



# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 18th November 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (page 1) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has said he is “enormously worried” by nicotine addiction among young Australians as illicit tobacco trade continues despite a ban on their sale and pharmacists say they are worried to stock vapes in case they are targeted by the criminals. “Frankly, it got under our guard ... I hear constantly, particularly from parents in school communities, how angry they are that this has become so rife in schools,” Mr Butler said. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- **The Age** (page 1) reports mental health access for students in Victoria’s public schools could be reduced as changes to the Schools Mental Health Fund mean only fully qualified mental health workers qualify for the funding, with school principals saying the program was being utilised by large numbers of their students that will no longer have access due to the changes.
- **The Australian** (page 4) reports the Coalition continues to hold up the passage of Labor’s aged care legislation, seeking over 30 amendments to the bill, with Aged Care Minister Anika Wells declining to confirm if the changes would be agreed to, saying “the Albanese government will continue to engage with all parliamentarians to pass urgent generational reform by the end of the year, so older Australians can reap the benefits of improved aged care”.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 5) reports wait times for home care packages are expected to reach six months by June next year, according to documents from the federal Health

Department, with Aged Care Minister Anika Wells saying a \$4.3 billion investment in the Support at Home system will bring down wait times in the long term. "These reforms will mean shorter average wait times from assessment to receiving support with a target of three months by July 2027" Ms Wells said. *Also reported by: [Courier Mail](#), [Herald Sun](#)*

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 3) reports a global clinical trial of an immunotherapy treatment for resistant non-Hodgkin lymphoma that included 27 patients in Victoria has shown promising results, curing 60 per cent of patients in the trial, with the treatment to be sent to the TGA for approval. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#)*
- **[The Toowoomba Chronicle](#)** (page 4) reports 30 per cent of doctors surveyed in the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation Queensland Resident Hospital Health Check (ASMOFQ) have flagged safety as an issue for the fourth year in a row, with AMAQ's Dr Elise Witter saying the lack of change in the data is "beyond disappointing".

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## MINISTER BUTLER

### Vape trail: Fuelling our health calamity

Age, General News, 18/11/2024, Eryk Bagshaw & Laura Sparkes, Page 1

Lily Ford's vaping journey began when she was 15. [...] The Department of Health created an unprecedented "notified list" to rush vapes off the streets and into chemists, which allows big tobacco companies to self-declare that their products are safe.

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

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### Lung cancer screening to save thousands of lives

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

The National Lung Cancer Screening Program will begin in July 2025, with the hope that it will save lives by detecting cancer at an earlier and more treatable stage. Although lung cancer isn't Australia's most common cancer, it's the deadliest. [...] The Health Minister Mark Butler announced the program in May 2023 – allocating \$264 million for the program that has the potential to save 12 000 lives in the first decade of the program.

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### 'All talk no action': Coalition attacks genomics commitment

The Australian, Other, 17/11/2024, James Dowling

Questions are being asked about the status of a planned new national genomics body and whether it will be a legislated Commonwealth entity similar to important agencies such as Cancer Australia. Federal health minister Mark Butler announced on Friday the government would establish the national body Genomics Australia, and that it would be a body within the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care, with a commissioner who will provide expert advice to Government on health genomics.

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### Channel 9, 60 Minutes, 17/11/2024, Adam Hegarty

After Ice, the vaping black market is now the second largest illicit drug operation in Australia, worth \$2 billion a year. It's an extraordinary statistic and it's about to get even more lucrative since Health Minister Mark Butler changed the law. The cost of a vape has skyrocketed from 25 to \$55, so a dangerous turf war has now erupted, with rival gangs firebombing stores across the country in a bid to intimidate shops and control the illegal market.

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### Channel 9, 60 Minutes, 17/11/2024, Adam Hegarty

60 Minutes feature on vape use among children. Features an interview with Mark Butler describing how rampant advertising and sale of vapes to children is why he announced the vaping ban earlier this year.

He says raids will continue to crack down on illegal retailers selling to children and that they will be prosecuted.

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## Channel 9, 60 Minutes, 17/11/2024, Adam Hegarty

It's hardly surprising that once again, we've all been sucked in by the duplicity of Big Tobacco and its apologists. When that industry could no longer lie about the deadly effects of cigarettes, it promised to clean up its act. [...] The health minister who introduced the laws, Mark Butler, knew it was going to be a tough battle.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Aged-care bill faces changes

The Australian, General News, 18/11/2024, Sarah Ison, Page 4

Labor is facing a raft of changes to its \$5.6bn aged-care bill in the final sitting fortnight of the year, with the Coalition demanding the government provide "clear timelines" for the reforms and a commitment never to reduce aged care places. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells would not be drawn on whether Labor would agree to any of the amendments, saying "the Albanese government will continue to engage with all parliamentarians to pass urgent generational reform by the end of the year, so older Australians can reap the benefits of improved aged care".

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

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### Long wait lists a home truth

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/11/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 5

Older Australians are staring down longer wait times for basic support to help them live independently. An extra 24,100 homecare packages are being allocated this financial year under a \$531m federal government investment.

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

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### Aged Care Minister announces financial support for providers to help with reforms

The Weekly Source, Other, 17/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells this evening announced the Department of Health and Aged Care is developing \$10,000 grants to help residential care and home care operators cover the costs of developing the IT systems needed to implement the once-in-a-generation reforms that are due to take effect in less than eight months' time. [...] Anika Wells also revealed the Australian Government is forming an Aged Care Transition Taskforce to try to help providers "manage implementation of the new Aged Care Act by 1 July 2025", assuming the Bill is passed.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## DEPARTMENT

### Long wait lists a home truth

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/11/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 5

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### A guide to investing in aged care and retirement living

Australian Property Investor, Other, 17/11/2024, Bradley Beer

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

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### Lung cancer screening to save thousands of lives

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

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## VACCINES

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### The simple philosophy behind delivering quality aged care

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/11/2024, David Norton, Page 28

I am always encouraged by the commitment and kindness that aged care workers display every day. In addition to delivering great care, they appreciate the positive difference they can make to the lives of older people through a friendly chat or light-hearted banter.

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### Aged care complaints up 20 per cent over last year, data shows

Your Life Choices, Other, 18/11/2024, Brad Lockyer

Despite a royal commission and increasing public scrutiny on the sector in recent years, complaints regarding aged care services have spiked 20 per cent in the past year, statistics reveal. The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) says they responded to 44,428 complaints about aged care services in the 2023-24 financial year, representing a 20.3 per cent increase over FY23.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Bookworm babies 'do better in kindy'

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 18/11/2024, Natasha Bitá, Page 7

Babies who are read books from birth start school with bigger vocabularies and more interest in reading, an Australian-led study shows. [...] " The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) estimates that one in six children has not been read to or told stories by the time they turn two.

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

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### \$50m a year up in smoke from illicit ciggy sales: Ritchies chief

Fred Harrison is feeling the shockwaves from two of the most threatening and costly forces now crashing into the nation's independent supermarkets; the proliferation of the illegal tobacco trade and the dominant power of Woolworths and Coles. The first headache, smokers' willingness to buy cheap, illegal tobacco from dodgy and dingy suburban cigarette shops, is costing his Ritchies stores \$50m a year in lost sales, he says.

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

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## Horrors that await between dreaming and waking up

Age, General News, 18/11/2024, Nell Geraets, Page 17

Three or four nights a week, Ashleigh Crisafi wakes up paralysed and in utter terror. "I can blink, but otherwise can't move a muscle and can't speak," says the 29-year-old.

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

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## Mystery oral cancer spike

Courier Mail, General News, 18/11/2024, Tayla Coucaud, Page 16

A 16-year-old Queensland boy has had almost half his tongue removed after a sinister ulcer turned into a grade 4 cancer with experts warning the cause of a spike in tongue cancers remains unknown. Rates of tongue cancer are rising at 3 per cent each year, according to the latest Australian Health and Welfare data.

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

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## 'Trying to survive'

Herald Sun, General News, 18/11/2024, Regan Hodge, Page 15

Crime gangs dominating the tobacco market are forcing legitimate retailers out of business as insurance companies increasingly reject claims to cover their businesses. Several TSG tobacconists have been served with lease terminations and given one week to vacate as shopping centres declare insurance hikes of \$100,000 far too high.

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## A breath of fresh air

Northern Territory News, General News, 18/11/2024, Camden Smith, Page 1

Darwin has made the top five out of almost 400 cities in a worldwide study of air pollution and capital city air quality. The latest AutoTrader global pollution survey ranked Darwin fourth out of almost 400 world capitals for global air cleanliness.

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## Call for more education as access to pill improves

Border Mail, General News, 18/11/2024, Sophie Else, Page 2

Border women are facing challenges with the abortion pill due to a lack of education and clear guidance, despite recent improvements in access. The pill - known as the MS-2 Step mifepristone medication - is a two-stage process and was once only able to be prescribed by a certified doctor and provided by a properly registered pharmacist.

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## The WA suburbs with the worst 'health score' (and which one could get a fifth McDonald's?)

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 18/11/2024, Holly Thompson

A community in Perth's south has raised the alarm over a proposal to build a fifth McDonald's chain in

their suburb – and the second to sit directly opposite a primary school. The development plans come as a new report reveals Perth is the "least healthy" of all capital cities in the country, and the only capital with worse health outcomes than its surrounding regions – partly attributed to urban sprawl and a lack of access to healthy food options.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### **Acting legend Volska tells all on Parkinson's**

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 18/11/2024, Fiona Harari, Page 1

It began quietly and sporadically, and for a time Anna Volska was not overly concerned about the tremor that would appear intermittently in her left hand. "It wasn't a violent shake. It was just a little tremor and then it would stop," recalls the Sydney-based actor.

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### **Sports club scraps soft drink for research into childhood type 2 diabetes prevention**

ABC Online, Other, 17/11/2024

A country sports club in North Queensland has scrapped serving soft drinks in a community-led push to prevent type 2 diabetes among Indigenous young people. The Garbutt Magpies Sporting Association, which hosts AFL, cricket and netball in Townsville, has switched to serving only water alongside healthy food at its Friday night activities for local children.

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### **Queensland fails to crack down on 'rebranded sunbed' that claims to stimulate collagen but accelerates ageing**

The Guardian, Other, 18/11/2024, Melissa Davey

Queensland Department of Health investigators are struggling to prosecute sunbed operators claiming the devices are "safe" because inspectors do not have the necessary UV detection equipment, and because services are being advertised on private social media accounts. [...] Cancer Council Queensland's prevention and early detection senior manager, Sharyn Chin Fat, said "a collarium is essentially a rebranded sunbed that emits both UV radiation and red-light wavelengths".

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### **"If you build it, they will come": the convergence of funding, research and collaboration in paediatric brain cancer clinical trials**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

Each year, approximately 1000 children in Australia and New Zealand, aged 0–14 years, are diagnosed with cancer. Despite paediatric cancer accounting for less than 1% of all cancer cases, the impact on their families and communities is profound and disproportionate.

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### **60-day prescriptions and the shelf life of asthma inhalers**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) has gradually introduced 60-day prescriptions of certain medicines for eligible patients with stable conditions. [...] Associate Professor Debbie Rigby, clinical executive lead, National Asthma Council Australia, is an advanced practice pharmacist with over 40 years' experience across clinical pharmacy practice, interdisciplinary care, policy and advocacy, clinical governance, guidelines development and education.

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## State quietly puts \$9.6b on 'credit card'

Age, General News, 18/11/2024, Broede Carmody, Page 3

Victoria drew almost \$10 billion from a controversial fund last year to cover hospital spending, infrastructure work and even settling the Commonwealth Games dispute. An analysis of known treasurer's advances from the 2023-2024 financial year, compiled by the state opposition and provided to The Age, shows Treasurer Tim Pallas signed off on cash injections for 161 projects totalling \$9.6 billion.

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

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## Balance the best policy

Herald Sun, General News, 18/11/2024, Rachel David, Page 25

At the start of every year, half the population receive a letter from their health insurer to explain the cost of their insurance is changing. It's a tense moment for the insurers because we know some people can't afford an increase, prompting them to downgrade their cover, or cancel it.

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

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## Got the geography wrong

Border Mail, General News, 18/11/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

Concerns over Albury-Wodonga's health system being run from Shepparton have been aired by Border Medical Association members, with one saying it does not make sense. Fears about the remote administration have been promoted by a recent letter to Albury Wodonga Health seeking feedback on Victoria's new health networks, which will see the Twin Cities become part of a Hume area extending west to Kyabram and south to Yea.

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## Shoalhaven hospital's big redevelopment

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 18/11/2024, Glenn Ellard, Page 5

Shoalhaven residents can get a preview of how their new hospital will look, and what it will offer. While the redeveloped Shoalhaven facility is still some time from being completed, a virtual tour of the new seven-storey building and campus has been released.

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## Bitter pill as GPs' fees rise

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/11/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

The average out-of-pocket cost for Hunter and Central Coast patients to see a GP was \$46.16 in the September quarter, a rise of 60 per cent in a decade. Medicare data showed this gap fee for the Hunter New England and Central Coast primary health network was \$40.27 in the September quarter last year

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## Healthy report card

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 18/11/2024, Peta Mceachern, Page 4

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.

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## Ambar had simple surgery to fix an excruciating problem. She was left in a coma for two weeks



Ambar-Rose Powell, 19, went into surgery to reduce her excruciating endometriosis pain. But what was meant to be a “minimally invasive” procedure went horribly wrong, leaving the teenager from northern NSW with potentially lifelong complications.

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## Concern from health care professionals as abortion laws threatened in multiple states

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

Politics has put abortion back on the ballot in the United States, as well as in Queensland and South Australia. InSight+ spoke to health care professionals about their concerns as reproductive health care is influenced by both politics and postcode. Dr Nisha Khot is the Vice President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZOG).

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## 4BC, Weekend Breakfast, 17/11/2024, Olympia Kwitowski

The Australian Medical Association says it's important for young people attending schoolies over the weekend to take pill testing for their safety. AMA Queensland President Dr Nick Yim says their judgment-free, educational pill testing centre in the Gold Coast gives young people the chance to have their pills tested confidentially. Young people can also have a chat with a healthcare professional about drug use, alcohol use, and other healthcare concerns, Dr Yim adds.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Schoolkids' psych support at risk

Age, General News, 18/11/2024, Broede Carmody & Brittany Busch, Page 1

Some of Victoria's poorest students could lose access to mental health support after the state government quietly clamped down on funding for psychologists in schools. The move to limit the \$200 million Schools Mental Health Fund created after Victoria's 2019 mental health royal commission to fully qualified mental health workers has especially angered schools in Melbourne's outer suburbs and the state's regions, where these resources are already scarce.

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### A nation fights back

Daily Telegraph, General News, 18/11/2024, Cydonee Mardon, Page 1

There is no shying away from the truth of why 12-year-old schoolgirl Lauren Rafferty took her own life. She spelt it out in her gut-wrenching suicide note. “This is the result of years of toxic friendship. I curse you.”

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

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### Nurtured Village supports mums in need, helps combat perinatal mental health issues

ABC Online, Other, 17/11/2024

Alicia Payne was 12 weeks pregnant and a mother to two young children when her world was turned upside down. Her four-year-old son Bronson was diagnosed with leukaemia.

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### School students may lose mental health support after funding

## clampdown

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 17/11/2024, Broede Carmody & Brittany Busch

Some of Victoria's poorest students could lose access to mental health support after the state government quietly clamped down on funding for psychologists in schools, prompting principals and mental health leaders to sound the alarm. The move to limit the \$200 million Schools Mental Health Fund – created after Victoria's 2019 mental health royal commission – to fully qualified mental health workers has especially angered schools in Melbourne's outer suburbs and the state's regions, where these resources are already scarce.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### RFDS awarded for remote health care

Central Western Daily, General News, 18/11/2024, Page 3

Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern Section (RFDSSE) recently celebrated at the 2024 National Rural and Remote Health Awards in Canberra, winning the Rural/Remote Health Employer of the Year for its work across the RFDSSE Medical Services practices in Warren, Gilgandra and Condobolin. Held as part of Rural Health Pro's Rural Health Month, the awards recognise the exceptional health professionals and organisations committed to improving the health and wellbeing of rural and remote Australians.

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

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### Ready for anything

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 18/11/2024, Page 10

As North Queensland braces for cyclone season, local GPs, pharmacists, and residential aged care staff have undergone essential emergency planning to ensure they can continue providing vital care during disasters. The training, which covered emergency management plans, evacuation stages, and the prevention, preparedness, and recovery phases, brought together health workers from across the region.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Private health insurers are now offering GP telehealth services. Is this a risk to Medicare?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

Australia's second-largest private health insurer, Bupa, has recently started offering its members three

free GP telehealth consultations a year. This follows other insurers such as nib offering its members digital GP consults, for things like prescriptions and medical certificates, for a fee.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Generous 'ultimate gift' that helped nine people

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/11/2024, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 11

It made perfect sense to Adelaide author and negotiation consultant Leonie McKeon that others should benefit from her organs. So when she passed away suddenly last year after a brain haemorrhage, there was no question her organs wouldn't be used to help others.

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### Tales of city's tobacco woes heard with big fines on table

Daily Advertiser, General News, 18/11/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 4

Wagga's tobacco woes, including the "explosion" of dodgy operators on Baylis Street, have been heard in the halls of power as decision-makers close in on heftier fines. Within weeks, illicit tobacco or "chop-chop" traders could be hit with greater penalties than previously tabled in the NSW government's new tobacco bill, which drew a two-hour debate in the lower house on Tuesday.

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### Organ donation on rise in Australia, as DonateLife marks Thank You Day

Adelaide Now, Other, 17/11/2024, Samantha Landy

More Australians are selflessly donating their organs, with the latest figures – released on DonateLife Thank You Day – showing an 8 per cent jump in deceased donors annually. Among the 397 people to give the gift of life this year was a donor aged in their 80s.

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

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## SPORT

### ABC, ABC News (Sunday), 17/11/2024, Lydia Feng

Pelvic health experts warn that while pelvic pain is common in women who exercise, it is not normal. Around 1 in 3 women across all sports experience pelvic floor symptoms like urinary incontinence, and a study of 4500 symptomatic Australian women found half of those stopped physical activity because of it. Monash University physiotherapy lecturer Jodie Dakic says pelvic pain is a "big, previously unrecognised barrier." Gymnastics NSW head trampolines coach Belinda Cox says her organisation has launched an education campaign for physiotherapists, coaches, and athletes' parents to treat the pain early and remove the stigma.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Cancer cure stirs blood

Herald Sun, General News, 18/11/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 3

A new treatment for an aggressive blood cancer developed in Australia is saving the lives of some patients who had run out of options. A "significant" number of participants in a world-first clinical trial, which involved Victorians, were cured of a resistant non-Hodgkin lymphoma when standard treatments had offered little hope.

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

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### Providers of hope

Herald Sun, Editorials, 18/11/2024, Page 24

Hundreds of cancer patients have been given fresh hope of a cure thanks to Victoria's world-leading researchers. As revealed by the Herald Sun, scientists have uncovered a new treatment for an aggressive blood cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

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### Medicare-subsidised mental health service use during the first 15 years of life in New South Wales: a population cohort study

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

Each year, one in seven Australian children and adolescents experience a mental disorder, but only half receive treatment. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reported that 6% of children aged 5–11 years and 13% of those aged 12–17 years used Medicare-subsidised mental health services during 2021–22.2

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### Management of people after stroke in 383 Victorian general practices, 2014–2018: analysis of linked stroke registry and general practice data

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

Stroke is a leading cause of death and disability in Australia<sup>1</sup> and around the world. Many people who survive stroke or transient ischaemic attacks (TIAs) have several other medical conditions (eg, diabetes) or risk factors (eg, hypertension)<sup>4</sup> that increase the risk of further vascular events if not well managed.

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### Safeguarding the health and wellbeing of transgender young people

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

Transgender (hereafter referred to as trans) people have a gender that is different from the sex assigned to them at birth (Box 1). It is estimated that globally, 1.2–2.7% of people under 19 years identify as trans.

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### The association of child protection contact with mental health-related hospitalisations of adolescents, and their costs

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024, Paul Hotton

Mental health challenges during adolescence are a critical public health concern, especially among young people at particular risk. The study reported by Judd and colleagues in this issue of the MJA highlights the substantial mental health-related hospitalisation burden among adolescents aged 12–17 years who have had contact with child protection services.

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## Language matters when talking about diabetes

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

Almost 1.5 million Australians live with diabetes. [...] Funded by Diabetes Australia, researchers surveyed 747 adults with diabetes (T1D: n = 519; T2D: n = 180; other types: n = 48), plus 118 parents of a child with diabetes.

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## Participation of Indigenous children and young people to improve health and wellbeing

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

Participation is widely recognised as a determinant of children and young people's health. Both the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) (Article 18) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 12) enshrine participation as an inalienable right.

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## Assessing the adequacy and sustainability of the Northern Territory health workforce with respect to burden of disease and injury, 2009–2021: an analysis of administrative data

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

Population health cannot be improved without an adequate, high quality health workforce. Health workforce needs are expected to increase substantially in Australia because of population growth and ageing, as well as changes in the epidemiology of disease and injury.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### It started as a headache. By evening, James was unresponsive to his name

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 17/11/2024, Fiona Hall

"It's not meningococcal or something, is it?" I was texting my husband, Simon, at 4am on a Monday from my hotel room in Palm Springs while he was at The Alfred hospital in Melbourne with our 19-year-old son, James.

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### First known US case of person infected with new mpox strain reported

The Guardian, Other, 17/11/2024, Lauren Aratani

US health officials reported Saturday the first known case of a person infected with the new mpox strain in the country. The person acquired mpox while traveling to east Africa and was treated for a mild illness in San Mateo, California, according to health officials.

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

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

## Private hospital using concussion tech that helped Ponga

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/11/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

When Kalyn Ponga suffered a string of concussions last year, he was sent to Canada to use a new technology that measures brain activity. [...] The company recently secured approval from the TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration) to use the medical device in Australia.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### 'No idea': Australia's shameful statistic laid bare

Adelaide Now, Other, 17/11/2024, Eleanor Katelaris

Australia's shameful drug use has been laid bare, with damning statistics revealing Australia has the highest rate of cocaine users per capita in the world. This issue is primarily driven by the high number of weekend users who spend hundreds of dollars on a bag every weekend without hesitation or thought into the consequences.

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

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## FOOD STANDARDS

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## AICIS

### Farmer stirs the pot

Daily Advertiser, General News, 18/11/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 1

A Wagga resident who is sick and tired of being ignored about PFAS contamination has decided to erect signs to light a fire under the government. Robert Cook lives on a 60-acre property at Gumly but hasn't used more than five acres in recent years because he believes the per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) plume originating from RAAF Base Wagga has contaminated it following repeated floods.

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### Neurologists call for ban of herbicide linked to Parkinson's disease

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/11/2024

Parkinson's disease neurologists and advocates are urging the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA) to ban the common herbicide paraquat, citing compelling evidence linking its use to the development of Parkinson's disease. Paraquat is a common, non-selective herbicide that is registered for weed control in a range of agricultural situations.

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### Bathurst latest city to detect PFAS chemicals.

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 17/11/2024

A recent GIPA request to Bathurst Regional Council has revealed that the Council has detected PFAS chemicals in its drinking water supply numerous times since 2017. The GIPA request also reveals that

the monitoring conducted by Bathurst Regional Council is much more thorough than that done by Sydney Water in 2024.

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