



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 31st October 2024

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 8) reports that federal Health Minister Mark Butler has said the establishment of a permanent Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) would help the nation better prepare for future pandemics, following the release of the report from the Covid-19 inquiry.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports that a new review conducted by the Australian Medical Association has revealed a significant drop in the number of bed available for mental health patients across Australia, with AMC figures showing just 27 beds were currently available per 100,000 Australians.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that a new study from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute has revealed genomic testing provides the best chance of diagnosing mitochondrial diseases, which are more prevalent in children.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports that the Greens are set to launch a new mental health policy on Thursday, which calls for all psychologist visits to be subsidised in a "fully costed" \$5.9bn election pledge, with party leader Adam Bandt saying it would be funded through increased corporation tax.

- **The Age** (page 14) reports that former Victorian chief health officer Brett Sutton has responded to the findings of the national Covid inquiry, saying he could have better communicated why lockdowns were necessary, while former federal deputy chief medical officer Nick Coatsworth stated that the lengthy lockdowns led to an erosion of trust in governments across the Australian community.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 9) reports that South Australian Health Minister Chris Picton has revealed the state has seized over \$4.4m in illegal vapes and tobacco since July, as new legislation passed in SA parliament will see \$15 million fines issued to people buying or selling vapes on the black market.
- **The Canberra Times** (page 17) reports that Victorian State Coroner John Cain has called for greater public awareness on the dangers of wild mushrooms following the death of a 98-year-old woman in Melbourne on Wednesday.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 14) reports that the NSW government's drug summit has been criticised following a ban on the media from attending the conference, with Health Minister Ryan Park yesterday reversing a decision to hold the event behind doors.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 13) reports that researchers from the University of Melbourne have developed a world-first 3D printer that can fabricate the complex structures found in human organs and tissues, with scientists saying it will help fast-track drug trials.
- **ABC News Online** reports that the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) has Sydney plastic surgeon Dr Mahyar Amjadi guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct involving 14 patients from evidence provided by the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC).
- **The Guardian** reports that a new measure being considered by the Victorian government could provide courts with judicial discretion to not cancel the licences of drivers who use cannabis for medicinal purposes.

MINISTER BUTLER

Hunt piles on criticism of states' COVID steps

Australian Financial Review, General News, 31/10/2024, Phillip Coorey, Page 5

While Greg Hunt, former prime minister Scott Morrison, former treasurer Josh Frydenberg and former aged care minister Richard Colbeck appeared before the inquiry, it is understood Health Minister Mark Butler was the only member of the current government to do so.

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

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I loathe private health insurance. Do I have it? Of course

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/10/2024, Alexandra Smith, Page 27

It is easy to begrudge private health insurance. It is even easier to begrudge private health insurers. [...] For a sense of its political sensitivity, federal Health Minister Mark Butler's most recent decision to allow insurers a 3 per cent rise to premiums was delayed until after the byelection in the federal Melbourne seat of Dunkley in March.

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Crisis 'warning' ignored

Herald Sun, General News, 31/10/2024, Clare Armstrong, Page 8

A "stress test" exploring how prepared border officials were for a health crisis a year before the Covid-19 pandemic found they would not be able to cope, but the results were not shared at the time. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the inquiry showed the Coalition government was "not prepared for a pandemic".

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

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Is the CDC enough to rebuild trust?

Canberra Times, Editorials, 31/10/2024, Page 24

The federal government's decision to belatedly press ahead with an Australian Centre For Disease Control in response to the inquiry into governments' response to the pandemic is welcome. [...] While the Health Minister Mark Butler had no choice but to accept the finding that Australia is arguably less well-placed to deal with a pandemic today than in 2020 neither he nor Treasurer Dr Jim Chalmers had much to say about how they would turn that around.

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Mallee Border health centre state finalist

Border Times, General News, 30/10/2024, Bridget O'Driscoll, Page 3

A Mallee nurse practitioner-led primary healthcare team has been recognised for its significant contributions in providing community care, with the practice being named as the only South Australian finalist for the inaugural Stronger Medicare Awards. [...] Mark Butler, said there are many people and practices in South Australia working outside of hospitals in health settings who go above and beyond to support their patients.

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How to rebuild our trust

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 31/10/2024, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer, Page 4

Health Minister Mark Butler is warning the federal government must rebuild public trust before the "next pandemic", after a major report into Australia's Covid-19 response outlined grave failures. Speed and poor communication at federal and state levels were just some of the key failings detailed in the 866page report, which found Australians were now far less likely to follow basic pandemic response measures.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Telestroke is saving lives

Port Pirie Recorder, General News, 31/10/2024, Page 7

More than 1700 people in regional South Australia and the Northern Territory have used a groundbreaking virtual service 'telestroke', designed to provide a potentially life-saving treatment for a stroke. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said Telestroke was saving lives "You only have to look at Emily's experience," he said.

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

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Urgent health clinic call

Port Stephens Examiner, General News, 31/10/2024, Laura Rumbel & Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Paterson MP Meryl Swanson has called for an urgent care clinic in her electorate at Raymond Terrace, an area that missed out on the Medicare initiative. Ms Swanson toured the area with federal health Minister Mark Butler last week and urged him not to forget her electorate.

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Heavy-handed Covid-19 lockdowns slammed

Weekly Times, General News, 30/10/2024, Page 1

A public inquiry into Australia's response to the Covid-19 pandemic has slammed heavy-handed, inconsistent and unjustified restrictions and a lack of compassion. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, in response to the reports release, told a media conference that Australia's pandemic plan for COVID-19 was "grossly inadequate".

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Nation's pandemic pain deserved more than bureaucratic jargon

If ever there were an event that justified a royal commission, it was the response to Covid-19. In terms of the taxpayer money spent and the restrictions imposed on citizens, it doesn't get much bigger than this. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has revealed Australia's pandemic plan for COVID-19 was "grossly inadequate".

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'Radical transparency' to restore trust lost post-COVID

Canberra Times, Other, 30/10/2024, Andrew Brown, Aaron Bunch & Callum Godde

A report into Australia's handling of the catastrophe found the disease exhausted the nation's healthcare systems, public service and economy, and diminished public trust following the initial response. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the report found there was concern that while the public complied with health directions during COVID, they would be less likely to in future pandemics.

Also reported by: [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Area News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#), [HealthTimes \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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Disease centre to rebuild public trust eroded in COVID

Canberra Times, Other, 30/10/2024, Andrew Brown & Aaron Bunch

An independent Centre for Disease Control could help repair public trust damaged during the government's response to COVID, a federal minister says. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the report found there was concern that while the public complied with health directions during COVID, they would be less likely to do so in future pandemics.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Blue Mountains Gazette \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [CityNews \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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Leaders don't need to apologise for Australia's response to COVID-19 pandemic, health minister says

ABC Online, Other, 30/10/2024, Stephanie Dalzell

The leaders who oversaw Australia's COVID-19 pandemic response do not need to apologise to rebuild deeply eroded public trust, Health Minister Mark Butler has said. An independent inquiry in to the response warned trust had been diminished for a range of reasons including heavy-handed restrictions, vaccine mandates and inconsistent state and territory responses, making people unlikely to accept other harsh measures in any future pandemic.

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Wastewater, infectious diseases and bird flu: what awaits the new Centre for Disease Control

ABC Online, Other, 30/10/2024, Esther Linder

An independent review of the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic recommended creating a Centre for Disease Control (CDC) to provide trusted advice and data on Australia's disease readiness and response. COVID-19 was the "biggest national and global emergency in our lifetime", Health Minister Mark Butler said on Tuesday to announce the CDC.

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Despite the success of Australia's pandemic response, the long COVID legacy is a collapse in trust

ABC Online, Other, 30/10/2024, Jacob Greber

At 877 pages, the Albanese government-commissioned report into Australia's pandemic response has eased fears it will be a whitewash that lets state and federal governments off the hook. As Health Minister Mark Butler says: "It does not pull its punches."

Bundaberg Urgent Care Clinic closes without explanation with patients left in limbo

ABC Online, Other, 30/10/2024, Grace Whiteside & Nikki Sorbello

An urgent care clinic set up by the federal government to relieve pressure on emergency departments has suddenly closed less than a year after it opened in regional Queensland. [...] Mark Butler says patients can receive help through the phone line.

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Nacc to reconsider robodebt investigation; Biden clarifies 'garbage' gaffe; and should you buy an old house on Instagram?

The Guardian, Other, 30/10/2024, Alan Vaarwerk

The National Anti-Corruption Commission will reconsider its decision not to start a corruption investigation into robodebt, after a finding its initial refusal was "affected by apprehended bias". [...] – Mark Butler, speaking to ABC News Breakfast about the Covid inquiry report handed down on Tuesday, the federal health minister said "trust is lost very quickly, and very easily sometimes, and it's much harder to rebuild".

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Covid inquiry finds trust in government has been eroded

CathNews, Other, 30/10/2024, Rebecca Comini

A national inquiry into Australia's COVID-19 response has found that trust has been eroded, health systems are struggling, and inflation pressures from pandemic stimulus are still hurting the economy almost five years after the first COVID-19 case was detected. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the reviewers had not pulled any punches.

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Albo drops Covid report in a desperate bid to get you to forget about his Qantas freebies. So, did it work?

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, Peter van Onselen

Enter Albo's factional ally and health minister, Mark Butler. He'd been sitting on a report into the Covid pandemic, and waiting for a good time to release it to maximise political advantage. Yesterday arvo had to be that moment. Albo needed the distraction, and this report was significant enough to help.

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New body to advise governments on pandemics

Government News, Other, 30/10/2024, Christopher Kelly

A national centre for disease control is to be established in reaction to the Covid-19 inquiry. [...] Heading the interim CDC senior health executive Mary Woods who held previous roles at the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Australia's poor readiness for next pandemic unmasked

In Daily, Other, 30/10/2024

Australia is less prepared for a pandemic today than it was in 2020 and public trust has been eroded over decisions taken then, says a report into the nation's COVID-19 response. [...] Pandemic plans in 2020 were "grossly inadequate" for the challenges of COVID-19, Health Minister Mark Butler said.

Also reported by: [Upper Yarra Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ferntree Gully Mail \(Online\)](#).

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'Government's actions are the main thing that caused damage': Economic expert reveals cracks in COVID report

Sky News Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, James Harrison & Sumaiya Chowdhure

A bombshell report investigating Australia's handling of COVID has been heavily criticised for failing to draw lessons from the state and federal governments' "disastrous response" to the pandemic. Health Minister Mark Butler and Treasurer Jim Chalmers released the final report of the government's inquiry into the pandemic response on Tuesday.

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'Saved literally thousands of lives': WA Premier defends state's COVID-era policies amid release of pandemic response inquiry

Sky News Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, Laura Grassby

WA Premier Roger Cook has defended the state's controversial COVID-19 policies following the release of a new inquiry into how Australia handled the pandemic, which triggered strict lockdowns and sent shockwaves through the economy. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler released a statement in response to the report's release on Tuesday, pledging to create a Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in Australia with the government investing \$251.7 million to make it happen.

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Trust in science and government eroded by pandemic response, says official COVID-19 report

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/10/2024, Paul Smith

The official report on Australia's COVID-19 response says the initial high level of adherence and co-operation is unlikely to repeat in a future health emergency. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said he believed an Australian CDC would help.

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Nurses, midwives smash prescribing 'glass ceiling'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/10/2024, Megan Haggan

Health minister Mark Butler has announced what he called a "historic" change in Medicare's 40th year: the ability for nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives to autonomously provide a range of Medicare services.

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What went right (and wrong) with Australia's COVID-19 response?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 30/10/2024, Chloe Hava

Australia coped better than many countries during COVID-19, avoiding severe health system collapse, mass casualties, and deeper economic downturns. [...] The lack of real time evidence based policy and the lack of transparency has driven a large decline in trust, said Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler in a press conference held on Tuesday (30 October).

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Trust eroded: COVID inquiry

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 30/10/2024

The Covid-19 Response Inquiry Report, released yesterday, underscores the critical role of healthcare providers, including community pharmacists, played during the pandemic. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stated that the procurement delays ultimately affected the timing of the vaccine rollout and prolonged restrictive public health measures that had by then been in place for over a year.

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National disease control centre to be set up in Canberra

PS News, Other, 30/10/2024, Chris Johnson

An Australian Centre for Disease Control will be established in Canberra as part of the federal government's initial response to the COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report, which was released yesterday. Health Minister Mark Butler announced the plan on Tuesday (29 October) to commit more than \$250 million over four years to the centre, which will be located in the nation's capital.

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

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COVID inquiry validates GP workforce impacts

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 30/10/2024, Morgan Liotta

The long-awaited report details Australia's pandemic response, confirming that GPs must be central to future planning and not left in the dark. [...] The interim Australian CDC will continue to operate as part of the Department of Health and Aged Care until the launch of the independent CDC, expected on 1 January 2026 should legislation pass through Federal Parliament.

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Health experts back Australian Centre for Disease Control

The Mandarin, Other, 30/10/2024, Dan Holmes

An independent Australian Centre for Disease Control will be established in Canberra by January 2026, as recommended by the COVID-19 inquiry. Australia will act to establish a Centre for Disease Control (CDC) by 2026. Health Minister Mark Butler announced the CDC would be located in Canberra, responding to a recommendation from the review into the COVID-19 response.

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Lost trust challenge for next pandemic: COVID-19 review

The Mandarin, Other, 30/10/2024, Andrew Brown & Jacob Shteyman

Many of the public health professionals, frontline community service and health staff, political leaders, health experts and public servants we relied on to get through the pandemic are no longer in their positions. [...] The pandemic plans in 2020 were "grossly inadequate" for the challenges of COVID-19, Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Nurses wave goodbye to collaborative arrangements

The Medical Republic, Other, 30/10/2024, Holly Payne

From Friday 1 November, nurse practitioners and midwives will no longer have to be linked with a doctor in order to access MBS and PBS rebates for their patients. [...] Marking the incoming change today, Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney were of the view that removing collaborative arrangements would cut back "red tape" for nurse practitioners.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 30/10/2024, James Glenday & Bridget Brennan

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, regarding the recent review on Australia's COVID response and the recommendations. Butler points out that they want to regain the public's trust when in regard to pandemic control after announcing the response to the central recommendation of the inquiry to establish an independent authoritative centre for disease control.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, ABC News , 30/10/2024, Jade Barker

Australia's COVID-19 response eroded public trust so deeply that people might not accept restrictions like lockdowns in the future. Health Minister Mark Butler mentioned that the striking conclusion that they can derive from the report is that right now, Australia is arguable the worst place as a country to deal with a pandemic than they were in early 2020.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First: Lunchtime, 30/10/2024, Angela Bishop

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Compere says Australians are unlikely to ever accept being locked down again according to findings from the review of Australia's response to COVID-19. Butler explains that the review revealed in relative, Australia performed well during the pandemic in comparison to other nations, however, he feels they couldn't do as well as they could have done. He believes that the leaders during this time didn't have the tools in the toolkit, particularly when the pandemic started, and the country did not have comprehensive pandemic plan.

Channel 7, Sunrise, 30/10/2024, Natalie Barr & Matt Shirvington

The Government is scrambling to find a way to build back Australia's trust after a report into our COVID response found people are unlikely to accept harsh restrictions like lockdowns ever again. Health Minister Mark Butler has acknowledged mistakes were made and vowed to implement the inquiry's recommendations.

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Channel 9, Today , 30/10/2024, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Compere says harsh lockdowns, deadly vaccine delays, a lack of compassion, and \$213b hit to the economy are just some of the findings from a landmark report into the Government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Butler points out that the Premiers have cooperated in working in this review and the report deals squarely in not just decisions taken by the National Government, but also decisions taken by the State and Territory Governments.

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SBS, World News Australia (Late), 29/10/2024

An inquiry into the Commonwealth's response to the COVID pandemic has found an erosion of public trust in governments and health systems. Health Minister Mark Butler says right now they are arguable worst placed as a country to deal with a pandemic than they were in early 2020.

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4BC, Afternoons, 30/10/2024, Sofie Formica

Compere says the long-awaited review into how Australia handled COVID was handed down. She states that one of the major recommendations though of what came out yesterday which is going to be implemented is a new Centre for Disease Control. She says that Health Minister Mark Butler has mentioned the country didn't have a playbook when it came to Covid and that is exactly what the CDC will be able to provide.

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ABC News, Drive, 30/10/2024, Compere

The erosion of public trust in government decisions has been a key finding of a yearlong federal government inquiry into Australia's response to COVID-19. The review found that lack of trust would make it unlikely that lockdowns or other harsh restrictions would be tolerated again. Health Minister Mark Butler says the CDC is also needed to help future leaders craft a more proportional response to the next pandemic.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Early Afternoons, 30/10/2024, Katherine Feeney

Compere discusses a Federal review revealing that Australia's handling of the COVID pandemic was grossly inadequate and Australians are unlikely to accept lockdowns and other harsh restrictions again. She mentions that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced that Australia would establish a new centre for disease control and plays an excerpt of Butler explaining that they will be investing \$251m for this.

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MINISTER WELLS

New digital tool to support care sector planning

Leader - Barossa Valley, General News, 30/10/2024, Page 27

Disability and aged care providers will have access to new data about supply and demand for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and aged care services thanks to the launch of the Care Sector Demand Map. [...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells said the launch of the Care Sector Demand Map highlighted the Government's commitment to strengthening the care and support sector to better meet the needs of older Australians and people with disability.

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\$1,000,000 grant to get women and girls into sport in Macarthur

Oran Park Gazette, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 4

Dr Mike Freeland MP, the Federal Member for Macarthur, is proud to have helped secure vital funding for local women and girls to find it easier and more enjoyable to play sport as a result of a \$1,000,000 grant to Macarthur Bulls FC. [...] Caption Text: Dr Mike Freeland MP/The Hon Anika Wells MP.

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Mercy Services withdraw from Singleton and Newcastle

2HD, Other, 30/10/2024

Catholic charity Mercy Services has announced its withdrawal from services in Singleton and Newcastle. [...] Federal member for Hunter Dan Repacholi says he's going to make contact with the aged care minister Anika Wells over the closure of the Singleton aged care facility.

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Greater support at home: the journey to aged care reform

agedhealth.com.au, Other, 30/10/2024, Amy Steed

Older Australians increasingly want the freedom, support and choice to remain in the homes and communities they love. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care's 'A new Aged Care Act — Statement of changes from the exposure draft', the Bill responds to around 60 recommendations of the Royal Commission.

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Plan aims to strengthen workforce

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 30/10/2024, Jodie Wolf

Better pay and more training among the focus areas of a new framework published by the Department of Health and Aged Care to highlight the work underway to build a valued, skilled and supported aged care workforce. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the "government's mission" was to recognise the "value" of the nation's aged care workers.

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Senate Inquiry hearings wrap up, with report due Thursday

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/10/2024, Caroline Egan

Hearings for the Senate Inquiry into the Aged Care Bill 2024 wrapped up last week, with Grant Corderoy, Senior Partner of aged care accountants StewartBrown, among the final speakers. [...] At last week's Ageing Australia National Conference (previously the Aged and Community Care Providers Association), Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the Bill needed to be passed before the end of the year for the sector to remain financially viable.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Nurse Practitioner Collaborative Arrangement comes to an end

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 30/10/2024, Michelle Wisbey

As of Friday, the profession's autonomy will be expanded as new laws take effect, despite long-standing opposition from the RACGP. [...] Health and Aged Care Assistant Minister Ged Kearney said the change comes following 'review after review found that Australians were losing out'.

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Nurses wave goodbye to collaborative arrangements

The Medical Republic, Other, 30/10/2024, Holly Payne

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The Lindsay health stats that have experts concerned

The Western Weekender, Other, 30/10/2024, Emily Chate

The inaugural Wesfarmers Health: Australia's Health Index report was launched in Parliament House by Wesfarmers Managing Director Emily Amos and Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney and reported that Lindsay had the highest Index score, which according to Wesfarmers Health pharmacist Amy Jones is due to a number of factors.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

Govt knockback to Vasey Care

The Local Paper - Northern Suburbs, General News, 30/10/2024, Page 1

Vasey RSL Care is receiving repeated knockbacks from the Albanese Federal Government to help fund The V Centre Veteran Empowerment Program to address veteran homelessness. [...] Kate Thwaites last year told Parliament: "(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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Champion of the (older) people

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 30/10/2024, Christopher Kelly

Kate Thwaites, who in August was the inaugurally appointed Assistant Minister for Ageing, takes her new role very seriously indeed. She speaks with Australian Ageing Agenda about her role.

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Five specialist women's organisations to share \$10 million in grant funding

Women's Agenda, Other, 30/10/2024, Madeline Hislop

Five specialist women's organisations will share more than \$10 million after a successful grant round for the continued work of the National Women's Alliances model. [...] Assistant Minister for Women Kate Thwaites said the Alliances play an important role in representing the voices of women from a diverse range of backgrounds.

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DEPARTMENT

Pandemic zealotry still a danger

Australian Financial Review, General News, 31/10/2024, Nick Coatsworth, Page 38

Succeeded by Professor Paul Kelly, both CMOs were known for their levelheadedness and extensive experience in government, working tirelessly to unite state CHOs amid differing state policies, particularly in Queensland, Western Australia, and Victoria.

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

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Ageing in Style expo

Leader - Barossa Valley, General News, 30/10/2024, Page 31

The popular Ageing in Style Expo is back in the Barossa, helping our older residents maintain their wellbeing with as much information as they need. [...] Representatives from the Department of Health and Aged Care will be on hand to provide information and receive feedback about My AgedCare.

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Get support for lifelimiting illness

Leader - Barossa Valley, General News, 30/10/2024, Page 33

Learning you, or someone you love, have been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness is unimaginable. Knowing what to do next can be overwhelming. [...] Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, Palliative Care Connect provides a free navigation service.

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Greater support at home: the journey to aged care reform

agedhealth.com.au, Other, 30/10/2024, Amy Steed

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New body to advise governments on pandemics

Government News, Other, 30/10/2024, Christopher Kelly

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COVID inquiry validates GP workforce impacts

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 30/10/2024, Morgan Liotta

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Health Department must listen to these lessons from our COVID-19 experience

The Mandarin, Other, 30/10/2024, Andrew Podger

The best economic advice was entirely consistent with the best health advice and needed to be adopted simultaneously and consistently. [...] There are lessons in particular for the Commonwealth Health Department and Australia's health establishment: the importance of speed of action in a pandemic, of gathering much more information to monitor the situation and to learn as a pandemic spreads, and of managing risks differently than in non-pandemic circumstances.

[Read More](#)

Many GPs with interest in opioid dependency treatment now 'peri-retirement'

The Medical Republic, Other, 30/10/2024, Laura Woodrow

According to Dr Grinzi, its systemic barriers, more so than stigma, that's holding GPs back from fully engaging in the space. "The [federal health] department funded the RACGP to run an AOD education program nationally," he said.

[Read More](#)

PSR reaches new high in repayment orders

The Medical Republic, Other, 30/10/2024, Holly Payne

For the first time in five years, the Professional Services Review didn't find any evidence of practitioners committing suspected Medicare fraud – but findings of inappropriate practice at the committee stage remain at 100 per cent. [...] The PSR does not collect nor receive any of the money it orders repaid; that process is managed by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

[Read More](#)

A quick guide to investing in Aged care and Retirement living - BMT

The Real Estate Conversation, Other, 30/10/2024

As Australia's population ages, the demand for high-quality aged care and retirement living facilities continues to rise. [...] To assist families in choosing the right facility, the Australian Government introduced the Star Ratings system, managed by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

[Read More](#)

Cut in care management funding threatens "high quality" home care, say providers

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/10/2024, Caroline Egan

The proposed 10 per cent cap on care management fees under the Support at Home model has emerged as one of the most contentious issues of the new Aged Care Bill, released on 12 September. [...] The proposed changes The Department of Health and Aged Care's Support at Home reforms contained in the Aged Care Bill 2024 are aimed at allowing older people to remain living at home for longer.

[Read More](#)

'Gambling with children's lives': Growing calls for free life-saving vaccine for all Aussie children

WEB HoneyNine, Other, 30/10/2024, Merryn Porter

There are growing calls for a national free vaccination program for babies and teens to protect them against a deadly strain of meningococcal disease Meningococcal B is now the dominant strain in Australia and is responsible for more than 80 per cent of all cases, according to experts. [...] A Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said vaccines were provided free under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) after the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) made a positive recommendation for inclusion, as required by the National Health Act 1953.

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VACCINES

'Pig headed know-it-alls': adding insult to illness

The Australian, General News, 31/10/2024, Damon Johnston, Page 1

Victorians concerned about Covid-19 lockdowns were branded "pig headed know-it-alls" in a mystery email the Allan government has been ordered to release after losing an 18-month fight to keep it secret. In a development that ramps up pressure on a government already facing criticism over its hardline response in this week's federal pandemic inquiry report, the full text of the insulting email can be revealed by The Australian.

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

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

Inquiry report slammed over HomeBuilder 'mistake'

The Australian, General News, 31/10/2024, Simon Benson & Paul Garvey, Page 6

LNP senator Matt Canavan, who was one of the most vocal critics of the various pandemic restrictions, said a full royal commission would allow for a more thorough examination of the public servants and chief medical officers who guided the state premiers through the pandemic. "The Covid decision-makers should provide evidence to all Australians in public and under oath," he said.

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

Time to lock down the learning process

The Australian, General News, 31/10/2024, Rachel Baxendale, Page 6

The findings of the Covid inquiry, handed down on Tuesday, felt like an overdue vindication for those of us who sought at the time frequently with little success to compel authorities to justify the measures they imposed upon us. As The Australian's Victorian political reporter throughout the pandemic, it was my job to scrutinise decisions made by then premier Daniel Andrews, his ministers and the state's health officials, which had an unprecedented impact upon the lives of Victorians.

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

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

Don't suppress democracy in a pandemic

Australian Financial Review, Editorials, 31/10/2024, Page 38

Australia achieved world-leading headline health outcomes during the global pandemic. Yet that does not excuse the overly harsh policies that state governments imposed to supposedly keep communities safe, but which hurt people instead.

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

Sutton admits mistakes explaining lockdowns

Age, General News, 31/10/2024, Olivia Ireland & Kate Aubusson, Page 14

Former Victorian chief health officer Brett Sutton admits he failed to explain to the public why COVID lockdowns were necessary. Meanwhile, former federal deputy chief medical officer Nick Coatsworth

said lengthy lockdowns particularly in Victoria eroded trust and led to "some of the worst civil unrest" Australia had ever seen.

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

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

It's time to face up to what we lost

Age, General News, 31/10/2024, Chiple Grand, Page 27

A report that extends beyond 800 pages doesn't invite many readers other than health bureaucrats paid to complete the task. And when it comes to learning from the pandemic, Australia is still experiencing an acute case of COVID brain fog. Nonetheless, there are two reasons why the findings of the panel of inquiry, Robyn Kruk, Professor Catherine Bennett and Dr Angela Jackson, should be read and read thoroughly.

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

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

Top doctor sorry for vaccine mistake

Northern Territory News, General News, 31/10/2024, Clareese Packer & Jessica Wang, Page 10

Former deputy chief medical officer Nick Coatsworth has apologised following the release of a report into Australia's Covid-19 response. The final report into Australia's large-scale Covid-19 response says the government needs to "rebuild trust" with the public, with "many of the measures taken during Covid-19 unlikely to be accepted by the population again".

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

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

'Really did erode trust': Former deputy chief medical officer Nick Coatsworth apologises over Covid-19 pandemic

The Australian, Other, 30/10/2024, Jessica Wang & Clareese Packer

Former deputy chief medical officer Nick Coatsworth has issued an apology following the release of a report into Australia's Covid-19 response. The final report into Australia's large-scale Covid-19 response has warned the government that it needs to "rebuild trust" with the public, with "many of the measures taken during Covid-19 unlikely to be accepted by the population again".

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Brett Sutton concedes he sometimes failed to communicate Covid-19 pandemic decisions

The Australian, Other, 30/10/2024, Tricia Rivera

Victoria's former chief health officer Brett Sutton, who faced questions alongside ex-premier Daniel Andrews each day of the pandemic, has conceded that he failed to communicate government decisions adequately at times. Following the release of the Covid-19 Inquiry Report, Dr Sutton said he believed the pandemic eroded trust.

[Read More](#)

Britain is closing its eyes to long Covid. That's not how to stop it ravaging lives and livelihoods

The Guardian, Other, 30/10/2024, Devi Sridhar

Unlike the US, Canada and Australia, the UK has limited access to free boosters – but the cost of doing so could be huge. Trust me, no one, even in public health or medicine, wants to talk or think about Covid-19. The trauma of those pandemic years is burnt into our minds.

[Read More](#)

Dr Nick Coatsworth exposes the major problem with Australia's pandemic response

Top medic Nick Coatsworth said the harsh lockdowns and school closures of the Covid pandemic era were not 'evidence-based' as he also took brutal swipes at former Victorian premier Dan Andrews. Dr Coatsworth, who was Deputy Chief Medical Officer during the pandemic, was responding to the Covid-19 Response Inquiry Report released on Tuesday, which found heavy-handed measures caused Australians to lose faith in health authorities.

[Read More](#)

Public won't wear border closures again, COVID inquiry report says

The Border Mail, Other, 30/10/2024, Ted Howes

The COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report has made several recommendations and actions to avoid the dire consequences that unfolded, particularly due to state line lockdowns. The 670-page report was compiled after an independent inquiry into Australia's response to the crisis. It includes nine recommendations and 26 actions for change to ensure preparedness and response to manage future public health emergencies.

[Read More](#)

"Improve vaccination rates" in aged care immediately: COVID-19 Response Inquiry

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/10/2024, Caroline Egan

The Covid-19 Response Inquiry (CRI), which Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced in September last year, revisits a grim chapter for the aged care sector, and its report, released this week, makes 35 "guiding recommendations" and "actions" aimed at making the sector more resilient, including overcoming vaccination fatigue.

[Read More](#)

Covid-19 response inquiry backs full scope moves

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/10/2024, Tina Patterson

The Covid-19 Response Inquiry Report is calling for nationally consistent reforms "to allow health professionals to work to their full training and experience" to be implemented within the next 18 months.

[Read More](#)

Case closed: The 'Dictator Dan' label was justified

Crikey, Other, 30/10/2024, Bernard Keane

Daniel Andrews' lockdowns and other curbs on basic freedoms during the pandemic were unjustified, inconsistently enforced in a racially discriminatory way, harmed kids and women disproportionately, and in some cases resulted in outcomes the reverse of those intended. [...] The 900-page report makes for ugly reading for the former NSW and Victorian governments and lockdown advocates, and especially the Andrews government, which the evidence shows exercised extreme powers without justification or consistency.

[Read More](#)

Inquiry warns distrustful public wouldn't accept COVID measures in future pandemic

Crikey, Other, 30/10/2024, Michelle Grattan

The government-appointed inquiry into Australia's COVID response has warned public trust won't be so high in a future pandemic and people would be unlikely to accept again many of the measures taken. "That means there is a job to be done to rebuild trust, and we must plan a response based on the Australia we are today, not the Australia we were before the pandemic," the report released on Tuesday said.

[Read More](#)

Infectious disease expert Nick Coatsworth calls for apology for people who lost jobs due to vaccine mandates during COVID

Infectious diseases expert and former deputy chief medical officer Nick Coatsworth has suggested health authorities in Australia should apologise to people who lost their jobs due to refusing vaccines as a first step in rebuilding public trust in immunisation programs. On Tuesday, the federal government released its COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report which explored both state and federal governments' pandemic responses.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 30/10/2024, James Glenday & Bridget Brennan

Interview with John Pesutto, Local Member for Hawthorne. Compere says the COVID inquiry found that public trust in vaccines, Science, and the Government have undermined so much that many pandemic measures are unlikely to be accepted again. Pesutto says that they can never repeat what happened in Vic regarding the pandemic, as they have received the harshes lockdowns. He believes that a lot of the lockdowns were very selective, and the enforcements provided seem to be quite desperate when applied to the community.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 30/10/2024, Peter Mitchell

Former Victorian Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton has admitted he failed to explain critical advice during the COVID pandemic. The Vic Government is standing by the State's response, despite calls for a Royal Commission.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 30/10/2024, Alicia Loxley & Tom Steinfort

The Victorian Government is defending its COVID era decision making, despite being roundly criticised by a federal inquiry. One of the key figures involved at the time has conceded there were they were sometimes relying on best guesses.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Afternoons, 30/10/2024, Sofie Formica

Interview with Terry Slevin, CEO, Public Health Association of Australia. Compere says one of the significant recommendations that came out during the review on Australia's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic is a Centre for Disease Control [CDC] which will be part of the Department of Health & Aged Care. Slevin says the CDC should consist of the bastion of excellent expertise and best information about health in Australia during pandemics.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 30/10/2024, Lucy Breaden

The Federal Government recently put out a report into Australia's response to the COVID crisis. Reviewing what happened, the decisions that were made, the consequences and what we can learn if there's another crisis.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 30/10/2024, Sally Sara & Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Dr Angela Jackson, Economist. Compere says the report on Australia's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic revealed that the country arguably was less prepared for the pandemic than it was four years ago. Compere says the Government has now committed to \$250m for an Australian Centre for Disease Control. Jackson explains that they have taken a deep forensic look at Government actions across the board during the pandemic and the report consisted over 800 pages.

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Social connections and vibrancy of village ensure an enjoyable life

The Australian, Business News, 31/10/2024, Mark Eggleton, Page 18

The world is suffering from a loneliness epidemic, according to the World Health Organisation, and while the epidemic is spread across all age groups, one in four older people is experiencing social isolation. According to WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, high rates of social isolation and loneliness around the world have serious consequences for health and wellbeing.

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

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Villages can help resolve national housing crisis

The Australian, Business News, 31/10/2024, Nathan Cockerill, Page 18

When Australians enter a retirement village, they are doing so for a variety of reasons. More often than not they're interested in the significant benefits retirement communities afford in terms of health, happiness, and the opportunity to forge new and broader social connections compared to living independently.

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

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A plan for a changing population

Launceston Examiner, General News, 31/10/2024, Richard Eccleston, Page 19

Population ageing is also more pronounced in the regions, both because longterm residents are getting older and because growing numbers of retirees are making a seachange to the coast. About 800 residents over the age of 60 moved to Break O'Day in the five years prior to 2021.

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Age is proving no barrier

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 31/10/2024, Lydia Roberts, Page 1

Older Australians are behaving as rashly as their grandchildren, with one in three aged 60 to 69 drinking alcohol at risky levels similar to people in their late 20s. Furthermore, people aged 70 and over are the most likely to drink daily, latest data from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation has found.

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How you could save \$200,000 on aged care this year

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/10/2024, Rachel Lane

If you are currently considering moving to an aged care home for yourself or a loved one, moving sooner rather than later could save you \$200,000. As part of the 2025 aged care reforms the government has announced that the market price cap on aged care beds will increase from \$550,000 to \$750,000 from 1 January.

[Read More](#)

Job ad promises to 'bring sexy back' to aged care

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/10/2024

A tongue-in-cheek recruitment ad for a \$145,000 aged care position has promised to bring "sexy back" to the female-dominated industry. Mars Recruitment uploaded several ads to Seek on Tuesday for clinical nurse manager positions available at an unnamed aged care not-for-profit provider — with the headline "bringing sexy back to aged care".

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

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Losing our minds

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Matthew Kiernan, Page 34

There is a perfect storm brewing, largely unnoticed, in the 21st century: the convergence of two high-prevalence, high-impact and growing groups of brain conditions mental illness and dementia. While previously these conditions were studied in silos, recent medical research has uncovered a growing body of evidence revealing strong links between the two.

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Smart tool for aged care

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 30/10/2024

A collaboration between Macquarie University and industry partner, Bestmed, is set to enhance medication management in aged care with the launch of its Bestmed Connect module. The digital tool aims to improve medication safety while alleviating administrative burdens for aged care providers.

[Read More](#)

Cam Holland joins Amplar Health to lead its GP clinic rollout

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/10/2024, Lauren Broomham

The former Ryman Healthcare CEO has returned to the sector just six weeks after departing Ryman to take on a new role at the home healthcare provider, which is part of the Medibank Group. Cam joined the executive team at Amplar Health this week as Hub Lead – Primary Care & Investments, working alongside its Chief Commercial Officer, Bev Smith, who came on board in June

[Read More](#)

“There is no dignity”: there will be more headlines like this about home care

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/10/2024, Lauren Broomham

With the waitlist for Home Care Packages jumping by 8,000 people in just four months, the tragic case of Cyril Tooze will be the first of many stories to grab the front page of the news organisations. Last week, The Australian dedicated a large section of Page 9 – with a pointer on the front page – to the 86-year-old man from Adelaide, who appeared with independent member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie, who has been vocal on issues impacting older Australians

[Read More](#)

Builders McNab win Best Aged Care Building in Queensland for Rockpool's Pelican Waters

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/10/2024, Caroline Egan

The private aged care operator's five-storey, 150-bed home on the Sunshine Coast, 70km north of Brisbane, opened in October last year, and features high-end fixtures and finishes such as kitchenettes, Japanese bidets, luxury linen, and a Vitaly and Wellness Centre where residents can access a gym and allied health services.

[Read More](#)

Mercy Health buys out Bentley Wood Health and Aged Care's homes in Victoria

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/10/2024, Caroline Egan

Clare Douglas Chief Executive of Healthy Ageing, Mercy Health Not For Profit Mercy Health, which operates 30 aged care homes across Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia, has acquired two residential aged care homes from Bentley Wood Health and Aged Care in Yarrowonga and Myrtleford in northeastern Victoria.

[Read More](#)

Mirus and StewartBrown launch Aged Care Effectiveness Index benchmarking tool

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/10/2024, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Effectiveness Index (ACE Index) tracks four areas: financial sustainability, quality standards, resourcing requirements, and consumer satisfaction, using data from more than 90,000

residential aged care beds, and using insights from the aged care specialists consultants Mirus Australia and accountants Stewart-Brown.

[Read More](#)

Dr Rodney Jilek's Community Home Australia to open Canberra palliative care service for people living with dementia

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/10/2024, Caroline Egan

The pioneering dementia and aged care specialist said it will be the capital's first non-institutional palliative care service for people living with dementia and cognitive disability next year. The residence will be located next door to the existing Kiah House, in Wanniasa, southern Canberra, and will be named Kot House, after Dr Marta Kot, an intensive care specialist who lived with younger onset dementia and was a resident of Community Home Australia (CHA) and died recently.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Testing hope for sick kids

The Australian, General News, 31/10/2024, James Dowling, Page 3

Genomic testing provides the best hope of early diagnosis for a devastating variety of diseases most prevalent in children, a new Australian study has found. Research from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute indicates that 55 per cent of mitochondrial diseases could be diagnosed via a genetic blood test, a figure that rises to 71 per cent among children.

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Community living provides healthier outcomes for longer

The Australian, Business News, 31/10/2024, Mark Eggleton, Page 18

With the number of people over the age of 65 projected to make up more than a fifth of the nation's population by 2066, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the focus on how we ensure people stay healthier for longer is only going to increase. At the recent Housing, Health and Happiness roundtable hosted by Keyton, participants agreed Australia needed to look more closely at how to ensure older people can live the healthiest, most productive and enjoyable lives possible.

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

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MPs back law changes on cannabis

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/10/2024, Max Maddison, Page 3

A parliamentary report to be released today calls for a "staged approach" to reforming the regulatory apparatus for cannabis during this term of parliament, including introduction of a medical defence for people driving with the drug in their system. The recommendations come ahead of the Minns government's four-day summit on drug issues in the state and the need for reform, which starts tomorrow in Griffith.

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Long-awaited drug summit criticised as secretive

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/10/2024, Max Maddison, Page 14

The Minns government's long-promised drug summit has been criticised for being secretive and sanitised just days before it starts, with key figures having to ask for invites and the media barred from attending the bulk of the conference. After pressure late yesterday, the Health Minister Ryan Park backed down from the controversial decision to hold the event behind closed doors, promising to open "additional parts of the summit" to the media.

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Consider quality of life when attempting to live forever

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/10/2024, Shane Wright, Page 26

Freddie Mercury posed a question for the ages when he asked who wants to live forever. The Queen frontman only made it to 45, but extending lifespans and, in some cases, actively de-ageing, has become a multibillion-dollar industry in recent decades. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the main risk factor for dementia is ageing.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Men's opinions shouldn't rule women's bodily choices

Age, General News, 31/10/2024, Madison Griffiths, Page 27

Following the state election on the weekend, Queenslanders are staring down the barrel of a conscience vote on abortion rights in a parliament where around 63 per cent of MPs will be men on a health issue that concerns women's choices. Within the newly elected Liberal National Party itself, three out of every four MPs are men, and the three MPs within Katter's Australian Party which promised to bring forward a private member's bill to repeal abortion laws are all men.

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

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Vape fines hit a million

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/10/2024, Page 9

More than \$4.4m in illegal vapes and tobacco have been seized since July. Health Minister Chris Picton released the figures after state parliament on Tuesday night passed legislation which will see fines of up to \$1.5m for people dealing in the black market trade linked to multiple firebombings of businesses in recent weeks.

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Call to raise awareness over deadly mushrooms

Canberra Times, General News, 31/10/2024, Emily Woods, Page 17

The dangers of wild mushrooms must be more widely publicised after an elderly woman died from eating death caps she picked outside her home, a coroner says. Victorian State Coroner John Cain called for improved public awareness as he published findings on the death of Loreta Maria Del Rossi, 98, on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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Grim warning on e-scooter dangers

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/10/2024, Alex Mitchell, Page 5

Children as young as five end up in hospital with e-scooter and e-bike injuries as officials warn growing use could further clog emergency rooms. As NSW contemplates how best to legalise the electric transport devices, doctors have urged MPs to impose strict regulation including bans on riders aged under 16.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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ASX Quarterly Health Wrap: Lift-off for ED nasal spray and record users for pregnancy-monitoring platform

The Australian, Other, 30/10/2024, Nadine McGrath

HMD reported a record number of active users (expectant mums) for its pregnancy-monitoring platform Heracare. As of the end of September the company had registered 3800 users, a record 710 of them active.

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

'I'm not sure what they're hiding from': Long-awaited drug summit criticised as secretive

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/10/2024, Daniel Lo Surdo, Alexandra Smith, Max Maddison & Michael McGowan

The Minns government's long-promised drug summit has been criticised for being secretive and sanitised just days before it starts, with key figures having to ask for invites and the media barred from attending the bulk of the conference. After pressure late on Wednesday, the Health Minister Ryan Park backed down from the controversial decision to hold the event behind closed doors, promising to open "additional parts of the summit" to the media.

[Read More](#)

'Tobacco wars not welcome in Perth', police warn after Midland firebombing

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/10/2024, Heather McNeill

Police warn the "tobacco wars" plaguing Melbourne are not welcome in Perth as detectives make a public plea to identify a man who destroyed a Midland tobacco shop last week. In Melbourne, turf boundary wars between major crime players in the illicit tobacco trade has ignited a war that has resulted in 100 firebombings and mounting violence in the past two years

[Read More](#)

Grandmother dies after eating wild mushrooms from her front yard

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/10/2024, Erin Pearson

An elderly grandmother died after picking wild mushrooms from her front yard and eating them in a dinner of rice and tuna. Bayswater woman Loreta Maria Del Rossi, 98, passed away earlier this year at Eastern Health in Wantirna, seven days after consuming a meal made with suspected death cap mushrooms.

[Read More](#)

Do you ever really get over postnatal depletion?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, Ashley Lowe

When you make the decision to start trying for a baby, one of the first things that you're told by healthcare professionals, friends, family – and well-meaning acquaintances—is how important it is to ensure you're in tip top shape prior to conception. From nutrition and exercise advice, to the best prenatal supplements to take and foods to avoid—there is an endless stream of information that comes your way.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mercury News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

WA Police investigating whether east coast tobacco wars linked to Midland A-Deal Tobacconist fire

West Australian, Other, 30/10/2024, Caleb Runciman

Police are investigating whether the deadly tobacco wars in the eastern states are linked to a brazen arson attack that caused \$500,000 damage to a string of Midland businesses last week. Police have called for new information about the blaze after a stolen Nissan Navara ute was driven through A-Deal Tobacconist on Great Eastern Highway, near Tuohy Lane, before the car was doused in petrol and set alight around 2.

[Read More](#)

Do humidifiers help sick kids sleep better, and are they safe?

ABC Online, Other, 30/10/2024, Kellie Scott

When little ones are struggling with a cold or flu, it can be difficult to help them get a good night's rest. Parents are marketed a range of "solutions", including using a humidifier or vaporiser, which it is often claimed can help alleviate stuffy noses, reduce coughs, and help prevent the spread of viruses.

Abortion is legal in Australia, but doctors say an 'unspoken ban' is robbing women in regional and rural areas of the right to choose

ABC Online, Other, 30/10/2024, Lucy Barbour & Emma Machan

New South Wales is lagging far behind other jurisdictions, with doctors calling on the state government to issue a clear directive to every public hospital. Only two public hospitals in the state offer formal termination services — the Royal Hospital for Women in Sydney, and John Hunter in Newcastle. Terminations in other hospitals remain non-existent, ad-hoc or provided at individual doctors' own discretion.

[Read More](#)

Melbourne woman's death after foraged mushroom dinner prompts coroner's warning

The Guardian, Other, 30/10/2024, Natasha May

A Melbourne woman has died after she and her son were poisoned by a homemade meal containing foraged mushrooms, prompting a warning from the coroner. The 98-year-old woman, Loreta Maria Del Rossi, died in hospital on 22 May, seven days after eating the meal.

[Read More](#)

Record levels of heat-related deaths in 2023 due to climate crisis, report finds

The Guardian, Other, 30/10/2024, Anna Bawden

Heat-related deaths, food insecurity and the spread of infectious diseases caused by the climate crisis have reached record levels, according to a landmark report. The Lancet Countdown's ninth report on health and the climate breakdown reveals that people across the world face unprecedented threats to their health from the rapidly changing climate.

[Read More](#)

Trauma surgeons sound grim warning on e-scooter danger at NSW inquiry

The Guardian, Other, 30/10/2024

Children as young as five end up in hospital with e-scooter and e-bike injuries as officials warn growing use could further clog emergency rooms. As NSW contemplates how best to legalise the electric transport devices, doctors urge MPs to impose strict regulation including bans on riders aged under 16.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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How a Melbourne mother-of-three built Naternal Vitamins into a \$5 million women's health brand in just three years

7news.com.au, Other, 30/10/2024, Olivia Scott

Aussie mum-of-three Melanie Nolan, from Melbourne, has successfully transformed her passion for women's health into a multi-million-dollar business. Naternal Vitamins has already generated over \$5 million dollars in revenue within its first three years.

[Read More](#)

Coroner's warning after Melbourne woman dies from deadly mushroom meal

9News, Other, 30/10/2024, Emily Bennett

Loreta Maria Del Rossi died at Eastern Health Wantirna in May this year from multi-organ failure from amanita poisoning, the toxin found in lethal 'death cap' and yellow-staining mushrooms. The 98-year-old, who lived with her adult son, grew her own vegetables and regularly collected wild edible grasses such as dandelion and milk thistle.

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Transforming diagnosis

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 20

A round four decades ago, Stuart Crozier, an Australian inventor of 30 patented magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technologies, secured a vacation placement in the biomedical engineering department at Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital. During his placement, Crozier saw engineers creating devices to help spinal-injury patients perform basic actions like lifting a cup which inspired him to focus on technology that benefits patients.

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Treating knee osteoarthritis

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 30

Each year, more than 53,500 knee replacements are performed to treat osteoarthritis in Australia 1 and the figure is rising. By 2030, knee replacements are expected to increase by 276 per cent. In Australia, osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis with around 2.1 million (8.3%) people in the country estimated to be living with the condition in 2022.

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Opioid use after hospitalisation what does the data say?

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 46

A new study details the scale of prescription opioid use after a hospital or emergency department (ED) visit, providing insights on how often people then go on to long-term and potentially problematic use of these medicines in NSW. The study from UNSW's National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) and the Medicines Intelligence Centre of Research Excellence found the proportion of hospital or ED visits where people started opioids such as oxycodone, morphine or tramadol and remained on them long-term was small and declined over the 2014-2020 period.

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National Disability Strategy growing pains revealed

The Mandarin, Other, 30/10/2024, Dan Holmes

Australia has expressed concern some people with autism will fall between the cracks of the NDIS and the future foundational supports. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has published updates on 43 out of 55 National Disability Strategy metrics.

[Read More](#)

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Fast 3D printer a lifesaver

Herald Sun, General News, 31/10/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 13

Melbourne invention can mimic human tissue Melbourne researchers have invented the world's fastest 3D printer that, for the first time, can replicate the complex structures found in human organs and tissues in just seconds. The revolutionary technology, developed by University of Melbourne biomedical engineers, will save not only time and money, but also lives.

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

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

Matters of the heart

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/10/2024, Sue Bailey, Page 17

The Menzies Institute for Medical Research's Great Debate is returning with a thought-provoking discussion on heart health. Menzies director Professor Tracey Dickson said she was delighted the Great Debate was back in full force. [...] The Heart Foundation estimates 1300 Tasmanians die each year from cardiovascular disease and more than 11,300 people are hospitalised.

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Chemo Chicks star in walk

Border Mail, General News, 31/10/2024, Beau Greenway, Page 2

The thousands of people treated at the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre know all too well the effort of staff to make their journeys as smooth as possible. Known as the Chemo Chicks, the group works as oncology nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals within the centre, and is always happy to give back to the community.

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

'Uphill is an understatement': Mitochondrial diseases under the microscope

The Australian, Other, 31/10/2024, James Dowling

Genomic testing provides the best hope of early diagnosis for a persistently devastating variety of diseases most prevalent in children, a new Australian study has found. Research from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute indicates that 55 per cent of mitochondrial diseases could be diagnosed via a genetic blood test, a figure that rises to 71 per cent among children.

[Read More](#)

Why you're more at risk of cancer from the ages of 40 to 60

Australian Financial Review, Other, 30/10/2024, Lauren Shirreff

Thanks to modern medicine, survival rates in people diagnosed with cancer have never been higher – and those in their 60s, 70s and 80s are less likely than their parents' generation to develop the disease at all.

[Read More](#)

Biocurious: Invion taps the power of light to zap solid tumours

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, Tim Boreham

Photodynamic therapy (PDT) sounds like a new-age remedy, but in reality it is an accepted cancer treatment that has spawned several approved drugs. PDT was invented by Danish physiologist Prof Niels Finsen way back in 1903 – and he even won a Nobel Prize for his efforts. In 1995, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a PDT drug for oesophageal cancer.

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

[Read More](#)

Flinders University team looks at screening for Barrett's oesophagus

Adelaide Now, Other, 30/10/2024, Robyn Riley

Australian researchers are investigating screening for a potentially deadly condition called Barrett's oesophagus which affects about four per cent of Australians and can cause cancer. The three-step plan, which includes a tiny pill swallowed in a GP's surgery, could be a less invasive and cheaper way to screen people and prevent deaths from oesophageal cancer.

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

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Remodelling diabetes care

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 38

Established by Diabetes Australia and the Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovation (ACADI), the initiative will support diabetes researchers by providing expert review and feedback for clinical trial protocols and grant funding applications. Diabetes Australia Group CEO Justine Cain said clinical trials are a cornerstone of medical research and innovation because of their real-world application.

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Easier throat testing

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 30/10/2024

New research is exploring cost-effective, non-invasive ways to diagnose Barrett's esophagus, a condition that raises the risk of oesophageal cancer. Affecting 2-4 per cent of Australians, mostly men over 40, Barrett's esophagus often goes undetected, as its symptoms are similar to heartburn.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 30/10/2024, Peter Mitchell

The Salvation Army and Diabetes Australia have combined for a unique initiative to save lives in Melbourne's CBD. They've uncovered a shocking number of disadvantaged Victorians are suffering in silence with the disease. Julie Knight, Diabetes Australia, says she anticipated to be quite busy because of the event.

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PRIMARY CARE

The final Coldplay concert for terminally ill woman

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/10/2024, Tara Miko, Page 5

A terminally ill Adelaide woman last night lived out her dying wish of seeing favourite band Coldplay beside a perfect stranger who shares a special bond with the megastars. [...] Lily became one of the youngest people to end her life through voluntary assisted dying legislation in June last year.

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

New safety drive to stop the carnage

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/10/2024, Kathryn Bermingham, Page 7

SA Ambulance Service chief executive Rob Elliott paramedics regularly attended incidents of road trauma. "Our crews witness the heartbreaking consequences of road crashes every day," he said. "In just a single moment, lives can be changed for the worse. "It's essential to prioritise safety on every journey, so we can all reach our destinations and 'Arrive Alive'."

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

Letter to the Prime Minister

Border Mail, Letters, 31/10/2024, Barbara Robertson, Page 6

The BMA, alongside other health professionals and our community, has long advocated for a new single-site hospital for Albury Wodonga Health (AWH), the only cross-border health service in the nation. In October 2022 the New South Wales, Victorian and Federal governments made an ill-advised commitment of \$558 million to redevelop the Albury campus. This commitment came in face of a recommendation for a greenfield hospital.

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Letter delivered but no word if it was read

Border Mail, General News, 31/10/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 6

Doctors have told Prime Minister Anthony Albanese if the planned Border hospital upgrade proceeds it "will cripple healthcare services in the Albury-Wodonga region for a generation". The confronting assessment was contained in a six-page letter - published below - that Mr Albanese was handed by Indi MP Helen Haines when he visited the Mars pet food factory in Wodonga on Tuesday.

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

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

Health hub is just what the doctor ordered

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 31/10/2024, Abby Walter, Page 7

GMHBA has opened its new multidisciplinary healthcare hub in Geelong which brings together a range

of health services under one roof. Geelong Hub is located on the ground floor of GMHBA's head office on Moorabool Street, and offers services including dental, eye care, physiotherapy and private health insurance.

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

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

'Homicide': Shock twist in suicide pod death

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, Benedict Brook

Prosecutors in Switzerland are investigating whether a woman who died in an Australia designed suicide pod last month, was a homicide victim. A woman, who just weeks ago became the first person to die in a futuristic Australian designed suicide pod, "may have been strangled," prosecutors have claimed.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Why Sunshine Coast mother Danielle Cragg will never talk, eat or drink again

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, Madeline Grace

Thirteen-year-old Jaida Cragg listens to the last voicemail her disabled mother left her every night as she cries herself to sleep, not knowing if she'll ever hear her say she loves her out loud again. Her doting and devastated grandmother Leah Peters said was a dreadful year for the family as they grappled with her daughter's ongoing health scares.

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

[Read More](#)

Renewed push for 'cruel, wasteful' dying law shakeup

Canberra Times, Other, 30/10/2024, Aaron Bunch & Rachael Ward

There's a renewed push to overhaul voluntary assisted dying laws over concerns terminally ill people are finding it tough to access due to attitudes and unnecessary barriers. Voluntary assisted dying became legal in six Australian states and the ACT in the past five years and is increasingly accepted by healthcare providers.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Sarco suicide pod bosses are building a new capsule to carry out a second euthanasia outside of Switzerland after cops seized original device in 'strangulation' probe

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, Elena Salvoni

The inventor of the Sarco pod has revealed he is building a new device to carry out a second assisted suicide, as Swiss prosecutors continue to investigate the death of an American woman inside the nitrogen capsule. Dr Philip Nitschke has vowed to print a new machine - made using a 3D printer - in the Netherlands to use in a country other than Switzerland, where prosecutors seized the original pod after its launch on September 23.

[Read More](#)

Designing for sustainability

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 39

The new Critical Services Building at the Canberra Hospital has officially opened with global construction company Multiplex completing the expansion project. Located at 77 Yamba Drive in Garran, the eight-storey Critical Services Building provides a total of 45,000 square metres of purpose-

built healthcare space and will see many acute care services located across the campus moving into the one building.

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

Securing the backbone of health care

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Kevin Kline, Page 44

Unified, reliable databases provide healthcare organisations with immediate access to comprehensive patient records, allowing for informed decision-making in critical situations. These databases ensure that accurate and up-to-date information is available to healthcare professionals, supporting efficient and effective care delivery.

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

The Willy Wonka of death? Dr Philip Nitschke and his implantable kill switch

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/10/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse & Paul Smith

The euthanasia campaigner discusses the aftermath of his death pod's first use and why he will be bringing one back to Australia. Dr Philip Nitschke, the long-time euthanasia campaigner and one-time Aussie GP, was back in international headlines last month.

[Read More](#)

ACCC approves health insurer's dental price caps

Bite Magazine, Other, 30/10/2024

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has authorised health insurer St Lukes Medical and Hospital Benefits Association to implement price capping agreements with dentists in its partner provider network. The approval covers dental services in Tasmania, particularly in areas where St Lukes plans to open its own clinics between 2024 and 2026.

[Read More](#)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Record shortage with mental health services in crisis

The Australian, General News, 31/10/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 2

The number of beds available for mental health patients nationwide has plummeted to its lowest level on record despite soaring demand, as patients spend longer than ever before in emergency departments. A national report card on public hospital mental health services compiled by the Australian Medical Association shows the sector has never been under so much pressure, with just 27 mental health inpatient beds per 100,000 Australians the lowest per person capacity figure on record, and a reduction of 240 beds nationwide just in the past year.

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

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Greens poll pledge to introduce free mental health care

The Australian, General News, 31/10/2024, Greg Brown, Page 6

The Greens are pushing for all psychologist visits to be subsidised in a "fully costed" \$5.9bn election pledge funded by Adam Bandt's proposal to massively increase taxes. Mr Bandt will launch the policy on Thursday in the Greens' target seat of Macnamara in Melbourne, held by Labor MP Josh Burns.

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

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'Low risk' inmate died in cell

Herald Sun, General News, 31/10/2024, Ashley Argoon, Page 13

A man charged with murdering his father took his own life behind bars hours after being assessed as a

low suicide risk, telling staff he had self-harm thoughts and was "absolutely terrified" of a long jail term. Anton Hillemacher, 52, was found dead in his cell at Ravenhall this month.

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Why Dan was a big mistake

Herald Sun, General News, 31/10/2024, James Campbell, Page 37

The release of the final report of the federal government's Covid inquiry should make it clear why it was always going to be problematic appointing Daniel Andrews to chair a charity devoted to the mental health of young people. As anyone who had children during that traumatic period already knew, the inquiry has found governments' "focus on the health impacts for the broader population meant that the indirect impacts of response measures on children and young people were not prioritised."

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mercury News \(Online\)](#).

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Get rid of Halloween archaic straitjackets

Courier Mail, General News, 31/10/2024, Page 6

An organisation supporting people with complex mental health needs is calling on big retailers to remove outdated Halloween costumes. SANE chief executive Rachel Green says major retailers, including Big W and Spotlight, are promoting a range of straitjacket costumes online that portray people with mental health issues as "insane", "crazed patients" and "out of control".

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

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Nova helping others on the brink

Canberra Times, General News, 31/10/2024, Megan Doherty, Page 16

Nova Marmion is dedicated to suicide prevention, a staff member at Safe Haven Belconnen, a free walk-in, after-hours centre. Safe Haven is where people as young as 16 who are in distress or having suicidal thoughts can go to find help. Nova understands what they're going through. All the staff have lived experience of mental health issues.

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

Survivor's warning on lasting effect of abuse

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/10/2024, Eleanor de Jong, Page 14

Deborah Thomson knows the long arm of complex trauma all too well. For 18 years, she endured a violent relationship that left her with repeated head injuries, chronic stress and ultimately, multiple brain aneurisms requiring neurosurgery.

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

Costume drama anger

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 31/10/2024, Page 14

An organisation supporting people with complex mental health needs is calling on big retailers to remove outdated Halloween costumes. SANE chief executive Rachel Green says major retailers, including Big W and Spotlight, are promoting a range of straitjacket costumes online that portray people with mental health issues as "insane", "crazed patients" and "out of control".

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

Invictus Games helps veteran regain 'spark'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 31/10/2024, Jami Roberts, Page 46

Adjusting to civilian life can be a difficult journey for many defence force members, but an opportunity to compete at the Invictus Games is helping one Townsville veteran take small steps on his transition following the end of his Army career. Torben Louwen-Skovdam first joined the Australian Army in July 2008 and 16 years later, he was medically discharged after a 2016 deployment to South Sudan caused him post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

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

Disability worker died by suicide before police interview over sexual assault allegations

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/10/2024, Satria Dyer-Darmawan

A Geelong disability worker took his own life after a police officer breached protocol by telling him authorities wanted to interview him about sexual assault allegations, a coroner has found. The 43-year-old man, referred to as EK in a coroner's report, worked in the region and provided disability support to families and young people.

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

[Read More](#)

Shock pic shows Jackie O moments before checking into rehab

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, Bronte Coy

Previously-unseen pictures of Jackie "O" Henderson, taken just moments before she checked into rehab for her drug and alcohol addiction, have been released in her new memoir. The KIIS FM radio star admitted herself to the prestigious Betty Ford Clinic, located two hours out of Los Angeles, in 2022.

[Read More](#)

Townsville District Court: Judge highlights complexities around transgender inmates at Queensland prisons

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, Emily Devon

The complexities surrounding a defendant's possible short-term jail sentence was discussed at length in Townsville District Court as a judge raised concerns with a transgender man serving actual time behind bars. Crown prosecutor Laura Moore told the court 31-year-old Ricky James Botterill sold mostly marijuana over an eight-month period, where he used Snapchat to advertise to 10 to 20 regular customers.

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

[Read More](#)

Blackwood Youth Action finalists in 7News People's Choice Award for community youth health programs

West Australian, Other, 30/10/2024, Anjelica Smilovitis & Manjimup-Bridgetown

BYA in Bridgetown and Manjimup helps youth in the Warren-Blackwood region navigate through life challenges, helping to set them up for success. The programs are delivered by people who live in the regional towns, and understand the challenges and barriers youth face in the area.

[Read More](#)

Push to expand Medicare for better mental health access

Canberra Times, Other, 31/10/2024, Kat Wong

Australians seeking mental health care would be able to access subsidised sessions with psychologists under supervision as part of a Greens plan to provide free healthcare. In a bid to shore up the mental health workforce and reduce client waitlists, the minor party has suggested provisional psychologists be able to provide support under Medicare.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Speak up! Stay ChatTY suicide prevention organisation celebrates milestone as 100,000 car stickers distributed

ABC Online, Other, 30/10/2024, Meg Whitfield

When Mitch McPherson's little brother died by suicide in 2013 at age 18, he hadn't realised his younger sibling had been struggling. A 25-year-old tradie at the time, recognising the potential signs of mental health challenges wasn't something he'd known much about.

[Read More](#)

Big W pulls 'offensive' insane asylum straitjacket costumes from shelves

7news.com.au, Other, 30/10/2024, Bryce Luff

Big W has pulled an "insane asylum" costume from shelves amid criticism the Halloween outfit reinforces negative stereotypes about mental illness. Not-for-profit mental health service SANE turned the torch on Big W and Spotlight for promoting the straitjacket costume, and urged them to "pull these products from sale".

[Read More](#)

Big W pulls 'hurtful' Halloween costume off shelves and apologises after complaints from mental health advocacy group

9News, Other, 30/10/2024, Maddison Leach

Retail giant Big W has pulled an "insane asylum" Halloween costume from shelves after a mental health advocacy group protested that it reinforced negative stereotypes about mental illness. SANE CEO Rachel Green called out straitjacket costumes like the one available at Big W in a LinkedIn post and urged retailers to stop selling these products immediately.

[Read More](#)

Big W pulls 'hurtful' Halloween costume off shelves and apologises after complaints from mental health advocacy group

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, Pranav Harish

Aussie retail giant Big W has pulled a 'hurtful' Halloween costume from its shelves following complaints about the way it represented mental health issues. The Rubies Insane Asylum costume, which resembles a straitjacket used to confine mental patients, was removed after the concerns were raised by national mental health advocacy group SANE on Tuesday.

[Read More](#)

'Opening up about their struggles': stories of hope, parrots and hot chips

Newcastle Herald, Other, 30/10/2024, Damon Cronshaw

A conversation can change your life and save your life. That was a key message from Craig Hamilton , the keynote speaker at a mental health initiative held at Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club on Wednesday.

[Read More](#)

\$1 million grants for domestic, sexual and family violence services

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 30/10/2024, Jessica Belzycki

Grants worth \$1 million will help fund crucial post-crisis support for victim-survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence in the Hunter New England and Central Coast region. The Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network (HNECC PHN) have opened grant applications for mental health and care providers throughout the district until December 6.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Aged care ENs and RNs on track for double figure wage rises: FWC "provisional view"

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/10/2024, Caroline Egan

The Fair Work Commission (FWC) has issued a "provisional view" on the application by the nurses' union, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF), to further increase aged care nurse wages, proposing to phase the increases in over a 20-month period. [...] The FWC proposes that the increases be phased in over three tranches: on 1 January 2025, 1 October 2025, and 1 August 2026.

EMR simulation system to train future nurses

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 50

Charles Sturt University has developed an electronic medical record simulation system, HealthiERSim, to help nursing students develop skills in real-life clinical documentation processes. The system is designed to enhance students' health digital literacy by providing a risk-free virtual environment to practise use of digital tools and electronic documentation processes.

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

ABC News, ABC National News, 30/10/2024, Joe O'Brien

Doctors are fearing that an unspoken ban is robbing rural and regional women of the right to choose in terms of abortion. It comes after an ABC investigation revealed that patients are being denied equitable access due to range of reasons including ideological positions and clear guidelines, as well as a lack in Government funding.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Surgery ramps up GP training amid flood of new doctors

Launceston Examiner, General News, 31/10/2024, Hamish Geale, Page 5

Medical launceston Centre is taking its GP training program to the next level. As part of the Health Hub's ongoing redevelopment, the practice will soon open a seven-room teaching and education wing.

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

Health staff to get pay bump, better conditions

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/10/2024, Neve Brissenden, Page 12

Workers across hospitals and health departments in NSW will receive a pay bump while nurses and midwives continue to negotiate for better wages and conditions. More than 50,000 cleaners, scientists, security staff, psychologists, wardspeople and other professionals at public hospitals and health services across the state will receive a 4 per cent pay rise as part of a new enterprise agreement.

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

Goomalling pharmacist steps up to help town fill much-needed GP gap

ABC Online, Other, 30/10/2024, Eliza Bidstrup

The Pharmacy Guild of Western Australia is calling on the state government to expand the scope of community pharmacists. [...] In August 2023 the scope of practice of pharmacists in WA expanded when they were given the ability to prescribe antibiotics for the treatment of minor urinary tract infections.

[Read More](#)

New heights for RFDS

Border Watch, Other, 30/10/2024

The Royal Flying Doctors Service chairman Peter de Cure with Mount Gambier/Berrin volunteer Bill Russon welcome the half a million funding into regional services. During an annual general meeting held at Mount Gambier/Berrin last week, RFDS chairman Peter de Cure said the local patient transfer facility had seen more than 3000 patients come through since being built three years ago.

[Read More](#)

Rural LAP: Bringing skilled healthcare professionals to rural and remote Australia

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 25

Delivering quality healthcare services in rural and remote regions presents unique challenges. Limited access to healthcare professionals, resource shortages, and geographical isolation make it difficult to maintain consistent care standards.

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Aggression in the ED are we doing enough?

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 42

Aggression and violence against frontline workers in hospital emergency departments (EDs) is on the rise, with current strategies to manage the issue found to be insufficient. This is according to new research from Edith Cowan University (ECU).

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Evidence-based strategies to tackle burnout

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Jo Braid, Page 54

Recent surveys in Australia show clinician rates of burnout around 60% with higher rates in the specialities of ED and psychiatry, and more likely in women and younger clinicians. This occupational phenomenon is talked about more widely than before; however, it continues to challenge individuals, teams and organisations to come up with strategies to address burnout that are effective.

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

Are doctors' rego and indemnity fees really an extortionate rip-off?

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/10/2024, Craig Lilienthal

The total number of GP respondents to the survey was 327, and their median average costs of the listed requirements proved to be around \$13,000. I will concentrate on medical registration fees and indemnity premiums, because none of us can practise medicine without either of them, and some of us, including myself, are able to avoid the others.

[Read More](#)

State takes first step to address 'unjust wages'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/10/2024, Megan Haggan

In a move welcomed by pharmacists, the NSW Government has reached an agreement to increase wages and benefits for more than 50,000 health workers. The agreement, with the Health Services Union, covers allied health roles, hospital cleaners, scientists, security officers, patient transport officers and more.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Driving innovation

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 26

Not-for-profit organisation NextSense's new \$75 million facility is custom-built for people with hearing and vision loss. Located in the Macquarie University precinct and Macquarie Park Innovation District, the centre will bring the organisation closer to its key partners already on campus, such as Macquarie University Hearing, Cochlear and Hearing Australia.

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Why more needs to be done to support home-grown innovations

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 48

Commercialising new medical devices or drugs is highly risky, extremely expensive and returns can take decades to be realised. Getting a new medicine from the research lab to the patient can take 15 years or more and well over \$1 billion. The Australian-invented Gardasil cervical cancer vaccine for example was a 17-year overnight sensation that earned US\$8.9 billion in global sales last year.

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

New alleged abuse claims

Burnie Advocate, General News, 31/10/2024, Sean Ford, Page 5

Another male nurse at the Launceston General Hospital was a child sex predator, it is alleged. The nurse in question is believed not to be James Geoffrey (Jim) Griffin, an allegedly prolific paedophile who died by suicide in 2019 after police searched his home and found a significant amount of child abuse material.

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

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Dentist guilty of unsatisfactory conduct

Central Western Daily, General News, 31/10/2024, Allison Hore, Page 3

A central west dentist who blamed missing records on a "disgruntled former employee" has been found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct. The NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal said Orange dentist David William Kirby had fallen "significantly below" the professional standards for gaps in his record keeping and prescribing restricted medication.

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

Plastic surgeon who patients say left them with 'disfigurement' found guilty of professional misconduct

ABC Online, Other, 30/10/2024, Elise Worthington & Adele Ferguson

A Sydney plastic surgeon has been found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct after a marathon case involving 14 patients and more than 6,500 pages of evidence from the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC). Dr Mahyar Amjadi opened Luxe Clinic in Sydney's eastern suburbs in 2016, and performed complex cosmetic plastic surgery and body contouring procedures in private hospitals across Sydney and Wollongong.

[Read More](#)

Sydney plastic surgeon Dr Mahyar Amjadi found guilty of professional misconduct against 14 patients

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, Eliza McPhee

A plastic surgeon has been found guilty of professional misconduct regarding a string of patients including one woman who claimed she thought she was going to die after an operation. Dr Mahyar Amjadi was found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Super funds go on \$423m marketing blitz

Australian Financial Review, General News, 31/10/2024, Hannah Wootton, Page 1

Industry super funds were the biggest spenders, accounting for the 10 largest marketing budgets worth a combined \$301million and bankrolling several AFL and sport clubs, data released by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority for the first time showed.

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Pony club, more events: CEO's plans for VRC

Australian Financial Review, General News, 31/10/2024, Zoe Samios & Patrick Durkin, Page 8

Flemington Racecourse could be renamed, run a pony club and open its stables to private horse owners as part of a major strategic plan to revive Victoria Racing Club's fortunes and attract a new crowd of racegoers.

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

The unbuilt park and the 'secret' \$19m grant

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/10/2024, Michael McGowan, Page 15

Local Government Minister Ron Hoenig has launched an investigation into his own department after discovering he was not told about millions of dollars handed to Hornsby Council even as he fights with the shire to claw back money from a controversial grants program. [...] The funding included about \$3.7 million for Westleigh Park, including mountain biking trails and sports fields.

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Cricket hit for six on Oz Day

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/10/2024, Robert Craddock, Page 3

Cricket Australia has decided not to play any matches on Australia Day January 26 next year but has not ruled out returning to the date for games in the future. Cricket Australia's (CA) decision which was backed by broadcasters Fox Sports and Channel 7 was made easy in because Australia Day 2025 a Sunday is also the date for the mega-rating Australian Open men's tennis final.

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Allan using 'Fawltly' logic to claim she is a builder

Herald Sun, General News, 31/10/2024, Francis Galbally, Page 37

The Victorian government's withdrawal from hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games led to a financial blowout, with the estimated costs skyrocketing from an initial budget of \$2.6bn to potentially more than \$6-7bn. The government faced criticism after reaching a compensation settlement, requiring Victoria to pay \$380m to the Commonwealth Games Federation and associated parties for cancelling the event.

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Tennis knocks Oz Day for six

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/10/2024, Robert Craddock & Ben Horne, Page 3

Cricket Australia has decided not to play matches on Australia Day this season but has not ruled out returning to the date that triggers an annual public firestorm. CA's decision, which has been backed by broadcasters Fox Sports and Channel 7, was made easy because Australia Day January 26, a Sunday is also the date for the mega-rating Australia Open men's tennis final.

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Australia Day drop shot

Courier Mail, General News, 31/10/2024, Robert Craddock, Ben Horne & Daniel Cherny, Page 3

Cricket Australia's decision, backed by broadcasters Fox Sports and Channel 7, was made easy because Sunday January 26 is also the date this summer for the mega-rating Australia Open men's

tennis final. Cricket Australia has not ruled out returning to the date in future, despite it igniting controversy last season.

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

Score big for your community with the sport infrastructure fund

Shepparton News, General News, 31/10/2024, Taylah Baker, Page 5

Does your local community need a new swimming pool, females' change room, court, sports field or pavilion? State Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced that applications for round two of the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund were now open, aiming to upgrade and build essential sports infrastructure within regional communities.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Epiminder in pre-IPO raise; \$200m val

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 31/10/2024, Page 18

Melbourne's Epiminder, which counts the \$18.6 billion Cochlear as its largest shareholder, has spent six years developing its sub-scalp device to detect seizures for epilepsy patients.

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Health Check: Hold the front page for a rush of clinical trial updates

The Australian, Other, 30/10/2024, Tim Boreham

Quarterly reports from the biotech sector are falling from the skies like spring pollen and the wise companies are augmenting the basic anodyne numbers with trial and commercialisation updates. Many of them are also fronting two Melbourne jamborees – Ausbiotech 2024 and the 13 th Australian Microcaps Investment Conference – so investors aren't exactly starved for news. Or in some cases rehashed news, but never fake news.

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

[Read More](#)

Tryptamine raises \$6 million to advance world-first IV psilocin drug

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/10/2024

Clinical stage biotech Tryptamine Therapeutics has secured firm commitments from new and existing professional, sophisticated, and institutional investors to raise \$6 million to accelerate development of its novel IV-infused psilocin formulation TRP-8803. Tryptamine Therapeutics (ASX:TYP) said the placement was being corner-stoned by the high conviction Merchant Biotech Fund and seasoned biotech investor Dr Daniel Tillett.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mercury News \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Concept to commercialisation

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, David Burt, Page 52

Australia is globally recognised for its exceptional medical research output. Success stories like ResMed, a global leader in sleep technology, demonstrate Australia's ability to translate scientific discoveries into improved patient care.

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RACGP back in the black with \$20 million surplus

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/10/2024, Rachel Carter

The college's latest annual report shows it has completed its three-year financial recovery plan a year early. The RACGP has reported an almost \$20 million surplus for the 2023/24 financial year, just 18

months after it cut 50 jobs to help balance the books.

[Read More](#)

Diagnostic blood test for Alzheimer's disease another step closer

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 30/10/2024

The Florey Institute has released new research that evaluates a new diagnostic blood test for Alzheimer's and found it is a reliable measure of the disease's presence and stage. Plasma pTau217 blood tests have already been shown to accurately detect Alzheimer's disease but aren't yet available in a clinical setting.

[Read More](#)

RACGP achieves financial surplus ahead of schedule

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 30/10/2024, Michelle Wisbey

Record membership of more than 50,000, and the college's 'full' financial recovery, highlight this year's annual report. Rural general practice registrar, Dr Blake Kelly, with his son Barney, who posed for the cover image of this year's annual report.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Eisen bows out at Afterpay to focus on philanthropy

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 31/10/2024, James Eysers, Page 19

The fund has supported First Nations causes, including Children's Ground, which provides access to education and health services for Indigenous children.

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

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Treating is like mugs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/10/2024, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 1

The Albanese government has been likened to Indigenous "mission managers" who are "disregarding the voice" of Aboriginal communities, at an explosive meeting of NSW land councils. Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC) and state government bureaucrats gathered at a "truth telling" meeting at Orange yesterday after Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek controversially stalled a gold mine for the nearby town of Blayney.

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Ancient variant clue to Indigenous respiratory illness

Canberra Times, Other, 30/10/2024, Keira Jenkins

A breakthrough discovery has revealed an ancient gene variant influencing immune defences among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The ancient variant of the natural killer receptor was identified by researchers from the Peter Doherty Institute, Monash University, Menzies School of Health Research, University of Colorado and Stanford University.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#)

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Remote Indigenous Australians paying more than double capital city prices for everyday groceries

The Guardian, Other, 31/10/2024, Catie Mcleod

People living in remote Indigenous communities are paying more than double the capital city prices for everyday groceries including flour, tasty cheese, apples and milk, new research has found. A basket of

nine items, which also included penne pasta, beef mince, teabags, carrots and Weet-Bix cost \$99.38 on average at four remote community stores in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, the research by Choice found.

[Read More](#)

Groceries in some remote First Nations communities cost more than double city prices, Choice research reveals

National Indigenous Times, Other, 31/10/2024, Giovanni Torre

A new investigation from CHOICE has found groceries in some remote First Nations communities cost more than twice as much when compared to capital cities. CHOICE conducted a mystery shop at four remote community stores, two in Western Australia and two in the Northern Territory, and purchased a list of ten basic items, including essentials such as milk, bread, and flour.

[Read More](#)

Central Australia health leader honoured as Menzies Medallion recipient

National Indigenous Times, Other, 30/10/2024, Tiesha Hewitt

Dr Ah Chee, a proud Bundjalung woman who has called Central Australia home for over 30 years, serves as the chief executive of one of Australia's largest Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services; Central Australian Aboriginal Congress. She has played a pivotal role in shaping a comprehensive, culturally responsive model of primary healthcare across the region.

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Des Headland kicking goals in business

National Indigenous Times, Other, 30/10/2024, Dianne Bortoletto

Noongar-Yamatji man Des Headland first made his name during his 166-game AFL career, but the 43-year-old is now kicking goals in the business world. Mr Headland, a father of three, is one of the owners, a director and chief executive of Spartan First, an Indigenous occupational health service.

[Read More](#)

Exclusive: Indigenous women's group alleges millions allocated for service at Sister Kate's site were squandered

National Indigenous Times, Other, 30/10/2024, David Prestipino

Allegations of millions of dollars being squandered have put a cloud over the decision to close an Indigenous organisation providing services on a site of significance for Stolen Generations members. The Beananging Kwuurt Institute community centre in Perth's south-east was established under a Covenant relationship with the Uniting Church Australia and Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) to be a social services arm to directly help Aboriginal people in need.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Much-vaunted Drug Summit to be closed to public

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/10/2024, Linda Silimalis, Page 6

The long-awaited Minns government Drug Summit begins this week, but don't expect to hear any evidence from the 450 participants the event is being held behind closed doors. Instead, a United Nations-style "communique" will be released to the public and media by the two summit co-chairs former Labor minister Carmel Tebbutt and ex-Liberal leader John Brogden.

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

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Low-level nuclear waste from submarines to be stored at Osborne

Low-level radioactive waste generated by the building of the AUKUS nuclear submarines will be stored at Port Adelaide after legislation passed the federal parliament allowing for the construction of a "waste management facility". However federal Defence Minister Richard Marles and his state counterpart Stephen Mullighan both denied any "intermediate" or "high-level" waste will be stored at the Osborne submarine facility, in Adelaide's western suburbs.

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

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Premier yet to rule out Schoolies drug testing services

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/10/2024, Taylah Fellows

Schoolies could still get access to pill testing services under the new government, after Premier David Crisafulli revealed he would seek advice before banning the service three weeks out from the major end of year event. Thousands of Year 12s will descend on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts in November for the inaugural Schoolies celebrations.

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

[Read More](#)

New Queensland Premier David Crisafulli puts pill testing ban on hold ahead of schoolies

7news.com.au, Other, 30/10/2024, Fraser Barton

A hardline stance on drugs might be put on hold for schoolies by the new Queensland government, with the premier baulking at an immediate pill-testing ban. Pill testing at the popular end-of-year event on the Gold Coast was to be rolled out at a cost of \$80,000 by the former Labor government.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Mosquito invasion causes public health risk in Sydney's southwest, prompting council outbreak response plan

7news.com.au, Other, 30/10/2024, Hayley Taylor

Southwest Sydney has been infested by mosquitoes, effectively trapping many residents inside their homes. Liverpool Hospital and local schools have also been buzzing with the bitey insects, and local council are now stepping in.

[Read More](#)

The disease that's now overtaken COVID-19 as the world's top infectious killer

SBS, Other, 30/10/2024

The World Health Organisation has announced that the number of people who died from the disease last year reached 1.25 million worldwide. Tuberculosis has officially surpassed COVID-19 to become the number one infectious disease killer globally, data from the World Health Organisation (WHO) has revealed.

[Read More](#)

State government's pill testing bill falls short, says south-west MP

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 30/10/2024, Monique Patterson

Member for South West Coast Roma Britnell is concerned the state government's pill testing bill won't do enough to save lives. There will be 20 automated vending machines that will supply safe life-saving opioid reversal medication naloxone across the state.

[Read More](#)

Portable pathology tests: are they accurate?

On-site pathology tests for infectious diseases in rural and remote locations can be just as reliable and accurate as tests carried out in a hospital laboratory, according to a new report from Flinders University. "Our study demonstrates that when point-of-care testing models are effectively established and managed, the quality of pathology results can be equivalent to laboratory tests, and the benefits for patients are overwhelmingly evident," said Dr Susan Matthews from the International Centre for Point-of-Care Testing at Flinders University.

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Welcome to our Spring issue

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 9

In this edition's lead article Francette Geraghty-Dusan, a senior One Health a framework that recognises the interlinkages between human, animal and environmental health practitioner provides insights on impactful things we can do, alongside immunisation, to reduce risks. Geraghty-Dusan is one of the key speakers at the ACIPC 2024 conference to be held from 1720 November at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre and online.

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Mpox: the next health emergency?

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 16

Mpox infections have risen significantly across the world this year, with Australia registering some 905 cases so far to date, according to the National Communicable Disease Surveillance Dashboard. New South Wales and Victoria recorded the highest numbers with 483 and 314 cases, respectively.

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Why don't we have equitable access to meningococcal vaccines yet?

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2024, Page 24

Professor Robert Booy, Infectious Diseases Paediatrician Invasive meningococcal disease remains a serious and life-threatening infection in Australia. Is it fair that some Australian children are protected from a rare but serious, lifethreatening infection and others are not?

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Channel 9, Today , 30/10/2024, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo

Pill testing could still go ahead at school leavers on the Gold Coast with Qld Premier David Crisafulli saying he'll seek advice from doctors despite earlier looking to ban it. This was after the Australian Medical Association of Queensland, the doctors lobby group, criticised the new government, claiming that pill testing would in fact help improve community safety.

Similar content in: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#)

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 30/10/2024, Janice Petersen

Victoria has become the first state to allow pill testing after a bill passed the Victorian parliament. The Allan Government will start trialling the service this summer at up to ten music festivals.

[Play Now](#)

3AW, Mornings, 30/10/2024, Tom Elliott

Compere mentions that pill testing is now legal in Vic as the Government's pill testing bill passed through Parliament. He states that this means, Government-sponsored pill testing facilities will be placed outside of music festivals and possible at night clubs.

[Play Now](#)

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Counterfeit ivermectin

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/10/2024, Megan Haggan

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a third warning pointing out that it continues to see imports of counterfeit ivermectin. The first two warnings, in December 2021 and March 2022, advised Australians that there is insufficient

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Cannabis in system may not mean automatic licence loss

Age, General News, 31/10/2024, Broede Carmody & Clay Lucas, Page 14

Drivers would not automatically lose their licence if medicinal cannabis was found in their system, under temporary reforms being considered by the Victorian government. A magistrate would instead be given the discretionary power to allow a driver with a medicinal cannabis prescription to keep their licence even if they had cannabis in their system, so long as the driver was not found to be impaired at the time they were tested.

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Victoria may end automatic licence loss for drivers testing positive for cannabis

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/10/2024, Clay Lucas & Broede Carmody

Drivers would not automatically lose their licence if medicinal cannabis was found in their system, under temporary reforms being considered by the Victorian government. A magistrate would instead be given the discretionary power to allow a driver with a medicinal cannabis prescription to keep their licence even if they had cannabis in their system, so long as the driver was not found to be impaired at the time they were tested.

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Push for change to driving rules for medicinal cannabis users

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/10/2024, Mitch Clarke

Motorists who drive with medicinal cannabis in their system would not automatically lose their licence as part of a key recommendation outlined in an expert report tabled in parliament. The report, written by former supervising magistrate of the Drug Court Division Tony Parsons, has called for magistrates to be given immediate discretion to not cancel the licences of drivers found with the drug in their system.

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

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Two men granted bail after police intercept shipment of thousands of vapes allegedly destined for Canberra and surrounds

ABC Online, Other, 30/10/2024, Elizabeth Byrne

Two Canberra men have faced the ACT Magistrates Court after they were arrested in a police sting targeting the trade in illegal vapes. Police seized more than 2,500 vapes and thousands of dollars in cash after raids in Canberra yesterday.

[Read More](#)

Drivers to escape punishment over medical cannabis under interim Victorian proposal

The Guardian, Other, 30/10/2024, Benita Kolovos

Drivers who use medicinal cannabis in Victoria will be able to remain behind the wheel under a

proposed interim measure being considered by the state government. In an expert report tabled in parliament on Wednesday, the former magistrate Tony Parsons called on the government to provide the courts with judicial discretion not to cancel the licences of medicinal cannabis users.

[Read More](#)

Bahrs Scrub caught trafficking 30kg meth in tea bags after major drug operation

Adelaide Now, Other, 30/10/2024, Jessica Klein

A traffic stop near the southern Queensland border has foiled a major illicit drug operation said to be worth millions. Operation Whiskey Whisper, led by Hendra CIB, was set up to investigate the importation and dealing of cocaine and methylamphetamine between Sydney, Brisbane, and surrounds.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Tunnel work ramps up to avoid delays, cost blowout

Age, General News, 31/10/2024, Kieran Rooney, Page 3

The West Gate Tunnel has been calling in additional workers and putting on extra shifts to ensure the \$10 billion project meets its deadlines already three years after it was originally meant to be completed prompting fears of further delays and more cost blowouts. [...] But the timeline was pushed back by three years after a protracted saga over how best to dispose of soil contaminated by PFAS.

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Paraquat review: APVMA to hand down decision on proposed herbicide restrictions in mid-2025

West Australian, Other, 30/10/2024, Adam Poulsen

Grain growers face a seven month wait to find out whether major restrictions will be imposed on two "essential" herbicides that farmers warn will "set broadacre cropping back 30 years". The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority is conducting a review to potentially restrict high applications of paraquat and diquat, including banning their use in automated spot-spraying systems.

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