



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 26th September 2024

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 9) reports that Australians are switching to illegal nicotine products following the national ban on vapes, and experts are concerned children have the potential to become addicted to nicotine. Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was deeply concerned about the increasing profile of nicotine pouches.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 9) reports that the federal government has committed \$120 million in funding for the Northern Heart Centre, to be established at the Launceston General Hospital.
- **[ABC News Online](#)** reports that a coroner has said the death of an 85-year-old Queensland aged care resident who was left alone in temperatures that reached 30 degrees was a "tragedy that could have been prevented, with a forensic pathologist ruling heatstroke as the cause of death.
- **[ABC News Online](#)** reports that new data from the Federal Department of Health has revealed a doubling in the number of psychiatric medication prescriptions given to children and teenagers over the last 10 years, with Harriet Hiscock, a paediatrician and clinical researcher at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, saying it is because "it's becoming more socially acceptable".

- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 15) reports that the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is set to reveal that more than 70 per cent of patients treated by general practitioners have listed mental health as the reason for their visit.
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports that the Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union is expected to lobby the newly elected Queensland state government for a 3.8 per cent annual wage increase, according to sources from The Australian newspaper.
- **ABC News Online** reports that South Australian Health Minister Chris Picton has criticised a proposed change to the state's abortion laws, which would require women seeking to terminate a pregnancy after 28 weeks to undergo induced birth, as an "extreme right-wing culture war bill".
- **The Guardian** reports that the NSW government is set to introduce a trial starting from Saturday, which will make it easier for women aged between 18-49 to access the oral contraceptive pill.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 5) reports that South Australian Health Minister Chris Picton says the move to allow pharmacists to treat people for treatments that currently require a GP consultation will increase access to more efficient healthcare, while Australian Medical Association warns it will put "patients at risk".
- **The Guardian** reports a New South Wales coroner has heard that three per cent of the 94 patients who underwent bilateral knee replacement surgery from an orthopaedic surgeon at Albury-Wodonga private hospital died during the operation.

MINISTER BUTLER

Pouches the new 'vaping' for kids

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26/09/2024, James Willis, Page 9

A national ban on vapes has resulted in Australians switching to illegal nicotine products, which experts warn have the potential to "hook" children on nicotine. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was "both aware and deeply concerned about the rising profile of nicotine pouches being advertised and supplied in Australia that especially targets children and young people".

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Beefed-up laws aim to smoke out vape sellers

Midwest Times & Northern Guardian, General News, 25/09/2024, Page 8

Laws that kicked in from July allow vapes to be sold only 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.

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Respect key when seeing GP

South Eastern Times, General News, 25/09/2024, Melanie Riley, Page 5

A local Medical Practice is asking the Mount Gambier/Berrin community for patience, understanding and kindness. [...] Mrs Bilal reached out to South Australia's Minister for Health Chris Picton in June in relation to funding, but was advised via email it was not state responsibility and her email would be forwarded to Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler for perusal however was yet to receive a response.

Also reported by: [Penola Pennant \(Penola\)](#), [Limestone Coast Today \(Naracoorte\)](#).

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About 40 per cent of Aussies waiting more than three weeks to see a GP

The Australian, Other, 25/09/2024, Emma Kirk

Pharmacists across Australia are retraining to help fill the gap to treat some medical conditions, as patients struggle for GP appointments. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said enabling

pharmacists to offer more services would optimise the health workforce across a stretched primary care sector and improve patient access in regional and remote areas.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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WA moves to circumvent national 'watered-down' vaping ban

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 25/09/2024, Hamish Hastie

The West Australian government will ban the sale of vapes in pharmacies without a prescription under regulations that go beyond laws passed by the Commonwealth earlier this year. [...] Sanderson avoided criticism of her federal counterpart Mark Butler for striking the deal and forcing her government into the extraordinary position of introducing rules circumventing Commonwealth laws.

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

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Contraceptive pill trial allowing women in NSW to bypass doctor to be made permanent

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/09/2024, Lachlan Leeming

A trial allowing women to access the oral contraceptive pill over the counter at their local chemist will be made permanent, in a bid to keep pressure off NSW's under-pressure GP network. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on Sunday conceded he was "desperately worried" about the declining number of GPs.

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

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Western Australia to override national vaping laws, but won't say how many retailers prosecuted

ABC Online, Other, 25/09/2024, Keane Bourke & Grace Burmas

Vapes will be allowed to be sold by pharmacists nationally without a prescription from next week, but WA is resisting the changes. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler told Insiders on Sunday it was clear "we have to switch to a far more assertive approach" to tackle those retailers.

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Medicare now covers just half of specialist fees and experts warn rebates are 'almost meaningless'

ABC Online, Other, 25/09/2024, Stephanie Dalzell

Medicare is now covering just over half of specialist fees, forcing Australians to increasingly dip into their own pockets and delay vital care as experts warn Medicare rebates have become "almost meaningless". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said in a statement that all Australians deserved access to affordable health care.

Also reported by: [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

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Three months on from ban and vapes still sold in the Illawarra

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 25/09/2024, Joel Ehsman

Walking through the Wollongong CBD there's a high chance you will see somebody with a colourful vape blowing smoke out of their lungs. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told ABC's Insiders program a change in how the ban is implemented may be coming soon.

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You were never going to stamp out a highly profitable enterprise by banning it!

Australian Health Information Technology, Other, 25/09/2024, David More

Illicit vape prices have surged in the two months since a nationwide ban on their sale outside pharmacies began, fuelling concerns about a lucrative black market as shops across the country continue to stock the devices. [...] It illustrates the challenge ahead for Health Minister Mark Butler as he implements his world-leading vape ban.

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Govt funds 500 postgrad psychology places amid industry-wide course closures

Campus Review, Other, 25/09/2024, Erin Morely

The Albanese government will support some universities to offer 500 more psychology course places to boost the mental health workforce in response to over half of psychology courses no longer being offered. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the two latter initiatives address "bottlenecks" in the psychology training pipeline.

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Australian woman's shocking Bali souvenir: "worse than childbirth"

POWER100, Other, 25/09/2024, Carey Willis

Jodie Oddy, an Australian radio host from Nova 919's breakfast show, has shared a startling experience following her recent Bali holiday. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler emphasized the importance of this initiative, noting that nearly one in three Australians will likely face shingles in their lifetime.

Also reported by: [Sea FM Tasmania \(Online\)](#), [Star 106.3 Townsville \(Online\)](#), [Star 102.7 Cairns \(Online\)](#), [K Rock 95.5 \(Online\)](#).

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Government defers CDM Medicare item changes

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 25/09/2024, Chelsea Heaney

The concerns of GPs have been listened to, resulting in the Commonwealth delaying chronic disease management funding changes to 1 July next year. [...] RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins, who had written to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler about GPs' concerns, says she is 'pleased the Government has listened to GPs', welcoming the delay.

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'Visionary' review suggests quicker approval of new medicines

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 25/09/2024, Manisha Fernando

New subsidised medication approvals would be streamlined and access made easier for vulnerable populations, under a new health technology plan. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler labelled the report 'visionary' and said value for money remains paramount.

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Vapes sold in chemists from next week

The Medical Republic, Other, 25/09/2024, Helen Tobler

Adults will be able to buy e-cigarettes over the counter in pharmacies next week under reforms to vaping laws. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told ABC Central Coast yesterday that "dozens" of Victorian tobacconist stores and convenience stores selling vapes and illicit tobacco had been firebombed as part of a feud between gangs trying to control the market.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC News Day, 25/09/2024, Ros Childs

New data shows Medicare funding for specialist fees has dropped to an all-time low, with experts labelling the rebates almost meaningless. Health Minister Mark Butler says specialists and insurers need to do more to protect patients from exorbitant billing.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 25/09/2024, Michael Rowland & Bridget Brennan

New figures show Medicare rebates for trips to the specialist have dropped to an all-time low of 52 per cent costs, that's compared to 72 per cent of fees covered for visits two decades ago. Health Minister Mark Butler says the federal government has delivered the largest investment in Medicare in decades.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News Vic First at 4pm, 25/09/2024, Mike Amor

Doctors are calling for reform to Medicare, with data showing debates only cover half of specialist fees. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler also arguing specialists and insurers need to do more to protect patients from exorbitant bills.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 25/09/2024, Natalie Forrest

WA is set to go it alone on vaping laws, despite watered down federal regulations set to take effect next week. Over-the-counter sales of e-cigarettes will still be banned here, with vapes requiring a prescription from a doctor. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler wasn't available to speak to media today but told 10 News First in a statement that it's up to individual states and territories as to whether they introduce extra measures.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Sunshine Coast, Breakfast, 25/09/2024, Tim Wong-See

Compere mentions that Health Minister Mark Butler was speaking on the ABC political analysis show Insiders on Sunday about a topic that some people have raised and that's the issue around the selling of vaping products. He states that there have been some rules that have come in earlier this year to restrict it to the sale of vapes just within pharmacies, not with tobacco stores and other retail outlets. Compere plays an excerpt of Butler's interview wherein Butler mentioned that they've taken the approach in the first few months to try to get businesses to surrender their vapes and many businesses have done that to the TGA.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, 06:00 News, 25/09/2024

Figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show Medicare funds for specialist fees dropped to 52 per cent between January and March, down from 72 per cent 20 years ago. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the Government has delivered the largest Medicare investments in decades.

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MINISTER WELLS

Once in a generation reforms to aged care

Shepparton Adviser, General News, 25/09/2024, Page 23

The Australian government has announced historic reforms to the aged care sector, aiming to enhance the quality and accessibility of services for older Australians. [...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, said, "We've heard the message from older Australians: they want support to stay in the homes and communities they love."

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Aged care workers to receive pay rises

agedhealth.com.au, Other, 25/09/2024

The funding will go towards the Fair Work Commission Aged Care Work Value to provide pay rises for

aged care workers from 1 January 2025. [...] They also apply to those workers whose roles support the running and functioning of residential care services — administration staff, drivers, maintenance staff and gardeners, laundry hands, cleaners and food services assistants," said Anika Wells, Minister for Aged Care.

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\$900 million for rural, remote and specialist aged care

Inside Ageing, Other, 25/09/2024, Amy Clarke

The Albanese Government has committed \$900 million to ensure that older Australians can access safe and quality aged care services, regardless of location. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells The extra \$300 million in infrastructure funding will be distributed through the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program (ACCAP).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Mental health push pays off

Manjimup Bridgetown Times, General News, 25/09/2024, Anjelica Smilovitis, Page 1

Community members fighting for better mental health services in the Warren-Blackwood region have had their voices heard with a headspace set to be opened in Manjimup next year. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride visited Manjimup last week to announce the new service, funded by the Federal Government and commissioned by the Country Western Australia Primary Health Network.

Also reported by: [Manjimup-Bridgetown Times \(Online\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Countryman \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#).

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Northam Medicare Mental Health Centre is Open

Northam Advertiser, General News, 01/10/2024, Jim Lucy, Page 10

Northam Head to Health has recently evolved to Northam Medicare Mental Health Centre with the official launch on Monday 16th September. [...] A large group of people witnessed the opening with Hon Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention; Hon Pierre Shuai Yang MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Health and Hon Darren West MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Action being in attendance.

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New hub in glowing health

Manjimup Bridgetown Times, General News, 25/09/2024, Daniel Hocking, Page 7

A new health hub has opened in Manjimup aiming to provide more services for the community in a one-stop-shop format. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride helped open the centre and said the services' potential was "significant".

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New headspace for young people in Manjimup

Walpole Weekly, General News, 25/09/2024, Page 6

A new headspace service will open in Manjimup next year to provide mental health support to young people in the community and surrounding region. Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, visited Manjimup today to announce the new service.

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Headspace

Walpole Weekly, General News, 25/09/2024, Emma McBride, Page 6

Headspace services include mental health care, related physical and sexual health support, vocational services, and alcohol and other drugs support. The new headspace Manjimup is funded by the Albanese Labor Government and commissioned by the Country Western Australia Primary Health Network.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Decades of advocacy for NPs

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Julianne Bryce, Page 39

In the late 80s, early in my grad year, I recall telling my mum I was puzzled that the most experienced nurses were the furthest from the bedside. [...] Although much of our feedback was initially overlooked, in more recent times, thanks to the efforts of Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney, we have had success with several recommendations previously made to the MBS Review Taskforce.

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National standards to set new benchmark in radiation therapy

Health Industry Hub, Other, 25/09/2024

Swinburne University of Technology, CSIRO, and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). [...] A report has been launched by Ged Kearney, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care.

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Stakeholders join forces to cut carbon footprint of asthma inhalers

Health Industry Hub, Other, 25/09/2024

A report has been launched by Ged Kearney, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

100 years strong

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Kathryn Anderson, Page 22

As the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) turns 100 this year, we have much to celebrate. [...] More than two decades on, CATSINaM, as it is now known, has grown to over 3,000 members and is an active member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coalition of Peaks as well as the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Reference Group, a group that advises the Department of Health and Aged Care and the Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer.

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Mental health and alcohol and other drugs

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Taylor Yousiph, Page 44

Suicide education for nurses is critical amidst the current impact that suicide has on a global, national,

and individual level. In Australia, there are 3,000 people per year who die by suicide, with seven million Australians bereaved by suicide. [...] Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Antidepressants, antipsychotics and stimulants up: Why are children taking more mental health medications?

ABC Online, Other, 25/09/2024, Leonie Thorne

Psychiatric medications including stimulants and antidepressants are increasingly prescribed to children, according to new government data. [...] The new data, provided to the ABC by the federal health department, calculated annual prescription rates between 2013 and 2023 using population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and dispensed medications data from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

[Read More](#)

Federal government shelves its MBS care plan reforms

Australian Doctor, Other, 25/09/2024, Paul Smith

The federal government has apparently shelved until next year its plan to scrap the \$130 MBS item for team care arrangements and equalise the rebates for writing and reviewing care plans. [...] AusDoc has been told that Department of Health and Aged Care financial modelling showed that most GPs would be better off with the proposed rebate levels under discussion, but a substantial minority would see funding for patient care fall.

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Support at Home uncertainty threatens proactive action

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 25/09/2024, Alex Jacobs

Home care providers dealing with complex administration burdens under the incoming Support at Home program will likely require quick thinking and proactive action to ensure they're ready for increased operational pressure. [...] For more information about the Support at Home program, visit the Department of Health and Aged Care's website.

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Healius 'burns down Ed Bateman's village' to reset its future

The Medical Republic, Other, 25/09/2024, Jeremy Knibbs

Having seriously misread and misused its super profits from the covid pandemic and run its balance sheet quickly aground on misguided M&A and shareholder buybacks, Healius has given itself breathing space to at least reset its pathology business now, by selling off its imaging division Lumus for as much as \$965 million to private equity group Affinity Partners. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care (DOHAC) recently released its vision for an e-requesting project which suggested that they'd like to reduce testing volumes by as much as 25%, most of which they see as inefficient or duplicate ordering.

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DoHAC announces, un-announces and re-announces CDM delay

The Medical Republic, Other, 25/09/2024, Holly Payne

The Department of Health and Aged Care will be delaying planned changes to chronic disease management plans until July next year, rather than November this year. "The deferral is to support all practices and providers, including GPs and allied health providers, to be ready for the changes to these important services," a spokesman for the department told The Medical Republic.

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GP shortage impacts pressure on emergency departments, new figures show

The Western Weekender, Other, 25/09/2024, Emily Chate

New data has shown an increase in Emergency Department (ED) visits being linked to a shortage of General Practitioners (GPs). [...] This number is consistent with the most recent data from the Federal

Department of Health and Aged Care, which shows that there were fewer GPs in NSW in 2023 than there were in 2019 with the number falling from 9,700 to 9,485.

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Moreton's kitchen nightmare

WEB Somerset Sentinel, Other, 25/09/2024

Two of Moreton Bay's largest Meals on Wheels kitchens have been forced to close after depleting all funding, following unprecedented demand for the key community service. [...] A spokesperson for the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care said MOWMBR "is able to apply for additional grant funding when new grant opportunities are opened".

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Former Feros Village filling up

WEB Tweed Coast Times, Other, 25/09/2024, 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. [...] "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," St Andrew's chief executive officer Todd Yourell said.

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VACCINES

Dr Nick Coatsworth issues an urgent warning over Albanese's government's proposed law

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/09/2024, David Southwell

One of Australia's most high-profile doctors has urged Australians to actively oppose the Albanese government's proposed misinformation laws saying they would have been potentially harmful during the Covid pandemic. Dr Nick Coatsworth, who was the nation's deputy chief medical officer during the pandemic period, feared the Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation Bill would be 'weaponised' to shut down debate.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

ALP hails 150,000 new students in fee-free courses

The Australian, General News, 26/09/2024, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 5

More than 150,000 people enrolled in Labor's signature fee-free TAFE courses in the first half of 2024, new figures show. [...] Since the policy was launched in January 2023 to June this year, some 508,889 students had signed up to the courses, which include childcare, nursing, aged care and education.

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

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Seniors need both a home and super

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/09/2024, Anthony Keane, Page 13

Home ownership is no guarantee of financial security in retirement, as new research highlights how high house prices are producing a generation of asset-rich but incomepoor pensioners. A study by National Seniors Australia and retirement income group Challenger found seniors who owned homes typically believed they needed an extra \$10,000 a year on top of age pension payments to meet their basic retirement needs.

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

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'Our futures are intertwined': call for young and old to unite

Border Mail, General News, 26/09/2024, Page 12

The future of older and younger Australians are intertwined and pitting generations against each other will have consequences for all, experts warn. As the Australian population grows older, ageism has proliferated - shortening life spans, contributing to elder abuse, or pushing willing employees out of the workforce.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Waging war on 'superbugs' in aged care

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 6

There's an urgent need for more careful antibiotic management to protect older people living in residential aged care from the dangerous spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria or 'superbugs', researchers from Flinders University and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) have warned. Journal of A new study, published in the Infection, explored the link between the widespread use of antibiotics in residential aged care and the resulting antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the gut that can be passed on to other residents.

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Improving care for older Australians: Reducing transfers from nursing homes

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Micah Peters, Page 43

The increasing complexity of care required by Australia's ageing population places significant strain on healthcare systems. The high rate of transfers of nursing home residents to emergency departments (EDs) is especially concerning.

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Call to unite as one generation's 'failure' felt by all

Canberra Times, Other, 25/09/2024, Kat Wong

The future of older and younger Australians are intertwined and pitting generations against each other will have consequences for all, experts warn. As the Australian population grows older, ageism has proliferated - shortening life spans, contributing to elder abuse, or pushing willing employees out of the workforce.

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

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Coroner finds aged care death of elderly Queensland man was a preventable tragedy

ABC Online, Other, 25/09/2024, Talissa Siganto

The death of a Queensland aged care resident who was left alone in direct sun as temperatures reached 30 degrees was a preventable "tragedy", a coroner has found. In published coronial findings, it was revealed the 85-year-old man was found unconscious on the ground beside his wheelchair at a regional Queensland facility in February last year.

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StewartBrown modelling on residential aged care reforms: "It's a good start"

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/09/2024, Caroline Egan

Aged care accountancy specialists StewartBrown have released their analysis of the Australian Government's proposed residential aged care funding reforms, confirming the new funding will only begin to flow in three years' time from FY29, and modelling shows the Hotelling Supplement may fall short of meeting the actual costs of delivering services.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Western Australia to bypass Commonwealth to ban vapes without a prescription

The Australian, Other, 25/09/2024, Emma Kirk

One Australian state is taking action to stamp out the sale of vapes without a prescription, going against new laws to be introduced by the Commonwealth next month. The Albanese government has set several new regulations to restrict the sale and importation of vapes making it illegal for retailers, such as tobacconists and vape shops, to sell the products.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Pregnancy obesity increases risk of autism, ADHD

West Australian, Other, 25/09/2024, Abe Maddison

Children born to obese mothers have an increased risk of behavioural and neuropsychiatric conditions, including autism and ADHD. A review and meta-analysis of more than 3.6 million mother-child pairs across 42 studies found that obesity during pregnancy increased the risk of ADHD in children by 32 per cent, doubled the risk of developing autism in children and increased the risk of conduct disorders by 16 per cent.

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

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Vape sale regulation changes could stop 'flood gates' opening on sales in pharmacies: AMA WA president

West Australian, Other, 25/09/2024, Oliver Lane

Changes to strengthen WA's anti-vaping laws have been welcomed by medical organisations, who say it will stop "wayward pharmacists" from becoming tobacconists. Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson announced on Wednesday, just a week before the Federal Government's law is set to loosen up nicotine vape sales.

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Pilbara shop clearing \$10,000 worth of jerky, biltong per week as keto, paleo diets drive demand for protein-heavy snacks

ABC Online, Other, 25/09/2024, Jessica Shakleton

With a growing emphasis on healthy, protein-rich diets among families and households, consumers are turning to alternative approaches to snacking on the go. A fine foods store in Karratha, about 1,600 kilometres north of Perth, is selling up to \$10,000 a week in a salty, vitamin-rich snack made from locally sourced meat, known as jerky.

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As bullying and violence surge in schools, these parents feel the only option is to keep their children at home

ABC Online, Other, 25/09/2024, Lottie Twyford

When Emma's high-school aged daughter told her about being physically attacked by a group of her

peers, she felt heartbroken. [...] Meanwhile the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found in 2019 over 20 per cent of young people aged between 15 to 19 reported experiencing bullying in the previous 12 months.

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There are way more smoke and vape shops than there used to be. Has the government crackdown had any effect?

The Guardian, Other, 25/09/2024, Nick Evershed

If you live in a major city in Australia, you have probably noticed there are a lot more tobacconists around than there used to be. Every week it seems like a new shop has popped up, sometimes in an unlikely spot. Yet the smoking rate has been in constant decline, now sitting at 8.3%.

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Obesity in mums doubles the risk of autism in babies, study finds

9News, Other, 25/09/2024, Sarah Swain

New research from the University of South Australia discovered neuropsychiatric and behavioural conditions including autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are increased if the mother is obese. Lead researcher UniSA's Dr Bereket Duko says the study provides new insights into the long-term impact of maternal body weight on child mental health.

[Read More](#)

ABC, Late Night ABC News, 25/09/2024, Jade Barker

Interview WA is planning to override federal government legislation allowing vapes to be sold by pharmacists without a prescription from next week. Grace Hermes has this report.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 25/09/2024, Manny Tsigas

Interview Western Australia is planning to override federal government legislation allowing vapes to be sold by pharmacists without a prescription from next week. Despite boasting the toughest vape laws in the country, only two WA businesses have been convicted of illegally selling e-cigarettes in the past two years, despite a string of new laws.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 25/09/2024, Jerrie Demasi

News The WA State Government is urgently drafting some regulations that it hopes will override Commonwealth legislation. That is next week set to see changes to vape laws allowing people to ride across the country, get access to a nicotine vape at a pharmacy without a script. Now, the state government wasn't happy about this and neither was the WA Pharmacy Guild.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 25/09/2024, Simon Royal

Interview The West Australian government says it would not create constitutional issues for the state to introduce new laws, overriding aspects of Commonwealth vaping legislation. Earlier this year, the Greens backed a federal bill designed to crack down on vaping after Labour agreed to an amendment that would allow people to buy vapes without a prescription.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 25/09/2024, Sarah MacDonald

Doctors say successive federal governments have failed to invest in Medicare to keep up with the rising cost of health care. Figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveal Medicare is covering about half of specialists' fees, forcing Australians to increasingly dip into their own pockets to pay, a recycling company has confirmed.

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Medicare is now covering just over half of specialists' fees, according to recent data, forcing Australians to increasingly dip into their own pockets to pay for important care. The figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show Medicare funding for specialist attendances, like consultations, dropped to an all-time low of 52% between January and March.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Scientists think they can predict your risk of sudden heart attack

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 26/09/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 13

A world-first online database will help people calculate their risk of sudden cardiac arrest in a milestone for the use of genetic sequencing to diagnose and treat potentially deadly conditions before symptoms appear. Long QT syndrome, a heart rhythm disorder causing fast, chaotic heartbeats, is one of the most common inherited heart diseases in Australia, but often people only find they have it when they collapse and go into sudden cardiac arrest.

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Neill is cancer-free

Herald Sun, General News, 26/09/2024, Page 9

Sam Neill says he wouldn't be alive today if medical advancements had not been made to treat the rare type of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma he was diagnosed with in 2022. The Jurassic Park actor underwent chemotherapy but it stopped working after three months.

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Sam Neill free of cancer

Courier Mail, General News, 26/09/2024, Page 8

Sam Neill says he wouldn't be alive today if medical advancements had not been made to treat the rare type of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma he was diagnosed with in 2022. The Jurassic Park actor underwent chemotherapy but it stopped working after three months.

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

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

Residents take heart after Labor steps in to fund centre

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/09/2024, Rob Inglis, Page 9

Federal Labor has committed \$120m to establish the Northern Heart Centre at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) after doubts arose when the state government said the project was contingent on Commonwealth funding. The centre was an election commitment from the Liberals but there was uncertainty as to whether it would be delivered when this month's state budget did not contain funding for the development.

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Heart starter

Launceston Examiner, General News, 26/09/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 1

Speaking in Launceston yesterday, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the investment would make an "enormous difference" for people in the North. The heart centre, a major election promise by the state government, will include a new coronary care unit with 16 inpatient cardiac ward beds, and seven coronary care unit beds remaining co-located in the intensive care unit.

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

Turning sorrow into art

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 26/09/2024, Jessica Klein, Page 1

A Southern Downs family's world was turned upside down when their then two-year-old daughter Rosie was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma, a rare and aggressive cancer. Rosie's mother Vivien Long recalls the heart-wrenching Sunday at home in Warwick when they received the news of her diagnosis, sending them straight to Queensland Children's Hospital.

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Wounds Australia unveils plan to solve Australia's hidden wound epidemic

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 6

According to Wounds Australia, the nation can solve its chronic wounds crisis by investing in evidence-based prevention, assessment, treatment and education. But unless prioritised through urgent reforms, chronic wounds will continue to "burden the physical and emotional health of our country".

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Men's cancer risk to rise 84 per cent by 2050

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 7

A new study predicts an 84 per cent increase in men's cancer rates globally by 2050, with Australia leading in cancer incidence. Conducted by Charles Sturt University's Rural Health Research Institute, the study analysed 30 cancer types and their mortality-to-incidence ratios (MIRs) across 185 countries.

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Low carb/high fat diets for weight loss boost risk of type 2 diabetes

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 7

A new study suggests that low-carb, high-fat diets, popular for weight loss, may increase the risk of type 2 diabetes by 20 per cent. Researchers from Monash University and RMIT University conducted a 17-year study involving nearly 40,000 participants from the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study (MCCS).

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The feasibility and acceptability TM of Libre Flash glucose monitoring in persons with insulin-requiring unstable diabetes and complex needs

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Emma Bevelander , Page 16

Self-blood glucose monitoring (SBGM), commonly done via finger pricks, is an essential part of self-care for people with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus (T1DM). It is also important for people with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) who: are using insulin or other medications that carry a risk of hypoglycaemia (eg.

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'Environmental factors' likely contributed to Melbourne couple's myeloma diagnosis

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/09/2024, Robyn Riley

Melbourne mum Marlo McCarthy revealed in the Herald Sun on Monday that she has been diagnosed with the same rare blood cancer that claimed the life of her husband Tony Walshe when he was just 44. Shockingly, they are one of the few young couples in the world to have been diagnosed with myeloma , which has the lowest survival rate of all blood cancers.

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

[Read More](#)

Fight rages over promised Moruya radiology clinic

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/09/2024, Tom McGann

A federal politician who promised a multimillion-dollar radiology clinic for the Eurobodalla more than two years ago has been called out again, with no signs of the "needed" facility coming to the region. Federal Labor MP Fiona Phillips promised the \$8m cancer radiology clinic for Moruya in May 2022, with the facility pledged to operate in conjunction with the Eurobodalla Regional Hospital.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announces funds for school and heart clinic

The Mercury, Other, 25/09/2024

The Tasmanian government has inked a deal with the federal government that will see public schools receive a significant funding boost. The Liberals have signed the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement, making Tasmania the third state to back the new schools funding deal.

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

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Northern Heart Centre in Launceston to go ahead with \$120 million in federal funding

ABC Online, Other, 25/09/2024, Ashleigh Barraclough

The federal government announced it will fund a \$120 million Northern Heart Centre in Launceston during a visit from Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Wednesday. Until the announcement, there had been uncertainty as to whether the election promise from the Tasmanian government would go ahead as the state budget stated the project was contingent on federal funding.

[Read More](#)

Why Ballarat children have some of the highest asthma rates in Australia

Ballarat Courier, Other, 25/09/2024, Michelle Smith

Ballarat is home to two of Australia's worst childhood asthma hotspots, in Miners Rest-Wendouree and Redan-Sebastopol, according to new research. The suburbs both sit within the top 20 areas across the country for asthma among children aged 0-14 and have an asthma rate around 80 per cent higher than the national average.

[Read More](#)

Bella Baker diagnosed with dementia at the age of one

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 25/09/2024, Shelley Strachan

A devastating diagnosis given to a young Gympie family has already touched the hearts of many. The Baker family returned home from Western Australia on Monday, after making the desperate trek to the other side of the country to try to find out what exactly was happening to their precious baby girl, and why.

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

[Read More](#)

A cheaper alternative to get your hearing, and your life back

The Senior, Other, 25/09/2024, Rowan Cowley

A vast number of Australians suffer hearing loss but delay the costly process to get a hearing aid, but evolving technology means there are more options that are cheaper and now available over-the-counter. Hearing specialists Don Hudson and Suzanne Porter founded PocketAid, ready-to-use hearing aids sold over the counter, to make it more "accessible" to the public and "reduce the stigma" around wearing the aids.

[Read More](#)

30/60/90 National stroke targets and stroke unit access for all Australians: it's about time

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 25/09/2024, Timothy Kleinig & Lisa Murphy

Stroke is the world's second-leading cause of death and the third-leading cause of death and disability. In Australia, stroke is the third most common cause of death and a leading cause of disability. As a

PRIMARY CARE

GPs flooded with mental health cases

Daily Telegraph, General News, 26/09/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 15

General practitioners asked to name the issues they treat the most have listed mental health more than any other condition or illness, a new survey reveals. [...] More than seven in 10 doctors nominated "psychological factors" when asked to choose the three most common reasons for patient appointments, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) will reveal today. No other condition came close.

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

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

Chemist powers bypass GP waits

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26/09/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 5

More treatments that currently require a GP visit will be available direct from pharmacies in the future, leaving pharmacists celebrating and GPs fuming. [...] Health Minister Chris Picton said the move would increase access to fast, convenient healthcare but the Australian Medical Association says it will put "patients at risk".

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

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'Ambus' is saving us cash

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 26/09/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 19

It was labelled a white elephant when first purchased but the SA Ambulance Service's \$750,000 "ambus" continues to pay its way. When unveiled in January 2016 by then health minister Jack Snelling, the 12m ambulance bus, formally known as AMBus, was spruiked as being able to play major roles including transporting patients from the old to the new RAH, which opened in 2017.

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

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Probe into baby's death

Courier Mail, General News, 26/09/2024, Toby Crockford, Page 7

A coronial inquest examining a six-week-old boy's death will begin more than 13 years after his life support was switched off in a Queensland hospital. It is undecided whether the boy's father who was initially convicted over his death, before being acquitted will be called to take the stand, but the baby's mother is not expected to be required to give evidence at the new inquiry.

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

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Probe as 'suicide pod' used

Courier Mail, General News, 26/09/2024, Page 17

A woman has taken her own life inside a controversial suicide capsule made by Australian right-to-die activist Phillip Nitschke at a Swiss woodland retreat. The space age-style Sarco capsule, which fills with nitrogen and causes death by hypoxia, was allegedly used on the 64year-old American outside a village near the German border.

Chemist vape sales not in the script

West Australian, Edition Changes, 26/09/2024, Oliver Lane, Page 7

Just two shops have been prosecuted for illegally selling vapes, despite the State Government touting the laws as the toughest in the country. The first conviction was in 2023 and the second in July this year, a Health Department spokesperson said.

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Territorians want VAD

Northern Territory News, Letters, 26/09/2024, Ian Wood, Page 16

Voluntary Assisted Dying has absolutely nothing to do with crime and the state of the economy. It is a law giving choice to a terminally ill person who is approaching death, with suffering they find intolerable the choice of a quick and pain free end to their futile suffering.

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Police at hospital after code black

Burnie Advocate, General News, 26/09/2024, Page 7

Burnie's public hospital was put into a code black lockdown on Monday after a patient receiving care in the Intensive Care Unit fled, grabbed a cutting tool from an operating room and threatened staff and other patients. Police and the Health Department have confirmed there was an incident but provided scant details on what it involved.

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Pharmacists step up

Cairns Post, General News, 26/09/2024, Isabella Pesch, Page 9

Patients wait more than three weeks to see GP in regions Queenslanders living in regional areas are waiting more than three weeks to see their general practitioner, new data has revealed. Research by Insightfully on behalf of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia sampled 3453 Australians and found 11 per cent of regional Queenslanders were waiting more than three weeks to see a doctor.

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

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Hospital turned boy away

Newcastle Herald, General News, 26/09/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 1

The family of a seven-year-old boy who was taken to Cessnock hospital only to be turned away has received an apology. The boy, Memphis Sharp, who lives with his mother and sister at North Rothbury, was in a bad way when he arrived at Cessnock hospital's emergency department about 9am on August 26.

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The lasting impact of women's pain revealed

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 6

A landmark Inquiry into women's pain has revealed the significant impact pain conditions like endometriosis, pelvic pain and migraines are having on the lives of Victorian women and girls. The results from the survey of more than 13,000 women, girls, carers, families and healthcare workers highlighted the negative experiences that many had when seeking care.

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Woman dies in controversial suicide capsule made by Aussie Dr Philip Nitschke

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/09/2024, Adella Beaini

A woman has taken her own life inside a controversial suicide capsule made by an Aussie at a Swiss

woodland retreat. The space-age looking Sarco capsule, which fills with nitrogen and causes death by hypoxia, was allegedly used on the 64-year-old American outside a village near the German border.

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

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New Toowoomba Hospital construction continues as workers start pouring concrete substructure

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/09/2024, Michael Nolan

Workers have started pouring concrete for the substructure of the new Toowoomba Hospital. It is a significant milestone to pass as the building's designers close in on a final layout and floor allocation for when the building is complete in time for Christmas 2027.

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

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Gold Coast University Hospital expansion: First look as scaffolding comes off

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/09/2024, Keith Woods

Gold Coast residents have been getting their first look at a major expansion to Gold Coast University Hospital. Scaffolding has come down around the Secure Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit (SMHRU), with recruitment of staff underway ahead of its opening later this year.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Suicide capsule arrests: Swiss police detain several people after controversial 'The Last Resort' owned device used

West Australian, Other, 25/09/2024

Police in the northern canton of Schaffhausen bordering Germany said the so-called "Sarco" capsule had been deployed in a wood in the municipality of Merishausen on Monday. Prosecutors in Schaffhausen have opened criminal proceedings against several people for "inducing and aiding and abetting suicide", a police statement said on Tuesday, adding several people were detained, without giving details about them or the deceased.

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

[Read More](#)

Emergency departments and GPs are swamped. Here's the answer to our wait-time blowouts

Canberra Times, Other, 25/09/2024, Trent Twomey

Eighty-two per cent of Australians support community pharmacists providing health advice for common, non-complex conditions such as UTI, earache and nausea and for services, such as the prescribing of hormonal contraceptives. The finding is no doubt influenced by the successful rollout of the in-pharmacy COVID-19 vaccine.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Liberals target 70,000 surgeries through partnering with private provider

Canberra Times, Other, 25/09/2024, Lucy Bladen

The Canberra Liberals have set a target to conduct 70,000 elective surgeries in the next term of government if elected at next month's ACT election. The party said they would attempt to achieve this through partnering with a private provider to deliver the surgeries.

[Read More](#)

Tiny cottage behind a powerful change in rural kids

Canberra Times, Other, 25/09/2024, Stephanie Gardiner

The hub's work was recently highlighted at the national rural health conference in Perth, held up as an example of collaborative healthcare working to close the gap. More than 300 GP appointments were conducted in 2023, with 93 Indigenous students getting a health check that assesses the risk of chronic illness.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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'Have faith': boxer put trust in doctors before death

Canberra Times, Other, 25/09/2024, William Ton

On the way home from hospital for lingering headaches, George Diamond told his dad he was being overprotective and needed to have more faith in the doctors treating him. Two months later, the 18-year-old boxer died at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne from bleeding near his brain, with an autopsy revealing an older subdural haemorrhage.

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

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Three per cent of patients died after undergoing knee replacement by NSW doctor, inquest hears

The Guardian, Other, 25/09/2024, Melissa Davey

Three per cent of an orthopaedic surgeon's patients who underwent bilateral knee replacement surgery at Albury Wodonga private hospital died, a NSW coroner has heard. Kenneth Toll, 62, died on 20 July 2019 three days after undergoing the elective surgery at the hospital. The inquest, which began on Monday, is examining the medical care and treatment provided to Toll in the lead up to his death.

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

[Read More](#)

The last eight words heard by woman killed in illegal suicide machine death in Switzerland revealed

7news.com.au, Other, 25/09/2024

The inventor of a suicide machine which caused the death of a woman in northern Switzerland, and triggered the arrest of four people, has revealed the last words the user of the "Sarco" suicide capsule would have heard. The "Sarco" capsule was used for the first time on Monday in the woods near a forest cabin in the municipality of Merischausen, near the German border, with just one other person present at the time.

[Read More](#)

Dr Death's most gruesome inventions: How the controversial inventor behind the Sarco suicide pod has also come up with body implants that kill you if you forget to deactivate them, 'exit bags', and a 'Deliverance Machine'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/09/2024, Jonathan Chadwick

At the touch of the button, the controversial capsule fills with nitrogen to starve the occupant of oxygen, rendering them unconscious before they die 'within seconds'. Dr Nitschke – who is head of the voluntary euthanasia campaign group Exit International – told MailOnline: 'The person will climb into the machine.

[Read More](#)

Sarco suicide pod's inventor hopes to bring the 'Tesla of euthanasia' to the UK: Creator 'is in contact with Scottish politicians about legalising assisted suicide' as death capsule is used for first time

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/09/2024, Elena Salvoni

Dr Philip Nitschke, the Australian euthanasia advocate behind the capsule, has reportedly been in touch with MSP Liam McArthur, who is seeking to legalise assisted dying in Scotland. Mr McArthur has put forward legislation that would give mentally competent people aged 16 or over with a terminal condition the right to end their life, pending independent assessments by two doctors.

[Read More](#)

WA hospital pharmacists call for reform

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 25/09/2024

Western Australia's hospital pharmacists have entered their second week of industrial action, with Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) warning that future healthcare delivery is at risk without urgent reforms. AdPha supports the pharmacists who are calling on WA Health to improve career pathways and pay to attract and retain staff.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 25/09/2024, Mikaela Simpson

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Higgins points out that when Medicare was initially designed, it was there to cover 85 per cent of the cost of seeing a doctor and then they've experienced ten years of Medicare freeze and when it was unfrozen, it hasn't been indexed. She states that they have found that the gaps are getting bigger, and patients are having to pay more.

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2CC, Breakfast, 25/09/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Delaney says the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is calling for an overhaul of My Health Record to make it fit for purpose, following a nationwide survey's findings that 31% of GPs rarely or never use the system. Higgins points out that the systems in the My Health Record don't integrate well, which isn't good for patients.

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6PR, Mornings, 25/09/2024, Gary Adshead

Interview with Associate Professor Michael Clements, Vice President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Clements says the reality is that people want to see the right specialist for the first time, and they'd like a government subsidy, enough so that they can afford to see their GP. He adds that with the right investments, people can get the right diagnosis first time rather than having to try out a few other options.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Man accused of stabbing cop gets bail

Age, General News, 26/09/2024, Erin Pearson, Page 3

An 18-year-old Cranbourne West man who allegedly lured police to his home with a fake triple-zero call to stab an officer has been granted bail after taking his bid for release to the Supreme Court. [...]

Despite police opposing his release on the basis he might attack another emergency services worker, Justice Jane Dixon ordered that he be taken to hospital for an assessment to see if he had undiagnosed mental health issues and required treatment.

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Clock ticking as election looms

Australian Educator, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 8

With over 35 years in education, I've observed that students with additional needs are often

overlooked. Currently, only students diagnosed with autism receive funding, which is grossly insufficient as autism support needs to extend beyond just part of the school day. Moreover, students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), emotional challenges, or other forms of neurodiversity receive no funding at all.

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Mind Australia 'shocked and disappointed' at Geelong emergency call out data being made public

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/09/2024, Lucy Crock

Emergency services have attended a mental health facility in Geelong more than once a week on average, raising concern among some residents who live nearby a similar facility planned for Torquay. Torquay North residents Naomi and Ian Stewart obtained the data via a freedom of information (FOI) request that revealed 72 triple-0 events had occurred at Haven Geelong on Roslyn Rd in Highton in the 13 months to July.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Reports of sexual incidents inside WA mental health services on the rise

West Australian, Other, 25/09/2024, Bethany Hiatt

Two cases a week of sexual assault or harassment are being reported from inside WA's mental health system, data on the state's most vulnerable patients has revealed. The annual report released last week by WA's Chief Psychiatrist Nathan Gibson reveals notifications of sexual incidents — including assaults — increased by 21 per cent in the past year.

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

[Read More](#)

Former inmate calls for intervention to stop spiralling WA prison conditions

ABC Online, Other, 25/09/2024, Bridget McArthur

A former WA prisoner who now counsels inmates says he has watched conditions deteriorate since he left prison. [...] It stated counsellors were at capacity, both the on-site and virtual psychiatry service had ceased, and there was no fit-for-purpose crisis care accommodation for those with poor mental health.

[Read More](#)

Psychiatrists and families call for funding overhaul of Queensland's broken mental health system

ABC Online, Other, 25/09/2024, Janelle Miles & Emma Pollard

Angelica Johnson took her own life within days of being released from a public psychiatric unit, triggering accusations she was "abandoned" by the Queensland health system. The decision to discharge her from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) came three months after she was severely injured in an earlier suicide attempt on the grounds of the Caboolture Hospital, north of Brisbane.

[Read More](#)

Professor Juli Coffin awarded 2024 Australian Mental Health Prize for Equine Assisted Learning Program

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 25/09/2024, Katya Minns

A Broome-based researcher who established an innovative Equine Assisted Learning program in the Kimberley has been honoured among the 2024 Australian Mental Health Prize winners. Juli Coffin was awarded in the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander category for her Yawardani Jan-ga (Helping Horses) program, a holistic approach utilising the healing powers of horses to improve the wellbeing and mental health of Aboriginal youth.

[Read More](#)

Outback champions reaching out

Shepparton News Online, Other, 25/09/2024

The Royal Flying Doctor Service is working to address mental health issues among isolated graziers. Ms Martin sought help from a counsellor at the Royal Flying Doctor Service, who reassured her she was not alone. That vulnerable moment in the paddock has stayed with Ms Martin, who went on to work for the rural medical service's mental health program We've Got Your Back

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

LNP on a collision course with public service unions

The Australian, General News, 26/09/2024, Sarah Elks & Lydia Lynch, Page 7

Queensland's public sector nurses, teachers and police unions will squeeze the newly elected state government for nation-leading pay rises after next month's election, heaping pressure on the budget bottom line. The Australian can reveal the powerful Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union which has 70,000 members statewide will push for a wage increase of more than 3.8 per cent annually, above the 2.5 per cent policy locked into Labor's state budget and endorsed by the LNP opposition.

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

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Beyond judgement: A nursing perspective on obesity, medications, and the path to health

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Amanda Wilson, Page 40

As a nurse, this scene deeply unsettled me not just because of the pharmacist's strict adherence to her medication protocol while ignoring patient confidentiality, but because of the underlying message it sent. The pharmacist seemed to believe that healthcare decisions could be based on moral judgements rather than medical needs.

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Editorial

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Annie Butler, Page 3

Congratulations to all ANMF members, past and present for reaching this remarkable milestone 100 years old, 100 years strong! [...] We have been instrumental in lobbying for and supporting national registration and the establishment of the Australian Nursing Council (ANC) in the late 1980s and early 90s; and later the establishment of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS), Ahpra and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA).

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What a time to be an ANMF member as we celebrate our proud 100-year history

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Lori-Anne Sharp, Page 8

From humble beginnings of some 700 members over a century ago, we now mark a national membership of over 326,000, making us the largest union in the country. This year is especially important as we reflect on ANMF's proud history and all it has achieved over the past 100 years to improve the working lives of its members.

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The ANMF leadership is in good hands

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, James Lloyd, Page 14

I want to tell you about the ANMF Federal Executive/Council, how they work in your best interests, and how I sometimes sit in awe of those members around the meeting table. The ANMF is in good hands, and this assurance stems from the collective efforts and empathetic leadership that have become the hallmark of our organisation.

Selfless, not selfish: Women who freeze their eggs happy to donate them

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 25/09/2024, Wendy Tuohy

In the early days of egg freezing, young women who wanted to protect their chance at parenthood battled the perception they were "selfish careerists" who had chosen to pursue other goals before babies. This was despite the reality of many having to work hard and make sacrifices to afford the expensive procedure and knowing the odds of conceiving naturally decline with age.

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The West Australian exclusive Mandurah mothers due to give birth sent to Rockingham due to Peel Health Campus staffing shortage

West Australian, Other, 25/09/2024, Rachel Fenner

The beleaguered Peel Health Campus was so understaffed last week that local mothers were unable to give birth at the hospital. However, senior hospital sources say the transition to public management has not been smooth.

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Striking nurses to sit down with NSW premier over wages

Canberra Times, Other, 26/09/2024, Luke Costin

At least 5000 nurses and midwives took to the streets on Tuesday over a rebuked demand for an immediate 15-per-cent pay increase. Posters at the rally called the premier a liar, accused him of making hollow promises and compared him to a catheter for "taking the p****".

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Abortion law proposal triggers debate, within and across party lines — what's been proposed?

ABC Online, Other, 25/09/2024

A proposal to change South Australian abortion laws has prompted intense and heated debate, both in and outside of political circles. The private member's bill from Liberal MP Ben Hood would require women seeking to terminate a pregnancy from 28 weeks to instead undergo an induced birth, with babies to then be adopted.

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Supporters of Liberal MP Ben Hood's amendments to SA's abortion laws rally outside Parliament House

ABC Online, Other, 25/09/2024

Liberal MP Ben Hood has introduced the private member's bill in the upper house that, if successful, would require people seeking to terminate a pregnancy from 27 weeks and six days to instead deliver their baby alive. Anti-abortion campaigner and University of Adelaide law professor Joanna Howe said the purpose of the rally was to "talk about the implications" of current abortion laws and "to demand change".

[Read More](#)

Contraceptive pill available over the counter for more women in NSW after 'huge success' of trial

The Guardian, Other, 26/09/2024, Tamsin Rose

More women in New South Wales will have easier access to the oral contraceptive pill as a trial designed to reduce pressure on the state's healthcare system becomes permanent. Under the changes, from Saturday women will be able to get a resupply of their pill from a certified pharmacist without needing to go back to the doctor for a new prescription – as long as they have been taking the medication for two years.

Bill proposing South Australians seeking later abortions give birth tantamount to 'forced birth', Greens say

The Guardian, Other, 25/09/2024, Tory Shepherd

A new bill that would require South Australians seeking an abortion from 28 weeks to give birth has been denounced as tantamount to "forced birth" by the Greens, while the lead standards body in women's health called it an attempt to limit healthcare access. The bill was introduced into state parliament on Wednesday by Liberal frontbencher Ben Hood, though it is not Liberal policy and is unlikely to pass both houses to become law.

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Families of stillborns getting better support in 'dark and challenging' times

Daily Liberal, Other, 25/09/2024, Orlander Ruming

In the month that followed Vincent's birth, she didn't want to go anywhere by herself because she knew there would be questions from anyone who knew her. "Trying to integrate back into the community after having loss and particularly in a small, rural town is quite difficult. I was terrified of running into someone who was like 'oh, you've had your baby?' 'Where's your baby?'," Ms Castor said.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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'We've fallen behind the public sector': strike action at private hospital

The Border Mail, Other, 25/09/2024, Anthony Bunn

Albury Wodonga Private Hospital's Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation branch president Renae Maher said the decision was motivated by growing frustration at new pay and conditions offer from Ramsay Health, the company which owns the hospital. "We were asking for 18 per cent over three years, we've now revised that to 16 per cent, but Ramsay is offering 12.5 per cent," Ms Maher said.

[Read More](#)

Illegal drugs and pregnancy

ADF (Alcohol and Drug Foundation), Other, 25/09/2024

Pregnancy is a time of great change. If you're pregnant, breastfeeding or thinking about having a baby, it's important to think about the types of drugs you and your partner are taking. Taking any drugs, including medications, while pregnant or breastfeeding should be done with the support of a trusted health professional.

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New Australian Guidelines for dealing with unexplained infertility

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 25/09/2024

A new guideline for health professionals treating people affected by infertility aims to enable them to inform patients better and increase the chances of pregnancy. Led by experts at the University of Adelaide, UNSW Sydney and Monash University, the evidence-based Australian Guidelines have been published in the Medical Journal of Australia alongside the launch of consumer resources including a new Monash Ask Fertility App.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Pharmacists could treat more conditions in bid to ease pressure on South Australian GPs

9News, Other, 25/09/2024, Samantha Hogan

In a bid to alleviate pressure on general practitioners, the South Australian government is considering a plan to allow pharmacists to treat a greater range of conditions. The move would require them to undertake extra training so they can prescribe more medications.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacies eager to fill healthcare gap as GP waits stretch out

9News, Other, 25/09/2024, Eleanor Wilson

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is urging people to consider seeing their pharmacist for minor health issues with new research revealing some patients are waiting more than three weeks to see a GP. Around 40 per cent of Australians are waiting an unacceptable length to see their GP, with one in 10 waiting at least three weeks for an appointment according to the Guild.

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Admin burden top reason GPs plan to leave practice: RACGP

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 25/09/2024, Michelle Wisbey

GPs' administrative workload has become so 'out of control', it is now the top reason many are planning to stop practising in the next five years, according to alarming new data from the RACGP. The early results from the college's new Health of the Nation survey found GPs' concern about their administrative workload is skyrocketing, up from 60% in 2023 to 70% in 2024.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Secret Helfie AI document reveals huge revenue claims

The Australian, Business News, 26/09/2024, John Stensholt, Page 13

Helfie ai, which claims to be Australia's latest billion-dollar tech unicorn but may be worth less than \$50m, told potential investors it would be among the country's most profitable private companies in two years with gross profit margins between 60 to 90 per cent. A 79-page information memorandum circulated by Helfie AI earlier this year, and obtained by The Australian, claimed the health tech start-up had an addressable market of 3.5 billion people around the world and that it could charge up to \$15 for customers to use a phone app or chatbot to undertake health tests using its artificial intelligence.

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

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President's message

In The Know, General News, 01/10/2024, Trent Twomey, Page 2

The Heads of Agreement gave way to another intense period of legal drafting to work out the finer details and ensure all our i's were dotted and t's crossed. By the time Federal Budget rolled around, the government announced the one-year freeze on maximum general PBS copayments. A win for patients in a cost-of-living crisis, new funding for PBS medicines were also revealed.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 25/09/2024, Manny Tsigas

Interview A hefty doctor's bill is hard to swallow at the best of times, even more so when Medicare spread more thinly than ever. Is that good? During her second pregnancy, Danielle Tully was shocked when she had to pay hundreds of dollars for private scans and appointments.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 25/09/2024, Peter Mitchell

Australians are being forced to dip into their own pockets, with critics now calling Medicare rebates almost meaningless.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Supporting gut health during antibiotic therapy

In The Know, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 52

Antibiotics represent a monumental advancement in modern medicine, crucial in combating bacterial infections. While these medications are effective in eliminating pathogenic 'bad' bacteria, unfortunately they also kill off beneficial 'good' bacteria, disrupting the delicate balance of the gut microbiome.

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6PR, Afternoons, 25/09/2024, Julie-anne Sprague

The WA Government is drafting vaping regulations aimed at overriding Federal legislation that's set to weaken current restrictions. The Commonwealth laws come into effect next month. They will permit the sale of e-cigarettes without a prescription at pharmacies.

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 25/09/2024, Nadia Mitsopoulos

The WA Government says it would not create constitutional issues for the state to introduce new laws to override aspects of Commonwealth vaping legislation. Earlier this year, the Greens backed a federal government's bill designed to crack down on vaping after labor agreed to an amendment that would allow people to buy vapes without a prescription.

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SPORT

AFL may grow beyond new Tassie team

Australian Financial Review, General News, 26/09/2024, Patrick Durkin & Gus McCubbing, Page 1

AFL chairman Richard Goyder says it would be only logical for the league to consider adding another team to the competition after the long-awaited Tasmanian Devils are bedded down.

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'My Antonio didn't die for nothing'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 26/09/2024, Riley Walter, Page 6

The first time Wendy Smith heard about second impact syndrome while researching her youngest son's concussion symptoms, she thought nothing of it. When she heard about it again six years later, her oldest son, Antonio Lo Iacono, had just died from a head injury suffered during an Australian rules football match in country South Australia.

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

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How gambling industry baits online users

Daily Advertiser, General News, 26/09/2024, Gwen Liu, Page 5

Social media platforms, as promotional tools for gambling providers, are using algorithms to tailor cues like sports for men and celebrities for women, encouraging different groups to gamble online. Experts have expressed concern over the gambling industry's appeal to young people, as the debate heats up around the 2023 federal parliamentary inquiry's recommendation to ban online gambling ads.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#)

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Breaking new ground

Australian Educator, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 7

The rise of women's soccer in Australia and the players' fight for equality has been documented in a new film called Trailblazers. The film features Australia's national team the Matildas from the early days when they played to small crowds, to their appearances in sold-out stadiums and being watched on TV and online by more than 11 million people during the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Medical man's R&D finance shop kicks off \$100m raise

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 26/09/2024, Page 16

A bidding war between private equity rivals Crescent Capital and Genesis Capital for ASX-listed dental outfit Pacific Smiles hasn't slowed down key Gensis backer and medical entrepreneur Glenn Haifer.

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

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Health Check: Cancer drug developer Chimeric heads to blood bank for better patient cells

The Australian, Other, 25/09/2024, Tim Boreham

The proposed union of chemist owner and drug wholesaler Sigma Healthcare (ASX:SIG) with the private Chemist Warehouse faces competition obstacles, but thanks to the ongoing merger process we can all have a good perve at the latter's financials. Via its ASX feed, Sigma provided the numbers for CW Group Holdings, the holding company for the Chemist Warehouse chain owned by the Gance and Verrochi families.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Shock twist to racism row

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/09/2024, Fia Walsh, Page 11

Aboriginal police officers have detailed shocking allegations of racism in the NT Police Force, including white officers challenging elderly Indigenous men to fights, calling women "black dogs", and other acts of lewd behaviour. Aboriginal Community Police Officers (ACPO) also claimed they were routinely instructed to move on Indigenous people from public areas in Darwin and Alice Springs ahead of major events or visits from political leaders.

Help for health staff

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 26/09/2024, Page 16

This year's theme "keeping the passion when working in adversity" has brought staff together to share their personal experiences and challenges that they've faced within the health sector. Executive director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Amanda Cooms said validating people's feelings within the community and building resilience was a priority for the forum.

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Always was, always will be

Australian Educator, General News, 01/10/2024, Leanne Tolra, Page 36

Mayo highlights the impact of educating young people through stories and lessons about Aboriginal cultures and Torres Strait Islander cultures, describing it as "an important national project" that can have benefits on the mental health of Aboriginal children and Torres Strait Islander children. "The school initiatives I have enjoyed observing over the years are those that have been built on interactions with the local Indigenous community. It is especially significant and valuable to invite an Elder to regularly visit the students in their classrooms," he writes.

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Out-of-home care for Indigenous children to be all Aboriginal-controlled

The Guardian, Other, 25/09/2024, Amy Remeikis

Australia's child protection system will be transformed with a commitment from the nation's major child and family care organisations to let Aboriginal community controlled organisations (ACCOS) take the lead with Indigenous children in out-of-home care. [...] The move follows years of advocacy from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak groups who have pushed for governments and non-government organisations to listen to the evidence and invest in community-led solutions.

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Residential aged care service searching for Indigenous friends

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/09/2024, David Prestipino

Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme coordinator at Riverview Community Services, Jacqui Lowry, runs the federal government-funded visitor scheme for the southeast Perth metropolitan area and said she doesn't have any Indigenous visitors on her books. "While Graeme isn't particular about the culture his visitors come from, I can imagine there would be many Aboriginal people who would appreciate a conversation about common interests," Ms Lowry said.

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First People's Assembly and Justice Commission needed as basis for WA Treaty

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/09/2024, Jesse J. Fleay

Queensland's Indigenous Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry is a wake up call for the Western Australian government. Established under the Path to Treaty Act 2023, the Inquiry will provide advice and make recommendations to the Queensland government in accordance with the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

[Read More](#)

Indigenous-Aboriginal Party of Australia urges federal action now to address "escalating housing crisis"

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/09/2024, Giovanni Torre

The Indigenous - Aboriginal Party of Australia has called for immediate government intervention relating to Australia's escalating housing crisis. [...] "The shame men face being homeless or dependent on others for housing security leads to a decline in mental health and substance use. We need holistic wrap around supports to ensure long term outcomes for our families," Aboriginal Party of Australia convenor Uncle Owen Whyman said.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

No relevant coverage

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Illegal meds are cheaper to buy

Herald Sun, General News, 26/09/2024, Sarah Perillo, Page 13

More Melburnians are using the drugs, commonly known as Ritalin, Modavigil and Vyvanse, without a prescription. This is despite experts warning the pharmaceutical stimulants often used to treat the attention deficit hyperactivity disorders and narcolepsy actually make it harder for people without ADHD to perform complex tasks.

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

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'It's a deadly gamble': NSW urged to act on 'growing threat' of nitazenes amid push for drug-checking services

The Guardian, Other, 25/09/2024, Catie Mcleod

The New South Wales government will be asked to formally recognise the powerful synthetic opioids called nitazenes as a "growing threat" as it faces calls to introduce drug-checking services. The Legalise Cannabis party MP, Jeremy Buckingham, will move a motion in state parliament on Wednesday night to acknowledge that nitazenes are an emerging problem, including for people who don't typically take opioids.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Australian Made is not necessarily Australian-owned, and actual local businesses are calling for clearer labelling

ABC Online, Other, 25/09/2024, Kim Honan

A survey of more than 1,000 people commissioned by dairy cooperative Norco found more than half of consumers were guided by the Australian Made logo. [...] "Three-quarters of consumers believe that country of ownership should be on the food labels they buy on the supermarket shelves to take this confusion out when they're making their purchase decisions," Norco CEO Michael Hampson said.

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What's the difference between 'Australian-made' and 'Australian-owned'?

9News, Other, 25/09/2024, Rebecca Masters

Consumers are inadvertently purchasing foreign-owned grocery items while believing they're supporting Aussie brands, according to a group of Australian-owned businesses. [...] They argue consumers are purchasing the household products they grew up with - many of them iconic Aussie brands stamped with "Australian Made" - in an effort to support Australian farmers and communities, not realising some of those companies are now foreign-owned.

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Shoppers gripped with confusion as hard-earned income spent on 'Australian Owned' products are being pocketed overseas

Sky News Australia, Other, 25/09/2024, Sumaiya Chowdhure

A recent study has revealed shoppers who consciously aim to support Aussie owned products may unknowingly be sending their funds overseas from purchasing foreign brands. Despite soaring cost-of-living pressures forcing households to fork out an extra \$1.64 billion in their monthly grocery shops, about 30 per cent of shoppers have increased their support for Aussie owned products.

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AICIS

New method has potential to manage 'forever chemicals'

Sustainability Matters, General News, 01/09/2024, Page 22

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are known as 'forever chemicals' because they are notoriously resistant to degradation. Due to their stable chemical structure, PFAS which are found in thousands of variants are used in oil- and grease-resistant food packaging, non-stick cookware, cosmetics, clothing and firefighting foams.

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Creek the likely culprit in dam water contamination

West Australian, Other, 25/09/2024, Luke Costin

An investigation into cancer-linked "forever chemicals" discovered in waterways has zeroed in on one creek. [...] Two groups of PFAS chemicals were found in the dam's untreated water at one-and-a-half times the safe level of Australian drinking water guidelines.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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2GB, Afternoons, 25/09/2024, Michael McLaren

Further testing of Sydney's dam system has confirmed levels of cancer linked chemicals are negligible, although elevated levels of PFAS have been detected in Medlow Dam in the Blue Mountains, where more screening is being carried out.

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