



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 14th October 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has joined a number of politicians and celebrities in their support for Unplug24. "We've seen an alarming increase in levels of mental distress among young people, not just here in Australia, but around the world for the last 20 years ... As we mark this day by 'unplugging' from social media, parents and community leaders are rightly saying 'enough is enough', let our kids be kids," Minister Butler said. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#)
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports a world-first combined non-mRNA vaccine for Covid-19 and influenza is set to be trialled in Queensland, with hopes that immunisation rates can be increased among those hesitant about mRNA vaccines or with weakened immune systems.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports Canberra Health Services' procurement processes have come under scrutiny after chief operating officer Grant Howard was revealed to have had a professional relationship with the head of a consultancy firm awarded a contract for Canberra Hospital after Mr Grant recommended them. A spokesperson for the service said Mr Grant was not involved with the procurement process.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports the ALP has announced \$95 million to help prepare against the arrival of the H5 strain of avian influenza, including \$22.1 million for acquiring vaccines against human infections.

- [The Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 6) reports hospital ramping has decreased by 44 per cent in Adelaide since July, with Premier Peter Malinauskas acknowledging there is “a long way to go” to address what were record numbers in July.
- [The Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 6) reports Indigenous leaders are calling for more action on Closing the Gap a year on from the defeat of the Voice, with five of the 19 targets on track according to a Productivity Commission report from July.
- [The Hobart Mercury](#) (page 12) reports legislation change to allow rural Tasmanian GPs to work in hospitals have still not been implemented, with the Tasmanian Department of Health saying the changes are being “progressed as fast as possible”.

MINISTER BUTLER

Australia cannot stop deadly bird flu, minister warns

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 14/10/2024, Caitlin Powell

With the arrival of a deadly bird flu in Australia deemed "unavoidable", the federal government has announced almost \$100 million to "prepare and protect" the country. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said "there is no room for complacency" regarding human infections.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bega District News \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Blayney Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Blue Mountains Gazette \(Online\)](#), [Braidwood Times \(Online\)](#), [Bunbury Mail \(Online\)](#), [Busselton Dunsborough Times \(Online\)](#), [Camden Haven Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Support for socials boycott

Courier Mail, General News, 14/10/2024, Lachlan Leeming, Page 1

A 24-hour boycott of social media use for later this month will be supported by federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who says it is “increasingly clear” the “explosion in social media” is harming our youth. Mr Butler will participate in Unplug 24, a day of action to be held on October 24 calling for Aussies to take a break from social media for the day.

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

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Trolling with the punches

Herald Sun, General News, 14/10/2024, Julie Cross, Page 13

AFL star Brayden Maynard may be a premiership winner, but it has not spared him from social media trolls. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler will also take part in Unplug24, saying it is "increasingly clear" the "explosion in social media" is harming our youth.

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

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Rural trainee GPs start across state under single employer model program

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 13/10/2024, Duncan Bailey

A new intake of trainee GPs are starting work across the state as part of the state government's single employer model - a joint partnership between the state and federal governments to remove barriers in recruiting rural doctors. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said growing the rural GP workforce was a key part of the government's reforms to strengthen Medicare.

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MINISTER WELLS

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Toddler food failing to meet nutrition standards

Age, General News, 14/10/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 12

Most of the infant and toddler foods found on supermarket shelves are failing to meet international nutrition standards as the federal government investigates options to crack down on misleading marketing claims. [...] " Federal Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said she was "seriously concerned" by the figures and was working with the states and territories to improve the composition, nutritional profile and labelling of foods.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

ABC faces censure over campaigns on nuclear plants and retirement villages

The Australian, Other, 13/10/2024, James Madden

The ABC is facing accusations of airing misleading and "activist-led" journalism on two separate issues over the past fortnight, with both its flagship current affairs programs, Four Corners and 7.30, at the centre of the storm. Lobby group Nuclear for Australia, which boasts 75,000 members, sent a formal complaint to the ABC on Friday in response to last week's Four Corners episode titled 'The Future of Nuclear Power in Australia', arguing the program was deliberately misleading, failed to disclose conflicts of interests of interviewees, and omitted pertinent facts about the nuclear industry.

POPULATION HEALTH

Stalemate on fluoridation

Cairns Post, General News, 14/10/2024, Catherine Duffy, Page 3

Cairns health and dental professionals have called on Mayor Amy Eden to meet with them to discuss water fluoridation, after results of council's community survey showed around half of respondents backed adding fluoride to the water system. As part of the 2024 Our Cairns survey, 37 per cent of the 10,000 surveyed were against adding fluoride to Cairns' water supply, 48 per cent were in support, and 15 per cent were unsure.

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A sick state

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/10/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 1

Australia's health debt remains significant post-COVID with Tasmania lagging behind, a new report from Wesfarmers Health revealed. The Wesfarmers Health: Australia's Health Index consists of data collected from over three million free health checks conducted nationwide.

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Shower heads and toothbrushes found to be a breeding ground for microbes, new study reveals

7news.com.au, Other, 13/10/2024, Issy Ronald

The warm, damp environments of your shower head and toothbrush are the perfect breeding ground for microbes, and a new study has identified hundreds of viruses that live there, showing the vast biodiversity to be found in the average home. These viruses, however, are not the kind that will give you the common cold or flu (or worse).

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CWA turns to social media instead of scones to lure younger members

ABC Online, Other, 13/10/2024, Liam Oconnell

Juggling her time between rodeos and stock work across Queensland, Emily Collits has rarely stayed in the same place for long. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows national rates of loneliness among people aged 55 and over have fallen over the past 20 years.

[Read More](#)

Concerns social media leading more youth to use drugs, alcohol

Cairns Post, Other, 13/10/2024, Mikaela Mulveney

An alarming numbers of posts are flaunting harmful products as "desirable" and "humorous", as well as advertising "door-to-door" delivery of illegal and banned substances. Decades of campaigning by health organisations to reduce the devastating impact nicotine, cannabis and alcohol have on young people is being derailed by social media platforms, researchers say.

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

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Long term research on gambling disorder lacking

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/10/2024

Gambling disorder effects approximately 1% of adults in Australia and New Zealand, with an additional 3–5% of the population at risk. Every year in Australia, \$24 billion is gambled via lotteries, wagering,

sport and casino gambling, and, most significantly, through poker machines, which account for more than half of Australia's gambling problems.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Breast cancer survivor shares shock diagnosis

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/10/2024, Christine Schindler & Kevin Farmer, Page 3

When her 45-year-old aunt was diagnosed with breast cancer, alarm bells rang for Natasha Bamberry, and she began self-checking for breast cancer. "Call me paranoid, but because of that, it saved my life," Ms Bamberry said.

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Your health deserves your full attention

Border Mail, General News, 14/10/2024, Sophie Else, Page 6

Albury's Bec Carey remembers the day her aunt died. One moment, she was cleaning out the cupboards, and the next, she was on the floor, never to wake up again. It was a sudden loss that stayed with Ms Carey, but she never imagined how it would come to affect her own life.

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Busselton Jetty could be home to sea sponges with cancer-fighting compounds

ABC Online, Other, 13/10/2024, Andrew Williams , Jacqueline Lynch & Peter Barr

A popular tourist destination in WA's South West could also be home to sea sponges that contain cancer-fighting compounds. Scientists from the University of Western Australia are collaborating with Busselton Jetty's management to investigate chemicals found in the natural defence mechanisms of marine sponges that live under the jetty.

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PRIMARY CARE

Patient patience gets hospital pass as ramping eases

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/10/2024, Shashi Baltutis, Page 6

New figures have revealed a significant decrease in the number of hours wasted due to ambulance ramping but Premier Peter Malinauskas conceded there is still "a long way to go" to fixing the issue. The new data showed ambulances spent 41 per cent fewer hours on the ramp in September (3106 hours) compared with August (5284 hours).

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

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\$580,000 for consultants

Canberra Times, General News, 14/10/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 1

Canberra Hospital is paying \$580,000 to a consultancy firm which sued the last hospital it worked for over a dispute about the value of its work. And the managing director of the consultancy business has a complicated prior relationship with one of the hospital's top executives, who not only recommended him for the role but also provided evidence used against him in a New Zealand court case.

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Libs go on attack over tax cut costings

Canberra Times, General News, 14/10/2024, Jasper Lindell, Page 3

The Canberra Liberals will launch a sharp attack on the economic credentials of Chief Minister Andrew Barr, after an independent costing priced the opposition's payroll tax cuts well below Labor's early estimates. But Labor maintains the policy would deter businesses growth in the ACT, because employers would face vastly increased tax bills when their wages went over \$5 million a year.

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Govt's GP clinics plan comes under fire

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/10/2024, Taylah Fellows & Madura McCormack, Page 4

The government's \$365 million plan to build 50 state-owned GP clinics has come under fire, with critics slamming it as financially doomed due to low Medicare rebates and crippling workforce shortages. The plan, which would see GPs offered free rent in government-owned clinics on the condition they commit to providing bulk-billed services was criticised by the Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ) for failing to address the real issues affecting general practice.

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Motion calls for a strong message from council

Border Mail, General News, 14/10/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

Locations for a new Border hospital and a condemnation of the planned Albury hospital upgrade as "not adequate" are covered in a motion that is due to be put to the first meeting of the recently-elected Albury Council. Councillor Geoff Hudson, who works as a nurse at Albury hospital, has compiled the seven-part motion, which will be presented to the council when it meets tonight.

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Tax text attacked by Labor

Cairns Post, General News, 14/10/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 3

An LNP mass text campaign calling on voters to stop a so-called "patient's tax" by changing the government has been slammed as dishonest, with Treasurer Cameron Dick calling for it to stop. Voters across the state began receiving messages claiming their Labor MP had "voted for Labor's Patients' Tax" and to "Stop Labor's Patients' Tax."

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Investment in SA hospitals to help free up more beds

Cairns Post, Other, 13/10/2024, Lynn Cameron

Healthcare is a cornerstone of a thriving society; fundamental to the fabric of a successful community. A robust health system plays a crucial role in ensuring everyone can enjoy their best lives, providing access to appropriate care precisely when it's needed most – and often in moments of crisis.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Beyond vaping: the increased risks of smoking for Australian adolescents who vape

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/10/2024

Australia's efforts to prevent adolescent smoking have been undeniably successful. From 1996 to 2017, rates of both lifetime (ever) and current smoking among adolescents aged 12 to 17 declined by about 70% and 75% respectively, showcasing the effectiveness of the nation's robust tobacco control strategies.

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Ambulance inquiry submissions sought

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 13/10/2024, Wade Stephens

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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Abortion wasn't on the Queensland election agenda. So why is it now a threat to the LNP campaign?

The Guardian, Other, 13/10/2024, Ben Smee

On front doorsteps in Brisbane's middle suburbs, Liberal National party candidates campaigning for the upcoming Queensland election have started getting questions about abortion. "It's becoming an issue ... in places we thought we might win," says one party member.

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

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental health help on the rise

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/10/2024, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 4

Some 11,000 Year 12 students are expected to have exemptions in their HSC exams, including rest breaks and extra time, after more than one in seven accessed disability provisions last year. While figures for the 2024 HSC are yet to be confirmed, the NSW Education Standards Authority's (NESA) records show 14.5 per cent of students were approved for disability provisions in 2023, a significant increase in the past five years.

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Mindful of the fact we're all smiles

Herald Sun, General News, 14/10/2024, Rebecca Borg, Page 6

Practising mindfulness in primary school is the key to building more resilient and focused kids, new research has found. Students as young as six are meditating and doing breathing exercises across the country thanks to wellbeing education group Smiling Mind.

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

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First step relies on parents

Herald Sun, General News, 14/10/2024, Jill Sweatman, Page 25

We cannot plead ignorance any longer. The academic and mental health results on the impact of social media on young people are indisputable.

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

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How to help your child use social media

Burnie Advocate, General News, 14/10/2024, Phillipa Brown, Page 9

Australia is the latest nation looking to introduce an age limit on social media. That's despite Meta announcing new restrictions to put under-18 Instagram users into new "teen accounts" which would give parents more authority and control over their usage.

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Big names pledge to switch off

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 14/10/2024, Julie Cross, Page 21

Big names from the world of entertainment, sport, politics and business have pledged support for a new national initiative to switch off their social media for 24 hours. Singer Jessica Mauboy, former Australian cricket captain Adam Gilchrist, TV personality and fitness trainer Michelle Bridges, rugby

league legend Corey Parker, Opals Alice Kune and Bec Cole, Home and Away star Juliet Godwin, and politicians Jacqui Lambie and Andrew Charlton, Labor's special envoy for cyber security, are just a few of the names who will forgo those addictive apps on October 24.

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Queensland now screens young offenders for ADHD. Should other Australian states do the same?

ABC Online, Other, 13/10/2024, Danielle Cahill

When he was in the police force, Corey Lane often arrested and then re-arrested the same people. Now a clinical psychologist, Dr Lane feels he has a better understanding of what may have been occurring for some of the people caught in a cycle of reoffending.

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New guidelines for ADHD prescribing

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/10/2024

Navigating the complexities of ADHD treatment just got a little easier for clinicians, with the release of a new evidence-based prescribing guide. Launched by the Australasian ADHD Professionals Association (AADPA), this first of its kind ADHD prescribing guide for Australian healthcare professionals is a living document.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

'Priority' in waiting room

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/10/2024, Simon Mcguire, Page 12

Rule changes allowing qualified rural doctors to work in Tasmanian hospitals are "being progressed as fast as possible", but the Department of Health has not provided a time frame for the shift. During the Mercury Bush Summit in Launceston in August, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine regional director of training Sally Street spoke about how GPs who were qualified as rural generalists would fly interstate to work because Tasmania's health policy prevented them from working in the state's hospitals.

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Medics' teamwork makes dream work

Daily Advertiser, General News, 14/10/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 5

Making the move from studying to work can be tough for anyone, let alone new doctors. However, the first and second year doctors at Wagga Base Hospital are among the most supported in the state, recently demonstrated by a pair of prestigious awards.

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'For real?': Brisbane doctor's wage baffles Australians

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/10/2024, Mary Madigan

A young doctor shocked Australians by revealing that her average salary was "just enough to support" herself. Getahead is an app that matches potential employees with workplaces, like Tinder but for careers.

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

[Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Alternative care options pave the way for home treatment

Cairns Post, Other, 13/10/2024, David Goldsmith

South Australia's virtual care services are playing a crucial role in improving access to health care and easing the demand for acute hospital beds. Virtual care services are part of a suite of alternative care options – also including Priority Care Centres, Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, and designated 24/7 pharmacies – that are designed to provide South Australians with greater access to healthcare when it is needed most.

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

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Towards evidence-based skin checks

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/10/2024

Australians are generally known for their love of the outdoors — sun, surf and swimming. It's one factor, including high solar ultraviolet radiation, that leads to us having the highest incidence per capita of melanoma in the world.

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SPORT

Women's teams fight for survival

Canberra Times, Sport, 14/10/2024, Page 32

Corners of Canberra's sporting sector fear speaking out in search of more funding will see them "punished by the government", while calls are growing for further investment to save the women's teams left "fighting for scraps". Independents for Canberra leader Thomas Emerson and Sue Read - the former Matildas goalkeeper who spearheaded a campaign to save Canberra United - are pushing for an overhaul of sports funding in the capital ahead of this week's ACT election.

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Nuts at kernel of dementia reduction

West Australian, General News, 14/10/2024, Page 4

A handful of nuts a day could keep dementia away, according to a trailblazing study. Eating just 30g of unsalted and unprocessed nuts lowers the risk of developing the condition by 12 per cent, the team of Spanish and Portuguese researchers found.

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Diabetes drug's sweet benefit

West Australian, General News, 14/10/2024, Page 16

The common and inexpensive diabetes drug metformin could cut the debilitating side effects of prostate cancer medicines, pioneering research has found. Hormone therapy which involves taking tablets that limit the production of the male sex hormone testosterone is one of the most common and effective prostate cancer treatments.

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Chewing the fat on food, health links

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/10/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 4

The benefits of chewing food will be part of a Newcastle-based study to examine links between diet, health and wellbeing. The push to delve deeper into the issue comes amid widening concern about the links between processed food and chronic disease.

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

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Experts say Tasmanians are ageing badly but findings from the ISLAND dementia study give hope of better, longer lives.

Cairns Post, Other, 13/10/2024, Eleanor de Jong

While Tasmania may officially be Australia's oldest state, older Tasmanians are getting fed up with being treated as fragile and elderly before their time, and want to see societal shifts that recognise and cater to the lengthening human lifespan. "Ageism is ripe," says Bridgid Wilkinson, the CEO of Council of the Ageing Tasmania.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Toxic ideology left Voice unheard

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/10/2024, Anthony Dillon, Page 38

The proposed constitutional change was based on a dogma of Indigenous separatism. That was not the way to get the progress that First Nations people so clearly need.

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

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Indigenous voices' standoff

Indigenous Affairs Minister Malarndirri McCarthy is urging opposition counterpart Jacinta Nampijinpa Price to sit down with her one year after the defeat of the voice referendum and restart the reconciliation process. In an impassioned plea on the anniversary of the referendum that divided the nation and Indigenous leadership, Senator McCarthy has vowed to find practical ways of closing the gap.

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

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No Voice, and lives are no better

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/10/2024, Talara McHugh, Page 9

A year on from the October 14 referendum, Indigenous leaders say there is more need for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament than ever, as the lives of First Nations people continue to worsen. The latest data from the Productivity Commission paints a grim picture for First Nations people: rates of incarceration, suicide and children in out-of-home care have all increased in this year's Closing the Gap report.

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A new dialogue after the referendum

Canberra Times, General News, 14/10/2024, Eleanor Campbell, Page 6

Sometimes the best ideas come from your opponents, says Malarndirri McCarthy. In an interview with ACMAhead of the first anniversary of the Voice referendum, the Indigenous Affairs Minister spoke of a new way forward in the debate on how Australia can work to reconcile with First Nations peoples.

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Landmark living village opens up

Ballarat Courier, General News, 14/10/2024, Alex Dalziel, Page 8

From an early age Gunditjmara man Ted Laxton was separated from his culture. The Ballarat-based artist remembers growing up in Framlingham, near Warrnambool, and only being able to visit its Indigenous reserve three times a year due to the fact he was "halfcaste".

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Could Aboriginal-designed housing help solve the health crisis in remote communities?

The Guardian, Other, 13/10/2024, Otis Filley

It's hotter inside than out in many of the homes in the remote town of Tennant Creek, where the Warumungu man Jimmy Frank Jupurrurla and his family live. Most lack insulation and guttering.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

\$100m ALP bid to fight bird flu

The Australian, General News, 14/10/2024, Noah Yim, Page 6

The Albanese government will provide nearly \$100m to prepare Australia against a strain of bird flu that threatens domestic agriculture and the economy. While Australia has so far not detected the high pathogenicity H5 strain of the avian influenza on its shores, a senior government minister said "we will not be able to prevent its arrival" and will spend millions to buttress key defences.

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

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Boost to bird flu efforts

Courier Mail, General News, 14/10/2024, Jessica Wang, Page 12

The Albanese government will spend \$95 million to stop a highly infectious bird flu from crossing Australia's borders, with more than 280 million birds already killed overseas. Australia is the only continent that hasn't reported cases of the high-pathogenicity avian influenza strain H5N1, with authorities on high alert after 16 egg and poultry farms across NSW, the ACT and Victoria were hit by the separate but also pathogenic H7 strain.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Cash boost to help combat bird flu

Cairns Post, General News, 14/10/2024, Page 6

The Albanese government will inject a further \$95m to stop a highly infectious bird flu from crossing Australia's borders, with more than 280 million birds killed and other animals infected overseas. Australia is the only continent that hasn't reported cases of the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) strain H5N1, with authorities on high alert after 16 egg and poultry farms across NSW, the ACT and Victoria were hit by the separate but also highly pathogenic H7 strain, causing major supermarkets to implement purchasing limits on eggs.

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Jab could make difference

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/10/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 3

Trials for a new non mRNA vaccine against Covid and flu calling for participants Queensland scientists are trialling the country's first of its kind, non mRNA combined Covid and flu jab that will protect people who cannot have or are hesitant about mRNA vaccines. It is hoped the injection will spark an increase in the uptake of vaccines.

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

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Mpox: a resurging global threat

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/10/2024

For the second time in three years, mpox has been declared a global health emergency — the highest level of alert given by the World Health Organization (WHO). Such a declaration demands continued monitoring, surveillance and response to ameliorate further transmission.

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One in 10 Australian parents struggling to afford vaccinations for children

The Guardian, Other, 13/10/2024, Natasha May

One in 10 Australian parents are struggling to afford the costs of vaccinating their children, according to a nationally representative survey conducted earlier this year. The surveyed 2,000 Australian parents of children under five between March and April, and found the biggest barrier to turning declining vaccination rates around were the practical difficulties parents face.

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

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Are vapes available at Bendigo chemists?

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 14/10/2024, Brodie Everist, Page 7

Pharmacies across Bendigo have said 'no' to the vape, with many refusing to sell the products over the counter despite recent regulations allowing their sale through pharmacies. From October 1 adults can buy vapes without a prescription from participating chemists, as per recent federal government legislation, however the Bendigo Advertiser has found no local pharmacies selling the products.

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I was a nurse who thought my anti-vax relatives were crazy when they told me not to get the Covid jab. I quickly regretted my decision after I ended up in hospital

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/10/2024, David Southwell

A nurse who ignored the pleas of her 'conspiracist theorist' family to refuse the Covid vaccine has come to regret it after she was left hospitalised following the jab. [...] ' Peel Campus hospital has been contacted for comment but has not confirmed whether they reported Ms Horton as an adverse vaccine reaction to medical watchdog the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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Bombshell report reveals fire ants could kill six people a year, cost homes \$110m+

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 13/10/2024, Blake Antrobus

A notorious pest could cause up to six deaths, lead to 116,000 medical visits and cost households \$118m a year if allowed to spread uncontrolled across one Aussie state, a bombshell report has found. [...] But the NFAEP said the use of the granular treatments was considered safe by Australia's pesticides and veterinary medicine authority, along with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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