



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 16th October 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Australian Financial Review](#) (page 1) reports that insurance executives, analysts and policy advisors have said federal Health Minister will have little motivation to raise health premiums despite renewed pressure by health insurers to seek an increase of between 5 and 6 per cent.
- [ABC News Online](#) reports that federal Health Minister Mark Butler has said the federal government "won't compromise on our very strong standards" after the federal government together with medical regulators, moved to allow doctors from the UK, Ireland and New Zealand to have their ability to practice in Australia fast-tracked.
- [The Australian](#) (page 5) reports that new data from the Aged and Community Care Providers Association has revealed almost 70 per cent of aged care providers have expressed concern at the speed of the federal government's \$5.6bn reforms, with 80 per cent stating it would put increased pressure on the sector.
- [The Courier Mail](#) (page 1) reports that eminent Australian journalist George Negus has died from Alzheimer's two years after being diagnosed with the disease, with his family saying "a huge part of our learning curve was aided by Australia's healthcare workers," in a released statement.

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 3) reports that researchers from the University of Melbourne and Royal Women's Hospital have made a breakthrough in the treatments for conditions such as endometriosis and the improvement of IVF fertility rates by discovering a major cause of infertility.
- **[ABC News Online](#)** reports that new research by the University of Melbourne has revealed approximately 25 per cent of Australians aged between 16 to 39 years old have used illegal dissolvable nicotine pouches, and follows an announcement by the Australian Department of Health that nicotine can have a detrimental impact on the brain development of young people.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 3) reports that researchers at the Southern Cross University and the University of South Australia have collaborated in a global study that has revealed the survival rates for lung cancer patients could be boosted through regular exercise.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 6) reports that Queensland Premier Steven Miles has pledged \$50 million to upgrade the emergency department at Rockhampton Hospital if Labor wins this month's state election, with Health Minister Shannon Fentiman saying the extra funding will "significantly boost (ED) treatment spaces".
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 6) reports that Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has said the federal government's resistance in amending the criminal code around telehealth has prevented regional Queenslanders from accessing voluntary assisted dying (VAD) services.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 3) reports that Victoria's Health Complaints Commissioner's annual review has revealed it received 5,500 complaints concerning the state's healthcare service last financial year, including 17 investigations and 25 code breaches.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 11) reports that St John Ambulance Victoria has said defibrillators should be available in homes, workplaces and communities across the state, after new data revealed a 20-cent increase in the number of Victorians having cardiac arrests in the last years.
- **[The Northern Territory News](#)** (page 8) reports that NT Health Minister Steve Edgington has confirmed Katherine Hospital will continue to provide birthing services in spite of critical staffing levels, with Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation NT branch secretary Cath Hatcher saying agency staff had been recruited to boost ward numbers.

MINISTER BUTLER

Labor's next woe: health premiums

Australian Financial Review, General News, 16/10/2024, Michael Smith, Page 1

Any decision to increase premiums must be approved by Health Minister Mark Butler. The sensitive political nature of the decision was demonstrated by a delay of last year's announcement until after the Dunkley byelection.

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ADA'S phone fears hit home

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/10/2024, Adella Beaini & Julie Cross, Page 6

Home and Away soap star Ada Nicodemou's young son Johnas often stars in her Instagram posts but allowing him his own phone and social media is a frightening prospect. [...] So far, Unplug24 has seen a wave of support from household names including singer Jessica Mauboy, Health Minister Mark Butler and fitness instructor Michelle Bridges, who have pledged to be silent on social media on October 24.

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Council votes to can COVID jobs

North West Telegraph, General News, 16/10/2024, Cain Andrews, Page 1

Port Hedland council has voted to call for the immediate suspension of Moderna and Pfizer COVID vaccines at a special meeting. [...] The town's chief executive is also tasked with sending a letter to WA Health Minister AmberJade Sanderson and Commonwealth Health Minister Mark Butler requesting public responses to the claims of alleged DNA contamination in Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

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Remarkable strides

Warwick Today, General News, 17/10/2024, Page 2

Jannah De-Bressac, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner from Carbal Medical Services, has been named a finalist for the Stronger Medicare Awards. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler said Queenslanders are tremendously fortunate to have so many great doctors, nurses and other health professionals working to keep them healthy and out of hospital, day in and day out.

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Australia news LIVE: Iran hit with fresh sanctions; Foreign doctors fast-tracked to work in Australia

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/10/2024, Josefina Ganko

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and his state counterparts wrote to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency this month recommending the watchdog proceed with its proposal to overhaul the accreditation process for overseas doctors. It means that from October 21, general practitioners who are qualified in Ireland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom will be able to apply for specialist registration with AHPRA without being assessed by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

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

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Doctors from three countries fast-tracked to treat Australian patients

The Age, Other, 14/10/2024, Angus Thomson

Foreign doctors from select countries will be fast-tracked to treat patients in Australia after the nation's health ministers gave the green light to a plan to address workforce shortages, despite pleas from medical colleges to delay the rollout. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and his state counterparts wrote to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency this month recommending the watchdog proceed with its proposal to overhaul the accreditation process for overseas doctors.

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Foreign doctors from select countries to be fast tracked to practise in Australia under new rules

ABC Online, Other, 15/10/2024, Elise Worthington & Paige Cockburn

Doctors from the UK, Ireland and New Zealand will have their ability to practise in Australia fast tracked from next week under new changes introduced by regulators. [...] But Health Minister Mark Butler said there was no cause for alarm. "I want to be very clear to patients and with the medical profession that we won't compromise on our very strong standards that we have here in Australia," he said.

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Australia urged to follow New Zealand's lead and reform medical negligence laws

ABC Online, Other, 15/10/2024, Owen Jacques & Grace Whiteside

Medical negligence experts say Queensland Health's system for compensation is flawed and authorities should look across the ditch to New Zealand for a fairer and simpler process. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler declined to discuss a policy change but the health department said any reform was a matter for states and territories.

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Foreign doctors from three countries fast-tracked to treat Aussie patients

9News, Other, 15/10/2024, Richard Wood

Foreign doctors are being fast-tracked into the country to treat Australian patients as health ministers try to address the nation's workforce shortage. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler insists the reforms will not compromise Australia's robust safety standards.

Illawarra pharmacists not selling vapes despite federal law changes

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 15/10/2024, Joel Ehsman

No pharmacies in the Illawarra are selling vaping products leaving the black market as the only choice for vapers. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said, "The days of bubble gum-flavoured vapes covered in rainbows and unicorns are over".

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Government invests more in preparation for new avian flu strain

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 15/10/2024

Health Minister Mark Butler said, "The interim Australian Centre for Disease Control is leading this work – and is very focused on ensuring we are as prepared as possible for any potential case of H5N1 avian influenza."

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\$95 million injection to fight the threat of avian influenza

Cosmos Magazine, Other, 15/10/2024, Imma Perfetto

The Australian government has announced an additional \$95 million package to prepare for the arrival of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of avian influenza, which is causing the deaths of poultry, wild birds and mammal species worldwide. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler MP, says that although human infections with avian influenza viruses are rare, and the current risk to the Australian population remains very low, there is no room for complacency.

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Government's Chief Medical Officer announces retirement plans

Nursing Review, Other, 15/10/2024, Stefanie Schultz

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the Department of Health and Aged Care, Professor Paul Kelly, has announced his intentions to retire by the end of the month. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said it has been a pleasure to work with Professor Kelly.

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'We will not be able to prevent its arrival': Government moves to counter likely outbreak of new bird flu strain

PS News, Other, 15/10/2024, Chris Johnson

The expected arrival in Australia of a new strain of bird flu has seen the federal government divert a lot of money towards minimising its impact. [...] Humans aren't infected with avian influenza viruses in any great numbers, but Health Minister Mark Butler said that can't be taken for granted.

[Read More](#)

Government boosts national vaccine stockpile and biosecurity amid bird flu threat

The Mandarin, Other, 15/10/2024, Melissa Coade

The national vaccine stockpile has received \$22.1 million to strengthen Australia's preparedness for avian influenza (bird flu) as part of a wider funding package to protect the nation's agricultural industries, wildlife and economy from the disease. Health Minister Mark Butler warned that there was no room for complacency, even though human infections with avian influenza were rare.

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Channel 9, National Nine Morning News, 15/10/2024, Mark Burrows

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of GPs, on foreign doctors from the UK, Ireland and New Zealand that will soon be fast-tracked to practise in Australia in a bid to fill the GP shortage, but some say the approach risks patient safety. [...] She adds they have been getting large numbers through, but they find that 1 in 5 need extra support and education. Higgins says Health

Minister Mark Butler insists there are enough checks and balances but it's been a very rushed process and they haven't seen the details.

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3AW, Breakfast, 15/10/2024, Ross Stevenson & Russel Howcroft

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of GPs, on Federal Health Minister Mark Butler giving the green light for the plan to fast-track GPs coming in from Ireland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom to address workforce shortages. Higgins says they want to get more GPs and more doctors working in Australia, and we were already doing it and the approval isn't about increasing the numbers, it's just changing the how. She adds they want to make sure that those doctors who are coming to work in largely in rural and regional Australia, are well supported with their families, and also to make sure that everything is safe for our patients.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 15/10/2024, Sonya Feldhoff & Jules Schiller

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of GPs, on Health Minister Mark Butler giving the green light to fast-track GPs coming in from Ireland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Higgins says Australia needs more GPs but they also want to make sure that they're safe and supported. She adds with the RACGP, they are already getting these numbers through. She says their concern is making sure that it's not rushed and that the regulators have got the processes in place.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 15:00 News, 15/10/2024

Doctors from the UK, Ireland and New Zealand will have their application to practice in Australia fast-tracked starting next week. GPs from those three countries will be able to apply directly to the Australian Medical Board for registration to address the shortage of medical practitioners in Australia. The RACGP says it is a rushed process putting patients' safety at risk but Health Minister Mark Butler argues that those international doctors have high standards of training.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 15/10/2024, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, National President, Royal Australian College of GPs, on Federal Health Minister Mark Butler giving the green light to fast-track GPs coming in from Ireland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Higgins says anaesthetists, obstetricians, gynaecologists and psychiatrists are slated for it before Christmas. She adds the qualification is only one part of the assessment as it also includes making sure that we have doctors who've also got the skills needed for where they're going to be working.

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MINISTER WELLS

New tool reveals NDIS and aged care demand across Australia

Healthcare Channel, Other, 15/10/2024, Ritchelle Drilon

The Australian Government has introduced a digital tool aimed at reshaping the landscape of disability and aged care services across the nation. [...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, highlighted the tool's role in addressing workforce challenges.

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Gov Restrictions Overturned to Reunite Mother and Son with Down's

Syndrome in Aged Care

HelloCare, Other, 15/10/2024, Jakob Neeland

Mark Deans, 56, who has Down's syndrome, will now live alongside his beloved mother Anne, 81, in a Geelong aged care facility, following a successful campaign that overturned an earlier government refusal. [...] The siblings turned to A Current Affair to shine a light on their plight, which prompted federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells to revisit the case.

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Golf – the final patriarchal frontier

Spectator Australia, Other, 15/10/2024, Phil Shannon

Anika Wells, Australia's Sports Minister, has come out swinging her heaviest club, opening a new front on the war against 'the patriarchy' by wanting to 'see more women playing golf' in Australia. She appears to have been motivated by a recent staging of some 'patriarchal' guerilla theatre at a prestigious (and expensive) golf club in Victoria where a male club member dressed up in skirt and blonde wig to inquire at reception whether, because he self-identified as a woman, he could access the offer of cheaper membership fees for women which the club had recently made to try and boost the proportion of female.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Mental health matters

Bunyip, General News, 16/10/2024, Matt Burnell, Page 6

I write in response to letters from Jill Polkinghorne on 9/10/24 and Dr Nicole Higgins 2/10/24. Mental health services, support and encouraging the conversation is something very close to my heart. [...] I also meet regularly with and have hosted the Hon Emma McBride MP Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in our community.

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ABC Illawarra, Mornings, 15/10/2024, Nick Rheinberger

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, regarding the official opening of Headspace in Kiama. McBride says when Headspace was first established in 2007, about 25 per cent of young people expressed mental distress and it has now increased to close to 40 per cent. She adds what the experts are saying is it is being reflected in people's experiences in classrooms, playgrounds and communities right around the country. She says what Headspace can provide for a young person in Kiama is a safe place where they're welcome and can be supported by a counsellor or someone with their own direct experience.

Interview continues on: [ABC Illawarra \(Wollongong\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, 15/10/2024, Edwina Bartholomew

Ready-made foods for infants and toddlers are falling short of global nutritional standards. Melbourne's Monash University road tested dozens of supermarket products, with none meeting the requirements set by the World Health Organization. Victorian Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney says it is an issue that she needs the support of the state and territory ministers on.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

Enough waiting: Urgent support needed for homeless veterans

The Australian Independent Media Network, Other, 15/10/2024

Vasey RSL Care has spent close to two years advocating at the highest levels of government to co-fund its innovative response to veteran homelessness – and its causes – through The V Centre Veteran Empowerment Program. [...] Kate Thwaites MP, Local Federal Member for Jagajaga in Parliament on 12 September last year "(The HAFF) will also mean more homes for veterans at risk of homelessness and for services like Vasey RSL Care, which is doing brilliant work at the V Centre just next to Heidelberg Repat supporting veterans and their families but which could do even more with the right support from this fund."

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DEPARTMENT

Warning of 'genuine risk' from bird flu strain

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 16/10/2024, Tess Ikonomou, Page 12

Australians are being urged not to become complacent with a deadly strain of bird flu, as the virus poses "genuine risks to people". [...] Despite Australia being the only continent without H5N1, chief medical officer Paul Kelly has warned it's only a matter of time.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#), [Milton Ulladulla Times \(Online\)](#), [Thenightly.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Survey finds one in four young Australians have used illegal and unregulated dissolvable nicotine pouches

ABC Online, Other, 15/10/2024, Joshua Boscaini

As federal and state authorities move to restrict the sale of vapes in Australia, a survey of young Australians has found about one in four have used illegal dissolvable nicotine pouches. [...] The Australian Department of Health said the drug can harm brain development in young people and impact attention, learning, memory and changes in mood.

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Australian council sends out dramatic letters warning against the Covid vaccine: 'Gone completely off the rails'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/10/2024, David Southwell

A council has drawn flack from the state's premier for taking the unprecedented step of sending out dramatic letters warning against the Covid vaccine, citing unverified claims they damage DNA. [...] The Australian Department of Health and Aged Care and medical watchdog the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) have denied that the Covid vaccines carry DNA that can be absorbed into cells.

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CHA calls for delayed start to Support at Home

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 15/10/2024, Jodie Wolf

Catholic Health Australia, the peak body representing Catholic aged care organisations, has told a Senate inquiry that Australia's new home care program should kick off from July 2026, a year later than slated, to ensure an effective implementation. [...] The network representing Uniting Church providers

called for the Department of Health and Aged Care to provide "clear information" on the costings and management phasings.

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Some big health news and the latest on aged care, plus a long list of consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 15/10/2024, Melissa Sweet

The column this week addresses three key reviews examining some of the structures and systems that underpin Medicare, general practice and primary care, and also reports that job satisfaction is significantly higher for GPs working in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations. [...] The after-hours review was conducted by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Infant foods continuing to fail health requirements

Food & Drink Business, Other, 15/10/2024, Keira Joyce

Monash University researchers have found ready-made foods for infants and toddlers in Australian supermarkets fall dismally short of the World Health Organization's (WHO) nutrient, labelling and marketing requirements. [...] This study is timely given the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care recently held a public consultation on improving commercial foods for infants and young children, with submissions closing in September.

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Driving innovation and compassionate care: Alyson Jarrett's transformational leadership at Whiddon

Inside Ageing, Other, 15/10/2024, Amy Clarke

In this post, we spotlight Alyson Jarrett, Deputy CEO at Whiddon, who has been recognised as the 2024 Future of Ageing Awards' Leader of the Year. [...] "Evidence of leadership in care excellence and sustainability" 2024 Future of Ageing Awards judge Leadership and Workforce Empowerment: Alyson's appointment as the ACCPA representative on the Department of Health and Aged Care Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Reference Group highlights her role as a respected leader in the sector.

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Government's Chief Medical Officer announces retirement plans

Nursing Review, Other, 15/10/2024, Stefanie Schultz

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the Department of Health and Aged Care, Professor Paul Kelly, has announced his intentions to retire by the end of the month. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said it has been a pleasure to work with Professor Kelly.

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The capital water cooler: comings and goings in the APS

RiotACT, Other, 15/10/2024, James Day

APS Senior Executive Service Band 1 Rebecca Price is the next executive director of corporate services at the Fair Work Ombudsman. Marina Muttukumar and Janine Bennett have been promoted to assistant secretaries at the Department of Health and Aged Care.

Also reported by: [PS News \(Online\)](#).

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Understanding vaccination rules for children in Australia

SBS, Other, 15/10/2024, Zoe Thomaidou

Did you know that one in five children is at risk of dying from a disease that is now preventable through vaccination? [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has created a schedule of appropriate vaccinations for children up until 20 years of age, provided for free.

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Australian government evaluates AI impact on Australian Consumer Law

WEB Cyber Daily, Other, 15/10/2024, Daniel Croft

As part of its analysis of AI use, the Australian government is currently investigating whether or not Australian Consumer Law is still suitable as businesses adopt AI. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care and the Attorney-General's Department are undertaking similar AI reviews into health and aged care sector regulation and copyright law."

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Barunga Village a beacon of assistance

Yorke Peninsula Country Times, Other, 15/10/2024

Barunga Village offers a vital trio of services for ageing people in our community — retirement living, community programs, and residential care to people in the Mid North and Yorke Peninsula. [...] The program is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care and there is no cost to participants as all accommodation, food, and resources are covered.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 06:30 News, 15/10/2024

The Health Department is reviewing safety issues at the \$25m federally funded Women's Trauma Recovery Centre at the Illawarra after an ABC investigation revealed that it has lost most of its workforce after staff raised safety concerns. SafeWork NSW has issued the service with three improvement notices for breaching workplace safety laws. In a statement, a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said it's reviewing concerns raised and is working with the centre to resolve them.

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VACCINES

One of science's greatest achievements: how the rapid development of Covid vaccines prepares us for future pandemics

Nursing Review, Other, 15/10/2024, Paul Griffin

Since Covid was first reported in December 2019, there have been more than 775 million recorded infections and more than seven million deaths from the disease. This makes Covid the seventh-deadliest pandemic in recorded history.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Alarm over age reform timeline

The Australian, General News, 16/10/2024, Sarah Ison, Page 5

Nearly 70 per cent of aged care providers are concerned Labor's \$5.6bn reforms to the sector are being rushed, while more than 80 per cent believe the government's aged care package will put greater strain on the industry, damning new research reveals. The Aged and Community Care Providers Association's annual state of the sector report also says a quarter of small providers are not confident in their ability to continue providing aged care services and less than 40 per cent believe they will be able to recruit the staff needed to meet the increased care requirements.

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Sale of \$3bn Aveo business unlikely by year's end

The Australian, Business News, 16/10/2024, Bridget Carter, Page 14

The sale process for Brookfield's \$3bn-plus retirement living business Aveo is believed to be getting pushed into the new year, with time running out to achieve a result by Christmas. DataRoom understands Brookfield has been running a so-called education process, where it assesses the views of suitors on price and level of interest.

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Veteran journalist signs off

Courier Mail, General News, 16/10/2024, Rory Williams, Page 1

Legendary journalist George Negus has died, two years after the Walkley Award-winning 60 Minutes presenter was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. [...] "Today, our incredible father and partner George passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones after a gracious decline from Alzheimer's disease, all the while with his trademark smile," the family wrote in a statement.

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'Unsafe' Umina

Burnie Advocate, General News, 16/10/2024, Helen Kempton, Page 1

The union that acts for nurses says the staffing situation at a Burnie aged care facility is unsafe and management needs to address it urgently before more workers leave and residents suffer. An email written by a worker to management at Umina Park claims the care of residents is being impacted.

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Connecting generations of Tasmanians

Burnie Advocate, General News, 16/10/2024, Page 12

In 2024, organisers COTA (Council on the Ageing) Tasmania invite everyone to explore how they can get involved. Running from 14-20 October, and with over 380 events happening across the state, Seniors Week offers many opportunities to explore new hobbies, revisit old ones, and enhance meaningful connections within their communities.

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Village a first for city

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/10/2024, Luke Griffiths, Page 7

An apartment complex exclusively for retirees will be built in central Geelong following state government approval for the first of its kind project. Located in the city's health precinct at 23-35 Bellerine St, the 11-storey, 87-apartment project will offer in-home care and multiple on-site services, including an allied health facility and activity rooms.

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Trial set for cop charged over grandma's taser death

West Australian, Other, 15/10/2024, Jack Gramenz

A police officer will soon face trial on allegations he unlawfully killed an elderly woman who died after being tasered at a nursing home. Senior Constable Kristian White pleaded not guilty to manslaughter in April and on Tuesday the case returned to the NSW Supreme Court, where his jury trial was set down for November.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

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Art and music therapy bring smiles to faces of dementia patients on the Gold Coast

ABC Online, Other, 15/10/2024, Julia André

The former judge and barrister was diagnosed with dementia six years ago and his cognitive ability is steadily declining. He's one of the 421,000 Australians estimated to be living with the condition in 2024 and Dementia Australia says that number is expected to grow to more than 812,500 by 2054.

Complacency comes at a cost for the retirement village sector

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/10/2024, Chris Baynes

The retirement village sector has not been proactive; it has not explained what it is and its value proposition to the community and Government at all levels, despite the leaders talking about this need for as long as I have been in the sector. Individual operator complacency dominates the sector. The same (mainly large) operators do the hard advocacy yards, but all operators hold back on forward investment in the sector's community brand.

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Cost of living not adding up for pensioners

Your Life Choices, Other, 15/10/2024, Jan Fisher

You are not imagining it or over-reacting, a study has revealed that the Age Pension is not enough to live on, even if you own your own house. National Seniors Australia (NSA) and Challenger have released a study that shows the two cornerstones of government policy to provide security to older Australians – homeownership and an indexed Age Pension – are simply not keeping up with the reality of the cost of living.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Cracking infertility code

Herald Sun, General News, 16/10/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 3

Victorian scientists have discovered a potential major cause of infertility in women that could lead to new treatments for conditions such as endometriosis and improve IVF success rates. The team found that high levels of a mini messenger molecule in the lining of the uterus could be why some women with unexplained fertility struggle to become pregnant.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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Families now facing 'relentless poverty'

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/10/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 3

Growing numbers of Ballarat families are facing "relentless poverty" with parents being forced to choose between buying food and paying for other essentials including medication, bills and school costs. With the increasing cost of living putting stress on all families, Cafs chief executive Wendy Sturgess said there were more Ballarat families in entrenched poverty than ever seeking support, including those who have never asked for help before.

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Stop the tobacco excises, it's time to rethink

C&I, General News, 01/11/2024, Theo Foukkare, Page 68

Set up as a tool to curb smoking rates in Australia, the tobacco excise is no longer working as intended and is having devastating effects on legitimate retailers. "The time has now come to review its effectiveness and consider the broader implications it has on both the legal market and the explosive rise of illegal tobacco."

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Fuelling the journey: Understanding the complexity of train drivers' diets

Railway Digest, General News, 01/11/2024, Charlotte Gupta & Anjum Naweed, Page 44

Shiftwork and tiredness go hand in hand, and when the tiredness becomes overwhelming, a train driver needs something to help them stay alert and improve their mood. In this scenario, food can be an

Small town's huge steps towards banning fast-food chains near schools

The Australian, Other, 15/10/2024, Alexandra Feiam

A 2023 report found that obesity affects 25 per cent of Australian children and adolescents, and while this figure has remained somewhat stable over the last few years, the new Bill aims to encourage healthier eating habits across the state. A similar Bill was adopted throughout the UK to curb childhood obesity. It allows councils to add an exclusion zone for fast-food restaurants and bars from opening within 400m of a school.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Townsville optometrist Gary Page warns locals to protect their eyes from harsh NQ UV rays

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/10/2024, Nikita Mcguire

As the UV index in Townsville remains high, eye health experts are stressing the importance of sun safety for your eyes. Research conducted by Specsavers shows that 42 per cent of Australians have blue, green or grey eyes, which puts them at a higher risk of UV damage.

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

[Read More](#)

The 'enormous' law and order agenda the Northern Territory's CLP government is bringing to parliament

ABC Online, Other, 15/10/2024, Annabel Bowles

The new Northern Territory government has promised to bring an "enormous" law and order agenda to the new term of parliament today. The Country Liberal Party (CLP) will act on a raft of election promises including lowering the age of criminal responsibility, 'Declan's Law' bail changes and cracking down on public drinking.

[Read More](#)

Abortion has become a surprise topic ahead of Queensland's election. What are the rules across Australia?

ABC Online, Other, 15/10/2024, Emma Pollard

Abortion has become a surprise subject of debate in the Queensland election – putting an issue that many Australians might have thought was settled, back on the national agenda. If the polls are correct, the Liberal National Party (LNP) will sweep Queensland Labor out of office on October 26, re-electing a swathe of MPs who voted to keep abortion in the criminal code in 2018 and ushering in some candidates who've publicly expressed anti-abortion views.

[Read More](#)

'Ridiculous thing': Far North LNP candidate Bree James fails to declare stance on abortion as fear over conscience vote looms

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 15/10/2024, Samuel Davis

Opposition Leader David Crisafulli has repeatedly refused to declare whether he would allow a conscience vote on a bill to repeal abortion laws should he become Queensland's next premier on October 26. Katter's Australian Party and One Nation have vowed to introduce laws to repeal or amend abortion laws. Member for Traeger and KAP leader, Robbie Katter. Picture: Nigel Hallett

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

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Cupcakes 444 a cause

Shepparton News Online, Other, 15/10/2024, Emily Donohoe

Fit Foodie Canteens has jumped on board the massive efforts of Ben Welch, donating \$1 from every yellow cupcake sold during October to his 444 run. [...] "When we look at the statistics from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the leading cause of death for those aged 16 to 24 is suicide and nearly 40 per cent of those aged between 16 and 24 experience a mental health disorder.

[Read More](#)

Breast health FAQs: Your questions answered

Prevention, Other, 15/10/2024

Breasts respond to hormonal changes throughout the month and all through your life. "When you're young, the breasts feel firm and dense because there's more connective tissue and less fatty tissue," says breast surgeon and oncologist Dr Teralyn Carter. "But as we age there's less glandular tissue and more fat, so they may feel softer."

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 15/10/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Camilla Rowland, Chief Executive, Palliative Care Australia, on PCA releasing the first findings from their recent National Workforce Survey, based on 1400 responses received to the survey of the national palliative care workforce across health and aged care settings, which was conducted between May and August. [...] She adds the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reports that the increase in number of people needing palliative care is rising quite rapidly in Australia.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Housing plans count for nothing without talk of migration

The Australian, General News, 16/10/2024, Judith Sloan, Page 11

Here's the vision: everyone living in high-rise apartments close to railway stations in the middle suburbs. Windows, sunlight, ventilation and carparking all optional. [...] But just in case you are worried about living in an apartment with no sunlight, the NSW Productivity and Equality Commission tells us there could be a lower incidence of melanoma I kid you not.

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

All for a cause

Age, General News, 16/10/2024, Stephen Brook & Kishor Napier-Raman, Page 2

State government minister Gabrielle Williams has gone where few women venture voluntarily and shaved her hair off at Parliament House on Tuesday. [...] Together, they have raised \$27,000 for the Cancer Council.

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

TV foodie reveals family pain

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/10/2024, Jackie Epstein, Page 3

Matt Preston has opened up about the loss of his beloved brother William and continuing efforts to raise awareness for the condition that cut short his sibling's life. The globetrotting foodie and TV host lost his younger brother in 1988, at age 22, to sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP).

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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

Close shave for Williams

Herald Sun, General News, 16/10/2024, Mitch Clarke, Page 3

Short and sharp is the new style at parliament, with Gabrielle Williams pioneering a fresh new look and

it's all for a good cause. The Public Transport Minister on Tuesday shaved her locks in honour of her good friend and fellow MP Eden Foster, who is undergoing treatment for lymphoma. Together, the pair have raised more than \$25,000 for the Cancer Council.

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

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

Giving \$11.2m for sick youth

Courier Mail, Business News, 16/10/2024, Glen Norris, Page 39

The Children's Hospital Foundation has completed a successful year that saw \$11.2m invested into direct assistance for children and young people. The foundation's just released annual report reveals funding for new services for children living with rare diseases, pediatric research and parental support.

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

Move to improve

West Australian, General News, 16/10/2024, Page 3

Vigorous exercise may seem out of the question for lung cancer patients but Australian researchers have found staying mobile leads to improvement. A team including researchers from Southern Cross University and the University of South Australia found aerobic and resistance training performed two to five times a week can improve quality of life, treatment effectiveness and can boost survival rates for lung cancer patients.

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Turns out exercise is good for lung cancer

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/10/2024, Page 3

Coughing, chest pain and a shortness of breath they're all distressing symptoms of lung cancer. So, while exercise may seem counterintuitive for lung cancer patients, new Australian research shows otherwise. A team of global experts including Southern Cross University and the University of South Australia researchers have shown that exercise may not only improve quality of life and treatment effectiveness but also boost survival rates for lung cancer patients.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#)

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

Dialysis patients face transport changes

Shepparton News, General News, 16/10/2024, Kate Walters, Page 5

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. They help treat kidney disease and keep people alive by clearing toxins and waste from their blood.

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Big pharma takes on doctors over homebrew cancer treatments

Australian Financial Review, Other, 15/10/2024, Michael Smith

Swiss drugmaker Novartis is pressuring hospitals to stop making homebrew copies of its life-extending radiation therapies for cancer patients.

[Read More](#)

Khloe Kardashian shares shocking before-and-after skin cancer removal photos

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/10/2024, Natalie Brown

Khloe Kardashian has shocked fans with before-and-after photos following the removal of a skin cancer on her left cheek. [...] According to the Cancer Council, melanoma – the deadliest form of skin cancer – is the third most-commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Kellie Finlayson, wife of AFL star Jeremy Finlayson, reveals PTSD after cancer treatment

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/10/2024, Adella Beaini

AFL star Jeremy Finlayson's wife has opened up about the harsh – and often overlooked – side effects of cancer treatment and how it had left her with post-traumatic stress. Kellie Finlayson, who in July announced her stage four bowel cancer had metastasised to her lungs, said the physical and emotional toll of her treatment was immense.

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

[Read More](#)

Prostate cancer diagnosis missed by GP after PSA test, but caught during visit for a 'crook tooth'

ABC Online, Other, 15/10/2024, Alana Calvert

It was an ordinary trip to the doctor for antibiotics to treat a "crook tooth" that led to Craig Pankhurst being told he had six months to live. Eight months earlier the 50-year-old had gone to his doctor for his routine prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test.

[Read More](#)

Seizure safety highlighted this month

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/10/2024

For Seizure Safety Month this Oct, Epilepsy WA is urging people to take seizure risk reduction seriously, highlighting the 300 Australians who die each year from epilepsy-related causes. More than half of those deaths are due to Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), where a person living with epilepsy dies without warning and the post-mortem fails to establish another cause of death.

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PRIMARY CARE

Labor mortgages state's future on the plastic

The Australian, Editorials, 16/10/2024, Page 10

The rising cost of healthcare to cater for an ageing population and fix problems such as ambulance ramping makes debt reduction difficult. [...] Labor has already made \$8.9bn worth of election promises, including opening 50 bulk-billing GP clinics, as Lydia Lynch and Sarah Elks reported in Tuesday's paper.

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

5500 healthcare complaints reveal a sickly system

Herald Sun, General News, 16/10/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 3

The state's healthcare complaints body received more than 5500 complaints last financial year and opened 17 investigations, a new report has revealed. There was a "continued trend" of complaints about unethical or unsafe services, "financial exploitation" or poor complaints management, the Health Complaints Commissioner's annual report found.

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

Miles kicks goal with \$50m for hospital ED

Courier Mail, General News, 16/10/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 6

Rockhampton's overwhelmed emergency department would be upgraded if Labor is re-elected under a \$50m pledge by Premier Steven Miles in his latest effort to tackle the hospital's skyrocketing ambulance ramping. The Rockhampton ED was swamped with 12,744 arrivals during the June quarter, 2340 of which were urgent category 2 presentations.

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Telehealth criminal code cuts VAD access

Courier Mail, General News, 16/10/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 6

The government has made no headway on helping regional Queenslanders access voluntary assisted dying (VAD) services through telehealth, Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has confirmed. Queensland introduced VAD at the start of 2023, allowing terminally ill Queenslanders access to the service after a strict consultation process.

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

Chalmers backs GP bid

Courier Mail, General News, 16/10/2024, Page 7

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers has backed Labor's promise to open 50 bulk-billing GP clinics. Critics said the policy amounts to a tacit admission that successive federal governments had failed to lift the Medicare rebate to a level where more GPs had the incentive to bulk-bill.

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Weekly rents beyond nurses and ambos

West Australian, General News, 16/10/2024, Page 4

Essential workers such as nurses and ambulance officers are struggling to find affordable housing, with a new Anglicare report showing even regional Australia is out of reach for many. In its second edition of the Essential Workers Rental Affordability Snapshot, Anglicare found Australia's housing affordability crisis was not isolated to people on the lowest incomes, with those with secure jobs in essential industries also struggling to afford rent.

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No place to hide as MPs flex power

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/10/2024, David Killick, Page 8

For most of the decade that the Liberals have been in power they have been in majority, or within cooee of it or at least they've acted like it. There have been notable exceptions, of course, where legislation such as voluntary assisted dying and transgender law reforms have made it through the lower house but, for the most part, ministers knew they would hold their jobs for as long as they had the confidence of the Premier, regardless of the protests and rhetoric of oppositions and the crossbenchers.

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Plan in place for hospital

Border Mail, General News, 16/10/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

Albury Council has voted 8-1 in support of a new single-site Albury-Wodonga hospital in either of the Twin Cities. Former mayor Alice Glachan was the only councillor to oppose the move, which was part of a motion that also called for the NSW and Victorian governments to pause existing redevelopment plans for Albury hospital.

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Racecourse candidates have their say on key issues

Border Mail, General News, 16/10/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 4

Should Wodonga Council continue to lobby for a single-site hospital and what do you think should happen to the existing medical hub in Vermont Street? Since 2022 Wodonga councillors have been on the front foot advocating for a new single-site hospital.

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New leaders push for permanent solution

Border Mail, General News, 16/10/2024, Layton Holley, Page 7

Albury's newly elected leaders have described the NSW government's recent hospital funding as little more than "maintenance" and "window dressing", failing to address the critical bed shortage. On Tuesday, Albury mayor Kevin Mack and deputy mayor Jess Kellahan outlined their plan to secure funding for a greenfield site hospital on the Border.

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Most patients believe staff not 'open' about hospital problems

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/10/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 5

Patients have spoken out about their experiences with health professionals while in hospital and after discharge. [...] The number of patients who felt they were not given enough information, and those who said they weren't given explanations they could easily understand dropped from 87 per cent and 82 per cent to 81 and 76 respectively.

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Doctor in for national honour

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 16/10/2024, Wade Stephens, Page 6

Silverline Health Care general practitioner Nalin Fonseka had been nominated as one of 11 Victorian finalists in this year's Stronger Medicare Awards. The awards recognise and honour Australian individuals and practices that provide exceptional care to their patients, embrace innovation in their services, and work together to improve their communities.

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Calls to match Bruce funding

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/10/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 4

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers backed the State Government's controversial GP clinics scheme to open 50 bulk billing GP clinics. Critics have said the policy amounted to a tacit admission that successive federal governments had failed to lift the Medicare rebate to a level where more GPs had the incentive to bulk bill.

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Dangerous waters

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/10/2024, Andrew Denton, Page 12

Thuringowa MP, Aaron Harper, one of the architects of Queensland's Voluntary Assisted Dying law, is right to be concerned about what a pro-life dominated parliament could do to end-of-life choice. The Katter Party has explicitly stated its intention to see the VAD law repealed along with termination of pregnancy rights.

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

The private health funds that have shortchanged NSW hospitals by \$700 million

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/10/2024, Alexandra Smith

The NSW government will use legislation to force the big four private health insurers to pay their hospital bills in full, after their refusal to do so since 2019 cost the state \$700 million. After four months of failed negotiations, NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey will this week introduce new laws which will force the insurers – HCF, NIB, Bupa and Medibank – to pay the correct rate for single rooms in public hospitals.

[Read More](#)

David thought his blood was no good. He was surprised it can treat his granddaughter

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/10/2024, Kate Aubusson

More than 73,000 bags of blood are thrown out every year instead of being used to help save lives because people with a common iron disorder don't realise they can be blood donors. Tens of thousands of people with haemochromatosis pay hundreds of dollars every time they have their blood drawn as part of their medical treatment instead of donating it to Lifeblood, where it would be used to help treat at least three critically ill or injured patients.

[Read More](#)

Health fight gets ugly: Private health insurers, NSW government brawl over hospital funding

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/10/2024, James O Doherty

The Minns Government and private health insurers have escalated their fight over hospital funding into an all-out brawl, while the NSW Treasurer admits Mike Baird got it right 10 years ago. The dispute between private health insurers and the Minns government over hospital funding has descended into an all-out brawl, with Treasurer Daniel Mookhey preparing to increase taxes on insurers if they do not cough up more cash.

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

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Liberal WA party leader Libby Mettam announces priorities for Geraldton at community meet and greet

West Australian, Other, 15/10/2024, Jessica Moroney

Another priority is bolstering health care and progressing with developments to improve medical services in the region. Liberal WA leader Libby Mettam said it was disappointing the hospital redevelopment was only just getting off the ground this year.

[Read More](#)

Health insurance 'robbery' to end with mandate to pay

Canberra Times, Other, 15/10/2024, Luke Costin & Alex Mitchell

Major private insurers are "robbing" the public health system while recording huge profits, the NSW treasurer says, as he ups the ante to force full payment of hospital bills. Legislation to force health insurers to pay the gazetted rate for single-bed hospital rooms is expected to be introduced to state parliament on Tuesday.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Voters urged to 'check the terms and conditions' on parties' cost claims

Canberra Times, Other, 15/10/2024, Jasper Lindell

Chief Minister Andrew Barr has encouraged voters to check the "terms and conditions" of promises made by the Canberra Liberals, as the opposition continued its attacks over the cost of employing more healthcare workers. Opposition Leader Elizabeth Lee accused Mr Barr of failing to have Labor's policy of employing 800 extra healthcare staff costed, and would not directly say whether more healthcare staff would be employed under a Liberal government.

[Read More](#)

Insurers warn of bill shock from hospital pay demand

Canberra Times, Other, 15/10/2024, Alex Mitchell

Major private insurers have labelled a push to make them pay full public hospital bills as an "opportunistic revenue grab" that will push up premiums for customers. Accused of "robbing" the public health system by the NSW government, insurers would be forced to pay the gazetted rate for single-bed hospital rooms in legislation introduced to state parliament on Tuesday.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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New Rockhampton Hospital emergency department build announcement

The Mercury, Other, 15/10/2024, Frazer Pearce

Queensland Labor have pledged \$50 million to building a new Emergency Department at Rockhampton Hospital a week after its ED was described as a "war zone" by the shadow health

minister. Premier Steven Miles, in Rockhampton for the announcement with Health Minister Shannon Fentiman, said the investment was expected to double the number of ED treatment spaces from 14 to 28, deliver a new fracture clinic, expand the short stay unit and increase the number of resuscitation spaces from three.

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

[Read More](#)

Josh Blizzard was recently diagnosed with haemochromatosis, and he's donating his extra blood to a good cause

ABC Online, Other, 15/10/2024, Bec Pridham

No-one wants a health disorder, but for Josh Blizzard, knowing his treatment can help save lives makes it a little bit more palatable. [...] The 26-year-old was later diagnosed with haemochromatosis, a genetic condition where the body absorbs too much iron. It affects one in every 180–200 Australians.

[Read More](#)

Insurance premiums could go up by \$114 amid Bupa, NIB, HCF and Medibank 'health tax' stalemate with NSW

7news.com.au, Other, 15/10/2024

A decade-old proposal will be brought off life support to end a stalemate - but the insurers say it will come with a cost. Major private insurers are "robbing" the public health system while recording huge profits, the NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey said, as he ups the ante to force full payment of hospital bills.

[Read More](#)

Health service scores almost \$1 million, but where will it go?

The Border Mail, Other, 15/10/2024, Xavier Mardling

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park announced on Tuesday, October 15, that Albury Wodonga Health would receive \$975,000 as part of the Regional Health Minor Works Program. The announcement did not address recent pleas by Border leaders to have modular units set up at Albury hospital to ease a bed shortage.

[Read More](#)

AMA urges medical board to ditch any push for mandatory cognitive testing of older doctors

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/10/2024, Paul Smith

The AMA has called on the Medical Board of Australia to ditch any demand for mandatory cognitive screening of late-career doctors as part of its plan for health checks. The board argues that the increased rate of notifications for doctors aged 70 and over — 81% higher than those under 70 — justifies the introduction of health assessments as a condition of their registration.

[Read More](#)

Happy Birthday, AusDoc! Best wishes from the great and good of general practice

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/10/2024

Australian Doctor understood the necessity of a large, free-flowing dialogue in the GP community. God forbid that professional isolation should continue. You have also understood the challenges of free, open-access medical education, which also spans peer advocacy and peer support but exists in a flat hierarchy.

[Read More](#)

GPs key to saving 73,000 bags of discarded blood

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/10/2024, Michelle Wisbey

New research has revealed that each year, 73,000 bags of blood are discarded rather than donated after blood is taken from haemochromatosis patients. In a bid to better use this blood to save lives, the

RACGP has teamed up with Lifeblood for a new campaign urging patients to rethink where their blood goes.

[Read More](#)

GPs advocate for change in SA Parliament

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/10/2024

The RACGP has gathered GPs from across the state to bring their practice into Parliament, chatting with MPs about the importance of preventive care. GPs spent the day in South Australian Parliament doing health checks and chatting to MPs about what it's like being a GP in the state.

[Read More](#)

Review shows success of eating disorder MBS items

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/10/2024, Morgan Liotta

Since being added to the MBS five years ago, eating disorder items have been shown to improve access to treatment services and patient outcomes. Eating disorder MBS items will remain in place, after a new review found patients and healthcare professionals have reported a 'substantial improvement' since their introduction.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/10/2024, Michael Rowland & Stephanie Ferrier

Australians with a common genetic condition are being urged to consider donating rather than discarding the blood they routinely give. Patients with hemochromatosis, or high levels of iron, typically have blood taken every 12 weeks, and around 73,000 bags are discarded every year. The Royal Australian College of GPs' Victorian Chair says many people aren't aware they can donate.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 15/10/2024, Susannah Carr & Rick Ardon

News There's a warning for Australian parents tonight. There's some toys being sold online Could be a potential death trap. Chinese owned site Temu has been caught selling more than a dozen with harmful button batteries, failing Australian safety standards, a light up children's Halloween costume and a huge safety risk.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 15/10/2024, Sally Sara/ Patricia Karvelas

The NSW Government is stepping up its fight against Australia's four biggest health insurers, saying the legislation will force them to pay their bills. The NSW Government says after four months of fruitless talks, legislation will go to Parliament designed to force HCF, NIB, Bupa and Medibank to pay more to have private patients treated in public hospital beds.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Private schools ramp up tax fight

Age, General News, 16/10/2024, Bridie Smith, Page 1

High-fee private schools are waging a guerilla campaign to pressure the state government to reverse its decision to charge payroll tax, which they say has left them with no choice but to pass the charge on to parents. As schools finalise their 2025 fees, some are telling parents the tax which includes COVID-19 and mental health levies is the primary driver of fee increases.

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Bail for driver accused of killing young model

Age, General News, 16/10/2024, Cameron Houston & Carla Jaeger, Page 17

A Melbourne driver accused of killing a 24-year-old model when he crashed his car into pedestrians while drunk and high has been granted bail. [...] His father had agreed to a \$100,000 surety and promised to supervise his son, with Mathiasson also agreeing to undertake mental health treatment.

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

Hopes of mental health system changes dashed

Age, General News, 16/10/2024, Simon Katterl, Page 24

I remember sitting in parliament on March 2, 2021, when the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System handed down its report. There were many tears on that day. Many had borne their souls to the commission. Many others, including me, worked tirelessly to influence it.

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Ada's phone fears for son

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/10/2024, Adella Beaini & Julie Cross, Page 10

Home And Away star Ada Nicodemou's young son Johnas often stars in her Instagram posts but she says allowing him his own phone and social media is a frightening prospect. [...] The idea was the brainchild of Mac's dad Wayne, who has set up a suicide prevention charity called SmackTalk in memory of his son, and to raise awareness of dangers such as sextortion, bullying and depression.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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

Urgent action needed to end cycle of poverty

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/10/2024, Adrienne Picone, Page 18

TasCOSS has recently advocated for urgent action to protect children and young people from a future of ongoing financial precarity, highlighting the links between poverty and experiences of child sexual abuse, involvement in the criminal justice system, and disengagement from schooling. Evidence shows that childhood poverty often leads to poor physical and mental health, and diminished educational outcomes. And left unchecked, the cycle of poverty repeats across generations.

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Stop mental health stigma

Northern Territory News, Letters, 16/10/2024, Tony Stevenson, Page 28

It is absolutely critical that there is much more action from all governments to support people in your area who have severe mental health issues. It is now estimated an alarming 68 per cent of people who have severe mental health issues are missing out on any kind of community support to help them.

Also reported by: [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#).

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

Living a double life

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/10/2024, Rachel Jackson, Page 1

In Ballarat and across Australia, mental health is a priority issue for young people, with suicide the leading cause of death for people aged 15 to 24. The 2022-2026 Ballarat Youth strategy, co-designed by local youth, revealed two-thirds of young people currently experience anxiety and two-fifths experience depression.

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

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Magistrate stunned by 160km/h speed

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 16/10/2024, Brodie Everist, Page 3

A Bendigo magistrate has been left confounded after hearing a 46-year-old man was caught driving 50km/h over the limit only five weeks after his licence was cancelled. [...] According to Ms Temperley, Mr Butcher is seeking a mental health care plan with his GP and has previously seen a psychiatrist.

Just look how we found the serenity

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/10/2024, Page 11

Local mental health literacy organisation Read the Play joined forces with Active Geelong, Kardinia Park Stadium Trust and Plan Group to deliver the new event for World Mental Health Day. Read The Play general manager Michelle Gerdt said the practice of yoga was beneficial for many reasons including mind-body connection, stress reduction, improved mood, mindfulness, physical activity and social connection.

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

How to help your child use social media

Launceston Examiner, General News, 16/10/2024, Phillipa Brown, Page 12

Australia is the latest nation looking to introduce an age limit on social media. [...] Phone a friend Gen Z is the first generation to always have a phone in their pocket. Data shows that those born in 1996 and later have a much higher risk of depression and anxiety disorders.

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

Mental health tragedy sparks questions on medicinal cannabis oversight

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/10/2024, Clay Lucas

Long after Dominic McCabe died, the packages kept coming. Month after month, as his family grieved his suicide, the small tubs in plain packaging would keep arriving at his house. His family asked that they stop, but they kept coming. His bank account was repeatedly debited, his family sent the packages back. But still they kept coming.

[Read More](#)

NT Children's Commissioner Shahleena Musk reveals missed opportunities to help under 14s avoid prison

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/10/2024, Zizi Averill

In a damning report, NT Children's Commissioner Shahleena Musk concluded primary school aged children were being trapped in a failed system that inadequately addressed their needs as kids struggling with mental health or disabilities, victims of family violence or homelessness. Ms Musk released the report just days before the CLP planned to revoke changes to the age of criminal responsibility, meaning 10 and 11 year olds can once again be jailed.

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

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Townsville's Mates4Mates centre hosting events for Veteran's Health Week 2024

Northern Territory News, Other, 15/10/2024, Nikita Mcguire

As Veterans Health Week kicked off on Sunday, a Townsville-based charity has launched a series of free events aimed at boosting the social, physical, and mental well-being of local veterans and their families. As Veterans Health Week kicked off on Sunday, a Townsville veteran's charity began their week of free events hoping to boost social, physical and mental health for those who have served and their families.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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ACT Bar Association dismiss misconduct accusations against Lehmann trial prosecutor Shane Drumgold

The Guardian, Other, 15/10/2024, Tory Shepherd

Complaints of misconduct raised against Shane Drumgold, who headed the 2022 prosecution of Bruce Lehmann, have been dismissed by the ACT Bar Association. [...] That trial was abandoned due to

juror misconduct, and Drumgold decided against a retrial because of concerns over Higgins' mental health.

[Read More](#)

Inside the moral panic at Australia's 'first of its kind' summit about kids on social media

Crikey, Other, 15/10/2024, Axel Bruns

Sydney's event was headlined by notorious US psychologist Jean Twenge, whose breathless presentation liberally cherrypicked overly broad and extremely aggregate statistics about young people's uses of smartphones and social media, and juxtaposed them with similarly over-general indicators of depression and other mental health concerns.

[Read More](#)

Ben's tribute to his brothers

Shepparton News Online, Other, 15/10/2024, Sophie Baldwin

Ben said once he put the run idea out into the public sphere and on social media, he started to receive a lot of private messages from people expressing their own personal experiences with suicide. "These are people I have never met before and some of them are talking for the very first time about how suicide has impacted them," he said.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Birth fears put to bed

Northern Territory News, General News, 16/10/2024, Zizi Averill, Page 8

On Tuesday, NT Health and new Health Minister Steve Edgington confirmed birthing services at Katherine Hospital were not closing and would continue to operate as normal. [...] Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation NT branch secretary Cath Hatcher confirmed while the local staffing numbers were running at a "deficit", agency staff had been brought in to boost the ward.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#)

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Nurse's 40 years honoured

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/10/2024, Cameron Bates, Page 6

A woman with four decades of service at Townsville University Hospital is one of 600 health service staff members with almost 10,000 years of combined healthcare experience. [...] "Nursing and midwifery have provided me with amazing opportunities for personal and professional growth," she said.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Victory for Vienna

Border Watch, General News, 16/10/2024, Page 1

Dr Vienna Tran and the Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service Emergency Department have been recognised for their outstanding achievements as part of the Prevocational Medical Education Excellence Awards. Dr Tran was awarded the CPMEC SA Junior Doctor of the Year and the Emergency Department was a joint winner of the Team Culture award with the Adelaide Prevocational Psychiatry Program, Central Adelaide Local Health Network.

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Foreign GPs fast-tracked to plug gap

Shepparton News, General News, 16/10/2024, Page 11

Overseas doctors will be able to treat Australian patients sooner as a shortage of general practitioners causes wait times to blow out. Qualified medical specialists from Ireland, New Zealand and the UK will be fast-tracked into the workforce after the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency on Monday announced it would slash red tape delaying their registration.

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Skilled worker levels on agenda

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 16/10/2024, Phoebe Doyle, Page 4

The Federal Opposition's spokesperson for immigration and citizenship was in Mildura early this week and he was spruiking a plan to build skilled workforces in regional centres. [...] Dr Webster said the expansion of something like distribution priority area program, a classification system that identifies places with lower levels of medical services and then aims implements initiatives to increase the supply of GPs in that area, is "pretty much shot", and new policies are required.

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'Wonderful move': foreign GPs fast-tracked to plug gap

West Australian, Other, 15/10/2024, Jacob Shteyman

Overseas doctors will be able to treat Australian patients sooner as a shortage of general practitioners causes wait times to blow out. Qualified medical specialists from Ireland, New Zealand and the UK will be fast-tracked into the workforce after the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) on Monday announced it would slash red tape delaying their registration.

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

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Lord mayor Dr Ross Kerridge hangs up his scrubs after 40 years

Newcastle Herald, Other, 15/10/2024, Madeline Link

October 14 was his last day on the job, the same date Dr Kerridge suffered a near-death experience early in his specialist career. Dr Ross Kerridge was working with the Careflight helicopter medical retrieval service when he suffered multiple life-threatening injuries in a horror accident that saw him spend six months in hospital.

[Read More](#)

Prac payments campaign

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/10/2024

In a push to ensure equitable access to financial support, the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) is spearheading a new campaign to expand the government's proposed student placement payment program beyond nursing and medical degrees. NAPSA President Sebastian Harper told Pharmacy Daily he spoke to the Senate committee examining the Universities Accord (Student Support and Other Measures) Bill 2024, advocating for the inclusion of a range of allied health degrees, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech pathology.

[Read More](#)

IMG expedited pathway gets greenlight

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/10/2024, Michelle Wisbey

The fast-track program has cleared its final hurdle for a 21 October start date following approval from Australia's health ministers, but it has left the RACGP fuming. The new expedited specialist pathway aims to entice more medical specialists to work in Australia to address a significant maldistribution of doctors.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Universities shape us to be a better nation

The Australian, Higher Education, 16/10/2024, Lisa Paul, Page 21

Finalists include the university invention that produces the world's cheapest green hydrogen, a cutting-edge postgraduate program developing the next generation of medical technology leaders, and an initiative providing individuals with intellectual disabilities an opportunity to experience university life. These are among the 15 inspiring finalists.

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

Reforms overhaul political donors

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/10/2024, Belinda Willis & Kathryn Bermingham, Page 17

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia gave the Liberal Party \$25,000 last financial year and the Members Health Fund Alliance topped up coffers with another \$5000, according to the Australian Electoral Commission register. Defence company Saab Australia gave the Liberal Party \$42,000 in 2021/2022 and real estate identity Bernard H Booth chipped in \$18,260.

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Assistants Day

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/10/2024

Today, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is celebrating Pharmacy Technicians and Assistants Day, recognising dedicated pharmacy support staff around the country. PSA National President, Associate Professor Fei Sim emphasised the vital role played by pharmacy assistants and technicians.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

10,000 babies who are saving others

West Australian, General News, 16/10/2024, Phil Hickey, Page 10

For seven years this Telethon-funded study has tracked mums & their bubs in a unique quest for vital health data One of the country's biggest and most unique studies tracking the health and wellbeing of children from birth has reached a major milestone after welcoming its 10,000th and final baby to the project.

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Telehealth answers needs in the bush

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/10/2024, Page 3

Regional Australians are 25 per cent more likely to use telehealth services than those in metro areas. They cite a "lack of access to relevant ... professionals" as the main reason for using telehealth, a YouGov survey.

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

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

Greens target 'let-down' Labor voters

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/10/2024, Sage Swinton, Page 7

Newcastle Greens councillor Charlotte McCabe is hoping to build on her momentum from the 2022 federal election when she recontests the seat of Newcastle in 2025. [...] She also said the party's policy to put dental and mental health into Medicare was "extremely popular" at the last election and believed it would further resonate at the next election.

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Device critical to save lives

Herald Sun, General News, 16/10/2024, Samantha Landy, Page 11

Defibrillators should be as common as fire extinguishers in Victorian homes, workplaces and communities as a matter of "life and death", St John Ambulance Victoria says. Sudden cardiac arrests have skyrocketed 20 per cent in the state in the past five years and of the 8000 Victorians who suffer them outside hospitals each year, less than 5 per cent survive.

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SPORT

Juniors score election pledge

Cairns Post, General News, 16/10/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 1

Far North football phenoms have scored big with a \$3.5m Labor commitment to upgrade Cairns' Endeavour Park as Sport Minister Michael Healy searches for a dash of Mary Fowler panache in the dying stages of the Queensland election. With around 3000 junior dribblers lacing up their boots across the region, the member for Cairns said improved facilities, including a gym, medical room, canteen and accessible toilets would help ease the burden on existing facilities.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Loan link to charity, bee artist

The Australian, General News, 16/10/2024, James Dowling & Paige Taylor, Page 1

The artist behind a Bathurst mural cited in submissions to shut down the Blayney goldmine in NSW worked for a charity that was loaned \$28,000 by the activist group that successfully opposed the project, with the money provided shortly after he joined their ranks. Brisbane artist Birrunnga Wiradyuri is a vocal member of the Wayne Weaver Foundation, a charity supporting bereaved First Nations prisoners and aiding in lifestyle adjustments for those leaving incarceration.

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RAP over the knuckles for reconciliation frauds

Reconciliation premises "self-determination" on special rights, that, by their nature, divide the nation in two. Closing the gap is the richest and most empowering form of self-determination; it aims to equip Indigenous Australians with opportunities so they can determine their own life just as other Australians can do.

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

System is short on justice

Herald Sun, General News, 16/10/2024, Rita Panahi, Page 23

Despite the majority of Victorians rejecting the race-based Voice, the state government is pressing ahead with a state-based treaty with the Indigenous community. In preparation it is forcing thousands of Department of Justice and Community Safety staff to undergo "white privilege" training as part of a broader Aboriginal cultural awareness and Aboriginal cultural safety workshops.

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'First Nations' foreign policy

Courier Mail, General News, 16/10/2024, Lachlan Leeming, Page 1

A First Nations foreign policy A move to take a First Nations approach to Australia's foreign policy has drawn criticism from strategy experts, who fear the move could result in the Albanese Government losing the "hard-edge" analysis needed for global affairs. Emails obtained by The Courier-Mail show a third-party engaged by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) reaching out to Indigenous stakeholders for roundtable meetings, to work "on the development of a strategy to embed First Nations approaches to foreign policy".

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All is not lost for Indigenous voice future

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 16/10/2024, Page 19

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese had made implementing the Uluru Statement From The Heart a key election promise, and a pivotal moment of his time in office. He had plans for it to take its place in history beside former prime minister Kevin Rudd's apology to the Stolen Generations - "an uplifting moment of healing and unity for our country".

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Voice to Parliament one-year anniversary: Warren Entsch, Bob Katter and Nita Green on Indigenous priorities

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/10/2024, Arun Singh Mann

It probably hasn't been brought on by the constituents but – life expectancy in the (First Australian) community areas is 54. As a nation I don't know how we can stand up in the public arena and justify that. They have no quarrying rights, no timber rights, no water rights, no pastoral leases, no freehold title and no economy.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Woman dead in alleged DV stabbing in the Northern Territory

West Australian, Other, 15/10/2024, Clareese Packer

A woman has been killed in an alleged domestic violence stabbing in the Northern Territory, marking the 66th woman killed to predominantly male violence this year. [...] According to Moody, the woman is the 13th First Nations woman lost to violence this year.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

opinion Emma Garlett: A year on from the Voice Referendum, it's time to move forward

West Australian, Other, 15/10/2024, Emma Garlett

Malarndirri McCarthy has taken the reins from Linda Burney as Minister for Indigenous Australians. As she wrote in the National Indigenous Times this week, she is "determined to move forward so that one day we can be a country where First Nations peoples have the same opportunities for a happy, healthy life as their fellow Australians".

[Read More](#)

Here's what you get when you call for more cops and longer jail sentences

Canberra Times, Other, 15/10/2024, Danielle McMullen & Greg McIntyre

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and vulnerable minority groups, including children with a disability, are tragically overrepresented in the youth justice system. These children have been failed not only by the justice system but by other systems - such as education, health and family support.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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All is not lost for Indigenous voice

Canberra Times, Other, 15/10/2024

But a year is barely enough time to heal, and it's been a tough day for many First Nations Australians, as it means the country can't adequately address issues like health indicators, incarceration rates and employment disadvantage.

[Read More](#)

Seven women killed, time to 'wake up', cops say

Ballarat Courier, Other, 15/10/2024, Amanda Parkinson

Northern Territory police are pleading with the community to "wake up" to an unfolding epidemic of domestic violence as investigations continue into seven deaths in less than five months. [...] All women killed were Aboriginal and a further two women are fighting for life in Royal Darwin Hospital's intensive care unit, after assaults related to domestic violence, Mr Wurst said.

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

[Read More](#)

13-year-old Aboriginal boys kept in Queensland adult watch houses for over 25 days, emails reveal

National Indigenous Times, Other, 15/10/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Two 13-year-old Indigenous children were kept in adult Queensland watch houses for 26 and 25 days respectively, submissions from the youth justice inquiry have revealed. Emails by the Youth Advocacy Centre (YAC) as part of their submission to the landmark inquiry also revealed two Aboriginal youths with moderate intellectual impairments and various mental health and cognitive conditions spent over two weeks in watch houses, while an 11-year-old was housed in the same facility as adult offenders.

[Read More](#)

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress: lowering age of criminal responsibility is a step backwards "we can't risk taking"

National Indigenous Times, Other, 15/10/2024, Giovanni Torre

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress has urged the Northern Territory government to reconsider its plans to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 12 years to 10 years. The Aboriginal health organisation warned that sending children as young as 10 years old to prison will not reduce crime or make our community safer.

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Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 14/10/2024, Tim McMillan

A world-first trial is set to begin in Brisbane, Australia next month. It will test a combined COVID and flu vaccine. It's a potential solution for people sceptical of mRNA vaccines or in high-risk groups, including those with a compromised immune system.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today , 15/10/2024, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo

Interview with Dr Paul Griffin, Trial Principal Director, Mater Hospital, regarding a new scientific breakthrough on the horizon as researchers in Brisbane prepare to trial the combined Covid-19 flu vaccine. Griffin says they hope that combining flu and COVID in this different type of vaccine will go a long way to boosting rates for both and reducing the complications of both of those.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

PharmAust rebrands as Neurizon Therapeutics as it pioneers treatment for neurodegenerative diseases

The Australian, Other, 15/10/2024, Tim Boreham

PharmAust (ASX:PAA) has rebranded to Neurizon Therapeutics (ASX:NUZ) in what has been a big year for the company after a share price charge of almost 90 per cent. NUZ is advancing its lead drug monepantel, now known as NUZ-001, for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, starting with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), which is the most common form of motor neurone disease (MND).

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

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The good news about Alzheimer's: There's progress

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/10/2024, Laurie McGinley

When Dennis Carr learnt he had early Alzheimer's disease, he immediately thought of his older brother who had died of the illness in 2023. "There was not much anyone could do," Carr said of his brother's long decline. [...] Both drugs have been submitted to the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia and are awaiting a decision.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Arsonist attack hits gym building

Herald Sun, General News, 16/10/2024, Mark Buttler, Fergus Ellis & Regan Hodge, Page 12

Organised crime detectives are investigating an arson attack on a building in Brunswick East that houses a gym linked to Melbourne gangland figure Sam "The Punisher" Abdulrahim. [...] Taskforce Lunar officers who target organised crime syndicates and their involvement in the illicit tobacco trade have taken over the investigation.

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

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