



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 18th September 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) has released new data showing people with life-threatening medical emergencies (P1A) are waiting longer for ambulances in parts of Sydney's metropolitan.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports that junior doctors in the ACT have won an "unprecedented and landmark" class action suit for underpayment against Canberra Health Services and Calvary Health Care ACT.
- The **[Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 4) reports that federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the federal government will pledge an additional \$3.8 billion for workers in the aged care sector, which will be rolled out from January 1, 2025.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 7) reports that new data from the Bureau of Health Investigations has revealed a drop in GP visits in NSW for the first time in ten years, and comes as federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the Albanese government has made significant investments in Medicare to improve access to GPs.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 4) reports that Burnside Hospital has submitted plans for a \$65 million expansion, which is set to include a new three-storey building, a fertility clinic and a cancer treatment facility.

- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 5) reports that Medicines Australia is calling for drugs approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme within two months, from the current average of 466 days.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 5) reports that WaterNSW has confirmed high levels of cancer-linked PFAS chemicals have been identified in the Medlow Dam in the Blue Mountains.
- **The Border Mail** (page 9) reports that a recent study by the Doherty Institute has identified special "T cells" that could potentially lead to new treatments for coronavirus.

MINISTER BUTLER

Why it's now harder than ever to see a GP in NSW

Daily Telegraph, General News, 18/09/2024, Lachlan Leeming, Page 7

New health figures show that for the first time in more than 10 years, the average number of visits to a GP is dropping - with attendances for an individual dropping to 6.5 times a year in 2022-23, down from 7.5 in 2021-22. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Albanese government had implemented reforms to bolster GP numbers.

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

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Pet-friendly Archer Brewing that brewed own 'dog beer' campaigns to change laws banning pets from pubs

ABC Online, Other, 17/09/2024, Kenji Sato, Craig Zonca & Loretta Ryan

Stuart Martin was running a dog-friendly pub that sold "dog beers" on tap in Brisbane until a customer dobbed him into council for breaking Australia's food safety rules. [...] In response, Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner has written to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler requesting a "timely review" of the code.

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Magellan Stem Cells welcomes \$7 million federal government grant

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 17/09/2024

Magellan Stem Cells has welcomed a \$7 million grant from the federal government's Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) to help fund a Phase 3 human trial of the company's donor stem cell treatment for osteoarthritis. In announcing the grant, Health Minister Mark Butler said, "We are living through a supercharged period of discovery in health and medical research, and the Albanese Government is proud to support Australia's world class researchers.

[Read More](#)

Tara Veldman

CEO Magazine, Other, 17/09/2024, Paul Merrill

Back for a seventh year, CEO Dare to Cure will see business leaders taking on snake baths, fire walks and two-story stunt jumps to raise money for Children's Cancer Institute. [...] During the ceremony, the construction tradition of lifting a native water gum tree onto the roof was carried out in front of the federal and New South Wales health ministers, Mark Butler and Ryan Park.

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HIV in Australia: shades of injustice remain

The Medical Republic, Other, 17/09/2024, Penny Durham

Health Minister Mark Butler painted a largely rosy picture of the progress towards elimination of HIV in Australia today, speaking on the second morning of the ASHM HIV/AIDS Conference in Sydney. A

legal academic, however, said people with HIV in Australia were still living under a pall of criminalisation, none more so than migrants.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 17/09/2024, Sharyn Ghidella

Experts are warning Australia is facing a dementia tsunami with cases expected to triple by 2050. [...] Launching a new roadmap to end dementia, the Albanese Government is also tackling surging numbers. Health Minister Mark Butler says they have added 3.9 million minutes of care per day into aged care.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 17/09/2024, Angela Cox & Mark Ferguson

Australian researchers have unveiled a first-of-its-kind roadmap to fight dementia. They believe they have identified risk factors that if avoided, could reduce the number of patients by 40 per cent. Health Minister Mark Butler says it is a terrific reminder that there's more we can do. New hope is also on the horizon with two targeted Alzheimer's therapies already approved in the US and currently being assessed by the TGA.

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Sky News Live, Newsday, 17/09/2024, Kieran Gilbert

A report into the viability of Australia's private hospitals could be handed to Health Minister Mark Butler this week, as struggling operators warn new closures are looming. Australia's second-largest private hospital group, Healthscope, has launched a campaign accusing insurers of failing to fairly fund patient care. Insurers argue if they pay out more money. Australians could face higher premiums.

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WIN Hobart, WIN News, 17/09/2024, Jared Constable

The plan to deliver a Northern Heart Centre has been discussed in the Tas Parliament after the Liberals committed \$120m for it in the lead-up to the election. Tas Premier Jeremy Rockliff says planning is underway and they naturally look forward to a Federal Government contribution but the Heart Centre will be delivered. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was contacted for comment.

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MINISTER WELLS

Fees to pay \$3.8b aged care wages

Australian Financial Review, General News, 18/09/2024, Phillip Coorey, Page 4

Yesterday, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells announced the second phase of the pay increases would cost \$3.8 billion, and be rolled out from January 1.

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

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Aged care reforms hone in on freedom for older people

Lilydale Star Mail, General News, 17/09/2024, Kat Wong & Andrew Brown, Page 9

Senior citizens will be given more support and choice to live their golden years in dignity. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the changes would lead to more services for older Australians. "Our reforms will create better and safer care, help reduce the fear of a system that has been neglected for far too long," she said.

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How new reforms aim to improve care for older Australians

In a landmark move, the Albanese Government has unveiled a comprehensive \$5.6 billion aged care reform package, marking the most significant overhaul of the sector in three decades. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells elaborated on the program's benefits: "Support at Home will help around 1.4 million older Australians do just that, with shorter wait times, more levels of support, and funding for home modifications."

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AN-ACC price rise from 1 October 2024 announced by Minister for Aged Care

The Weekly Source, Other, 17/09/2024, Caroline Egan

Minister for Aged Care and Sport, Anika Wells, has announced that from 1 October 2024, the Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) price will increase to \$280.01, a 13 per cent increase, to fund the Fair Work Commission (FWC)'s Stage 3 pay rise as well as other cost increases, including increased care minute targets to 215 minutes, coming into effect on 1 October 2024.

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Let's hope the retirement living sector sees one of its sharpest minds again

The Weekly Source, Other, 17/09/2024, Ian Horswill

Last Friday, Ryman Healthcare Australia CEO Cam Holland said goodbye to his staff in Melbourne after deciding to leave when his role was abolished by the head office in New Zealand. In three-and-a-half years, he has written two papers, [...] both been read by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care and the Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, and both point to a better future for society's most vulnerable people.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Youth health study

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 17/09/2024

Curtin University will lead a new national study, Young Minds: Our Future, to examine the mental health and wellbeing of Australian children aged four to 17, backed by an \$8.1 million investment from the Federal Government. [...] Pharmacist and Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, emphasised the importance of the study, saying "this research will help shape more tailored mental health services for young people and families to better understand the factors contributing to mental ill-health".

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(None\)](#)

[Read More](#)

ABC Great Southern, Breakfast, 17/09/2024, Paul Cook

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Rural and Regional Health, regarding Headspace's mission to provide wrap-around mental health support services for young people 12 to 25. It's funded by the Federal Government and now has 163 outlets across the country with Manjimup set to be the host of the 164th. McBride says there is increasing demand for mental health services for young people right around the country, including in WA.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Addressing healthcare barriers for multicultural communities: some practical ways forward

Croakey, Other, 17/09/2024, Melissa Sweet

The establishment of a National Multicultural Health Consumer and Carer Network is an important opportunity to address barriers to healthcare for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, according to Peter Breadon and Brittany Mitro write: Earlier this month, Ged Kearney MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, announced a new National Multicultural Health Consumer and Carer Network (Multicultural Network).

[Read More](#)

Nurses invited to consult on National Nursing Workforce Strategy

Nursing Review, Other, 17/09/2024, Stefanie Schultz

After a lengthy research and engagement process, the draft of Australia's first National Nursing Workforce Strategy is now open for public consultation. [...] Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Ged Kearney said that the Albanese government values it's nursing workforce and the passion, insight and ideas they bring to policy making.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Role of pharmacists to expand to ear infections; nausea; acid reflux; acne; muscle and joint pain

Northern Rivers Times, General News, 19/09/2024, Page 39

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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Why it's harder than ever to see a GP in NSW: New numbers show drop in visits

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/09/2024, Lachlan Leeming

New health figures show that for the first time in more than 10 years, the average number of visits to a GP is dropping – with attendances for an individual dropping to 6.5 times a year in 2022-2023, down from 7.5 attendances in 2021-2022. [...] While NSW had 9,700 GPs in 2019, that number dwindled to 9,485 in 2023, according to data collected by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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

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This is the new record-high average wait time in Wollongong Hospital ED

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 18/09/2024, Kate-Mcilwain

The average time patients spend in Wollongong Hospital emergency department has hit the five-hour mark for the first time on record, according to new data. [...] This is consistent with data from the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care which showed there were fewer GPs in NSW in 2023 than in pre-pandemic 2019 with numbers falling from 9,700 to 9,485.

Every Australian has the right to age well, no matter their background

HelloCare, Other, 17/09/2024, Alex Jacobs

We have an opportunity to make aged care in Australia better for everyone. It's no secret that Australia's aged care system has faced significant challenges in recent years. [...] This review included a recommendation to establish a dedicated Multicultural Aged Care Unit within the Department of Health and Aged Care to better develop a robust, dynamic approach to culturally sensitive aged care through engagement with multicultural communities.

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Common conditions caused by a mouldy home

Your Life Choices, Other, 18/09/2024, Gillian O'Meagher

From wheezing and shortness of breath, to inflamed lungs along with a fever and cough, for some people mould can produce serious health issues. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care cites health effects with sufficient evidence of association as: asthma (development, current, and exacerbation) allergic rhinitis dyspnoea wheeze cough respiratory infection bronchitis eczema upper respiratory tract symptoms hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP), mycoses and allergic effects in susceptible people.

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SBS, World News Australia, 17/09/2024, Janice Petersen

Dementia could soon be the leading cause of death in Australia. Researchers are suggesting a roadmap to avoid the increasing challenges of dementia. In a statement, a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said it expects a new ten-year national dementia action plan will be released by the end of 2024.

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CORONAVIRUS

Covid link to worse diabetes

Courier Mail, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 13

A new study has revealed how a Covid infection can trigger or worsen diabetes, shedding light on the damage the virus has on blood sugar regulation. Researchers from Weill Cornell Medicine used a new and advanced model to find out how the virus causing Covid, SARS-CoV-2, causes new cases of diabetes and makes existing diabetes worse.

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Covid infection can trigger diabetes

Hobart Mercury, International News, 18/09/2024, Adella Beaini, Page 15

A new study has revealed how a Covid infection can trigger or worsen diabetes, shedding light on the damage the virus has on blood sugar regulation. Researchers from Weill Cornell Medicine used a new and advanced model to find out how the virus causing Covid, SARS-CoV-2, causes new cases of diabetes and makes existing diabetes worse.

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

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Long-COVID study could unlock new vaccines, treatments

Border Mail, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 9

A Doherty Institute study has found memory "T cells" that recognise long-COVID can be established and fight subsequent infections for two years. [...] The study, which targeted the previously under researched area of long-COVID immunity, found specific T cells within the 31 people examined could maintain their key features over the two-year period.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [In Daily \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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Australian long-COVID research gives hope for new vaccines and treatments

SBS, Other, 17/09/2024

Australian-led research on cells fighting long-COVID could aid in developing new coronavirus treatments and vaccines. A Doherty Institute study found that memory T cells can recognise and fight long-COVID for up to two years.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

No retreat on IR laws: Albanese

Australian Financial Review, General News, 18/09/2024, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

Business Council of Australia president Geoff Culbert said the BCA supported good policy. He cited the government's revamp of skilled migration and last week's agreement to reform aged care funding.

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New aged care rules will leave most of us worse off

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 18/09/2024, Rachel Lane, Page 1

Following the biggest reforms in 30 years, aged care - and who pays for it - will be redefined in "once in a generation" changes to take effect next year. The fundamental difference is that the government will pay for aged care for everyone, regardless of means - but those receiving care will pay more for services defined as non-care, such as help with medications, showering, dressing, shopping and preparing meals.

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

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Nation 'losing its way'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/09/2024, Jessica Wang, Page 14

Business leaders have warned Australia is at risk of taking "noticeable" steps backwards, with chief executives issuing fears Australia's "national prosperity" is at risk due to Labor's industrial relations policies and failure to prepare for an ageing population. [...] The number of working Australians per retiree is predicted to drop from 3.8 to 2.6 over the next 40 years.

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

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Confronting Australia's silent epidemic

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 17/09/2024, Lee Carissa

There is still much mystification around identifying the early signs of dementia, knowing how to provide immediate support, and navigating care strategies that best serve people living with the disease. Yet, the aged care sector continues to make meaningful strides in offering specialised care, support, and activities designed to improve quality of life.

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Using tech to get fit

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 17/09/2024, Natasha Egan

Aged care residents at a Sydney home are boxing their way to better health with the assistance of ceiling-mounted harnesses. It's part of the award-winning rehabilitation program at Australian Nursing Home Foundation's Huang Ying Jung Nursing Home in the upper north shore suburb of Gordon.

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My Aged Care under review: Will the portal finally become user-friendly?

HelloCare, Other, 17/09/2024, Jakob Neeland

A review of the My Aged Care portal, a government website used to access Commonwealth-funded aged care services, is currently underway to assess its accessibility and effectiveness. My Aged Care, designed to be a one-stop platform for older Australians seeking aged care support, has faced criticism for being laborious and difficult to use.

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The government has a new plan for residential aged care. Here's what's changing

Nursing Review, Other, 17/09/2024, Nicole Sutton & Michael Woods

After months of negotiations between the major parties, the government has announced it will implement the Aged Care Taskforce recommendations. The government already signalled back in March that it wouldn't impose a new tax or aged care levy.

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Frailty adds pressure on health system

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 17/09/2024

New research from Flinders University revealed that frailty among older Australians is placing a significant strain on the healthcare system, driving up costs in community aged care. The study, published in Geriatrics & Gerontology International, found that frailty increases healthcare expenses due to higher service use, frequent hospitalisations, and longer recovery periods.

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Ways to reduce your dementia risk

The Senior, Other, 17/09/2024, Anthony Caggiano

Dementia's presence in Australia is profound, with an estimated 421,000 people living with the disease. That figure is estimated to almost double in the next 30 years. According to Dementia Australia, the disease is the second leading cause of death in Australia, the leading cause of death of women, the second leading cause of disease burden overall, and the leading cause of burden for people aged 65 and over.

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ABC News, ABC National News, 17/09/2024, Joe O'Brien

Addressing hearing loss and depression could be some of the easiest ways to reduce the risk of developing dementia, according to a new series of scientific papers. For the first time, researchers focused on the Western Pacific region, including Australia, China, Indonesia and Vietnam. The region is predicted to have half of the total global cases of dementia by 2050.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 17/09/2024, Peter Mitchell

The Albanese Government described recent changes to aged care as once-in-a-generation reform. But for some senior Australians, change is needed now, with waiting times for home care packages ballooning to 12 months. Industry experts say the biggest mistake made by people seeking in-home care is not allowing for the waiting time. It can be up to 12 months, often at a time of crisis.

2CC, Canberra Live, 17/09/2024, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Diane Hosking, Head of Research, National Seniors Australia, on NSA releasing research into living with dementia or caring for someone with dementia as part of Dementia Action Week. The research surveyed 1500 Australians about their personal experiences. Hosking says they found that 90 per cent of those people had experienced dementia through a partner, family member or a friend.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 17/09/2024, Sarah MacDonald

Report on a major plan that is being unveiled today to deal with alarming dementia rates, which are set to nearly triple worldwide by 2050. Research shows about 45 per cent of new dementia cases can be prevented by addressing lifestyle factors. Associate Professor Michael Woodward says there are several things people can target to reduce their risk.

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POPULATION HEALTH

How universities get away with making utterly false claims

Canberra Times, General News, 18/09/2024, Paul Mason & Peter Brukner, Page 16

Australians are frequently inundated with nutrition articles seeking to expose fad diets, such as the high-fat ketogenic diet popularised in the 1970s by the late Dr Atkins. [...] The problem is that these articles are often sensationalised and, in fact, not based on rigorous science.

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Knowledge of infection risk

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 6

Australians should be better educated about meningococcal disease to minimise infection risks in their own families. A GSK survey of 300 parents reveals that meningococcal disease is not well understood.

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Cost to economy of breathlessness

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 8

Breathlessness conservatively costs the Australian economy \$12bn every year in direct health and productivity costs. An estimated 10 per cent of adult Australians report clinical breathlessness, research from the George Institute for Global Health, Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, The University of Sydney and Macquarie University shows.

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Is 'fat but fit' better than 'slim but lazy'?

The Australian, Other, 17/09/2024, Peta Bee

If you hit the gym, tot up 10,000 daily steps or complete a weekly Parkrun, does it matter if you're overweight? The "fat but fit" phenomenon sits uneasily with some scientists, yet evidence is mounting that exercise does more than burn calories, and suggests active people can lay claim to being healthy despite their obesity.

[Read More](#)

Wearing an eye mask is helping me sleep better – and shed those hard-to-shift last extra pounds

West Australian, Other, 17/09/2024, Rob Galloway

Researchers from Flinders University in Australia reported that night-time light exposure disrupted

people's body clocks, which had a knock-on effect on their metabolism and raised their risk of weight gain and diabetes. This was based on analysis of figures from the UK Biobank, an amazing research database containing information from more than half a million people.

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

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With dementia cases set to triple by 2050 in our region, there are 14 risk factors to watch for

ABC Online, Other, 17/09/2024, Catherine Taylor

Professor Matthew Kiernan, a neurologist and expert in neurodegenerative diseases, is an unlikely hit at dinner parties. [...] But Kiernan believes medical science is on the cusp of an important shift that could see dementia cases fall as treatments improve and risk factors are better understood.

[Read More](#)

Former Gold Coast mayoral candidate Virginia Freebody homeless as rent continues to soar

ABC Online, Other, 17/09/2024, Tom Forbes, Madeleine Cross, Julia Andre & Emma Hannigan

Struggling to find a rental property and living in crisis accommodation, former Gold Coast mayoral candidate Virginia Freebody is not living the life she thought she would be at the age of 62. [...] The latest data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed around 27,300 older clients received support from specialist homelessness services in 2022-23.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Fat chance of cancer

Herald Sun, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 17

Cancer survivors with obesity have an increased risk of developing a second cancer, according to US researchers. American Cancer Society researchers looked at data from almost 27,000 older survivors of non-metastatic cancer.

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Cancer link to obesity

Courier Mail, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 17

Cancer survivors with obesity have an increased risk of developing a second cancer, according to US researchers. American Cancer Society researchers looked at data from almost 27,000 older survivors of non-metastatic cancer - 42.8 per cent were overweight and 17.2 per cent had obesity at the time of their first primary cancer diagnosis.

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

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New research finds alternative pathway to treat tough cancers including melanoma, pancreatic and brain cancer

West Australian, Other, 17/09/2024, Hannah Cross

Lowering the dose of anti-cancer drugs well below the standard treatment threshold has shown promise in improving tumours' response to immunotherapy, new research has found. The groundbreaking research out of the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research discovered that anti-cancer drugs given at a hundred-fold lower dose could actually stabilise the microenvironment around a tumour, in turn helping immunotherapy to be more effective.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Wait time rising as hospitals struggle

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 18/09/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 1

Critically ill and injured patients in Sydney's inner west, northern beaches and Hawkesbury regions are waiting longer for ambulances than this time last year as NSW emergency departments grapple with increasingly sick patients. There were 385,345 ambulance responses in NSW between April and June, the most of any quarter since 2010, data released by the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) revealed today.

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Runaway NDIS costs had to end

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 18/09/2024, Ross Gittins, Page 20

The NDIS scheme has improved many lives, but privatisation and shameless rent-seeking have undermined its sustainability. With the coming departure from politics of Bill Shorten, it's time to talk about his former bouncing baby, and now obese adult, the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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

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Burnside sees double

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 4

Burnside Hospital has lodged huge expansion plans which will see a major new three-storey building with operating theatres, cancer treatment centre and a fertility clinic built across the side road. The new building fronting Kensington Rd would be joined to the existing hospital by an airbridge over Moore St, Toorak Gardens.

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

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Docs' election wishlist

Courier Mail, General News, 18/09/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 13

The Australian Medical Association Queensland's election priorities document, given to The Courier-Mail, reveals that offices, workstations, vital IT systems and adjunct transport infrastructure are often insufficient. New hospital builds and expansions delivered in the next four years by government must be designed with patient care as a priority, the AMAQ reports. The doctors also call for sufficient high-quality, safe and affordable staff accommodation.

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

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Junior doctors win landmark \$31m case

Canberra Times, General News, 18/09/2024, Lanie Tindale, Page 1

Junior doctors have settled with Canberra Health Services and Calvary Health Care ACT after suing for unpaid and unrostered overtime. It is the most significant underpayment settlement of its kind in the ACT's legal history, Hayden Stephens, of Hayden Stephens and Associates, said.

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Teen pilot's sky-high ambition to help others

Cairns Post, General News, 18/09/2024, Dylan Nicholson, Page 3

A young pilot flying around Australia has been delayed by the Far North's tropical weather, but a bit of rain won't dampen his spirit as he continues his epic 10,000km journey raising money for charity and

awareness of Crohn's disease. [...] Byron Waller was diagnosed with Crohn's disease in February of this year and is now using his new passion to take to the skies to support Queensland Children's Hospital Foundation and increase awareness and funding for Crohn's disease research.

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

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Hospitals face 'unprecedented pressure'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/09/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

More than 10,000 triple-zero calls were made for an ambulance in Newcastle in each of the last three quarters, the highest results on record. The data showed the calls numbered 10,377 (April to June), 10,550 (January to March) and 10,332 (October to December 2023).

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

VAD responsibilities

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 14

In May of this year, a lady in Bundaberg, who was terminally ill, was approved of the necessary Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) drug to end her life. She was given the drugs to store in her house, to be taken when she was ready to use them. Before this happened, she was taken to hospital and died with the support of a VAD doctor.

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

Family's plea after man died waiting for ambulance

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/09/2024

Heartbroken friends and family of a man who died after waiting four hours for an ambulance to arrive say they have been "failed by the system". Phillip Burne, 69, died alone on the floor of his Surrey Hills home after suffering a fall.

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

[Read More](#)

More than 500 elective surgeries cancelled by WACHS hospitals each month since March

West Australian, Other, 17/09/2024, Oliver Lane

More than 500 elective surgeries per month were cancelled by WA Country Health Service hospitals between March and July, according to figures provided in Parliament. At least 460 elective surgeries were cancelled by the hospital in each of the months, with May the worst with 558.

[Read More](#)

Labor promises money for bulk-billing general practices to set up in ACT

Canberra Times, Other, 17/09/2024, Lucy Bladen

A re-elected Labor government would give money to encourage bulk-billing general practices to open in the ACT as part of a \$11 million fund. The fund would also provide money to existing bulk-billing general practices to expand and for general practices that commit to bulk billing children.

[Read More](#)

Eastern suburbs hospital plans \$65 million expansion

In Daily, Other, 17/09/2024, David Simmons

Burnside Hospital this week lodged a development application with Burnside Council for a \$65 million expansion of its Kensington Road site. To be located next to the existing hospital and linked by a footbridge, the three-storey Health Precinct if approved will increase the centre's chemotherapy treatment services by 33 per cent.

[Read More](#)

You might be surprised at the Illawarra ED with the fastest treatment time

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 18/09/2024, Kate-Mcilwain

It's a common refrain in the Facebook comments when someone mentions ever-increasing wait times in Wollongong Hospital Emergency Department "Better off driving up the road to Sutherland," they say, or - "I avoid Wollongong at all costs and go to Sydney." New data showing the median time patients spend in the Illawarra's largest hospital ED has hit the five hour mark for the first time on record is unlikely to help change this perception.

[Read More](#)

'Bait and switch': sneaky state tax on GPs to cause patient fees to rise

Newcastle Herald, Other, 17/09/2024, Damon Cronshaw

Patient fees for a standard consultation in Newcastle are set to rise by \$10 to \$15 this month due to the NSW government hitting contracted GPs with payroll tax. Doctors are angry that the Minns government promoted the tax as a "bulk-billing initiative".

[Read More](#)

Spike in ambulance demand as ED admissions also rise

Newcastle Herald, Other, 18/09/2024, Alex Mitchell

Emergency departments and ambulance services remain under the pump in NSW, with demand for both continuing to outpace the state's population growth. Ambulance personnel attended nearly 285,000 incidents between April and June, a figure the Bureau of Health Information said was the highest experienced since it began reporting the data in 2010.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Study flags safety concerns with patients stopping beta blockers post-MI

Australian Doctor, Other, 17/09/2024, Rada Rouse

Stopping beta blockers is linked to more hospitalisations among patients with prior MI and preserved left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF), researchers say. [...] GP academic Professor Mark Nelson, from the University of Tasmania, said the main takeaway for GPs was that discontinuing beta blockers could be safe for patients with uncomplicated MI, based on the similar rates of death, MI and stroke in the trial.

[Read More](#)

Docs ask for expanded dispensing powers

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 17/09/2024, Megan Haggan

President of the Australian Medical Association Queensland and former pharmacist Dr Nick Yim, and AMAQ CEO Dr Brett Dale, have written to Queensland's chief medical officer about the extent of medicines provision via doctor's bags.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 17/09/2024, Adam Steer

Interview with Professor Nitin Kapur, Head, Royal Australasian College of Physicians' Paediatric Division, regarding Productivity Commissioners Natalie Siegel-Brown and Selwyn Button suggesting that locking up more children increases youth crime. The RACP has written to the Northern Territory Government, calling on NT Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro to be a champion of child health throughout the territory, and expressed grave concern over the proposal to reduce the criminal age of responsibility. Kapur says they are appalled by the NT Government's plans to lower the age of criminal responsibility.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 17/09/2024, Leon Delaney

ACT Labor says its new primary care plan will help take the pressure off families who need to access healthcare for their children. The \$11m plan will seek to encourage more general practices to bulk bill patients and will assist GPs who commit to bulk billing.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 17/09/2024, Adam Shirley

ACT Labor is promising an \$11m fund to encourage more doctors to bulk bill and an exclusion of payroll tax for GPs on income earned through bulk billing, as well as a \$4m professional development and wellbeing fund for doctors. The Canberra Liberals have also promised a dedicated unit at the Canberra Hospital for endometriosis and pelvic pain, which it says is needed to cut waiting times.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 17/09/2024, Adam Shirley

Interview with Rachel Stephen-Smith, ACT Health Minister, on the Labor Party that has announced a fair chunk of its primary health care plan for people to hopefully provide them better care if they are re-elected. Stephen-Smith the real root cause of a lot of the challenges they face is that the Medicare rebate was frozen for ten years under the previous Coalition Government, and it has made it really, hard to run a general practice and hard to bulk bill. She adds they will provide an \$11m fund to encourage bulk billing in the ACT and expand the availability of bulk billing and multidisciplinary care.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 17/09/2024, Nadia Mitsopoulos

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners wants to see more details of plans to streamline the registration process for overseas doctors. A review has recommended fast-tracking registration pathways amid a nationwide shortage of doctors.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 17/09/2024, Sally Sara & Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, on addressing Australia's doctor and GP shortages. There are concerns a new streamlined registration process for international doctors could result in underqualified or even unqualified doctors working in overwhelming and unsupported environments. Higgins says they support making things easier and cutting red tape for doctors who want to come and work in Australia.

Interview continues on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide puts spotlight on school

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 18/09/2024, Jordan Baker, Page 1

Experts say suicide is complex and is rarely attributable to a single factor. They say the most common risk factors for youth suicide are a mental health condition or a physical disability, but bullying, family problems and grief are also risk factors.

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

If struggling veterans need one thing, it's trust

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 18/09/2024, Alex Lim, Page 20

Last week, the royal commission handed down 122 recommendations to address the shocking rates of suicide among Australian Defence Force members. While some of the recommendations are new, many of the issues raised have been with us for decades. Over the past 20 to 30 years, there have

been more than 57 inquiries and 770 recommendations for change. Each report paints a picture of a system that is failing to care for our veterans, and the consequences are dire.

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

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Help at last for knife accused

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2024, Sean Fewster, Page 12

The case against a woman accused of repeatedly threatening Glenelg real estate staff with a knife - after her family's pleas to help her were ignored - has been moved to a specialist mental health court. Yesterday, Lisa Jane Bowes attended the Adelaide Magistrates Court for the first time since her release on bail in May.

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

Instagram kids move

West Australian, Edition Changes, 18/09/2024, Caleb Runciman, Page 1

Meta has announced tough new restrictions for teenage Instagram users. Children will automatically be moved on to a more tame version of the popular app, which Meta hopes will improve online safety.

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

Waiting game after inquiry findings

Ballarat Courier, General News, 18/09/2024, Melanie Whelan, Page 2

Recommendations from the commission flag the need for a new body, under the Department of Veterans' Affairs, to help servicemen and women in the transition to civilian life. Existing processes effectively leave veterans in limbo from the time they discharge until their DVA applications are approved.

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Disturbed sleep risk for young children

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 8

Kids with disturbed sleep at 10 years old may be at an increased risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviours in the next two years, according to US research. The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus study of about 10,000 kids found that those with the most disturbed sleep at age 10 had the highest rates of suicidal thoughts and behaviours by age 12.

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

Instagram limits Aussie teen access amid social media outcry

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/09/2024, Justin Vallejo

The move by Instagram's parent company Meta to automatically opt-in more than 100 million accounts to strict parental controls comes after years of public scrutiny, pressure from mental health and child protection experts, and News Corp's Let Them Be Kids campaign. The new restrictions will apply to all new "teen accounts" for users 18 and under, but teens younger than 16 require parental permission to remove the most restrictive settings.

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

[Read More](#)

More than 40 per cent of 16-24-year-olds say seeing others social media posts trigger feelings of isolation

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/09/2024, Sarah Booth

More than half of young Australians support banning people under 16 from social media, as new data reveals it is the biggest contributor to loneliness among youth. A new survey has found 58 per cent of 16 to 24-year-olds, and 70 per cent of 25-34-year-olds support raising the minimum social media age to 16.

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

Calls for government departments to work with families after suicide linked to public housing rejection

ABC Online, Other, 17/09/2024, Keane Bourke

In mid-August 2023, Jordie told a doctor he'd started having suicidal thoughts and was referred to Alma Street Psychiatric Clinic in Fremantle. "Jordie reported that his mood had deteriorated significantly recently as he had been evicted from his Homeswest accommodation where he has lived for > 20 years," his GP wrote.

[Read More](#)

Family of girl, 12, who killed herself due to bullying call for justice

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/09/2024

The family of a 12-year-old girl who committed suicide after being bullied at a school in Sydney, Australia, have spoken out. Charlotte, a seventh-grade student at Santa Sabina College, took her own life earlier this month.

[Read More](#)

Closing the gap in mental health

Shepparton News Online, Other, 17/09/2024

After collating feedback from the local community, the Yarrawonga Health Community Advisory Committee is now implementing measures to close the gap in mental health services. The advisory committee encompasses a group of community members that bring the local cross-border voices of the community to Yarrawonga Health executive and board.

[Read More](#)

Four men and a wheelbarrow aim to take mental illness out of shadows

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 17/09/2024, Monique Patterson

A group of Warrnambool mates will walk 27 kilometres to help bring the issue of mental illness out of the shadows. Scott Sudale, Stewart Haebich and Rohan Watson will be joined by Mr Watson's son Lennox.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Free vax to protect babies from RSV

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 14

Ellen Rawlings is thrilled a new vaccine program will protect newborns from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) - she is pregnant and has just suffered through a bout of the disease, as has her 15-month-old son Oliver. "Ollie was sick for 24 hours with a bad cough, fever, fatigue, irritability fortunately he bounced back," she said.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Budget no help to health system's woes

Burnie Advocate, General News, 18/09/2024, Emily Shepherd, Page 12

The state budget will not address the chronic understaffing and access and flow demands that continue to plague the Tasmanian health system. To be blunt, the Australian Nurses & Midwifery Federation (ANMF) Tasmania predicted this budget. Funding allocations have been directed to fulfil state budget commitments. Recruitment incentive commitments have been retained along with graduate nursing position incentives.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Archie's early arrival a miracle tale of survival

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2024, Lucy Crock, Page 3

A Bannockburn mum was preparing for the worst when she found a "trail of blood" eight weeks before her baby's due date. Alannah Lees was at home on July 4, 32 weeks into her relatively complication-free pregnancy, when her two year-old son woke up and needed resettling.

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

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Wahley born on highway, airlifted to Townsville University Hospital, ready for home

The Courier Mail, Other, 17/09/2024, Daniel Shirkie

A battling bub born on the side of a highway 16 weeks before he was due has punched well above his birth-weight, tripling in size since the arduous Mother's Day miracle that brought him into the world.

Mum Tamara Punch had been expecting an uneventful pregnancy with bub Wahley Punch-Bolte, but got the shock of her life when her pregnancy began in the hours before Mother's Day.

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

[Read More](#)

Stillbirth program gives hope to grieving mums after stillbirths

The Courier Mail, Other, 17/09/2024, Judith Kerr

Lilly Castor, 32, from Orange in the Central Tablelands region of New South Wales, said the University of Queensland program, Living with Loss, gave distraught mums simple coping strategies. Based at Brisbane's Mater Hospital, the University of Queensland helps mums whose babies have died to deal with difficult thought patterns and provides tips on facing challenging situations such as returning to work, birthdays, or anniversaries.

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

[Read More](#)

Shock, horror, our fertility is declining. Really? It's actually a good thing

Canberra Times, Other, 17/09/2024, Crispin Hull

Last week, the Fertility Society of Australia and New Zealand rang the alarm bells at its annual conference in Perth. "There is a drop in the Australian fertility rate. It is now 1.6. In order to just maintain the general population level in Australia, the fertility rate should sit around 2," the president of the society, Professor Luk Rombauts, said.

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

[Read More](#)

'Game changer': Pregnant women, infants to get free access to RSV vaccine in South Australia

9News, Other, 17/09/2024

Pregnant women and infants in South Australia will soon be able to get vaccinated for free against the potentially dangerous illness RSV. It's a move aimed at keeping babies out of hospital after a horror season this year. The state's initiative includes two free RSV immunisation programs.

[Read More](#)

Peak bodies clash over proposal for nurse-led weight management in schools

Nursing Review, Other, 17/09/2024, Stefanie Schultz

National peak body for nurses, the Australian College of Nursing (ACN), has released a position

statement proposing that all school-aged children in Australia have access to a registered nurse that is suitably qualified to provide guidance on maintaining a healthy weight. However, many eating disorder experts have expressed concerns that subjecting children to in-school weight management will cause more harm than good.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

AFL increases soft salary caps after COVID cuts

Australian Financial Review, General News, 18/09/2024, Anna Harrington, Page 8

The AFL soft cap will increase by \$700,000 by the 2027 season while the AFLW equivalent will lift by \$300,000 amid a raft of changes to the policy. [...] The league's healthcare model has been adjusted to expand expenditure capacity for key resources including doctors, psychologists, allied health professionals and an Indigenous player development manager.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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Clubs mixed on soft cap increase

Age, Sport, 18/09/2024, Michael Gleeson & Andrew Stafford, Page 36

Clubs have had mixed reactions to the increase in the AFL's soft cap limiting spending on coaches, with several initially underwhelmed by changes. [...] The AFL has significantly altered what is included and exempted from the soft cap on spending in the past five years. For instance, 20 per cent of a senior coach's salary is now outside the cap and a range of mental health, welfare, allied health, professional development and Indigenous support payments are also not included.

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Join new committee to shape Euroa Hospital's future with GV Health

Shepparton News, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 6

Goulburn Valley Health is seeking expressions of interest from community members to join its Euroa Hospital Community Reference Committee. This committee is intended to serve as a crucial bridge between GV Health and Euroa residents, ensuring that the community's voices and needs are at the heart of healthcare service improvements.

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

AFL to raise salary caps for AFLM and AFLW clubs, increase deductions for development, interstate travel and expand healthcare model

ABC Online, Other, 17/09/2024

The AFL 'soft' salary cap will increase by \$700,000 by the 2027 season, while the AFLW equivalent will lift by \$300,000 amid a raft of changes to the policy. [...] The league's healthcare model has been adjusted to expand expenditure capacity for key resources, including doctors, psychologists, allied health professionals and an Indigenous player development manager.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Call for a PBS fast track

Daily Telegraph, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 4

Two-thirds of Aussies believe we are lagging on making new medicines available and affordable, amid

revelations patients are waiting 466 days on average for drugs to be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Peak body Medicines Australia is today launching a campaign calling for new drugs that are approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to be made available to Australians on the PBS within 60 days.

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

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'People are dying': Calls for change as Aussies wait 466 days for drugs to be added to PBS

9News, Other, 18/09/2024, Emily McPherson

Jenny Abraham's world shrank during the pandemic, but it wasn't just because of the rolling lockdowns. The Sydney woman had been living with pericarditis, an inflammatory condition affecting tissue around the heart, for around six years. [...] However, the drug is not listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for pericarditis and costs \$1200 a month.

[Read More](#)

Call on Patient Safety Day to cut misuse

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 17/09/2024

On world Patient Safety Day today, people are urged to take three steps to reduce their risk of medicine misadventure. Each year, 250,000 Aussies are hospitalised, and 400,000 visit emergency departments due to medicine-related issues, costing the economy \$1.4 billion annually, with at least half of these cases being preventable.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Liberals promise dedicated endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic

Canberra Times, Other, 17/09/2024, Lucy Bladen

The Canberra Liberals have promised to establish a dedicated endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic at the Canberra Hospital. The party has also committed to establishing a domestic and family violence fast response unit, which would include police, medical personnel and social workers, to respond to incidents in the ACT.

[Read More](#)

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SPORT

Cricket's \$4m sex abuse case goes to mediator

A \$4m law suit against Cricket Australia over the alleged sexual abuse of a gifted teenage batting star is set for mediation. Legal representatives for former Australian under-19 captain and batsman Dean Reynolds are scheduled to meet CA lawyers before a mediator on November 14 following Reynolds' claims that he was sexually molested by a coach on a tour of India in 1985.

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

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Logan stadium will cost \$142m

Courier Mail, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 3

A new stadium to be built in Logan ahead of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games will cost \$142m, with construction expected to be completed by 2028. The Logan Indoor Sports Centre will be located at the corner of Jacaranda Ave and Democracy Way, about 25km south of Brisbane CBD and about 1km from the Rankin electorate office of federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers.

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Bid for Paralympic funding

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 18/09/2024, Andrew Potts, Page 7

Mayor Tom Tate wants to see a massive influx of funding for Paralympic sports in a bid to push Australia to the top of the medal tally when the 2028 and 2032 Games come around. Mr Tate, who this week returned from the Paris Games, says he's been inspired by the Paralympics and wants to both boost the nation's success in the area, as well as increase accessibility for tourists.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Private equity eyes Ramsay

The Australian, Business News, 18/09/2024, Bridget Carter, Page 14

There's an increasing amount of talk again about a deal involving Ramsay Health Care, with chatter that a private equity firm is pulling together a management team to run the business. In recent days, fingers have been pointing to Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, with a view that it is again running the ruler over its former takeover target.

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

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There is a much better way to fund universities' R&D

Australian Financial Review, General News, 18/09/2024, Richard Holden, Page 39

Some changes to Australia's sovereign research spend cannot wait for the planned multi-year root-and-branch review of the system.

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

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Palliative Care funding doubt

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/09/2024, Rob Inglis, Page 7

Health Minister Guy Barnett has been unable to confirm whether Palliative Care Tasmania will receive a funding extension beyond the end of this financial year. It comes after the peak body's CEO, Veney Hiller, expressed disappointment last week that the budget had not provided adequate support for the sector.

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Backstepping youth crime

Northern Territory News, General News, 18/09/2024, Fia Walsh, Page 8

The Productivity Commission has accused the Northern Territory government of going backwards with policies that will lead to more youth crime and higher Indigenous incarceration rates. Writing in The Australian on Monday, commissioners Natalie Siegel-Brown and Selwyn Button said plans to lower the age of criminal responsibility were "actively putting the truck in reverse".

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

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

Federal government initiative Outback Stores moves to boost food security in remote community

National Indigenous Times, Other, 18/09/2024, Giovanni Torre

Residents of the Bulla, around 60 kilometres west of Timber Creek in the NT, will have improved access to affordable food and other essentials. [...] Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour, said it is sadly too often the case that Aboriginal families and children in remote communities go without a nutritious meal due to a lack of access to healthy and affordable food.

[Read More](#)

Indigenous-designed scrubs added to Tasmanian health department's uniform range

National Indigenous Times, Other, 17/09/2024, Phoebe Blogg

Tasmania's Department of Health has unveiled a range of new nursing and hospital uniforms designed by Tasmanian Aboriginal artist and proud Palawa woman, Takira Simon-Brown. Featuring a culturally unique design reflective of deep meaning and messaging, Simon-Brown said the new uniform design is symbolic to not only her, but the broader First Nations community.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Superbugs predicted to kill millions

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 18/09/2024, Angus Dalton, Page 11

Almost 40 million people will die directly because of drug-resistant infections by 2050, a huge global analysis has found, as scientists warn of a return to the "dark ages" of medicine where minor infections kill, and routine surgery turns deadly, due to a lack of effective antibiotics. Drug-resistant bugs will also be indirectly implicated in the deaths of a further 169 million people, the study predicted.

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

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Family taking no chances

Daily Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2024, Jeremy Eager, Page 1

Wagga's skyrocketing whooping cough cases has prompted one family to resort to homeschooling two of their daughters. The Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) has recorded 380 cases so far this year, with 109 of those identified since the start of September - more than the previous three years combined.

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

A public health issue

Border Watch, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 9

Updates to the Dementia in Australia report, recently released by the Australian Institute of Health and

Welfare (AIHW), reinforce that dementia is an urgent public health issue. Dementia is the second leading cause of death in Australia, the leading cause of death of women, the second leading cause of disease burden overall, and the leading cause of burden for people aged 65 and over.

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Bacteria risk to millions

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 4

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) related deaths could top 39 million between now and 2050, researchers say. Scientists, including CSIRO researchers, found more than one million people died from AMR globally each year between 1990 and 2021, and their future forecasts show these numbers will rise steadily in the coming decades - by almost 70 per cent in 2050 compared with 2022.

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

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

'Return to the dark ages': Chilling warning as microbes grow more resistant to medicine

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/09/2024, Samuel Clench

A disturbing worldwide scientific analysis has concluded that tens of millions of people will die by 2050 as diseases grow ever more resistant to our existing drugs. The study, conducted by the Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance Project and published by the medical journal The Lancet, highlights the problem implied in its author's title: diseases are evolving to make the drugs we normally use to combat them less effective.

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

[Read More](#)

It's estimated 39 million people will die from antibiotic resistant infections between 2025 and 2050

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/09/2024, Sarah Booth

Superbugs are set to kill more than 39 million people in the next 25 years, as experts warn the growing and "significant global threat" has already killed a million people every year since 1990. Shocking new projections published in one of the world's most prestigious medical journals, The Lancet, estimate 39 million people will die from antibiotic resistant infections between 2025 and 2050.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#),

[Read More](#)

Superbugs 'could kill 39m people by 2050' amid rising drug resistance

The Guardian, Other, 17/09/2024, Kat Lay

Superbugs will kill more than 39 million people before 2050 with older people particularly at risk, according to a new global analysis. While deaths linked to drug resistance are declining among very young children, driven by improvements in vaccination and hygiene, the study found the opposite trend for their grandparents.

[Read More](#)

Drug-resistant infections are on the rise – so why aren't we getting any new antibiotics?

The Guardian, Other, 17/09/2024, Kat Lay

Global leaders will gather in New York this month to discuss antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at the UN general assembly. They will consider how to convince researchers and companies it is worth their while to create new replacement drugs, and how to improve access to tests and treatments.

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Antibiotic-resistance deaths to surge from 2025-2050, study says

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/09/2024, Nancy Lapid

Bacterial illnesses that are resistant to available antibiotic medicines will cause more than 39 million deaths worldwide over the next 25 years and indirectly contribute to an additional 169 million deaths, according to a forecast published on Monday. By 2050, annual death tolls attributed directly to antibiotic resistance, or associated with it, will reach 1.91 million and 8.22 million, respectively, if remediation measures are not in place, an international team of researchers reported in The Lancet.

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Channel 9, Today , 17/09/2024, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo

Independent water testing has found record levels of potentially cancer causing forever chemicals in NSW waterways. PFAS chemicals flowing into the Blue Mountains' Medlow Dam have been detected at levels more than 50 times higher than Australian drinking water standards, higher than authorities previously admitted.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Driving ban rule change urged for medicinal cannabis users

In Daily, Other, 17/09/2024, David Simmons

A state parliamentary committee has recommended changing laws to allow medicinal cannabis patients to legally drive on South Australian roads. Joint Committee members Ben Hood, Tammy Franks and Justin Hanson attend the IvyMed Clinic opening in Norwood.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Dual food safety recalls

Courier Mail, General News, 18/09/2024, Page 17

A popular pork bun product has been recalled after the discovery of undeclared allergens, including gluten, egg and milk. The recall notice was issued for Vic's BBQ kurobuta pork buns 480g.

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

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ALDI recalls popular kids snack over allergen concerns

The Australian, Other, 17/09/2024, Clareese Packer

The Farmwood Chicken Breast T-Rex Bites (1kg) has been recalled from ALDI supermarkets due to an undeclared allergen. Products with the best before date of 27/10/2025 contain the allergen peanuts. "Any consumers who have a peanut allergy or intolerance may have a reaction if the product is consumed," the alert from Food Standards Australia states.

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

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Food Safety Australia and New Zealand recalls BBQ kurobuta pork buns 480g product

The Australian, Other, 17/09/2024, Aisling Brennan

A popular pork bun product has been recalled after the discovery of undeclared allergens, including gluten, egg and milk. Food Safety Australia and New Zealand issued the recall notice for the Vic's BBQ kurobuta pork buns 480g product after the presence of undeclared allergens were detected.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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The man who saved bananas from certain death - and next, 750,000 children

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 17/09/2024, Angus Dalton

In February this year, the government approved the commercial release of the QCAV-4 banana after rigorous regulatory checks and, last week, QUT announced the fruit had passed its most important milestone: the taste test. [...] Allergens and vitamin A Hundreds of pages of regulatory data submitted to Food Standards Australia New Zealand and the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator – and an enormous amount of work – got QCAV-4 over the line.

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Supermarket chain updates recall notice for popular chicken nuggets

9News, Other, 17/09/2024, Emily Bennett

Supermarket chain Aldi has updated its recall notice for a popular brand of children's chicken nuggets. Farmwood's 1kg variety of Chicken Breast T-Rex Bites was pulled off the shelves in July due to the presence of undeclared peanuts Food Standards Australia New Zealand said in a statement today the product recall is now limited to the best before date 27/10/2025.

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Pork bun from popular meat shop recalled over allergy fears

9News, Other, 17/09/2024, Mikala Theocharous

Vic's BBQ ?Kurobuta Pork Buns 480g has been recalled by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand due to undeclared allergens. Any customers with a gluten, egg and milk allergy or intolerance may have an allergic reaction if they eat the product.

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Vic's Meat BBQ Kurobuta Pork Buns 480g pulled from shelves, online 'due to the presence of undeclared allergens'

Sky News Australia, Other, 17/09/2024, Isabella Rayner

A highly sought-after pork bun pack has been recalled after undeclared allergens were found in the product. Food Safety Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) said Birchan Pty Ltd T/A Vic's Meat, which sells the products at Vic's Meat stores, had recalled its BBQ Kurobuta Pork Buns 480g product on Tuesday.

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AICIS

Dam closures on cards after test results

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 18/09/2024, Ben Cubby & Carrie Fellner, Page 5

Authorities are considering a long-term shutdown of Medlow Dam in the Blue Mountains, as independent tests show high levels of cancer-linked PFAS chemicals are embedded in the sediment in

nearby waterways. WaterNSW said it may upgrade drinking water filtration infrastructure, or try and isolate the source of contamination away from the dam network.

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

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'Still safe': PFAS detected in Blue Mountains water

West Australian, Other, 17/09/2024, Neve Brissenden

Authorities say water in the Blue Mountains remains safe after independent testing allegedly found synthetic PFAS chemicals 50 times higher than Australian drinking water standards. Independent tests commissioned by the Sydney Morning Herald reported on Tuesday found the highest ever recorded levels of the cancer-causing "forever chemicals" in Adams Creek, feeding into Medlow Dam, and Greaves Creek - beneath the dam.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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