



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 15th November 2024

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 1) reports Australia's rapid wellness industry boom has seen unqualified and poorly trained practitioners placed in charge of retreats involving therapy and psychedelics, putting patients at risk of being retraumatised, experts have warned.
- [The Age](#) (page 1) reports less than half of Victoria's health services have the required amount of cash available, including some of Melbourne's largest facilities, while three didn't have enough for day-to-day operations, new state parliamentary data has shown. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#), [Herald Sun](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 1) reports Megan Gilmour, co-founder of the charity Missing School, has been named ACT's 2025 Australian of the Year for her advocacy for children at risk of missing school due to chronic illness.
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 1) reports the Australian National University has reduced planned cuts from its College of Health and Medicine from 50 to 13 following union complaints.
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 7) reports ACT public hospital doctors say they are hopeful Fair Work Commission arbitration can end two years of stalemated pay negotiations with the Territory government.

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 9) reports Ambulance Victoria lost \$17 million in transport fees across 2023-24 as union members ceased taking patients' billing details due to ongoing protected industrial action, new parliamentary data has shown.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 12) reports safety fears and burnout risks affecting Queensland's junior doctors are not easing, the latest Australian Medical Association Queensland-ASMOFQ Resident Hospital Health Check has found, with one-third of junior doctors disclosing they are fearful of walking between hospital buildings while on night shift.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Where there's smoke, there's ire over vaping ban

The Australian, General News, 15/11/2024, Jack Marx, Page 11

I was living in the outback when Codeine, the headache drug, was hauled from the reach of the plain people. Some legislator or other had decided it did more harm than good. [...] And now we have the prohibition on vaping, a government strategy designed to "protect Australians against the harm caused by tobacco and vaping products", as Mark Butler, the Minister for Health and Aged Care says.

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### Can't you stop teen vaping without social media?

ABC Online, Other, 14/11/2024

The Federal Government is launching a new anti-vaping program for early high school aged students next year after rates of vaping exploded amongst teenagers during covid-19. But with the social media ban for under 16's on the horizon is it possible to reach young people without social media influence? Guest: Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister Producer: Oliver Gordon Mark Butler also says that we need to stop acting as if big tech companies have different rules to everyone else ABC News: Nick Haggarty

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### Finally, hope for women living with chronic pain. After decades of medical gaslighting, a new drug gets approval - as doctors welcome long-overdue funding

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/11/2024, Mikaela Wilkes

Australia's taxpayer-funded health system, Medicare, is lauded as one of the most robust in the world. Yet ask any woman living with chronic pain how they would rate their standard of care and you would think they were living in a third-world country. [...] It's the first medication addressing the condition that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved in 13 years.

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### Regional access to abortion back in the spotlight

The New Daily, Other, 14/11/2024, Parker McKenzie

The cancellation of abortion services at two regional hospitals has propelled the issue back into the spotlight, although both the Albanese government and the Liberal opposition are backing away from making it an election battleground. Queanbeyan Hospital has ceased performing surgical abortions and a woman was turned away on the day of her planned procedure at the hospital, according to the ABC. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the Albanese government would not revisit the policy ahead of the next federal election.

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### Health warnings to be printed on individual cigarettes

7news.com.au, Other, 14/11/2024, Dominique Tassell

A major change for cigarette packaging is set to come into effect, just over a decade on from Australia's world-first plain packaging changes. [...] "More than 20 countries have followed Australia's lead on plain packaging of cigarettes," Health Minister Mark Butler said earlier this year.

Also reported by: [Thenightly.com.au \(Online\)](#).

## ADA backs call for healthier food advertising for kids

Bite Magazine, Other, 14/11/2024

The Australian Dental Association has joined with more than 40 public health, consumer and community organisations backing a call by Food for Health Alliance for the Federal Government to reduce junk food ads for kids. The ADA has backed a call-out by the Food for Health Alliance to the Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler, to protect children from unhealthy food marketing.

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## Labor, Coalition move to avoid election debate about abortion

CathNews, Other, 14/11/2024, Rebecca Comini

The major parties have moved to avoid an election debate about abortion, with Labor confirming it would not revisit a scrapped policy that would force publicly funded hospitals to provide the procedure to receive federal funding. Source: ABC News. [...] "That's not our policy and I don't have any intention to revisit it," Health Minister Mark Butler told reporters yesterday.

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## Local medical centre wins national gong

Examiner Newspapers, Other, 14/11/2024, Liam Murphy

Pramana Medical Centre in Gosnells has been honoured with the title of "Medicare Champion" at a ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra last week, as part of the Stronger Medicare Awards. [...] Speaking at the award ceremony last week, Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler praised the dedication of all healthcare workers in Australia.

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## Bulk billing up but it's not enough

Medical Forum, Other, 14/11/2024

The number of bulk billed GP visits in WA has risen by more than 280,000 in the last year, new Medicare data shows. But the Royal Australian College of GPs said more needs to be done to help with the cost of seeing a medical professional, particularly for patients in remote and rural areas. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said the Federal Government was working to strengthen and defend Medicare "Although we're not out of the woods yet and there is a lot of work still to do, we are seeing things turn around in those areas that we need," he said.

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## National Medicines Symposium 2024 Ageing well: safe medicines, better lives

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 14/11/2024

As Australia's population continues to age, the need for more appropriate and safer medicine use is critical. The National Medicines Symposium 2024, hosted by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality, will address this issue under the theme 'Appropriate Use of Medicines in an Ageing Population. [...] Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, will open the Symposium, providing an address that underscores the government's commitment and actions on better medication management for Australia's ageing population.

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## Cleaning and gardening caps a headache for Health and Aged Care Minister in ABC Radio interview

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler was again grilled by ABC Radio's David Bevan in Adelaide this week, this time over the domestic assistance caps of 52 hours for cleaning per year and 18 hours for gardening proposed in the Aged Care Bill currently before Parliament.

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## ABC News, Mornings, 14/11/2024, Chris Mitchell

Over the COVID-19 pandemic, vaping rates among high school-aged students exploded, but a new anti-vaping programme will be launched in high schools next year in an effort to bring down the rate of teen vaping. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says it will target students in year seven and eight.

[Play Now](#)

## Radio National, Breakfast, 14/11/2024, Sally Sara Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Compere says over the COVID pandemic, vaping rates among high school students have risen, however, a new anti-vaping programme is look to bring down the number of teen vaping. Butler says the programme will be focusing on year seven and eight students because they know that those kids are at an impressionable age. He states that this programme that has been run for many years by the Matilda Centre, is well-based on research.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Elderly man dies via euthanasia after prolonged delay in receiving home care

HelloCare, Other, 14/11/2024, Jakob Neeland

The passing of Cyril Tooze, an 86-year-old from the Adelaide Hills, has brought attention to Australia's aged care system and its impact on elderly Australians waiting for essential support. Cyril's decision to pursue Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) came after months of waiting for in-home care, which he had been approved for but never received. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells extended her condolences to Cyril's family, underscoring the importance of stories like his in driving aged care reform.

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### Man dies after months-long wait for at-home care

OverSixty, Other, 14/11/2024, Charlotte Foster

A man has died after his almost year-long wait to receive his government-approved at-home care. Cyril Tooze, 86, was approved for a Level 4 Home Care Package in January, but almost one year on, he was still waiting for access to the money to fund daily assistance with physical, medical and social tasks. [...] Federal aged care minister Anika Wells said her thoughts were with Mr Tooze's family and friends "as we mourn their loss but appreciate Cyril's life and his commitment to helping older Australians."

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### The reality of the home care waiting list: Cyril Tooze dies after sharing his horrific experience

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Caroline Egan

Cyril Tooze, who spoke out in October about his 12-month wait to receive home care despite being assessed as needing the highest level care, has died. Mr Tooze, 86, from the Adelaide Hills, was terminally ill with heart and lung conditions. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells told The SOURCE: "My thoughts are with Cyril's family and friends as we mourn their loss but appreciate Cyril's life and his commitment to helping older Australians.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### More support

Port Pirie Recorder, General News, 14/11/2024, Neralie Bailey, Page 1

The community is now able to access free, walk-in mental health support at a safe and welcoming new service from the end of the year thanks to funding from Country SA Primary Health Network (PHN). [...] Minister Picton, representing Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride, thanked Mr Brock for his advocacy in the community around mental health and suicide prevention.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### **Health promotion leaders share their hopes, concerns, and calls to action**

Croakey, Other, 14/11/2024, Melissa Sweet

The art and science of policymaking, the importance of cultural safety and anti-racism, diversity in leadership skills, and the need to build a global health promotion workforce were among topics on the agenda of the recent National Health Promotion Symposium, which was recently held on Nggunawal Country in Canberra. [...] In her opening remarks, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney reinforced the critical role of health promotion and the health promotion workforce.

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### **'Essential, lifesaving treatment': More dialysis units on the way to remote First Nations communities**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/11/2024, Callan Morse

First Nations people in isolated areas of the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia will be able to stay on Country to receive treatment for end-stage kidney disease after more dialysis units were confirmed for seven remote communities. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health, Ged Kearney, said the Better Renal Services program is about increasing access to culturally safe, lifesaving dialysis treatment for First Nations communities in remote regions.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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## DEPARTMENT

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## VACCINES

### **Living with a COVID vaccine injury**

ABC Online, Other, 14/11/2024, Dave Marchese

The COVID vaccines saved millions of lives worldwide, but one group who experienced adverse reactions after getting immunised want to talk about what happened to them. Also, the government says social media platforms have a 'duty of care' for Australians.

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## Can you die from long COVID? The answer is not so simple

Medicine Today, Other, 14/11/2024

Nearly five years into the pandemic, COVID is feeling less central to our daily lives. But the virus, SARS-CoV-2, is still around, and for many people the effects of an infection can be long-lasting. When symptoms persist for more than three months after the initial COVID infection, this is generally referred to as long COVID.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Cops 'did the best they could' by tasing great-grandmother

Canberra Times, General News, 15/11/2024, Page 12

An acting police sergeant who saw a subordinate officer taser a 95-year-old woman holding a knife said this was the best they could have done to respond to the threat, a jury has heard. Senior Constable Kristian James Samuel White fired his stun gun at Clare Nowland in a treatment room at Yallambee Lodge aged-care home in the southern NSW town of Cooma in the early hours of May 17, 2023.

*Also reported by:* [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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### Surge workforce brought in as residents, staff test positive for COVID-19

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 15/11/2024, Katrina Lovell, Page 2

A surge workforce was brought in to help Mercy Place in Warrnambool deal with an outbreak of COVID-19. A spokesperson for the aged-care facility said more than 75 per cent of impacted residents would be out of isolation as of Wednesday.

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### Undervalued and lonely: older Australians struggling

Canberra Times, Other, 15/11/2024, Alex Mitchell

Six-in-10 older people say they're experiencing loneliness, with many feeling undervalued by society and struggling to reconnect. Council on the Ageing (COTA) NSW research found half of those older than 50 in the state felt socially isolated, with the organisation urging targeted intervention to curb the "deeply concerning" trend.

*Also reported by:* [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Australian Seniors News \(Online\)](#).

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### New research links frailty to dementia and why people are moving to the country

ABC Online, Other, 14/11/2024, Jacinta Parsons

A new study has revealed that frailty may be one of the key factors that contributes to dementia providing a potential way to prevent or slow these diseases. And it turns out exercise, good diet, good social connections and better medicine management could help to turn frailty around and perhaps also reduce the risk of dementia.

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### Navigating ethical challenges in aged care: The role of clinical education – opinion

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/11/2024, Saima Ali

Aged care in Australia, as in many parts of the world, faces significant challenges as the population

ages and demand for care grows. Ethical decision-making in aged care is not an abstract ideal but a practical necessity, one that directly impacts the quality of care provided to some of society's most valued individuals.

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## **BaptistCare unites with more counterparts**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/11/2024, Jodie Wolf

Baptist organisations spanning five states and a mainland territory have announced a merger and Charles Moore as lead of the new entity. The boards and executives of BaptistCare, Bapcare and Baptist Care SA have decided to join forces, with the former's chief – Charles Moore – announced chief executive officer-elect of the merged organisation.

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

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## **App helps build sense of connection**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/11/2024, Natasha Egan

Associate Professor Jenny Waycott discusses the findings of the Dossy Community Connect project at this week's AAG conference in Hobart. A trial connecting isolated older adults with volunteers via a simplified video calling application has found benefits for both groups, a conference showcasing the latest research related to ageing and aged care has heard.

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## **Restoring control after dementia diagnosis**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/11/2024

Australian research shows a new approach may better support people when they find out they have mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia. Our research conducted at Flinders University suggests a new approach may help people feel more positive about the future after a diagnosis of dementia or mild cognitive impairment (MCI), write Professor Kate Laver, Dr Miia Rahja and Amelia Winter.

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## **Home celebrates newly qualified foreign workers**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/11/2024, Jodie Wolf

Aged care facility Lake Cathie Manor on the New South Wales mid-north coast has held a graduation ceremony for 10 staff members from Nauru who have completed their training program in Australia and will stay on to help fill gaps in the local care workforce. The group, who arrived at the facility in July to fill workforce shortage gaps, are the first cohort of workers from Nauru to be mobilised to Australia under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility, or PALM, scheme.

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## **Aged care operators heading for “challenging time” as deadline for reforms approaches: Epicor**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Lauren Broomham

With the aged care sector anxiously waiting to see if the new Aged Care Bill 2024 passes Parliament this month, enterprise software provider Epicor is warning that operators need to be preparing now given the limited timeframe to transition to the new Aged Care Act.

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## **Myth busters: innovative education partnership seeks to increase nursing student interest in aged care**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Lauren Broomham

A collaboration on aged care nurse education between NSW regional aged care provider Clarence Village and Southern Cross University (SCU) is aiming to dispel common misconceptions about aged care as a nursing speciality – with positive results. The Aged Care Classroom project sees real-life case studies presented by Clarence Village to take nursing students through challenging situations faced by Registered Nurses in aged care

## **WA's RAAFA acquires home care provider Perth Care and Companion Company**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Lauren Broomham

The Not For Profit operator is expanding its home care footprint with the purchase of Perth Care and Companion Company (PCCC), the first acquisition for CEO Michelle Fyfe who joined the organisation 12 months ago. As part of the acquisition, PCCC's services will become part of RAAFA's Connect arm, which provides in-home support specialising in people with Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and Veterans Home Care (VHC) , as well as private services.

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## **Regis Aged Care revises plans for 99-bed, \$33M Belrose home on Sydney's Northern Beaches**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Caroline Egan

New plans have been lodged with Northern Beaches Council to alter previously approved plans for a new aged care facility in Belrose, 19km north east of the Sydney CBD, including refining the design of a dementia garden associated with a 25-bed dementia wing. The plans also cut the number of bedrooms from 103 down to 97, and the number of beds from 105 to 99.

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## **Government warns FWC plan to increase nurse wages from 2025 could see aged care homes close**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) Paul Vermeesch and the Aged and Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA), as 'Joint Employers', have made submissions to the Fair Work Commission warning against the implementation of the proposed wage rises for nurses from 1 January 2025.

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## **Recruiting aged care staff from overseas is unsustainable: RFBI**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Caroline Egan

Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution (RFBI) CEO Frank Price says recruiting staff from overseas is not sustainable, even as the Not For Profit brings another 106 nurses into Australia from Fiji, making a total of 166 staff recruited from overseas. RFBI will pay for the new staff to upgrade their Fijian nursing qualifications to enable them to register as RNs with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), a process that can take as long as 18 months.

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## **VIC Govt's \$1.1M per bed Camperdown aged care home passes construction halfway mark**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The Camperdown public aged care home, 190km west of Melbourne, will cost \$39.6 million to build and will feature 36 single rooms with ensuites and the 'small household model' design. Ingrid Stitt MP Commenced in November 2023 , the home is on track to be completed in 2025.

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## **PresCare training innovation helps Apollo Care homes reduce agency use**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Caroline Egan

Not For Profit PresCare, part of the Apollo Care group, along with Riverside Christian College and TAFE Queensland have formed a partnership to establish a 'Health Hub' where students can receive hands-on experience at PresCare's two aged care communities, Groundwater Lodge and Yaralla Place, in Maryborough, Central Queensland, as they work towards their Certificate III qualification.

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## Every day, nearly 10 older Australians died waiting for their correct level of home care in 2023-24

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Caroline Egan

As Senators questioned Ian Yates AM, Acting Inspector-General of Aged Care, about demand-driven home care in Budget Estimates last week, a shocking figure was revealed. Thea Connolly, First Assistant Secretary Home and Residential with the Department of Health and Aged Care, said 3,383 older Australians had died waiting for their correct level of Home Care Package to come through in 2023-24.

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## The clock is ticking: Aged Care Bill headed to Australian Senate

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Bill has been read a third time in the House of Representatives and is expected to be scheduled for debate in the Senate next week. Amendments will be proposed in the Senate, including from the Opposition led by Shadow Minister Anne Ruston, which made 32 recommendations in the Senate Inquiry Report

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## The ultimate guide to seniors rebates across Australia

Your Life Choices, Other, 15/11/2024

Hands up if you know exactly what government benefits, concessions and rebates are available to you as an older Australian? There's a plethora of government rebates available to pensioners at both federal and state level, but unless you know what you're looking for, and where to look, they're very easy to miss.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### The challenges for youth quitting vapes

Canberra Times, General News, 15/11/2024, Amy-Leigh Rowe, Lauren Gardner and Siobhan O'Dean, Page 16

If you experience trauma during childhood, there's a greater chance you'll use substances such as alcohol, tobacco and other drugs later. But what does the evidence say about vapes? Our new study is the first to investigate the links between childhood trauma and vaping habits in Australian teens. Those who'd had traumatic experiences before the age of 12 were more likely to have tried vaping, vape regularly or intend to in the future.

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### Private postnatal fail

Courier Mail, General News, 15/11/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 17

Expensive private maternity care is failing to adequately record vital postnatal depression data that helps stop Queensland women from falling through the cracks into suicide while the public system leads the way, a new report reveals. National guidelines recommend that all women are screened for risk factors during the perinatal period using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS), but a new report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows that in 2022 only 38 per cent of mothers whose care was co-ordinated by a private obstetrician had an EPDS score recorded during their antenatal period.

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

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### WA leavers' love of liquor is no small beer

West Australian, General News, 15/11/2024, Page 7

Forty per cent of WA high school graduates drink everyday during leavers celebrations. In the lead-up

to leavers next week, DrinkWise released a survey of the habits of graduates with 45 per cent of WA leavers admitting to drinking alcohol on most days or everyday.

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

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## Shire is top 10 for smoking prevalence

Shepparton News, General News, 15/11/2024, Owen Sinclair, Page 27

Moira Shire has been identified as among the top 10 local government areas in Victoria for its prevalence of tobacco smokers, a report by Cancer Council Victoria has shown. The report, released in September, shows that just over 15 out of 100 adults in Moira Shire smoked at least once daily.

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## Concussive impact

Law Institute Journal, General News, 01/11/2024, Page 54

From legal consequences to return-to-play protocols, concussion in sport is a complex issue. Concussions in sport affect athletes at all levels in Australia, from grassroots participants to elite professionals. [...] 1 This reflects the broader landscape, with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reporting 17,700 emergency department presentations and 10,800 hospitalisations for concussions between 2021 and 2022.

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## Building Australia's future: Tackling challenges of declining fertility rates

The Australian, Other, 14/11/2024, Hari Hara and Priya Kannan

Around the world, falling fertility rates are often driven by common factors such as people choosing to start families later in life, more women pursuing higher education and careers, and a shift toward urban living. Australia's fertility rate has been on a steady decline, and the latest ABS Births data for 2023 reveals a continuation of this trend.

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## Australia's deadliest injury revealed amid surging elderly death rates

Canberra Times, Other, 15/11/2024, Ben Silvester

Falls are the leading cause of death by injury in Australia and mortality rates are rising for older people, according to new government data. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare figures showed injuries caused 1.9 million emergency department visits in 2022-23, nearly one for every 10 people.

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## Geraldton, Jurien Bay smoke expected to be cleared on Thursday: DFES

West Australian, Other, 14/11/2024, Matthew Paddick

A smoke alert was issued for parts of the Mid West on Thursday by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation, and Attractions. The areas between Geraldton and Jurien Bay were affected, with the Parks and Wildlife Service confirming the notice at 11.24am.

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## Australia's first public vending machines offering free pads and tampons launch in Melbourne

The Guardian, Other, 14/11/2024, Benita Kolovos

Vending machines offering free pads and tampons will begin operating at the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne Museum and the Royal Exhibition Building, as well as hospitals, libraries and Tafe, as part of an Australian-first government initiative aimed at ending period poverty. On Thursday, the Victorian premier, Jacinta Allan, will announce the first 30 locations where 50 vending machines will be installed as part of the pilot program, which also includes the Melbourne Immigration Museum, three Northern Health campuses, the Royal Women's hospital in Parkville and the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

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## APS Data Awards winners for 2024

The Mandarin, Other, 14/11/2024, Dan Holmes

Australian statistician David Gruen said the APS Data Awards' popularity showed it was cool to be a data nerd. The second Australian Public Service (APS) Data Awards have recognised the growing maturity of the Australian government's data environment. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Department of Social Services and ABS were highly commended for the Australian National Data Integration Infrastructure.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Head of the class

Canberra Times, General News, 15/11/2024, Lanie Tindale, Page 1

Caring for her deathly ill son, who had pre-leukaemia, inspired the ACT's 2025 Australian of the Year. Megan Gilmour co-founded MissingSchool to help children who, like her son Darcy, are too sick for traditional school. She was named the ACT's 2025 Australian of the Year. The ACT's other award recipients have also been announced, and are included lower in this article.

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### BreastScreen celebrates 30 years helping women

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/11/2024, Sierra Haigh, Page 7

A lifesaving scan has saved hundreds of lives in the 30 years it has been offered freely to Territorians. BreastScreenNT celebrated its 30th anniversary on Wednesday and reflected on the critical mammograms it has provided to 143,000 women in the Territory since 1994.

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### Get a grip on your health with check

Shepparton News, General News, 15/11/2024, Taylah Baker, Page 2

This weekend at Shepparton Golf Club, the Shane Warne Legacy Health Check will be available for residents of Greater Shepparton. From Friday, November 15, to Sunday, November 17, all individuals, whether they wield a club, a bat or neither, can benefit from the free service. "It's good to be able to give something back to not just our members but also to the community," Shepparton Golf Club general manager Drew Curtis said.

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### Global diabetes rate has doubled in last 30 years: study

The Australian, Other, 14/11/2024

The percentage of adults suffering from diabetes across the world has doubled over the past three decades, the biggest rises coming in developing countries, a study said Wednesday. The serious health condition affected around 14 percent of all adults worldwide in 2022, compared to seven percent in 1990, according to the new analysis in The Lancet journal.

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

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### Townsville Business Challenge Group holding annual Prostate Cancer Charity Gala Ball

The Courier Mail, Other, 14/11/2024, Nikita Mcguire

A Townsville charity ball is shining a spotlight on prostate cancer, with alarming data revealing local men face a higher risk than the average Aussie. Here's how you can join the fight and make a difference. Townsville men are at a higher risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer compared to the national average, according to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA).

## **Pilbara champion becomes face of Cancer Council WA Christmas Appeal**

West Australian, Other, 14/11/2024

Onslow Gazelles run club organiser Renee Elliot has become the face of a new appeal urging the community to support Cancer Council WA's accommodation lodges after she was diagnosed with breast cancer back in March 2023. The fit and healthy 48-year-old said the diagnosis was a devastating shock.

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## **Sun Life survey reveals hidden financial and mental health impacts of type 2 diabetes**

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 14/11/2024

One third (33%) of those living with diabetes report a 'severe' or 'significant' financial impact on their lives, with 82% unable to consistently afford the right care. 67% of non-diabetics are either 'very concerned' or 'concerned' about the financial burden that would result from a type 2 diabetes diagnosis. 65% of diabetics report a negative impact on their mental health.

[Read More](#)

## **Kirby's doctor is 600km away, but he's only a few clicks from her blood sugar**

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 14/11/2024, Emily Anderson

Kirby Kilmartin has lived with type one diabetes since she was three, but said technology has improved significantly since she first began injecting herself with insulin. Picture supplied Even the sight of a needle triggers fear in some people, but from the age of three Kirby Kilmartin has had to be very comfortable with the idea of injecting herself.

[Read More](#)

## **Suns out, moles out: Wagga makes state's top 25 LGAs for melanoma rates**

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 14/11/2024, Emily Anderson

Wagga was ranked 22 in the state for melanoma incidence, according to the NSW Cancer Institute. Picture by Graham Tidy Too much sun exposure has caused Wagga to enter the state's top 25 melanoma hotspots as doctors are checking more young people's skin for cancer.

[Read More](#)

## **Yeppoon family shares devastating melanoma journey in hope it saves lives**

ABC Online, Other, 14/11/2024, Aaron Kelly

Lyell Duffy thought he had pulled a muscle at work when he began experiencing back pain. But four days later, doctors gave him a devastating diagnosis. The 46-year-old Yeppoon man was told he had advanced-stage cancer. It had spread throughout his body and he was on borrowed time. "My whole world just fell apart," Mr Duffy's wife, Fay, said.

[Read More](#)

## **Is this Australia's unluckiest family? Jesse, 32, thought he had a tooth issue - but learned he had massive clusters of cancer on his neck, shoulder, chest, abdomen and groin**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/11/2024, Antoinette Milienos

Jesse Wendt, 32, was told he had a tooth abscess. Years later he was diagnosed with stage four cancer His young family is also facing eviction from their home A GoFundMe was created to help the family with expenses - click here to donate Jesse Wendt thought fate had played enough cruel tricks on him and his young family when doctors told him that he was riddled with stage four cancer - after two years of seeking answers to what was originally thought to be a tooth problem.

## Cricket legend Darren Lehmann sends Aussies a warning after horror health scare almost killed him aged 50

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/11/2024, Ed Carruthers

Darren Lehmann has encouraged members of the public to be more aware of their health and has urged Aussies to attend a six-week rehabilitation programme. In 2020, the former Australia Test cricketer and coach underwent triple-bypass surgery after suffering a heart attack on his 50th birthday. Lehmann has subsequently given up smoking having previously revealed that he had smoked around 20 cigarettes a day for nearly 30 years.

[Read More](#)

## Significance of breast cancer screening and awareness cannot be overstated

SBS, Other, 14/11/2024, Mayada Kordy Khalil

Breast Cancer Awareness Month, observed in October, is the focus of our discussion with Dr. Maryam Akrawi from Melbourne. This disease significantly impacts many women across Australia, with a smaller number of men also being affected. On average, approximately 57 Australians receive a breast cancer diagnosis each day, culminating in over 20,000 new cases annually.

[Read More](#)

## Full House star Dave Coulier reveals stage 3 non-Hodgkin lymphoma diagnosis and undergoes chemotherapy

7news.com.au, Other, 14/11/2024, Georgie Kearney

The beloved actor, who played Uncle Joey, has undergone three surgeries since learning the news. Comedian and actor Dave Coulier, best known for his role as Uncle Joey on the hit '90s sitcom Full House, has revealed he's battling stage 3 non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a type of blood cancer. [...] Non-Hodgkin lymphoma is the sixth most common cancer in Australia, accounting for about 90 per cent of lymphoma cases, according to the Cancer Council.

[Read More](#)

## 'I remember feeling pretty scared': Hugh Jackman opens up about skin cancer ordeal in new documentary

9News, Other, 14/11/2024

Hugh Jackman, Cate Campbell lead skin cancer prevention in new doco Australia leads the world in skin cancer rates but a new star-studded documentary is hoping to shake that title. Conquering Skin Cancer features the likes of Hollywood star Hugh Jackman and Olympian Cate Campbell, as well as survivors, each with powerful messages of prevention. [...] A skin cancer diagnosis came as a big shock for Cancer Council WA's Ashley Reid.

[Read More](#)

## Diabetes patients struggling to keep up with medication in cost of living crisis

9News, Other, 14/11/2024, Mikala Theocharous

Diabetes Australia told 9News that "too many people" with the condition have cut back on doctor's appointments, pathology tests, medication and healthy foods. "I've even heard some people are rationing their medicine, which is just terrible," Diabetes Australia CEO Justine Cain said.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## 'I thought I had a UTI. The true cause could have killed me.'

Mamamia, Other, 14/11/2024, Ailish Delaney

When Ellie Wilcock started experiencing pain in her abdomen at Christmas time in 2021, she chalked it up to being UTI-related. However, a quick trip to the GP revealed that was not the cause. The pain only worsened before the then-25-year-old rushed herself to the emergency room in agony. [...] In Australia,

15,531 people are told they have bowel cancer each year, including 1,716 people under the age of 50, according to Bowel Cancer Australia. The disease claims the lives of 103 Australians a week.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 14/11/2024, Peter Overton

Alarming new data shows that Australians with diabetes are not getting regular check-ups or even medication. According to Diabetes Australia, too many people with the condition say they've cut back on doctor's appointments, pathology tests, medication and even healthy foods.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 9, Today , 14/11/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Panel discussion with Justine Cain, CEO, Diabetes Australia, and Miguel Maestre, chef. Compere mentions that new data reveals that 90% of Australians living with diabetes are now anxious at the cost of living that will impact their ability to manage. Maestre points out that he's happy to be working with Cain and Diabetes Australia in providing some diabetes-friendly meal recipes for those on a tight budget. Cain discusses that what Maestre is preparing right now is very good for diabetics.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 14/11/2024, Leon Compton

Interview with Dr Matthew Ahmadi, Heart Foundation, about the importance of taking steps into account to health. Ahmadi points out that counting one's steps is still important and having a watch or activity tracker that helps people monitor that is a great tool to make sure they're making progress throughout the day or week to reaching their goals.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Hospitals on the brink, struggling to pay bills

Age, General News, 15/11/2024, Broede Carmody, Page 1

A growing number of Victorian hospitals, including several of the largest Melbourne facilities, are cash-strapped and going backwards financially as they run operating losses and, in some cases, have less than one day's money on hand to pay bills. An analysis by The Age of 65 annual reports released in the Victorian parliament yesterday, found more than half the health services failed to meet the target number of days' worth of cash available, measured on the final day of each month.

*Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).*

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### Breakthrough with a timeframe set out for return to surgery

Border Mail, General News, 15/11/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 8

Surgery will return to Corowa hospital in "early 2025", according to the Murrumbidgee Local Health District. The Wagga-based organisation, which administers the hospital, issued a media release yesterday, flagging the timeframe.

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

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### Peninsula care clinic a resounding success

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 14/11/2024, Page 27

The Peninsula Medicare Urgent Care Clinic at Umina Beach is proving to be a critical new healthcare service with walk-in bulk billed urgent care for children and adults. Latest data from the Department of Health and Aged Care reveals that since the service opened in November 2023, there have been 9,210 patients.

## Good working conditions

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/11/2024, Page 35

Having recently been an inpatient for eleven days in Ward 5B of Launceston General Hospital (following an accident), I wish to thank all the staff who cared for me so professionally. The ward was a hive of activity and all needs were attended to in a most friendly manner.

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

## Less urgent patients on dermatology waiting lists in Canberra 'unlikely' to be seen, ACT health minister concedes

ABC Online, Other, 14/11/2024, Jade-Toomey and Georgia-Stynes

Canberra Health Services has walked back a proposal to block patients from outside of the ACT from accessing specialist medical appointments at the Canberra Hospital, as part of its plan to reduce burgeoning patient waitlists. Canberra dermatologist Andrew Miller said he had been informed about a suite of now-abandoned changes to the hospital's waiting list policy.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 14/11/2024, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

WA Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson is under fire again tonight, accused of peddling dodgy information about the new women and baby's hospital. Doctors are divided on whether it matters where the hospital is built. The AMA says the only thing that really matters is a critical care facility is nearby.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### The conversation that sparked NSW Young Australian of the Year's interest in mental health

ABC Online, Other, 14/11/2024, Richard Glover

Maddison O'Gradey-Lee is the NSW Young Australian of the Year. She tells Richard about a conversation she had with her teacher when she was 12 that changed her life and inspired a career in mental health advocacy

[Read More](#)

### PHN launches new mental health initiative

Health Services Daily, Other, 14/11/2024, Cate Swannell

Meanwhile, long-time Western Victorian chair Susan Brumby has stepped back, and there's news from Country to Coast, Eastern Melbourne and South Eastern NSW PHNs. Northern Queensland PHN has launched a new mental health initiative that will make it easier for vulnerable north Queenslanders to access mental health services.

[Read More](#)

### EDs facing mental health tsunami

Medical Forum, Other, 14/11/2024

Emergency departments are facing increasing pressure from patients with mental health concerns, the AMA WA has warned. Mental health presentations in EDs have risen almost 250% in the last 20 years, according to the AMA's 2024 public hospital report card's mental health edition.

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## 'Pied Piper effect' sparks first private nurses strike

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/11/2024, David Marin-Guzman, Page 8

Public sector wage pressure has spilled over into the private sector as hundreds of nurses at the country's two top private health providers walk off the job in support of immediate pay increases of up to 15 per cent. Nurses and midwives at Healthscope pr...

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

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## Nurses walk off job again in pay battle

Burnie Advocate, General News, 15/11/2024, Tess Kelly, Page 5

Nurses in Burnie have walked off the job in demand of better pay, staffing and working conditions. North West Private Hospital staff stopped work yesterday, following months of bargaining for an agreement that supports staff and patients. Nurse Kathy Jarvis said staff are stressed, overworked, time-poor and burnt out.

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

## Fuming at having to fight for 'fair pay'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 15/11/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 3

The state of nursing in NSW has prompted Louise Miller to reevaluate a career she spent 24 years building. The Wagga nurse said it was disappointing to be forced to decide. "I've got quite a lot of qualifications, quite a lot of critical care experience, and I'm having to do double shifts or overtime, at least once a fortnight, maybe twice a fortnight, just to keep my head above water," she said. "I'm seriously looking at work outside of nursing."

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## Surgeon: nurses deserve more money

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/11/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 4

As nurses in Illawarra public hospitals went on strike for 24 hours, a top Wollongong surgeon added his voice to the growing chorus of people who believe they should have better pay. Dr Bruce Ashford, who was co-chair of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District's COVID taskforce during the pandemic, contacted the Mercury to say it was time for an end to "empty platitudes" when it came to supporting nurses.

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## Bush nursing centre receives \$40k boost

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/11/2024, Lua Ikenasio

The Lockington and District Bush Nursing Centre has received a \$40,000 boost to put towards improving health and wellbeing in the community. The grant was awarded to the centre through the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health in partnership with La Trobe University. Project manager Lucinda Gibson said the grant would be put towards bringing community projects to life.

[Read More](#)

## Nurse who left NSW for Victoria calls for pay rise to recognise industry's 'important' work

ABC Online, Other, 14/11/2024, Sam-Nichols and Millie Roberts

Grace Searle was born and raised in NSW, but says she doesn't regret her decision to move interstate for better pay as a nurse. The 24-year-old from Greater Sydney's Blue Mountains has been in healthcare for six years, and currently works in a Melbourne emergency department.

[Read More](#)

## Gender pay disparity still rife in nursing

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/11/2024, Stefanie Schultz



New data has shown that the gender of an Australian nursing graduate has a profound effect on how much they will be paid and how quickly their career will progress. Researchers from Edith Cowan University (ECU) have published The gender pay gap in the Australian nursing workforce: A retrospective observational study , examining the ongoing disparity experienced by female nursing graduates across all Australian universities.

[Read More](#)

## Sector short 1,500 nurses: “Where have you found 2,553 RNs in the last six months?”

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/11/2024, Caroline Egan

Information the Department of Health and Aged Care provided to Coalition Senator Anne Ruston, Shadow Minister for Aged Care, prior to last week's Budget Estimates showed the aged care sector is estimated to be short 1,490 RNs in 2024-25. Senator Anne Ruston

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Jobs saved from ANU as staff vote on pay cut

Canberra Times, General News, 15/11/2024, Sarah Lansdown, Page 1

The Australian National University will not cut as many jobs from the College of Health and Medicine as planned after the higher education union filed a dispute. The original proposal was to cut 50 jobs but now only 13 positions will be made redundant. These staff members were either on fixed-term contracts or performance-based contracts. Two of the positions were vacant.

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### Pay rise for doctors heads to arbitration

Canberra Times, General News, 15/11/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 7

Doctors in the ACT's public hospital are hopeful the Fair Work Commission will be able to end more than two years of deadlocked talks on a fair pay rise. The commission will decide on the pay rise for ACT public hospital doctors after unsuccessful talks and months of industrial action.

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### Young doctors living in fear

Courier Mail, General News, 15/11/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 12

Rising crime is impacting the state's young doctors with one third frightened to walk between hospital buildings while on night shift. The annual Australian Medical Association Queensland-ASMOFQ Resident Hospital Health Check (RHHC) highlights how grave problems like burnout or lack of safety facing junior doctors have not eased in many years, adding fears more medics will walk away from the profession.

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

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### Ambo action cost agency \$17m

Herald Sun, General News, 15/11/2024, Alex White, Page 9

Ongoing industrial action has cost Ambulance Victoria \$17m in lost transport fees. The alarming cost to the already struggling agency was revealed in the annual report, tabled in the Victorian parliament on Thursday. A new \$600m wage deal was struck with the Allan government in September after 17 months of negotiations.

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### Paramedics' colourful support

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/11/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Hunter paramedic Natasha Whiteley was overwhelmed with support after raising concerns about NSW Ambulance management forcing her to change hair colour. "It was amazing," said Ms Whiteley, an HSU (Health Services Union) delegate, of Medowie Ambulance Station.

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

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## **New doctor found for medical centre**

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 15/11/2024, Heath Forsyth, Page 6

Uralla Medical Centre will have a new GP, five months after the medical centre closed forcing the Uralla community to travel for medical appointments. Dr Anitha P R Jandrajupalli is the new GP and will begin working from December 2, 2024.

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## **'Before I could say goodbye': Widow's tears for slain paramedic**

The Australian, Other, 14/11/2024, Steve Zemek

Steven Tougher's widow has told of the pain of not being able to say goodbye to the "love of my life" and how he was never able to meet their daughter who was born just weeks after he was killed in a brutal, senseless, random stabbing. The family, friends and colleagues of Mr Tougher, as well as witnesses to his killing, filed into a Sydney courtroom on Thursday to read a series of powerful victim impact statements to tell of their devastation and loss following the tragedy in April 2023.

[Read More](#)

## **GP couple who moved to Australia in 1973 retire after a combined 100 years in general practice**

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/11/2024, Ciara Seccombe

The duo saw the emergence of ultrasound, battled thunderstorm asthma and delivered babies by the roadside. After treating an estimated 60,000 patients between them, GP couple Dr Promila Singh-Panwar and Dr Thakur Singh-Panwar are retiring while they remain "rational and logical".

[Read More](#)

## **AdPha's Clinical Pharmacy Standards released**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/11/2024, Megan Haggan

New benchmark for contemporary and emerging pharmacy practices that complete the patient journey in and out of hospital The Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) Clinical Pharmacy Standards have been published, a comprehensive update of Australia's foremost standards for clinical pharmacy practice defined by 22 new Quality Statements, focus on person-centred care throughout the patient journey, and

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## **More than 40% of disability carers have disability themselves – and they need more support**

HelloCare, Other, 14/11/2024, Jakob Neeland

Caring for someone with disability is a complex and demanding task. The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show this role is increasingly being undertaken by people who have disability themselves.

[Read More](#)

## **PSA highlights breadth of impactful work**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/11/2024

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) released its 2024 Impact Report today, highlighting its efforts in advancing the Quality Use of Medicines. In the 2023-24 financial year, PSA's Projects team managed over 40 initiatives, collaborating with government entities, Primary Health Networks, and various healthcare stakeholders to tackle critical health issues.

Also reported by: [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

## 2BS, Live and Local, 14/11/2024, Janeen Hosemans

Interview with Susi Tegen, CEO, National Rural Health Alliance, about a recently released audit of the Australian Health and Medical Research Workforce by the Department of Health and Aged Care. Tegen points out that the audit showed that there is a huge shortage of rural researchers, and she believes that this is partly because there is a discrepancy in funding that goes towards funding local research.

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## ABC North Queensland, Mornings (Early), 14/11/2024, Susan Graham-Ryan

Interview with Susi Tegen, CEO, National Rural Health Alliance, about a recently released audit of the Australian Health and Medical Research Workforce by the Department of Health and Aged Care. Tegen points out that they already know that the 30% of the population that live in rural, remote, and regional Australia have less healthcare cover than people in the city. She adds that there also isn't the same amount of money per capita spent on people that live in rural regions.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### 'Depraved' doc's plan

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 15/11/2024, Chloe Grimshaw, Page 11

A disgraced Sunshine Coast doctor, jailed for possessing child exploitation material last year, has told a court of his new career move. Former paediatrician Tom Sun Yap was working at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital when police charged him with multiple child exploitation offences, after finding more than 2000 files in his possession.

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### Police formally probing Ambulance Victoria employee over alleged multimillion-dollar embezzlement

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/11/2024, Shannon Deery

Almost two years after an alleged multimillion-dollar embezzlement was first reported to crisis-plagued Ambulance Victoria, an employee has been referred to police. An Ambulance Victoria employee has been referred to police following an investigation over an alleged multimillion-dollar embezzlement.

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### Former Wollongong doctor banned for 'unethical' examination allowed to practise again

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 14/11/2024, Natalie Croxon

A doctor who was banned after conducting unnecessary and inappropriate vaginal examinations on a young woman at Wollongong Hospital is allowed to practise again - with certain conditions. Login or signup to continue reading \$2/week for the first 5 weeks

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## More doctor complaints

Medical Forum, Other, 14/11/2024

The number of complaints about Australian doctors topped 11,000 in the last financial year, a 12.8% increase from the previous 12 months, according to new figures. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's annual report shows that 8418 medical practitioners – or almost 6% of doctors — faced a complaint in 2023-24.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Doctors fight wellness companies for essential IV fluids

ABC Online, Other, 14/11/2024, Stephanie Dalzell

Doctors are fighting against "pseudo medical wellness" companies for access to IV fluids amid a worldwide shortage, as sourcing the essential medicine continues to prove a challenge.

[Read More](#)

### Australia, here's an opportunity to get serious on health reform

Croakey, Other, 14/11/2024, Melissa Sweet

For decades, Australia managed its money carefully and kept its economy healthy. But the pandemic changed everything. Like many countries, Australia had to spend big (not necessarily well) to cope with COVID-19. Currently, the national debt remains on an upwards trajectory and is expected to reach 36 percent of GDP by 2027-28. States' deficits and debts have risen, leading to post-pandemic fiscal tightening across public services, including healthcare. In response, states like NSW have increased the so-called 'Health insurance Levy', from \$1.77 to \$3.27. This is a surcharge that must be paid by all private health insurance (PHI) members through premiums in NSW.

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## SPORT

### Shock claims over footy death

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/11/2024, Michael McGuire, Page 3

A defibrillator that may have saved player's life was locked up: lawyer A defibrillator that could have helped save the life of an injured footballer was locked inside a cupboard in the clubrooms at the Gumeracha football club and medical staff did not have the key to open it, according to a document filed in the Supreme Court. The claim is included in an affidavit filed by lawyer Greg Griffin, acting for Wendy Smith, the mother of Antonio Lo Iacono.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#)

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### Reid cops head knock at training

West Australian, Sport, 15/11/2024, Samantha Rogers, Page 63

West Coast star Harley Reid, above, has entered concussion protocols after an incident at pre-season training this week. The former No.1 pick returned with the Eagles' first-to-fourth year players on Monday ahead of his first season under new coach Andrew McQualter.

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## Player charged with on-field 'bashing'

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 15/11/2024, Madeline Grace and Letea Cavander, Page 9

A Noosa rugby league player has been charged with grievous bodily harm following an on-field incident during a preliminary final earlier this season. It is alleged that Noosa Pirates player Keegan McKinnon punched Caloundra Sharks player Cooper Paul on the chin in an off the ball assault during the Sunshine Coast Rugby League's reserve grade preliminary final at the Sunshine Coast Stadium on September 7.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#)

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## Drowning danger hots up

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/11/2024, Sage Swinton, Page 1

The rate of drownings in the Hunter has outpaced the Australian average over the past decade, spurring on urgent efforts to help equip children with life-saving water safety skills. The new National Drowning Report 2024 has revealed that the Hunter New England region had a higher drowning rate than the Australian average over the past 10 years.

Also reported by: [Sunshine Coast Daily \(Maroochydore\)](#)

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## Mayor's warning over LNP's Games review

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 15/11/2024, Chloe Grimshaw, Page 14

The Sunshine Coast mayor has issued a stern warning to the newly elected LNP government regarding its 100-day games review, which she claims puts major projects at risk. The LNP state government pledged to undertake a 100-day review of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games projects as a key election promise.

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## Pathway players 'G bound for annual National Indigenous Training Camp

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/11/2024, Callan Morse

Talented Indigenous cricketers from across the country will converge on Melbourne next week for the annual National Indigenous Training Camp. A partnership between Cricket Australia and the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC), the Camp - to be held on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country at the MCG - will see a select group of Indigenous cricketers come together for a week of intensive training, cultural exchange and competitive matches.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Bain and MAM exit contest for \$3bn I-MED

The Australian, Business News, 15/11/2024, Bridget Carter, Page 14

Bain Capital and Macquarie Asset Management are both out of the \$3bn contest for I-MED Radiology, although some suggest that the move may be a negotiating tactic by the latter to batter down the price. It comes after DataRoom reported on October 31 that Bain Capital, which has also been looking at TPG Capital's Asia Pacific biotech company Novotech, could be cooling on the opportunity.

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### Research suggests keto diet could treat auto-immune disorders

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/11/2024, Mia Erickson, Page 55

The keto diet has long been suspected to calm an overactive immune system, but recent results from a study involving MS-inflicted mice have finally filled scientists with hope and more importantly, evidence.

The study, from the University of California San Francisco, has hailed the keto diet for its ability to improve the management of debilitating autoimmune diseases like multiple sclerosis.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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## Rural research suffering

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 14/11/2024, Page 2

A recent audit by the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care has highlighted the need to strengthen support for health and medical research professionals in rural, regional, and remote areas. The report showed that only 13% of the health and medical workforce operate in these regions, despite nearly 30% of Australians living there.

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

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## Three standout risk factors for stroke severity identified: study

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/11/2024, Rada Rouse

A study of patients in 32 countries pinpoints the three conditions most likely to result in a disabling acute stroke. AF, hypertension and smoking are the standout precursors for severe strokes compared with mild or moderate strokes, neurologists say.

[Read More](#)

## New study suggests weight loss drugs like Ozempic could help with knee pain. Here's why there may be a link

Medicine Today, Other, 14/11/2024, Giovanni Ferreira and Christina Abdel Shaheed

The drug semaglutide, commonly known by the brand names Ozempic or Wegovy, was originally developed to help people with type 2 diabetes manage their blood sugar levels. However, researchers have discovered it may help with other health issues, too.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Shock rise in First Nations jail rate

The Australian, General News, 15/11/2024, Paul Garvey, Page 2

The number of Aboriginal people jailed in Western Australia has spiked dramatically, underscoring the growing struggle to address one of the key Closing the Gap targets. The Aboriginal prison population in WA grew a whopping 17.4 per cent last financial year, according to the Department of Justice's latest annual report, almost double the rate of growth for non-Indigenous prisoners.

Also reported by: [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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### Next steps in bringing multi-million dollar facility with indoor pool and gym to life

Central Western Daily, Other, 14/11/2024, Riley Krause

A multi-million dollar community facility with an indoor pool and gym could be open by the beginning of 2026. The planned building adjacent to Orange Aboriginal Medical Facility's Walu-Win centre received planning approval in mid-2024, with Cabonne Constructions brought on to oversee the \$4 million project.

[Read More](#)

### WA Police target Indigenous youth rehabilitation event, arresting three

## boys in front of other children

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/11/2024, Giovanni Torre

Police arrived without warning at a youth rehabilitation event run by the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA with five cars, arresting three boys participating in the program on Thursday. ALS WA chief executive Wayne Nannup told National Indigenous Times the incident was "completely unforgiveable".

[Read More](#)

## Hundreds of new Indigenous health workers to receive diabetes prevention training

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/11/2024, Dechlan Brennan

More than 500 new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers will receive diabetes prevention training through a new partnership between the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and the Bupa Foundation. Announced on Thursday, the partnership will see the development of a specialist diabetes prevention training pathway, as well as culturally safe training and assessment resources, face-to-face training sessions, and integration into current local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCOs).

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## WA Primary Health Alliance launches new education films on the power of yarning about weight

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/11/2024, Giovanni Torre

To improve cultural safety in care for Aboriginal people living with elevated weight, WA Primary Health Alliance has launched two videos for primary health care practitioners focused on enhancing communication and fostering trust through social yarning and management yarning.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### The suburbs praying for relief from mosquitoes

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/11/2024, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 10

For weeks, residents in south-west Sydney have complained about a plague of mosquitoes. Relief could be at hand within the next fortnight, as authorities deal with the main infestation in a wastewater facility in Liverpool. Mosquito expert Dr Cameron Webb said the mosquito numbers in south-west Sydney were two to three times higher than usual for the time of year, and the culprit was the "brown house mosquito".

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#)

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### WA vaccine push pays off

Medical Forum, Other, 14/11/2024

Mothers and newborn babies in Australia will have access to free respiratory syncytial virus vaccines before next winter, following a WA-led campaign. The Federal Government this week announced \$174.5 million to provide pregnant mothers with free access to the maternal RSV vaccine Abrysvo under the National Immunisation Program.

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### Whooping cough warning

Medical Forum, Other, 14/11/2024

Experts have warned Australia is in the grips of a whooping cough epidemic, prompting calls for all eligible pregnant women to be vaccinated to protect against the virus. Experts have warned Australia is in the grips of a whooping cough epidemic, prompting calls for all eligible pregnant women to be vaccinated to protect against the virus.

## Climate change and chemicals on your skin put you at greater risk of getting bitten by a mosquito

Your Life Choices, Other, 14/11/2024

Climate change and extreme weather have the potential to increase cases of mosquito-borne diseases and push the insects into new areas of Australia, according to medical and research science experts. A 'unique signature' of chemicals on the skin can also make people more susceptible to mosquito bites, with these experts highlighting the need to protect yourself from bites.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Sex abuse, drugs and predatory 'healers'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/11/2024, Clare Sibthorpe, Page 1

A new-age breathworker and self-described body psychotherapist sexually abused a woman under the guise of "healing" her trauma from a previous sexual assault in one of several horrific stories of criminal or unethical behaviour connected to the latest thriving wellness trend. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration permits the use of psilocybin only within authorised medical settings and under specialist supervision.

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

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### Upgrade sweetens the deal

Courier Mail, General News, 15/11/2024, Page 54

Sugar Research Australia will expand their research capabilities after securing an office/ warehouse in Brisbane's southern suburbs. SRA has a five-year lease at 17 Iris Place, Acacia Ridge, after a deal struck by CBRE's Jack Hardy and Sam Parker. [...] The property benefits from a large power supply and the warehouse is built to a Therapeutic Goods Administration standard which were both drawcards for SRA," he said.

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### How Apple's AirPods Pro 2 can be used as hearing aids

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/11/2024, Zoe Smith

Apple's AirPods Pro 2 have a groundbreaking new health feature. However, there's a catch for Aussie customers. [...] The new health feature, however, remains unavailable in Australia due to a lack of regulatory approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration despite being accessible in dozens of countries including New Zealand.

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### Australian Border Force officers find drugs, cash, animal products, weapons at Queensland airports

ABC Online, Other, 14/11/2024

Tinned whale meat, a whip made from a zebra's tail, throwing stars and flick knives are just some of the illegal items seized by Australian Border Force (ABF) officers at Queensland airports. The ABC was given rare behind-the-scenes access to operations at Gold Coast airport, where officials search passengers for illegal weapons, drugs and animal products. [...] ABC Gold Coast: Alexandria Utting According to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the maximum penalty for unlawfully importing vapes into the country is seven years' jail and more than one million dollars for an individual.

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### GPs are fighting 'pseudo beauty wellness' companies for access to IV fluids amid worldwide shortage, forced to ration care



Doctors are fighting against "pseudo medical wellness" companies for access to IV fluids amid a worldwide shortage, as sourcing the essential medicine continues to prove a challenge. A fixture on the arms of social media influencers and celebrities, IV vitamin therapy promises anti-ageing benefits, supercharged immunity and enhanced energy for hundreds of dollars a session. [...] A Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) spokesperson said the TGA continued to manage the shortage and supply of IV fluids as a priority but was unable to stop wellness companies from using the products.

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## Finally, hope for women living with chronic pain. After decades of medical gaslighting, a new drug gets approval - as doctors welcome long-overdue funding

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/11/2024, Mikaela Wilkes

Australia's taxpayer-funded health system, Medicare, is lauded as one of the most robust in the world. Yet ask any woman living with chronic pain how they would rate their standard of care and you would think they were living in a third-world country. [...] It's the first medication addressing the condition that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved in 13 years.

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## InstantScripts dodges \$742,500 fine for allegedly advertising S4 drugs after TGA deal

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/11/2024, Antony Scholefield

The TGA said InstantScripts' owners had changed their website in light of the infringement notices. The TGA has ended its attempt to fine InstantScripts, the Wesfarmers-owned GP corporate, for allegedly advertising S4 drugs to the public.

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## Baclofen linked to more than 100 deaths across two decades, Aussie researchers say

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/11/2024, Heather Saxena

More than half of deaths involved intentional overdose, data from the National Coronial Information System suggested. The antispasmodic baclofen, commonly prescribed off label for alcohol dependency, has been implicated in 102 deaths since 2000, Australian researchers say. [...] Only 15% had MS or a spinal lesion suggesting a need to treat muscle spasms — baclofen's only TGA indication — they said.

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## TGA withdraws InstantScripts infringement notices

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/11/2024, Siya Etzebeth

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has withdrawn 45 infringement notices it issued to InstantScripts as part of a settlement with the Wesfarmers-owned business.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 14/11/2024, Ross Solly

Doctors are having to commit with wellness companies for access to IV fluids saying they are being forced to ration care amid a global shortage. The Therapeutic Goods Administration says it continues to manage the shortage and supply of IV fluids as a priority.

Similar content in: [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#)

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## Pink cocaine drug bust triggers global investigation

Canberra Times, Other, 14/11/2024, Tess Ikonomou

More than 250 kilos of pink cocaine has been seized in Australia's largest drug bust involving the potentially deadly cocktail of illicit substances. A Sydney man has been charged over the massive haul, which Australian Federal Police estimate had a potential street value of almost \$38 million.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#)

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## Gold Coast Schoolies to have access to pill testing in effort to reduce harm

ABC Online, Other, 14/11/2024, Nicholas McElroy and Jessica van Vonderen

Schoolies celebrations can be a first taste of independence for school-leavers and an anxious time for parents. This year a pill testing service will be available at Schoolies on the Gold Coast, which starts on Saturday.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Health star ratings call

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/11/2024, Page 4

Public health groups are calling for health star ratings to be mandatory across all packaged food products after an audit found almost two-thirds of items failed to display a rating a decade after the introduction of the voluntary scheme. The George Institute for Global Health research reveals that just 36 per cent of intended supermarket items carry a health star rating, which provides consumers with a simple five-star scale to support healthier purchasing decisions.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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### Channel 7, Seven News, 14/11/2024, Mark Ferguson

It promised to make healthy shopping easier, but a decade after health star ratings were rolled out, the system is losing its shine. Health groups are calling for it to be made mandatory after an audit found the majority of items are going label free.

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### Channel 7, Sunrise, 14/11/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Alexandra Jones, Lead of Food Governance, The George Institute. Compere mentions that leading health advocates are this morning calling for health star ratings to be made mandatory across all packaged food products with the push coming through after a review found almost two-thirds of supermarket items failed to display a rating. Jones says tomorrow, 15 November, the food industry is meant to meet a target of 60% of all products to have a health star rating on them, but they've found through monitoring that only 36% of products have their ratings that are in supermarket shelves.

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## AICIS

### PFAS detected in water supply 'is at low levels'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 15/11/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 9

PFAS has been detected in a Riverina community's water supply, but residents have been assured there is no cause for concern. Riverina Water said there had been a low-level detection of PFAS

substances in the Tarcutta's water supply but the water was safe to drink and within all health guidelines.

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## 'Forever chemicals' are killing Australia's freshwater turtles, groundbreaking research finds

9News, Other, 14/11/2024, Lara Pearce

First, cancer-causing 'forever chemicals' were found in Victoria's endangered dolphins; then it was Sydneysiders' drinking water. Now, dangerous levels of the cancer-linked PFAS are altering the biochemical make-up of Queensland's freshwater turtles, putting entire populations at risk of collapse.

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## 4BC, Afternoons, 14/11/2024, Sofie Formica

An increase in the number of forever chemicals that seem to be lurking in everyday products. Dr Graeme Barden, Executive Director, Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme, could not answer the Senate when asked how long it would take to assess the remaining chemicals outright.

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