



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 16th November 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has announced Genomics Australia, a body that will ensure Australia keeps up with technological breakthroughs in genomic testing and DNA science. "Australia stands on the precipice of a revolution in genomic research ... We need to make sure Australia can take full advantage of our incredible research, taking it beyond the lab and benefiting patients" Mr Butler said.
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 1) reports whistleblowers have accused a number of surgeons and anaesthetists in the Mornington Peninsula of fraud, alleging hidden out-of-pocket costs, double-charging and fraudulent no-gap scheme claims, prompting a probe from the Benefits Integrity Division.
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 3) reports Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas has defended the state's healthcare as a number of health providers reported operating deficits, with Ms Thomas saying "The important issue here is that operating deficits have had no impact on the delivery of patient care".
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 3) reports a new medication being touted as a potential "Holy Grail" for Alzheimer's treatment is being developed by an Australian company, with the once-a-day pill targeting cortisol directly and slowing development of the disease significantly in Phase One trials. *Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#).*

- **[The Weekend Post](#)** (page 3) reports debate over the potential fluoridisation of Cairns' water supply has continued, with notable anti-fluoride critic Annette Sheppard set to present arguments to the Cairns council next week. *Also reported by:* [Townsville Bulletin](#)
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports Queanbeyan Hospital will reinstate surgical abortion services after the ABC revealed an "unspoken ban" had been put in place after a woman was turned away when seeking a procedure.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 8) reports AIHW data has revealed accidental poisonings have increased in Australia, with 1600 fatalities and 9000 hospitalisations recorded in 2021-22, with paracetamol and ibuprofen among the most common reasons for calls to the poison hotline.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 9) reports data has revealed 57 per cent of Australian's say they would travel overseas for medical procedures including dental care, cosmetic treatments and life-saving care, amid rising healthcare costs in Australia.

MINISTER BUTLER

Health insurers warn of fund closures

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 16/11/2024, Michael Smith, Page 22

Health insurers have asked Labor to allow annual premium rises of as much as 6 per cent, warning some funds will collapse or be forced to axe top hospital cover if the amount they charge policyholders does not keep pace with healthcare inflation.

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

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Health gamechanger: why DNA screening must be available for all

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/11/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Australia is on the brink of a healthcare revolution driven by DNA science that will save lives and prevent disease but top researchers, clinicians, and patient and advocacy groups are pushing for greater urgency in translating breakthrough genomic medicine to the clinic and providing equal access to screening. [...] @It would "a body within the Department of Health and Aged Care" providing expert advice to government, Mr Butler said.

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

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Small communities call for help to support ageing populations

Port Macquarie News, Other, 15/11/2024, Gabriel Fowler

The Upper Hunter Shire Council is calling on the federal government to support the region's ageing communities in the wake of neighbouring nursing home closures. [...] Mayor Maurice Collison has written to the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, requesting immediate and ongoing assistance to prevent further closures and financial losses in rural aged care.

Also reported by: [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Macleay Argus \(Online\)](#), [Gloucester Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Manning River Times \(Online\)](#), [Port Stephens Examiner \(Online\)](#).

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Hard Talk – Healthcare cost burden

Australian Rural & Regional News, Other, 15/11/2024, Nasik Swami

Payroll tax on GPs, increasing costs for GP visits, and a complicated Medicare scheme—is our health system failing our communities and the most vulnerable? [...] We asked the SA Health Minister Chris Picton, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, SA Shadow Regional Health Services Minister Penny Pratt, and Federal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton, what needs to be done to reduce the burden of

increasing healthcare costs on people in country towns, where access to various health services is already limited?

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Federal funding announced for vaping prevention program

Education Today, Other, 15/11/2024

The Federal Government will fund a national program to prevent young people from taking up vaping. [...] Announcing funding for the roll-out yesterday at Cannon Hill Anglican College, Brisbane, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said: "Vaping is a modern problem, and we need modern and innovative solutions if we are to avoid another generation of people becoming addicted to nicotine.

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MINISTER WELLS

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DEPARTMENT

Health gamechanger: why DNA screening must be available for all

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/11/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Australia is on the brink of a healthcare revolution driven by DNA science that will save lives and prevent disease but top researchers, clinicians, and patient and advocacy groups are pushing for greater urgency in translating breakthrough genomic medicine to the clinic and providing equal access to screening. [...] @It would "a body within the Department of Health and Aged Care" providing expert advice to government, Mr Butler said.

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

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Surgeons accused of fraud

The Saturday Age, General News, 16/11/2024, Melissa Cunningham, Page 1

Dozens of anaesthetists and surgeons have been accused of systematic fraud, double-dipping and

pocketing off-the-book fees in a damning whistleblower complaint that has sparked probes by a federal regulator and private health insurers. [...] A spokesman for the federal Department of Health and Aged Care said it was unable to share details of its compliance investigations, including probes still underway.

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

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Grand designs

Central Western Daily, General News, 16/11/2024, Riley Krause, Page 1

A multi-million dollar community facility with an indoor pool and gym could be up and running by the beginning of 2026. [...] Investment for the project has been received from the Department of Health and Aged Care with support from Newmont.

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The unplanned pregnancy

Goondiwindi Argus, General News, 15/11/2024, Page 40

Unwanted pregnancies are a rising problem in rural Australia, with recent research revealing women living in rural and remote areas are 1.4 times more likely than their urban counterparts to experience an unintended pregnancy. [...] Funded by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care, the EXTENDPREFER study also received input from the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health at the University of Melbourne and the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health.

Also reported by: [Maranoa Today \(Maranoa\)](#).

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Health industry's 'Rising Star'

Nambucca Valley News Of The Area, General News, 15/11/2024, Ned Cowie, Page 6

Macksville Medical Centre's Practice Manager Casey Shorter has been named the Rising Star in Rural/Remote Health at the National Rural and Remote Health Awards. [...] National Rural Health Commissioner Prof Jenny May and Governor General Sam Mostyn AC, joined 180 rural health professionals and distinguished guests from across Australia for the awards, which honour professionals and organisations who have significantly contributed to improving healthcare in the bush.

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The politics and money of bed block, ED access and HiTH

Health Services Daily, Other, 15/11/2024, Jeremy Knibbs

If this week's Healthcare in the Home Society conference in Sydney highlighted one thing it would be that we now are getting very good at understanding how to manage patients who end up in hospital but can be successfully and often better managed in their homes. [...] Apparently the Department of Health and Aged Care are pretty up on the evidence base for HiTH as well and they are closely watching whether public funding for HiTH in US, which has remained in place since covid, will continue past this December when it is being reviewed.

[Read More](#)

Blog: Robotic processes, survey fatigue, sharing by default and how Milo conquers all

Pulse+IT, Other, 15/11/2024, Kate McDonald

In this week's blog we look at two innovative implementations of robotic process automation, one in primary care and one for hospital waiting lists; confront 'survey fatigue' for weary aged care providers; find out about when Australia's sharing by default legislation is likely to come in; and we marvel at how access to the mighty Milo must be protected at all costs. [...] Also this week, we heard from the Department of Health and Aged Care in its end of year round-up of the progress being made to digital transform the aged care sector.

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RACGP pushes for changes to Medicare Safety Net

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/11/2024

The RACGP is calling on the Federal Government to renew the Medicare Safety Net (MSN) health policy to address shortfalls and implement a solution to patients rising out-of-pocket costs. [...] In a submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care's (DoHAC) Medicare Safety Net Reform Working Group, the college says the MSN thresholds must be lowered to ensure patients across all income brackets can benefit.

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Lower the Medicare Safety Net thresholds: RACGP

The Medical Republic, Other, 15/11/2024, Laura Woodrow

Lowering the Medicare Safety Net thresholds would improve the buffer to out-of-pocket costs for care, but it can't stop there, says the RACGP. In its submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care's Medicare Safety Net (MSN) Reform Working Group, the RACGP said changes to the MSN must be made to improve transparency and protect those at risk.

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VACCINES

Confused about Covid-19 jabs? Here's what a top doctor says

The Australian, Other, 15/11/2024, Steve Robson

Not sure whether you should have another Covid-19 booster? Confused about when it might be due? You're not alone. I'm one of the country's most senior doctors and I'm facing the same questions.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Here's your self-help guide to ageing well in Australia, with expert tips

The Australian, Other, 15/11/2024, Stephen Lunn

We all think we know how to live to a healthy old age. Stick with the Mediterranean diet and one glass of red, do the daily crossword and walk around the block a few times a week and we'll all be right. But will we be all right? Really?

[Read More](#)

Food delivery kitchen's future uncertain amid cost-of-living crisis

ABC Online, Other, 15/11/2024, Jamie Smith

If it wasn't for his routine meal delivery service, 90-year-old Ron Griffiths may not be alive today. After falling on his property during an intense hailstorm, and sheltering for around 24 hours, it was his food delivery driver who called for a welfare check.

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Engagement models impact nutrition care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 15/11/2024, Natasha Egan

Being employed and having regular engagement with residents leads to better work and care outcomes for dietitians working in residential aged care, delegates have heard this week. A contractor approach with ad hoc engagement should be avoided, Dr Karly Bartrim, a dietitian, and a lecturer in nutrition and dietetics at the University of Queensland, told the Australian Association of Gerontology conference in Hobart on Wednesday.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Preventive healthcare revolution

Weekend Australian, Editorials, 16/11/2024, Page 14

More than 100 clinicians and researchers, and 50 peak health and patient advocacy groups, have right on their side in pushing for the benefits of genomic medicine to be made available to all Australians, regardless of income or location. Publicly funded genetic testing is mostly only available to confirm a diagnosis or to diagnose a limited range of conditions for high-risk individuals.

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It's a risky business, yet more older women are choosing to become mothers

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/11/2024, Sarah Berry, Page 28

By a woman's mid-40s, the possibility of spontaneous conception or IVF success "approaches zero", say experts. Even if they do become pregnant, "overall the risks are probably higher today compared to many years ago", says Associate Professor Alex Polyakov, an obstetrician, gynaecologist and medical director of Genea in Melbourne.

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We're being poisoned by everyday stuff

Canberra Times, General News, 16/11/2024, Lanie Tindale, Page 8

More Canberrans are ending up in hospital from accidental poisoning, as child safety experts warn of the risks of unsuspecting household objects like hand sanitiser and dishwashing tablets. Accidental poisonings in the ACT skyrocketed in 2021-22, according to new data by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

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

Preventing early births could improve behaviour in schools

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 16/11/2024, John Newnham, Page 159

Every year in WA, 3000 babies are born too early. While many of these children may go on to live a normal and fulfilling life, for many others their early birth will forever prevent them from achieving the health and wellbeing that should have been their birth right.

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Falls top injury stats

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/11/2024, Page 5

Falls account for two in five hospitalisations in Australia. Falls resulted in 238,055 hospitalisations in 2022-23, with slips, trips and stumbles the most frequent cause, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data.

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WA has top accidental death by poison rate

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 16/11/2024, Claire Sadler, Page 11

More West Australians have died from accidental poisonings from using drugs and alcohol than anywhere else in the country. Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare revealed accidental poisoning accounted for 8.7 deaths per 100,000 in WA in 2021-22 more than 10 deaths a week.

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The challenges for youth quitting vapes

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?

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Falls, assaults, accidental poisoning among leading causes of injury hospitalisations and deaths in Australia

ABC Online, Other, 15/11/2024, Annika Burgess

Injury is a major cause of hospitalisation in Australia, and the leading cause of death for people under 44 years old. And it is injuries from falls, transport, assault and accidental poisoning that are among the most fatal, according to new data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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Sturt Street restaurant partners with community group for men's mental health

Ballarat Courier, Other, 15/11/2024, Alex Dalziel

A collection of Ballarat businesses and sports clubs have joined forces with a local support service to raise awareness about men's mental health issues. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows Ballarat having a higher age-standardised suicide rate than cities like Geelong and Bendigo, at 15.2 per 100,000 people, or 85 deaths by suicide between 2019 and 2023.

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Private health in postnatal depression data fail as public system leads the way

The Mercury, Other, 15/11/2024, Jackie Sinnerton

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, 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.

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Study finds vaping risk rises with childhood trauma

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/11/2024

With one in six Australian high school students vaping, and students who have vaped 29 times more likely to go on to try smoking, the substance's impacts are an ever-growing public health issue. Amid this vaping surge, Australian-first research has used Health4Life study data and examined surveys from 2234 year 7 and 8 students from 33 schools across three states.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Fighting the odds on brain cancer

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/11/2024, Tansy Harcourt, Page 19

My phone lit up the night world-renowned melanoma pathologist Richard Scolyer revealed the devastating news he had been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour and unveiled his revolutionary plans to try to beat the unbeatable. Even my mother who is well attuned, in the 13 years since my own brain tumour diagnosis, to ignoring the misleading "cancer breakthrough"-style headlines was excited after hearing about Professor Scolyer's treatment on television.

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

Huge value in local medical research

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 16/11/2024, Page 30

Breakthrough research by Australian biotechnology company Actinogen Medical holds precious hope for hundreds of thousands of families affected by Alzheimer's disease. Human trials now under way could pave the way for a daily pill to slow or even halt cognitive decline from the disease.

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Miracle pill offers hope for millions

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/11/2024, Zoe Smith, Page 3

A once-a-day pill that targets the production of the stress hormone cortisol in the brain has the potential to be the "Holy Grail" in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Xanamem, a new therapy being developed by the Australian biotechnology company Actinogen Medical, helps slow down the course of the disease and address cognitive decline.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Diabetes numbers soar to 800 million

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/11/2024, Page 31

The number of adults living with either type 1 or type 2 diabetes in the world has surpassed 800 million more than four times the number in 1990. And 445 million adults 30 and older with diabetes (59 per cent) did not receive treatment in 2022, 3 times the number in 1990, the Imperial College London says.

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

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City in the top 25 for rates of melanoma

Daily Advertiser, General News, 16/11/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 3

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. Wagga was ranked 22 out of NSW's 128 local government areas for its rate of melanomas, according to the Cancer Institute.

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Championing healers

Weekend Post, General News, 16/11/2024, Jennifer Spilsbury, Page 9

The healing tentacles of COUCH Wellness Centre are long and powerful, you just have to ask Robert Soderberg. A prostate cancer diagnosis late last year hit the 69-year-old for six, consuming him and wife, Cathy, with feelings of anxiousness and nervousness that only the big C can do.

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PRIMARY CARE

Left doublethink paints abortion as a 'health' issue

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/11/2024, Angela Shanahan, Page 15

Readers of my last column might have thought that it was just about that awful topic, abortion and they would have been partly right, as we were on the cusp of the US election. In this country, the left has long tried to use the availability of "reproductive services", elaborate code for abortion, to push for it to be available in public hospitals and, by extension, to attack Catholic public hospitals.

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

Hospitals left counting cash weekly

The Saturday Age, General News, 16/11/2024, Rachel Eddie & Annika Smethurst, Page 3

Alfred Health has been forced to scrutinise its available cash on a weekly basis while Monash Health has eaten into its reserves to provide care because of "reduced sustainability funding" from the state. The dire state faced by the big health providers is revealed in questionnaire responses to parliament's public accounts and estimates committee (PAEC), which will next week question the Department of Health and Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas on their budget constraints.

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

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Junior doctors working in fear

Courier Mail, Editorials, 16/11/2024, Page 66

The hospital system is broken. And it has been for a long time. But a new report has highlighted just how dire the situation is, with a laundry list of issues identified by junior doctors exposing just how big a job the new government has in trying to turn things around, as promised during the election campaign.

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

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Service is \$52m in the red

Border Mail, General News, 16/11/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

Albury Wodonga Health's deficit has skyrocketed to \$52 million and key emergency care targets are failing to be met, the organisation's 2023/24 annual report shows. The revelations come as lobby group Better Border Health highlights, through previous reports, how patients in the area are being short-changed in comparison to other regional hospitals.

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Champions of care

Daily Liberal, General News, 16/11/2024, Ciara Bastow, Page 1

The Wellington Antenatal Clinic, a small yet dedicated healthcare service has been awarded a 'Champion of Medicare', recognising its unwavering commitment to providing essential care to women for over 30 years. What began as a modest clinic run by Doctor Ian Spencer OAM has grown into a community cornerstone, offering much more than basic antenatal services.

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Anti-fluoride in focus

Weekend Post, General News, 16/11/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 3

A longstanding critic of fluoridating Cairns' water supply will present her arguments to the city's councillors in a deputation next week. But leading health experts maintain the tooth-strengthening chemical is a safe and effective way of improving oral health.

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

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Eight ideas put to Minister in fight for Panorama Clinic

Western Advocate, General News, 16/11/2024, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 2

Panorama Clinic advocate Chezzi Denyer has come away from a meeting with Mental Health Minister Rose Jackson feeling like the community's concerns are being taken seriously. The sub-acute mental health inpatient unit will be temporarily relocated for up to three years while Bathurst's public hospital undergoes a \$200 million redevelopment.

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'Culture of cover-up and cowardice' in Queensland hospitals: AMA

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/11/2024, William Davis

Senior Queensland bureaucrats attempted to “cover up” significant concerns about safety and bullying in hospitals, according to the peak body representing doctors. A new survey of 831 junior doctors in training conducted by the Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ) shows increasingly negative trends across multiple metrics.

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Access to the contraceptive pill over pharmacy counters was supposed to make life simpler, so why is it being questioned?

ABC Online, Other, 15/11/2024

The contraceptive pill is a daily necessity for Caitlin Cranitch. The Brisbane medicine student was relieved to learn access to her medication would be easier under a new Queensland trial.

[Read More](#)

Surgical abortions at Queanbeyan Hospital to be reinstated and region's service expanded

ABC Online, Other, 15/11/2024, Lucy Barbour

A public hospital in New South Wales is set to reinstate surgical abortion services the day after the ABC revealed it had formally scrapped them. An ABC investigation exposed that Queanbeyan Hospital, which had been providing surgical terminations, turned a woman away on the day of her scheduled procedure.

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Top hospital official accused of dodging meetings in lead up to abortion ban

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 15/11/2024, Grace Dudley

A high-ranking official at Orange Hospital has been accused of refusing to attend key meetings in the lead-up to a ban on abortions for non-medical reasons. A clinician from the NSW hospital, who wishes to remain anonymous to protect their job, has accused the director of medical services, Sid Vohra of refusing to engage with the Medical Staff Council.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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Mental health upgrade finally underway after four years in limbo

Cairns Post, Other, 15/11/2024, Phil Buckman

The new Queensland Premier has wasted no time in addressing Rockhampton's sickly health services. In the Beef Capital for just the second time since he was elected, David Crisafulli, flocked by Health Minister Tim Nicholls and the region's three new LNP MPs, announced the Rockhampton Mental Health Unit upgrade was underway.

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

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New data ranks Toowoomba Hospital state's second best for training doctors working conditions

Cairns Post, Other, 15/11/2024, Peta McEachern

An annual survey of doctors in training at Toowoomba Hospital showed although the vital healthcare workers' satisfaction with conditions was stagnant, overall the regional hub was tracking better than other public hospitals across the state. A spokeswoman for the annual Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMA) said the Toowoomba Hospital maintained its B- ranking in the latest Resident Hospital Health Check.

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

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Diagnosis and treatment delays at Calvary Hospital meant man 'lost significant chance of survival'

Cairns Post, Other, 15/11/2024, Genevieve Holding

A Tasmanian coroner has found that a retired farmer "lost a significant chance of survival" in 2021 after an 18-hour delay in diagnosis in the emergency department of a Hobart hospital. James Fredrick Hill, 74, passed away from loss of blood flow to his bowels at the Royal Hobart Hospital in December 2021 after a delay in diagnosis and treatment at the Calvary Lenah Valley Hospital.

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

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CFA brigades join forces with Ambulance Victoria to boost rural cardiac response

Shepparton News Online, Other, 15/11/2024

Nine CFA brigades are trained and ready to respond to select medical 000 calls as part of a new program that will officially begin on November 27. The new Fire Medical Response program is a joint initiative between the CFA and Ambulance Victoria that will see CFA brigades dispatched simultaneously to cardiac arrests with the nearest ambulance.

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Dr Nick Coatsworth: Senior doctors should resist the 'back in my day' narrative

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/11/2024, Rachel Carter

Dr Nick Coatsworth says intergenerational comparisons — the 'back in my day'-isms — can make it harder to address young doctors' mental health and burnout. The former deputy chief medical officer acknowledges he may be guilty of them.

[Read More](#)

'The system let him down'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/11/2024

Rachel Allen's son Dylan was just 26 years old when he died in April 2022 of end-stage liver disease caused by alcohol dependence. Now, Rachel wants to share her family's story in the hope it has an impact and influences change by raising awareness of the harms of alcohol and the need for improving links between healthcare providers.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 15/11/2024, Andrea Nierhoff

A pilot program enabling Queensland women to get the contraceptive pill directly from a pharmacist rather than going to a doctor for a script was supposed to make things easier. But the services is not as easy or cheap as first thought, and the Queensland Health says the pilot programme will continue through until June.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 15/11/2024, Natalie Barr & Matt Shirvington

Violence at Queensland hospitals has escalated to the point that some young doctors feel frightened to walk between buildings on night shifts. According to a new report from the Australian Medical Association, around a third of junior doctors don't feel safe in their workplace and half live in fear of making a deadly error because they're overworked.

Also reported by: [Central GTS/BKN Port Lincoln \(Port Lincoln\)](#), [Central GTS/BKN Port Pirie \(Spencer Gulf\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 7 Gold Coast \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Seven ACT \(Canberra\)](#), [Seven Albury \(Albury\)](#), [Seven Armidale \(Armidale\)](#), [Seven Ballarat \(Ballarat\)](#), [Seven Bendigo \(Bendigo\)](#), [Seven Bundaberg Wide Bay \(Bundaberg\)](#), [Seven Cairns \(Cairns\)](#), [Seven Central \(Alice Springs\)](#), [Seven Cooma \(Cooma\)](#), [Seven Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [Seven Dubbo \(Dubbo\)](#), [Seven Gippsland \(Sale\)](#), [Seven Gold Coast \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Seven Griffith \(Griffith\)](#), [Seven Mackay \(Mackay\)](#), [Seven Mid North Coast \(Coffs Harbour\)](#), [Seven Mildura \(Mildura\)](#), [Seven Moree \(Moree\)](#), [Seven Mt Isa \(Mt Isa\)](#), [Seven Newcastle \(Newcastle\)](#), [Seven North Coast \(Lismore\)](#), [Seven Orange \(Orange\)](#), [Seven Regional WA \(Perth\)](#),

Seven Rockhampton (Rockhampton), Seven Shepparton (Shepparton), Seven Sunshine Coast (Sunshine Coast), Seven Swan Hill (Swan Hill), Seven Tamworth (Tamworth), Seven Taree (Manning River), Seven Tasmania (Hobart), Seven Toowoomba (Toowoomba), Seven Townsville (Townsville), Seven Wagga Wagga (Wagga Wagga), Seven Warrnambool (Warrnambool), Seven Wollongong (Wollongong), Ten GTS/BKN Broken Hill (Port Pirie)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Schools lose on mental health

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/11/2024, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 11

A free mental health check for kids in primary and high school has become the latest casualty of the state government's stoush with its federal counterparts, sparking anger from parents desperate for help amid a youth suicide crisis. Based on years of research and developed by experts at Sydney's Macquarie University, the online survey system dubbed My Mind Check is a free program that allows schools to perform 10-15 minute check-ins on their students' mental health throughout the school year.

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'Deeply concerning' study finds six in 10 older people are lonely

Canberra Times, General News, 16/11/2024, Page 27

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

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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Stockland base for new parents support

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/11/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 10

A Ballarat service providing mental health support for expectant and new parents is moving less than 12 months after its launch to a new location to cater for growing demand. Gidget Foundation opened its Gidget House at Parent Place in Sturt Street just under a year ago, and this week moved to Stockland Wendouree where it will have the ability to grow to a five-day-a-week support service.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Future is in their hands

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/11/2024, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 8

Getting more students into higher education will be "critical" to resolving Western Sydney's skills shortage, the boss of the University of Sydney says, as new analysis reveals how demand for degrees in health and education will soar amid a shortage of nurses and teachers. Research commissioned by

the University of Sydney has found demand for higher education in Western Sydney will grow by as much as 84 per cent by 2050, increasing to 264,000 students each year.

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Saving lives matters, hair colour doesn't

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/11/2024, Page 52

It was just under a year ago that paramedics in NSW won a pay raise from the state government. That rise, an average 25 per cent rise across four years, was awarded as ambulance workers threatened a mass walkout that would "put lives at risk".

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Nurse training aids specialist care

Broken Hill Times, General News, 15/11/2024, April Shepherd, Page 11

A local clinical nurse consultant specialising in lymphoedema therapy is now seeing patients following the completion of her training, funded by the Broken Hill Breast Cancer Support & Fundraising Group. Megan Jordan specialises in wound, stoma care, and now lymphoedema surveillance, diagnosis, management and prevention.

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Pay rise for public doctors heads to arbitration after two years of talks

Canberra Times, Other, 15/11/2024, Lucy Bladen

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.

[Read More](#)

Show us you care

Shepparton News Online, Other, 15/11/2024, Zoe McMaugh

Deniliquin's nurses are calling on the community to get behind them as they campaign for better working and pay conditions. They believe it is the only way to convince the NSW Government of their worth, and the disparity with other states that is exacerbating staff shortages in hospitals like ours.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

A guide to starting online therapy

Canberra Times, General News, 16/11/2024, Page 47

Telehealth is a phrase most people are familiar with after covid lockdowns moved many medical appointments online or via phone call. But how does telehealth work when you're talking about a session with a psychologist as a new patient?

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

GP in touchy time warp

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 16/11/2024, Shannon Hampton, Page 3

A Perth doctor has been reprimanded after he touched two medical receptionists inappropriately and told them they were "beautiful" and to "sit there and look pretty". He blamed his conduct on a failure to recognise societal shifts in the workplace.

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Banned former hospital doctor allowed to practise again

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 16/11/2024, Natalie Croxon, Page 4

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. The NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) cancelled Dr Vincent Dzung Tran's registration and prohibited him from providing healthcare for a year when it found him guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct in October 2022.

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AHPRA fast track to specialist registration attracts its first 50 overseas doctors

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/11/2024, Paul Smith

Nearly 50 doctors from overseas have applied to the Medical Board of Australia's fast-track pathway to work as specialist GPs in Australia. The controversial pathway, which sidelines ACRRM and the RACGP from assessing doctors as fit to practice before they are granted specialist registration, opened just over three weeks ago.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Panthers score a \$300m new den

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/11/2024, Linda Silmalis, Page 15

The long-awaited \$300 million redevelopment of the Penrith Stadium has passed its biggest hurdle with planning authorities this week approving the mega-project. The green light by the Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Department now enables the awarding of a contract with works to begin next year, with completion in 2026.

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Murdochs face challenge to find willing buyer for Foxtel

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 16/11/2024, Calum Jaspan, Page 2

The main name tipped as a buyer interested in News Corp-owned pay TV business Foxtel dropped out earlier this year, citing unrealistic price expectations from the media giant. US-based Platinum Equity has been the only name publicly linked to a potential deal to buy Australia's most storied and influential pay TV business.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

We'll travel for ops

Courier Mail, General News, 16/11/2024, Page 9

Fifty-seven per cent of Australians say they would travel internationally to undergo medical procedures amid the escalating cost of healthcare. Down Under, a new survey has revealed. The research, which was commissioned by Insure&Go, revealed that 65 per cent of Australians would seek overseas dental procedures, and 42 per cent would travel overseas for lifesaving or lifeextending cancer treatments.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Global diabetes rate has doubled in last 30 years: study

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/11/2024

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.

[Read More](#)

Mounjaro reduces T2 diabetes risk: study

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/11/2024

Eli Lilly has announced that The New England Journal of Medicine has published the results of the Phase 3 SURMOUNT-1 study, the longest study of the weight loss drug Mounjaro (tirzepatide) to date. Over a 176-week treatment period, tirzepatide significantly reduced the risk of developing type 2 diabetes in adults with prediabetes and obesity or who are overweight, achieving notable weight loss.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Boney's path to empower her community

Daily Liberal, General News, 16/11/2024, Ciara Bastow, Page 3

Lacey Boney's path to a fulfilling career in community service was driven by a deep-seated desire to help others and a chance opportunity that she almost missed. Her journey with Marathon Health, a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting the well-being of communities, has been transformative - not only in terms of the skills and knowledge she's gained but also in the ways she's been able to make a tangible difference in her local area.

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Central Australian advocates raise alarm over relocation of children in custody to Darwin prison

ABC Online, Other, 15/11/2024

Central Australian advocates are warning plans to relocate young people in custody in Alice Springs to a new Darwin youth prison will further traumatise communities and lead to more crime. The Northern Territory government announced the move in October as part of an "emergency" prison reshuffle in response to record levels of overcrowding in prisons across the territory.

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Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council discusses key issues facing

Aboriginal women at roundtable event

West Australian, Other, 15/11/2024, Natasha Clark

"Aboriginal people are the experts in their own lives. They have the solutions, but no one's asking them." This statement from Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council board member Val Ross encapsulates the ethos behind the council, which hosted a three-day roundtable, Collective Leadership – Rise Up in Broome from November 11-13.

[Read More](#)

Inside the antenatal clinic that has become a lifeline for regional women

Daily Liberal, Other, 15/11/2024, Ciara Bastow

The Wellington Antenatal Clinic, a small yet dedicated healthcare service has been awarded a 'Champion of Medicare', recognising its unwavering commitment to providing essential care to women for over 30 years. What began as a modest clinic run by Doctor Ian Spencer OAM has grown into a community cornerstone, offering much more than basic antenatal services.

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Joint Council reaffirms commitment to closing Indigenous inequality gap

National Indigenous Times, Other, 15/11/2024, Rhiannon Clarke

At a significant meeting in Western Australia, leaders from across the nation gathered to reaffirm their dedication to addressing the gap in Indigenous inequality. Led by Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Tony Buti, the Joint Council on Closing the Gap convened with representatives from federal, state, and territory governments, alongside key figures from the Coalition of Peaks, an organisation representing over 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations nationwide.

[Read More](#)

Calls to improve care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with lung disease

Croakey, Other, 14/11/2024, Jennifer Alison & David Meharg

New recommendations for improving the management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) highlight the importance of ensuring services are culturally safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who are at increased risk from COPD but have lesser access to appropriate services. The first national COPD Clinical Care Standard stresses the importance of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners in improving access to care, as well as the safety and quality of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with COPD.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Trades targeted in war on silica danger

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/11/2024, Alexandra Smith, Page 8

In January 2019, Andrew Klohk was summoned to the Sydney CBD offices of the state insurer, icare, for his first lung function test. Within hours he was in hospital having a CT scan and delivered a devastating blow: he had silicosis, an incurable lung disease. Klohk, 53, had worked as a stonemason from the age of 16 – and on the weekends from age 10 – with his father on the family's wall and floor tiling business.

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Mpox virus spike in Perth

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 16/11/2024, Page 24

Authorities have issued a warning after a series of locally acquired mpox virus cases in Perth. WA Health acting communicable disease control director Paul Effler said "men who have had sex or

intimate contact with other men in Northbridge venues such as adult shops or saunas" in the past month were most at risk.

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

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Deadly drugs hit Coast for Schoolies

Courier Mail, General News, 16/11/2024, Greg Stolz Ann & Wason Moore, Page 13

Extremely pure ecstasy and synthetic opioids are among the potentially deadly batches of drugs Schoolies will be exposed to as controversial pill testing begins for the first time. Cameron Francis, CEO of The Loop, which operates drug and pill testing clinics in Burleigh and Brisbane, said his team was concerned about young people using MDMA, also known as ecstasy, at this year's event after reports of deaths overseas.

Also reported by: [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Bird flu strains free-range farms

Burnie Advocate, General News, 16/11/2024, Andrew Miller, Page 4

Australia's peak consumer watchdog has given free-range egg producers leeway in repackaging their products if producers have to house chickens due to an avian flu outbreak. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has released guidelines on labelling poultry eggs and meat as 'free range' in the event of a H5N1 outbreak.

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

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Port Adelaide Enfield Council joins opposition to nuclear submarine waste storage at Osborne for

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 15/11/2024, Natalie Vikhrov

Plans to store low-level radioactive waste generated by the building of the AUKUS nuclear submarines in Port Adelaide have been opposed by a local council – though elected members acknowledge they have little say in the decision-making process. Recently passed federal legislation will allow the Osborne Naval Shipyard – set to be expanded to build future nuclear-powered submarines – to house a facility that would be “managing, storing or disposing of radioactive waste”.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Defender of the industry we love to hate

AFR Weekend, General News, 16/11/2024, Michael Smith, Page 37

Rachel David has already settled in with a flat white when I arrive for lunch at one of the Sydney CBD's more opulent dining rooms. "I know it's a strange way to start a lunch, but it's been one of those mornings," she says, as I sink into the booth opposite.

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

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Ozempic quitters facing big risks

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/11/2024, Adella Beaini, Page 7

A study has shed light on health risks faced by people who stop using weight-loss medications Ozempic or Wegovy. Researchers from Northwestern University in the US found that when patients

stopped using semaglutide, the active component in those medications, the majority regained around two-thirds of the weight they initially lost.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#)

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Sex abuse, drugs and predatory 'gurus': The dark side of a booming wellness trend

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/11/2024, Clare Sibthorpe

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.

[Read More](#)

International workers show visitors around Australia as tour guide shortage hits crisis point

ABC Online, Other, 15/11/2024, Kristy Sexton-McGrath

When Elliot Suckley arrived in Australia two years ago, he was an English barman seeking a fresh start. [...] "There's a very big shortage, partly due to the pandemic, when many in the industry were forced to return home and others decided it was time to retire," TGA Vice President Susan Rees said.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

What are the common misconceptions about taking medicinal cannabis and going to work?

ABC Online, Other, 15/11/2024, Sophie Kesteven & Damien Carrick

Earlier this year, a Brisbane man, whose job involved loading and unloading ship cargo, was fired after testing positive for THC in a random workplace drug test. Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is a cannabinoid commonly found in cannabis, and Michael Gauci had a doctor's prescription for medicinal marijuana.

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

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