



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 12th October 2024

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports Qld Premier Steven Miles has pledged \$365 million to build 50 bulk-billing GP clinics if elected, with the locations to be determined upon consultation with the AMAQ, RACGP and RDAQ.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 2) reports vaccines were incorrectly stored at a Sydney practice, resulting in five years of less-than-effective vaccines being administered, with letters sent to all patients who were immunised between 2019 and 2024 urging them to get revaccinated. *Also reported by: [The Guardian](#)*
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 5) reports the Victorian Ambulance union is calling on the Victorian government to release a review into non-emergency transport, received by the government last year, after a non-urgent patient was flown home in a fixed-wing ambulance plane upon being discharged due to a lack of available transport.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 5) reports the Wesfarmers Health: Australia's Health Index report has found Tasmanians have the highest rates of obesity, daily smoking and high blood pressure in the country, with AMA Tasmania president Dr Michael Lumsden-Steel calling for state and federal cooperation to address the issues.

- **[ABC Online](#)** reports former staff from the Women's Trauma Recovery Centre in Illawarra have written to the Department of Health and Aged Care urging the centre be put under administration with an immediate change of leadership, following allegations of unsafe work practices that put staff at risk of trauma and psychological injury.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 9) reports opposition waste spokesman James Stevens has criticised the government for the cost of sending delegates to COP28, including the Department of Health and Aged Care who sent two delegates, including Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney, who presented at the summit. *Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Daily Telegraph](#)*
- **[The Launceston Examiner](#)** (page 11) reports a coroner has cleared emergency staff at Launceston General Hospital of wrongdoing after the death of a 73-year-old man with an arterial blood clot who was not diagnosed with the clot for four hours.

MINISTER BUTLER

Pro-Putin councillor's COVID vaccine contamination motion revealed ahead of special council meeting

West Australian, Other, 11/10/2024, Cain Andrews

Pro-Putin Town of Port Hedland councillor Adrian McRae's COVID vaccine contamination motion which he attempted to table at the September council meeting has been revealed ahead of a special meeting to consider the motion on October 11. [...] The town's chief executive is also tasked with sending a letter to the WA Health Department, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, WA Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson, Commonwealth Health Minister Mark Butler, Health Secretary Blair Comley, and Deputy Health Secretary Professor Tony Lawler, requesting public responses and advice for both health practitioners and patients considering further COVID-19 vaccinations.

Also reported by: [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#).

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Rural GPs swap the hospital for the clinic to give better care to patients

The Advocate (Burnie), Other, 11/10/2024, Tess Kelly

Better work-life balance and the capacity to offer more care for their patients has led two North-West doctors to swap the hospital for the clinic. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the employment model is proving to be a successful way to bolster the health workforce in Tasmania.

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ICYMI: transforming mental healthcare during war, health rights under fire, election matters – and upcoming events

Croakey, Other, 10/10/2024, Melissa Sweet

Fundamental rights to healthcare and justice are at risk in elections, from Queensland to the United States. [...] On 8 October, Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler announced the retirement of Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly, whose last day in the Department will be 21 October.

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Looks Like They Are Trying To 'Fix' The myHR Again!

Australian Health Information Technology, Other, 11/10/2024, Dr David G More

The Australian Digital Health Agency has put out a request for tender for a \$50 million contract to boost My Health Record's connectivity. [...] Even the federal health minister Mark Butler admitted to the platform's technology being "ordinary", earlier this year.

Also reported by: [Australian Health Information Technology \(Online\)](#).

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Redefining dementia care

Port Macquarie News, General News, 11/10/2024, Mardi Borg, Page 3

Lyn Murphy just wants to be treated "humanely" as she lives with dementia. [...] Promising model The official ceremony was attended by government representatives, including Senator Deborah O'Neill, who spoke on behalf of Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells.

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Opinion: will Australians really get the aged care they need, and will they pay?

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/10/2024, Lauren Broomham

Can residential aged care and home care providers build high value services to the quality levels that today's consumer demands if they, the consumer, will have to pay more? [...] In announcing the Government's aged care reforms last month, Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells stated: "Australians will get the support they need and make a reasonable contribution according to their means."

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Heat on jaunt to climate summit

Courier Mail, General News, 12/10/2024, Linda Silmalis, Page 9

The cost of the Albanese government sending more than 60 people to the COP28 UN climate change conference in Dubai last year was almost \$1.3m, internal departmental documents have revealed. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care also sent two people, with their travel bill coming in at \$35,350.

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

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Forum sparks open conversation on women's health

Surf Coast Times, General News, 11/10/2024, Ellie Claringbold, Page 19

Corangamite federal member Libby Coker brought together a group of passionate healthcare professionals last month for a discussion about the key health issues now facing women. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney was also in attendance.

Also reported by: [Armstrong Creek Times \(Victoria\)](#).

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Women encouraged to keep getting screened for breast cancer

Surf Coast Times, General News, 11/10/2024, Abby Pardew, Page 47

As National Breast Cancer Awareness Month begins, Australians are being encouraged to get checked as the federal government celebrates a rise in screening rates. [...] "It's pleasing that this Breast Cancer Awareness Month we are seeing more women return to breast screening," Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said.

Also reported by: [Armstrong Creek Times \(Victoria\)](#), [Geelong Times \(Online\)](#), [Bellarine Times \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Times \(Online\)](#), [Bellarine Times \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

Heat on jaunt to climate summit

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/10/2024, Linda Silmalis, Page 9

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MBS care plan delay 'disappointing'

Australian Doctor, General News, 11/10/2024, Antony Scholefield, Page 10

Given the silence from the Department of Health and Aged Care in recent weeks, no-one should be surprised that reform of GP care plans and team care arrangements has been shelved. The changes, which GPs had long called for, marked the biggest shake-up of Medicare's chronic disease funding in 20 years: no more team care arrangements and new, identical rebates for both drawing up and reviewing the care plans.

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MediSecure warned health officials of weak position before ransom attack

Canberra Times, Other, 11/10/2024, Eleanor Campbell

The Department of Health was aware MediSecure was on the brink of financial collapse and had concerns about the safe transfer of e-scripts a year before hackers broke into the company's server and stole the data of nearly 13 million people. Documents released under freedom of information have shown extensive back-and-forth communications between senior department officials and the now-defunct e-script company between 2020 and 2023.

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Domestic violence recovery centre exposed staff to psychological injury, SafeWork NSW says

ABC Online, Other, 11/10/2024, Tim Fernandez

The Illawarra's new \$25 million Women's Trauma Recovery Centre (WTRC) was designed to be a blueprint for trauma-informed healing that could be replicated across the country, supporting women in their journey to escape family, domestic and sexual violence. [...] Former staff formalised their concerns in a letter to the federal Department of Health and Aged Care this week, claiming the way the centre was being run was not aligned with the agreement it was funded under.

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Pro-Putin councillor's COVID vaccine contamination motion revealed

ahead of special council meeting

Augusta-Margaret River Times, Other, 11/10/2024, Cain Andrews

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

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New Support at Home details reveal co-contribution cut-off date

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 11/10/2024, Alex Jacobs

The Department of Health and Aged Care has released a new Support at Home program handbook to help service providers prepare for their Support at Home transition ahead of its July 1 2025 implementation date. While the handbook does not cover all operational details, it reveals that a new cut-off date of September 12 2024 means some Home Care Package recipients will have to pay co-contributions even if they access services before July 2025.

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TGA, SAHPRA sign MoU

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/10/2024

The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance collaboration between the two regulators. [...] Prof Anthony Lawler, Deputy Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care and head of the TGA, expressed satisfaction with the agreement, and said, "we look forward to working alongside our regulatory counterparts in South Africa to share important regulatory information to ensure the continued safety, quality, and efficacy of therapeutic products approved for market".

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Blog: Regulating AI in healthcare: the next steps

Pulse+IT, Other, 11/10/2024, Kate McDonald

Pulse+IT found itself a big bogged down this week amid the rather boring but entirely necessary area of government consultations on things relating to healthcare, in this case on how or whether to regulate AI in healthcare in Australia. The Department of Health and Aged Care was a guest of a webinar earlier this week on its consultation paper relating to the safe and responsible use of AI in Australia's health and care system, which comes hot on the heels of a similar one by the Department of Industry, Science and Research and another by the Therapeutic Goods Administration

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Celebrating our poverty-fighting heroes

The Catholic Weekly, Other, 11/10/2024

The recent 2024 Palms Solidarity Awards saw Catholic and inter-cultural community groups gather to celebrate the individuals and organisations working towards reducing global poverty, and following Christ's call to serve the poor. [...] During this time, Palms Australia has had many notable participants,

including: Professor Paul Kelly, Chief Medical Officer in Australia who worked as a medical officer mentor in Malawi from 1991-1995.

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ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 11/10/2024, Scott Levi

Central Coast Local Health District is reminding the community of the importance of mammograms. With an estimated 50% of local women eligible for free screening currently overdue for a cheque Breast screening is free for women aged between 50 and 74. Figures from the Department of Health and Aged Care show 9210 people have been seen at the clinic since 2023 November.

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VACCINES

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

The five numbers that determine whether you'll pay more for your place

AFR Weekend, Smart Money, 12/10/2024, Joanna Mather, Page 27

The major parties have struck a deal to deliver what Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has described as the "greatest improvement" to aged care in 30 years. The changes, which kick in from July 1 next year are designed to ensure wealthy families pay more...

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Staying at home until the end

AFR Weekend, Smart Money, 12/10/2024, Bina Brown, Page 28

Recent increases in the potential daily costs of residential aged care are just the start of what's to come following an overhaul of the aged care system announced last month. Every few months, one or other of the costs associated with residential aged care are adjusted, mostly in line with inflation.

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Growing old with a tax target on your back

Weekend Australian, Business News, 12/10/2024, Alan Oakley, Page 31

At a conservative estimate, I've handed over more than half of everything I've ever earned to governments. I've paid my full whack in state and federal taxes, one-off levies, council rates, taxes posing as fines, excise duty for drinking and other sins, taxes and tolls for driving, flying basically a levy on living and dying (final reckoning TBA).

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POPULATION HEALTH

Does Roundness Matter More Than Mass?

The Nightly, General News, 11/10/2024, Roni Caryn Rabin, Page 26

The body mass index, or B.M.I., is a ratio of height to weight that has long been used as a medical screening tool. It is one of the most widely used health metrics but also one of the most reviled, because it labels people overweight, obese or extremely obese.

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Going up in smokes

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/10/2024, Harry Brill, Page 1

Within the confines of a secure warehouse in East Arm, authorities have seized up to \$6m worth of tobacco shipped in from Asia following two busts just weeks apart. In September, authorities identified multiple suspicious pallets shipped in from Singapore.

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

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Time for change

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/10/2024, Vanessa Horstman, Page 26

The night time hokey pokey sounds fun and sexy. But reality is far from it. You're lying in bed when suddenly a wave of heat engulfs you.

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

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'My kids aren't safe'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/10/2024, Chelsea Bunting, Page 5

A Leopold family has been living with mould growing in the bathroom of their rental property for as long as four years. Joshua Sawyer, his wife and young kids moved into the home in 2020 but shortly after reported there was water damage near the shower and mould in the silicon to his property manager at Prime Real Estate.

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Getting through the long goodbye

Geelong Advertiser, GT, 12/10/2024, Cam Ward, Page 6

There was, is and always will be time for tears. That much is a given for families left scrambling to adjust to their new normal in the wake of a loved one's dementia diagnosis. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), dementia was the nation's second leading cause of death overall in 2022 behind coronary heart disease, and the leading cause of death among women.

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State can help people to share the load

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/10/2024, Page 46

While most were enjoying their toast and coffee this morning, Daniel Stephen was setting off on quite the adventure. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows almost 150,000 people in Hunter New England have a mental health condition, and it was revealed in August the region recorded the state's highest number of intentional self-harm hospitalisations in the past five years.

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'Serious': patient shares story of 'fluke' diagnosis

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 12/10/2024, Katrina Lovell, Page 2

Former Warrnambool man Ivor Edwards says his multiple myeloma diagnosis was "a fluke". It was a medical episode he had while driving to a dentist appointment in early 2019 that led to the discovery Mr Edwards said his eye "turned" while he was behind the wheel.

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Fluoride debate divides region

Weekend Post, General News, 12/10/2024, Emma Cam, Page 3

Almost half of residents surveyed believe fluoride should be added to Cairns' water. But Cairns Regional Council Mayor Amy Eden said there was no "overwhelming community support either for or against".

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Two incidents in two days puts a focus on dog attacks

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 11/10/2024, Caitlin Powell

Recent dog attacks: * A woman was rushed to Townsville University Hospital, Queensland, after her arm was severed in a dog attack on Friday. * Police fatally shot three dogs after they attacked a woman in suburban Dandenong, Victoria, on Thursday, leaving her critically injured. [...] DATA ON DOG ATTACKS: * There were roughly 9542 hospitalisations related to dogs during the year 2021/2022, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), compared to 539 cases of injury from venomous snakes and lizards.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Lines in the sand

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 12/10/2024, Nikki Gemmell, Page 14

To all the young sun bunnies heading out to sizzle this season, well, I wish we had the equivalent of a "Slip! Slop! Slap!" campaign to put the fear of God into you. [...] The federal government alongside Cancer Council Australia launched a fresh campaign earlier this year, recruiting content creators and lifestyle brands to promote sun safety.

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Bra fitter's appeal: 'know your breasts'

Daily Liberal, General News, 12/10/2024, Orlander Ruming, Page 10

Ms Mitchell is a professional bra fitter. And for Breast Awareness Month, she's encouraging everyone to get as familiar with breasts as she is.

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Dementia cases rising

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 12/10/2024, Page 3

Dementia is set to become Australia's leading cause of death. In 2023, dementia accounted for 9.1 per cent of all deaths, closely following ischaemic heart disease at 9.2 per cent, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

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Music therapy is changing the minds of dementia sufferers

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 12/10/2024, William Thompson, Page 85

A confused and stressed elderly man went to his GP bereft of ideas about the behaviour of his wife of 60 years. Recently she had begun chasing him out of his house with a broom, every day, claiming that he wasn't her husband.

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The reason why your knees 'creak' - and the worrying thing it means for your future: 'A concerning discovery'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/10/2024, Shania Obrien

A physiotherapist has revealed the concerning reason why your knees creak - and the exact symptom that means you need to see a doctor. Researchers at La Trobe University in Australia discovered that almost 13million people across the nation suffer from creaky knees.

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My friend's cancer turned mammograms from a routine into something ominous

The Guardian, Other, 11/10/2024, Angela Garbes

Every few months, one of my former college roommates sends a mirror selfie to the group chat, taken at a hospital or doctor's office. Now that we're all 45 or so, we mark annual mammograms with these dispatches, which we call Mammo Moments.

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Leukaemia, asthma, kidney disease: Doctors detail the health consequences of methane exposure

Newcastle Herald, Other, 11/10/2024, Matthew Kelly

Doctors have issued a stark warning about the health impacts of exposure to methane following revelations that the Upper Hunter has some of the highest concentrations of the toxic gas in Australia. Preliminary data from the monitoring platform Open Methane - which uses satellite-based measurements and ground-based verification to track emissions - estimates methane levels could be twice as high as what are currently reported.

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Hearing loss linked to social isolation

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 11/10/2024, Jodie Wolf

A survey highlights the impact hearing impairments have on an older person's mental health and social interactions. According to findings by online pollster YouGov, feelings of social isolation in older Australians could be lowered if hearing loss is treated.

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National stroke report a call for action

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 11/10/2024

One stroke occurred every 11 minutes in Australia last year, making up almost 46,000 new strokes. For each person who had a stroke in 2023, their lifetime cost to the economy will total \$350,000, and half of that cost will be created in the first year alone.

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PRIMARY CARE

The lonely death of Diana Beaton

The Saturday Paper, General News, 12/10/2024, Anne Summers, Page 8

Shortly after moving from Sydney to Melbourne, Diana Beaton received the worst possible news a diagnosis of stage four lung cancer. Her hopes for a merciful death of her choosing were then shattered by the Victorian government.

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Paging Dr Miles

Courier Mail, General News, 12/10/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 1

Premier Steven Miles will open 50 bulk-billing GP clinics across the state despite it being a Commonwealth responsibility in an unprecedented \$365m pledge if he wins the election. The plan is aimed at easing the cost of living and pressure on the state's health system.

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

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Lee's rules

Canberra Times, General News, 12/10/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 1

When the Liberals were last in power in the ACT only the first Harry Potter film had been released,

Kylie Minogue's song 'Can't Get You Out of My Head' was topping the charts and the iPhone did not exist. It's been a long 23 years in the political wilderness for the Canberra Liberals but Elizabeth Lee is hopeful that will change next week.

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Long-term Barr to test how experience counts

Canberra Times, General News, 12/10/2024, Jack Waterford, Page 26

Andrew Barr, long-serving ACT Chief Minister is perfectly right in saying that it is not Labor's fault that Labor has been in power for such a long time. Canberra voters have consistently returned Labor for more than two decades.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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A lift home in ambos' plane

Herald Sun, General News, 12/10/2024, Mitch Clarke & Sarah Booth, Page 5

A fixed-wing ambulance plane flew a non-urgent patient home to Gippsland after they had just been discharged from a Melbourne hospital because no non-emergency transport was available, putting the resource out of action for emergencies. The incident is one of a series in which ambulances were used effectively as taxis, sparking calls for the Allan government to release a review into the non-emergency transport sector, a 2022 election promise.

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Picture of poor health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/10/2024, Stephanie Dalton, Page 5

Tasmanians sadly rank highest in the country for daily smokers, high blood pressure, and obesity, a new report shows, leading health experts to raise the alarm on the pressure this places on the state's overstretched healthcare system. The concerning statistics come from Wesfarmers Health: Australia's Health Index, finding obesity and hypertension as some of Tasmania's most pressing public health issues.

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Making the right choices

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 12/10/2024, Page 40

Tasmania faces a growing public health crisis as it ranks highest in Australia for smoking rates, high blood pressure and obesity, according to a new report. These chronic health issues are not just individual concerns; they collectively place an enormous strain on our already overburdened public health system.

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It is time to be visionary about southern Tasmania's growing health care needs and build a new hospital

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/10/2024, Dr Michael Lumsden-Steel, Page 42

Recently, the government decided to limit the expansion of the Royal Hobart Hospital emergency department. Multi-millions of dollars will continue to be spent on infrastructure that will not meet future demand.

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Pledge on scripts from ALP

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 12/10/2024, Page 4

Pharmacists will be able to dispense scripts for hormonal contraception and other simple issues under a Labor pledge to make a trial into the practice permanent. Premier Steven Miles, visiting Mareeba in far North Queensland to announce a \$20m expansion of the district hospital, said the scheme would take pressure off GPs.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Premier sticks knife in

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12/10/2024, Madura McCormack & Taylah Fellows, Page 7

Premier Steven Miles has twisted the knife as the LNP struggles with abortion, by promising an expansion to termination of pregnancy services if he's re-elected. The government has announced a \$20m funding boost for women's health to employ 45 sonographers and doctors and expand training for termination of pregnancy services to wedge the Opposition on abortion laws.

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Ambulance inquiry submissions sought

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 12/10/2024, Wade Stephens, Page 8

An Victorian Parliament upper house committee has launched an inquiry into Ambulance Victoria. The Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee will seek to prepare a report on the core issues impacting the management and functions of the organisation.

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First meeting more than just leadership vote

Border Mail, General News, 12/10/2024, Page 24

At the inaugural meeting of a new council, the election of the mayor and deputy mayor usually attracts all the attention. Often, that's the main item of business for the night; after all, it's the opening event, the newly elected councillors have barely had time to consider key issues as yet.

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Man died after 5-hour diagnosis delay, coroner reports

Launceston Examiner, General News, 12/10/2024, Benjamin Seeder, Page 11

Staff at the Launceston General Hospital took several hours to diagnose a 73-year-old Cressy man's intestinal blood clot, and by the time his condition was known, it was too late to operate, a coroner has reported. David Ian Whitney died in the Royal Hobart Hospital on March 12, 2022 - two days after arriving in the LGH Emergency Department with sudden and severe abdominal pain.

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No blame given

Ballarat Courier, General News, 12/10/2024, Alex Dalziel, Page 1

The coroner has found Ballarat Base Hospital had no beds available on the night a woman took her own life after waiting three hours in the emergency department. On Tuesday, Coroner David Ryan handed down his findings without inquest into the death of Danielle Thomson, who was found dead on Eastwood Street on November 4, 2022, but cast no blame on the health service for the tragedy.

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Health service to end mask rule

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 12/10/2024, Jessica Greenan, Page 2

For the first time in more than four years, visitors to South West Healthcare won't need to wear masks. The change comes into effect from Monday, October 14, and applies to all the service's clinical settings including Camperdown's Merindah Lodge aged care facility.

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'Locum fees should be capped'

Australian Doctor, General News, 11/10/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 6

"While we continue to have locums paid as handsomely as they are, we will continue to have excruciating workforce shortages." Dr Rod Martin, ACRRM's president-elect, told a state parliamentary inquiry last year that the fees locums were able to charge "explain why we can't attract more regular doctors".

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Arrests over Nitschke's death pod

Australian Doctor, General News, 11/10/2024, Carmel Sparke, Page 7

Dr Philip Nitschke's controversial suicide pod - dubbed the Tesla of euthanasia - has reportedly been used for the first time, triggering several arrests by police. The arrests followed reports that a 64-year-old woman used the 'Sarco' (short for sarcophagus) in a remote forest in the north of Switzerland.

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

GP practice staff must have vaccinations: RACGP

Australian Doctor, General News, 11/10/2024, Antony Scholefield, Page 7

GP practices will have to ensure all staff members receive recommended vaccinations based on their role and their contact with patients under the RACGP's draft accreditation standards. A 115-page draft of the college's sixth edition of the practice standards, which will be rolled out in 2026, was released for consultation two weeks ago.

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

2024 Qld state election: Why abortion laws dominate campaign

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/10/2024, talkUrl coralComments

It's been the hot topic of the week and one that may well decide a state election. Queensland's abortion laws – and whether they need further scrutiny – have become one of the lightning rod issues ahead of the October 26 election.

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

[Read More](#)

Don't get stung: Understanding out-of-pocket medical costs

Ballarat Courier, Other, 11/10/2024, Ben Silvester

Australia has some of the most affordable healthcare in the world but patients could still be surprised by hidden costs. These extra "out-of-pocket" costs could pop up whether a patient had treatment at a public or private hospital.

Also reported by: [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

CQHHS chief executive apologises to patients, outlines plans to improve ED

Cairns Post, Other, 11/10/2024, Frazer Pearce

People with non urgent conditions continue to add to the patient flow pressure at the the Rockhampton Hospital Emergency Department and are being urged to seek treatment elsewhere. Lisa Blackler, Chief Executive, Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service made the point while apologising to patients being forced to wait for lengthy periods at the department.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Morning Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

RACGP president Nicole Higgins calls on major parties to fund GP infrastructure for natural disasters

Cairns Post, Other, 11/10/2024, Paul Brescia

A regional GP who has seen the damage floods can wreak in a doctor's practice is calling for the next Queensland government to commit funding to help them with crucial disaster infrastructure. RACGP President Nicole Higgins runs a practice in Mackay, Queensland, and was caught up in the 2008 floods, losing electricity and access to patients' records.

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

[Read More](#)

Dr Michael Clements calls for disaster preparedness plan five years on from monstrous floods

Cairns Post, Other, 11/10/2024, Daniel Shirkie

A Townsville GP who witnessed the worst of the 2019 floods is urging the next state government to invest in a plan to protect medical centres to ensure they're ready to respond in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' Rural Chair Dr Michael Clements found his practice under siege by nearly 70 centimetres of water during the 2019 floods, and faced a long battle to open back up, despite being critical for the community.

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

[Read More](#)

Opinion: Abortion row just made David Crisafulli a bigger target

Cairns Post, Other, 10/10/2024, Paul Williams

The Queensland election campaign just took a turn Liberal National Party leader David Crisafulli hoped it never would. By introducing the possibility of restricting – or even repealing – Labor's popular abortion laws via a private member's Bill, Robbie Katter of Katter's Australian Party just set a cat among some very worried LNP pigeons.

[Read More](#)

Lee vows no change on VAD as Labor promises more palliative care

Canberra Times, Other, 11/10/2024, Jasper Lindell

The Canberra Liberals say they would not make any changes to the forthcoming voluntary assisted dying scheme, despite having pushed unsuccessfully for amendments before the laws passed and the majority of its members voting against it. Labor on Thursday promised to provide extra funding for palliative care services and would commit to expanding a respite home program for people with life-limiting illnesses.

[Read More](#)

Poor bone health rising

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/10/2024

Healthy Bones Australia has released a new report, Osteoporosis and Fractures in Australia: A Burden of Disease Analysis 2023-2033, revealing that 6.2 million Australians aged 50 and over are living with poor bone health. Launched yesterday at Parliament House, and ahead of World Osteoporosis Day (20 Oct), the report highlights a 34% increase in bone health issues since 2012, projecting this number to rise to 7.

[Read More](#)

GPs 'overwhelmed' with eating disorders in young patients

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 11/10/2024

The number of young people with eating disorders presenting to GPs is on the rise – and patients are getting younger. [...] A new RACGP-endorsed point-of-care tool for the early detection and treatment of eating disorders was launched this week.

[Read More](#)

Regional dialysis patients face changes to transport access

Shepparton News Online, Other, 11/10/2024, Kate Walters

Patients who attend dialysis in Shepparton have faced uncertainty in recent weeks, as their access to transport has changed. Dialysis appointments are not an optional outing.

[Read More](#)

Workforce incentive relief 'good news for rural communities'

The Australian, Other, 11/10/2024

A government review recommending workforce incentive funding for GPs remains for at least three years is good news, especially for rural communities, says the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP). The Government released the final reports of several reviews, including the Review of General Practice Incentives, the Review of After-Hours Primary Care Programs and Policy, and the Working Better for Medicare Review, after the launch of the RACGP's Health of the Nation report.

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

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Beneath the surface

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 12/10/2024, Talara McHugh, Page 1

Khadija Gbla had spent their whole life wondering why they felt different. On the outside, Khadija appears to have this larger-than-life personality, unquestionably confident and has even built up a career as a human-rights activist who regularly presents big ideas to big rooms of people.

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

Why we must slay social media monsters

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/10/2024, Kathryn Bermingham, Page 1

A leading US psychologist has thanked Australian politicians for "cleaning up the mess that America made for the world" by moving to ban children from social media. Dr Jonathan Haidt, bestselling author of The Anxious Generation, said the rise of social media had led to "the greatest destruction of human capital and human potential in human history – leaving aside the two world wars".

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

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

Critical need for funding

Courier Mail, General News, 12/10/2024, Jackie Sinnerton & Rachel Riley, Page 23

The state's mental-health levy needs to be boosted by another \$300m a year to help save lives, as the suicides of two young Queenslanders in the past six weeks expose the desperate need for more investment in support services. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists Queensland chairman, Professor Brett Emmerson, says Queenslanders are still waiting up to a year to see mental-health practitioners and he is disappointed by the efforts of the government to boost the mental-health workforce.

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

Support for online safety in schools

Courier Mail, General News, 12/10/2024, Madura McCormack & Taylah Fellows, Page 23

Queensland is on track to adopt a South Australian plan to teach children online safety as part of their school curriculum, after both premier hopefuls threw their support behind the pilot project. South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas on Friday announced evidence-based programs focused on tackling issues including cyber-bullying, body image, mental health and wellbeing would be introduced at schools as early as 2025.

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

"After years of allowing my kids to use iPads and smartphones, I am happy to admit that I got it wrong"

Courier Mail, Qweekend, 12/10/2024, Alex Hyndman Hill, Page 31

When I first floated the idea of switching our smartphones for "dumb phones" my 12-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter were horrified. They relied on their smartphones for everything

from finding their way around, listening to music on the bus, watching YouTube and sending messages on Snapchat.

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

Standing up for child safety

Herald Sun, Editorials, 12/10/2024, Page 68

Australia is a step closer to new laws raising the age limit for child access and to hold social media companies accountable for the toxic material they allow to wash across platforms. But that next step in reform, promised by the Albanese government to be introduced to parliament by Christmas, must be robust legislation that imposes meaningful controls and penalties on Big Tech for breaches of standards and under-age access.

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

Retreat to create Mindful Warriors

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12/10/2024, Jami Roberts, Page 3

With veteran mental health week around the corner, psychologists from James Cook University have organised a full day retreat to teach participants how to look inward to find peace and regulate their emotions. On Saturday veterans, their family members and community members will take part in the Mindful Warriors Full Day Retreat at JCU's Bebegu Yumba campus in Townsville.

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

Wolston Park investigation will aim to put a name to unmarked graves of former mental health facility patients

ABC Online, Other, 11/10/2024, Eden Gillespie

An expert appointed to lead an investigation into Wolston Park says he hopes to put names to the unidentified gravestones of former patients of the notorious mental health facility. Brisbane's Wolston Park Mental Hospital closed in 2001, but it has been the subject of a barrage of allegations of sexual abuse, beatings and chemical restraint from the 1950s to 1980s.

[Read More](#)

Beyond Blue study shows people are waiting up to 10 years to seek mental health help

Cairns Post, Other, 11/10/2024, Evangeline Polymeneas

Cheryl Williams was in high school when she began suffering debilitating mental ill health but it took her years to finally seek help. Her mental health battle began while the now 36-year-old found herself getting admitted to hospital monthly for what was later diagnosed as stage four endometriosis.

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

[Read More](#)

Young people are often invoked, but rarely heard in Parliament. When given the chance, what do they say?

Crikey, Other, 11/10/2024, Crystal Andrews

Statements read in Parliament took on a different tone this week, with 96 senators and MPs using their time to deliver a speech written by a young person as part of the Youth Voice in Parliament initiative. Facilitated by youth organisation Raise Our Voice Australia (ROVA), participating members read speeches from people in their electorate or state aged 25 and under.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Rural GPs swap hospital for the clinic

Burnie Advocate, General News, 12/10/2024, Tess Kelly, Page 1

Better work-life balance and the capacity to offer more care for their patients has led two North-West doctors to swap the hospital for the clinic. Dr Nada Hasso and Dr Ashikur Rahman are part of the new intake of trainee GPs working across the region in a bid to provide better primary health care on the Coast.

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

'This is insane': Aussies shocked at what our nurses are being paid

NEWS.com.au, Other, 11/10/2024, Mary Madigan

A young Brisbane nurse has revealed her hourly rate, and Australians can't believe how little she and her fellow nurses get paid. . Two nurses were stopped on the street in Brisbane by someone who works at Getahead, an app that matches job seekers with employers. The worker asked what the nurses did for work and how much they earned.

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

[Read More](#)

Door ajar to in-course payments for physio, OT students

The Border Mail, Other, 11/10/2024, Anthony Bunn

An amendment to a bill, allowing teaching and nursing students to be paid for mandatory placements, may now enable those in allied health fields to follow suit. Indi MP Helen Haines in federal Parliament this week landed a change to the Universities Accord (Student Support and Other Measures) Bill 2024 that will see a review done in three years that will consider including allied health students.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Telehealth in a 'race to the bottom'

Australian Doctor, General News, 11/10/2024, Page 13

In 2017, telehealth website Qoctor was causing controversy among GPs. Mailing out S4 antibiotics and sildenafil, online questionnaires to assess eligibility for referrals it seemed so radical then.

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

Adelaide grandfather Graeme Klemm discusses life support and having an advance care directive

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/10/2024, Evangeline Polymeneas

When Graeme Klemm was placed on life support his family did not know what decisions he would have made for himself. Diagnosed with end stage cardiomyopathy, a heart muscle disease, in 2017, Mr

Klemm never would have suspected he'd be flown for specialist treatment to the Royal Alfred Hospital in Melbourne after suddenly going into organ failure.

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

[Read More](#)

New Hedland telehealth service targets female sexual and reproductive health

West Australian, Other, 11/10/2024

A new women's telehealth service has launched in Hedland, specialising in female and reproductive health to address consistent specialist healthcare issues in regional WA. Hedland Well Women's Centre partnered with Luma for Her Health and Wellbeing and BHP to aid women's health concerns such as contraception, STI testing, hormone issues, endometriosis, PCOS, fertility, menstrual concerns, sexual health, perimenopause and menopause.

[Read More](#)

Bupa clinical director defends decision to offer free telehealth consults for scripts and referrals

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/10/2024, Paul Smith

More than two million Bupa members will have access to three free 24/7 telehealth consults a year. This week, Bupa revealed its offering 24/7 access to free telehealth consults, with patients able to secure prescriptions and referrals without having to see their own GP.

[Read More](#)

Medicare rebates

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/10/2024

The Australian General Practice Alliance (AGPA) has called for a major overhaul of Medicare, including the creation of an independent pricing authority to set rebate levels for doctors. Dr Mukesh Haikerwal, AGPA Deputy Chair, emphasised that Medicare is under-funded, jeopardising primary healthcare services.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Healing impaired

The Saturday Paper, General News, 12/10/2024, Ahona Guha, Page 10

When people seek therapy, they expect they will find someone with professional training and experience, and receive treatment aligned with best practice. [...] I reported my former psychologist to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and endured an arduous two-year investigation process, which culminated in a finding against her, and a requirement that she seek supervision once a month for 12 months.

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

Medical board fee 'extortionate'

Australian Doctor, General News, 11/10/2024, Ciara Seccombe, Page 8

Professor Steve Robson says Medical Board of Australia fees are "extortionate" and "unjustified", with doctors paying \$1027 to renew their registration this year. The fee has increased 3.2% from last year. [...] "You have got \$3000 or \$4000 in college fees, \$50,000 a year for indemnity cover and now you have got over \$1000 for AHPRA as the cherry on top.

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

We are not being gagged: doctors and free speech

A great divide between doctors resurfaced recently, when GP Dr Jereth Kok faced a tribunal over 85 of his social media posts, including one in which he described abortion doctors as "contract killers". [...] But is AHPRA, the statutory regulator, trying to gag the profession?

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

Medicinal cannabis doctors investigated by authorities after suicide and hospitalisation of patients

ABC Online, Other, 11/10/2024, Elise Worthington & Janelle Miles

The father of a man who took his own life after being prescribed medicinal cannabis says his dead son was repeatedly sent more cannabis, despite the family notifying the telehealth platform of his death. [...] A spokesperson for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) said conditions were imposed on Mr Younes's licence through immediate action powers available when there is "a serious risk to the public, or strong public interest, requiring restrictions on a practitioner's registration".

[Read More](#)

Cooroy doctor David Alexander Kirkman reprimanded in tribunal for serious misconduct

Cairns Post, Other, 11/10/2024, Chloe Grimshaw

New details have come to light regarding the retirement of a longstanding Noosa doctor, with court documents revealing he surrendered his registration after the "community were placed at risk" due to misconduct. Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal documents, published on Wednesday, found Cooroy-based doctor David Alexander Kirkman engaged in serious misconduct over his prescription of opioids to patients.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Sunshine Coast Daily \(Online\)](#).

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

'Drinking took over my life'

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/10/2024, Fia Walsh, Page 11

The government's plan to scrap minimum alcohol pricing in the NT will have Territorians "paying the price" of increased health costs, alcohol-fuelled violence, and economic drain, researchers warn. Amelia (not her real name), a 42-year-old woman living south of Darwin, said the floor price helped her escape the grips of alcohol addiction.

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

Evidence to show alcohol floor price works is simply not there

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/10/2024, Matt Cunningham, Page 20

History has a funny way of repeating itself in the Northern Territory. If you go back 12 years to when the CLP last won government, you will remember a great deal of outrage about the new government's decision to scrap the banned drinkers' register.

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SPORT

League's moneyball juggernaut

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/10/2024, Peter Badel, Page 1

The Australian Rugby League Commission is celebrating the biggest financial coup in the game's 116-year history with the NRL set to post record revenue in their masterplan to become a \$1 billion sport.

On the five-year anniversary of his rise to the ARLC chairmanship, Peter V'landys says the sport won't stop growing.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

How far would you go to save your child's life

Courier Mail, General News, 12/10/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

Chris and Golden Whitrod have gone to extraordinary lengths to save their little girl, who was diagnosed with an untreatable brain condition that is progressively robbing her of life they hired a team of scientists to find a cure. [...] The Whitrods have applied for a Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) to continue the research.

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

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Improving outcomes for patients who have a stroke in hospital

Ballarat Courier, General News, 12/10/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 3

A Grampians Health research project is looking at ways to improve the outcomes of people who suffer a stroke in hospital. Patients who have a stroke in hospital have worse outcomes than patients who suffer an out-of-hospital stroke, and Grampians Health Stroke Telemedicine site coordinator Casey Hair said her team was determined to find ways to turn that around.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

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'Edge of new frontier'

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 12/10/2024, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 10

A Gold Coast university research team is trialling therapy for blindness in blind pigs in the hope of discovering a cure for sight-challenged humans. Bond University's Dr Jason Limnios has developed core stem cell technologies for therapies for age-related macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa, a rare visual disorder affecting the retina.

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Stage 4 breast cancer patients trial diet, exercise program to improve quality of life

ABC Online, Other, 11/10/2024

Sharon Oakley's breast cancer diagnosis brought her life to a standstill. "Your world crashes," she said. "I just knew that when women had breast cancer, they had chemo or died."

[Read More](#)

Inside Reed Jobs' mission to make cancer non-lethal, and the key advice his father gave him

Cairns Post, Other, 11/10/2024, Jared Lynch

The Apple co-founder's son, Reed Jobs, has raised almost \$300m to invest in therapies to slash cancer's mortality rate and make it a manageable chronic condition like diabetes or heart disease. After Steve Jobs died in 2011 at the age of 56, his son Reed said he needed a break from cancer.

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

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Channel 9, Nine News, 11/10/2024, Michael Thomson

Interview Australian researchers say there is a risk that a form of dementia is being mistaken for Parkinson's disease. They are seeking eligible patients for a world-first trial involving a cough medicine.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

A year on, raw wounds and toxic politics

AFR Weekend, General News, 12/10/2024, Tom McIlroy, Page 16

For her supporters, it was a political masterstroke. For her critics, it was opportunism of the first order.

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

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

We got this, sis

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 12/10/2024, Jamie Walker, Page 22

When they were girls, growing up in the thick red Kimberley dust, Steph and Cath would talk about what they wanted to do with their lives, how they would make a difference. Their paths always seemed to be entwined. Both are descended from the Stolen Generations.

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

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AI retinal scanner wins Lions Eye \$5m to diagnose blindness in Pilbara

ABC Online, Other, 11/10/2024, Alex Govan

The Lions Eye Institute has won \$5 million in funding for an Australian-first invention that will improve health and eye care in WA's Pilbara region. Access to healthcare in the northern WA region of the Pilbara often involves travelling hundreds of kilometres.

[Read More](#)

New data shows alarming rise in suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/10/2024, Giovanni Torre

There has been an alarming rise in suicide rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, according to 2023 causes of death data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. While suicide rates for non-Indigenous Australians stabilised at 11.8 per 100,000 people, the rate for Indigenous Australians surged to 30.

[Read More](#)

Victoria's Aboriginal health organisation peak body holds "question time" for Frankston Council poll

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/10/2024, Giovanni Torre

The Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation in partnership with Nairn Marr Djambana, hosted an Aboriginal Community Question Time in Frankston on Thursday. The event provided an opportunity for local Aboriginal community members and allies to ask Frankston City Council candidates about issues impacting their Communities in the run up to the Council election on 26 October.

[Read More](#)

'We have 6.2 million new friends': Voice campaigners to reflect on one year since referendum

SBS, Other, 11/10/2024, Rudi Maxwell

A year on from the Voice Referendum, Uluru Dialogue co-chair Aunty Pat Anderson wants to focus on the positives and community. "We can't overlook what our people achieved last year," Aunty Pat, an Alyawarre woman, said.

[Read More](#)

Help for Yorta Yorta people to better understand palliative care options

Shepparton News Online, Other, 11/10/2024

Aboriginal people in need of palliative care, and their carers, can now access free easy-to-read information specific to communities living in Wiradjuri, Yorta Yorta, Waveroo and Duduroa Countries. Aboriginal Elders, community members and local health service providers recently met in a yarning circle at Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service to launch the journey into Sorry Business booklet and yarn about the importance of taking care of business with mob.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Nuclear energy plan has holes

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 12/10/2024, Page 15

Peter Dutton's nuclear energy proposal raises issues that we should consider. There are legal impediments to the scheme as nuclear energy is banned federally and in Queensland, NSW and Victoria.

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

Viral gastroenteritis cases jump in New South Wales

9News, Other, 11/10/2024, Richard Wood Senior

New South Wales residents are being warned of rising gastroenteritis cases as hundreds of thousands of students prepare to head back to school next week. Health authorities say testing and hospital data is showing a significant rise in cases in recent weeks across the state.

[Read More](#)

Gastro cases in NSW spiking, authorities issue public warning

NEWS.com.au, Other, 11/10/2024, Blair Jackson

Gastro cases are at their highest levels in years, prompting NSW Health to issue a public warning. "Maintaining good hand hygiene and keeping children at home when they are unwell will give us a good chance to slow the spread," NSW Health One Health director Keira Glasgow said.

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

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NSW Health issues alert over rising gastroenteritis cases

Ballarat Courier, Other, 11/10/2024, Gwen Liu

More than 2,700 people have presented to NSW emergency departments with symptoms of gastroenteritis in the last week. NSW Health's Keira Glasgow said "presentations were particularly high in children who are under five years of age".

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

[Read More](#)

'Highest level in recent years': Gastro outbreak hits NSW

SBS, Other, 11/10/2024, Madeleine Wedesweiler

NSW Health has warned of a spike in gastroenteritis cases, particularly among children, with authorities concerned the outbreak could worsen when children return to classrooms when school holidays end. An increase in two pathogens that commonly cause vomiting and diarrhoea — rotavirus and norovirus — is driving the outbreak, the health authority said.

[Read More](#)

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Drink yourself sober with a \$1 pill

AFR Weekend, General News, 12/10/2024, Fiona Buffini, Page 18

Emma, 59, developed a drinking problem the same way many people do. It just crept up on her. The mother of five with a corporate banking job would open a bottle of wine when she started cooking dinner.

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

Parents' fury at vaccine storage

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/10/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 2

A vaccine storage error at a general practice in Sydney's inner west may have left patients, including infants and children, without protection against serious diseases over the past five years. The Holy Family Medical Centre in Dulwich Hill sent letters to patients this week advising that vaccines may have been stored at incorrect temperatures, rendering them ineffective.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Home fetal dopplers cancelled

Australian Doctor, General News, 11/10/2024, Page 12

The TGA has cancelled all home-use fetal dopplers left on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods, warning that the devices may give false reassurances to pregnant women. The watchdog's safety review started in 2022 after obstetric services reported three stillbirths and one early neonatal death when patients were falsely reassured by at-home dopplers.

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

DIY nasal flu vax gets green light

Australian Doctor, General News, 11/10/2024, Ciara Seccombe, Page 18

Millions of patients in the US will be able to administer their own flu vaccination via a nasal spray. [...] AstraZeneca was contacted for comment about any plans to register the product in Australia with the TGA.

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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

Channel 9, Nine News, 11/10/2024, Mark Burrows

There's a new easy way to test drinking water for people's peace of mind through Sydney Water's Dam & Catchment PFAS checking. The new function, added to Sydney Water's website will tell you if the dams and catchments in your area have PFAS. Recent PFAS testing has confirmed all of Sydney's drinking water is safe.

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