



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 30th September 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [**The Sydney Morning Herald**](#) (page 1) reports the practice of requiring parents who pull their children out of private schooling due to bullying to pay fees for the full term has come under scrutiny following the suicide of a 12-year-old girl this month, with advocates calling for a relaxation of the rules.
- [**The Daily Telegraph**](#) (page 1) reports NSW Health has been accused of driving up private health insurance premiums after they requested private health funds either pay for private patients to receive a private room when visiting a public hospital or face increased taxes to cover the costs.
- [**The Australian**](#) (page 1) reports the scope of DNA testing in Queensland has been reduced to combat a backlog of cases and following an audit that discovered sexual assault victims were waiting up to nine hours in hospital to receive DNA swabs. The report also found Queensland Health is not monitoring whether these examination times are improving or how many forensic examiners are on staff.
- [**The Australian Financial Review**](#) (page 1) reports increased shipments of rival medications to Ozempic has meant predicted shortages haven't eventuated, with a ban on compounded replica medications introduced by Health Minister Mark Butler commencing tomorrow.

- **The Courier Mail** (page 9) reports data from the RACGP has found average gap fees for GP visits have increased, while bulk-billing has increased since increased incentives were introduced last year. Health Minister Mark Butler said, "In just two years the Albanese government has increased Medicare rebates by twice as much as the former government did in nine years," while the RACGP is calling for a further 20 per cent increase in Medicare rebates for 20-minute consults. *Also reported by:* [The Guardian](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#)
- **The Guardian** reports a lack of mental health services to offer perinatal support in regional areas is causing women to wait months and travel for hours to receive care, according to a survey of rural mothers.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 10) leads News Corp coverage reporting Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney has urged women to take advantage of free mammograms as screening rates have almost reached pre-pandemic levels again. "We know cancer screening saves lives, so it is so important women take the opportunity to have their free breast screening," Ms Kearney said. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle](#), [Cairns Post](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Ozempic alternatives flood the market

Australian Financial Review, General News, 30/09/2024, Michael Smith, Page 1

Fears of a supply shortage of weight-loss drugs such as Ozempic in Australia have failed to materialise as distributors say global pharmaceutical giants have increased shipments of new medicines ahead of this week's ban on local pharmacists...

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

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Gap fee increase a pain for many

Courier Mail, General News, 30/09/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 9

GP out-of-pocket fees have increased again this year, forcing many Australians to pay more for basic health care. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has repeatedly defended the government's record when questioned on rising out-of-pocket fees, and last week pointed to the rise in bulk-billed appointments.

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

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

Calls to fast-track Australian disease control centre

Newcastle Herald, Other, 30/09/2024, Melissa Meehan

Health organisations say the federal government's COVID-19 inquiry should be the catalyst of establishing a permanent centre for disease control. [...] A spokesperson for federal health minister Mark Butler said the interim Australian Centre for Disease Control, launched in January, was the first step in the phased implementation of the government's election commitment.

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The Zap: all the essential health and aged care news, plus a stack of consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 29/09/2024, Melissa Sweet

All medical specialists' fees would be added to the Government's Medical Cost Finder website under an opt-out system under a proposal examined in The Zap this week. [...] Ministers and government Health Minister Mark Butler and Minister for Indigenous Health Ged Kearney announced an expansion of the Deadly Choices program delivered by the Queensland-based Institute of Urban Indigenous Health.

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MINISTER WELLS

Room with a view of power and passion

The Australian, Business News, 30/09/2024, John Stensholt, Page 13

It is the "close friendship" everyone in footy is talking about and the subject of much discussion in the Olympic Room on Saturday afternoon. We speak of none other than Collingwood president and MA Financial chairman Jeff Browne and Sussan Corporation richlist owner Naomi Milgrom. [...] Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells also keenly cheered on Brisbane.

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

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At the big table

Age, General News, 30/09/2024, Stephen Brook, Page 2

Following the final siren, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton clapped and sang (sort of) to the Brisbane Lions' song, but three minutes later it was straight back to work as this CBD pic shows. [...] Richard Marles (only the deputy prime minister), Dutton and sports minister Anika Wells slumped it on various satellite tables.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Expand funding for junior shrinks

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/09/2024, Emma McBride, Page 31

Nita grew up in Western Sydney hoping to one day study psychology. [...] Emma McBride is the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Keeping abreast of female health

Herald Sun, General News, 30/09/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 10

Women are being urged to book in for their free mammograms, with new figures revealing only one in two aged over 50 is up to date with the potentially lifesaving screening. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney welcomed the fact they were almost back at 54 per cent.

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

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The Zap: all the essential health and aged care news, plus a stack of consultations now open

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All medical specialists' fees would be added to the Government's Medical Cost Finder website under an opt-out system under a proposal examined in The Zap this week. [...] Ministers and government Health Minister Mark Butler and Minister for Indigenous Health Ged Kearney announced an expansion

of the Deadly Choices program delivered by the Queensland-based Institute of Urban Indigenous Health.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Geelong whooping cough cases exceed 200, parents, schools on alert

Herald Sun, Other, 29/09/2024, Lucy Crock

A Geelong mother whose daughter had whooping cough has urged others to be alert as cases surge in the region. [...] A federal health department spokesman said whooping cough outbreaks could be due to several factors including expected epidemic peaks, vaccination coverage, waning immunity, and the overall population having greatly reduced exposure to pertussis during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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Shingles vaccine access expanded

Your Life Choices, Other, 30/09/2024, Brad Lockyer

Access to the free shingles vaccine has been expanded to all immunocompromised people aged 18 and over. [...] The Department of Health recommends a two-dose vaccination schedule administered two-six months apart.

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VACCINES

Pandemic report delayed

West Australian, General News, 30/09/2024, Page 3

The details of a major inquiry into Australia's response to COVID-19 have been delayed after Anthony Albanese granted an extension due to the report's "size and complexity". The independent panel examining the nation's handling of the pandemic response was scheduled to deliver its final report on September 30.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

\$100,000 race to get in before aged-care hikes

West Australian, Business News, 30/09/2024, Nick Bruining, Page 50

Many seniors could be facing a \$100,000 increase in total aged-care costs when planned funding changes take effect next year. There are also fears the substantial hike could create a supply shortage

as families race to move their elderly loved ones into care ahead of the changes on July 1.

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

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Aged care changes to cost most older Australians more

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 30/09/2024, Noel Whittaker, Page 7

Your money 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: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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Retirement villages accused of gouging older Australians in 'corporatised elder abuse'

ABC Online, Other, 30/09/2024

They are billed as a retiree's utopia: A playground for adults that are fun, safe and can even make you live a longer, healthier, happier life. Retirement villages are home to more than 250,000 older Australians, drawn by polished marketing that promises independent living in a safe community environment.

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Unique nutritional flour improves aged care residents' health in Queensland program

ABC Online, Other, 29/09/2024

A legume traditionally used to feed cattle could reduce malnutrition rates in aged care residents across Australia, according to a Queensland researcher. The legume, lupin, has been turned into flour and added to the diets of about 2,000 aged care residents as part of a program rolled out to 15 facilities in Queensland.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Chewing the fat on food

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/09/2024, Jonathon Moran, Page 3

Mother of two Sarah Harris says she'd hate for her sons to be weighed at school while revealing she was told at age eight she was "too fat" for the front row of her dance class. Earlier this month, The Australian College of Nursing advocated for school nurses to track children's height and weight as a way of combating childhood obesity.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Make our streets more inviting so we feel welcome to share our spaces and join in our local communities

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/09/2024, Ryan Posselt, Page 18

This week we welcome the 2024 Australasian Road Safety Conference to Hobart, a city that is working hard to ensure its streets are safe, accessible and welcoming for all. As we reflect on the importance of road safety, it's a chance to talk about why safer, healthier streets are at the heart of Hobart's vision for the future.

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NT Health fills vital role after four years

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/09/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 3

After the role sat vacant for four years, NT Health has finally appointed a nurse to provide immunisation services to Katherine's eight schools, as well as lend a hand in cracking down on a vaping crisis at the town's two high schools. Lis McKerracher, who worked at Katherine Hospital as a registered nurse and midwife before taking a career break when she became a mother, was appointed to the role of health promotion school nurse in May.

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

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'Dropping off and dying'

Ballarat Courier, General News, 30/09/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 1

A lack of residential detox facilities means Ballarat residents wanting to beat addictions to alcohol and other drugs are being forced to wait months for rehab beds in Geelong, Bendigo or Melbourne. The wait of about six weeks for a residential detox bed typically comes after a four to six-week period between referral and first clinician appointment with a local AOD service - with experts warning delays risk patients suffering further harm, exacerbation of their addiction and even death.

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Tobacco targets

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 30/09/2024, Cydonee Mardon, Page 9

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, knows she has her work cut out for her bringing together federal and state crime-fighting and health arms for a unified assault on the illicit, growing trade.

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

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Your heart changes in size and shape with exercise – this can lead to heart problems for some athletes and gym rats

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 30/09/2024, William Cornwell

Exercise has long been recognized by clinicians, scientists and public health officials as an important way to maintain health throughout a person's lifespan. It improves overall fitness, helps build strong muscles and bones, reduces the risk of chronic disease, improves mood and slows physical decline.

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3AW, Weekend Mornings, 29/09/2024, Darren James

Interview with Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association CEO Chris Christoforou, discussing waitlists for drug and alcohol treatment. Christoforou says despite the Vic Government's claims of doubling its investment in alcohol and drug treatments, service providers say it's unable to keep up with rising costs. He calls for an evaluation of the National Drug Strategy to determine which strategies are working and to resource service providers to ensure they meet the community's needs.

Continued on: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Wholefoods are key to reducing heart disease

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 30/09/2024, Jessica Klein, Page 6

An 81-year-old who suffered with heart disease for almost four decades left his doctor stunned when tests revealed his heart was no longer enlarged. According to recent National Heart Foundation statistics cardiovascular health is the biggest issue affecting Australians, claiming a life every 12 minutes.

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'Since then it's been absolutely horrific': Survivor's story

Burnie Advocate, General News, 30/09/2024, Saree Salter, Page 7

On a Friday in 2020, Shelley Brooks left hospital following a day surgery - little did she know she would leave her healthy and happy life behind too. By midnight, Ms Brooks was feeling unwell.

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

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Drinking alcohol is linked to six types of cancer, experts warn

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/09/2024, Melissa Rudy Fox

It's long been known that no amount of alcohol is good for the body — and now new research spotlights the potential harm it can cause. An estimated 3500 cancers diagnosed in Australian adults every year can be attributed to alcohol use, according to the Cancer Council Australia.

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

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Kate was told she needed a hysterectomy for endometriosis and adenomyosis, before a 'minor' treatment changed her life

7news.com.au, Other, 29/09/2024

Kate* always had long and painful periods, some of which made her think "I can't live like this" — but, like many women, she never really questioned whether the severity of that menstrual pain was normal. "I don't think that, when you're young, you really ask other girls how bad it all is," she told 7NEWS.com.au.

[Read More](#)

I was 41 when I noticed a strange 'indentation' on my body. Weeks later doctors gave me two years to live but they were wrong. This is what I want all women to know

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/09/2024, Carina Stathis

Danica Bunch will never forget the day doctors told her she had two years to live. [...] She also journalled regularly and utilised the Cancer Council support line.

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A new focus on hypertension and dementia

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/09/2024

Emerging evidence shows significant links between untreated hypertension and the development of dementia. Hypertension is ubiquitous, being the most frequently seen condition in Australian general practice, and in 2022 approximately 6.8 million Australians (one-third of all adults) lived with high blood pressure.

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The proposed sale of Vectura by Philip Morris International: what it means for Australia's respiratory health

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/09/2024

The proposed sale of Vectura by Philip Morris International is a significant moment in the fight against

Big Tobacco's influence on health care. The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand explores the implications of the sale and calls for continued vigilance to keep tobacco and vaping companies out of the pharmaceutical sector.

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Dementia: our failing approach

Your Life Choices, Other, 30/09/2024, Andrew Gigacz

Australians and people in western society in general have a greater awareness of dementia than in past generations. Yet in terms of understanding the disease and interacting with those who have it, we still seem to fall well short.

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PRIMARY CARE

Courts narrow DNA scope to clear backlog

The Australian, General News, 30/09/2024, Lydia Lynch, Page 1

Courts are narrowing the scope of DNA testing in Queensland to speed up a backlog of murder and rape cases plagued by lengthy delays for crucial forensic results. Testing delays at the government-run DNA lab are wreaking havoc on Queensland's criminal justice system, with "100-plus" murder and manslaughter cases trapped in lower courts until forensic evidence can be analysed.

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

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Leading GP warns against over-reliance on health apps

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 30/09/2024, David Swan, Page 27

A cohort of buzzy digital health start-ups is jostling for a piece of the nation's lucrative healthcare market but are facing questions over their strategies, pricing and efficacy, with some charging nearly \$1500 a month before they've publicly launched. The preventative health sector has taken flight over the past 12 months, spurred by high-profile American figures like Andrew Huberman, Joe Rogan and Dr Peter Attia, who espouse the benefits of "biohacking" and the use of technology to help become "superhuman".

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Kip twice the miracle

Herald Sun, General News, 30/09/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 11

A teenager has saved his own father's life on not one but two occasions in a true Melbourne miracle. Elwood's Kip Merton was just 15 when a triple-0 call taker talked him through giving CPR to his dad, who suffered a cardiac arrest while they were home alone in April last year.

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A tax on our health

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/09/2024, James O'Doherty & Madeleine Bower, Page 1

Health bureaucrats are threatening to hike state taxes on private health insurance, in a move which providers say would increase premiums for typical policies by \$114 per year and force 60,000 people to drop their cover, heaping further pressure on the strained public system. The secret plans to increase the health insurance levy can be revealed after NSW Health demanded insurance companies start paying the government almost \$900 per day for customers who get a private room when admitted to a public hospital.

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GP fee increase a pain

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 30/09/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 9

GP out-of-pocket fees have increased again this year, forcing many Australians to pay more for basic health care. A survey of more than 3000 GPs found while bulk-billing rates have increased, the gap for patients who are charged out-of-pocket fees has also risen by 5 per cent.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#)

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Dismissed ambo wants his job back

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/09/2024, Genevieve Holding, Page 1

A long-time New Norfolk paramedic who was sacked earlier this year is launching an appeal over the state industrial commission's finding, saying "indisputable evidence" wasn't addressed in his hearing. Bryce Duggan spent 45 years as a paramedic with Ambulance Tasmania, being called out to jobs of varying degrees around the south of the state.

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Bandt braves WA in uphill battle for votes

West Australian, General News, 30/09/2024, Dan Jervis-Bardy, Page 10

The risk the Greens pose to WA will be on full display this week as Adam Bandt tours Perth's suburbs spruiking a \$500 billion tax grab that critics warn would destroy Australia's economy. The Greens leader will arrive in Perth on Monday for a weeklong roadshow in a bid to elect the party's first WA MP in Federal Parliament's Lower House.

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Sorry state of emergency

West Australian, General News, 30/09/2024, Rebecca Le May, Page 16

Nurse-to-patient ratios will be imposed at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital as the Health Minister dismisses concerns about rolling "code yellows" at its emergency department. Ratios were introduced at Perth Children's Hospital ED last year, lifting rostered staffing levels to one nurse for every three patients.

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Who can get 'the pill' from city pharmacies

Daily Advertiser, General News, 30/09/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 2

Not all women and not all contraceptive pills are included in the government's plans to make permanent a trial that gives pharmacists tasks from doctors' plates. Only women aged 18 to 39 who have been using contraceptive pills continuously for the past two years will be eligible to bypass their doctor and get up to 12 months refilled on their script from registered pharmacists.

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Code grey the new way

Burnie Advocate, General News, 30/09/2024, Helen Kempton, Page 1

More than 50 Code Black alerts are called across the North West Regional Hospital every month and the Health Department plans to introduce a new code to provide an early response to situations that may involve violence or aggression. The new Code Grey would focus on trying to de-escalate situations or for security to be on standby.

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LNP vows to permanently exempt Queensland GPs from payroll tax

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/09/2024, Cameron Atfield

The LNP has promised to keep patient fees down in Queensland by permanently abolishing payroll tax for GPs if elected to government next month. Medical practices have always paid payroll tax on their employees, such as receptionists and nurses, but it never applied to general practitioners because they worked independently.

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A debate on abortion laws has reignited, shedding light on smoldering SA internal party tensions

ABC Online, Other, 29/09/2024

Three issues have dominated social policy debate across recent South Australian parliamentary terms — voluntary assisted dying, the decriminalisation of sex work and abortion. They've sparked multiple rallies on North Terrace, late night sittings, thousands of signatures on petitions, as well as dividing opinions within political parties.

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Queensland LNP promise voters 'cheaper GP visits' but Miles government calls it 'nonsense'

The Guardian, Other, 29/09/2024, Andrew Messenger

Queensland's opposition claims visits to the doctor would be cheaper under an LNP government, but Labor said they haven't explained how they will pay to make GPs exempt from payroll tax. The shadow treasurer, David Janetzki, announced on Sunday that the party would make general practitioners a special category under the payroll tax act.

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Qld election 2024: David Crisafulli dodges question on LNP spending

The Mercury, Other, 29/09/2024, Hayden Johnson & Rose Innes

Queensland's alternative premier David Crisafulli has refused to reveal whether government spending would be lower under an LNP government and if he would deliver a budget surplus. Mr Crisafulli, spruiking his pledge to remove Labor's "patient tax" on GP visits – which would cost about \$100m each year – declined three times to say whether government spending would be lower under the LNP.

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

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Cost of taking bullied children out of school

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/09/2024, Jordan Baker, Page 1

Private schools are insisting parents pay a full term's fees of up to \$10,000 if they withdraw their children due to bullying, prompting calls for schools to relax rules if student safety is at risk. Some schools are also demanding parents sign non-disclosure agreements to protect the school's reputation.

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Addiction is not a choice made by weak

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/09/2024, Andrew Lawrence, Page 19

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.

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

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Cyberbullying driving teen girls towards eating disorders and cosmetic procedures, study finds

ABC Online, Other, 29/09/2024

A University of the Sunshine Coast study has revealed the alarming effects of cyberbullying on teenage girls, many of whom feel pressured to diet and undergo cosmetic procedures. The survey of hundreds of girls highlights the growing impact of appearance-related bullying and its connection to body dissatisfaction and eating disorders.

Isolated, overwhelmed and hours from a psychologist: regional Australia facing a perinatal health crisis

The Guardian, Other, 29/09/2024, Dellaram Vreeland

Getting a psychologist's appointment in regional Tasmania is difficult. It took Stephanie Trethewey more than a year after the birth of her second child to secure one of the rare slots with the visiting psychologist at a local doctor's office.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

'So peaceful, so relaxed': Why this mum chose to give birth at home

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 29/09/2024, Orlander Ruming

Teagan Hoper describes having a home birth as one of the best decisions she and her husband have made in their entire lives. It was so peaceful, so relaxed. I said afterwards, "I didn't know birth could be this good".

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

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Truce called as firefighters weigh pay deal

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/09/2024, Michael McGowan, Page 2

The Minns government has reached an interim peace deal with the state's firefighters, agreeing to a one-year, 3 per cent pay increase in exchange for the union halting industrial action that hampered the opening of the new CBD metro line. But the olive branch will extend only so far.

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Junior doctors forced out of orthopaedics

Canberra Times, General News, 30/09/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 2

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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Territory workers' rentals in hike

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/09/2024, Fia Walsh, Page 5

Rent for government employee housing has been hiked by 25 per cent in a move that will impact budgets for thousands of teachers, healthcare workers and police in the Northern Territory. A government gazette on Friday announced rent for government employee housing would increase to \$105 a week per bedroom, up from \$84.

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Pediatric specialist recognised in journal

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/09/2024, Nikita Mcguire, Page 3

North Queensland's only pediatric respiratory and sleep specialist has been recognised by one of the world's most influential respiratory journals. Dr Dustin Mills contributed an article to a special edition of

the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, as part of his PhD in chronic wet cough and bronchiectasis.

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Nurses go long

Western Advocate, General News, 30/09/2024, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 1

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. Nurses and midwives boarded a bus and travelled to Sydney last Tuesday to be part of a 10,000-strong rally amid a 24-hour nurses strike.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Australians are skipping vital medications due to cost

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/09/2024

Many Australians are struggling to afford the medicines they need due to cost barriers, with women, young people, and those in poorer health particularly affected. [...] In particular, there needs to be more data on how many people are prescribed medications that are not on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), which accounts for a third of out-of-pocket health care spending for patients and contributes greatly to cost barriers.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Occupational therapist guilty of professional misconduct over texts

NEWS.com.au, Other, 29/09/2024, Heath Parkes-Hupton & Tsn Flex

An occupational therapist from NSW told a "vulnerable" patient she would later have sex with that their text conversations were "our secret", a tribunal has heard. Amanda Williams was working as a contractor when she was assigned to perform an NDIS assessment on Patient A in September 2018, and they continued to chat and socialise with each other until March 2019.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#)

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

'Clone stadium for Olympics to save millions'

The Australian, General News, 30/09/2024, Jamie Walker, Page 7

Former West Australian premier Colin Barnett has called on Queensland to clone Perth's acclaimed Optus Stadium for the 2032 Olympics, saying a replica would save money and time. The long-serving Liberal Party leader was expanding on a proposal he put forward in The Australian earlier this month to break the logjam in the troubled venues program for the Brisbane Games.

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AFL grand final pips four million mark

The Australian, Media, 30/09/2024, Sophie Elsworth & James Madden, Page 19

The Brisbane Lions' 60-point AFL Grand Final victory over the Sydney Swans delivered free-to-air broadcaster Channel 7 its biggest audience for a premiership decider in eight years. The official ratings data released by OzTAM on Sunday night showed 4.024 million viewers tuned in to the season finale, including 655,000 viewers on Seven's free streaming platform 7Plus.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Cochlear calls for higher R&D cap

The Australian, Business News, 30/09/2024, Cameron England, Page 15

Australia is not a competitive place to commercialise innovative new products, and it needs to boost tax incentives for research and development, Cochlear chief executive Dig Howitt says. Furthermore it should dust off a proposal for tax concessions for new technology products, which should have been put in place two years ago, he believes.

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Aus innovation lacking

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/09/2024, Page 9

Australia is not a competitive place to commercialise innovative new products, and it needs to boost tax incentives for research and development, Cochlear chief executive Dig Howitt says. Furthermore it should dust off a proposal for tax concessions for new technology products which should have been put in place two years ago, he believes.

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

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Pregnant women forced to skimp on food

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/09/2024, Isabella Pesch, Page 9

One in 10 expectant Australian mothers is going hungry, with all struggling to meet pregnancy nutritional guidelines regardless of household income, a new study has found. The survey of 1500 women, helmed by Queensland University of Technology, also found almost half (42 per cent) were experiencing some form of food insecurity and two in five were worried about food, changing the quality of their diet and eating less.

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

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DNA mutations linked to vaping

West Australian, General News, 30/09/2024, Page 16

Vaping could trigger the same cancer-causing changes to DNA as tobacco, research suggests. In the

most comprehensive study of its kind, experts from the Keck School of Medicine in southern California discovered that young adults who vaped had the same genetic mutations in cells in their mouths as those found in many cigarette smokers.

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The world is shifting away from using animals in research. Will Australia get left behind?

The Guardian, Other, 29/09/2024, Petra Stock

A global shift in scientific and medical research is under way as countries hope to phase out experimentation on animals – but Australia risks being left behind. The transition from using animals to alternatives based on human cells, tissue and data is driving multibillion-dollar growth in new technologies and methods.

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Lessons learnt from the first two SARS-CoV-2 Omicron waves of the COVID-19 pandemic in six remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland, Australia: a retrospective epidemiological review

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/09/2024

Over the course of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, there were concerns for the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (respectfully hereafter referred as First Nations) people across Australia. The health and socio-economic inequities experienced by First Nations communities that contribute to increased morbidity and mortality are well described.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Digital health research can be positive for Indigenous people. But our study found it needs to follow these principles

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/09/2024

Digital technologies are transforming health care for all Australians, and this includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Electronic health interventions (eHealth) can involve features such as telehealth, instant messaging and mobile apps that support health care.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

What is driving recent pandemic surges

Canberra Times, General News, 30/09/2024, Page 18

Pandemics - the global spread of infectious diseases - seem to be making a comeback. In the Middle Ages we had the Black Death (plague), and after the first world war we had the Spanish flu.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Heated eyeballs, inflatable body armour and 'simultaneous pleasure and torment': is this the future of relaxation?

The Guardian, Other, 29/09/2024, Alyx Gorman

"Please close your eyes, relax and enjoy," I am instructed in a robotic American accent just before the loud mechanical whirrings commence. [...] Since gaining TGA approval, Davies has seen a significant increase in inquiries about the device.

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Cost barriers to medication access in Australia: an analysis of the Patient Experience Survey in context

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/09/2024

In November 2023, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released its 2022–23 Patient Experience Survey data. [...] In fact, one of the aims of the Therapeutic Goods Administration's new Medicines Repurposing Program is to improve equitable access to treatment by registering off-label medicine uses of public health value so that they can be subsidised.

[Read More](#)

Wiping infections away with the CLEEN study

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/09/2024

It is estimated that one in ten adult inpatients in Australia acquire a health care-associated infection (HAI), equating to over 160 000 HAIs annually. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration-approved 2-in-1 detergent and disinfectant wipes were used to clean shared equipment.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

PFAS leak poses fresh questions for Transurban

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 30/09/2024, Jenny Wiggins, Page 20

Transurban's maintenance practices are being scrutinised by Brisbane City Council after hundreds of litres of firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals leaked from tanks into a pump station in the firm's Clem Jones Tunnel.

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

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Call for Wagga to be part of PFAS inquiry

Daily Advertiser, General News, 30/09/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 1

Tap water in Wagga is safe to drink, but an inquiry into a "forever chemical" contamination could look to Wagga for answers about how to manage drinking sources. The NSW upper house has announced an inquiry into PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) levels in drinking supplies statewide.

Burning rubbish to create energy could end landfills. But some worry where Australia's new path is leading

The Guardian, Other, 29/09/2024, Petra Stock

Australia's first major waste-to-energy power plant has begun accepting rubbish, marking the start of a contentious nationwide shift towards burning household refuse to generate electricity. At least 10 developments are under way across the country, sparking concern from some conservationists who argue the trend will be environmentally damaging and at odds with plans to develop a circular economy.

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