



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 6th November 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports that companies whose medicines have been deferred by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee have expressed concern they are still being charged upwards of \$200,000 per application, with Health Minister Mark Butler reportedly advising Department staff to engage with Medicines Australia “to examine all potential solutions”.
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports that Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has advised Coalition MPs to avoid a political debate over abortion, in the wake of the Queensland LNP’s electoral struggles over the issue at the state election, and the recent comments made by federal frontbencher Jacinta Nampijinpa Price.
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 6) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler says the federal government is considering the recommendations of a year-long review into the Australian healthcare system, which could allow medical professionals, including midwives and nurses, to refer patients to healthcare specialists.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 2) reports that researchers from Monash University have collaborated with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, to discover a virus known as a bacteriophage that can successfully combat Klebsiella, a common superbug found in hospitals worldwide.

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 14) reports that an annual review by the Older Persons Advocacy Network has revealed residents at several aged care homes across Australia are being charged unnecessary service fees, with complaints to the advocacy groups rising 20 per cent in the latest financial year.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 3) reports that new figures by the independent, not-for-profit group, the Immunisation Coalition, has blamed “vaccine fatigue” for the sharp rise in flu cases in the ACT in 2024, adding that “Emphasis should be placed on public awareness campaigns”.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 3) reports that researchers from the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute have contributed to a study revealing that teenagers with a high blood pressure are unlikely to revert to a healthy level of blood pressure as adults.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 13) reports that Beyond Blue chief Georgie Harman has said the link between financial distress and mental illness is being underestimated, in the wake of new figures showing a 13 per cent rise in the number of calls received by the National Debt Helpline over the last 12 months.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 4) reports that the new Queensland LNP government will commit to pill testing at this year’s Schoolies event, with the decision being welcomed by the Australian Medical Association Queensland president Nick Yim.
- **[The Guardian](#)** reports that an aged care nurse in New South Wales has had her registration cancelled by the Health Care Complaints Commission after being found guilty of unsatisfactory and unprofessional conduct involving a dementia patient at June Hospital in December, 2021.

MINISTER BUTLER

No PBS service, but a \$200k fee

The Australian, General News, 06/11/2024, James Dowling, Page 6

Companies whose medicines have been deferred under an unprecedented decision to hold back on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme assessments are still being charged upwards of \$200,000 per application, despite no services being provided. [...] Despite Health Minister Mark Butler calling on staff to “urgently engage with (pharmaceutical advocate) Medicines Australia to examine all potential solutions” on Monday, the Health Department previously backed the PBAC decision.

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

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Axe GP referrals, review says

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/11/2024, Michael Smith, Page 6

Health Minister Mark Butler said the proposal, if implemented, would reduce costs for patients and free up workers by stripping out inefficient restrictions under the current system.

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

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

Just what doctor ordered

Newcastle Herald, General News, 06/11/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

A urgent care clinic will open at Charlestown this month in an Albanese government move to raise bulk-billing and ease pressure on emergency departments. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government sought to “strengthen Medicare and make it easier for people to see a doctor”.

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Riding for a cure

Pakenham Gazette, General News, 06/11/2024, Afraa Kori, Page 15

After a tragedy, teachers from Pakenham Springs Primary School are on a mission to ride from Melbourne to Adelaide as part of their fundraiser for DIPG research. [...] “We saw this last year with some of our families attending Parliament a number of times to lobby the government, the result was

the Health Minister including DIPG \$20 million to find new treatments for DIPG and other childhood brain cancers," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Inquiry on impact of alcohol, drugs

Yorke Peninsula Country Times - Kadina, General News, 05/11/2024, Page 6

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport has held a series of public hearings as part of its inquiry into the health impacts of alcohol and other drugs in Australia. Referred by Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Honourable Mark Butler MP, the inquiry aims to investigate key issues affecting Australians' health and the healthcare system.

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Change is possible

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 5

"We've learned from the other great social movements, like 'MeToo', Gay Marriage and so many other movements that change is possible. "We agree with Minister Butler (Australian Minister for Health and Aged Care) that aged-based injustice is next," Age Discrimination Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald said.

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Butler holds firm on semaglutide compounding ban

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 05/11/2024, Debbie Rigby

Government says 'no', to lifting ban on compounding glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) Risks associated with compounded GLP-1 RAs outweigh the benefits of improved access to the medication, Mark Butler the Minister for Health and Aged Care says.

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Morning Headlines

Business News WA, Other, 05/11/2024

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has proposed an emergency meeting of the government's independent drug subsidy body after it announced a limit on the number of products it would assess, wiping dozens of new medicines from the pipeline.

[Read More](#)

Collaborative Arrangement laws scrapped so more nurses can work to full scope

Nursing Review, Other, 05/11/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Legislation to remove Collaborative Arrangement laws that will allow nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives to work to their full scope of practice came into effect last Friday. [...] In a joint press conference last week, Health Minister Mark Butler, Health and Aged Care Assistant Minister Ged Kearney and the nation's nursing and midwifery leaders celebrated the "auspicious day."

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Government report fails to deliver private health solutions

PH News, Other, 05/11/2024

The federal government's long-awaited Private Hospital Financial Health Check has failed to deliver any clear solutions to the problems the sector is facing, says the head of its peak industry body. [...] "There will be no silver bullet from Canberra or funding solution from taxpayers to deal with what are essentially private pressures in this system," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Final scope of practice review revealed

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 05/11/2024, Michelle Wisbey

It found 'virtually all' health professions face barriers working to full scope, but the RACGP labelled the

review 'reductionist', urging decisionmakers caution in considering its recommendations. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said moving forward , the Government will collaborate with state and territory governments, peak bodies, AHPRA and patient groups to discuss the report's recommendations.

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Over 5 million extra doctor visits bulk billed since game changing incentives introduced

Starts at 60, Other, 05/11/2024, Nicole Keramos

Over 5 million additional doctor visits were bulk-billed over the past year, driven by increased government incentives that have boosted bulk billing rates in every state and territory. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, said the investment was the largest in the program's history and builds on Labor's commitment to Medicare since they introduced the national scheme 40 years ago.

[Read More](#)

Seven Rockhampton, Seven Local News, 05/11/2024, Joanne Desmond & Nathan Spurling

Australia could soon see sweeping changes to the way the healthcare system operates as part of a landmark review into health heroes and how they're currently hamstrung by red tape. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says much of the advice requires states, territories and other organisations to jump on board, but a timeline for those discussions is still up in the air.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, AM, 05/11/2024, Sabra Lane

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister, on the Federal Government being given an independent report with 18 recommendations for major reform, including how doctors charge, who should be allowed to deliver more health care and simplifying the process to refer patients to specialists. Butler says one of the areas where they need reform is how they use the best-trained health workforce on the planet. He adds that the report clarifies that there are all sorts of artificial and inefficient restrictions on what nurses, pharmacists, GPs and other health professionals are allowed to do that bears no relationship to their training.

Interview continues on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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MINISTER WELLS

First major casualty under Games review

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 06/11/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 4

A funding agreement between the state and federal governments to split the cost of Brisbane's Olympic and Paralympic Games could be torn up as part of the LNP's 100-day review. [...] "I've spoken to both the Catherine King, the Infrastructure Minister, also spoken to Anika Wells, the Sports Minister federally, and advised them that the scope of the review will include all the venues and the original agreements that were put in place between the government and the International Olympic Committee," he said.

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

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'Pillows, happy hour': Shocking items aged care charged for

The Courier Mail, Other, 06/11/2024, Julie Cross

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has defended the government's "drastic" aged care reforms which will see older Australians entering the system face higher costs. Some aged care homes are slapping residents with additional service fees for things like having a bed, a pillow, or meals made on-site.

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

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Why are there so many Australians working for Saudi Arabia's controversial megacity?

Crikey, Other, 05/11/2024, Daanyal Saeed

The kingdom has attracted Australians from high up in business and politics. But who are they, exactly? [...] Australian Sports Minister Anika Wells, who in 2015 called for the Saudis to be ostracised from world sport, describing a "gender apartheid" in place in the country, happily turned up to the Adelaide edition of the Saudi-bankrolled LIV Golf tournament in April (itself run by none other than two-time major winner, Australian Greg Norman).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Collaborative Arrangement laws scrapped so more nurses can work to full scope

Nursing Review, Other, 05/11/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Legislation to remove Collaborative Arrangement laws that will allow nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives to work to their full scope of practice came into effect last Friday. [...] In a joint press conference last week, Health Minister Mark Butler, Health and Aged Care Assistant Minister Ged Kearney and the nation's nursing and midwifery leaders celebrated the "auspicious day."

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GPs and politicians 'need to be working together'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 05/11/2024, Morgan Liotta

One of the RACGP GP Advocate Network's newest members says being proactive to 'protect what GPs do best' has many rewards. [...] When Federal Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Ged Kearney requested a general practice to host the launch of the latest edition of the RACGP's Red Book in June, Dr Madeleine Smith jumped at the chance.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

The age pension is the 'highest'

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/11/2024, Eileen Wood, Page 12

Despite an increasing number of pensioners living in poverty Assistant Minister for Ageing Kate Thwaites has defended the federal government's track record for supporting older Australians. "The age pension is paid at the highest rate of any support payment in the Australian system and that's because we do recognise that older Australians have worked hard all their lives and deserve to be supported," she told The Senior, noting they don't want older people to fall behind.

Also reported by: [The Senior - SA \(Adelaide\)](#), [The Senior - TAS \(Hobart\)](#), [The Senior - QLD \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Senior - VIC \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Senior - WA \(Perth\)](#).

DEPARTMENT

No PBS service, but a \$200k fee

The Australian, General News, 06/11/2024, James Dowling, Page 6

Companies whose medicines have been deferred under an unprecedented decision to hold back on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme assessments are still being charged upwards of \$200,000 per application, despite no services being provided. [...] Despite Health Minister Mark Butler calling on staff to "urgently engage with (pharmaceutical advocate) Medicines Australia to examine all potential solutions" on Monday, the Health Department previously backed the PBAC decision.

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

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Hits and misses: Where the Department of Health and Aged Care fell short

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 05/11/2024, Alex Jacobs

The Department of Health and Aged Care's 2023-24 Annual Report has been released with the Department falling short in two of its seven Ageing and Aged Care measurements. Key program objectives linked to aged care services deemed as 'not achieved' include the development of a 'Quality of Life' indicator, achieving care minute targets and elevating access to aged care services for First Nations people and older Australians in rural and remote areas.

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IT access breaches across APS growing security concern, parliamentary inquiry finds

RiotACT, Other, 05/11/2024, Chris Johnson

A powerful parliamentary committee has blasted the Australian Public Service and other Commonwealth entities for failures in IT governance that pose threats to security and the exposure of sensitive information. [...] The committee requires an update within six months from the Northern Land Council, Tiwi Land Council, and the Department of Health and Aged Care on their respective progress in addressing the significant legislative breaches identified by the Australian National Audit Office.

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

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Crackdown on consulting, IT projects generates \$900m saving for Gallagher

The Mandarin, Other, 05/11/2024, Julian Bajkowski

The Big Four consultancies wear the financial hit from junked deals, and yet Accenture still boosts revenue amid groaning project graveyard. [...] Some of Accenture's bigger wins over recent years include the bulk of work on the \$540 digital transformation of aged care systems at the Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC), \$135.5 million across three years for the Australian Taxation Office's Enterprise Operations and Technical Enablement services.

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PBAC defers 44 submissions due to capacity constraints

The Medical Republic, Other, 05/11/2024

Not-for-profit advocacy group Better Access Australia has launched a petition after the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee deferred 44 out of 77 medicine applications to be considered at the March 2025 meeting due to capacity concerns, according to the group. As reported by TMR 's sister publication, Health Services Daily, last week the Department of Health and Aged Care announced that it would be deferring a number of submissions to the PBAC, as capacity had been exceeded.

[Read More](#)

Commonwealth Ombudsman ranks aged care star ratings a fail

The Senior, Other, 05/11/2024, Eileen Wood

The Commonwealth Ombudsman has made a damning criticism of the government's aged care star ratings system stating it is "not sufficiently meaningful to help people make informed decisions about their aged care". [...] Following public and media concerns, Ombudsman Ian Anderson said his office took a closer look at star ratings and sought information from the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

PEP adds \$3bn Aveo to aged-care shopping list

The Australian, Business News, 06/11/2024, Bridget Carter, Page 14

First it was RetireAustralia, then aged-care provider Opal. Now Pacific Equity Partners has a new target in the retirement living space: Aveo. On Monday, Canadian private equity firm Brookfield fired the starter's gun on a sale process for the \$3bn-plus business Aveo that it owns, opening a data room for prospective suitors and issuing an information memorandum.

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Bullock to PM: Don't fuel inflation

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/11/2024, Michael Read & Phillip Coorey, Page 1

Announcing the cash rate had been left on hold at 4.35 per cent, the RBA said it had underestimated the magnitude of government cost-of-living announcements and growth in spending on existing services such as aged care and the NDIS.

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

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Elderly fleeced on dud services

Herald Sun, General News, 06/11/2024, Julie Cross, Page 14

Some aged care homes are slapping residents with additional service fees for things like having a bed, a pillow, or meals made on-site. People were also being forced to pay for things that they could never benefit from like happy hour drinks even though they never consumed alcohol, and a lolly trolley that someone with diabetes could not enjoy, according to the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) annual report.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Failing our most at risk

Herald Sun, Editorials, 06/11/2024, Page 18

Any society is judged on how it cares for its most vulnerable. But in recent days, there's been plenty of news pointing to some significant failures regarding the protective oversight for both the young at risk and the elderly in need.

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Tech-based aged care

Home care provider Silverchain has partnered with the National Ageing Research Institute to develop a guide on the use of digital technologies in aged care. Recently launched in Melbourne, the Framework for Enabling Technology Supported Aged Care at Home is aimed at helping in-home aged care providers as they plan and deliver technology-supported services.

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Supporting our most vulnerable

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/11/2024, Rowan Cowley, Page 22

It takes a village to raise a child, and a village to support the elderly in decline, according to a groundbreaking new plan that's been 10-years in the making. Dementia-friendly public spaces and services, and training for first responders are among the key recommendations from the new National Dementia Action Plan set to be released by the federal government by the end of the year.

Also reported by: [The Senior - VIC \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Senior - QLD \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Senior - WA \(Perth\)](#).

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Alzheimer's at 50: Jim shares all

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/11/2024, Eileen Wood, Page 31

What must it be like to get a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease when you are in your 50s and you have the world at your feet, a great career, great life, a loving family? It's not much of a stretch to imagine that it's shocking, unreal, terrifying, and isolating, and it happened to journalist Jim Rogers.

Also reported by: [The Senior - NSW \(National\)](#).

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George's care campaign

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/11/2024, John Piggott, Page 26

Loving and caring for an elderly parent at home doesn't rule out carers having a life to live too. Many find the stress overwhelming - especially if the loved one has a chronic condition - and taking a break is burnout is to be avoided. George Helon, 58, has been his mother's carer for eight years, managing her medical needs, daily tasks and appointments.

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Ageism the next 'Me Too' movement

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/11/2024, Eileen Wood, Page 5

Older Australians who experience and internalise ageism are robbed of more than seven years of life, said advocate and campaigner against ageism, Marlene Krasovitsky. The consultant to the World Health Organisation said ageism in Australia is pervasive stereotyping and discrimination.

Also reported by: [The Senior - TAS \(Hobart\)](#), [The Senior - QLD \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Senior - SA \(Adelaide\)](#), [The Senior - WA \(Perth\)](#).

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Froniditha aims to fill the gaps

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/11/2024, Eileen Wood, Page 3

The proportion of older people from culturally diverse backgrounds is increasing at a faster rate than those from Anglo-Celtic backgrounds, according to the 2021 census. This demographic change presents challenges for aged care providers who may have residents from many cultures requiring support in residential or in-home settings.

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Specialised care units are lacking

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/11/2024, Eileen Wood, Page 9

Former environmental scientist Bernie Desormeaux, aged 74, was diagnosed with dementia 10 years ago. From the beginning, his loving family partner Amelia, daughters Lilly and Olivia, and mother-in-law Mary struggled to find the support he and the family needed.

'Pillows, happy hour': Shocking items aged care charged for

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/11/2024, Julie Cross

Some aged care homes are slapping residents with additional service fees for things like having a bed, a pillow, or meals made on-site. People were also being forced to pay for items that they could never benefit from like happy hour drinks even though they never consumed alcohol, and a lolly trolley that someone with diabetes could not enjoy, according to the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) annual report.

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

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Lessons from implementing enhanced sensory care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 05/11/2024, Sara Karacsony

University of Tasmania's Dr Sara Karacsony shares learnings from an aged care project found to improve quality of life for residents with dementia at end of life. Premium and in-depth Giving you the whole aged care picture Residents living with advanced dementia have unmet needs related to quality of life and palliative care.

[Read More](#)

Future of home care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 05/11/2024, Christopher Kelly

With most older Australians preferring to stay at home rather than enter a residential aged care facility, medical technology is increasingly being developed to enable people to age in place. Established in 2016 with funding from the New South Wales Government, the NSW Smart Sensing Network is a not-for-profit innovation network that brings together universities, industry and government to gather and translate world-class research into smart-sensing solutions.

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Aged care nurse suspended over surprise baby shower weeks before COVID-19 outbreak killed 38 residents

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/11/2024, Carmel Sparke

The nurse only attended the event for five minutes before returning to work, but a tribunal ruled he should have broken up the party. A nurse who attended a surprise baby shower thrown for him at an aged care facility during a COVID-19 lockdown has been suspended for a month for failing to break up the party before he left.

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OPAN welcomes Senate report on new aged care Bill

Australian Seniors News, Other, 05/11/2024

The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) has welcomed the Senate Report on the Aged Care Bill 2024, saying it puts older people at the heart of aged care. OPAN CEO, Craig Gear OAM said it was a significant step towards enshrining older people's rights into Australia's legislation.

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Aged care provider explores intergenerational home-sharing

HelloCare, Other, 05/11/2024, Alex Jacobs

Conversations around a unique housing model called home-sharing/co-housing are set to reignite the exploration of intergenerational living right here in Australia. Hosted by Anglicare Southern Queensland, a free webinar on Wednesday November 6 will showcase insights from a new co-design project on home-sharing run by the University of the Sunshine Coast and the University of Queensland.

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Advocate for older people awarded NT Senior Australian of the Year

An 84-year-old who has dedicated most of his life to giving back to his community, has been awarded the Northern Territory's Senior Australian of the Year. Michael Foley has spent decades donating his time to better other peoples mental health, community and helping seniors in his community, and currently is the President of the Seniors of Excellence NT Awards.

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Aged care home earnings “significant deterrent to future investment”: StewartBrown

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The additional funding from the Australian Government and increased occupancy has helped residential aged care providers' bottom line. StewartBrown's Aged Care Financial Performance Survey Sector Report for the 2024 financial year shows after losing an average \$16.54 per bed per day in FY23, the average is now an average loss of \$1.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Don't discuss abortion, Dutton tells Coalition

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/11/2024, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

Peter Dutton has warned his colleagues against being dragged into a debate over abortion, amid evidence the Queensland LNP's dalliance with the issue cost it significant support.

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Dutton reads riot act to MPs on abortion

Age, General News, 06/11/2024, James Massola, Page 2

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has rebuked Coalition MPs pushing for a federal debate about abortion in Australia, declaring there will be no change to access under a government he leads. Dutton told a private party meeting in Canberra yesterday that the debate, which flared up during Queensland's state election last month, had cost the Liberal National Party votes in the state that is a mustwin for the Coalition at the federal contest due by May.

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

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Could the contraceptive pill affect who you're attracted to?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/11/2024, Sarah Mitchell

Sydney-based general practitioner Dr Sam Saling doesn't think going "on or off the pill alters attraction, rather mood, which would influence being in the right headspace to meet and interact with new potential partners." "From a hormonal point of view, [the pill] definitely can unmask pre-existing premenstrual dysphoric disorder [PMDD], as the pill is a treatment for this, and can either improve or worsen other mood disorders, so this absolutely has a marked effect on mood and emotional regulation," she said.

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

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Flu cases soar after pandemic as 'vaccine fatigue' sets in

Canberra Times, General News, 06/11/2024, Steve Evans, Page 3

So far in 2024, there have been 4708 cases in the territory compared with 4105 for the whole of 2023. In the year before the pandemic 2019 there were 4044 flu cases in the ACT. The numbers fell during COVID, largely because lockdowns prevented people from infecting each other.

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Region tops smoker numbers

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 06/11/2024, Allan Murphy, Page 2

Mildura has one of the highest smoking rates in Victoria with almost one in five residents currently persisting with the habit. A new report from Cancer Council Victoria's Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer (CBRC) shows the highest smoking prevalence to be in regional areas, while vaping is most common in metropolitan settings.

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Rehab facility questioned

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 06/11/2024, Allan Murphy, Page 3

A federal inquiry into the health impacts of alcohol and other drugs in Australia has been told Mildura does not have the population base to support a 30-bed rehabilitation facility in the region. The Victorian Government announced in August the former Merbein Primary School site in Jenner Street would be the site for the new drug and alcohol rehab service, earmarked for completion in 2026.

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Pot driver study takes to the road

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 06/11/2024, Adrian Black, Page 7

Rubber has hit the road in a world-first medicinal cannabis driving trial, as Victoria's Government investigates if users can steer safely. The trial, led by Swinburne University and backed by a \$4.9 million state grant, aims to understand how tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) the psychoactive compound in medicinal cannabis impacts driving performance and risk on the road.

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Fragrance-free and low-stimulus clinics

The Senior - SA, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 3

Women with sensory sensitivities will be able to access a breast screen in a more supportive environment with BreastScreen SA to introduce sensory-friendly clinics. The clinics will be held once a month at rotating screening clinics across the state, including at rural and remote locations.

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Worrying health trends on the rise

The Senior - TAS, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 3

Tasmania has the highest prevalence of three out of four health risk factors, a new report from Wesfarmers reveals. The Wesfarmers Health: Australia's Health Index consists of data collected from over three million free health checks conducted nationwide.

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Dipper's stark diagnosis

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/11/2024, Eileen Wood, Page 14

Dipper was diagnosed with urinary retention, a condition where the bladder doesn't fully empty - most commonly caused by benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), an enlarged prostate. He is one of the 7.2 million people in Australia who lives with some form of incontinence.

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Push for stricter smoking rules

The Senior - WA, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 3

Cancer Council WA says more needs to be done to protect the health of West Australians living in strata titled properties who don't smoke. With an estimated 25 per cent of West Australians living in strata titled properties such as apartments, units and townhouses, the charity said "it is time" for the State Government to address smoking in WA's strata law.

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

'Zero tolerance': 350 traders probed over alleged illegal tobacco trade

Queensland Health is investigating the supply of illegal tobacco products at more than 350 retailers, including tobacconists, convenience stores, gift shops and petrol stations. As police crack down on crimes linked to tobacco shops, Queensland Health revealed to The Courier Mail in October it had issued 460 fines totalling \$5.5m since July 2023.

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

[Read More](#)

Record overdose figure more than double the latest annual road toll

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/11/2024, Carly Douglas

Almost a dozen Victorians a week are dying from drug overdoses – more than double the annual road toll – sparking fears for the festival season. More than 600 people died of a drug overdose in the 12 months to June 30 – a 17 per cent jump on the previous financial year – with concerns the huge number could become "the new normal".

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

[Read More](#)

A visit to an exercise physiologist is an unnecessarily expensive exercise

West Australian, Other, 05/11/2024, David Beard

Through our professional body, Exercise and Sports Science Australia, I represent over 500 allied health professionals in WA (there are 10,000 in Australia) who have spent three to six years getting university-qualified to help people with chronic health conditions, mental health challenges or recovering from injury and surgery. Exercise physiology is a relatively young profession. It wasn't until 2005 when the Federal government acknowledged the value of our profession and included it in the Medicare system.

[Read More](#)

SA Police have seized \$3.8m in illicit tobacco products

The Mercury, Other, 04/11/2024, Paul Ashenden

SA Police have upped the ante in their fight against organised crime gangs' involvement in Adelaide's tobacco wars and the results are telling. Police have seized \$3.8m worth of illicit tobacco products, six cars and three guns in their fight to bring Adelaide's underground tobacco war under control.

[Read More](#)

Women's shelter group urges government to unlock 'meanwhile use' housing for domestic violence survivors

ABC Online, Other, 05/11/2024, Shauna Foley & Keira Proust

At 70, Marilyn Johnson has experienced multiple abusive partners throughout her life. [...] Family and domestic violence support services: If you need help immediately call emergency services on triple-0 Ms Daniel said that according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, more than half the women seeking help are turned away from a crisis shelter due to a lack of beds.

[Read More](#)

Tobacco stores firebombed in Adelaide as organised crime networks battle to control illicit trade

ABC Online, Other, 05/11/2024, Emma Masters & Oliver-Brown

South Australia Police Commissioner Grant Stevens said the fire-bombings were intimidation tactics being used by three crime syndicates, two of which are from interstate, in their battle to control a black market in illegal tobacco and vapes.

[Read More](#)

Peter Dutton rules out Coalition abortion policy changes and blasts MPs for stirring debate

The Guardian, Other, 05/11/2024, Karen Middleton

Peter Dutton has blasted Coalition MPs for fuelling a federal debate on abortion laws, declaring there would be no change to policy if he wins government and they must show more “discipline” on the topic. Dutton told MPs in his private weekly party-room address on Tuesday morning that the 11th-hour emergence of the issue during the recent Queensland state election campaign may have cost the Liberal National party votes.

[Read More](#)

Kidney stones could be more accurately called kidney crystals.

The New Daily, Other, 05/11/2024, John Elder

According to a 2018 paper, the body excretes a higher amount of calcium in the urine during winter. This is thought to happen because we eat more salty, preserved and processed foods. [...] Kidney Health Australia says those odds are increased if you have a family history of kidney stones, or if you're elderly.

[Read More](#)

2024 has been Australia's worst influenza season on record

9News, Other, 05/11/2024, Lara Pearce

2024 has seen the highest number of influenza cases on record in Australia, the latest data from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System has confirmed. There have been 352,532 laboratory-confirmed cases already this year, eclipsing the previous high of 313,615 cases in 2019.

[Read More](#)

Aussies to be left hundreds of dollars out of pocket as 'tax by stealth' hits Victoria

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 05/11/2024, Stephen Johnson

Grieving Victorian families will soon have to pay a sevenfold increase in death charges - on top of hefty taxes to finance Melbourne's Covid lockdowns. [...] But those mourning the death of a loved one still have to pay a probate filing fee to the Supreme Court to cover the administrative costs of transferring or dividing up a deceased estate among surviving family and friends.

[Read More](#)

Patients with PCOS want more than weight-loss advice: Aussie review

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/11/2024, Ciara Seccombe

GP expert Dr Terri-Lynne South said that targeting insulin resistance should be the top priority in PCOS treatment. A systematic review of PCOS treatment shows that doctors and patients agree on one thing: the current approach is not working.

[Read More](#)

Child vaccination rates decline for the third year in a row

Nursing Review, Other, 05/11/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Data shows that vaccination coverage rates for Australian children have dropped for the third straight year, sparking concern from the nation's immunologists. The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) released their 2023 annual report last week, which shows rates of fully vaccinated children decreasing overall, at all three standard age assessment milestones: 12 months, 24 months and 60 months.

[Read More](#)

Cutting salt will save thousands of lives

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/11/2024

Mandating stricter sodium limits in Australian packaged foods, in line with WHO targets, could prevent 40,000 cardiovascular events and 3,000 deaths over a decade, according to a study published in The Lancet Public Health. Led by researchers at The George Institute for Global Health, the study suggests

enforcing WHO's sodium targets could also prevent 32,000 new cases of kidney disease and save A\$3.

[Read More](#)

'Empowering' Healthy Habits program changing lives

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 05/11/2024, Michelle Wisbey

From completely sedentary to adopting a movement regime, an RACGP program has proven successful in helping patients adopt a healthier lifestyle. Launched in 2023, RACGP Healthy Habits is now being used by more than 730 Australian clinicians.

[Read More](#)

'Wake-up call': What's behind Australia's worst-ever flu season?

SBS, Other, 05/11/2024, Amy Hall

Australians have been warned they're putting "the whole community at risk" after the nation recorded its worst flu season to date. Some 352,782 confirmed cases of influenza have so far been reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System this year.

[Read More](#)

Older Australians are dying more from drugs and alcohol, new report says

The Senior, Other, 05/11/2024, Duncan Bailey

Older Australians are dying from alcohol and other drug related causes at a rate almost two times higher than other ages, a new report has found. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare from 2022 to 2023, the proportion of young people aged 18 to 24 who drank alcohol monthly decreased from 34 per cent to 29 per cent.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 05/11/2024, Peter Mitchell

Australian researchers are offering free health screens to form a better picture of the state of people's lungs. It's hoped the research will shed new insight into deadly lung cancers that aren't caused by smoking as smoking rates drop across Australia.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Online school a lifeline as Madeline battles illness

Age, General News, 06/11/2024, Alex Crowe, Page 10

In 2022, six weeks into year 11, Arkinstall began to experience such extreme exhaustion that just getting off the couch was a challenge. She said she could manage attending class at her mainstream school only about one day a week. Within weeks, doctors had diagnosed her with chronic fatigue syndrome. But having a diagnosis didn't make attending school any easier.

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

Teen blood pressure risk to adult health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/11/2024, Page 3

People who have high blood pressure in their teens are less likely to be able to revert to a healthy blood pressure and maintain it through adulthood. Researchers, including scientists from the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, tested the blood pressure of 2918 people nine times over 38 years, from ages 6-12 and 39-56.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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Back from death's door

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 06/11/2024, Lucy Crock, Page 9

Leopold's Martin Mileham was just 36 when he was diagnosed with a rare disease that left him at death's door and in need of a new set of lungs. Mr Mileham was under no illusions when he was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) in 1995 it was the same illness that had killed his mother just years earlier.

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The Illawarra town with highest melanoma rate

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 06/11/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 2

Wollongong and Shellharbour are not on the government's new list of melanoma hotspots across NSW, but Kiama makes an appearance at number 12 on the list. A map released by the Cancer Institute NSW shows Ballina, Lismore, Byron, Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour local government areas have the state's highest rates of melanoma, with almost 350 cases projected to be diagnosed in those areas in 2024.

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

60 hours per week sitting

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 06/11/2024, Page 6

Between long commutes, Zoom-packed workdays and evenings of streaming and scrolling, millennials now spend more than 60 hours per week sitting, potentially boosting their heart disease risk and accelerating other signs of ageing. A University of Colorado Boulder study in the US explored how prolonged sitting impacts health.

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Head gets in the way of recovery

Medical Forum, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 4

Muscle activation in people suffering from hip osteoarthritis might be a case of mind over matter, according to new Edith Cowan University research. ECU post-doctoral research fellow Dr Myles Murphy investigated muscle function in people with hip osteoarthritis and found that these patients were unable to activate their muscles as efficiently.

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

From the family farm to cancer unit

Medical Forum, General News, 01/11/2024, Cathy O'Leary, Page 9

A medical oncologist who grew up in regional WA has become the face of a new campaign from the Hospital Research Foundation Group to highlight its activities in the State. Dr Tom Ferguson, who works at Fiona Stanley Hospital specialising in genitourinary and colorectal cancer management, received critical funding for clinical trials into treatment for men with advanced prostate cancer.

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

Restoring a 'sense of self'

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/11/2024, John Piggott, Page 24

Around the nation people living with brain injuries, the effects of stroke, Parkinson's disease, dementia and trauma are finding healing, harmony and fun through music. "There's lots of research about how music activates the different communication centres in the brain," said Heather Stapley, a Scottish-born conductor who runs the Survivors Choir on the NSW Central Coast.

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

The many faces of Paula

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/11/2024, Eileen Wood, Page 4

Paula has volunteered with more charities than there's time or space to mention, however, a recent partnership is with WomenCan, an organisation dedicated to advancing research on gynaecological cancer. Each year, approximately 6777 women in Australia are diagnosed with gynaecological cancers, the third most common type of cancer in women.

Imugene hails 2-year “complete response” in cancer trial

West Australian, Other, 05/11/2024, Doug Bright

Clinical-stage immuno-oncology company Imugene is celebrating more than two years' "complete response" for one of its bile tract cancer trial therapy subjects in its CF33 MAST VAXINIA study. [...] Overall, the study aims to recruit cancer patients across about 10 trial sites in the United States and Australia and now, in view of the safety clearance, Imugene continues to enrol into the bile tract cancer expansion of the MAST trial.

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

[Read More](#)

In an era of remarkable cancer advances, getting a second opinion can help guide choices and provide valuable reassurance

The Guardian, Other, 06/11/2024, Ranjana Srivastava

The aftermath of a cancer diagnosis is so overwhelming that patients often find themselves adrift. The abundance of gratuitous advice – about everything from genetics and lifestyle to mood and food – adds more pressure, making it understandable when patients crave simplicity.

[Read More](#)

New data shines a light on the melanoma hotspots in NSW

9News, Other, 05/11/2024, Yashee Sharma, Miriah Davis & Mikala Theocharous

The Cancer Institute NSW has revealed the top hotspots for melanoma across the state. Melanoma is one of the most common cancers among young Australians and the third-most diagnosed cancer in NSW.

[Read More](#)

Victorians warned to brace for extreme pollen levels

9News, Other, 05/11/2024, Allannah Sciberras

Melbourne's grass pollen levels are expected to reach extreme levels today, with hay fever and asthma sufferers warned to take care. The grass pollen forecast for majority of the state is "extreme" today, while the Mallee and West and South Gippsland remain on "high".

[Read More](#)

Call for clubs, bosses to treat deadly cancer seriously

Daily Liberal, Other, 05/11/2024, Luke Costin

Having escaped a near-death experience, Anne Gately is keenly aware of the damage the sun can do to Australians. So the stage-four melanoma survivor is not content with the lukewarm approach adopted by too many businesses and sporting clubs.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

How tattoos could raise the risk of cancer, doctors reveal - as experts warn of the particular colour that may be more harmful

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 05/11/2024, Pat Hagan

When doctors in Australia discovered a hard mass in the breast of a 36-year-old woman known to have genetic risk factors for cancer, they immediately performed a biopsy, fearing she had an aggressive tumour. But tests quickly revealed it wasn't cancer. But tests quickly revealed it wasn't cancer. It was a blob of tattoo ink – the patient was heavily tattooed and some of the ink had collected in a gland in the breast, mimicking the appearance of a tumour, the surgeons reported in a medical journal in 2022.

[Read More](#)

'High risk': Melanoma hotspots revealed, as four Hunter areas make top 25

Newcastle Herald, Other, 05/11/2024, Damon Cronshaw

Four Hunter areas have made the top 25 melanoma hotspots in NSW, amid calls for more shade in high-risk areas like community sport venues. Three of the region's areas slipped slightly down the Cancer Institute NSW rankings, but Maitland moved out of the top 25 and Cessnock came in.

[Read More](#)

Concerning heart health risks in Nicholls highlight regional health disparities in Victoria

Shepparton News Online, Other, 05/11/2024, Nicola Ceccato

A recent report has shed light on the alarming health gap between regional and metropolitan areas, with Nicholls facing particularly worrying cardio metabolic risks. [...] According to the Heart Foundation's Heart Maps, the prevalence of smoking, high blood pressure, insufficient exercise and obesity within Greater Shepparton is above both the national and state level rate.

[Read More](#)

'Extreme pollen levels' hit Border, spark hay fever, asthma warning

The Border Mail, Other, 05/11/2024, Ted Howes

A new grass pollen monitoring system in Albury showed counts of up to 100 grass grains per cubic metre of air on November 5; more than 50 is considered high. [...] Latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data released by the National Asthma Council Australia showed asthma deaths increased in NSW in one year by 20 per cent.

[Read More](#)

Is 'acinar neoplasm' a better name for early-stage prostate cancer?

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/11/2024, Paul Smith

Australian doctors are part of a push to rename a cancer so common it could be seen as a 'normal feature' of ageing'. Early-stage prostate cancers could be rebranded 'acinar neoplasm' in an attempt to reduce anxiety and unnecessary treatment, according to an international group of experts.

[Read More](#)

Cutting cervical cancer rates in Pacific

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/11/2024

UNSW Sydney has received a record \$25.9 million donation from UK's Swire Group to support cervical cancer screening and treatment for over 130,000 women across seven Pacific nations. The funding, the largest philanthropic gift in UNSW's history, will enable the Kirby Institute to collaborate with regional partners to address one of the Pacific's most deadly yet preventable cancers.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 05/11/2024, Jeremy Fernandez

A new list of melanoma hotspots has been released, and much of North NSW is again at the top of the table. Ballina, Lismore, Byron, Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour have the highest rates per capita. Sutherland, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Tweed, Kempsey and Richmond Valley round out the top ten.

Also reported by: ABC (Regional NSW)

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 05/11/2024, Craig Reucassel

The latest melanoma hotspots have been announced with areas in North NSW again topping the list. The Cancer Institute says UV radiation is high for ten months of the year, so it's a reminder to wear sun protection. Melanoma rates in NSW have remained fairly steady for the past ten years, but mortality has decreased.

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PRIMARY CARE

PM ignites survival strategy with high risks attached

The Australian, General News, 06/11/2024, Paul Kelly, Page 1

Speaking as opposition leader, Anthony Albanese said: "Labor created Medicare universal healthcare. We created the NDIS universal support for disability. We created superannuation universal retirements for workers. And, if I'm prime minister, I will make quality, affordable childcare universal too." This is Albanese's vision. It is highly likely he will enshrine this at the heart of his 2025 campaign.

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Water providers tapped to pay off COVID debt

Age, General News, 06/11/2024, Rachel Eddie, Page 1

Public water companies providing essential services to Victorian homes are paying off the state's COVID-19 debts under Treasurer Tim Pallas' new repayment plan to help repair the government's finances. [...] "Distributions from government business enterprises are reinvested through the budget, helping to fund important infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and roads and vital services that Victorian families rely on," a government spokeswoman said.

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Each-way bets have no winners for PM

Age, General News, 06/11/2024, Ross Gittins, Page 22

I try not to be a polly basher we get the politicians we deserve but I can't remember a time when I've been more disillusioned and disheartened by the performance of both major parties. [...] You can see this in the government's changes to gambling advertising, Medicare bulk-billing, the adequate taxation of mining and gas, the National AntiCorruption Commission (no public hearings), the housing crisis, vocational education and training, aged care and so forth.

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

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Hospital review fails to stop dad's justice fight

West Australian, General News, 06/11/2024, Hannah Cross, Page 12

The father of Sandipan Dhar has welcomed news a coroner will probe the circumstances of his son's death at Joondalup Health Campus after an independent review of the hospital cleared it of any wrongdoing. The review was ordered following the 21-month-old's death in March, which came after two presentations at the emergency department in which his parents begged for the blood test which could have diagnosed his leukaemia, and potentially saved his life.

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Burns, surgery, COVID: battle after kitchen blast

Newcastle Herald, General News, 06/11/2024, Anna Falkenmire, Page 2

A young woman who was hospitalised with serious burns after a commercial kitchen explosion has battled through surgery, stints in intensive care and a COVID infection in the week since she was hurt. Jordana Hibbard, better known to friends and family as Jordy, was working at Six String Brewing Company at Erina on the Central Coast on October 28 when there was a gas explosion.

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

How to travel safely with meds

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/11/2024, Eileen Wood, Page 37

In recent years at least two Australians have been detained at Indonesian airports for having ADHD medications on them. An Englishman was arrested in the United Arab Emirates for arriving with too much anti-anxiety medication and a woman was jailed in Egypt for entering the country with Tramadol pain killers for her Egyptian partner.

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Victoria's secret \$50 million hospital top-up revealed

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 05/11/2024, Annika Smethurst & Broede Carmody

The state health minister sought more than \$50 million in extra funding for hospitals including the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre to cover the government's share of public-private partnership blowouts after inflation soared to levels "not seen for decades". The revelation, contained in documents released under freedom of information laws, further exposes the precarious state of health funding in Victoria last year.

[Read More](#)

Joondalup Health Campus: External review recommends children's ED overhaul, but no blame for Sandipan's death

West Australian, Other, 05/11/2024, Hannah Cross

An independent review ordered in the wake of toddler Sandipan Dhar's death at Joondalup Health Campus recommended an overhaul of its paediatric emergency department — but cleared the hospital of wrongdoing. The death of 21-month-old Sandipan in March came after two presentations at the ED in which his desperate parents begged for the blood test which could have diagnosed his leukaemia, and potentially saved his life.

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

[Read More](#)

Royal Darwin, Darwin Private hospitals affected by 4G issues, insider worried about patient care

Northern Territory News, Other, 05/11/2024, Alex Treacy

Staff at the Royal Darwin Hospital and Darwin Private Hospital say the temporary loss of Telstra 4G connectivity at the Tiwi campus is making their jobs more difficult. The ongoing loss of Telstra 4G connectivity at Darwin's Tiwi hospitals is affecting patient care, a health insider says, questioning why the telco didn't schedule the planned maintenance before the 3G network was shut off.

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

[Read More](#)

Taxpayer cost of Western Hospital sale still to be tallied

Adelaide Now, Other, 05/11/2024, Brad Crouch

The taxpayer tab for saving the Western Hospital at Henley Beach will continue to rise for the next three years as the state government uses the facility to free up space in public hospitals. However the total forecast cost remains unknown, even to the government.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Ambulance response times under scrutiny in regional Victoria

Shepparton News Online, Other, 05/11/2024, Ryan Bellingham

An update on below-target emergency response times in the region is expected in the coming weeks, with Ambulance Victoria due to release its annual report. Last year's annual report said 55.3 per cent of code one responses, which are assigned to the most urgent calls, occurred within 15 minutes or less in Campaspe.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 05/11/2024, Peter Mitchell

Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas has been caught asking for secret funding to top up hospital budgets and cover future blow-outs. The almost \$200m ask wasn't made public until it was revealed through a Freedom of Information request. The Vic Government says the secret Treasury request was caused by record inflation.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 05/11/2024, Leon Delaney

Interview Dr Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of GPs, regarding last night's Stronger Medicare Awards where the best of Australia's general practitioners were recognised for their efforts. Higgins says Canberra GP Dr Andrew Palfreman was recognised for his work through Covid-19, in setting up his practice to be a safe space to treat infectious patients. She adds the other practice that was celebrated was the Next Practice in Deakin because of the model that it uses that delivers highly skilled multidisciplinary care teams with pharmacists, social workers, diabetic educators, oral hygienists and allied health.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Breakfast, 05/11/2024, Will Goodings & David Penberthy

Following the announcement of the closure of the Oncology Day Clinic at Western Hospital on Friday, the dedicated nurses of the clinic have been working to transfer all patients scheduled to attend the clinic's new facility to new facilities. [...] Western Hospital has obtained the consent of most patients, with appointments scheduled at the clinic through May 2025 to transfer their medical records to a new provider.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Qantas union boss quits after split

The Australian, General News, 06/11/2024, Robyn Ironside, Page 2

The head of a key Qantas union has quit after a bitter court battle with fellow officials from his Australian Licensed Aircraft Engineers Association, who moved a no-confidence motion against him. [...] Although the bullying complaint was discontinued, Steve Purvinas succeeded in getting a WorkCover order stating he could not have direct contact with the eight executives for "mental health reasons".

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

Mental health system in urgent need of repair

The Australian, Business News, 06/11/2024, Joseph Healy, Page 20

After close to 40 years in banking, running the largest business bank in Australia before embarking on the exhilarating journey of building Judo Bank with others, I have now decided to dedicate my time and energy to the mental health sector. I have long held an interest in mental health, particularly in the role of psychological stress in certain cancer types, triggered by the death of my father from stomach cancer at the young age of 63 some 20 years ago.

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

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Red as owing pains go mental

Herald Sun, General News, 06/11/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 13

Australia's debt helpline has experienced a surge in demand, particularly among people who have "never sought help before", sparking concerns about the nation's growing mental health toll. Calls and messages to the National Debt Helpline have jumped 13 per cent in the past 12 months, while Beyond Blue said it has to be "smarter" to meet demand for its services.

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

The system let poor Ella down

Courier Mail, General News, 06/11/2024, Danica Clayton, Page 4

Ella Catley-Crawford died on Sunday, a week after attempting to take her own life amid horrific bullying. The "bright and quirky" student was thrilled when she earned an academic scholarship to prestigious

girls school Lourdes Hill at the start of the year. But, after just one term, she became the victim of a catfishing scheme orchestrated by other girls, who shared her photos across social media, leading to bullying, isolation and a mental health battle.

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

Mind over matter for resources recruitment

West Australian, Business News, 06/11/2024, Simone Grogan, Page 21

Rio Tinto is hoping a small-scale pilot program hiring interns with autism spectrum disorder will help deepen the talent pool needed to meet a skills shortage in the resources industry. In a new report to be released Thursday, the mining giant and big four consultant EY say the resources sector should be embracing "neurodivergent talent" and doing more to make the industry more inclusive.

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

Modern ways to look after your mates

Canberra Times, General News, 06/11/2024, Shane Muller, Page 14

Research shows that mental health issues are on the rise, so it is clear that we need a new strategy - one that acknowledges Australians' social nature. As we mark International Stress Awareness Day on November 6, it's a timely reminder that community-centred support networks, bolstered by technology, can transform our mental health approach. At SafeWatch, we believe sustainable mental health support must resonate with Australia's collective spirit.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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An inspiration to everyone

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/11/2024, Harry Brill, Page 3

Receiving his award from afar in Europe, Michael Foley has been a longstanding supporter of supporting senior citizens and their mental wellbeing. In 2014, Mr Foley founded Seniors Of Excellence NT, dedicated to inspiring senior citizens to share their valuable expertise and see the value of achievement that comes through community service.

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The one food you should avoid if you suffer from depression

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/11/2024, Tracy Swartz, Page 29

Researchers have long been highlighting the importance of the gut-brain connection the idea that the gut and brain constantly communicate through an intricate network of nerves and chemical signals. The brain signals the gut to prepare for food digestion, while stress can trigger signals that cause gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea or diarrhoea.

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

Debt's a real downer

Cairns Post, General News, 06/11/2024, Page 4

The national debt helpline has seen a surge in demand and Australians who have "never sought help before" are reaching out, prompting concerns about the growing mental health toll. Calls and messages to the National Debt Helpline have jumped 13 per cent in the past 12 months, while Beyond Blue said they had to be "smarter" to meet demand for their services.

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

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

Kaydence failed by broken system

Cairns Post, General News, 06/11/2024, Peta McEachern, Page 8

Murdered toddler Kaydence Mills should never have been left in the unsupervised care of her mother and killer stepfather where she was neglected, beaten, and left to die on a couch, according to basic policies and procedures of the Department of Child Safety. [...] The CSO who had Kaydence's case

when she was reunified with her mother testified he worked extensively with Ms Dawita over a long period of time and she proved time again that she loved her child and was good at caring for her.

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Schoolgirl bullied to death

Cairns Post, General News, 06/11/2024, Shayla Bulloch & Judith Kerr, Page 11

Ella Catley-Crawford was a "bright and quirky" girl who earned an academic scholarship at all-girls' schools, Lourdes Hill, at the start of the year, but her joy was short-lived. After just one term, Ella became the victim of an online catfishing scheme orchestrated by other girls who shared her photos across social media, leading to bullying, isolation and a mental health battle.

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

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

The controversial dating app hack 400,000 Australians have tried

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 05/11/2024, Penry Buckley

On social media platforms such as Reddit, people have expressed horror at AI's use in a romantic context, while others have noted how helpful it may be for those with trouble communicating. When asked about the ethics of using AI-generated messages, Australian dating experts and psychologists offer a mixed response.

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'In distress': The hotter it gets, more youngsters get suicidal thoughts

Newcastle Herald, Other, 05/11/2024, Damon Cronshaw

Almost 6000 young people aged 12 to 24 presented to emergency departments for mental health problems in Hunter New England in 2022/23. The figure amounted to a rise of 33 per cent in a decade. The soaring rate of mental health among this age group has been attributed to social media addiction, climate change concerns and financial pressure.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Push to give nurses, physios bigger roles

The Australian, General News, 06/11/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 6

Nurse practitioners, pharmacists and allied health professionals should be funded to carry out a greater array of healthcare including maternity care in GP clinics under calls for major reforms to health workers' scope of practice. [...] The recommendations were met with jubilation by nurses and allied healthcare groups, but peak doctors' groups are warning of a move towards an "NHS-style system" that may pose risks.

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

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Nurse burnout bad for healthcare

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/11/2024, Page 3

Nurse burnout is linked to lower healthcare quality and safety and lower patient satisfaction, according to a Spanish review that looked at data from 32 countries, including Australia. Across 85 studies, the review found that nurse burnout was linked to lower patient safety, more hospital-acquired infections, more patient falls and medication errors.

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Viral image exposes preventable crisis gripping city once considered paradise

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/11/2024, Shannon Molloy

Anglicare Australia last month released its latest Rental Affordability Snapshot, analysing more than 45,100 for-lease listings across the country. Using the measure of affordability, being dwelling costs of less than 30 per cent of a household's income, it found teachers, nurses, ambulance officers and aged care workers would struggle to live without breaking the bank.

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

[Read More](#)

Albanese pledges free TAFE to help ease workforce shortages

Nursing Review, Other, 05/11/2024, Stefanie Schultz

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) has welcomed the proposal, with union federal secretary Annie Butler saying the move has the potential to address skills shortages in the nursing and aged care workforces. "TAFE courses have proven to be a success in providing students with 'hands-on' training and placements in relevant healthcare settings, helping build the nation's nursing and aged care workforce, to meet the needs of our growing, ageing population," Ms Butler said.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

In brief

Medical Forum, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 8

Specialist GP Dr Ramya Raman has been awarded Advocate of the Year 2024 by the AMA WA in recognition of her work promoting general practice. Professor of Indigenous Genomics at The Kids Research Institute Australia Professor Alex Brown has become a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

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'A bit overwhelmed': health equity advocate nominated for top award

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 05/11/2024, Sophia Baker

Receiving a nomination for one of the country's most prestigious award wasn't something Carolyn Cooper was expecting. [...] Dr Cooper was one of the original founding members of the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine.

[Read More](#)

Only connect: Dr Caitlin Sum says she's brought 2000 GPs and specialists together

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/11/2024, Carmel Sparke

When Dr Caitlin Sum set up a social media group for GPs and other specialists to share referral advice and waiting times, she would have been thrilled if 100 people had joined. She originally created the Adelaide GP Referral Network Facebook group in 2020 to bridge the gap between GPs needing to refer a patient to a specialist and the doctors available.

[Read More](#)

Change at the top at Medicines Australia

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/11/2024

Dr Anna Lavelle has announced her departure as Chair of Medicines Australia, ending a tenure marked by significant governance and strategic advances. Dr Lavelle, who joined as an independent Director in 2017 and became Chair in 2018, will complete her term in early 2025.

[Read More](#)

Spotlight on rural health

This National Rural Health Month, the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) is celebrating healthcare success stories, and raising awareness of healthcare issues facing rural, regional, and remote communities in Australia. The Alliance also wants to bring attention to the challenges that those Australians face in accessing adequate healthcare.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 05/11/2024, Craig Reucassel

Nurses and midwives at three private hospitals in Sydney will stop work this week to demand pay and conditions in line with their public sector colleagues. There will be a three-hour stop work this morning at the Northern Beaches Hospital, while nurses and midwives at Nepean and Norwest Private Hospitals will stop work on Thursday.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Labor vote-buying will cost us

The Australian, Editorials, 06/11/2024, Page 10

As we reported, economists are warning the Prime Minister against any more cost-of-living giveaways because a loosening of the government's fiscal strategy will further delay interest rate cuts, keep inflation higher for longer, and saddle the nation with higher debt and households and small businesses with elevated interest rates for longer. [...] Another example is the decision to indefinitely defer 45 medicines from being listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, to the detriment of cancer patients and sufferers of other chronic diseases.

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

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JMM dines on diverse opportunity at Sydneyside luncheon

The Australian, Other, 05/11/2024

Blinklab is a trailblazer in digital healthcare, leveraging AI and machine learning in mobile applications to revolutionise neurodevelopmental condition diagnosis like ASD and ADHD. After successfully listing earlier this year, BlinkLab has rapidly expanded its strategic JVs and partnerships globally, providing a platform to commence FDA approvals before the end of 2024.

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

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Optiscan inks deal with Monash Uni to progress GI scope

The Australian, Other, 05/11/2024

Optiscan has inked a deal with Melbourne-based Monash University that will help the medtech advance its project to develop the next-gen gastrointestinal flexible endomicroscope and Edge-AI-enabled technology. The agreement represents a further extension of the long standing relationship Optiscan (ASX:OIL) has with Monash, with the company's technology originally created at the university.

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

[Read More](#)

Huge gap in category X safe dispensing

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 05/11/2024, Debbie Rigby

Nearly four in five women may not be using effective contraception while taking teratogenic medications, a study examining PBS medicines dispensing has uncovered. A new study has found low

rates of highly effective hormonal contraceptive overlap among women dispensed teratogenic medications and pharmacists are in a crucial position to intervene, says its lead author.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Medicare more Aussie than Vegemite (and a crowdpleaser too)

West Australian, General News, 06/11/2024, Patrick Gorman, Page 42

Medicare is now more Australian than Vegemite. It is the fair go. It is egalitarian. It is mates helping mates. And, unlike Vegemite, the rest of the world is envious that we have this system. And it isn't lost on me that I'm incredibly fortunate to have been born in Australia at a time that we've had a universal healthcare system.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Deplorable': nurse slammed therapy doll dementia patient believed was real baby on table, NSW tribunal hears

The Guardian, Other, 06/11/2024, Natasha May

An aged care nurse who slammed a dementia patient's therapy doll on a table and laughed at the distressed patient who believed it was a real baby has been found to have been "callous and deplorable". Sudiksha Ahuja was found guilty in August of unsatisfactory professional conduct after being prosecuted by the Health Care Complaints Commission before the New South Wales civil and administrative tribunal, the commission said in a statement on Tuesday. On Monday, the commission cancelled Ahuja's registration as an enrolled nurse.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Andrew Forrest backs health start-up Verge Genomics fight against ageing

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/11/2024, Jared Lynch

Alzheimer's disease and obesity might not appear to have much in common. But Verge Genomics, a start-up that has secured backing from Andrew Forrest, is developing treatments for both. Just like our

risk of cognitive diseases like Alzheimers increases as we age, so does our chance of becoming more obese, and this is Verge Genomics' founder and chief executive Alice Zhang's sweet spot.

[Read More](#)

TGA lets Lifeblood produce first faecal transplants for use outside of clinical trials

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/11/2024, Mohana Basu

Faecal microbiota transplant will now be available to patients outside clinical trials. Red Cross Lifeblood has received Australia's first approval to produce faecal microbiota transplants for treating *Clostridioides difficile* outside of a clinical trial.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Taking cultural healthcare to heart

The Australian, Higher Education, 06/11/2024, James Dowling, Page 21

In a bid to better educate young doctors and curb Indigenous health disparities, Monash University will enrol rural health students with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates three in 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people do not access necessary healthcare.

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

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Indigenous mental health service shake-up

Newcastle Herald, General News, 06/11/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 12

An indigenous mental health service for children and young people at James Fletcher Hospital is set to lose its home base, with staff to be split up. Hunter New England Health confirmed the proposed changes to the service, named Wiyiliin Ta. The Aboriginal service treats youngsters aged two to 18, a senior health professional source said.

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Queensland government issues cease notice to Truth-Telling Inquiry

The Australian, Other, 05/11/2024, Mackenzie Scott

The Queensland government has formally issued a cease notice to the state's Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry, ordering an immediate end to hearings. Chairman of the Inquiry, Joshua Creamer, was given the advice on Monday evening by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Fiona Simpson, on her first full day in the position.

[Read More](#)

Wadjemup ceremony helps WA grapple with its dark history

West Australian, Other, 05/11/2024, Emma Garlett

New Queensland Premier David Crisafulli has got it terribly wrong by calling off that State's Truth-Telling and Hearing Inquiry, just months after it began its important work in examining the untold histories of Indigenous people. [...] About 3700 Aboriginal prisoners were held at the Island from 1838 to 1931. They were subject to cruel, inhumane treatment and kept in squalid conditions.

[Read More](#)

Community makes their voices heard on the cultural impact of climate change

National Indigenous Times, Other, 05/11/2024, Jazmin Bingham

As a proud Gomeri Aboriginal woman, I have seen firsthand the effects of climate change and how it

is heavily impacting not only my people but also marginalised Indigenous communities more broadly. I conducted surveys with Indigenous people ranging in age from 15 to 50 to gather their thoughts.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Merri Creek virus a new phage in war on superbugs

Age, General News, 06/11/2024, Bianca Hall, Page 2

Researchers from Monash University, working in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, have discovered in Merri Creek water a previously unknown bacteriophage, which kills a common superbug found in hospitals worldwide. That superbug, *Klebsiella*, is increasingly resistant to antibiotics and can cause pneumonia, wound infections and even meningitis in patients it infects.

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

Pill testing gets the LNP tick for Schoolies

Courier Mail, General News, 06/11/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 4

The LNP government has conceded that it's too late to go ahead with its planned ban on the drug testing. "Our position remains that there is no safe way to take drugs and pill testing sends the wrong message," a spokesman from Health Minister Tim Nicholls' office said. "The contract for pill testing at Schoolies this year was a contract let by the previous government.

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

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Amazon: ignoring nukes a bad play

Northern Territory News, Business News, 06/11/2024, Tansy Harcourt, Page 14

In June Peter Dutton came out with a long-awaited energy policy differentiator from the Albanese government which is firmly against nuclear by announcing it would build seven reactors, many to be located at former or current coal power plants, declaring the first could be open in the next decade. There are two federal laws that prevent nuclear power the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998 as well as individual state legislation.

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

Albo's scary truth

The Nightly, General News, 05/11/2024, Isabelle Mullen, Page 17

Peter Dutton has promised to deliver a nuclear energy policy if elected and says there will be seven nuclear reactors nationwide. But simple questions on how much it will cost, how long it will take to deliver and what will happen to the nuclear waste have not yet been answered.

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Ketamine is becoming more of a problem across Australia, wastewater sampling reveals

West Australian, Other, 06/11/2024, John Flint

Ketamine is being increasingly abused across Australia's cities and regions according to the latest wastewater sampling across the country. The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) reported detection levels of the dissociative anesthetic reached "record high levels" in samples collected in April.

[Read More](#)

Homicide detectives investigate death of man who consumed frog toxins and ayahuasca at NSW spiritual retreat

Homicide detectives are investigating the death of a man who consumed a cocktail of Amazonian "medicines" at a spiritual retreat in northern New South Wales three years ago. [...] Antonovich was living in Lismore and writing about his spiritual healing journey after acquiring brain injuries as a young man. He was widely described as a gentle and compassionate soul.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 05/11/2024, Jennifer Keyte

The number of drug overdose deaths in Victoria has risen to more than double the state's annual road toll, as shocking data reveals a drastic increase. The Government will trial pill testing this festival season, but advocates say it's taken too long and still might not be enough to save lives.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 05/11/2024, Sonya Feldhoff & Jules Schiller

Interview with Dr Rodney Pearce, Chairman of the Board, Immunisation Coalition, regarding figures showing only 54 per cent of Australians feel that influenza is a serious disease while 55% did not see vaccination as much of a benefit. Pearce says the low vaccination rates could be related to the recent COVID-19 issues and people are forgetting that the flu is a very nasty disease because they haven't had it for three years.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 05/11/2024, Leon Compton

Scientists say they've found a new way to fight mosquitoes-spread diseases by turning the male insects deaf so they struggle to mate and breed. Mosquitoes breed while flying mid-air, and the males rely on hearing to chase down a female based on her attractive wing beats.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 05/11/2024, Sarah MacDonald

Scientists from the University of New South Wales and the University of Technology Sydney have developed a new test that allows them to identify specific strains of whooping cough in circulation without having to culture live bacteria. Data from the Vic Department of Health shows there has been a tenfold increase in the number of whooping cough cases in 2024 in all states and territories compared to last year. They hope the test will play a crucial role in improving both the management of the current outbreak and future vaccine development.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

How a watch helped save David's life

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/11/2024, Eileen Wood, Page 26

Two years ago the usually fit and healthy lawyer, David Heidtman, was feeling very unwell. The 74-year-old had not long returned from a trip to the Kimberleys followed by a cruise from Broome to Darwin with his wife Lesley and some friends. [...] Some watches are registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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Health Check: Which biotech boards are at risk of a 'second strike'?

The Australian, Other, 05/11/2024, Tim Boreham

Breastest is being sold under the lab-developed assay route, a stepping stone to full Therapeutic Goods Administration approval that requires the imprimatur of the National Association of Testing

Authorities (NATA). BCAL had flagged a calendar 2024 launch, but it was delayed for "several weeks" as NATA asked for more information after having a squiz at the company's lab in North Ryde, Sydney.

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

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Why are people putting castor oil in their belly buttons?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/11/2024, Mia Erickson

The seemingly harmless practice of rubbing castor oil all over one's stomach – or, 'naval puling' – before bed has taken off across TikTok and Instagram. [...] Since 1991, castor oil has been listed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for its ability to decrease, reduce, or relieve constipation.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Council gets the 'hard tooth' from doctors

Cairns Post, General News, 06/11/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 5

The lifelong burdens of poor oral health have compelled a Far North GP to call for Cairns' water supply to be fluoridated, arguing that the process will avoid "tragic" consequences for vulnerable residents. Dr Steve Salleras is one of three GPs who will provide a deputation to Cairns Regional Council on Wednesday morning, urging councillors to consider the public health measure.

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

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Sore point

Cairns Post, General News, 06/11/2024, Page 14

Just like a gnawing toothache, Cairns Mayor Amy Eden's refusal to meet with Far North health experts regarding water fluoridation will likely cause lingering pain for months to come. In a letter to Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, Ms Eden declined an offer to sit down with clinicians and discuss the public health measure which the council has the power to adopt.

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PFAS linked to gut health issues in young adults, new study finds

The Guardian, Other, 05/11/2024, Tom Perkins

A new study links toxic PFAS "forever chemical" exposure in young adults to reduced gut health, which researchers suspect is a driver of kidney disease later in life. Kidney disease is one of the well-established health problems linked to PFAS exposure, and the new research suggests changes in gut

bacteria and associated metabolites caused by the chemicals seems to be responsible for up to 50 per cent of a decrease in kidney function seen over a four-year period.

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