



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 11th September 2024

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that a joint study performed by Cancer Council NSW and the University of NSW has shown that children aged 12-19 who have used vapes are five times as likely to become cigarette smokers than children who have not used vapes. *Also reported by:* [Cairns Post](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#)
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's announcement of an age limit to access social media has been welcomed as a preventative measure by parents whose children died by suicide following bullying and extortion online. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Hobart Mercury](#)
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that figures from the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program have shown that ketamine use in Melbourne is on the rise, with levels at some of the highest recorded since monitoring commenced in December 2020.
- **[The Geelong Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that industry leaders are calling for improved access to treatment for drug and alcohol addiction in the Geelong region of Victoria, where the rate of substance use disorders is higher than the state average.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 3) reports that doctors on the NSW Central Coast have cancelled dozens of non-urgent women's health appointments, citing concerns about patient

safety due to staff shortages, following a warning given in July that a failure to boost staff numbers could result in curtailed services.

- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 3) leads widespread coverage reporting that NSW nurses engaged in a statewide walkout on Tuesday as they called for a 15 per cent pay rise, with protesters outside NSW Chris Minns' office criticising a failure to deliver on election promises of improved pay and working conditions.
- **The Australian** (page 4) reports that the findings of an investigation into Australia's systems for accessing new medicines and technologies has found that implementing reforms and establishing an independent body for systematic change could reduce waiting times for new treatments by up to 16 months. The Health Technology Assessment report, commissioned in 2022, was handed to Minister of Health Mark Butler on Tuesday, after which the government promised to form an implementation group to review and carry out its recommendations.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 4) reports that a rapid test created by SureScreen Australia, capable of detecting substances such as GHB, benzodiazepines and ketamines in spiked beverages within minutes, will be available for purchase online in Australia starting from next week.
- **The Australian** (page 5) reports that the aged care industry is calling for the federal government to table its aged care reforms before time runs out this term, as Labor and the Coalition continue to negotiate concessions and changes to provisions in the proposed legislation.
- **The Guardian** (online) reports that as of Wednesday, the federal government will ban life insurers from taking predictive genetic testing results into account when underwriting life insurance, as it seeks to remove barriers to the use of potentially life-saving early testing due to patients' fears of being refused insurance.
- **ABC News** (online) reports that an increase in patient aggression at Swan Hill District Health in regional Victoria has prompted the hiring of additional security guards, as figures from WorkSafe Victoria reveal that 95 per cent of healthcare employees have experienced violent or aggressive behaviour while at work.

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## MINISTER BUTLER

### Reforms on access to medicine

The Australian, General News, 11/09/2024, James Dowling, Page 4

A government review of Australia's systems for accessing medicine has said it could slash waiting times for new treatments by 16 months in a majority of cases, proposing 50 reforms and an independent body to institute systematic change. [...] The report, commissioned in 2022, was handed to Health Minister Mark Butler on Tuesday and distributed to the public later in the day.

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### Free MRI delayed

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, Sutherland Shire Edition, 11/09/2024, Murray Trembath, Page 1

The cost of MRI scans at Sutherland Hospital will be covered fully by Medicare for all patients - but not until July 2027. [...] Cook MP Simon Kennedy revealed the change for Sutherland Hospital after following through on an election commitment and lobbying federal Health Minister Mark Butler for full access.

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### The crisis of aged care

Times Victor Harbor, General News, 10/09/2024, Emma Heidenreich, Page 5

Encounter Bay resident, Dawn Wood and her husband of 57 years, Peter, are the human face of an aged care crisis, one that is worsening and speaks of the struggle of the state health and federal aged care systems to meet a rapidly growing demand for aged care, mental health and memory support beds. [...] In an interview on September 1, Minister for Aged Care, Mark Butler said the Federal

Government has introduced \$56 million in initiatives to ease the path of longer stay older patients out of hospitals into other care settings, particularly aged care settings.

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## Frustration as aged care impasse drags on

Australian Financial Review, General News, 11/09/2024, Phillip Coorey, Page 6

Frustrations within government are starting to boil after the Coalition again delayed finalising agreement on an overhaul to aged care funding, heightening the risk that parliament may run out of time to implement changes before the next election.

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## Suicide prevention strategy targets social and economic drivers of distress

The Australian, Other, 10/09/2024, Stephen Lunn

Australia's suicide prevention strategy will adopt a multi-pronged approach by directly supporting people experiencing suicidal thoughts and behaviours and also addressing the social and economic drivers of distress. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said that "despite increased expenditure and more awareness about mental health (the number of suicides) had not significantly decreased in decades.

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## Black market cigarettes openly purchased in Melbourne as legal tobacco trade plummets

ABC Online, Other, 10/09/2024

At a busy tobacconist in the Melbourne suburb of Frankston, a constant flow of customers are walking through the front door and leaving with colourful packets of cigarettes in their hands. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told 7.30 that price signals around tobacco were "a very important tool in the toolbox of reducing smoking rates".

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## HSU calls for all workers to get 12 days reproductive leave

Nursing Review, Other, 10/09/2024, Stefanie Schultz

The Albanese government is being called on to give all workers 12 days reproductive leave to cover IVF treatments, severe period pain, menopause, vasectomies and gender transitioning therapies. [...] Union representatives are seeking meetings with senior cabinet ministers including Health Minister Mark Butler, Workplace Relations Minister Murray Watt and Minister for Women Katy Gallagher.

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## ABC, 7:30, 10/09/2024, Sarah Ferguson

Report on the rising illegal cigarette trade. The Federal Government has set a mission to reduce the national daily smoking rate to just five per cent by 2030, but recently a worrying shift has occurred. Tobacco retail sales are in free fall, there have been record seizures of illegal tobacco at the border and an underworld war is raging over control of the illicit market. Health Minister Mark Butler says they got advice around 12 to 18 months ago that steady reduction they had seen over the course of 30 years had started to stagnate and it was in part a product of the lack of any real change in tobacco control, which had meant, effectively, that the tobacco industry had started to find ways around the regulations that were put in place.

Report continues on: [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## ABC Radio Canberra, AM, 10/09/2024, Sabra Lane

Report on the cigarettes black market driving worrying smoking trends. The Federal Government had set a goal to reduce the national daily smoking rate to just 5% by 2030 and for the past decade, it's been on track. But during the past two years, something odd has happened, retail tobacco sales have plummeted while the black market's flourishing with illicit tobacco, prompting some to ask if the federal policy is still working. Health Minister Mark Butler has conceded the rate of decline has slowed down.

## MINISTER WELLS

### Delaying aged-care bill 'just not an option'

The Australian, General News, 11/09/2024, Sarah Ison, Page 5

The aged-care industry is warning parliament is "basically out of time" to pass critical reforms this term and is urging Labor and the Coalition to immediately come to a bipartisan agreement, as the Coalition remains unwilling to support the legislation because of several "surprise provisions" discovered in the proposed laws. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said it was "disappointing" the opposition was yet to agree to a deal that would secure the future of quality aged care.

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### Gender shake-up in boardroom

The Australian, Sport, 11/09/2024, Shannon Gill, Page 24

Australia's major sporting codes will need to overhaul their boards or risk losing government funding, after gender equity guidelines for governance was announced by the federal government. [...] "We need more women making decisions for more women," Sports Minister Anika Wells said.

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

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

### Meet women targets or lose funds: minister

Canberra Times, Sport, 11/09/2024, Page 42

Australian sporting organisations will lose government funding if half their board members aren't women within three years. [...] "We need more women making decisions for more women," federal Sports Minister Anika Wells said in a statement.

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

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### Cost of council Olympic visit

Courier Mail, General News, 11/09/2024, Brendan O'Malley & Greg Stolz, Page 1

Ratepayers will pick up a \$1100-per-night hotel bill for the official Paris Games visits by the Brisbane Deputy Mayor and Gold Coast Mayor. [...] A spokesman for Brisbane-based federal Sport Minister Anika Wells said confirmation of her travel details could not be provided at short notice.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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### Labor opens door to negotiating with Greens on RBA reforms after Coalition blocks proposal

The Guardian, Other, 10/09/2024

Peter Dutton's opposition has withdrawn from negotiations with the Albanese government over proposed changes to the Reserve Bank and thrown up new roadblocks to a potential deal on raising aged care fees. [...] The aged care minister, Anika Wells, had hoped the Coalition would help Labor pass its aged care reforms, after reaching an in-principle agreement in August to changes expected to increase charges for residential accommodation and food.

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### Aged care changes up in air after Coalition flags unnamed concerns

ABC Online, Other, 10/09/2024

The federal opposition has fresh concerns with parts of proposed widespread reform to the aged care sector, leaving the immediate future of the promised new Aged Care Act up in the air. [...] Aged Care

Minister Anika Wells last week said the government had "fought long and hard" for that promise, but it was "a real red line" for the opposition which it had to forgo as part of the discussions.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## DEPARTMENT

### Grant delay concerns MP

Lilydale Star Mail, General News, 10/09/2024, Dongyun Kwon, Page 11

Federal Casey MP Aaron Violi called out the government in the House of Representatives on 19 August, highlighting their lengthy delays that have left Seville Cricket Club and other local clubs unable to plan for the future. [...] The federal Department of Health and Aged Care opposed Mr Violi's claim of the grant winner announcement being delayed.

Also reported by: [Mount Evelyn Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ranges Trader Mail \(Online\)](#).

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### Role of pharmacists set to expand

Tumut & Adelong Times, General News, 10/09/2024, Page 13

Thousands of people across NSW will be able to access treatment for ear infections, wound management, nausea, gastro, acne, muscle and joint pain at their local pharmacy, boosting access to fast, convenient healthcare across NSW. [...] According to the Federal Department of Health & Aged Care, there were fewer GPs in NSW in 2023 than there were in 2019.

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### Rural health summit

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 10/09/2024, Page 1

The 17th National Rural Health Conference, hosted by the National Rural Health Alliance, will open in Perth next week with well-known pharmacist and Federal Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride. Prof Jenny May, the new National Rural Health Commissioner, will outline her vision for rural health, while the Alliance's CEO Susi Tegen will highlight key advocacy work.

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### Hope 103.2, 06:00 News, 10/09/2024

Australian government agencies are gearing up for a possible outbreak of avian flu, which has killed

millions of wild and domestic birds and threatened livestock overseas. Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly says although the H5n1 strain of avian flu isn't spreading in Australia and will not cause serious illness in humans, government agencies are preparing for a possible outbreak.

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## CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Ruston backs more flexibility for innovation

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 10/09/2024, Natasha Egan

The Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care has told IDC2024 delegates that government needs to support the innovative approaches they put forward. Aged care providers need to be given greater flexibility to make the best decisions about the people they care for, the opposition spokesperson on aged care has told an industry conference.

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### Confronting and complex: how dementia influences first responder actions

HelloCare, Other, 10/09/2024, Alex Jacobs

Few could forget the traumatic and confronting story in 2023 when 95-year-old aged care resident Clare Nowland was tasered by New South Wales police. Clare, who had dementia, was hospitalised after she fell and fractured her skull.

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### Channel 10, 10 News First, 10/09/2024, Sandra Sully

The Federal Government has been preparing to unveil its long awaited aged care reforms, but it has been stopped in its tracks. The Coalition won't give them the tick of approval, as expected, and the Government won't proceed without its support. There is some uneasiness within Coalition ranks about exactly how much more it will cost wealthier people to access care as they age.

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### Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 10/09/2024, Ashliegh Gillon

The Government had hoped the Opposition would get on board with a proposal to have self-funded retirees pay for more of their aged care, but it's not even going to be on the Coalition Party Room agenda today. The major sticking point is a dispute over union representatives being put in aged care homes as part of the reform.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Health gains up in smoke

Courier Mail, General News, 11/09/2024, Jackie Sinnerton & Isabella Pesch, Page 1

Decades of work to drive down tobacco use in Australia is at risk of going up in smoke with shocking new research revealing today's generation of child vapers are up to 29 times more likely to become

smokers. A first of its kind study by the Cancer Council and University of NSW shows 12-19 year olds who vape are five times more inclined to end up as smokers.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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## New rapid tests to detect spiked drinks

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/09/2024, Zoe Smith, Page 4

A groundbreaking test that can detect if a person's drink has been spiked is about to hit the Australian market. SureScreen Australia's rapid beverage tests, which can identify substances such as GHB, benzodiazepines and ketamine in drinks within five minutes, will be available for purchase online next week.

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## A title we don't want

Herald Sun, General News, 11/09/2024, Alex White, Page 1

Melbourne has emerged as the ketamine capital of Australia, with use skyrocketing and authorities fearing it will lead to deaths. The unenviable title comes as the state government moves to introduce pill testing at music festivals in a bid to reduce illicit drug overdoses and deaths in Victoria.

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## Addiction fight needs urgent help

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/09/2024, Abby Walter, Page 1

People battling drug and alcohol addiction need better access to treatment in the Geelong region, key industry figures have warned. The percentage of people with 12-month substance-use disorders in the Western Victoria Primary Health Network area, which includes Geelong, is above the state average.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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## Child mental health weighs in over obesity

Courier Mail, General News, 11/09/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

Queensland is not in support of the call by nurses to weigh children at school in the fight against obesity, with the health minister emphasising their mental health is too important. Following the controversial recommendation by the Australian College of Nurses that pupils should step on the scales and be measured every two years using longitudinal mapping on WHO recommended growth charts, Shannon Fentiman told The Courier-Mail that general practitioners are best placed to advise families about weight.

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

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## Deadly counterfeit pills bought on the dark web have been detected in the ACT

The Australian, Other, 10/09/2024, Emma Kirk

A deadly new opioid 1000 times stronger than morphine was discovered in a round yellow counterfeit oxycodone pill that was brought into a Canberra drug testing centre. The discovery prompted ACT Health to issue a warning after a type of nitazene called N-pyrrolidine isotonitazene was detected in the fake tablet.

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## Fruit and veg become discretionary items for many households

Canberra Times, Other, 10/09/2024, Brittney Levinson

Fruit, vegetables and meat have become discretionary items for many Australians on income support, which they say is not enough to cover essential living costs. Lester Tyley is one of those people, whose fortnightly income support was too low to pay for necessities such as groceries, medication, electricity bills and petrol.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

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## Bamboo Peer Support parenting app to use match-making algorithm to connect new mums with mentors

ABC Online, Other, 10/09/2024

New mothers will be able to swipe or tap to find a mentor using an app aimed at addressing the confusion they can feel after bringing home their babies. [...] A report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows one in five women suffer from mental health issues during the perinatal period.

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## Thomas eats 2kg of meat each day and says he's never felt better. But experts are concerned

SBS, Other, 10/09/2024, Matt Gazy

Thomas believes his meat-only diet has improved his physical and mental health — but dietitians and medical practitioners warn the diet could be harmful in the long term. Thomas Ton was diagnosed with psoriasis — a skin disease that causes itchy rashes — at the age of 10.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 10/09/2024, Michael Rowland and Emma Rebellato

A new investigation by Triple J Hack has revealed incidents of needle spiking at schoolies events last year on the Gold Coast and in Byron Bay. Gold Coast Health has confirmed that there were two presentations at the emergency treatment centre on the Gold Coast during schoolies last year, with concerns of suspected needle spiking. But both NSW and Qld Police have said that no case has been investigated or anyone has ever been charged with that offence. NSW Police have also confirmed cases of drink spiking at schoolies, but again, nothing to do with needle spiking.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Hypnotherapy offers hope of treatment for IBS sufferers

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/09/2024, Liam Mannix, Page 17

Lina Gutierrez remembers her mother's late-night hug. Tears. And a cramping pain, deep in her stomach, waking her suddenly from her slumber.

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### How a home renovation stopped asthma attacks

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/09/2024, Sue Williams, Page 19

Every night in winter, David McEwen would put his young son Charlie to bed in a room warmed with a gas heater just outside the open door. Regularly, he'd hear him wheezing, and several times, when he was fighting for breath, he had to race him to hospital.

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### I'm glad my GP told me I was fat. Otherwise I'd be dead

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/09/2024, Jenna Price, Page 27

I was a fat kid who became an obese adult. Ran in the family. I was 19 when Dad died and 26 I when lost my mum.

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



## Get the balance right: enjoying the Australian sun effectively

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 11/09/2024, Jacinta Dickins, Page 13

It can be easy to see the sun as the enemy and as Aussies we all know the perils of going out without protection, especially during the upcoming warmer months. Yet the mindset of fear, while imperative for protecting against skin cancer, could be preventing us from receiving its blessings.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#).

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

## Family relishes big and small moments

Border Mail, General News, 11/09/2024, Jodie Bruton, Page 6

For Jobe Koistinen and his twin brother, Tate, turning nine this spring is a cherished milestone. Devastatingly, Jobe was diagnosed with childhood dementia seven years ago.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Brookfield nears Healthscope deal

The Australian, Business News, 11/09/2024, Bridget Carter, Page 14

Brookfield and its lenders are understood to be putting the finishing touches on a refinancing deal for its \$4.4bn healthcare investment Healthscope that sees all of its private hospitals remain together in one structure. The understanding is that the lenders and Brookfield have informally agreed to a deal, but it is not yet official.

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### Ban on insurers requesting results of genetic testing

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/09/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 16

Australians will be able to get potentially life-saving genetic tests without fearing they will be made to pay exorbitant amounts for life insurance as the government steps in to regulate how insurers deal with the emerging medical field. Assistant Treasurer Stephen Jones will announce a total ban on genetic discrimination in life insurance today, clarifying that Australians who undergo genetic testing to detect cancer genes or tailor their medical treatments will never be obliged to share their results with insurers, and insurers will not be allowed to ask.

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### FNQ pharmacist working to reduce a national shortage of whooping cough antibiotic azithromycin

Cairns Post, Other, 10/09/2024, Emma Cam

Whooping cough cases are out of control in Far North Queensland, and a national shortage of the drug used to treat the bacterial infection has left both Cairns and Hinterland residents struggling to access medication needed to combat the highly contagious disease. Since the beginning of the year, a recorded number of 366 cases of whooping cough were recorded in Cairns, compared to less than 50 for the same period in an average year.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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### Australia to ban life insurance companies from discriminating based on genetic testing results

The Guardian, Other, 10/09/2024, Karen Middleton

Life insurance companies will be banned from discriminating against people based on genetic testing under federal government moves designed to encourage greater use of predictive technology in preventative health. The assistant treasurer, Stephen Jones, will announce on Wednesday that life insurers will be banned from using the results of predictive genetic testing in their underwriting assessments.

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## Life insurers banned from using genetic tests to deny cover or hike premiums

ABC Online, Other, 10/09/2024

The federal government announced on Tuesday it would ban the practice that saw consumers discriminated against if they disclosed the results of genetic tests that predict their likelihood of an inherited disease. It comes after consultation to address genetic discrimination in life insurance earlier this year. More than 1,000 submissions were received with 97 per cent supporting a total ban.

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## 6PR, Perth Live, 10/09/2024, Oliver Peterson

Doctors and hospital support workers have accepted a new pay deal from the WA Government. Around 86% of AMA members voted in support of the three year deal, which will see almost 8000 medical practitioners in the public hospital system receive a salary increase.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### PM backs a social media ban until 16

The Australian, General News, 11/09/2024, Rhiannon Down, Page 5

Anthony Albanese has signalled his preference for increasing the minimum age when teenagers can access social media platforms to 16, amid a federal government push to legislate an agebased ban by the end of the year. The Prime Minister said the right age to impose a limit was between 14 and 16 years with his personal view being that the "higher limit" should be pursued, while stressing the importance of a nationally consistent approach after South Australia backed a ban for 14-year-olds.

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### Vocational providers fill the demand for more male counsellors

The Australian, Higher Education, 11/09/2024, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 21

The number of men pursuing a career in counselling has surged in the past five years, as vocational providers help to meet the rising demands for men's mental health support. Male enrolments in TAFE's Diploma of Counselling have increased by 50 per cent since 2019 as more men take on traditionally female-dominated jobs in community services, counselling and psychology.

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### Hope for the next generation

Courier Mail, General News, 11/09/2024, Clare Armstrong, Page 1

Parents who lost their children to suicide in the wake of bullying and extortion on social media are hopeful a nationwide age limit will protect other families from the same heartbreak. Anthony Albanese's commitment to legislating a ban to stop children and young teens from accessing platforms like Instagram and Tiktok before the election has been welcomed by grieving families.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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### Experts back 16 as age of reason

Experts who back the government's plan to impose age limits on social media say there are sound reasons why the minimum age should be set at 16 and no younger. Simon Wilksch, a senior research fellow in psychology at Flinders University, said he knew of "no evidence that social media is safe for children under 16".

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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## Tough ride

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 11/09/2024, Jonathon Magrath, Page 1

A broken down support vehicle, a collapsed airline and even his bike being stolen were not going to stop Luke Baker from completing his mammoth 3249km ride for Lifeline Loddon Mallee. "It just seemed like something didn't want us doing what we were going to do," he said.

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## Walking laps to honour lost loved ones

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 11/09/2024, Emma Downey, Page 2

Lifeline statistics show the crisis support charity receives seven calls a day from people in distress and living in the Tamworth Local Government Area, or about 50 calls a week. A sobering and tragic statistic to take in on World Suicide Prevention Day.

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## 'No delay' for response on veterans suicide report

Canberra Times, Other, 10/09/2024, Andrew Brown & Tess Ikonomou

Anthony Albanese has vowed the government's response to a damning royal commission report into veteran suicide won't be delayed, as advocates call for urgent action. A key recommendation in the seven-volume final report included setting up an agency dedicated to the wellbeing of veterans to help with the transition from military to civilian life.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

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## Increased distress spurred by cost of living, housing

Canberra Times, Other, 10/09/2024, Dominic Giannini

Cost of living, personal debt and job security are contributing to a staggering number of young people expressing suicidal thoughts. One in four Australians aged between 18 and 24 had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year, a report released on World Suicide Prevention Day revealed.

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

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## Compassion and hope the keys to draft new National Suicide Prevention Strategy

ABC Online, Other, 10/09/2024

The federal government's draft advice on the latest National Suicide Prevention Strategy is released today. Advocates say a fundamental change is needed to address the key drivers of feelings of hopelessness.

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## Robodebt-linked deaths could have been prevented if policies assessed for suicide risks, advocates argue

The Guardian, Other, 10/09/2024, Karen Middleton & Melissa Davey

Suicide prevention advocates are urging the government to pass a federal law requiring all draft policy measures be checked against their suicidal ideation risk, arguing that measure could have ensured the Morrison government's robodebt scandal never occurred. The Suicide Prevention Australia CEO,

Nieves Murray, said national legislation was the missing piece in the draft national suicide prevention strategy the government had published as "advice" on Tuesday, to mark World Suicide Prevention Day.

[Read More](#)

## **Health experts call for more holistic approach on suicide prevention**

SBS, Other, 10/09/2024

A new six-paper series shows there needs to be a change in the approach of suicide prevention, calling for social factors to be given the same importance as mental health issues. It comes as the federal government releases its draft advice for the latest National Suicide Prevention Policy, on World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10).

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## **ABC News, ABC National News, 10/09/2024, Joe O'Brien**

The Royal Commission into the shocking rates of military suicides has been scathing of the culture within Defence, with the final report making 122 recommendations. Among them a new independent body to oversee and drive reform to change the trend of three suicides per fortnight.

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## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 10/09/2024, Michael Rowland and Emma Rebellato**

Interview with Anna Rose, Chair, Eating Disorders Neurodiversity Australia, regarding a recent push towards a more individualised approach to the treatment of eating disorders with some services finding success. It's estimated more than 1.1 million Australians have an eating disorder, and global research suggests neurodivergent people are significantly overrepresented. Rose says neurodivergent individuals experience the world in a fundamentally different way from neurotypical individuals and it is related to differences experienced across a range of domains such as sensory, cognitive and emotional processing, executive functioning and the way that they engage in social communication.

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## **Channel 7, Sunrise, 10/09/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington**

A national ban is in the works to protect Aussie children from harm on social media. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will today introduce legislation to enforce a minimum age for access to platforms. It follows increasing concern from state and territory governments around skyrocketing rates of anxiety and depression.

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## **Channel 9, Today , 10/09/2024, Tim Davies and Belinda Russell**

Australia is looking to impose a minimum age for social media use, in a move aimed at protecting the mental and physical health of children. Age limits will apply to platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat to try and combat skyrocketing rates of mental health issues, including anxiety and depression.

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## **ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 10/09/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Julian Schiller**

Researchers from Flinders University are calling for more support systems within sporting organisations to help with the prevalence of sleep and mental health disorders. Over 1000 athletes from around the world participated in a study that looked at sleep and mental health issues in current and former athletes. The findings show that both groups showed similar rates of sleep disturbances and mental health disorders.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### 'Smooth and easy' formula for graduates seeking work

Age, General News, 11/09/2024, Bridie Smith, Page 1

Long before she finished school, Ann Duraid Shwaita knew she wanted to be a pharmacist. "I've always had an interest in healthcare and providing help to people," she said.

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### NSW gynaecologists cancel appointments over safety

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/09/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 3

Dozens of women's health appointments on the NSW Central Coast have been cancelled or postponed indefinitely after doctors said they could not guarantee the safety of patients due to staff shortages.

Gynaecologists and obstetricians at Gosford and Wyong hospitals pledged to only treat urgent and life-threatening cases until Central Coast Local Health District hired more doctors.

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### Premier cops the wrath of striking nurses

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/09/2024, Elizabeth Pike, Page 3

Nsw nurses yesterday accused Premier Chris Minns of being a "liar" for backtracking on election promises to improve pay and working conditions as they staged a statewide walkout. Hundreds of nurses shut down the street outside Mr Minns' Kogarah electorate office yesterday, chanting "shame, shame, shame" while holding up defaced posters of Mr Minns and calling for a 15 per cent pay rise.

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### Nurses reject surgery cut blame

Border Mail, General News, 11/09/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

Albury nurses were sympathetic to the disruption, but have rejected claims their strike action and march across the Murray River on Tuesday forced the cancellation of eight surgeries, when the hospital had already started the day short of beds. Albury hospital's nursing union leader says it was "unfortunate" eight patients' surgery was cancelled as his members went on strike but noted a lack of beds and staff had scuttled many other operations.

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### Nurses 'not backing down'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 11/09/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 1

Operations at Wagga Base Hospital, including operating theatres, have been impacted by striking nurses who are demanding better pay and working conditions, according to the union representing nurses. Members of the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) at Wagga Base Hospital joined much of the state in escalating its industrial action by going on strike from 7am to 7.30pm on Tuesday.

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### Nurses' protest shuts highway

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 11/09/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 1

Hundreds of nurses targeted Health Minister Ryan Park's electorate office in Corrimal yesterday shutting down the Princes Highway as they demanded action on their claims for a 15 per cent pay rise. Unfortunately for them, the Keira MP was nowhere to be seen.

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## Pregnancy care may be hit by shortages

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 11/09/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 3

A prominent Illawarra midwife says the long-awaited expansion of a midwifery program which helps to prevent birth trauma will fail due to lack of staff unless the NSW Government agrees to a pay rise for the nursing workforce. NSWMA Wollongong Hospital branch delegate Emma Gedge applauded NSW Health Minister Ryan Park's announcement last week that the region's highly sought after Midwifery Group Practice would expand after years of lobbying.

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## Anger over pay negotiations spills onto Tamworth streets

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 11/09/2024, Fiona Ferguson, Page 1

Public sector nurses and midwives took their anger to the streets on Tuesday, escalating their push for a 15 per cent one-year pay increase with a 12.5-hour-long strike. Nurses and midwives walked off the job from 7am.

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## 'We will continue to fight for fair pay': NSW nurses to walk off job amid calls for better pay

The Australian, Other, 10/09/2024, Clareese Packer

Emergency room wait times are tipped to blow out as nurses across NSW are set to lead an illegal 12-hour strike amid calls for better pay conditions. The NSW Nurses & Midwives Association (NSWNMA) have demanded a 15 per cent one-year pay rise, however the state government has instead proposed a 10.5 per cent increase across three years.

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

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## Nurses, midwives hit streets to press pay-rise demands

Canberra Times, Other, 10/09/2024, Alex Mitchell

Thousands of nurses have hit streets across NSW to demand a pay rise, defying an order to call off the strike. Nurses and midwives walked off the job on Tuesday morning for a 12-hour protest after demands for a 15 per cent wage increase were rebuffed.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

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## Dentist claims payroll tax hurting health recruitment in North Queensland

Cairns Post, Other, 10/09/2024, Chris Burns

A Townsville dentist has blasted a payroll tax rollout which he said has created yet another barrier in North Queensland's fight to recruit health professionals. Former 1300 Smiles owner, Daryl Holmes, who continues to practice as a semi-retired professional at its Belgian Gardens clinic, accused the state government of "gouging" with its payroll tax as health practices were required to backpay for the previous five financial years

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

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## Rural Doctors Association of Tasmania President Ben Dodds unveils priorities ahead of the state budget

The Mercury, Other, 10/09/2024, Simon Mcguire

With the state budget looming, one of Tasmania's peak medical bodies has outlined its priorities to the government as it aims to 'redress rural and remote health inequities'. Dr Ben Dodds, president of the Rural Doctors Association of Tasmania gives evidence to the Select Committee on Transfer of Care Delays (Ambulance Ramping) in Launceston, November 8, 2023.

[Read More](#)

## **Public hospital doctors accept new pay deal headlined by 11.5 per cent pay rise, overhaul of overtime system**

West Australian, Other, 10/09/2024, Claire Sadler

Public hospital clinicians have greenlit a new pay deal that will bolster conditions for junior doctors, including capping shifts at a maximum of 14 hours. The offer, accepted by 86 per cent of Australian Medical Association WA members, is headlined by an 11.5 per cent pay increase over three years — a 4.75 per cent rise in September 2024, 3.75 per cent in September 2025 and 3 per cent in September 2026.

[Read More](#)

## **Surgeries delayed and wait times up as NSW nurses and midwives strike for better pay**

The Guardian, Other, 10/09/2024

A New South Wales nurses' strike has prompted warnings to keep ambulances and emergency departments clear of minor cases as Labor feels the heat from public sector unions. Nurses and midwives are walking off the job across NSW for 12 hours on Tuesday after demands for a 15% pay rise this year were rebuffed.

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## **Thousands of nurses and midwives strike across NSW demanding better pay despite IRC order**

ABC Online, Other, 10/09/2024

Thousands of NSW nurses have walked off the job demanding a one-year, 15 per cent pay rise. The industrial court told the nurses' union to call off the 12.5-hour-long strike yesterday.

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## **Swan Hill District Health increases security in face of rising patient aggression**

ABC Online, Other, 10/09/2024

Emergency department patients are being urged to treat staff respectfully after a rise in occupational violence. High demand for care, doctor shortages and capacity constraints are leading to longer wait times.

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## **State-wide strike! NSW public health sector demands 15% pay rise**

Nursing Review, Other, 10/09/2024, Stefanie Schultz

From Albury to Tweed, NSW public sector nurses and midwives will walk off the job today (10th September) for more than 12 hours, saying they are "fed up with being ignored" by the state government. NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association members put tools down at 7am and will not return to duties until after 7:30 pm tonight as the union and its members demand a one-year pay increase of 15 per cent.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 10/09/2024, Michael Rowland and Emma Rebellato**

Nurses and midwives in NSW are pushing ahead with industrial action across the state today, despite the Industrial Relations Commission ordering them not to. The union is calling for a 15% pay increase, and they're going to be walking off the job for 12.5 hours today.

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**Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 10/09/2024, Ashliegh Gillon**

Over 50,000 nurses at the moment are walking out of hospitals across New South Wales despite the Industrial Relations Commission ruling the action illegal over concerns about patient safety. The industrial action will last for 12.5 hours and one is being held at Premier Chris Minns' Electoral Office in Kogarah.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 10/09/2024, Craig Reucassel

Thousands of nurses are expected to join planned strike action across NSW today, defying an Industrial Relations Commission order for them not to. The NSW Government had argued it would cause too much disruption to hospitals and patient care across the state. The union is demanding a 15% pay rise but says negotiations are at a stalemate. Health Minister Ryan Park says it's disappointing, but the union's demands can't be met.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 10/09/2024, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Shaye Candish, General Secretary, NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association, on over 50,000 nurses walking off the job for 12 hours today as they demand better nurse-to-patient ratios and a pay rise. Candish says despite negotiations with the government and the Ministry of Health for almost four months, they haven't had a single discussion about pay. She adds the NSW Government has put an offer of 3%, and it is at a time when Qld nurses are being paid 18% above NSW.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Checks change aids healthy increase in overseas doctors

Canberra Times, Other, 10/09/2024

Australian patients are benefiting from a surge of overseas doctors plugging healthcare gaps after an end to in-person identity checks. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency said it was doing everything possible to make Australia an attractive work destination without compromising on safety.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### Banned doctor alleged to have infected patient with hep B while working under alias

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/09/2024, Carmel Sparke

A banned doctor has been accused of infecting a patient with hepatitis B after continuing to work at a Sydney cosmetic clinic under a different name. [...] In 2021, Mr Jodlovich's medical registration was



cancelled by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal as a result of professional misconduct after he had failed to notify AHPRA of a criminal conviction.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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## SPORT

### Premier playing games on files

Herald Sun, General News, 11/09/2024, Shannon Deery, Page 3

The Allan government is refusing to comply with parliamentary rules in a bid to keep secret hundreds of files related to its failed Commonwealth Games bid. In an extraordinary move the upper house committee probing the cancelled Games bid yesterday tabled an unexpected second interim report warning the government's failure to hand over documents could be considered a contempt of parliament.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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### 'Rules flouted over axed Games'

The Australian, General News, 11/09/2024, Tricia Rivera, Page 7

Victorian Labor has been accused of flouting parliamentary rules over its gatekeeping of hundreds of documents relating to the state's bid to host the dumped 2026 Commonwealth Games. A second interim report tabled by the upper house select committee tasked with probing the axed sporting event found that the Allan government had failed to comply with the processes of claiming executive privilege under Legislative Council standing orders and could be in contempt of parliament.

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### 'Ambitious' quest for Brisbane 2032

The Australian, Sport, 11/09/2024, Page 24

An unprecedented youth talent search will identify and fast-track potential medal contenders ahead of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. Talented athletes who are open to switching sports will be front of mind as the Australian Sports Commission launches its Future Green and Gold campaign next month.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Pain and anxiety

Herald Sun, General News, 11/09/2024, Page 4

Young people with chronic pain are three times more likely than their peers to also have clinical anxiety or depression, a new review has found. Led by researchers at Macquarie University, the study suggests a third of children under the age of 18 who have chronic pain also meet the criteria for anxiety disorder, while one in eight meets the criteria for a depressive disorder.

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## Early AFL hip issues

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/09/2024, Page 9

AFL draftees have shown changes to their hip joints early in their playing careers in a new research finding that could reveal why elite athletes have higher levels of hip osteoarthritis. La Trobe University studied 58 pain-free male AFL draftees, finding that nearly half showed hip joint changes on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and 20 per cent had a particular hip bone shape called cam morphology.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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## Wollongong scientist wins Eureka Prize

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 11/09/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 5

A university of Wollongong scientist who is part of a team trying to develop a vaccine for deadly Strep A infections has shared in one of Australia's most prestigious science awards. Molecular microbiologist Professor Martina Sanderson-Smith is among a group of scientists who won an Australian Museum Eureka Prize last week.

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## Menzies leading the way in vital research

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/09/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 9

Tasmanian man John Dobson had neither symptoms nor a family history of prostate cancer when he received the shock diagnosis in 2009. Cancer-free since undergoing a prostatectomy later the same year, a grateful Mr Dobson signed up for cutting-edge Tasmanian research examining how a patient's genetics might help determine optimal testing and treatment options.

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## Free for all: why publicly funded research should be made public

The Australian, Higher Education, 11/09/2024, Stephen Matchett, Page 21

Chief Scientist Cathy Foley has a way to improve Australia's productivity - make all the world's research free for every Australian to read. "Broad open access to science and research could help industry understand the latest developments."

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### First Nations Leadership Summit in the NT celebrates excellence of current and future Indigenous leaders

National Indigenous Times, Other, 10/09/2024, Dechlan Brennan

For thousands of years First Nations stories have amplified communities and passed on messages throughout generations. As discussion around Closing the Gap continues, with a number of metrics in the Northern Territory continuing to get worse, the NT's First Nations Leadership Summit by The Hatchery, in partnership with The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA) is a platform to celebrate the excellence of current and future First Nations leaders.

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### Yamatji/Nyoongar doctor Shauna Hill honoured with inaugural GPRA NT Rural and Remote Scholarship

National Indigenous Times, Other, 10/09/2024, Giovanni Torre

Yamatji/Nyoongar medical professional Dr Shauna Hill was among recipients of the General Practice Registrars Australia NT scholarships, awarded this weekend in Darwin. The scholarships were announced at the first-ever GPRA NT Annual Registrars Forum, which brought together GP registrars from across the Northern Territory to participate in educational workshops, network with peers, and celebrate the winners of the inaugural GPRA NT Scholarships.

## **'Invisible' children: Unregistered births, stolen futures of Australia's most vulnerable**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/09/2024, Maddison Brennan-Mills

A new report reveals thousands of children in Australia are denied the simplest thing that impacts their life forever. Maddison Brennan-Mills For many Australians, a birth certificate is simply a formality — a document tucked away in a filing cabinet, retrieved only when necessary.

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

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## **Pfizer's First Nations grant**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 10/09/2024

First Nations peak body, NACCHO, has awarded the 2024 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Leadership Grant to Cheyne Sullivan and Jes Pearson. Sullivan is a Barkindji woman and SA Pharmacy Aboriginal Health and Beyond the Gap Project Lead, while Pearson is a Wiradjuri woman originally from Wellington and currently working towards becoming a registered pharmacist.

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## **New Dementia Australia grants program to help Indigenous organisations care for the community**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 10/09/2024, Giovanni Torre

Dementia Australia launched its new Diversity Small Grant program Monday to help build greater awareness and understanding of dementia in Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. With applications open now until 11 October, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) organisations and groups are encouraged to apply for up to \$30,000 in funding for activities to help create awareness about dementia in their communities.

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## **INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC**

### **Chief public health officer Nicola Spurrier urges vaccination as whooping cough wave hits SA**

NEWS.com.au, Other, 10/09/2024, Duncan Evans

Pregnant mums and parents of little babies are being urged to get vaccinated as a dangerous new whooping cough wave hits South Australia. SA chief public health officer Nicola Spurrier, at a press conference on Monday, said the state had recorded 492 cases year-to-date and "week-on-week" numbers were "increasing".

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### **Urgent warning issued to parents as cases of infectious disease skyrocket**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 10/09/2024, Pranav Harish

Children and pregnant women have been urged to get vaccinated after cases of whooping cough soared to a six-year high in one Australian state. Up to 492 cases of whooping cough have been detected in South Australia this year compared to just 48 cases recorded in 2023.

[Read More](#)

### **Doctor warns that half of mpox cases may be breakthrough infections, as case numbers surge**

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/09/2024, Mohana Basu

Nearly 500 cases have been reported this year compared with around 150 during the first outbreak two years ago. Half of patients with mpox during the latest outbreak have received one or two vaccine doses, according to a sexual health physician who is also warning of greater local transmission.

[Read More](#)

**ABC News, News Breakfast, 10/09/2024, Michael Rowland and Emma Rebellato**

The Vic Government plans to start a mobile pill testing trial at music festivals this summer, in an attempt to reduce overdose deaths and drug-related hospital admissions. A bill will be introduced to Parliament today to allow the drug-checking service to be rolled out across ten festivals. The Vic Government says the laws will legally protect people who use the service and will work with Victoria Police to ensure festival goers don't feel deterred from having their drugs checked.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

**Viagra for women is a thing and nobody's talking about it.**

Mamamia, Other, 10/09/2024, Erin Docherty

Like pretty much every area of women's health, sexual dysfunction is just another thing that's not really spoken about. And there are a few reasons for this.

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**New PBS listing**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 10/09/2024

Galafold (migalastat), previously available through the Life Saving Drug Program, is now listed on the PBS with expanded eligibility for patients aged 12 and older with specific genetic mutations affecting their organs. Fabry disease, a rare genetic condition, leads to fat build-up causing pain, hearing loss, and potentially life-threatening complications like kidney and heart disease.

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