



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 10th November 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)
| [Vaccines](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |
[First Nations Health](#) | [Interim Australian CDC](#) | [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#)
| [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#) | [AICIS](#)

LINKS

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 1) reports a group of mothers who have lost a child to suicide due to social media bullying have backed legislation for a social media ban for children under 16, with one mother labelling it as a “great step forward”.
- **[The Sunday Tasmanian](#)** (page 3) reports a rise in non-genetic diseases like MND has led to concerns being raised over the water quality of catchments operated by TasWater, with Parkinson’s physician Dr Frank Nicklason saying “such a major increase in MND cases over a short time frame must be related to environmental factors”.
- **[The Sunday Tasmanian](#)** (page 4) reports Tasmania has reported over 91,000 additional bulk-billed GP visits in the past year following increased rebates for doctors and 87 additional Urgent Care Clinics built across the country following Health Minister Mark Butler’s 2023 health budget.
- **[The Sun Herald](#)** (page 5) reports free RSV vaccinations will be provided for pregnant mothers between 28 – 36 weeks and babies of unvaccinated mothers, with Health Minister Mark Butler saying the program will reduce hospitalisations by approximately 10,000 per year. *Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun](#), [Sunday Age](#), [Sunday Telegraph](#), [Sunday Tasmanian](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide](#), [ABC](#)*

- **The Age** (page 5) reports federal health department officials have said they don't keep track of the individual number of vapes sold by pharmacists as figures show vapes were dispensed 3500 times in the first month since a ban was instated. In response to criticism from the Opposition over the policy, Health Minister Mark Butler said its purpose was to stop young people smoking, saying "Vape stores around the country are closing, and, importantly, young Australians are saying they are finding it harder to purchase vapes".
- **ABC Online** reports mental health advocates in the NT are calling for more culturally safe mental health services as a lack of specialist and culturally-appropriate services are disproportionately affecting indigenous and CALD communities.
- **The Sunday Herald Sun** (page 6) reports a study has linked Australia's faster broadband speeds resulting from the NBN rollout to a 6.6 per cent rise in obesity, with Monash University senior author Dr Klaus Ackermann calling for more public health campaigns around the issue. Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Mums, bubs to get free vaccine as RSV spikes

Sun Herald, General News, 10/11/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 5

All pregnant women and their babies will be able to access free protection from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) before winter after a spike of 37,000 extra cases in Australia this year. [...] Cases surged nationwide this year: there were 165,130 cases recorded in 2024, up from 128,115 in 2023 and 95,959 in 2022, Health Department data shows.

Also reported by: [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sun Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sun Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#).

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

Australia must protect its vaccination sentiment

Sun Herald, Editorials, 10/11/2024, Page 26

Now that the election of Donald Trump has been confirmed, attention has turned to whom the returning US president will surround himself with for the next four years. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the new program, the most comprehensive in the world, should stop 10,000 babies being hospitalised each year.

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

Free RSV vax for mums, bubs

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 10/11/2024, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 5

Mums and their newborn bubs will get free protection against RSV before winter next year a move that is predicted to keep 10,000 babies out of hospital. [...] "Thanks to the Albanese government, mums and their newborn bubs will have free access to the best and most comprehensive protection against RSV," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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

Bulk-bill strategy boosts GP visits

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 10/11/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 4

Southern Tasmanian patients have taken advantage of increased access to GPs, with a 4.4 per cent increase in bulk-billed visits to the doctor in the electorates of Lyons, Clark and Franklin in October compared with the same time last year. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the 2023 health budget injection had increased rebates, helped fund 87 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics across Australia, and boosted the number of doctors training to become GPs by almost 25 per cent.

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

Price of 'cutting edge' diabetes treatment slashed for millions of Aussies

9News, Other, 09/11/2024

The price of a "cutting edge" diabetes treatment is being slashed for millions of Aussies after being added to the pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS). [...] "This is just another cutting edge treatment that will make the lives of tens of thousands of diabetes patients in Australia better," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

Australia has about 1 million vapers. Chemists consulted them just 3500 times last month

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 09/11/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos

Vapes were dispensed behind-the-counter at pharmacies just 3500 times during the first month of the federal government's scheme to weed out the black market by making them chemist products, despite an estimated 1 million Australians using the devices. Data supplied to Senate estimates reveals the uptake of pharmacy vape prescriptions was slow in October, the first month that e-cigarettes could be bought after a consultation with a chemist under Health Minister Mark Butler's vaping crackdown

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News (Saturday), 09/11/2024, Georgie Gardner

A new treatment called Sidapvia, which is set to transform the lives of type two diabetes patients, is now on the PBS, halving its price once a day pill. Health Minister Mark Butler says the pill is another cutting-edge treatment that will make the lives of tens of thousands diabetes patients in Australia better.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News (Weekend), 09/11/2024, Tracy Vo

ADHD advocates say the lack of response to a Senate Inquiry into the condition is hurting people and the economy. Discussions were tabled in 2023 with 15 recommendations but so far, the Federal Government hasn't acted. In a statement, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler told nine news the recommendations are being considered and will be responded to in due course but stopped short of saying when exactly that would be.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Nursing a grudge

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 10/11/2024, Julie Cross & Annabel Fleming, Page 23

Six in 10 aged care homes are not spending enough time caring for residents, according to the latest figures, with some providers so desperate to meet targets they've resorted to flying staff in and out of cities. [...] In an open letter to providers, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells issued a warning about performance, saying providers had received a significant uplift in funding since October 2022 to help pay for staff.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Mums, bubs to get free vaccine as RSV spikes

Sun Herald, General News, 10/11/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 5

All pregnant women and their babies will be able to access free protection from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) before winter after a spike of 37,000 extra cases in Australia this year. [...] Cases surged nationwide this year: there were 165,130 cases recorded in 2024, up from 128,115 in 2023 and 95,959 in 2022, Health Department data shows.

Also reported by: [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sun Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sun Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#).

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

Room to improve

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 10/11/2024, Julie Cross & Annabel Fleming, Page 63

Six in 10 aged-care homes nationally are not spending enough time caring for residents according to the latest figures, with some providers so desperate to meet targets they've resorted to flying staff in and out from cities. [...] A Department of Aged Care spokeswoman said there had been a steady increase in care minutes delivered since the minimums became mandatory on October 1 last year.

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

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

November 9th, 2024 Help is at hand for seniors feeling isolated

The Local Australia, Other, 09/11/2024, Eve Lamb

Loneliness can be savage on aged people. There is, however, a way to ease it. [...] The scheme is federally funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

VACCINES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Quality guidance must boost evidence-based practice

I commend the Australian Government and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission on the revision of the Aged Care Quality Standards. An increased focus on guiding older consumers into better health pathways through supported reablement and activities to enhance independence not only aligns directly with current evidence, but also offers an equitable alternative to decline.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Fears over water supply

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 10/11/2024, Eleanor de Jong, Page 3

Health and environmental experts in Tasmania are warning of potential risks in southern Tasmania's water supply, pointing to rising rates of nongenetic diseases as an indicator of possible contamination. Parkinson's physician Dr Frank Nicklason has voiced serious concerns regarding water quality in the Derwent Valley, Clarence, Brighton, New Norfolk, Kingborough and Hobart regions, which are all supplied by TasWater's Bryn Estyn water treatment plant.

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

[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

NBN's a speedy link to obesity

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 10/11/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 6

The NBN rollout may have inadvertently increased our waistlines, Melbourne research has found, changing everything from our snack habits to couch time. A Monash University study found access to high-speed internet was associated with increased obesity in Australia, with the link even more pronounced among young adults and males.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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

We need to talk about the m-factor

Cairns Post, Other, 09/11/2024, Eleanor de Jong

When Alexandra from Hobart first walked into her GP's office with symptoms that had left her feeling a shadow of herself, she was hoping for answers. Instead, she left feeling unheard. It would take years before she'd understand that her headaches, muscle aches, fatigue, and brain fog were symptoms of perimenopause, the hormonal transition that billions of women around the world endure in silence.

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

[Read More](#)

Reasons to be hopeful: five ways science is making the world better

The Guardian, Other, 09/11/2024

Half a billion people worldwide live with diabetes. There are different types with different causes, but all lead people to have too much sugar in their blood.

[Read More](#)

Alzheimer diagnosis shifts from symptoms to biomarkers

The New Daily, Other, 09/11/2024, John Elder

In June, the Alzheimer's Association controversially revised its diagnostic criteria. From now on Alzheimer's disease (AD) "should be defined biologically, not based on a clinical syndrome(s)".

PRIMARY CARE

Ransomware a threat to health

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 10/11/2024, Page 20

The World Health Organisation and some 50 countries have issued a warning about the rise of ransomware attacks against hospitals, with the US specifically blaming Russia. Ransomware is a type of digital blackmail in which hackers encrypt the data of victims and demand money as a "ransom" in order to restore it.

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

Touching last message before ending her life

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 10/11/2024, Leah Smith & Luke Williams, Page 3

The mother of Hollywood actor Tilda Cobham-Hervey has used the state's voluntary assisted dying laws to end her life, saying she wanted to "leave the party while it's still going". Local theatre legend Roz Hervey, who was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in late 2022, explained her decision in a heartfelt letter saying the disease had developed quickly over the last three months, and was impacting her breathing.

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

Two years after MND diagnosis, Roz Hervey says farewell before accessing voluntary assisted dying

ABC Online, Other, 09/11/2024, Olivia Mason

Much-loved arts figure Roz Hervey has farewelled friends, family and colleagues. The former dancer, choreographer, director and producer announced her own death in a heartfelt letter.

[Read More](#)

Paramedic says mother lucky to survive after three-hour wait for ambulance

ABC Online, Other, 09/11/2024, Nicole Asher

A Victorian woman was left waiting three hours for an ambulance while suffering a potentially catastrophic brain bleed. In August, Orbost woman Carolyn Vickery — experiencing a headache that left her falling in and out of consciousness — was forced to wait hours for an ambulance to arrive, despite repeated calls to triple-0.

[Read More](#)

The four ministers responsible for delivering David Crisafulli's key election pledge

Cairns Post, Other, 09/11/2024, Taylah Fellows

Four ministers will be sacked if crime victim numbers are not reduced over the next four years, new government documents have revealed, with Finance Minister Ros Bates to act as the Premier's personal surveillance monitor for budget blowouts across all government departments. Ministerial charters listing the KPI's each minister will be held accountable to under Premier David Crisafulli were signed off and published on Friday evening confirming Attorney-General Deb Frecklington, Police Minister Dan Purdie, Youth Justice Minister Laure Gerber and Child Safety Minister Amanda Camm will be held responsible for the delivery of the LNP's foundational election promise - reducing crime victims.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hold the phone: Ban not working

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 10/11/2024, Gideon Meyerowitz-Katz & Matthew B Jané, Page 8

As governments worldwide move to restrict teenagers' access to smartphones and social media, a fierce scientific debate has erupted over whether these digital technologies actually harm young people's mental health. The controversy, sparked by an influential recent book blaming phones for rising youth anxiety, has exposed deep uncertainties in the research evidence - even as policymakers from Arkansas to Australia forge ahead with sweeping bans and restrictions.

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

'We're coming for you' the message for fiends

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 10/11/2024, Rebecca Borg, Page 11

St Patrick's College Ballarat student Rohan Cosgriff was just 17 when he took his own life after being blackmailed by a Nigerian criminal in an evil sextortion scam in 2022. Two years on, his parents Anthony and Beck Cosgriff say not enough is being done to protect young people online and want the government to step up.

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

Power to protect

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 10/11/2024, Cydonee Mardon & Kylie Lang, Page 1

They are a group of devastated mothers in an exclusive club that no parent would ever want to join, yet together they hope they can find a way to stop the senseless wave of suicides that has robbed them of their daughters. Tilly Rosewarne, Charlotte O'Brien and Onyx Rose Lambert were victims of social media bullying who, tragically, all took their own lives.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Jenny's driven to keep staff

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 10/11/2024, Julie Cross, Page 23

Jenny Deer is a prime example of the extreme lengths aged care providers are going to recruit staff to small Australian country towns. She is the CEO of an aged care facility, but over the past two years, she's also had to become a landlady, driving instructor and a taxi driver.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Medicare scammer cops ban

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 10/11/2024, Patrick Billings, Page 19

A Medicare-rotting psychologist has been barred from practising until early next year by a Queensland tribunal. Jeannette Brennan, in her 60s, from Warner in the Moreton Bay Region, was referred to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal for professional misconduct.

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

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

'Shrink' claim scrutiny

Sunday Times, General News, 10/11/2024, John Flint, Page 2

Rogue builder Danny Coyne has caught the attention of authorities over his new occupation as a psychological counsellor treating addicts and other vulnerable patients. The Sunday Times understands the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has looked into complaints it received about Mr Coyne's role at Six Seasons Recovery, a "private holistic rehab and mental health retreat" in Margaret River.

Also reported by: [Sunday Times \(Perth\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Make a play for stars or be left out in the cold

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 10/11/2024, Page 60

Premier David Crisafulli said he knocked back the previous government's plan for an Olympic stadium at QSAC because Queenslanders had told him they didn't want to be embarrassed. He said that as he travelled around the state Queenslanders had been worried about how we were going to look on the world stage hosting the world's greatest sporting event in a second-rate venue in the middle of nowhere.

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

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

4BC, Weekend Breakfast, 09/11/2024, Olympia Kwitowski

Kwitowski points out that Qld Cricket and the Brisbane Lions have urged Qld Premier David Crisafulli to reconsider his ban on building a new Olympic stadium, urging that a proposed 60,000-seat venue at Victoria Park is a better option than rebuilding the Gabba.

[Play Now](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Telstra defends cut off

Sunday Territorian, General News, 10/11/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 5

Telstra has defended itself from claims it placed another health service in a difficult position by pulling the 4G rug out from underneath it, after an Aboriginal health corporation in the remote Barkly said lives had been placed at risk. Earlier this week, this masthead exclusively revealed Darwin's Tiwi campus, which contains Royal Darwin and Darwin Private hospitals, had lost Telstra 4G connectivity, with the telco subsequently admitting it failed to follow proper processes when it switched off the base station for upgrades.

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

Mental health support for NT culturally-diverse and regional communities in 'state of crisis'

ABC Online, Other, 09/11/2024

When Lazarus Manbulloo lost his mother and sister in the space of three years, the weight of his grief sent his life into a spiral. "Given 'mental health' wasn't really in my culture and my life, experiencing that was a really tough time for me," he said.

[Read More](#)

Victoria's treaty: Govt set for tense negotiations after failed Voice referendum

Adelaide Now, Other, 09/11/2024, Alex White & Carly Douglas

Victoria's treaty negotiations are set to begin within days, but sources warn that the process is likely to be protracted with some Indigenous groups still angered by the failed Voice referendum and are "out for blood". Treaty insiders confirmed that the roundtable talks between the state government and dozens of Indigenous groups will kick off on November 21.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Deadly cough spreading like wildfire amid record cases

Daily Liberal, Other, 09/11/2024, William Ton

Australia is in the grips of its worst whooping cough outbreak since the introduction of vaccines as people continue to fall behind on immunisations. More than 41,000 cases of the highly infectious and deadly lung disease have been recorded in the nation so far this year, surpassing the previous annual record of 38,748 in 2011, according to an Immunisation Foundation of Australia report card.

[Read More](#)

Largest whooping cough epidemic since vaccines in 2024: report

Australia is in the grips of the largest whooping cough epidemic since the introduction of vaccines against the potentially fatal lung disease, with more than 41,000 cases recorded since the start of the year. Research by the Immunisation Foundation of Australia found the number of whooping cough cases this year had already smashed the previous record set in 2011 when 38,748 cases were reported.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Bipolar disorder: how lithium as a treatment fell out of favour

The Guardian, Other, 10/11/2024, Christine Ro

Occupational stress is a trigger for Rebecca Wilde, a 32-year-old tech worker in Buckinghamshire. Four years ago, work pressures combined with family issues affected her sleep, leading to a severe manic episode.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

Where does Australia's water supply come from?

Sunday Age, General News, 10/11/2024, Jackson Graham, Page 26

A droplet plummets from a cloud into a forest. It splashes on soaked soil and runs downhill into a stream. The stream flows into a river and then out to a reservoir, where it barely makes a ripple as it joins trillions of litres, all captured within the reservoir's walls in the folds of a valley, until their release.

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

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.
See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)