



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 20th November 2024

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| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)
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| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports that Australia's narrowing gender pay gap is being primarily driven by wage increases for the female-dominated aged care sector. *Also reported by:* [SBS](#)
- **[The Age](#)** (page 2) reports that a global study of major cities has found that Sydney and Melbourne lack adequate tree canopies, giving rise to urban heat islands which increase the prevalence of health concerns such as heatstroke, obesity, depression and anxiety.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports that 95 per cent of patients presenting to Brisbane's most intensive burns unit have suffered injuries as a result of the lithium batteries found in e-scooters and vapes.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 4) reports that a new website launching in February will provide real-time data on waiting lists, bed capacity and the number of emergency patients at Queensland's 25 largest hospitals, with updates every 30 minutes.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 4) reports that a new survey of children and their parents suggests that the age at which children's mental health begins to decline significantly has dropped from ten to just eight, with 61 per cent of children aged eight to 12 reportedly showing signs of stress, anxiety or depression at some stage.

- **The Age** (page 7) reports that an analysis of Victorian hospitals' annual reports shows their WorkCover premiums increased by 51 per cent over the last financial year, jumping from \$166 million to more than \$250 million.
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports that advocates have urged the government to strengthen air pollution regulation, including requiring or incentivising indoor ventilation, arguing that the risk posed by airborne diseases to immunocompromised people in unventilated public spaces constitutes a breach of the Disability Discrimination Act.
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports that the Australian Medical Association has warned that a lack of access to adequate mental health support due to a national shortage of mental health professionals is putting lives at risk, particularly outside of capital cities.
- **The Guardian** reports that the Greens will move to discharge the controversial Human Rights (Child Born Alive Protection) Bill from the Senate in a move expected to split the Coalition on the issue of abortion.

MINISTER BUTLER

Mums urged to get free RSV vaccinations

Wollondilly, General News, 15/11/2024, Michael Sharp, Page 8

The Chair of Southern Highlands Division of General Practice has encouraged mothers to take advantage of the Federal Government's new program for free vaccines protecting against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), the number one cause of hospitalisation for Australian children under five years of age. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said Australia was taking a world-leading approach to reduce the impact of RSV on babies.

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Thousands more Aussies to get access to osteoporosis treatment

9News, Other, 19/11/2024

Thousands of Australians with osteoporosis will now have access to a game-changing and affordable treatment after the drug Evenity was added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). [...] "Without PBS listing, you're up for about \$5000 every course of treatment," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Caps on cleaning, gardening go

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 19/11/2024, Natasha Egan

The government is removing caps on two Support at Home services among reform changes underway as the Senate debates the new Act. Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells has announced the government has removed caps on gardening and cleaning services under Support at Home to better support older people's independence. [...] Many stakeholders have raised concerns about these caps including directly with Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler last week during a radio segment on ABC radio.

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The Water Cooler: Comings and goings in the APS

PS News, Other, 19/11/2024, James Day

Aps Senior Executive Service Band 1 Samantha Robertson is now general manager for resources and tax incentives at the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR), while Joanna Stone has been promoted to general manager for external budgets and costings. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has appointed Rosemary Huxtable AO PSM to develop the National Health and Medical Research Strategy.

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'Be bold and brave': RACGP President reflects

RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins shares some of her favourite moments with members, staff and politicians, from the last two years. [...] And our presence at high-level meetings with key decision-makers and politicians, namely the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC), is showing no signs of slowing down. Just this week I was in Canberra for Friends of Immunisation, and Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler accepted my invitation to attend GP24.

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Government scraps its controversial cleaning and gardening caps for Support at Home

The Weekly Source, Other, 19/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The Albanese Government has announced a backflip on plans to impose a 52-hour per year cap on cleaning and 18-hour per year cap on gardening for recipients of Support at Home services. [...] In a statement, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the absence of caps on gardening and cleaning, which until yesterday had been the Government's policy, would be "helping the growing number of older Australians choosing to retain their independence at home".

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Curtin FM, 15:00 News, 19/11/2024

Regional Australia is continuing to feel the impacts of doctor shortages. Practices are closing their doors to new patients, GPs in some towns are booked out for the foreseeable future, and some regional cities have no doctors on the roster at all. Health Minister Mark Butler says everything is being done to lighten the load on healthcare professionals, such as increasing bulk billing and providing debt relief and cash incentives for graduate doctors who practice in regional Australia.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 19/11/2024, David Bevan

Interview with Anne Ruston, Liberal Senator for SA, on the cap on cleaning and gardening services for people taking aged care packages to be lifted. Bevan says Minister Mark Butler was asked to explain what's going on but he wasn't available today. Ruston says the Government's hand was forced to realise that their arbitrary decision to put caps on cleaning and gardening was just ridiculous because it took choice and control away from the older Australians.

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FIVEAA, Breakfast, 19/11/2024, Will Goodings & David Penberthy

Interview with Dr Amanda Rogers, psychologist, on people having their Medicare rebates rejected, which means that they now have to pay the full fee to see their psychologists. As a result, there's evidence that mentally unwell people are just cancelling their appointments on financial grounds, placing themselves at risk. Rogers says since May or June, all mental health care clients from the impacted towns have had their Medicare rebates rejected and they are trying to investigate why and they are also trying to get action by the Government. She adds they have contacted SA Premier Peter Malinauskas, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and SA Health Minister Chris Picton but they haven't had any success with any of them.

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MINISTER WELLS

Caps on cleaning, gardening go

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 19/11/2024, Natasha Egan

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including directly with Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler last week during a radio segment on ABC radio.

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Govt announces reform transition taskforce

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 19/11/2024, Jodie Wolf

The taskforce will meet as soon and as often as possible to troubleshoot providers' challenges, chair Anne Burgess tells Australian Ageing Agenda. [...] Announcing the measures on Monday, Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the government was determined to assist the industry to meet the challenges of moving forward.

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Government endorses women and girls charter

Golf Australia, Other, 19/11/2024, Martin Blake

The Australian Government has endorsed the R&A's Women in Golf Charter, throwing its weight behind the efforts of Golf Australia in engaging with women and girls in the sport. Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells signed the charter on Monday at Parliament House in Canberra at a function attended by Golf Australia Chief Executive James Sutherland, WPGA Tour Australasia Chief Executive Karen Lunn and PGA of Australia Chair Ian Baker-Finch.

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2SM, 14:00 News, 19/11/2024

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has indicated she would support the regular publication of data about how long older Australians are waiting for Commonwealth-funded aged care support. The latest data, released through Senate questioning, shows 76,000 older Australians are yet to receive their home care package.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 11:00 News, 19/11/2024

Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the Government could pass major reforms to the sector through Parliament after months of negotiations with the Coalition. While Labor already has support for funding changes, the Opposition made over 30 recommendations about other aspects of the bill.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 09:00 News, 19/11/2024

A proposal to limit cleaning and gardening help for older Australians at home has been scrapped by the Federal Government as it moves to progress aged care reforms through Parliament. Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the proposal has been changed after a Parliamentary Inquiry found it inappropriate as it could have left some living in unsanitary conditions. The Federal Government remains in collaboration with the Federal Opposition.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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DEPARTMENT

New COVID wave is gathering strength and might peak around holiday season

West Australian, Other, 19/11/2024, John Flint

A new wave of COVID-19 infections is building in WA and could peak in the lead-up to or during the Christmas holiday season. [...] The federal Department of Health and Aged Care said the JN.1 boosters would be made available "as soon as possible."

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Midwest Times \(Online\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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The time for action on youth mental health is now

Communitydirectors.com.au, Other, 19/11/2024

We can no longer delay urgent investment in mental health promotion and prevention strategies that address the unique needs of young people, says Angus Clelland, CEO of Mental Health First Aid International. [...] The recent launch of our MHFA training program for health professional students, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, is a promising step in the right direction.

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The who, what and where of the medical research workforce

Future Campus, Other, 19/11/2024, Stephen Matchett

Research for the Department of Health and Aged Care reports everything you suspected is true. How many : there are 39,000 health and medical researchers. [...] Where the cash comes from : The three big grant sources for traditional researchers are National Health and Medical Research Council (68%), Medical Research Future Fund (42%) and Australian Research Council (12%).

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Home care wait times could be published more often for increased transparency

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 19/11/2024, Alex Jacobs

Aged care wait times could be published every three months by the Department of Health and Aged Care after the Coalition renewed its calls for greater transparency in aged care. The Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells broached the idea at Question Time on Tuesday during the midst of negotiations with the opposition party over the Aged Care Bill.

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Landmark asset: Former Sirius building in Phillip for sale

PS News, Other, 19/11/2024, Ian Bushnell

The former Sirius Building in Phillip, which was renamed after public servants working there complained about its colonial connection, is on the market. Purpose-built in 2010 for the Department of Health and Aged Care, which will call it home until at least 2035, the building is now known as Yaradhang, the Ngunnawal term for eucalyptus, a plant known for its medicinal properties.

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'Be bold and brave': RACGP President reflects

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/11/2024, Nicole Higgins

RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins shares some of her favourite moments with members, staff and politicians, from the last two years. [...] And our presence at high-level meetings with key decision-makers and politicians, namely the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC), is showing no signs of slowing down. Just this week I was in Canberra for Friends of Immunisation, and Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler accepted my invitation to attend GP24.

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Nurses are the solution, say nurses

The Medical Republic, Other, 19/11/2024, Holly Payne

The nation's peak nursing bodies have united to urge the government to move forward on scope of practice reforms. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care is also in the process of finalising the first national nursing workforce strategy, the draft of which recommends investing in nursing leadership and enabling nurses to work to their "optimum" scope of practice in all settings.

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VACCINES

New COVID wave is gathering strength and might peak around holiday season

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Study: Impact of COVID on those with disabilities

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 19/11/2024

Disruptions to essential support services during the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the mental health and life satisfaction of Australians with disabilities, according to new research from Flinders University. The study, published in Disability and Society, surveyed adults with disabilities who receive government support through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), revealing a sharp decline in well-being during pandemic lockdowns.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Cop who tasered great-grandmother 'was fed up', jury told

Canberra Times, General News, 20/11/2024, Page 10

A police officer who tasered an elderly woman offered "malleable" explanations about what happened in the lead-up to the deadly incident and spurred him to act, a jury has heard. Dramatic footage of the incident taken from the nursing home's CCTV and police bodyworn cameras has been shown at a NSW Supreme Court manslaughter trial for Senior Constable Kristian White.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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

Senior nomination for Finley's Darling

Southern Riverina News, General News, 20/11/2024, Rowan Frazer, Page 1

Finley's Gwenda Darling has found herself listed among the best of them, as one of four nominees in the 2025 NSW Senior Australian of the Year. [...] She is actively involved with the Aged Care Council of Elders, Older Persons Advocacy Network and Dementia Australia and advocates for the human rights and dignity of all older Australians.

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Survey identifies resi care research priorities

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 19/11/2024, Natasha Egan

A first-of-its-kind study surveying residents, family members, frontline staff, policy makers and peak bodies, and researchers has identified worker retention, palliative care, and behaviour support for dementia as the preferred target areas of future research. Lead investigator Dr Katrina Long from the National Centre for Healthy Ageing and Monash University presented the results of the study at the Australian Association of Gerontology conference in Hobart last Wednesday.

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'Our job is to maintain the peace': Police officer defends tasing 95-year-old aged care patient

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/11/2024

Senior Constable Kristian White was charged with manslaughter through criminal negligence. A police officer tasered a 95-year-old aged care resident holding a knife because his patience ran out, not because she was a threat, a jury has been told.

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Home care wait times could be published more often for increased transparency

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 19/11/2024, Alex Jacobs

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POPULATION HEALTH

Schoolies advice for worried parents

The Australian, General News, 20/11/2024, James Dowling, Page 7

With schoolies season stoking parents' anxieties nationwide, children's doctors say undue fears of peer pressure are preventing teenagers from "testing the waters" and learning to show good judgment. A poll conducted through the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne has found peer pressure was the highest ranked health concern among parents of teenagers.

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

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Legal bid to force action on air quality

The Australian, General News, 20/11/2024, James Dowling, Page 7

Lax air regulations may contravene disability discrimination law, according to high-risk Australians who are calling on the government to intervene and ensure better air cleanliness. A new advocacy group, Safer Air Project, has warned that current air quality standards cost up to \$50bn annually in lost productivity and health costs.

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We must save our teens from perils of vaping

Hobart Mercury, General News, 20/11/2024, Abby Smith, Page 19

The Tasmanian parliament is currently considering updates to public health legislation to protect our children and young people by keeping nicotine vaping products available through pharmacies only with a doctor's prescription and banning sales to anyone under 18 years. With many young Tasmanians struggling with serious nicotine addiction from vapes, these changes are nation-leading.

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There's a better way to walk for exercise

The Australian, Other, 19/11/2024, Nicole Blades

We all need to move more. Sedentary behaviour presents a health risk. One of the simplest and least expensive ways to get more active is just putting one foot in front of the other.

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Illegal vape suppliers could cop \$1.5 million fine or seven years jail in NSW

9News, Other, 19/11/2024, Mikala Theocharous

A change in NSW legislation could see illegal vape suppliers hit with a \$1 million fine, up from a \$1650 fine. The legislation tabled in parliament today means suppliers convicted of selling illegal vapes could

be hit with a \$1.54 million fine or a prison sentence of up to seven years.

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How Ireland's alcohol warning labels could hurt Aussie exporters - and why these researchers say we should back it anyway

9News, Other, 19/11/2024, Adam Vidler

Ireland is preparing to roll out a range of health warning labels on all alcohol products in the country - but Australia is among a number of countries trying to prevent it. Now, Australian researchers are urging the government to stand down from its opposition.

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Victorian laws cracking down on illegal tobacco trade welcomed by former Wangaratta mayor

ABC Online, Other, 19/11/2024, Jason Katsaras

The former mayor of the Wangaratta City Council says local governments should have no part in stamping out the illegal tobacco trade, after revealing his former council spent thousands prosecuting cases against unlawful sellers. Dean Rees retired from council this year and said his council's efforts to curtail the rising presence of illegal tobacco sales were next to fruitless.

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'A World of Pain': a long overdue conversation about the complex nature of chronic pain

SBS, Other, 19/11/2024, Virat Nehru

How much do we really know about chronic pain? [...] According to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, women overall have higher rates of experiencing chronic pain than men.

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Thousands of vapes seized as tougher penalties set

Newcastle Herald, Other, 19/11/2024, Neve Brissenden

A vendor selling an illegal vape could face up to seven years in prison or a million dollar fine as the NSW government cracks down on supply of the products. Health Minister Ryan Park introduced a bill to parliament on Tuesday aimed at halting the scourge of young vapers in the state.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Illegal vape penalties soar

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 19/11/2024

The NSW Government has introduced harsher penalties for illegal vape supply, with fines to soar from \$1,650 to \$1.54 million and prison sentences increasing from six months to seven years. Additional offences are possession of commercial quantities of vaping products and retailer possession of vaping products.

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Gabapentinoids may increase hip fractures: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/11/2024, Manisha Fernando

Each year in Australia, there are around 20,000 new hip fractures reported, with 93% the result of a fall-related injury. [...] The research comes on the same day as new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data revealed falls led to 238,055 hospitalisations in 2022–23, accounting for more than 40% of all injury hospitalisations.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 19/11/2024, Emma Rebellato & Stephanie Ferrier

Interview with Professor Nitin Kapur, Head Paediatrician, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, on Federal Independent MP Sophie Scamps reintroducing her bill to drastically cut down on junk food advertising in Australia. Kapur says they are calling for control over what children are exposed to so that its adverse effects like obesity can be contained. He adds that 25% of children currently are either living with obesity or overweight. He adds it is also impacting vulnerable groups like First Nation children, those who are living with disability, and children coming from lower socioeconomic status who have a much higher proportion of obesity and overweight.

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Channel 9, Today , 19/11/2024, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo

Vape suppliers in NSW could be slapped with fines of more than \$1.5m or face seven years in prison if caught. The NSW Government is clamping down on those selling vapes who disregard the nationwide ban as they meet today to potentially pass the legislation.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Weight-loss drugs for the jobless about economics or health?

The Australian, General News, 20/11/2024, Steve Robson, Page 7

It's cutting-edge thinking but weight-loss drug Ozempic and its ilk may soon be used to boost economic productivity - an idea about to be put into action in an experiment tying obesity and unemployment. The overall cost to the Australian economy of overweight and obesity is now close to \$39bn a year.

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City fails tree canopy test after count falls short

Age, General News, 20/11/2024, Bianca Hall, Page 2

Australia's two largest capital cities have far too little tree canopy, which increases the cities' heat island effects and leads to increased rates of obesity, depression, anxiety and heatstroke. An international study of more than 2.5 million buildings across eight global capital cities has found just 3 per cent of buildings in inner Melbourne had adequate neighbourhood tree canopy cover, while 17 per cent of buildings had enough shade from tree canopies in Sydney.

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

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Relief of stickiest disease

Herald Sun, General News, 20/11/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 3

People with inherited high cholesterol known as the "evil cousin" may soon have access to potentially life-saving drugs developed in Melbourne. Two clinical trials involving Victorian patients show the drugs "dramatically" reduce levels of the condition.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Inner city fails global tree test

Herald Sun, General News, 20/11/2024, Ian Royall, Page 11

Central Melbourne has inadequate tree canopy cover, RMIT research has found, leading to concerns not only of a hotter city but increased mental health issues. A new study into eight global cities revealed that just 3 per cent of buildings in Melbourne's inner suburbs had sufficient tree canopy.

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Hep B treatment access warning

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 20/11/2024, Allan Murphy, Page 5

Fewer than one in five Mildura residents living with hepatitis B are receiving an appropriate level of care

and treatment of the disease. [...] Cancer Council Victoria early detection manager Charissa Feng said low awareness of the need for follow-up care and barriers associated with seeing a doctor one or two times a year were contributing to the treatment gap.

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

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'There's no words for the pain': Mum grieves son's unexpected death from seizure

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 19/11/2024, Evangeline Polymeneas

Tracy Weetra has never experienced pain like the day she lost her son Tyrone unexpectedly after he had a sudden seizure. [...] Leading experts are calling for greater awareness of SUDEP — which kills 170 Australians a year — in a bid to save more Australian lives.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#)

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Thousands more Aussies to get access to osteoporosis treatment

9News, Other, 19/11/2024

Thousands of Australians with osteoporosis will now have access to a game-changing and affordable treatment after the drug Evenity was added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). [...] "Without PBS listing, you're up for about \$5000 every course of treatment," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Cancer council accused of pseudoscience for offering free reiki to oncology patients

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/11/2024, Carmel Sparke

Tim Mendham of Australian Skeptics says reiki is purported to help 'balance' energy flows through practitioner's hands. Cancer Council WA has defended offering free 'energy healing' to oncology patients after it was shortlisted for the annual Bent Spoon pseudoscience award from Australian Skeptics.

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Expert in rare bone diseases calls for a new diagnostic approach across all specialties

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/11/2024

A leading Australian expert on rare metabolic bone diseases is calling for better recognition of this heterogeneous group of disorders across all medical specialties. Professor Rory Clifton-Bligh, a senior endocrinologist at Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital, says the key to better patient outcomes is earlier diagnosis of rare bone diseases, accounting for 5% of all congenital disabilities.

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Two-thirds of Australians are at risk of developing skin cancer

The New Daily, Other, 19/11/2024

Two in three Australians are at risk of developing skin cancer, according to data released to coincide with National Skin Cancer Action Week this week. The findings, based on data from health insurer nib's Skin Health tool in partnership with Cancer Council NSW, examined the results from 23,000 users who used it to complete skin checks, receive skin cancer risk ratings, advice on self-examination and information regarding skin cancer.

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Hospitals hit by jump in WorkCover costs

Age, General News, 20/11/2024, Annika Smethurst & Broede Carmody, Page 7

Victoria's cash-strapped hospitals have been hit with soaring workers' compensation premiums, and some health services' bills have doubled in a year. An analysis of more than 70 annual reports shows that WorkCover costs in the last financial year reached more than \$250 million a 51 per cent increase on the previous year's total of \$166 million.

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Scooters, vapes are top cause of burns

Courier Mail, General News, 20/11/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 3

Electric scooter and vape flash burn victims make up 95 per cent of admissions to the burns unit that treats the most serious of injuries. Referrals from emergency departments to the 18-bed Professor Stuart Pegg Adult Burns Centre (PSPABC) at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital are rising as surgeons warn of the dangers of lithium-powered devices that do not meet Australian standards.

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

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Transparent hospital data to help patients

Courier Mail, General News, 20/11/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 4

A website showing waiting lists, bed capacity and the number of emergency patients at Queensland's 25 largest hospitals at any given time will be launched in February. Clinicians working in emergency departments will enter patient admission data onto a shared system, which will be captured and uploaded on the public site every 30 minutes showing beds taken, patient numbers and waiting times.

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

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18-hour delay in diagnosis

Hobart Mercury, General News, 20/11/2024, Genevieve Holding, Page 10

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 bloodflow to his bowels at the Royal Hobart Hospital in December 2021 after a delay in diagnosis and treatment at the Calvary Lenah Valley Hospital.

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Urgent Care Clinic moved near Base

Ballarat Courier, General News, 20/11/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 2

Booming patient demand has forced Ballarat's urgent care clinic to move to a new location. The Urgent Care Clinic, formerly known as Ballarat Priority Care Centre, has moved to level 1, 1010 Sturt Street - next to Ballarat Base Hospital - and will operate an extra two hours each day.

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Abortion service offline at Wagga Base since March

Daily Advertiser, General News, 20/11/2024, Tahlia Sinclair, Page 5

Dozens of women in Wagga are seeking pregnancy termination care each month but advocates claim the Wagga Base Hospital has not provided medical termination services since March. A local obstetrician and a referral provider said the hospital's Women's Health Service quietly stopped providing medical abortions after the departure of the GP administering them.

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Firefighters take on new CPR role

Shepparton News, General News, 20/11/2024, Georgia Tacey, Page 2

Nine CFA brigades will soon be able to respond to select medical 000 calls. The joint initiative between CFA and Ambulance Victoria will see CFA brigades dispatched simultaneously to cardiac arrests with the nearest ambulance in the new Fire Medical Response program.

'We need to address the crisis': Hospital workers report rise in abuse

9News, Other, 19/11/2024, Allannah Sciberras

More than 20,000 violent incidents were reported against doctors, nurses and healthcare workers at hospitals across Victoria last year. In response to the rising number, a peak medical body is now calling on the government to implement stronger measures to improve workplace safety.

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Greens to ask Senate to vote on anti-abortion bill in bid to split Coalition on issue

The Guardian, Other, 19/11/2024, Karen Middleton

The Greens will seek to split the Coalition on the politically fraught issue of abortion by asking the Senate to vote to jettison an anti-abortion bill championed by two Coalition senators. Greens senator Larissa Waters advised the Senate on Tuesday evening that she would move a motion on 26 November seeking to have the Human Rights (Children Born Alive Protection) Bill discharged.

[Read More](#)

Australian nurses more important to reproductive health than ever

Nursing Review, Other, 19/11/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Abortion was legislatively decriminalised across all Australian states and territories earlier this year, yet public and political discourse on reproductive rights continues to prove divisive. [...] A 2023 Senate Inquiry found that women and pregnant people in rural and remote areas of the country were disadvantaged when seeking reproductive health services, stating "Australia's health system must enable all people to effectively exercise choice and control without fear of discrimination or disadvantage and to be adequately supported in their decisions."

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'Not the solution': RACGP signs joint statement slamming UCCs

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/11/2024, Chelsea Heaney

A new joint statement has urged governments to move away from UCCs, pointing to three key areas of alternative reform. [...] In a statement, co-signed by the RACGP, the Council said the push towards UCCs is 'not the solution' and is instead advocating for increased access to general practice, including after-hours periods.

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'Trans people are just people': GPs' role in trans healthcare

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/11/2024, Michelle Wisbey

'We're just people and we just want to exist in a happy space and be heard.' That is according to Alex Fraser who identifies as non-binary transmasculine, is the head nurse at a busy Perth general practice and is a passionate LGBTQIA+ healthcare advocate.

[Read More](#)

Report shows GV Health squeezed for cash

Shepparton News Online, Other, 19/11/2024, Kate Walters

GV Health was running at a deficit in the 2023-24 financial year. Many Victorian hospitals are feeling a financial crunch as they run operating losses and struggle to keep cash on hand for expenses.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 19/11/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Cenatiempo says the Patients Experiences survey found that women, young people and those with chronic health conditions were most likely to delay treatment. He adds according to the ABS, 11% of people in the lowest socioeconomic areas went without their prescribed medication due to financial pressures in 2023-2024 compared to the year before, almost double the rate of people living in

wealthier areas. He says the Australian Medical Association says people shouldn't have to choose between healthcare and putting food on the table, but it is the reality of what's happening to people at the moment.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 19/11/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Dr John Williams, President, Australian Medical Association, regarding a call to legalise pill testing. SA Health Minister Chris Picton's office has said SA Labor was consistent before the last election in not supporting pill testing as part of the policy they released and has now implemented a comprehensive policy regarding illicit drugs that involves more rehab beds and more support for families of drug users. Williams says a significant number of people who have the pill testing end up not taking the pills, which is a great outcome, but also a large group of those people are connected with healthcare professionals who can help them discuss their drug taking and support them in healthier options.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Critical shortage of professional help for those most at risk of suicide

The Australian, General News, 20/11/2024, Stephen Lunn, Page 7

If you're struggling with your mental health to the point where you're having suicidal thoughts, you would hope professional help would be near at hand. Yet this is far from the case, especially if you live outside the big capital cities.

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Kids as young as eight are stressed out

Courier Mail, General News, 20/11/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 4

Eight is now the age that children start to experience serious mental health decline, with a shock new report revealing that the danger age has dropped from 10. Australia's leading children's mental health not-for-profit organisation has opened up the extent of the struggles in children from kindy to primary school age and have exposed that more than a third of children aged four and five feel low levels of wellbeing.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#)

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Advocate pleads for more action on men's suicide

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 20/11/2024, Page 3

Thousands of shoes symbolising the number of men who take their own lives each year across Australia have been placed in front of Parliament House. More than 2400 men and boys took their own lives in 2023, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and advocates are demanding action.

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

Mum's mental health battles

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 20/11/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 5

When Shellharbour nurse Ashleigh Howley had her daughter, everything went right. She describes her experience with pregnancy and birth as "stock standard" and felt prepared - and even excited - to deal with the normal parts of new parenthood, like sleeplessness and a change to her lifestyle. Despite all this, the now 36-year-old found herself grappling with feelings of guilt and shame when she had difficulty breastfeeding.

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Govt move strips parents of their right to make decisions

"Mums and Dads ... like me, are worried sick about the safety of our kids online," Mr Albanese said. [...] Parents, who are generally considered the best arbiters of their children's welfare, are being told by this bill that their consent is irrelevant when it comes to their children's use of social media.

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Victoria mum calls out Dan Andrews after her son took his own life during lockdowns

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 19/11/2024, David Southwell

A grieving mother, whose son took his own life during Victoria's brutal Covid lockdowns under Dan Andrews, is petitioning for the former premier to lose a lucrative mental health role. Mr Andrews, who suddenly quit as Victorian premier a year ago, has been appointed chairman of not-for-profit youth mental health service Orygen, which will reportedly pay him around \$75,000 a year to attend six scheduled meetings every 12 months.

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The time for action on youth mental health is now

Communitydirectors.com.au, Other, 19/11/2024

We can no longer delay urgent investment in mental health promotion and prevention strategies that address the unique needs of young people, says Angus Clelland, CEO of Mental Health First Aid International. [...] The recent launch of our MHFA training program for health professional students, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, is a promising step in the right direction.

[Read More](#)

Didbala loved hip-hop, friends and family. System failures saw her fall through the cracks

SBS, Other, 19/11/2024, Rudi Maxwell

Didbala, a 17-year-old girl, loved her family, hip-hop, sport, singing and dancing. [...] But Didbala also suffered from significant and long-lasting mental health issues, that her treating psychiatrist, Dr Maree Ploetz, believes were consistent with psychosis and also behavioural issues likely to have been attributable, in part, to childhood trauma.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Female bosses \$158k short of men in annual wages

The Australian, General News, 20/11/2024, Ewin Hannan, Page 2

New Workplace Gender Equality Agency figures show the national gender pay gap has dropped 0.6 percentage points to 21.1 per cent, largely due to pay rises in the female dominated aged care workforce. Women are earning, on average, \$28,425 less each year, or 78 cents for every \$1 men earn.

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New blood call

Shepparton News, General News, 20/11/2024, Kate Walters, Page 1

As friends and family prepare to visit loved ones in the Shepparton area this holiday season, Goulburn Valley Health is hoping those who are in the healthcare field might consider sticking around and working in the area. The hospital, like much of the health system in Victoria, is still experiencing workforce shortages, which pose a significant challenge.

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Half of mental health specialists quit 'broken' system

Canberra Times, Other, 19/11/2024, Alex Mitchell

Public-sector doctors treating the community's most serious mental health needs are resigning en masse over claims of untenable working conditions. One-half of NSW public psychiatrists have submitted resignations via their union after a year of stalled negotiations to overhaul the sector's funding.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#)

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NSW public hospital psychiatrists suffering 'moral injury and burnout' as half threaten to resign

ABC Online, Other, 19/11/2024, Nick Dole

One in two public hospital psychiatrists in New South Wales are threatening to quit their jobs in protest over chronic understaffing and uncompetitive pay. One hundred and forty-five of 295 salaried psychiatrists have now submitted resignation letters to their union, and are threatening to formalise their departures unless the NSW government produces a plan to recruit and retain more staff.

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'Wake-up call': The sector stalling Australia's gender pay gap progress

SBS, Other, 19/11/2024

Australian women are "working for free" for the rest of the year, with a new report finding the gender pay gap is sitting at 11.5 per cent. [...] The report found one of the key drivers to narrowing the gap was wage increases in undervalued feminised sectors such as aged care.

[Read More](#)

GP turned MP says publicly owned locum agency could help fix workforce woes

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/11/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Bringing locum recruitment in-house could help doctors avoid repetitive training, said Dr Amanda Cohn. A crossbench MP and former GP locum says a government-owned locum agency could save taxpayers millions of dollars currently spent on commissions for private recruiters.

[Read More](#)

NSW Premier says nurse pay rise "unlikely to happen" after upping police wages 19%

Nursing Review, Other, 19/11/2024, Stefanie Schultz

More than 50,000 nurses and midwives walked off the job for 24-hours last week as pay disputes with the NSW government have intensified. The NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) took to the streets of Sydney from 7am Wednesday morning, just one day after the NSW Labor government announced an "historic" wage increase for the state's police officers.

[Read More](#)

'Be bold and brave': RACGP President reflects

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/11/2024, Nicole Higgins

RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins shares some of her favourite moments with members, staff and politicians, from the last two years. [...] And our presence at high-level meetings with key decision-makers and politicians, namely the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC), is showing no signs of slowing down. Just this week I was in Canberra for Friends of Immunisation, and Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler accepted my invitation to attend GP24.

Nurses are the solution, say nurses

The Medical Republic, Other, 19/11/2024, Holly Payne

The nation's peak nursing bodies have united to urge the government to move forward on scope of practice reforms. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care is also in the process of finalising the first national nursing workforce strategy, the draft of which recommends investing in nursing leadership and enabling nurses to work to their "optimum" scope of practice in all settings.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 19/11/2024, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Ryan Park, New South Wales Health Minister, on half the psychiatrists working in NSW's services, submitting their resignations due to faltering pay negotiations with the state. Park says the big challenge for them is that they are trying to close the gap of a ten-year wage freeze caused by the wages cap in a matter of 18 months. He adds they are working through it, they know how important the role that psychiatrists play. He says Minister Rose Jackson is engaged with the key stakeholders and the NSW Government is as well and they will continue to try and find solutions to it.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Time for sun protection to shine

Herald Sun, General News, 20/11/2024, Jackie Epstein & Nui Te Koha, Page 21

It wasn't until skin cancer affected her family that beauty influencer Chloe Morello really understood the importance of sun protection. "My mum was always quite adamant about sun protection but it wasn't until my family was affected directly by her getting melanoma in 2020 that we really appreciated that," the Cancer Council ambassador said to mark National Skin Cancer Action Week.

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Healthier state needs a shift in our mindset

Launceston Examiner, General News, 20/11/2024, Paul Lupo, Page 12

Tasmania needs a serious refocus and injection of preventative health funding if we are to reform our health system. A critical discussion paper on the future of our state's preventative health approach was released for community input last month, but you'd be easily forgiven for missing it.

AMA urges skin cancer checks

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 19/11/2024

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has backed the Cancer Council's National Skin Cancer Action Week with a reminder for Australians to visit their doctor for a skin check. With the highest rate of skin cancer in the world, Australians cannot afford to be complacent, warned AMA president Dr Danielle McMullen.

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SPORT

The fundies donating their fees to help rugby

Australian Financial Review, General News, 20/11/2024, Zoe Samios, Page 8

Sport Fund managers want to support the game they love. Contact Asset Management director Tom Millner can't remember a time rugby union wasn't part of his life.

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Girls give big bash a crack

Hobart Mercury, General News, 20/11/2024, Molly Appleton, Page 1

Inspired by the recent exploits of Hurricanes' WBBL big hitters Lizelle Lee and Nicola Carey, the next generation were smashing boundaries on Tuesday. A grassroots big bash tournament had more than 100 primary school-aged girls from the Kingborough region taking part in a gala day.

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Making big jump towards the Games

Courier Mail, General News, 20/11/2024, Rachel Riley, Page 10

Brisbane has an opportunity to create a green canopy skyline and a highly connected series of venues and precincts to improve the city's connectivity and lifestyle. [...] Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said delivering a major transformation of a public park alongside an Olympic and Paralympic venue required vision and imagination from the outset.

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Kerr puts up the shutters on vile trolls

Herald Sun, General News, 20/11/2024, Erin Smith, Page 11

Matildas captain Sam Kerr's pregnancy news has been overshadowed by a slew of homophobic comments with her club forced to delete posts and turn off comments on club social media accounts. Kerr, 31, and her partner Kristie Mewis celebrated their engagement in September and revealed on Monday they were expecting their first child together.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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Is betting linked to online abuse?

Launceston Examiner, General News, 20/11/2024, Page 12

With online abuse of Tasmania JackJumpers players and wives, the question of sports betting raises many questions, in particular the abuse from overseas, which is not restrained by Australian law(s). The Tasmania JackJumpers have modelled themselves partly on the New Zealand "All Blacks" (NZ's national rugby union team) philosophy of community involvement across the whole state of Tasmania, where arguably, the team's off-court performance has exceeded their wonderful on-court performance.

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Government endorses women and girls charter

Golf Australia, Other, 19/11/2024, Martin Blake

The Australian Government has endorsed the R&A's Women in Golf Charter, throwing its weight behind the efforts of Golf Australia in engaging with women and girls in the sport. Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells signed the charter on Monday at Parliament House in Canberra at a function attended by Golf Australia Chief Executive James Sutherland, WPGA Tour Australasia Chief Executive Karen Lunn and PGA of Australia Chair Ian Baker-Finch.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Pill hope for dwarfism

Herald Sun, General News, 20/11/2024, Page 9

Children with dwarfism could grow taller and have better health outcomes thanks to a promising daily tablet, new Australian-led research has shown. Achondroplasia, the most common form of dwarfism, is caused by a genetic mutation that results in short arms and legs, an enlarged head and a regular-sized torso.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Radiopharm set to home-in on expanded cancer suite

West Australian, Other, 19/11/2024, Doug Bright

Radiopharm Theranostics has received approval from the Australian Ethics Committee for the inclusion of additional tumour types in the company's ongoing open-label phase one, clinical trial of its exciting new cancer treatment drug. The trial is the first in-human study to assess the safety and tolerability of Radiopharm's "Lu-RAD204" monoclonal antibody drug in patients living with some types of advanced solid tumours, extending the existing trial beyond just those with non-small cell lung cancers (NSCLC).

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

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The who, what and where of the medical research workforce

Future Campus, Other, 19/11/2024, Stephen Matchett

Research for the Department of Health and Aged Care reports everything you suspected is true. How many : there are 39,000 health and medical researchers. [...] Where the cash comes from : The three big grant sources for traditional researchers are National Health and Medical Research Council (68%), Medical Research Future Fund (42%) and Australian Research Council (12%).

[Read More](#)

Data sharing is patient caring

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 19/11/2024

New Flinders University research has found that while progress has been made in sharing data from clinical trials, many top-selling medicine companies still need to improve their data availability. Study lead author Dr Natansh Modi, a research associate in the Clinical Cancer Epidemiology Lab at Flinders University, says that clinical trials are essential for determining the safety and efficacy of new medicines.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Art, dance and mental health support

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 20/11/2024, Lewis Nancekivell, Page 3

Coomealla Health Aboriginal Corporation staff are set to host their first Kumpa Kiira event at Wentworth tomorrow with the aim of creating a space of healing through entertainment. Event organiser Jaharlyn Mitchell said he wanted to create a place where the community could get together and overcome barriers to opening up about mental health.

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New parents urged to 'make the call' on mental health

Canberra Times, Other, 19/11/2024, Keira Jenkins

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families seeking mental health support during pregnancy and within the first year of a child's birth has tripled, a perinatal helpline says. Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Australia (PANDA) says there has been a 200 per cent increase in calls from Indigenous families to their helpline over the past 18 months.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Compensation for asbestos related diseases

Canberra Times, General News, 20/11/2024, Anne Barlow, Page 22

Have you or a loved one ever worked in an environment where asbestos exposure was common? Or perhaps you've encountered asbestos during home renovations or resided in an older home? Many Australians remain at risk of serious respiratory illnesses, like asbestosis, even decades after their exposure to asbestos.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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Mums urged to get free RSV vaccinations

Wollondilly, General News, 15/11/2024, Michael Sharp, Page 8

The Chair of Southern Highlands Division of General Practice has encouraged mothers to take advantage of the Federal Government's new program for free vaccines protecting against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), the number one cause of hospitalisation for Australian children under five years of age. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said Australia was taking a world-leading approach to reduce the impact of RSV on babies.

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'Beat the bite' from mosquitoes

Shepparton News Online, Other, 19/11/2024

In the Murray River region mosquitoes can carry viruses such as Japanese encephalitis (JE), Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE), Ross River, and Barmah Forest virus which are spread to humans through mosquito bites. With several mosquito borne diseases prevalent in the local area, children can help their families 'Beat the Bite' with a NSW statewide distribution of books that help teach the importance of mosquito bite prevention.

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Free jab program expected to reduce RSV hospitalisations by "up to 90%"

Nursing Review, Other, 19/11/2024, Stefanie Schultz

The government is spending \$174.5 million on a "world-leading" program, which will see pregnant people and newborn babies access free protection against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), ahead of

the 2025 flu season. According to the Immunisation Foundation of Australia, RSV is the number one cause of hospitalisation for Australian babies.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Health Check: Sonic Healthcare is cashed up and ready to boom as earnings improve

The Australian, Other, 19/11/2024, Tim Boreham

Pathology and radiology giant Sonic Healthcare is recovering from its post-pandemic malaise and says earnings should improve this year. [...] Rennie adds that the company has been buoyed by the level of demand for access to the company's repurposed drug, via the Therapeutic Goods Administration's special access scheme.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

When is organic not really organic?

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 20/11/2024, Page 22

The word "organic" on a food label or a product should indicate certain qualities to a potential purchaser. Uppermost among those qualities should be, obviously, that the product under consideration is indeed wholly organic in nature.

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Dogs on tighter leash at Cafe Inu

Newcastle Herald, General News, 20/11/2024, Lisa Rockman, Page 3

Newcastle's friendliest "dog cafe" has been forced to turn away its most loyal of customers. Dogs. [...] "City of Newcastle, enforcing NSW Food Authority regulations, has made it clear that this practice cannot continue, and has threatened further action.

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

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Coles shopper's 'gross' dog act in supermarket disgusts shoppers

Adelaide Now, Other, 19/11/2024, Eleanor Katelaris

A controversial photo of a dog sitting inside a supermarket trolley has sparked intense debate among shoppers. [...] According to the Food Standards Code, "a food business must not allow live animals in areas where food is handled or served."

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Food safety deadline approaches

New food safety requirements will come into effect in New South Wales from December 8. The rules apply to businesses that sell or serve ready to eat unpackaged food that needs to be kept hot or cold to stay safe.

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