



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 24th September 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 4\)](#)** reports that the upcoming Health of the Nation report has found that 31 per cent of GPs avoid using the My Health Record system, prompting calls from the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) for the Federal government to improve its usability.
- **[The Illawarra Mercury \(page 7\)](#)** reports that Australia's free shingles vaccine program will now be made available to anyone over 18 who is immunocompromised, with Health Minister Mark Butler saying that the federal government would spend more than \$57 million in expanding the vaccine program.
- **[The New Daily](#)** reports that Federal National Leader David Littleproud has floated the possibility of a Coalition government reducing the tax on beer in order to alleviate cost of living pressures, with Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler rejecting the idea and saying that government would instead prioritise other cost-cutting measures.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 8\)](#)** reports that a Monash University research project has found that older cancer survivors face a higher risk of stroke, heart attack and hospital treatment for heart failure, especially if they had chemotherapy.
- **[The Canberra Time \(page 4\)](#)** reports that the Canberra Liberals has promised to pay up to \$100,000 towards the HECS debt of 30 medical students if they commit to being a general

practitioner in the ACT for five years, as well as establishing new walk-in centres where general practitioners will work alongside nurses.

- **The Herald Sun (page 1)** reports Victorian paramedics have signed a new wage deal that will make them among the best paid in the nation, with some receiving about 20% higher wages, and MICA paramedics receiving a \$12,500 uplift
- **The Canberra Times** reports that thousands of union members will walk off the job at NSW public hospitals in day-long industrial action due to a pay dispute between NSW nurses and the state government, affecting elective surgery and causing delays for some patients.
- **The Courier Mail (page 11)** reports that the identity of a trainee orthopaedic surgeon at a top Queensland public hospital who was found guilty of misconduct and fined \$5000 after sending texts ridiculing seriously injured patients by sending photos and videos of their gruesome and life-altering injuries has been suppressed by a tribunal.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### My Health Record needs funding boost, GPs warn

The Australian, General News, 24/09/2024, James Dowling, Page 4

The leading representative for Australian GPs has called for the Albanese government to further fund its long-troubled health record system, fearing a recent drive in reform could be stalled by "political whim". The Royal Australian College of GPs has urged the federal government to improve the usability of the My Health Record system for both patients and clinicians after its upcoming Health of the Nation report found 31 per cent of GPs avoided using it. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said: "My Health Record is now old technology.

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### Secrets kept from those inside the nerve centre fighting COVID

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/09/2024, Mary Ward and Kate Aubusson, Page 8

In the middle of Sydney's Delta lockdown, a St Vincent's Hospital doctor, professor Steven Faux, was pulling up in a van to an innercity block of flats where his team believed a number of people with disabilities lived. They did not have a list of names, nor did they know how many people they would find there; all they knew was that these people had not yet received a COVID-19 vaccine. [...] " In response to questions following the panel, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the interim CDC was already strengthening Australia's pandemic preparedness, particularly in relation to surveillance and use of data.

Also reported by: [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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### Vulnerable to receive free shingles vaccine

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 24/09/2024, Page 7

Immunocompromised Australians will have free access to the shingles vaccine in an expansion of the immunisation program. The free vaccine program will now be made available to anyone over 18 who is immunocompromised due to health conditions or a side effect of treatment. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the federal government would spend more than \$57 million in expanding the vaccine program.

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### Many vape outlets breaking law: Butler

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 23/09/2024, Page 8

A more "assertive" approach is needed to crack down on stores illegally selling vapes, the federal Health Minister says, with many outlets still breaking the law. Laws that kicked in from July saw vapes only allowed to be sold in pharmacies, with bans also applying to the product being imported into Australia. Health Minister Mark Butler said almost three months from the ban being implemented, some stores were continuing to sell the product.

## Jodie Oddy can't catch a break: 'Worse than childbirth'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/09/2024, Anna Vlach

Nova919 breakfast host Jodie Oddy's Bali bliss became a holiday from hell. Find out what happened. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said since November 2023, more than 1.3 million Aussies have received a free shingles vaccine after the Albanese Government commenced the new shingles program.

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

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## More Australians now eligible for free shingles vaccine as government expands program

Adelaide Now, Other, 23/09/2024, Adella Beaini

More Australians will now be able to access a lifesaving vaccination, saving them hundreds of dollars. See if you are eligible. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said since November 2023, more than 1.3 million Aussies have received a free shingles vaccine after the Albanese Government commenced the new shingles program.

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

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## Huge relief for Aussies when buying a beer at the pub - what you need to know

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/09/2024, Freddy Pawle and Cameron Carpenter

Brewers of beers and spirits have been outspoken on the tax - indexed for every six months - forcing them to pass the extra cost onto Aussie drinkers. It was last increased by two per cent in August, leading to a tax of 43.22 per cent of alcohol in a keg for popular beers such as VB or Carlton Dry. [...] Labor's Health and Aged Care Minister, Mark Butler, however indicated the government would instead prioritise other cost-cutting measures.

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## Liberals cool on Littleproud's cheaper beer push

The New Daily, Other, 23/09/2024, David Littleproud

Senior Liberals have poured cold water on Nationals leader David Littleproud's suggestion that taxes on beer could be frozen under a Coalition government. [...] The government was also cool on freezing beer excise. Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler told the Nine Network that it wasn't a focus.

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## Aussie pub owners and customers to score price relief under new push

Yahoo! Finance Australia, Other, 23/09/2024, Stewart Perrie

Nationals leader David Littleproud has signalled the Coalition would freeze the tax on beer. Brewers and beer drinkers across Australia could soon score a major win if the Coalition wins the next election. [...] Labor has ruled out providing similar relief, with Health Minister Mark Butler saying the government's focus was on "cheaper medicines, not beer".

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## The Zap: news on health and aged care matters, plus important consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 23/09/2024, Melissa Sweet

This week The Zap reports on news about patient safety, regulation of infant formula marketing, scope

of practice matters, oral health reform, a push for a 10-year National Rural Health Strategy, and an award-winning program to support frail and elderly people in the community. [...] Minister Mark Butler was at it again on 20 September, reacting to a Commonwealth Fund report which ranked the Australian health system as best in the world (in front of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, France, Sweden, Canada, Germany, Switzerland and the United States).

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## I.V. Bag Supplies

2CA Forever Classic, Other, 23/09/2024

Concerns remain over a shortage of I.V. Bags at Canberra Hospitals. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says hospitals have enough – but admits, the health system is not out of the woods yet over a possible shortage.

Also reported by: [2CC Talking Canberra \(Online\)](#).

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## Shelve the Scope of Practice Review: My plea to Mark Butler

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/09/2024, Heather McNamee

After one year and more than 1100 submissions, the long painful exercise known as the Scope of Practice Review is set to deliver its final report next month. Based on the two issues papers released so far, GPs have every reason to be fearful.

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## Minister confirms expanded funded access to GSKs shingles vaccine

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 23/09/2024

Health Minister Mark Butler has confirmed the expanded access for GSK's SHINGRIX shingles vaccines to include more to more people over 18 who are immunocompromised due to an underlying health condition or as a side effect of treatment. ...

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## More Australians now eligible for free shingles vaccination

HelloCare, Other, 23/09/2024, Jakob Neeland

In a move set to protect hundreds of thousands more Australians, the Albanese Government has expanded its free shingles vaccination programme. Adults over the age of 18 who are immunocompromised—either due to underlying health conditions or as a result of treatments—are now eligible to receive the Shingrix vaccine at no cost. Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler emphasised that this expansion is not only beneficial for Australians' health but also eases the financial burden.

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## Health Minister Mark Butler responds to calls for IVF support for LGBTIQ+ people

OUTinPerth, Other, 23/09/2024, Graeme Watson,

Health Minister Mark Butler has commented on a new report which calls for improved access and more Medicare support for single parents and gay people wanted to access IVF technology. Appearing on the ABC's Insiders program on Sunday morning Butler said the government would carefully consider the latest report from the Fertility Association of Australia and New Zealand

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## Brisbane pub barks back on dog ban

PubTic, Other, 23/09/2024, Clyde Mooney

A Brisbane pub is leading the charge to change laws around dogs in pubs, after a single complaint forced a ban on dogs in the inner-north venue, Archer Brewing. The venue, named after the owner's dog, even brewed a 'dog beer' made from carbonated chicken stock, to cater to passers-by as they followed an adjacent dog walking route. [...] Brisbane City Council itself agrees the code is outdated,

with Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner requesting a "timely review" of the code from Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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## Hospitals still have to monitor IV bags amid shortage

The Area News, Other, 23/09/2024, Andrew Brown

Hospitals will still have enough IV bags for treatments, the health minister has assured, but admits health systems are not "out of the woods" over a possible shortage. An increase in demand and manufacturing constraints had seen a global shortage of IV bags, leading to concerns hospitals could run out. While Health Minister Mark Butler announced in August Australia had secured 22 million extra IV bags in the next six months, 19 million of those would be the same amount the health system would normally receive in that time period, the ABC has reported.

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## Immunocompromised to receive free shingles vaccine

The Area News, Other, 23/09/2024, Andrew Brown

Immunocompromised Australians will have free access to the shingles vaccine in an expansion of the immunisation program. The free vaccine program will now be made available to anyone over 18 who is immunocompromised due to health conditions or a side effect of treatment. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the federal government would spend more than \$57 million in expanding the vaccine program.

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## 2CC, 08:00 News, 23/09/2024

There are ongoing concerns about a shortage of IV bags in Canberra hospitals. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says hospitals have enough supply but says numbers need to be monitored closely. Australia has secured 22 million additional IV bags for the next six months.

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## 3AW, 06:00 News, 23/09/2024

Shingles vaccinations will now be free for people with underlying health conditions as the federal government expands its Shingrix program. Health Minister Mark Butler says it will help thousands of Australians.

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## ABC Western Queensland, Breakfast, 23/09/2024, Danny Kennedy

Health Minister Mark Butler has told Insiders that there is a need for a more assertive approach to enforcing the vape ban, as some tobacconists and convenience stores continue to sell illegal vapes nearly three months after the nationwide crackdown. Starting in October, non-pharmacy businesses caught selling or advertising vapes could face multi-million dollar fines and prison sentences. Despite the ban, vapes are still widely available on the black market.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Government locks in sweeping changes to aged care system

Parra News, General News, 24/09/2024, Page 9

Older Australians will be given more support to stay in their own home for longer under sweeping reforms to aged care. The Federal Government has reached a deal with the Coalition as part of a \$5.6 billion package. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the changes would lead to more services for older Australians.

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## National sports governance policy revealed

Ballarat Times, Other, 24/09/2024, Adam Carswell

The Victorian Minister for Community Sport, Ros Spence, and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, Steve Dimopoulos, have endorsed the new National Gender Equity in Sports Governance Policy announced in Canberra earlier this month. The policy requires all national and state-level sports bodies boards' to be a minimum of 50 per cent women and/ [...] Federal Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells said diversity within an organisation's senior roles provides a more complete mix of skills, perspectives and experiences, more often resulting in better decision-making and improved performance.

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## Pensioners to pay more under aged care reforms tabled

Financial Standard, General News, 23/09/2024, Jamie Williamson, Page 7

Many recipients of the Age Pension will pay more for aged care under proposed reforms to how the sector is funded, with wealthier Australians to cover more of the costs they incur from July 2025. With the nation's annual aged care expenses predicted to hit \$42 billion by 2026-27, the federal government is looking to prop up the industry, with minister for aged care Anika Wells introducing the Aged Care Bill 2024 to parliament on September 12.

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## Aged care advocates say home care support wait times are 'misleading'

Aged Care Guide, Other, 23/09/2024, Georgie Waters

Council on the Ageing Chief Executive Officer Corey Irlam expressed concern about current Home Support Package wait times Posted by Georgie Waters Key points: has released a new report, illustrating current barriers that prevent aged care organisations from providing care for older Australians [...] However, Minister for Aged Care Minister Anika Wells recently highlighted the expected impact of the Support at Home program, which is set to come into effect from July 1, 2025.

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## End-of-life program welcome, but roll out key to success

Your Life Choices, Other, 24/09/2024, Brad Lockyer

The government's recent raft of "once in a generation" aged care reforms promise extra funding for people who wish to remain in their homes as they approach the end of life. Palliative care advocates say the extra money is welcome, but details on how it will all work are still needed.

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## ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 23/09/2024, Greg Jennett

Interview with Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells. Wells announces \$600 million investment to support home care in 'thin markets' like regional areas, alongside \$300 million for infrastructure to improve aged care facilities. She says recent pay rises for aged care workers have started to reduce staff turnover rates. She addresses the ACCC's legal action against Coles and Woolworths for allegedly misleading labelling on price savings, describing the allegations as unacceptable.

Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Western Sydney University receives two federal grants to train more psychologists for our region

Western Sydney University, Other, 23/09/2024

Western Sydney University is the recipient of two federal grants Supporting Provisional Psychology to

Practice and the Postgraduate Psychology Incentive Grant, a Federal Government initiative designed to increase the workforce of registered psychologists through supervision and training. The funding comes at a critical time when the demand for psychological services in the region is high. The Hon Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, announced an investment of \$91.3 million in the grants program at Western Sydney University's Bankstown City campus.

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## DEPARTMENT

### Budget cuts in the spotlight

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 24/09/2024, Page 14

When governments deliver budgets, there are many well-crafted phrases and carefully chosen figures to present the document in its best light. Plain language is replaced with words like "efficiency dividends" and "reduction of expenditure". [...] But for some reason, Health Department rules prevent this.

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

### 'i'm that frustrated'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 24/09/2024, Annika Rhoades, Page 1

Rob Hammond has neuroendocrine cancer and feels that this disease lacks the awareness and funding of other more common cancers. [...] A Federal Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said in November 2023, the Australian Government announced \$166 million to establish a new Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program, which would deliver improved cancer outcomes and ensure access to high quality care and support.

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### Questions over full cost of Microsoft's exclusive AI deal with the APS

Canberra Times, Other, 23/09/2024, Connor Pearce

The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) has refused to reveal the full cost of the trial of Microsoft's AI tool across the Australian public sector The AI tool, known as Copilot, was rolled out to about 7500 users across more than a dozen departments after the Australian government and Microsoft signed an agreement in late 2023. [...] A contract published on Austender shows the cost of the trial between December and June for the Department of Health and Aged Care was \$75,933.

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### Covid warning issued to Australians over infectious new strain that could strike by Christmas

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/09/2024, Pdraig Collins

Yet another new Covid variant is spreading around the world and may reach Australia before , with Aussies, especially those travelling abroad, warned to be vigilant. The 'potentially more infectious' XEC

strain was first detected in in June and has been identified in 27 since then. [...] The Department of Health said as of August 29 no sequences of the XEC variant had been reported to Australia's genomic surveillance system.

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## **Interactive: Ten years of APS machinery of government changes**

The Mandarin, Other, 22/09/2024, Dan Holmes

Machinery of government changes (MoGs) have become a standard part of a change of government. But they're very hard work for public servants. [...] The Department of Health was renamed the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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## **ACCC slams formula code**

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 23/09/2024, Page 2

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has proposed denying authorisation for the Infant Nutrition Council's (INC) industry code, which restricts advertising of infant formula. The ACCC stated the code no longer provides enough public benefits to outweigh potential detriments. [...] A recent independent review commissioned by the Department of Health and Aged Care found the MAIF Agreement was no longer effective and recommended a legislated, mandatory code.

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## **GP shortages coincides with increasing pressure on EDs**

Australian Financial News, Other, 24/09/2024

The latest Bureau of Health Information (BHI) Health Quarterly results show the NSW health system remains resilient in the face of unprecedented pressure. [...] This is consistent with the latest data from the Federal Department of Health & Aged Care which shows there were fewer GPs in NSW in 2023 than in 2019 – falling from 9,700 to 9,485.

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## **Feedback invited to inform aged care pricing advice**

Australian Seniors News, Other, 23/09/2024

The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) today released its Consultation Paper on the Pricing Approach for the Support at Home Service List 2025–26. The Australian Government's Support at Home program will combine existing in-home aged care services into a single, simplified program designed to assist older people to live independently at home for longer with the support services they require. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care will remain the system operators with overall responsibility for aged care policy, including the funding of in-home support services.

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## **Governments cough up just \$140 in public health spending per Aussie**

Health Services Daily, Other, 23/09/2024, Amanda Sheppeard

A new study analyses and maps public health funding from both federal and state/territory governments but the researchers are left still asking questions. A new study analyses and maps public health funding from both federal and state/territory governments but the researchers are left still asking questions.

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## **New centre marks a first in Indigenous-led research and leadership**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/09/2024, Giovanni Torre

The new arc Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Futures officially launched at a ceremony in Meanjin (Brisbane) Monday, making it the first Indigenous-led Centre of Excellence. The Centre's Chief Investigators and Executive Team are 100 per cent Indigenous, and the new body has invested in a community research approach where community partner organisations and community participants are integral to each stage of the research process.



## GP Shortages Fuel Pressure on NSW Emergency Departments Amid Growing Healthcare Demand

The Northern Rivers Times, Other, 23/09/2024

The latest Bureau of Health Information (BHI) Health Quarterly report highlights the mounting strain on New South Wales' health system, with emergency department (ED) attendances continuing to rise in response to diminishing access to general practitioners (GPs). [...] This sharp decline represents the most substantial reduction in GP appointments in over a decade, a worrying trend exacerbated by the Federal Department of Health & Aged Care's data showing a decrease in NSW's GP workforce, down from 9,700 in 2019 to 9,485 in 2023.

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## Through the looking glass: hundreds will come together at the Annual Illawarra Dementia Forum

University of Wollongong, Other, 23/09/2024

Hundreds of people will join forces in Fairy Meadow on Wednesday 25 September at the 12 Annual Illawarra Public Dementia Forum. The annual event, organised by the Illawarra Dementia Forum Working Party, will bring together experts to discuss the latest advancements in dementia research and care. [...] Other speakers attending the forum include Mr Nick Morgan, Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care; Professor Tanya Buchanan, CEO Dementia Australia; Marie Alford, Dementia Support Australia; carers of people living with dementia and people with dementia; allied health professionals and others associated with dementia friendly communities and dementia research.

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## Former Feros Village filling up

WEB Lismore Times, Other, 23/09/2024, Angela Saurine

The operator of the former Feros Village in Byron Bay is working with local homelessness organisations such as Fletcher Street Cottage and Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre to fill the remaining places at the aged care facility. Non-profit organisation St Andrew's, which operates another aged care facility in Ballina, took over operation of the Marvell Street site in January on an interim licence after it was selected as the preferred proponent to negotiate a lease following a public expression of interest (EOI) process. [...] "We looked at the homelessness statistics in Byron Bay and really aimed for homelessness status with the Department of Health and Aged Care, which we have now received.

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## ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 23/09/2024, Rick Hind

Interview with Professor Heidi Smith-Vaughan and Nicole Boyd, Menzies School of Health Research, on their SHELab initiative. Host notes the project follows the Department of Health and Aged Care's aim to improve health outcomes for priority populations of women and girls. Smith-Vaughan says the project will benefit isolated communities by providing essential health information and support.

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## Ngaarda Radio, Breakfast, 23/09/2024, Tangiora Hinaki

Curtin University has received an \$8.1 million grant from the Department of Health and Aged Care for the Young Minds: Our Future Study, Australia's third national child and adolescent mental health survey. Professor David Lawrence, who directed the previous 2013 survey, says the initiative aims to enhance understanding of mental health trends and the need for early intervention in this age group.

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## Will we heed COVID lessons?

West Australian, General News, 24/09/2024, Dan Jervis-Bardy, Page 13

Next Monday, the findings of an independent inquiry into the response to COVID-19 are due to be handed to the Federal Government. It will be an in-depth probe into the most significant event this century, a health and economic crisis that killed tens of thousands of Australians, collapsed the economy and, for a time, rewrote the rules of society.

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

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## Teacher alleges 'coercion, human rights breaches' in Covid jab fight

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/09/2024, Peter Carruthers

A Cassowary Coast teacher who once saved drowning teens from a croc-infested river has appealed a punishment that included the slashing of wages and reprimand after refusing the Covid jab. Innisfail State College teacher Shane Radanovic was among the 900 Queensland educators who resisted a government-mandated direction to submit to Covid vaccinations in 2022.

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

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## NSW was better prepared to deal with a pandemic in 2020 than now

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/09/2024

For nearly three years, the Herald has supported the need for a sweeping inquiry into how our nation responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal should not be to lay blame but to learn lessons by asking uncomfortable questions about whether we should make different decisions when the next pandemic strikes.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Government spending to hit record, Westpac finds, delaying rate cuts

Australian Financial Review, General News, 24/09/2024, Michael Read, Page 4

State and federal government spending is on course to make up a record share of economic activity next year, prolonging the Reserve Bank of Australia's inflation fight and reducing productivity growth, new Westpac research has found. With Treasurer Jim Ch...

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### Soaring state borrowings to undermine living standards

The Australian, Editorials, 24/09/2024, Page 10

Rising government debt will continue to put pressure on inflation On the eve of the Reserve Bank of Australia board's interest rates decision on Tuesday, accounting firm EY's analysis of the debilitating impact of excessive government debt and borrowing, especially at state level, highlights factors central to the nation's economic future. EY's report includes the startling revelation that federal and state interest costs on borrowings have risen to \$44bn a year.

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

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### Some older adults just take to tech like ducks to water

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/09/2024, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 28

For Deborah Martin, 71, technology is embedded into daily life. Recounting the rhythms of a typical morning, Martin says she woke up, asked Google Home for the weather forecast, checked her emails and updated a Google spreadsheet.

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## Let us help war veterans

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/09/2024, Michael McGuire, Page 9

A charity for military veterans has called on the state government to fully reinstate its access to public hospitals to the same level as before the Covid-19 era so it can better help former servicemen and women. Brett Grosser, president of the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Service Men and Women's Association (TPI) of SA, said the charity's hospital visitation program played a "crucial role in supporting the physical and mental health of veterans". "While these services have been fully reinstated in Adelaide's private hospitals, access to public hospitals remains restricted due to bureaucratic changes introduced during the pandemic," he said.

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## The good times are here in WA, but they won't last forever

West Australian, General News, 24/09/2024, Paula Gadsby, Page 59

WA's Budget is in a strong position and the envy of other State and Territory treasurers. It shows that WA expects to bank its sixth consecutive operating surplus (of over \$3 billion) in 2023-24.

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## \$44bn federal and state debt bill equals budget for NDIS

The Australian, Other, 23/09/2024, Jack Quail

State governments are expected to borrow more than \$100bn this financial year to cover the surge in public spending, with just under 60 per cent of new state and territory debt to be issued by Queensland and Victoria, threatening to undermine efforts to tame inflation

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## The end of the long wait for elderly care in Australia?

SBS, Other, 23/09/2024, Catriona Stirrat

The federal government announced a series of elderly care reforms including slashing waiting times for elderly nurse support. Tens of thousands of elderly Australians are waiting up to fifteen months to receive home care support.

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## Community still believes dementia is a normal part of aging, says global study

Aged Care Insite, Other, 23/09/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Eighty per cent of the general public incorrectly believe that dementia is a normal part of ageing, according to a new global study by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI). As the number of people living with dementia continues to grow, this misconception has been identified in the wider community and also in healthcare.

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## Human connection

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/09/2024, Natasha Egan

Two new pilots are offering residents the opportunity to engage with each other and others in their community Premium and in-depth Giving you the whole aged care picture In mid-July aged care residents from different Melbourne homes got together for a city tour.

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## Central Coast Shipbuilder Harry Celebrates his 100th Birthday Still Living at Home

HelloCare, Other, 23/09/2024, Jakob Neeland

Like the many metal-hulled yachts he has hand-built, Harry Westerdyk is still going strong as he

celebrates his 100th birthday today. The retired Central Coast boatbuilder remarkably still lives independently on his Wamberal acreage accompanied by his dog Mater.

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## **Aged Care Reforms: Good For Everyone except the Average Australian**

HelloCare, Other, 23/09/2024, Jakob Neeland

The recent reforms to Australia's aged care system, touted by the government as a move towards a more equitable system, are sparking concern for everyday Australians. While the reforms claim to target "wealthy" individuals and redistribute the cost burden, the reality, as financial expert Rachel Lane points out, paints a much different picture.

[Read More](#)

## **Having older patients stuck in hospital costs Illawarra's health system \$58m a year: IRT**

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 24/09/2024, Kate McIlwain

Having hundreds of older patients languishing in hospital beds because they don't have appropriate aged care services to go to is costing the Illawarra's health system an extra \$58 million every year. That's according to IRT chief executive Patrick Reid, who says a new plan to overhaul the aged care provider's Marco Polo property will save the state's health system millions.

[Read More](#)

## **Dementia challenge**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/09/2024

To mark Dementia Action Week, three key publications last Fri highlighted the urgent need to address the challenges faced by individuals living with the illness. They were Dementia Australia's discussion paper, Neuroscience Research Australia and the Lancet Regional Health-Western Pacific Journal's series, and Alzheimer's Disease International's (ADI) World Alzheimer's Report 2024.

[Read More](#)

## **Village operator RetireAustralia has 800 homes in development pipeline**

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/09/2024, Ian Horswill

With 29 retirement villages in operation, the business owned by Infratil and NZ Super Fund, is the sector's major developer. RetireAustralia completed The Verge at Burleigh Golf Club in Miami on QLD's Gold Coast in June when CEO Dr Brett Robinson unveiled its first care suites , which are charged at \$600,000 for a suite with no DMF, with residents entering under the Retirement Villages Act.

[Read More](#)

## **Are home care wait list times being fudged?**

Your Life Choices, Other, 23/09/2024, Andrew Gigacz

Estimates that older Australians are waiting nine to 12 months for home care are misleading, a new report reveals. In releasing its new report, Life on the Wait List , Anglicare Australia says federal government estimates omit a vital component.

[Read More](#)

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## **POPULATION HEALTH**

### **Survive the season**

Daily Telegraph, Your Customised Content, 01/04/2024, Sarah Marinos, Page 63

Now is the time to prepare your body against contracting the flu. Here is how to boost your chances of warding off It is a common misconception that influenza, or the flu, is just like having a cold.

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

## Is my health care provider safe?

Daily Telegraph, Your Customised Content, 01/04/2024, Sally Cockburn, Page 77

Discover how to check if your practitioner is qualified to deliver the right kind of care "Trust is so important in your professional relationship with a health care provider.

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

## New kind of care

West Australian, Business News, 24/09/2024, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 56

The new chief of WA human services provider PeopleKind wants to hit the ground running by engaging with State and Federal governments to smooth out the "rough edges" of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Formerly the Nulsen Group, the Burswood-based company supports more than 3900 West Australians with complex needs annually.

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## Four to face court following Wodonga vape, tobacco raids

Border Mail, General News, 24/09/2024, Page 8

Four people have been questioned by Wodonga police and released pending summons after raids targeting tobacco businesses. Police searched shops on High Street, Jarrah Street and Morrison Street on Friday.

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## Medicinal marijuana user cautioned

Daily Liberal, General News, 24/09/2024, Allison Hore, Page 3

A medicinal marijuana has been cautioned after being caught driving with drugs in his system. Appealing for leniency at Dubbo Local Court on Wednesday, September 11, Narromine man David Simon Prince said he needs to be able to drive for his work in waste collection.

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## Report identifies barriers to care

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 23/09/2024, Wade Stephens, Page 3

A new report by the Murray Primary Health Network has examined the benefits and challenges of multiculturalism in the region. Within Murray PHN's catchment, the top three local government areas with the greatest number of overseas-born residents are Greater Shepparton, Greater Bendigo, and Mildura.

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## Women to be induced from 28 weeks instead of getting abortions under proposed SA law changes

ABC Online, Other, 23/09/2024

People who want to terminate their pregnancy after 28 weeks could be required to instead deliver their baby alive under proposed changes to laws in South Australia that decriminalised abortion three years ago.

[Read More](#)

## Program: Why do Australians still want a tan?

ABC Online, Other, 23/09/2024

A recent survey from the ABS and Cancer Council has revealed some uncomfortable truths about Australians' attitudes to sun exposure. One in ten Australians tried to get a suntan in the 12 months preceding the survey.

[Read More](#)

## One in two young people seeking emergency shelter had applications turned down

ABC Online, Other, 23/09/2024

Dev\* remembers the first night he spent alone in crisis accommodation. The then 17-year-old fled home without his parents' knowledge to a motel at Narellan in Sydney's south-west early last year. [...]

'Crisis accommodation sector in crisis' Across Australia, 17,245 people aged 12 to 24 applied for emergency or short-term accommodation in the 2022-23 financial year, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

[Read More](#)

## Former Bojangles owner Anthony Zaki Habib in Alice Springs court accused of illegal cigarette sales

Adelaide Now, Other, 23/09/2024, Gera Kazakov

The former publican of a Red Centre watering hole – who was once busted selling booze from his car – is back in court, this time for allegedly selling cigarettes. Anthony Zaki Habib, 63, fronted Alice Springs Local Court on Thursday, September 19, and sought an adjournment on his case to "save money for a lawyer".

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

[Read More](#)

## Do non-alcoholic beverages really limit your booze intake?

Australian Financial Review, Other, 23/09/2024, Luke Benedictus

In 1979, the British government became increasingly concerned about the public health risks posed by alcohol. Taking action, they released new medical recommendations as part of a national campaign.

[Read More](#)

## More Australians now eligible for free shingles vaccine

Canberra Times, Other, 23/09/2024

From 1 September 2024, more Australians aged 18 to 64 will be eligible for a free shingles vaccine. This update extends coverage to those at moderate to high risk due to health conditions or treatments, addressing a painful condition linked to the chickenpox virus.

[Read More](#)

## Trouble sleeping? This therapy can help with insomnia

The Guardian, Other, 24/09/2024, Sarah Sloat

You might have heard of cognitive behavioral therapy, or CBT, a popular and well-researched type of psychotherapy. But did you know it can help people with sleep issues?

[Read More](#)

## Don't sideline nurses on weighty school issue

Canberra Times, Other, 23/09/2024, Brent Hayward

A contentious proposal by the Australian College of Nursing for nurses to weigh schoolchildren in the fight against rising obesity is at best disrespectful and at worst a doomed policy idea. Let me explain.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## 4BC, Breakfast , 23/09/2024, Luke Bradnam

Australians are paying 45% more to see a doctor compared with the previous decade, Institute of Health and Welfare data shows patients are paying 14.8 per 3.3% more. Four out of five visits to the GP are being covered by the government after bulk billing incentives increased.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 23/09/2024, Adam Shirley

Interview with Steve Robson, President, Australian Medical Association, on patients using their superannuation funds to pay for medical services and doctors' strikes in Canberra hospitals. Robson

says it is 'regrettable' to see patients using their super to pay for medical care, saying that it shows the need to tackle preventable diseases like obesity. He says around 300 Canberra doctors are stepping back from non-essential tasks in protest of an inadequate pay offer from the state government.

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

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Cancer patient heart risk

Courier Mail, General News, 24/09/2024, Page 8

Older cancer survivors face a higher risk of stroke, heart attack and hospital treatment for heart failure, especially if they had chemotherapy. Monash University researchers investigated the effects of cancer treatment on older people and found that cancer and its treatment elevated the risk of cardiovascular events.

*Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).*

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### Mood swings

Daily Telegraph, Your Customised Content, 01/04/2024, Ravinder Lilly, Page 73

Eating a diet rich in ultra-processed foods may be associated with an increased risk of depression, a recent US study suggests. Nearly 32,000 middle-aged women were studied as part of the Nurses' Health Study II and the research found those consuming nine portions or more of ultra-processed foods a day had a 50 per cent higher risk of developing depression compared to those with four portions or fewer daily.

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### Let's talk about cancer

Daily Telegraph, Your Customised Content, 01/07/2024, Dr Sally Cockburn, Page 77

The metaphors about fighting a battle are not appropriate or relatable for many people. Like me, do you flinch when you hear someone who has died described as having 'lost their battle with cancer'? It seems to imply that if only they'd fought harder... [...] Cancer Council Australia has excellent resources about cancer, including information on specific cancers and advice on topics from fertility and finances to intimacy and talking to kids.

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

### 'Deathbots' to disrupt grieving process

Canberra Times, General News, 24/09/2024, Joel Ehsman, Page 10

A year after my stepfather died I did something I had never done before. I went to his headstone and stood by myself for a few moments, then I started to tell him how I was doing.

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

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### 'Worrying trend': Record number of Australians raid super to fund medical treatments

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/09/2024

More than 150,000 Australians have raided their retirement savings early to fund medical treatments over the past five years, prompting concerns the trend is inflating the cost of surgery and leaving patients in a precarious financial situation. Weight loss surgery, dentistry and IVF are the most popular treatments accessed through the Australian Taxation Office's compassionate release of superannuation scheme, which led to more than \$730 million being drained from people's retirement savings for medical treatment in 2022-23.

## Melbourne mum diagnosed with same rare cancer that claimed life of her husband

Adelaide Now, Other, 23/09/2024

A Melbourne mum says telling her children that she had been diagnosed with the same rare cancer that claimed the life of their dad was "profoundly difficult", as she fights for vital research into the incurable disease. @rileyrobyn08 Veteran AFL commentator Sandy Roberts has revealed he has been diagnosed with an incurable cancer.

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

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## Sophie's life was saved by a stranger. Some in her position have an 'unfair' disadvantage

SBS, Other, 23/09/2024, Rashida Yosufzai

A shortage of culturally diverse stem cell donors means many patients in Australia depend on overseas donors, but some can't afford to wait. Key Points More than 140,000 people are living with blood cancer or a related blood disorder in Australia today

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## Tears as influencer asks women to do this one thing

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/09/2024, Claudia Poposki

A fashion influencer has shared her heartbreaking discovery while she and her new husband were trying to create a family. Bridget Bahl, who made headlines in 2023 over her lavish New York wedding, took to Instagram to reveal to her followers that she has discovered she has breast cancer.

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

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## Palliative support service a guiding light in times of darkness

The Senior, Other, 23/09/2024, Rowan Cowley

Being diagnosed with a life-limiting illness is a major shock to the system. Those living with the diagnosis often need support to help them process the news and plan for the road ahead, but more often than not they don't know where to turn.

[Read More](#)

## Would you hear a smoke alarm? Tech can help the deaf escape a fire

The Senior, Other, 23/09/2024, Eileen Wood

An estimated one in six Australians have hearing loss, leaving 3.6 million Australians at risk of sleeping through danger if a fire starts in their home and they cannot hear the smoke alarm. However, there is technology to help wake people quickly and help them evacuate safely.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Today , 23/09/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Interview with U.S. Ambassador to Australia Caroline Kennedy. Kennedy discusses the Quad Cancer Moonshot. She praises Australia's leadership in combating cervical cancer and developing a vaccine, noting a \$150 million commitment to HPV prevention in the Indo-Pacific.

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### Former Regal healthcare PM hangs up his shingle

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 24/09/2024, Page 18

Two former Regal stockpickers are set to launch a long/short fund that will hunt for the best (or worst) healthcare companies listed in Australia and Asia, after securing a \$70 million-plus cheque from an overseas institutional investor. Street Talk under...

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### Tribunal lifts ban on doctor

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/09/2024, Odessa Blain, Page 8

A doctor accused of repeatedly raping a teenager more than 15 years ago has been allowed to resume practising in the leadup to his criminal trial. Dr Nicholas Halliwell, a neurologist in regional NSW, has been charged with three counts of rape and non-consensual indecent assault.

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

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### Liberals will give \$100k to HECS for medicos

Canberra Times, General News, 24/09/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 4

The Canberra Liberals would pay up to \$100,000 towards the HECS debt of 30 medical students if they commit to being a general practitioner in the ACT for five years. The party will also establish new walk-in centres where general practitioners will work alongside nurses and give incentives to practices to provide after-hours care.

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### Walking together for premature babies

Canberra Times, General News, 24/09/2024, Sofia Jayne, Page 11

Twins Kash and Knox were born a month premature at just 33 weeks. Now they are two and are developing strong personalities of their own.

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### Dick's budget bligh-out

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 24/09/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 4

The state government has blown its budget by \$9bn in the last financial year, in the largest unexpected annual overspend since Anna Bligh was premier. The \$9.07bn could ensure every part of the Bruce Highway meets the basic three star safety standard and is \$2bn more than the venues budget of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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

### \$600m ambos deal

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 24/09/2024, Mitch Clarke and Shannon Deery, Page 1

A new wage deal will make Victorian paramedics among the best paid in the nation and end a monthslong war with the Allan government, at a cost of \$600m to taxpayers. Victorian Ambulance Union boss Danny Hill last night revealed the in-principle agreement.

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

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### MP reacts to election support for hospital

Border Mail, General News, 24/09/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 2

Nsw MP Justin Clancy plans to argue for more money to be spent on the Albury hospital redevelopment as he responds to a council election that saw pro-new hospital candidates secure a majority of votes. The Albury politician has been urged to rethink his commitment to the \$558 million

upgrade by election vote leader and prospective mayor Kevin Mack and lobby group Better Border Health.

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## Year-long delays for specialist care

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 24/09/2024, Jessica Howard, Page 1

Health south-west residents are being forced to access specialist medical treatment outside the region and at a high price as wait times in the public system surge amid a lack of funding and healthcare providers. Portland's Cohan Fleming, 13, has had long-standing ear, nose and throat (ENT) issues, limiting his ability to smell or breathe through his nose with constant sinusitis and sleeping problems.

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## Coroner finds young boxer's death was preventable, calls for overhaul of concussion treatment

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/09/2024, Melissa Cunningham

Vic Diamond has agonised over one question in the years since his son suffered a fatal brain haemorrhage and collapsed in a suburban boxing gym: Would his son still be alive if he had had a CT scan? George Diamond died in 2019, four months after suffering a concussion caused by being repeatedly hit in the head in the boxing ring.

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

[Read More](#)

## Surgeries postponed as nurses, midwives prepare to strike in NSW

9News, Other, 23/09/2024, Yashee Sharma

The union has not accepted the government's offer of an interim three per cent pay rise back-paid to July 1, claiming nurses and midwives are leaving for better pay interstate. They are seeking a 15 per cent pay increase, plus superannuation, back-paid to July 1.

[Read More](#)

## UnitingCare Queensland and Australian Health Service Alliance reach financial agreement after funding dispute

ABC Online, Other, 23/09/2024

UnitingCare Queensland has reached a new financial agreement with Australia's largest health insurance buying group, after giving notice to end its contract last month.

[Read More](#)

## Royal Flying Doctor Service recruits junior doctors to help remote communities

ABC Online, Other, 23/09/2024

A pilot program in north-west Queensland could ease doctor shortages in the bush by attracting more medical officers to the region. Registrar doctors will split their time across the local hospital, health service and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

[Read More](#)

## NSW nurses to strike for 24 hours over pay dispute

Canberra Times, Other, 24/09/2024, Sam Mckeith

A pay dispute between NSW nurses and the state government will escalate when thousands of union members walk off the job at public hospitals in day-long industrial action. The stop-work action by nurses and midwives on Tuesday will affect elective surgery and cause delays for some patients, while support for life-saving care will not be impacted.

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

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## Senior paramedics to get 20pct-plus pay rise under deal

Canberra Times, Other, 23/09/2024, Holly Hales

Victorian paramedics are set to receive double-digit pay rises under a deal to end a long-running dispute with the state government. The Victorian Ambulance Union reached an in-principle agreement with Ambulance Victoria and Premier Jacinta Allan on Monday for improved pay and conditions.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Doctors witnessing 'seismic shift' in attitude of hospital bosses after legal victories on overtime

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/09/2024, Heather Saxena

Managers are finally cleaning up their act on junior doctor rostering and staffing after another class action settlement, says a lawyer who has worked on three lawsuits for the doctors. Last week, the ACT Government accepted a \$31.5 million settlement with around 2200 junior doctors who worked unpaid overtime over an eight-year period.

[Read More](#)

## The medical board should ask two simple questions before forcing older doctors to undergo health checks

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/09/2024, Craig Lilienthal

The Medical Board of Australia in trying to 'retire' incompetent/incapacitated senior doctors is going about it the wrong way. The board's primary responsibility is to protect the public from professional abuse.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, News Breakfast, 23/09/2024, Bridget Brennan and Emma Rebellato

A record number of Australians have accessed their superannuation early over the past year, primarily for medical treatments, including dental care, IVF, and weight loss surgeries. In 2022-2023, over \$313 million was released specifically for dental treatments, with applications doubling in the past five years. Experts are concerned this trend not only inflates surgery costs but may also lead to increased out-of-pocket expenses.

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 23/09/2024, David Bevan

Interview with Dr Rachel David, CEO, Private Healthcare Australia. Thousands of Australians are accessing their superannuation to fund medical treatments not covered by Medicare or private health insurance, with applications increasing by 51% since 2018-2019. David expresses concern that this trend, particularly for cosmetic procedures, is driving up costs in the private healthcare system and leading to price gouging.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 23/09/2024, Leon Compton

Interview with Dr Michael Lumsden-Steel, President, Australian Medical Association Tasmania, on the closure of the Snug doctors' surgery that has left 13,000 patients in need of alternative GP care. Lumsden-Steel says it highlights the nationwide GP workforce crisis, worsened by inadequate federal government funding and rebates that fail to reflect the time needed for proper patient care.

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## 'Serious flaws' in youth gender report: doctors

The Australian, General News, 24/09/2024, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 3

Dozens of doctors, specialists and child mental health practitioners have signed an open letter stating they have "serious professional concerns" about a report which will inform the development of clinical guidance for NSW Health's statewide youth trans and gender diverse service. Those 46 signatories went so far as to say the NSW Healthcommissioned Evidence Check, brokered by the Sax Institute, which appraises new evidence about interventions for young people with gender dysphoria, should be "publicly retracted as false and/or misleading".

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

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## Court and the crossfire

The Nightly, General News, 23/09/2024, Aaron Patrick, Page 1

This vet survived hell in Afghanistan. Then it was ADF justice's turn Former army commando Scott Ryder survived a Black Hawk crash that killed three of his teammates.

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## Parents call for change, not blame

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/09/2024, Jordan Baker, Page 11

Charlotte was loved. For many years it had just been her and her single mum, Kelly.

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

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## Antidepressants a link to brainy boost

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/09/2024, Page 5

Antidepressants may improve people's brain function as well as their mood. Copenhagen University Hospital researchers in Denmark measured brain function in patients before and after taking escitalopram and found improvements in brain function that were linked to a specific serotonin receptor called 5HT4.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## Ruckman Reilly leading by example

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 24/09/2024, Simeon Thomas-Wilson, Page 44

Adelaide ruckman Reilly O'Brien's advocacy of mental health support in South Australian schools has resulted in him claiming the 2024 Jim Stynes Community Leadership Award. O'Brien has been an ambassador for the Open Parachute Mental Health Program since its inception in 2022.

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

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## Hunter Lifeline 'hero' wins national mental health award

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/09/2024, Lisa Rockman, Page 7

The unsung heroes in our community, dedicated to helping others, tend to fly under the radar, and happily so. Dr Marilyn June Anderson, of Cessnock, was one of them.

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## Professor Juli Coffin honoured as 2024 Australian Mental Health Prize winner

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/09/2024, Giovanni Torre

Broome based Indigenous academic, Professor Juli Coffin, has been honoured among the 2024 Australian Mental Health Prize winners, awarded in the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander category announced Monday evening. Professor Coffin was recognised for her Yawardani Jan-ga Equine Assisted Learning program, which uses the healing power of horses to support the mental and emotional well-being of Aboriginal youth in the Kimberley region.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### 'Strike off revenge porn medical tycoon'

The Australian, General News, 24/09/2024, Liam Mendes, Page 7

A high-profile millionaire medical entrepreneur who threatened to leak an intimate photograph of a woman to her government workplace is still a registered medical practitioner. Myhealth Medical Group founder James Liang was fined \$1200 and sentenced to a 12month bond after threatening last year to release a nude photograph to the workplace "and public" of his 31-year-old victim.

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### Doctor mocked patients in texts

Courier Mail, General News, 24/09/2024, Vanda Carson, Page 11

The identity of a trainee orthopaedic surgeon at a top Queensland public hospital who ridiculed seriously injured patients by sending photos and videos of their gruesome and life-altering injuries to his girlfriend comparing them to "pizza" or "chopsticks" has been suppressed by a tribunal. According to a Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal decision handed down on Monday by retired Family Court judge Peter Murphy SC, the young surgeon, given the pseudonym of KGY, was found guilty of misconduct and fined \$5000.

*Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).*

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### Health exec's huge payout

Courier Mail, General News, 24/09/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 1

A high-ranking Queensland Health executive received a staggering \$352,000 payout despite resigning on his own accord and starting a new job in the public health system just three weeks later. The enormous golden handshake secured by former Queensland Health chief operating officer Dr David Rosengren, on top of his salaries at the department and a new job at Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service, means he earned a taxpayer-funded salary of \$956,000 in 2023/24.

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### Want WA to grow? Then new parents need more support

West Australian, General News, 24/09/2024, Laura Newell, Page 13

When it's 3am and you're sat in a rocking chair with an infant screaming at you, it's hard not to feel alone, scared and overwhelmed. And once the rest of the world wakes up for the day, you're still left trudging through endless chores.

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**ABC News, News Breakfast, 23/09/2024, Bridget Brennan and Emma Rebellato**

A new recruitment drive aims to address severe doctor shortages in remote Australia by training junior doctors in outback Queensland. The program with North West Queensland Health providers partners junior doctors with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, allowing them to split their time between hospital work and flying medical support to rural areas.

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 10, 10 News First, 23/09/2024, Sandra Sully**

NSW hospitals are preparing for a 24-hour nurses' strike tomorrow and are calling patients to cancel surgeries. The strike is considered illegal as it follows an Industrial Relations Commission ruling prohibiting all nurse strike actions until September 30. Nurses are calling for a 15% pay rise, which the government says it cannot afford.

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 7, Seven News, 23/09/2024, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson**

Seven News has obtained leaked documents revealing planned staff cuts at hospitals in Sydney's largest health district. While the state prepares for a 24-hour nurses' strike tomorrow, a leaked jobs reduction strategy shows cuts to at least 77 key roles across the South Eastern Sydney Health District.

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 9, Nine News, 23/09/2024, Peter Overton**

The NSW healthcare system is set to face major disruptions as nurses and midwives prepare for a 24-hour strike starting tomorrow morning. Despite the Industrial Relations Commission ruling the strike illegal, the Nurses and Midwives Association is going ahead with the action, citing frustration over stalled negotiations for a 15% pay rise.

[Play Now](#)

### **2CC, Canberra Live, 23/09/2024, Leon Delaney**

Interview with Kate Goodman, councillor, NSW Nurses and Midwives Association, on an upcoming strike over pay negotiations and unsafe working conditions. Goodman says that despite discussions with the government, the proposed 3% pay increase is inadequate as nurses in the state face the lowest wages in the country.

*Interview continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).*

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### **2CC, Breakfast, 23/09/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo**

Interview with Dr Jeff Looi, ACT branch secretary, Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation. Doctors at public hospitals in Canberra have begun industrial action over staff shortages and uncompetitive pay. Looi says the action aims to ensure patient safety while pushing for better wages and working conditions.

*Interview continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).*

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

**'I'm a doctor and here are the 9 fertility questions I get asked all the time.'**

Mamamia, Other, 23/09/2024, Nicole Madigan

Trying to have a baby can be one of the most exciting times in a couple's life. But it can also be really stressful, especially if conception doesn't happen as quickly as you'd hoped.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Call for thousands of blood donors as demand skyrockets

Canberra Times, General News, 24/09/2024, Page 7

Blood demand is at a 12-year high and plasma is even more in need, sparking a call for Australians to roll up their sleeves. The Red Cross is urging 100,000 Australians - the same number who will fill the MCG for the AFL grand final on Saturday - to donate for the first time over the next year.

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### Red Cross makes grand final call for new blood donors

West Australian, General News, 24/09/2024, Page 5

Blood demand is at a 12-year high and plasma is even more in need, sparking a call for Australians to roll up their sleeves. The Red Cross urged 100,000 Australians - the same number who will fill the MCG for the AFL grand final on Saturday - to donate for the first time over the next year.

*Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#).*

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## SPORT

### Free lessons for littlies to help save lives

Courier Mail, General News, 24/09/2024, Rose Innes, Page 13

Parents with children under five can access free swim lessons until September 27 in a new program launched on Monday called Swim into Summer with Kids Alive. It comes after data showed an alarming number of child drowning deaths across Australia last year, with one-year-olds accounting for the highest proportion (40 per cent).

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### Council considers sport complex future

Burnie Advocate, General News, 23/09/2024, Helen Kempton, Page 5

The Central Coast Council is reconsidering the future of the Ulverstone Sport and Leisure Centre and showground precinct in light of big infrastructure spends nearby. The council says in the agenda for its September 23 meeting that major funding commitments relating to the Devonport Sports Master Plan (about \$60 million) and Dial Park (\$25 million) are likely to impact the Ulverstone precinct and need to be understood before any significant investment is locked in.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Balanced budget despite record demand for Cairns and Hinterland Hospital Health Service

Adelaide Now, Other, 23/09/2024, Dylan Nicholson

With more than 180,407 presentations to emergency departments and a record 8423 emergency surgeries, demand for healthcare across the Far North is growing. Staff also performed 10,415 elective surgeries across the health service's footprint.

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

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### Shave or colour hair for cancer research

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/09/2024, Page 4

Australians are encouraged to shave, cut or colour their hair on Tuesday to raise funds for cancer research. Brave Shave Day marks the 40th anniversary of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF), which has awarded than \$184m in grants to research institutions across Australia since its inception.

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### 3AW, Breakfast, 23/09/2024, Ross Stevenson and Russel Howcroft

Interview with Professor Anthony Hannan, co-lead author and research lead, Mental Health Mission, on new research linking paternal gut health with offspring's physical and mental health. Hannan says the study suggests men's lifestyle choices, such as diet and exercise before conception, may have a significant impact on their future children.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Lidia Thorpe wins Senate vote for regular reports on deaths in custody, miscarriages in prisons

Adelaide Now, Other, 23/09/2024, Fia Walsh

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has dodged questions about a 17-year old boy who died in custody in a Western Australian detention centre, telling media he is "not conscious of every state issue". Independent Senator Lidia Thorpe's motion to increase reporting on deaths in custody has passed the Senate, despite opposition from the federal government.

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### Life expectancy in Tamworth depends on which side of the tracks you live on

Adelaide Now, Other, 23/09/2024, Emily Kowal

A railway track cuts through this NSW town, splitting it between east and west. It's only a few metres wide, but it makes a big difference which side you're on.

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### Staying alive: The secret to Australians' longevity

SBS, Other, 23/09/2024, Amy Hall

Australians have outlived our peers in other English-speaking countries for decades, according to a recent study. Want a long life?



## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Telix builds \$1b US network of cancer centres

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 24/09/2024, Michael Smith, Page 19

Telix Pharmaceuticals has agreed to buy a big radiopharmacy network in the United States as part of a \$1 billion acquisition spree over the past two years designed to establish the ASXlisted group as a major supplier and distributor of cancer treatments. ...

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### Sutherland Shire gym supplement store Booty N Buff co-owners sentenced for supply, possession of SARMs

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/09/2024, Elizabeth Pike

The co-owners of a supplement store claim they were misled by an overseas manufacturer when they were busted selling experimental "muscle building" products to an undercover cop. St George Shire Standard The co-owners of a southern Sydney supplement store claim they were misled by an overseas manufacturer when they were busted selling experimental "muscle building" products to an undercover cop. [...] According to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), SARMs are a group of experimental, prescription-only medicines which claim to build muscle mass and bone density with fewer side effects than similar products such as steroids.

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### Lawsuit alleges medical device to replace patient's jaw had 'inherent defects'

The Guardian, Other, 24/09/2024, Melissa Davey

A medical device that was intended to replace a patient's jaw had 'inherent defects' and caused increased pain, nerve damage and limited jaw movement, according to a statement of claim lodged in the county court of Victoria. Guardian Australia has previously reported that two other patients whose jaw pain was treated with the Maxoniq OMX TMJ prosthesis device alleged in separate cases filed to Victoria's county court that they suffered life-changing injury, loss, and damage due to complications after their surgeries. [...] The statement of claim says on 16 June 2021, medical regulator the Therapeutic Goods Administration issued a recall action notice against Maxoniq for the OMX device due to the issues with the screws.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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## FOOD STANDARDS

## Melbourne start-up is saving cafes a bundle

The Australian, Technology, 24/09/2024, Jared Lynch, Page 20

Smashed avocado has been blamed for keeping millennials out of the housing market, given their taste for the popular brunch dish is difficult to give up. But it can also prove costly to cafe owners as well.

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## Clean up in every aisle

West Australian, General News, 24/09/2024, Dan Jervis-Bardy and Daniel Newell, Page 1

Coles and Woolworths are accused of running scam discount offers that duped customers during a cost-of-living crisis, prompting Anthony Albanese to demand supermarkets stop treating shoppers like "fools". The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has launched legal action against the supermarket giants for allegedly misleading customers about "illusory" cut-price offers.

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## Kara and her friend ordered margaritas at a club... moments later they were rushed to hospital after a horrifying mistake behind the bar

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/09/2024, Zak Wheeler

Kara Lamond, whose husband is Health Minister Ryan Park, and a friend were served the toxic drinks at the Fraternity Club in the Illawarra in October 2023. The women were rushed to hospital moments after taking their first sips with Ms Lamond's friend suffering burns to her lips, mouth and throat.

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