



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 29th September 2024

Minister Butler | Minister Wells | Assistant Minister McBride

| Assistant Minister Kearney | Assistant Minister Thwaites | Department

| <u>Vaccines</u> | <u>Ageing and Aged Care</u> | <u>Population Health</u>

| Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions | Primary Care

| Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

| Health Workforce | Technology Assessment and Access

| Medicare Benefits and Digital Health | Benefits Integrity

| Health Systems Strategies | Sport | Health Economics and Research |

First Nations Health | Interim Australian CDC | Therapeutic Goods Administration

| Office of Drug Control | Food Standards | AICIS

LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- <u>The Sunday Mail Adelaide</u> (page 1) reports 7 of 100 SA Health staff investigated for accessing patient records without authority have had their employment terminated since a zero tolerance policy was instated for the practice in 2015, with an investigation into a further 18 staff over the access of Charlie Steven's records expected to be completed in December.
- <u>The Sunday Herald Sun</u> (page 4) reports that the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association has found 4615 people in Victoria were on daily waitlists for treatment during June and July this year, with demand for treatment almost doubling since the pandemic according to AIHW data.
- <u>The Sunday Mail Brisbane</u> (page 4) reports the Queensland Opposition Leader David Crisafulli has pledged to exempt GPs from payroll tax if elected, with AMAQ president Dr Nick Yim supporting the move, saying patients would save up to \$30 per GP visit, calling on Labor to make the same pledge.
- **Sunday Mail Brisbane** (page 5) reports the Australia's Mother and Babies Report from AIHW has revealed roadside births in Queensland are above the national average, with the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland calling for increased and restored birthing services across regional Queensland.

- <u>The Sun Herald</u> (page 6) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has defended a proposed ban on social media for children as mental health advocacy groups say a tax on social media platforms to fund mental health access would be more effective. "We've seen an alarming increase in levels of mental distress among young people, not just here in Australia, but around the world for the last 20 years ... The explosion in social media is one of the drivers behind this increase in distress", Mr Butler said. *Also reported by: <u>Sunday Age</u>*
- <u>ABC Online</u> reports Chronic Pain Australia has called for increased paediatric pain clinics as one in five children in Australia currently suffers from chronic pain and advocates say a lack of chronic pain-specific services means long wait times, affecting children's health and school participation. A spokesperson for Health Minister Mark Butler said the government has committed to funding multidisciplinary care through primary health networks and is developing a national strategy for engaging with organisations focused on chronic pain in children.
- <u>ABC Online</u> reports pregnant women in Queensland will be able to access free testing for rhesus D haemolytic disease in an Australian first, with doctors saying the tests will save approximately 7000 doses of treatment a year, as all pregnant women are currently administered treatment without testing or diagnosis occurring.

MINISTER BUTLER

Experts urge tax to fund treatment of mental illness

Sun Herald, General News, 29/09/2024, Mary Ward, Page 6

Mental health advocates say the federal government is failing young people by pushing social media bans instead of improving access to unaffordable psychology services, calling for a levy on social media companies to subsidise the sector. [...] Asked about the organisations' concerns, federal Health Minister Mark Butler defended the ban.

Also reported by: <u>Sunday Age (Melbourne)</u>, <u>The Age (Online)</u>, <u>Sydney Morning Herald (Online)</u>, <u>Brisbane Times</u> (<u>Online</u>)

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Chronic pain and sickness has been a feature of Breana's life since she was born, now forcing her to defer year 12

ABC Online, Other, 28/09/2024, Lottie Twyford

At the end of last year, Breana Harris attended her Year 12 formal with the teenagers she'd gone to classes, been on camp and grown up with. [...] A spokesperson for Health Minister Mark Butler wouldn't commit to directly funding more paediatric pain clinics around the country.

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The Government has opened the door to Plan B – now it's up to aged care and retirement living operators to strategise how they will market their services into the future.

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/09/2024, Lauren Broomham

The Government has opened the door to Plan B – now it's up to aged care and retirement living operators to strategise how they will market their services into the future. [...] The Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler, Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells and the Shadow Minister for Aged Care Anne Ruston were seen to be working together to deliver more sustainable funding to the sector.

Also reported by: The Weekly Source (Online), The Weekly Source (Online).

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Sky News Live, Saturday Edition, 28/09/2024, Tim Gilbert & Jaynie Seal

Australians are paying around 3% more for health insurance this year, but the 12 million people with private hospital cover are also facing higher out-of-pocket costs. A recent survey has found around 50% of respondents who had private health cover were shopping around or making sacrifices to afford it. Health Minister Mark Butler says the private sector including insurers and specialists need to do more to protect patients with exorbitant bills.

Also reported by: Sky News Live (Adelaide), Sky News Live (Brisbane), Sky News Live (Perth), Sky News Live (Regional NSW), Sky News Live (Regional Queensland), Sky News Live (Regional Victoria), Sky News Live (Regional West Australia), Sky News Live (Tasmania)

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MINISTER WELLS

The Government has opened the door to Plan B – now it's up to aged care and retirement living operators to strategise how they will market their services into the future.

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/09/2024, Lauren Broomham

The Government has opened the door to Plan B – now it's up to aged care and retirement living operators to strategise how they will market their services into the future. [...] The Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler, Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells and the Shadow Minister for Aged Care Anne Ruston were seen to be working together to deliver more sustainable funding to the sector.

Also reported by: The Weekly Source (Online), The Weekly Source (Online)

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

I can't get the help I need to live

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 29/09/2024, Talara McHugh, Page 17

A Gilles Plains grandmother with cerebral palsy is unable to go to the toilet for up to 12 hours a day after being moved to a disability support package that cannot afford the care she needs. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said it was "investigating the circumstances raised".

Also reported by: <u>Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)</u>, <u>Northern Territory News (Online)</u>, <u>Herald Sun (Online)</u>, <u>The Mercury (Online)</u>, <u>Toowoomba Chronicle (Online)</u>, <u>Cairns Post (Online)</u>, <u>The Courier Mail (Online)</u>, <u>Adelaide Now (Online)</u>, <u>Geelong Advertiser (Online)</u>, <u>Townsville Bulletin (Online)</u>

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Aged Care Bill

Victor Harbor Times, Other, 28/09/2024

The Federal Department of Health and Aged Care is working closely with SA Health and Fleurieubased aged care providers, to identify why aged care beds are offline and what options there are for bringing them back online. Information collated by staff at Member for Finniss, David Basham's office revealed some aged care providers in the region closed beds in 2023 due to staffing issues, with some facilities not accepting new residents altogether.

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Compliance rates take a dip after performance peak

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 28/09/2024, Alex Jacobs

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's latest Sector Performance Report (April – June 2024) reveals long-term compliance improvement has continued its rollercoaster ride with performance dropping in some areas after reaching its peak. [...] Stakeholders such as the Department of Health and Aged Care will also be involved.

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VACCINES

Last day to seek compo over COVID vaccine side effects

Sunday Times, General News, 29/09/2024, Page 28

Monday is the last day for Australians to apply for compensation under the Federal Government's COVID-19 vaccine injury scheme. Since the scheme was launched in December 2021, more than \$32 million has been paid out to 392 claimants who suffered a "moderate to severe impact" after an adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine.

Also reported by: West Australian (Online)

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

No grey area on failures

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 29/09/2024, Brendan O'Malley, Page 23

Queensland is now fifth worst in the nation and only just better than the two worst performers in fasttracking retirement villages despite an ageing population and housing crisis, a new report shows. The Property Council of Australia report, prepared by town planners Urbis for PCA's Retirement Living Council, found two thirds of development applications took more than a year to be assessed.

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Does Australia need a 'Health and Aged Care Workforce Taskforce'?

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/09/2024, Lauren Broomham

With the response to the Aged Care Taskforce finally revealed in the new Aged Care Bill, operators and experts are now calling for a bipartisan approach from the Federal and State and Territory Governments to workforce development. Regional operators are struggling to find staff, particularly nurses, with some reporting they have closed beds because of workforce shortages.

Also reported by: <u>The Weekly Source (Online)</u>, <u>The Weekly Source</u>

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POPULATION HEALTH

\$1bn tax haul makes no dent in rehab waitlists

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 29/09/2024, Carly Douglas, Page 4

Waitlists for drug and alcohol treatment have almost doubled since the Covid pandemic, despite the Allan government raising a whopping \$1bn per year in mental health taxes. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported a record 92,888 completed alcohol and drug treatment episodes in Victoria in the 12 months to June 2023, and a whopping 50 per cent increase in demand for alcohol treatment during the pandemic.

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Ciggie boss has crims in sights

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 29/09/2024, Cydonee Mardon, Page 7

Gang lords making millions smuggling vapes and illegal tobacco into Australia are the target of a new national commissioner hellbent on halting the violence and how it is turning kids into nicotine addicts. Erin Dale, the first commissioner appointed in the world to solely target e-cigarettes and illicit tobacco, will bring together federal and state crimefighting and health arms.

Also reported by: <u>Sunday Mail Brisbane (Brisbane)</u>, <u>Sunday Mail Adelaide (Adelaide)</u>, <u>Sunday Tasmanian</u> (<u>Hobart</u>), <u>Sunday Telegraph (Sydney)</u>

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State priorities are all wrong

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 29/09/2024, Page 52

Today we reveal shocking statistics about the length of time Victorians spend waiting for treatment for drug and alcohol addiction. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare confirmed the devastating impact the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, had on many.

Also reported by: Sunday Herald Sun (Melbourne).

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Roadside births on increase in bush

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 29/09/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 5

Queensland mothers are birthing at the side of the road at a much higher rate than the national average, sparking a call from rural doctors for the restoration and expansion of vital birthing services. The latest Australia's Mother and Babies Report, released this week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, shows that the Cairns and Hinterland area is seeing more Birth before Arrivals (BBA) than anywhere else in the state with 1.54 per cent of births.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

IVF babies link to heart defects risk

Sun Herald, General News, 29/09/2024, Wendy Tuohy, Page 8

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.

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The myths preventing blokes from having a lifesaving prostate check

The Mercury, Other, 28/09/2024, Robyn Riley

Colourful character Robert William Felton Lathrop Murray left his family the gift of a lifetime. The

landowner, soldier, convict and founder of the Hobart Town Gazette uniquely chronicled his health woes with what is today known as prostate cancer.

Also reported by: <u>Cairns Post (Online)</u>, <u>Adelaide Now (Online)</u>, <u>Northern Territory News (Online)</u>, <u>Geelong</u> <u>Advertiser (Online)</u>, <u>Townsville Bulletin (Online)</u>, <u>Gold Coast Bulletin (Online)</u>, <u>The Courier Mail (Online)</u>, <u>Daily</u> <u>Telegraph Australia (Online)</u>, <u>Toowoomba Chronicle (Online)</u>

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David got a notification on his smart watch while on holiday. It saved his life

7news.com.au, Other, 28/09/2024

David Heidtman was enjoying a trip in WA's Kimberley region in 2022 when he received a notification he had an irregular heart rate. The now 76-year-old Sydney local just assumed he had come down with something.

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Bindi Irwin reveals how husband Chandler Powell has supported her through endometriosis battle: 'He held my hand when I've been at my lowest'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/09/2024, Marta Jary

Bindi Irwin has revealed how her husband Chandler Powell is always by her side as she battles severe endometriosis. The 26-year-old tells Nine Honey how 'lucky' she is to have such a ceaselessly supportive partner.

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PRIMARY CARE

Paramedic shifts 'not safe'

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 29/09/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 47

Former ambulance boss Jane Miller admitted before she quit that paramedics worked shifts that were "not safe" for them or patients. Leaked footage shows the then Ambulance Victoria chief executive telling an agencywide forum last month that overnight 14-hour shifts were "a long time to work".

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Angels in blue race to save a life

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 29/09/2024, Cydonee Mardon, Page 18

Wrong side of the road, sirens blaring, a NSW Ambulance vehicle makes it from Sydney's inner west to Bondi in minutes for a medical emergency. Inspector Mick Corlis is composed at the wheel, despite motorists heading straight towards him, not always slowing down or pulling over to the side.

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Snoop dogs pry medical records

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 29/09/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 1

Almost 100 SA Health staff have been caught allegedly prying into patients' records in the past six years but only seven have been sacked. The revelation comes as an SA Health probe into 18 staff who allegedly snooped into the medical records of Charlie Stevens should be completed by the end of October.

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LNP bid to ditch ALP 'patient tax'

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 29/09/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 4

Patients would save money visiting the doctor and GP services protected under an LNP plan to stop the "patient tax" if elected. The Sunday-Mail can reveal Opposition Leader David Crisafulli would

exempt GPs from payroll tax, which is due for collection from July.

Also reported by: <u>Adelaide Now (Online)</u>, <u>Northern Territory News (Online)</u>, <u>Cairns Post (Online)</u>, <u>Toowoomba</u> <u>Chronicle (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)</u>, <u>The Mercury (Online)</u>, <u>Geelong Advertiser (Online)</u>, <u>Townsville Bulletin (Online)</u>, <u>Gold Coast Bulletin (Online)</u>, <u>The Courier Mail (Online)</u>

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Harm to kids is a no-brainer

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 29/09/2024, Page 62

Neuroscience is highlighting something that most of us already know social media has a destructive impact on children's brains. As if any more scientific proof was needed that it is time for social media giants, political leaders and society as a whole to step up and take responsibility, research revealed today shows that social media much like alcohol and cigarettes stunts developmental growth in a child's formative years.

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Upgrade for failing ED

Sunday Times, General News, 29/09/2024, Joe Spagnolo, Page 11

The long-awaited redevelopment of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital's emergency department will begin next year, as increasing demand on the Nedlands health facility continues to stretch resources. Tenders have finally been called for the project, which is expected to cost about \$50 million, four years after the redevelopment was first mooted by the Government.

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Parkdale: Former private hospital to be transformed into 45 luxury apartments

NEWS.com.au, Other, 28/09/2024, Sarah Petty & Tsn Flex

A former private hospital in the heart of Parkdale is going to be redeveloped into 45 luxury residences. The site at 152 Como Parade was once the home to the 67-bed Como Private Hospital which had a day surgery unit, rehabilitation ward, and two operating theatres, spanning 4771sq m.

Also reported by: Toowoomba Chronicle (Online)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Education key to managing teens and social media

Sun Herald, Editorials, 29/09/2024, Page 42

The federal government's plan to ban teenagers from social media continues to underwhelm and confuse. When announced earlier this month, the Herald called the policy "vague and unoriginal": The former because of the lack of detail (extending from the age of children affected to how the ban would be enforced), the latter because the Coalition had been calling for an under-16s ban for months.

Also reported by: Sun Herald (Sydney), Sun Herald (Sydney), Sun Herald (Sydney)

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Greens want centre for mental distress

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 29/09/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 5

The ACT Greens want to establish a centre where people can go when they are in mental distress that is not hospital. The centre would be used by the Police, Ambulance, Clinician Emergency Response program, known as PACER, which is a team that travels in an unmarked police care to respond to mental health incidents.

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Workers' comp cuts severe

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 29/09/2024, Brooke Grebert-Craig, Page 22

New controversial WorkCover laws have created the most dramatic reduction in support for injured Victorians in more than a decade, lawyers claim. Changes to the workers' compensation scheme including new whole person impairment requirements were introduced in March.

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United in grief, duo helping SA mums

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 29/09/2024, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 26

When keen netballer Kara Reek watches other people's teenage daughters playing, it tugs at her heartstrings. That's because she never got to share the sport she loves with her beloved only daughter, Lila Ellis, who died several years ago after spending her final months in pediatric palliative care.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), Toowoomba Chronicle (Online), The Courier Mail (Online).

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Junior doctors forced out of orthopaedics due to supervision concerns

Canberra Times, Other, 28/09/2024, Lucy Bladen

Junior doctors have been forced out of Canberra Hospital's orthopaedics ward over concerns around supervision. The Canberra Regional Medical Education Council has made the determination junior doctors, including those in their first and second years, needed more supervision during their orthopaedic term.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Inquest hears Wodonga man was surgeon's third patient to die from double knee replacement

ABC Online, Other, 28/09/2024

A Wodonga man who suffered a racing heart rate after a double knee replacement was the third patient to die from the procedure under the same surgeon, a NSW inquest has heard. Kenneth Toll, 62, died

from a pulmonary thromboembolism in an Albury Wodonga Private Hospital ward on July 20, 2019, three days after orthopaedic surgeon Elie Khoury peformed bilateral knee replacement surgery on him.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Teaching young mothers to thrive

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 29/09/2024, Rebecca Borg, Page 18

When Aahlia fell pregnant with her smiley, energetic daughter Amora, the young mother wasn't sure if she would ever set foot in the four classroom again. While her friends focused home on school, parttime work and their social lives, the 18-yearchange old was attending medical appointments and coming to terms with parenthood.

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SPORT

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Meet the billions of bugs in the system

Sunday Times, General News, 29/09/2024, Cara Lee, Page 32

Scientists are increasingly discovering new ways that our microbiome the community of bacteria and viruses that live inside us is key to our health. It could even be the source of new antibiotics.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Aussie mpox cases up

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 29/09/2024, Page 10

Australia has seen a rapid rise in mpox cases in the past three months. So far this year, 737 cases have been recorded, most in the past few months.

Also reported by: Sunday Mail Adelaide (Adelaide), Sunday Tasmanian (Hobart).

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Plans are breath of fresh air

Sunday Times, General News, 29/09/2024, John Flint, Page 22

There's a simple idea gaining traction that exponents believe is potentially transformational for society,

and a win-win for public health and business. The extent to which it can deliver on its promise is set to be rigorously tested.

Also reported by: West Australian (Online)

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Relaxed attitudes and stray dogs helping to spread rabies in Bali

ABC Online, Other, 28/09/2024

The death of a four-year-old child is the fifth rabies fatality in Bali this year, according to local authorities, underlining an ongoing public health challenge for the Indonesian resort island. Officials said the child had experienced symptoms such as fever, hallucinations and hydrophobia — a fear of water — which are indicative of the rabies virus.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Eateries make a fine old mess of things

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 29/09/2024, Page 7

Nearly \$100,000 worth of fines have been handed out to Sydney restaurants in the past three months, but one suburb's eateries stand above the rest as top offenders. The NSW Food Authority issued 44 restaurants with \$91,300 in fines between May 15 to August 14 for unsatisfactory cleanliness, failed food standards and supplying food that was not up to scratch.

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NSW Food Authority name and shame restaurants from Hungry Jacks to Red Rooster for penality notices

Northern Territory News, Other, 28/09/2024, Elliott Stewart

Nearly \$90,000 worth of fines has been handed out to Sydney restaurants in the last three months, but one suburb's establishments stand above the rest as top offenders. NSW Food Authority have issued 44 restaurants in Sydney with \$91,300 in penalty fines between May 15 to August 14, with unsatisfactory cleanliness, failed food standards, and allegedly supplying food that is not of the nature or substance demanded by the purchaser as just some of the breaches these establishments.

Also reported by: <u>Adelaide Now (Online)</u>, <u>Cairns Post (Online)</u>, <u>The Mercury (Online)</u>, <u>Gold Coast Bulletin</u> (<u>Online</u>), <u>Townsville Bulletin (Online</u>), <u>Geelong Advertiser (Online</u>), <u>Toowoomba Chronicle (Online</u>), <u>The Courier</u> <u>Mail (Online)</u>

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