



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 28th September 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Channel 10](#)** reports Health Minister Mark Butler has said more GPs are required to deal with an ageing population with rates of strokes increasing and occurring in younger people, according to a report from the Stroke Foundation.
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 3) reports higher risks of heart abnormalities have been linked to babies conceived through IVF, ART and other reproductive technologies, according to an international study of 7.7 million children.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 10) reports attempted suicides on NSW school property numbered over 100 last year, according to data released from the Department of Education.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 11) reports Queensland Labor has promised a review of the Mental Health Act will assess security concerns for psychiatric ward staff if re-elected, with Qld Health Minister Shannon Fentiman saying additional security guards will be recruited for Cairns PICU following assaults on staff.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 11) leads widespread coverage reporting national mpox cases have reached over 600 as health experts are urging eligible Australians get vaccinated before the transmission spreads. *Also reported by:* [ABC News](#), [Canberra Times](#), [Newcastle Herald](#)

- [ABC Online](#) reports leaders in the Torres Straight and FNQ are calling for the Torres Model of Care to be reinstated as separate services for the Torres Straight and Cape York as communities increasingly suffer deaths from preventable diseases.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### ‘At tipping point’: Inside one of Australia’s busiest hospitals

Australian Financial Review, Other, 27/09/2024, Michael Smith

It is surprisingly busy for a Monday morning in the emergency department of Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital. Two police officers, three security guards, several nurses and two doctors are attending to a large man who is thrashing around on a hospital bed.

[Read More](#)

### Blog: RACGP a bit late to the My Health Record party - Pulse+IT

Pulse+IT, Other, 27/09/2024

The venerable RACGP issued quite a peculiar press release this week calling on the government to overhaul the My Health Record and for more funding to improve its useability, saying it won't be able to fulfil its potential to be the “one-stop store for Australians’ health records” without significant investment. [...] This had Australian Health Minister Mark Butler cheering from the rafters and taking credit as it mentioned the tripling of the bulk billing incentive as a noticeable improvement to affordability in the Australian healthcare system.

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### Act now before 'pandemic amnesia' sets in

The Australian, Other, 28/09/2024, Christine Middap

Melbourne was nearing the end of its first 100 days of strict lockdowns and premiers were cautiously planning to loosen border controls in October 2020 when federal opposition leader Anthony Albanese made a significant pledge to protect the country in future pandemics. [...] Minister Mark Butler said in 2022 that the government was "delivering on its election commitment to establish a world-class Centre for Disease Control within its first term in office".

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### \$3.5m boost for First Nations preventive health program

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/09/2024, Harriet Grayson

Indigenous Australians will have greater access to annual health checks with the federal government's \$3.5 million investment to expand the "Deadly Choices" preventative health program on a national scale. [...] "Expanding the successful and high-profile Deadly Choices program to more sports and more states and territories is a potential game changer for First Nations health," said federal health minister Mark Butler.

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### Private hospitals suspending ‘unprofitable’ surgeries as stoush with insurers deepens

The Age, Other, 27/09/2024, Sumeyya Ilanbey & Henrietta Cook

Private hospitals are suspending surgeries deemed unprofitable, leaving patients in limbo and reducing access to life-changing medical treatment. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler earlier this year launched a review into the \$22 billion private healthcare system, as hospitals come under significant financial pressure amid their deepening stoush with private health insurers.

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

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### Channel 10, 10 News First, 27/09/2024, Sandra Sully

A new health report has revealed a rather bleak outlook, with a number of Australians experiencing a

stroke hitting a 20-year high. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says they need more GPs in the system, and he believes this is not going to happen quickly.

*Also reported by: 10 Mid North Coast (Coffs Harbour), 10 Newcastle (Newcastle), 10 Tamworth (Tamworth), 10 Wagga Wagga (Wagga Wagga), 10 Wollongong (Wollongong), Ten Taree (Port Macquarie)*

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### Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 27/09/2024, Kim Millar

Last year, an Australian had a stroke every 11 minutes, the worst rate in two decades. Experts are warning rates are going to soar to almost 60% by 2050. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says people are getting those checks if their blood pressure is high and they're getting into medicines as quickly as possible to bring those rates down.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Rich and famous at footy feast

Weekend Australian, Business News, 28/09/2024, Nick Evans & John Stensholt, Page 25

It's been a harrowing couple of weeks for Victorian Liberal leader John Pesutto, with the misery of that defamation case brought by Moira Deeming continuing. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells will form an uneasy alliance with fellow Queenslander Dutton to support the Brisbane Lions.

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### 2BS, Live and Local, 27/09/2024, Dusty Fitzpatrick

Interview with Susi Tegen, Chief Executive Officer, National Rural Health Alliance. Compere says the Federal Government recently announced \$900m as an investment to enhance the aged care services in rural and remote areas. Tegen points out that the announcement made by Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells is fantastic. She adds that this is really important because people living in rural and remote Australia have actually less access to healthcare, but also aged care facilities because they're just not there compared to the city.

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### Triple M Melbourne, 08:00 News, 27/09/2024

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Sports Minister Anika Wells reportedly ignored attempts to salvage the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Freedom of information documents show officials sought meetings with them after Victoria scrapped the games.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## DEPARTMENT

### GP shortage impacts pressure on hospitals

Western Weekender Penrith, General News, 27/09/2024, Emily Chate, Page 5

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 & 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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### Point Clare: GP practice manager Claudia Jeffrey, 31, sentenced for defrauding Medicare

Central Coast Express Advocate, Other, 27/09/2024, Richard Noone

A GP practice manager has been sentenced to the equivalent of jail for defrauding Medicare of more than \$338,000 to fund her gambling addiction. [...] In May 2021 the Department of Health and Aged Care, which administered the Medicare payments, sent Jeffrey's medical centre a letter asking why it had made so many claims for melanoma and biopsies but never sent any accompanying specimens to pathology.

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### Why DoHAC delayed GP management plan changes

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/09/2024, Holly Payne

By the time that the Department of Health and Aged Care pulled the plug on its November rollout of new chronic disease management items earlier this week, it was already about a month too late. Even if it had settled on viable new rebates for chronic care plans, there would have been no time left for GP software vendors to design and implement new workflows.

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### ABC News, News Breakfast, 27/09/2024, Michael Rowland & Emma Rebellato

The number of Mpox cases in Australia has seen a spike of nearly 600% since July this year, that's according to the Federal Health Department. The department says there are now 720 confirmed cases of Mpox across the country.

*Also reported by: ABC (Adelaide), ABC (Albany), ABC (Brisbane), ABC (Canberra), ABC (Darwin), ABC (Hobart), ABC (Melbourne), ABC (Perth), ABC (Regional NSW), ABC (Regional Queensland), ABC (Regional Victoria), ABC (Sydney), ABC News (Adelaide), ABC News (Brisbane), ABC News (Canberra), ABC News (Hobart), ABC News (Melbourne), ABC News (Perth), ABC News (Regional NSW), ABC News (Regional Queensland), ABC News (Regional Victoria), ABC News (Regional West Australia)*

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### SBS, World News Australia, 27/09/2024, Anton Enus

New data shows cases of monkeypox in Australia have soared since July. Figures from the Department of Health show a rise of more than 500%. That's over 600 new confirmed cases, most of them in Victoria and New South Wales.

*Also reported by: SBS (Adelaide), SBS (Albany), SBS (Brisbane), SBS (Canberra), SBS (Melbourne), SBS (Perth), SBS (Regional NSW), SBS (Regional Queensland), SBS (Regional Victoria), SBS (Tasmania)*

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There's been a massive spike in the number of mpox cases in Australia since July. Numbers have skyrocketed by 600%, up from six at the end of March to 720, according to the Federal Health Department.

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## VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Pioneering home care forerunner of current practices

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 28/09/2024, Malcolm Quekett, Page 32

The old black-and-white photos place those depicted firmly in the past. And yet while they are a window into a long-gone era, they also represent provision of a health care service which was remarkably ahead of its time and is more relevant than ever.

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### Aged care changes to cost most older Australians more

Central Western Daily, General News, 28/09/2024, Noel Whittaker, Page 71

Next year, the biggest aged care reforms in almost 30 years will begin. These "once in a generation" changes will redefine aged care and who pays for it.

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

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### Ageism the next 'Me Too' movement as older Aussies abused and ignored

Canberra Times, Other, 27/09/2024, Eileen Wood

Older Australians who experience and internalise ageism are robbed of more than seven years of life, said advocate and campaigner against ageism, Marlene Krasovitsky The consultant to the World Health Organisation said ageism in Australia is pervasive stereotyping and discrimination.

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

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### We can prevent avoidable decline

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/09/2024

The aged care royal commission set forth a range of new measures and standards translating to real improvements in the safety and care of older Australians. Unfortunately, it missed an opportunity.

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### Anglicare report highlights aged care delays

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/09/2024, Jodie Wolf

A new report entitled Life on the Wait List has been released by Anglicare Australia, shining a spotlight on the amount of time older Australians are left waiting for care at home without support. The report states that the wait time for older people is estimated to be over 15 months with 68,000 in limbo, a figure that has doubled over one year.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Five-star rehab

AFR Weekend, General News, 28/09/2024, Julie Hare, Page 32

At the start of the second season of Succession, the viewer knows the personal hell that has landed Kendall Roy at an Icelandic drug rehabilitation centre. But as he immerses himself in a spa amid picturesque tundra, it looks like a heavenly place to be.

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### How we can treat addiction

Herald Sun, General News, 28/09/2024, Andrew Lawrence, Page 53

I undertook my PhD in the 1980s, studying opioids and opioid receptors. Back then I figured I would rather study 'pleasure' than 'pain', although the two are often linked.

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### Call for focus on female health

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/09/2024, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 29

Leading women's health researchers are calling for better understanding of the impact of menopause in the workplace. Director of Monash University's Women's Health Research Program Susan Davis said it was vital recommendations that came from a recent Senate inquiry into issues related to menopause and perimenopause were acted on.

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### Nod for coal shows deep disregard for region's health

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/09/2024, John Van & Der Kallen, Page 50

It is difficult to comprehend the Albanese government's reckless decision to extend the life of three coal mines to beyond 2050. The mining, transportation and burning of coal all increase pollution, which directly harms our health.

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### Even \$10,000-a-week rehab is no guarantee of getting clean

Australian Financial Review, Other, 27/09/2024, Julie Hare

At the start of the second season of Succession, the viewer knows the personal hell that has landed Kendall Roy at an Icelandic drug rehabilitation centre. But as he immerses himself in a spa amid picturesque tundra, it looks like a heavenly place to be.

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### PSA's new vaping criteria

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/09/2024

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has released updated Guidelines for pharmacists providing smoking cessation support, coinciding with legislative changes starting 01 Oct. The guidelines clarify the legal, professional, and ethical standards for managing nicotine dependence, including vaping products.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### IVF babies link to heart defects risk

Children conceived through IVF and other reproductive technologies have a significantly higher risk of serious heart abnormalities than naturally conceived children, a large international study has found. A study of 7.7 million children in four northern European countries found babies born through assisted reproduction including IVF, intracytoplasmic sperm injection and embryo freezing have a 36 per cent higher risk of serious heart abnormalities.

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

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## The good doctor

Courier Mail, Qweekend, 28/09/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 14

A breast cancer diagnosis can shake the very foundations of a woman's life. The ground she walks on suddenly feels unstable and her future is thrown into uncertainty.

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

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## Westerly winds a factor in asthma hotspots: GP

Ballarat Courier, General News, 28/09/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 2

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.

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## Breakthrough as woman's type 1 diabetes is cured in world-first using stem cells

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/09/2024, Matthew Phelan

A woman's type 1 has been reversed thanks to a novel treatment that retools cells extracted from the patient's own body. The breakthrough cure converted these cells into personalized stem cells that were then used to grow clusters of fresh 'islets', hormone-producing cells in the pancreas and liver that help to regulate sugars in the body.

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## 'I had a preventive double mastectomy ... then I was diagnosed with a different type of cancer'

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 27/09/2024, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker

Sophie Patnicroft-Gray has a stranger's DNA coursing through her veins, literally keeping her alive. At age 29, she was diagnosed with a rare blood and bone marrow cancer that doesn't respond well to chemotherapy.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### What are you waiting for?

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/09/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 1

A high-level investigation into surgical waitlists at the John Hunter Hospital, where doctors say they were "routinely" pressured to re-categorise the urgency of patients in order to meet targets, remains under wraps two years after it was announced. In a show of frustration and desperation, senior clinicians went public in late 2022 with their concerns about the management of surgical waitlists.

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## Meet the chief doctor eating by example

It is towards the end of our lunch, over toasted sesame ice cream, when Australia's most prominent doctor reveals his best-kept secret.

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

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## Review to keep nurses safe if Labor elected

Weekend Australian, General News, 28/09/2024, Page 11

Queensland's Mental Health Act will be reviewed to examine whether prisoners should be left unguarded in public hospital psychiatric wards if the Labor government is re-elected, after nurses in Cairns reported being repeatedly bashed and threatened with rape and murder. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman said extra security guards would be recruited for Cairns Hospital's psychiatric intensive care unit (PICU), and assaulted nurses and other health staff would be fast-tracked through the emergency department for treatment, in the wake of an investigation by The Weekend Australian.

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

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## Finding life after your love is gone

The Saturday Age, General News, 28/09/2024, Cassandra Morgan, Page 30

When Gill Malona talks about her husband, Hans Su, her face lights up. She was working her first job at a local Chinese joint at age 17 more than a decade ago when she asked her friend about the new guy, and two words caught her attention.

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## Drowning warning

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 28/09/2024, Claire Sadler, Page 14

A spike in children needing urgent hospital care after near-drownings has prompted a fresh warning for parents to pay attention to their kids as the weather warms up. Exclusive statistics obtained by The West Australian revealed a 53 per cent rise in the number of children and adolescents admitted to WA public hospitals after near-drownings.

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## MPs now going in different directions on Albury hospital

Border Mail, General News, 28/09/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 3

Farrer MP Sussan Ley has backed an entirely new Border hospital, in the wake of her Liberal Party colleague Justin Clancy continuing to push for a planned upgrade of the existing Albury hospital. "If local medicos and the wider community are demanding a new hospital, on a new site, then that's what we should fight for, and I'll be leading the charge," said Ms Ley, who has previously stressed the need for unity on the matter.

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

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## Union fears LNP govt would remove abortion rights

Canberra Times, Other, 27/09/2024, Savannah Meacham

A Queensland union says a Liberal National Party government would strip women of abortion rights and reproductive healthcare options. But Opposition Leader David Crisafulli has ruled out reviewing the legislation in the first term of his government if elected.

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

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## Queensland Health unable to confirm how many sexual assault victims have experienced clinical care delays

ABC Online, Other, 27/09/2024

Queensland Health does not know how many sexual assault victims have experienced delays in



receiving medical care at its hospitals, a new report has found. In November last year, Health Minister Shannon Fentiman issued a ministerial directive to ensure victims of sexual assault received clinical care within 10 minutes of presenting to a public hospital and health services (HHS).

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## Synthetic drugs: What they are, how they work and why they're hard to spot

SBS, Other, 27/09/2024, Aleksandra Bliszczyk

Drug overdose deaths are rising in Australia and synthetic drugs like synthetic heroin entering the illegal drug supply chain may be one of the causes. "It really feels like the market is shifting," Dr Hester Wilson, the chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' Addiction Special Interest Group, told The Feed.

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## Jacinta Allan's report card on key issues

Cairns Post, Other, 27/09/2024, Shannon Deery & Carly Douglas

Given Labor has been in power for almost a decade, the critical challenge for Jacinta Allan has been selling herself as a first-term Premier, with a first-term administration. Allan has needed to disassociate herself from predecessor Daniel Andrews in several areas.

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

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## 'My body, my choice': unions rally on abortion rights

Daily Liberal, Other, 27/09/2024, Savannah Meacham and Fraser Barton

Union members, nurses, teachers and workers have rallied in a bid to head off any prospect of changes to reproductive rights if there's a change of government at the Queensland election. Queensland Unions General Secretary Jacqueline King led the speeches at the 100-strong Brisbane CBD rally attacking members of the Liberal National Party opposition over their views on abortion.

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

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## Gympie council's vote against water fluoridation proves divisive

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 27/09/2024, Scott Kovacevic

Gympie Regional Council's vote against the ongoing fluoridation of its water supply has been met with a swift rebuke from medical professionals, and mixed of cheers for "people power" and outright derision from the public. On Wednesday councillors voted six-to-three against continuing to fluoridate the region's water supply following a 650 signature petition lodged with the council.

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

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## City PBS prescription rates double those in very remote areas

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/09/2024

New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has highlighted an ongoing disparity in accessing medications for people in regional and remote areas, leading to calls for all governments to incentivise more GPs to get out to underserved communities. Although the data shows that Australians have had a similar number of medications dispensed via the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) over the last 10 years, and that Federal Government spending on prescription medicines has increased in that time, it reveals that people in remote and very remote areas are accessing scripts at an alarmingly lower rate than their inner-city counterparts.

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## RACGP slams SA move

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/09/2024

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has expressed serious concerns over the expanded role of pharmacists in South Australia (PD 26 Sep), where they can "prescribe medications without a diagnosis". Dr Sian Goodson, RACGP SA Chair, called the move "reckless", warning it could lead to delayed treatments for serious conditions.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Parents farewell 'angel' Charlotte

The Saturday Age, General News, 28/09/2024, Jessica Mcsweeney, Page 26

An angel sent down from heaven to look after her mum has now returned home too soon. That's how the heartbroken parents of 12-year-old Charlotte, the Sydney student who took her own life earlier this month, have remembered her.

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

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### Fly high little angel

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/09/2024, Cydonee Mardon, Page 1

When Charlotte was little she would tell the story of how she was once an angel in heaven who only came down into the world when she saw her mumma needed her. On Friday, Charlotte's mum could not fathom why her angel had gone back to heav en.

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### Mental health home run

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/09/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 18

The successful mental health home program will be boosted by an extra 22 "beds" to provide personalised nursing and help people suffering from acute psychiatric illnesses. Additional medical staff will assist residents with complex and enduring mental illness hospital-level care in their own homes.

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### Hearts of steel and iron will to succeed

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/09/2024, Tara Miko, Page 22

Rob North has already made his festive plans, and it doesn't include a trip away from his beloved hometown Whyalla. He plans on a special Xmas Day opening of his wetlands cafe, Sumthin' Tastee.

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### Shock school suicide figures

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/09/2024, Emily Kowal & Madeline Crittenden, Page 10

Students attempted suicide on school grounds more than 100 times in a single year, according to a shocking report released by the state's education department. The Education Department's annual incident log has revealed 127 instances of students attempting suicide across the state last year.

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

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### 'Inequity is devastating': rural councils on the brink

Canberra Times, Other, 27/09/2024, Stephanie Gardiner

A farmer cancelled his car insurance to pay council rates, only to have an accident weeks later. Living on \$11 for food a fortnight, a woman has to budget for a rates hike even though the council is cutting services.

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

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

Daily Liberal, Other, 27/09/2024, Orlander Ruming

Lilly Castor was 37 weeks pregnant when she gave birth to her stillborn baby. 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.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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## Mental Health Crisis? We've got the answer

In Daily, Other, 27/09/2024

It is coming up to almost 18 months since the state government released the report on unmet needs for psychosocial support services. Remember that one?

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### NSW Ramsay Health Care nurses sick over CEO's pay and disparity with Queensland colleagues

Adelaide Now, Other, 27/09/2024, Toni Moon

NSW nurses and midwives have had enough – and it's not just those in the public health sector. Ramsay Health Care nurses and midwives from Baringa Private Hospital and Port Macquarie Private Hospital joined statewide strike action in Coffs Harbour on Thursday, taking aim at its CEO for what they say is an outrageous salary in contrast to their take-home pay.

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

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### WA paramedics to remove stab-proof vests after trial sparked by death of Steven Tougher

ABC Online, Other, 27/09/2024

St John Ambulance has revealed that stab-proof vests with body cameras are very uncomfortable and do little to improve the safety of paramedics. The organisation announced it would trial the technology in the wake of the death of New South Wales paramedic Steven Tougher , who died after being stabbed on duty in 2023.

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### NSW nurses and midwives drive over the Queensland border and make thousands of extra dollars amid pay dispute

Nurse Erica Roberts can see a brand-new hospital from the end of her driveway on the NSW far north coast. A trip to the Tweed Valley Hospital would be an enviable commute in an area where she's worked on and off for almost 20 years.

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## Why Bathurst nurses say Minns and Park are 'gaslighting the state'

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 27/09/2024, Rachel Chamberlain

It was the biggest rally they've ever been part of and their first 24-hour strike for better pay, and Bathurst nurses and midwives hope it will be enough to get the NSW government to listen. It was the second strike in two weeks and the latest effort by NSW nurses to secure a one-year pay increase of 15 per cent.

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## 'Really invaluable': More support for rural mums in emergency births

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 27/09/2024, Sophia Baker

Some babies just want to enter the world faster and sooner than expected and a new program is training staff at small-town south-west health services to be better prepared. With birthing specialists usually concentrated in major centres, nurses and doctors are being upskilled in more remote areas of the region so they can help handle emergency births until expert assistance is available.

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## Premier faces nurses in latest pay dispute escalation

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/09/2024

The NSW premier is adamant his Labor government can't afford to meet the pay demands of the state's 50,000 nurses and midwives, as a union dispute rolls on. Chris Minns waded into the escalating industrial relations war on Thursday, sitting down with union leadership who are pushing for an immediate 15-per-cent pay increase.

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## Why radiologists do not expect that AI will put them out of business

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/09/2024, Heather Saxena

The benefit of AI lies in reducing red tape and increased efficiency, says the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists. As the buzz around AI grew, some doctors started hinting to their radiologist colleagues about finding another specialty because, obviously, radiologists would be the first to be replaced by machines.

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## Brother-sister GP duo going into business

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/09/2024

Growing up, siblings Jay and Emma Shoemaker always joked about running a general practice clinic together, and now they have turned that goal into a reality. In August, the brother-sister GP duo teamed up to open Australian Family Medical in Hobart, and one month in, it has proven a hit with doctors and patients alike.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Fraudster loses \$338k gamble

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/09/2024, Richard Noone, Page 16

A GP practice manager has been sentenced to the equivalent of jail for defrauding Medicare of \$338,789.50 to fund her gambling addiction. Claudia Natasha Jeffrey, of Point Clare, faced Gosford District Court on Friday, where she was sentenced to an intensive correction order for three years after pleading guilty to two counts of obtaining financial advantage by deception.

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### Ex-nurse goes to jail for sexual assaults

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/09/2024, Page 30

A former nurse will spend at least three-and-a-half years in jail after being found guilty of sexually assaulting a student and patients under his care. Ali Khamis Moh'd molested three separate women at Sydney's Norwest and Nepean private hospitals between December 2018 and March 2022.

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### Roy Fagan nurse Mark David Thomas banned from practising after tribunal finding

Adelaide Now, Other, 27/09/2024, Judy Augustine

A former nurse at a Tasmanian mental illness and dementia facility for the elderly has been banned from providing health services for two years, after he forced medication into the mouth of a patient. Mark David Thomas, 62, was a registered nurse at the Roy Fagan Centre in October 2020 when the assault against the dementia affected female patient occurred.

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

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### 'Move it or lose it': Parkinson's patients are getting proactive

Border Mail, General News, 28/09/2024, Beau Greenway, Page 8

A border exercise and movement class is helping people with Parkinson's disease live their best lives. Albury clinic Rural Fit is in its second year with its Movers and Shakers program, which started with a single participant and has grown to 17 regulars.

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## SPORT

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

## R&D cuts short-change the nation

The Saturday Paper, General News, 28/09/2024, John Hewson, Page 18

An important reason why Australia has fallen short of its potential to be the "clever country", as many have aspired to over the years, such as prime minister Bob Hawke in the 1980s, is a shortage of research funding. Successive governments have happily cut or restrained this funding over many years, and it has also been difficult to interest the private sector business, charities or high-net-worth individuals in donating to research, let alone providing sustained funding.

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## How a baboon breakout became a game-changer

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/09/2024, Angus Dalton, Page 38

He dined on bread, apple, banana and capsicum, a breakfast shared with his two wives as they shook off the dregs of tranquillisers. The trio of baboons had escaped into inner-city Camperdown the day before, thanks to a transport truck's broken lock, then captured and sedated by a squad of police and Taronga Zoo staff

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## Alert on plastic in water

Herald Sun, General News, 28/09/2024, Page 17

A new study challenges a 2019 World Health Organisation report that microplastics in drinking water are harmless after confirming their presence in kidney, urine and bladder cancer samples. The review by researchers from Bond University looked at 18 previous studies to assess the presence of microplastics and even smaller nanoplastics in the urinary tract.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#)

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## No weekday workouts? No worries

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 28/09/2024, Page 25

Don't have enough time to workout during the week? Fear not. Researchers have discovered you'll reap the health benefits from exercise even if you save the gym for the weekend.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#)

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## Plastics kidney worry

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/09/2024, Page 5

A study challenges a 2019 World Health Organisation report that microplastics in drinking water are harmless after confirming their presence in kidney, urine and bladder cancer samples. The review led by scholars from Bond University looked at 18 studies to assess the presence of microplastics and smaller nanoplastics in the urinary tract.

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

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## New migraine drugs less efficacious than some triptans: BMJ review

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/09/2024, Mohana Basu

Some triptans are more efficacious for acute migraines than newer, more expensive drugs including gepants, a review of 137 randomised controlled trials suggests. Writing in The BMJ last week, the University of Oxford researchers say the top-performing triptans should be considered the treatment of choice for migraine episodes.

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## Children in chronic pain need validation

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/09/2024

A new study from the University of South Australia highlights the importance of how children's pain is treated, suggesting it can influence how they manage pain in adulthood. Researchers urge parents and doctors to validate children's pain, ensuring their emotions and experiences are acknowledged.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Health award honours pioneer

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/09/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 10

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians delivering exceptional care to advance health outcomes will be recognised in a new award honouring Yankunytjatjara woman, the late Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue The Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Health, announced at the SA Health Aboriginal Workforce Network, will be awarded on November 29.

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### Failing health system in Torres Strait prompts call to return to old model

ABC Online, Other, 27/09/2024

In a small motel room, about 1,000km from his home, Robert "Bongo" Sagigi leafs through a list of names he has written in a pocketbook. They belong to 53 people from communities in the Torres Strait he says have died this year from medical conditions that may have been treatable with earlier detection.

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### Goanna Academy's youth mental health program recognised with Wayahead Mental Health Matters award

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/09/2024, Joseph Guenzler

The Goanna Academy's MindED + CultureAWARE high school program has been awarded one of eight Wayahead Mental Health Matters Awards. Founded in 2020 by Greg Inglis, the Goanna Academy represents Inglis' commitment to giving back to the community and improving mental health outcomes for Australians after his football career.

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### "Culturally appropriate and culturally safe": new purpose-built health centre opens in Jabiru

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/09/2024, Dechlan Brennan

A new \$20 million, purpose-built health centre in Jabiru has opened, with services being delivered by Aboriginal community-controlled health organisation Red Lily Health Board. The main health provider for Kakadu National Park will increase access to medical services in West Arnhem, and will feature eight consulting suites with paediatric rooms, a dental surgery, four multipurpose allied health examination rooms, a health store, and dedicated male and female waiting areas.

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### Deadly Choices grows for First Nations health

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/09/2024

The Federal Government has expanded the Deadly Choices preventative care program to help improve health outcomes for First Nations people. Delivered by the Institute of Urban Indigenous Health, Deadly Choices encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to complete annual health checks at their local Community Controlled Health Service.

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### Kinchela Boys Home survivor fears trauma triggers in aged care

Uncle Colin Davis, 76, a Stolen Generations survivor of the Kinchela Boys Home has recently been diagnosed with dementia. He has signed a request asking never to go to an aged care home, terrified of reliving trauma. However, some experts have offered hope and guidance for the sector.

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## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 27/09/2024, Manny Tsigas

Leaders in the Torres Strait are demanding the return of a health care model that was developed 30 years ago. Under the Torres model of care, teams of medical staff went into Torres Strait communities under the guidance of indigenous health workers. Patients would be recalled for vital health cheques with a software database, making sure nobody was missed.

*Also reported by: ABC News (Adelaide), ABC News (Brisbane), ABC News (Canberra), ABC News (Hobart), ABC News (Melbourne), ABC News (Perth), ABC News (Regional NSW), ABC News (Regional Queensland), ABC News (Regional Victoria), ABC News (Regional West Australia)*

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## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 27/09/2024, Manny Tsigas

An investigation into a remote Queensland hospital service has found First Nations people in the Torres Strait and Cape York are dying from preventable diseases at more than twice the rate elsewhere in the state. Indigenous leaders say the state government isn't doing enough to tackle the problem, and they believe the solution lies within their own community.

*Also reported by: ABC News (Adelaide), ABC News (Brisbane), ABC News (Canberra), ABC News (Hobart), ABC News (Melbourne), ABC News (Perth), ABC News (Regional NSW), ABC News (Regional Queensland), ABC News (Regional Victoria), ABC News (Regional West Australia)*

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## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 27/09/2024, Manny Tsigas

Food insecurity has led to terrible health outcomes for many people living in Australia's remote communities. The federal government says the first national food security strategy for Indigenous Australians will be released next year.

*Also reported by: ABC News (Adelaide), ABC News (Brisbane), ABC News (Canberra), ABC News (Hobart), ABC News (Melbourne), ABC News (Perth), ABC News (Regional NSW), ABC News (Regional Queensland), ABC News (Regional Victoria), ABC News (Regional West Australia)*

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Alarm on avian flu

Herald Sun, General News, 28/09/2024, Mitch Clarke & Jade Gailberger, Page 1

The state government is preparing an emergency plan to combat a new avian flu outbreak in Victoria. Chief veterinary officer Graeme Cooke says Victorian authorities are undertaking "enhanced emergency preparedness planning" around the looming threat of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain.

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

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### Mpox vaccine push

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 28/09/2024, Page 11

People eligible for mpox vaccinations are being urged to get them as cases surge across Australia, swelling from a handful to hundreds in the space of a few months. More than 600 cases have been notified to Federal authorities in the current reporting quarter, as of Friday, amid an explosion in the virus worldwide.

*Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#)*



## Mpox warning as cases surge across nation

Canberra Times, General News, 28/09/2024, Page 13

Mpox cases have surged across Australia, swelling from a handful to hundreds in the space of a few months. More than 600 cases have been notified to federal authorities in the current reporting quarter, as of Friday, amid an explosion in the virus worldwide.

Also reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#).

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## ABC News, ABC National News, 27/09/2024, Joe O'Brien

Mpox cases are spiking to record numbers in Australia. They've grown almost six-fold since July to a total of 737. The majority of cases are in New South Wales and Victoria, with protection rates considered low.

Also reported by: [ABC News \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC News \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC News \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC News \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC News \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC News \(Perth\)](#), [ABC News \(Regional NSW\)](#), [ABC News \(Regional Queensland\)](#), [ABC News \(Regional Victoria\)](#), [ABC News \(Regional West Australia\)](#)

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Clear the air before next epidemic

Canberra Times, General News, 28/09/2024, Michelle Grattan, Page 52

Last month, a delegation led by Brendan Crabb, head of the Burnet Institute, a prestigious medical research body, met Anthony Albanese in the Prime Minister's Parliament House office. [...] The authors blame Scott Morrison, then-health minister Greg Hunt, then-chief medical officer Brendan Murphy, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation for the health failures, which prolonged the lockdowns, cost lives and delayed reopening.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### 'People are dying': Rise of nitazenes should be treated as pandemic, injecting centre head says

The Guardian, Other, 28/09/2024, Catie Mcleod

The head doctor at Sydney's medically supervised injecting centre has compared the rise of synthetic opioids to a pandemic and says she is worried the government isn't willing to make the "hard decisions" necessary to prepare for it. Dr Marianne Jauncey began raising the alarm about the increasing prevalence of nitazenes earlier this year but was concerned the Minns Labor government had been reluctant to act because it "still feels for many like an emerging news story".

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

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Frozen food snack recall

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/09/2024, Page 13

A popular new snack available in supermarkets is being recalled as Australians get ready for the AFL grand final. Plastic has been discovered in 230g packets of Pickers by McCain Nacho Cheese Triangles, which could cause illness or injury if consumed.

*Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).*

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