Aged Care and Anika Wells and Stellar editor in chief Sarrah Le Marquand discussing the day's headlines. They discuss the latest GDP figures, Rachael "Raygun" Gunn's interview on The Project and performances by Australia's Paralympians in Paris.

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE**

### **Walk-in mental health centre**

Daily Mercury, General News, 06/09/2024, Paul Brescia, Page 5

Mackay will soon have free, walk-in mental health support and care with the opening of the Medicare Mental Health Centre, the federal government has announced. The centre will provide on-the-spot support for people in distress and ongoing care for more complex mental health needs, according to Senator Nita Green and Assistant Mental Health Minister Emma McBride.

*Editorial: [Daily Mercury \(Mackay\)](#).*

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY**

### **National health policies to focus on inclusion, learn from lived experience and community views**

The Mandarin, Other, 05/09/2024, Melissa Coade

A new 16-member National Multicultural Health Consumer and Carer Network with two representatives from each Australian state and territory is set to inform national health policies and frameworks. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said community input would make the health care system fairer and more responsive to people's needs.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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## DEPARTMENT

### Playing Solomon on bitter divisions in private health

Australian Financial Review, Editorials, 06/09/2024, Page 28

Australia's health system generally gets the balance right. The taxpayer-funded Medicare scheme combined with a strong private health system is better than the alternatives. Our system avoids the lengthy waiting times that are a feature of the British...

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

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### What's stopping future GPs from choosing ACT

Canberra Times, General News, 06/09/2024, Bageshri Savvasachi, Page 3

A flexible work life and caring for a breadth of patients and families is what attracted GP-in-training Dr Chris Dickie to general practice. [...] With about 90 GPs per 100,000 people, Canberra had fewer GPs per person than other similar metropolitan areas which had more than 115, data from the national health department data showed.

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### Bulk-billing GPs accused of Medicare breach by also charging patients

ABC Online, Other, 05/09/2024, Else Kennedy and Tamara Clark

Thousands of Australians are being asked to pay membership fees to general practitioner (GP) clinics to access bulk-billed medical care. Almost 100 GP clinics have started charging the fees — according to medical data company Cleanbill — and experts say it's a breach of Medicare rules. [...] The ABC asked the federal health department if it had audited bulk-billing clinics to find out if they were also charging "memberships".

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### ABC Radio Melbourne, 09:00 News, 05/09/2024

Thousands of Australians are being asked to pay membership fees to GP clinics to access bulk-billed medical care. RACGP president Dr Nicole Higgins says the practice breaches Medicare rules. The federal health department says charging additional fees while collecting government rebates is not allowed, and it takes allegations of non-compliance very seriously.

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### ABC Radio Sydney, 23:00 News, 05/09/2024

Ahead of the next federal election, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says doctors who charge membership fees to patients for bulk billing are breaking the law and are likely to face consequences. Data shows almost 100 clinics around Australia are charging membership to access bulk billed medical care. Mr. Butler says he's asked his department to look into the issue urgently. [clip: Minister Butler]

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HelloCare, Other, 05/09/2024, Alex Jacobs

[...] Currently, the Australian Government funds 3,293 residential care places across 183 sites run by 29 providers through the Multi-Purpose Service, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells expressed the importance of allowing older Australians from rural areas to choose where they receive care later in life.

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## **Over 240,000 aged care workers can benefit from Women's Health Week**

HelloCare, Other, 05/09/2024, Alex Jacobs

The Jean Hailes Foundation is holding this year's Women's Health Week from September 2 to 6, 2024, to raise awareness about the 'health and wellbeing of all women, girls and gender-diverse people.' [...] Approximately 9,400 direct care roles were vacant in residential aged care facilities, in the Department of Health 2020 Aged Care Workforce Census.

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## **Fed Govt pays contractors nearly \$3 million for Star Ratings advertising**

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/09/2024, Caroline Egan

The Department of Health and Aged Care has extended its contract with consumer analysis firm Fifty-Five Five to investigate ways to improve the Star Ratings system. In June, we reported the Government has awarded Fifty-Five Five a \$330,000 contract to see if the Star Ratings system was understandable and if it needed further promotion.

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## **Fed Govt releases minimum software standards for aged care clinical systems**

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/09/2024, Caroline Egan

The Australian Digital Health Agency and the Department of Health and Aged Care have released the first Aged Care Clinical Information System (ACCIS) Standards, a set of recommended minimum software requirements for clinical information systems and electronic medication management systems used in residential aged care homes.

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## **Monthly Care Statements could cost this aged care provider more than \$200K annually**

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/09/2024, Caroline Egan

The Department of Health and Aged Care has introduced voluntary Monthly Care Statements from 1 October, with plans to make them mandatory in the future. But will aged care providers be willing to take on the extra administrative burden - and cost?

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## **'Pathetic' detail in Australia's attempt to curb looming mass extinction threat**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 05/09/2024, Michael Dahlstrom

Australia's wildlife is facing what could be an unprecedented mass extinction event this spring, and conservationists have described the funding allocated by the federal government to fight the threat as "pretty pathetic". [...] It confirmed an HPAI Preparedness Taskforce has been set up and its members include the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment, Department of Health and Aged Care and the National Emergency Management Agency.

## CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### No let-up in government splurge

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/09/2024, Michael Read, Page 3

Government subsidies for childcare, aged care and disability care have surged more than 20 per cent in the past year, but Labor has left the door open to more public spending before the next election despite economists warning that this is unsustainable.

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### My elderly dad cherished his carer, until AI took her away

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/09/2024, Sue Williams, Page 27

It was one of the most unusual friendships between a 94-year-old man and a 20-year-old woman. But, somehow, it just seemed to work. He soon started talking about her as his "third daughter" – although to be more accurate it should have been his second granddaughter.

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### Malnourishment crisis in aged care

Medical Forum, Other, 05/09/2024

For more than 20 years, the residential aged care sector, responsible for 193,000 people, has faced substantial scrutiny regarding its handling of the malnutrition crisis. In 2021, a national inquiry reported malnutrition rates as high as 68%.

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### Staff shortages sending vacancies to 15% despite surging demand for aged care beds

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/09/2024, Caroline Egan

The clinical staff shortage means aged care beds are going empty, says Russell Egan, CEO of family-owned and Brisbane-based Superior Care Group. "Registered nursing shortages are definitely still impacting our homes," Russell told The SOURCE. "There is a desperate shortage of skilled clinical management level candidates."

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### International student number cuts may hit aged care workforce

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/09/2024, Caroline Egan

With the Federal Government announcing it will set international student numbers at 270,000 for the 2025 calendar year, a cut of nearly 20,000 from the current year, aged care providers may see an important pool of aged care workers diminished. [...] Student visa holders are "crucial" for the aged care sector, particularly in regional areas, Tom Symondson, CEO of Aged Care and Community Providers' Association, told The Weekly SOURCE.

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### Home Care Package Management fees growing at double the rate of Care Management

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/09/2024, Caroline Egan

Package Management fees for Home Care Packages rose on average 25% in the year to 30 June 2024, compared with a 12% increase in Care Management fees. The latest quarterly National Summary of Home Care Package Prices for 30 June 2024 shows the national median Package Management fee for a Level 4 Home Care Package was \$278 in the June 2024 quarter, 29% higher than the \$216 fee for the June 2023 quarter.

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## Which aged care providers made Australia's Top 500 Private Companies of 2024?

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/09/2024, Lauren Broomham

Five aged care providers have made IBISWorld's top 50 unlisted Australian companies of 2024 – and none are 'private' according to the report. Industry specialist IBISWorld – which publishes its list annually – bases its findings on total revenue, which it gathers through company data and industry figures.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Low-carb diets increase risk of diabetes

Age, General News, 06/09/2024, Jewel Topsfield and Henrietta Cook, Page 16

It's credited with quick weight loss and endorsed by celebrities such as Kim Kardashian, but researchers say a low-carbohydrate diet can increase a person's risk of developing diabetes by 20 per cent. [...] The number of Australians living with the chronic condition almost tripled between 2000 and 2021, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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### Health, wealth and wisdom start small

The Senior - WA, General News, 01/09/2024, Page 3

The Cancer Council WA now is helping people nourish their body and mind while saving money with a new LiveLighter program. People are encouraged to register their small, health-promoting and money-saving goals through the Small Wheel of Small Things to receive tools, resources and a chance to win a prize.

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### 'Not too complex': health experts criticise Labor for ditching LGBTIQ+ census questions

The Guardian, Other, 05/09/2024, Amy Remeikis

Leading health experts have criticised the federal government for suggesting proposed LGBTIQ+ questions should be excluded from the census because they were "too complex" – arguing similar questions are already used elsewhere. Versions of the proposed questions have been answered by 85,000 Australians in existing health surveys administered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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### Mobile phones are not linked to brain cancer, according to a major review of 28 years of research

The New Daily, Other, 05/09/2024, Sarah Loughran

A systematic review into the potential health effects from radio wave exposure has shown mobile phones are not linked to brain cancer. The review was commissioned by the World Health Organisation and is published in the journal Environment International.

Similar coverage: [Medicine Today \(Online\)](#), [Medical Forum \(Online\)](#).

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## Type 2 blindness curbed by diet change

The Australian, General News, 06/09/2024, James Dowling, Page 7

An ophthalmologist has successfully reversed diabetes-related blindness through dietary change across dozens of patients, marking an extraordinary success in treatment of diabetic conditions through lifestyle interventions. James Muecke is acclaimed for his focus on the treatment of macular oedema through dieting, having received the Australian of the Year award in 2020 for his work in the field.

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

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## I have cancer, and Elle's memoir made me sick

Age, General News, 06/09/2024, Sarah Moller, Page 24

When I was a teenager, Elle Macpherson graced the pages of the fashion magazines I devoured. In my 20s, I purchased expensive Elle Macpherson lingerie. I knew that it wouldn't look the same on me and that the cheaper undies were more comfortable, but I bought it anyway.

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

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## How Covid insanity helped create Elle's hippie healing

Herald Sun, General News, 06/09/2024, Rita Panahi, Page 35

Former supermodel Elle Macpherson is copping all sorts of criticism for the sin of rejecting conventional medicine and opting for a "holistic approach" to treat her breast cancer, which she has revealed is in remission. Speaking to Australian Women's Weekly ahead of the release of her book, Elle, the woman who was for decades known as The Body, made the bombshell admission about her secret cancer battle and her unorthodox treatment plan.

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

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## Elle Macpherson slammed for 'holistic' cancer approach

NEWS.com.au, Other, 05/09/2024, Claudia Poposki

Cancer experts have expressed concern after Australian model Elle Macpherson refused to treat her breast cancer with traditional medicine. The 60-year-old spoke with Australian Women's Weekly ahead of the launch of her memoir Elle, where she opened up about the diagnosis for the first time.

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

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## Tanning fanning flames of cancer

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/09/2024, Eliza Barr, Page 18

Authorities are warning against potential skin cancer-causing tanning products that are being posted about online. Tan-accelerating products without SPF (sun protection factor) ratings such as Carroten, The Fox Tan and Brunae Body claim to help develop tans faster.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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## Every step was clouded by poor communication: Danica

Central Western Daily, General News, 06/09/2024, Orlander Ruming, Page 3

In 2022, just days before Christmas, Danica Bunch was told she had metastatic breast cancer with "maybe two years left". She had noticed an unexpected indentation on her right breast and it wasn't going away.

## Australians burning for a suntan

Medical Forum, Other, 05/09/2024

Almost one in 10 Australians tried to get a suntan in the 12 months before they were surveyed, with 7% developing sunburn in the last week before the survey, a new report shows. The Australian Bureau of Statistics data also reveals that while 15.2% of people aged 15 to 24 had recently been sunburned compared to just 2% of those aged 65 years and older, only 38% of Australians used a SPF30 or higher sunscreen.

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## Inhaler warning from NAC

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/09/2024

The National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) has issued a warning regarding the 01 Sep inclusion of asthma medications on the PBS 60-day prescription list. Coinciding with National Asthma Week, more than 70 asthma inhalers may now be dispensed in larger quantities, allowing patients to receive multiple inhalers per dispensed script.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### State hospital blunders lead to 167 patient deaths

Age, General News, 06/09/2024, Henrietta Cook, Page 3

A record 245 patients have died or suffered serious harm due to errors that unfolded at Victorian hospitals within a year. Three patients died or suffered serious harm following surgery on the wrong part of their body, while four patients had foreign objects such as surgical sponges and dressings left inside them following surgery and other invasive procedures.

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### Skipped scans risk baby lives

Courier Mail, General News, 06/09/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

Queensland women are skipping vital antenatal scans at alarming rates, an inquiry into a spike in perinatal deaths has discovered. The findings of the review by the Queensland Maternal and Perinatal Quality Council released on Friday has spurred the Queensland government to intervene with a multimillion dollar plan to make access to scans easier, as well as an extensive education program on how early scans can save lives.

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### Help hits home

Ballarat Courier, General News, 06/09/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 1

From December 2023 to March this year, little Lola Fennell spent 76 nights in hospital battling the symptoms of a rare liver disease. Except all but five nights were actually spent in her own bed at home in Ballarat.

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### Briefing has confirmed the fears of advocates

Border Mail, General News, 06/09/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

Having been given a briefing by NSW Health Infrastructure on the latest plans for the Albury hospital upgrade, Better Border Health says it "reveals to us how it's failing to meet our health needs". Lobby group member Michelle Cowan and others met with the project director for the hospital redevelopment Ian Gibson in the wake of updated plans being released in late August.

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## Compare the pair

Border Watch, General News, 06/09/2024, Clare Scriven MP, Page 8

The federal and state Liberals outright rejected establishing radiation therapy in Mount Gambier in May 2021 when they were in government. But now, Vincent Tarzia and the Liberals are flying in the face of an independent feasibility study that found it would be clinically unsafe and not financially viable to deliver radiation therapy in the region.

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## Thousands of surgeries cancelled

Burnie Advocate, General News, 06/09/2024, Matt Maloney, Page 4

More than 3700 elective surgeries had to be cancelled in Tasmania's four public hospitals in 2023-24, with a majority due to an overriding emergency situation or a more urgent elective surgery case taking priority. This is about 300 surgeries above those that were cancelled in 2022-23.

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## Patients hit the road as heart lab to close

Daily Mercury, General News, 06/09/2024, Fergus Gregg and Paul Brescia, Page 7

Heart attack victims requiring urgent care will once again have to travel to Townsville as Mackay's Cardiac Catheter lab shuts for months to replace equipment. The Mackay Base Hospital lab will close for up to 12 weeks, affecting up to 240 patients, including people who need emergency surgery – but Mackay MP Julieanne Gilbert wasn't told before this the Daily Mercury started asking questions.

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## Matilda died waiting

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 06/09/2024, Satria Dyer-Darmawan, Page 1

A baby girl died in Geelong hospital's emergency department (ED) after she was not treated within the recommended time, a coronial report has revealed. Matilda Ruby Armstrong, 1, was taken to the hospital with respiratory illness and triaged as category three – requiring medical review within 30 minutes – on July 4, 2022 at 8.54pm.

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## Building a healthier Victoria, wherever you are

Shepparton News, General News, 06/09/2024, Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Page 12

The impacts of the pandemic are still being felt by health systems worldwide, and Victoria is no exception. We've seen healthcare costs go up, workforce challenges, people not being able to see a GP and people arriving at our hospitals sicker.

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## First look inside \$12m ambulance station

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 06/09/2024, Natasha Emeck, Page 19

Townsville's booming northern suburbs have a brand-new lifeline with the official opening of a \$12.4m ambulance station in Burdell, promised by Labor at the last state election. Located at 8 Galax Entrance, the station will offer 24/7 emergency services for the fast-growing area, which is expected to reach a population of about 30,000 by 2030.

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

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## Private hospitals being left behind as barriers to innovation threaten their future

The Australian, Other, 05/09/2024, Natasha Robinson

Private hospitals are facing becoming "legacy institutions" unless they are able to overcome significant barriers to innovation as the sector faces a viability crisis that threatens to further overwhelm the public system. A federal government review has raised the prospect of the private hospital sector becoming "uninvestible" – a situation already playing out as building projects for hospitals grind to a halt.

## Healthscope controversy

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/09/2024

Australians with health insurance will not lose access to private hospitals, reassured the peak body for private health insurance, Private Healthcare Australia (PHA), yesterday. This is despite a campaign launched by Healthscope and its private equity owner, Brookfield, aimed at "misleading" patients, stated PHA.

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## Hospital unit closure seen as positive for patient admin

The Border Mail, Other, 05/09/2024, Anthony Bunn

The closure of an overflow unit for Albury hospital patients has been linked to an alignment with a Melbourne hospital that is aimed at bettering care. Loginor signup to continue reading Albury Wodonga Health told nurses on Wednesday September 4 that the acute admitted overflow unit was shutting as additional beds were available elsewhere in the hospital.

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## Around 4000 patients dying of cancer have applied for voluntary assisted dying

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/09/2024

Almost 2500 terminally ill Australians have chosen to end their lives using voluntary assisted dying in the five years since the scheme's introduction, a report shows. The State of VAD report, released by Go Gentle Australia last month, provides the first national picture of the impact of the assisted dying laws, five years after Victoria became the first state to make VAD available.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Mental health toll as small businesses take on \$7b in unexpected expenses

Age, Business News, 06/09/2024, Sumeyya Ilanbey, Page 26

Small businesses buckling under rising costs and a sluggish economy have been hit with \$7 billion in unexpected costs in the past year, highlighting the financial pressure on the nation's engine room. More than half of small business owners reported their mental health had been affected by the current cost of living crisis, according to research released by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

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

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

### Depression brain link

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/09/2024, Page 19

People with depression could be more likely to have a brain network that is two times larger than those without depression, according to US researchers. A team at New York's Weill Cornell Medicine analysed the brain networks of 141 people with a diagnosis of major depression and 37 healthy controls.

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### Mental health hub open for business

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 06/09/2024, Will Keech, Page 14

A new \$18m Barwon Health mental health hub designed to bring services under one roof was officially opened in the CBD on Wednesday. The Central Geelong Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub, on Moorabool St, is expected to take pressure off nearby Geelong hospital.

## Plea for Queensland government to bridge NDIS mental illness gap

ABC Online, Other, 05/09/2024, Georgia Loney

The Queensland Alliance for Mental Health says an extra \$150 million a year in state funding is needed for community-based psychosocial supports. The alliance says while many people with mental illness aren't eligible for the NDIS they still need ongoing help in the community.

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## Jane began restricting her food when she was nine. Finding support was 'traumatising'

SBS, Other, 05/09/2024, Jessica Bahr

From the time she was a small child, Jane Murphy remembers having negative feelings about her body. When she was in primary school, she began developing disordered eating habits and restricting her food intake.

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## Concerns raised before hospital deaths report: expert

Canberra Times, Other, 05/09/2024, Savannah Meacham and Fraser Barton

Concerns were raised years before a review found inadequate staffing contributed to deaths at a mental health unit deemed no longer fit for purpose, an expert says. Three people died by suicide and two survived attempts at Prince Charles Hospital's mental health unit in Brisbane between December 2022 and April 2024, triggering the independent review.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Pharmacists treat joint pain, infections amid GP shortage

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/09/2024, Alexandra Smith, Page 3

The worsening GP shortage in NSW will see the state government broaden the conditions that pharmacists can treat in local chemist shops, including ear infections, stomach bugs and joint pain. NSW Health is working on expanding the scope of practice for pharmacists to allow them to treat more conditions including middle ear infections, acute minor wound management, acute nausea and vomiting and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease.

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### Nurses to strike as pay fight escalates

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 06/09/2024, James O'Doherty, Page 3

Hospitals will grind to a standstill on Tuesday with more than 50,000 nurses to walk off the job in a fight for more pay which is set to halt elective surgeries and create extreme delays for patients. The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association will strike on Tuesday from 7am to 7.30pm.

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

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### Union blasts 'bandaid' solutions as health workers knock back pay deal

West Australian, General News, 06/09/2024, Claire Sadler, Page 9

Public health workers could strike after the union rejected the latest pay and conditions offer from the State Government. A 12 per cent pay rise over three years was unanimously rejected on Thursday, by the HSUWA management committee which represents allied health professionals and technicians, ward clerks and workers in disability and aged care.

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

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

## Worries over safe hospital staffing

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/09/2024, Simon McGuire, Page 13

Nurses and midwives say they have to work double shifts and overtime in Tasmania's public hospitals, despite the state government saying it has employed more than 800 new healthcare professionals as part of its recruitment blitz. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation members at the North West Regional Hospital and Mersey Community Hospital (MCH) held stopwork meetings on Thursday in protest at staffing levels.

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## Struggle to keep the passion

Burnie Advocate, General News, 06/09/2024, Rodney Woods, Page 1

A nurse educator at the North-West Regional Hospital says she had to change jobs or she would not be still working there. Allira Damen, who was speaking as part of stop-work action at the hospital, explained how the work conditions have changed since her graduation year eight years ago.

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## Our rural health services starved

The Senior - WA, General News, 01/09/2024, Hazel Bradley, Page 3

Four years working in outback Australia have left GP Sonia Henry in awe of the country's beauty, but also angry. "A lot of older people in remote areas can't afford to leave or don't want to leave and their life may actually end sooner because they can't access the same kind of care as their metropolitan counterparts," she said.

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## All health students should have paid prac, sector says

Aged Care Insite, Other, 05/09/2024, Stefanie Schultz and 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.

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## New rural health unit for the South-West

Medical Forum, Other, 05/09/2024

The University Department of Rural Health South West opened at Edith Cowan University's Bunbury campus this week, with the promise of providing a major boost to rural and regional health education and training. Following years of advocacy led by ECU Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Regional Futures) Professor Cobie Rudd, the initiative sees ECU South West become one of 19 universities in Australia to offer enhanced rural and remote training, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including clinical labs and simulation suites.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### What an audit of ACT Health invoices has found

Canberra Times, Other, 05/09/2024, Lucy Bladen

A review of invoices paid by the ACT Health Directorate to a company hosting the digital health record has not found any irregularities, the territory's Health Minister has revealed. Rachel Stephen-Smith told the Assembly the directorate had reviewed a representative sample of 90 invoices and all had been reconciled appropriately.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### GP 'traumatised' by claim rort

Herald Sun, General News, 06/09/2024, Imran Ali, Page 7

A Melbourne doctor whose identity a crook used to pocket nearly \$465,000 by submitting bogus Medicare claims says she's "traumatised". Abdulkadir Ibrahim, of Preston, used Dr Halima Satari's registration details to file 3288 bulkbill Medicare patient claims between November 2016 and August 2018.

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

### How AHPRA's over-70s suspicions are 'sowing the seeds of destruction' for the entire health system

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/09/2024, Dr Pam Rachootin

AHPRA, which may need to be renamed the Australian Health Professional Retrenchment Agency, seems to be coming up with more and more ways of dismantling the medical workforce of Australia — as if things were not bad enough. Its latest moves are all about attempting to manage a perceived risk — the inadequacy of senior doctors — as reflected in its bizarre interpretation of notification statistics.

[Read More](#)

### Pharmacist who founded telehealth cannabis clinic banned from dispensing cannabis

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/09/2024, Heather Saxena

A pharmacist who founded online medicinal cannabis clinic Dispensed has had conditions put on his registration banning him from dispensing cannabis. [...] Mr Younes must also allow AHPRA to seek reports from a senior colleague "at each and every place of practice on a monthly basis or as otherwise required", according to the conditions.

[Read More](#)

### PBS fraud pharmacist 'was at risk of losing everything'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 05/09/2024, Megan Haggan

In cancelling a pharmacist's registration, a tribunal says that if his financial fears could factor into his defrauding the PBS, other pharmacists could do the same. Between January 2018 and July 2020, the pharmacist owned three pharmacies — two in NSW and one in the ACT.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

## Simple screen test could save your life, so book it now

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/09/2024, Michelle Reintals, Page 13

As Clinical Director at BreastScreen SA, South Australia's dedicated breast cancer screening program, and a radiologist specialising in breast imaging, I have spent 22 years of my career advocating for breast cancer screening, early cancer detection, and expanding breast cancer research. Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australian women, affecting one in seven in their lifetime.

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

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## Showing plenty of heart

Herald Sun, Sport, 06/09/2024, Erin Smith, Page 73

Australia has a new national football team called the Blue Heelers - and what sets it apart from the Matildas and Socceroos is that all 12 members could be dead. It is an apt name for the squad because all of them are alive thanks to a lifesaving organ donation, including livers, kidneys, a heart, bone marrow and a double lung transplant.

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

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## Organ donation gets a boostwith licence renewal sign-up

The Senior - QLD, General News, 01/09/2024, Page 6

Another Aussie state has added organ donor registry to online driver licence and vehicle registration renewals. For the first time, Queenslanders can choose to click a link on the TMR online portal taking them directly to the Australian Organ Donor Register website where they can register as an organ and tissue donor.

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## Skin Fairy Clinic: Perth skin clinic's therapist encourages client to have skin check after unusual spot

7news.com.au, Other, 05/09/2024, Kayla Sellwood

A popular Perth skin clinic has issued an important reminder after one of their therapists made a shocking discovery on a client. Skin Fairy Clinic dermal therapist Chantal noticed a peculiar spot on her client's skin and suggested she get her skin checked. The client booked a skin check appointment that same day and doctors later discovered that the spot on her shoulder was a melanoma.

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## SPORT

### Sporting grants up for grabs

Herald Sun, General News, 06/09/2024, Carly Douglas, Page 19

Sporting clubs across Victoria can apply for grants of up to \$5000 for equipment, travel and upskilling coaches and volunteers. Applications are now open for the next round of state government sports grants, including \$5000 to upskill volunteers, coaches and officials.

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### Channel 7, Seven News, 05/09/2024, Angela Cox

New research shows kids are better off playing sport and getting a bit of concussion than not being active at all. A study of 15,000 people has found those concussed playing sport like footy still have better brain function than those who sit on the sidelines. Scientists stress the findings don't apply to professional athletes.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Travel 'is the key to staying young'

The Australian, General News, 06/09/2024, Robyn Ironside, Page 3

Forget about expensive night creams and light masks - a new Australian study has found the best way to avoid premature ageing is to travel. Fangli Hu, a PhD candidate at Edith Cowan University, applied the theory of entropy to tourism and found it could have positive health benefits, including slowing down the signs of ageing.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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### Prostate cancer research needs you, to help men not just here but around the world

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/09/2024, Alison Lai, Page 34

Living on an island, it can sometimes feel like we're far removed from the rest of Australia. It can make us feel isolated, particularly when it comes to advancements in health care, including research.

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### Filling gaps on head knocks

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 06/09/2024, Page 26

Deakin University neuroscience and psychology experts are involved in a new Australia-wide study to fill the gaps in what we know about concussion recovery and why some people recover well while others experience ongoing symptoms. Also known as mild traumatic brain injury, concussion occurs when a physical injury to the head or body transmits force to the brain.

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### Funds for multicultural cancer support

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 06/09/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 11

A unique Illawarra cancer support group that has been helping women from multicultural backgrounds has been given funding to look into the impact it's had on the region over the past decade. Health Minister Ryan Park has announced funding of \$91,000 for a new research project for the Sisters' Cancer Support Group, which has helped women from diverse backgrounds access screening, health services and support from people like them.

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### Get fit for free: the app that works out your outdoor workouts

Newcastle Herald, General News, 06/09/2024, Alanna Tomazin, Page 6

University of Newcastle researchers have launched a free app that can be used for exercise across Newcastle and Lake Macquarie parks. Funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia with support from City of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie City Council, the Ecofitt app guides users across 16 outdoor gyms across the council areas.

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### Mental health help needed

The Senior - SA, General News, 01/09/2024, Eileen Wood, Page 11

Many of the 24,000 men diagnosed with prostate cancer each year, will suffer mental health distress as a result. [...] Funded by Movember, a University of South Australia study tracked the scale and timing of mental health issues among 13,693 SA men with prostate cancer, finding 15 per cent began mental health medications directly after a prostate cancer diagnosis, while 6 per cent sought help from mental health services.

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## Low-carb, high-fat diets may boost risk of type 2 diabetes, study finds

9News, Other, 05/09/2024, Emily Bennett

A new Australian study has revealed low-carb diets may increase the risk of chronic disease. The research conducted by Monash and RMIT Universities, which involved 40,000 Melbourne residents aged over 17 years, found low-carb fad diets can increase a person's risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 20 per cent.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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## Fresh hopes for a cure for arthritis on the horizon

9News, Other, 05/09/2024

There are fresh hopes that thousands of people suffering from arthritis could one day throw away their medication for good. Queensland researchers have developed a vaccine-like injection to transform treatment and give patients long-term relief from crippling pain.

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## ECU bone density scan for dementia

Medical Forum, Other, 05/09/2024

A new long-term, WA study has shown that a simple and common scan can reveal if people are at increased risk of developing dementia later in life. Edith Cowan University (ECU) researchers have discovered an important link between vascular health and late-life dementia – the calcification of the plaques that can build up within the abdominal aorta.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### In a cold sweat over whooping cough cases

Ballarat Courier, General News, 06/09/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 3

Nine whooping cough cases have been diagnosed in Ballarat in the past month, more than doubling the cases diagnosed during the first eight months of the year. The surge is part of an outbreak across Victoria, which has seen more than 10 times the number of pertussis (whooping cough) cases in 2024 than for the whole of 2023.

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### Shingrix access expansion welcomed

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 05/09/2024, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Patient groups back improved NIP access to Shingrix for primary and secondary immunodeficient patients aged 18 years and older. The Government's decision to extend access to Shingrix for anyone aged 18 years and over considered at increased risk of herpes zoster due to an underlying condition and/or immunosuppressive treatments, through the National Immunisation Program (NIP)...

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

## PrEP for short supply of life-saving drug across Sydney

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/09/2024, Angus Thomson and Ben Grubb, Page 18

Pharmacies across Sydney and Australia are running low on supplies of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), the antiviral medication that has become a crucial weapon in the global fight against HIV. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved the importation and supply of internationally registered alternatives to help meet demand.

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

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## Sky News Live, Paul Murray Live, 05/09/2024, Paul Murray

The story this week is that HIV prevention medication PrEP is now in short supply. Now, to explain this one to you, the Therapeutic Goods Administration confirmed to NEWS.com.au and other news outlets in the past couple of days that it is aware of shortages of multiple brands of official medical name for PrEP.

[Play Now](#)

## Explained: The difference between brand-name medicines and their more affordable generic counterparts

9News, Other, 05/09/2024, Maddison Leach

Any Australian who has filled a prescription at their local chemist will have been asked if they want a branded product or the generic version.[...] According to the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), a generic medicine is an additional brand of an existing medicine containing the same active ingredient as the existing medicine.

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## Patients on checkpoint inhibitors may need bone screening, endocrinologist suggests

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/09/2024, Amanda Davey

Emerging evidence shows an association between immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy and osteoporosis, with the agents linked to increased fracture risk in cancer patients. The latest research, in BMJ Oncology , found that the rate of major osteoporotic fracture increased in patients with melanoma early after initiation of immunotherapy, such as pembrolizumab.

[Read More](#)

## Men on epilepsy drug warned to use 'effective contraception'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/09/2024

Men taking a drug for epilepsy should use "effective contraception", the UK's medicines regulator has warned, due to an increased risk of neurodevelopmental problems in children conceived while their father is taking the medication. Patients should also not donate sperm while taking – or up to three months after stopping – valproate which is sold under brand names such as Epilim and Depakote and is also used to treat bipolar disorder.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Party drug alarm

Herald Sun, General News, 06/09/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 1

An alarming number of young Victorians taking illicit drugs at music festivals are unaware of their contents. A Monash University-led study has found three in four people tested at dance events had additional unreported illicit or new synthetic drugs in their blood.

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