



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 25th November 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports a doctor hired to a senior position to a Queensland hospital is facing allegations of stalking, with the same doctor resigning from a position at Queensland Health last year following allegations of sexual assault. AHPRA has declined to answer whether they have received complaints regarding the doctor.
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports Ramsay Health Care shareholders are calling on the private health service to sell offshore assets in order to focus on its local hospitals amid ongoing pressures for the private industry and as nurses at 17 of Ramsay's 76 hospitals are planning a 24-hour strike over a pay dispute.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 4) reports the AMAQ is calling on the Queensland LNP to make flu vaccinations free for all Queenslanders as Health Minister Tim Nicholls says he wants to consider the efficiency of a three-year trial before deciding whether to continue or axe the program.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 4) reports pill testing in Queensland will close from early next year as the LNP has announced it will no longer provide funding, with AMAQ president Nick Yim urging the government to reconsider as he says many people are using the sites to test for fake versions of legal medications like Ozempic. *Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin](#)*

- [The Canberra Times](#) (page 6) reports demand on Canberra's public hospital system has increased by almost 20 per cent in the past two years, with Canberra Health Services chief executive Dave Pepper saying slow growth of the workforce means the system will face challenges as demand increases.
- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports an artificial heart has been successfully implanted in an Australian patient for the first time, with inventor Dr Daniel Timms saying "being able to bring Australia along this journey ... and be part of the first clinical trials is immensely important to me, and something that I set out to do from the very beginning". A clinical trial has been funded by the Medical Research Future Fund to follow this feasibility study.
- [The Guardian](#) reports valproate medications with a high risk of causing birth defects have been given to over 100 pregnant women in Australia, according to FOI documents that show the TGA was advised by the Advisory Committee on Medicines that changes to prescribing requirements for the drugs were not necessary earlier this year.
- [The Herald Sun](#) (page 9) reports well-being and mindfulness training will be added to the curriculum for nursing students at Homes Glen Institute following data from the Victorian Skills Authority Fellowship showing mental health challenges for hospital staff are at an "all-time high".

MINISTER BUTLER

Community rallies to save 'treasured' Merriwa hostel

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/11/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 10

Upper Hunter residents are pushing back on council plans for an outside provider to lease, operate, or potentially buy community-based aged care facility, Gummun Place Hostel. [...] The details were contained in a letter from mayor Maurice Collison to the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler.

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MINISTER WELLS

\$200,000 blow for Mum and Dad chasing top-tier care

West Australian, Business News, 25/11/2024, Nick Bruining, Page 33

The price of an aged-care room for Mum or Dad is about to increase by a whopping \$200,000. A determination issued by Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells earlier this month increases the maximum permitted refundable accommodation deposit from \$550,000 to \$750,000, effective January 1 next year.

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An age-bomb is about to go off in Australia

The Australian, Other, 24/11/2024, Tom Dusevic

The nation will begin to look very different, with fewer schools, child care centres and children's playgrounds needed and more entertainment, leisure, sporting and health facilities for the time-rich and fit-conscious golden-aged Australians [...] Caption: Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says aged care workers are the "beating heart and backbone" of her sector.

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

[Read More](#)

Financial confusion clouding aged care transition

Campaspe News, Other, 25/11/2024, AAP NewsWire

Most older Australians are in the dark about the financial implications of moving into aged care and do not have a firm grasp on the government assistance available to them. Four in five retirees feel

unprepared about the transition to aged care, an AMP survey finds. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the number of Australians in home care had increased fourfold in the past 10 years.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Youth shaping future of the coast

www.centralcoastsun.au, Other, 24/11/2024

Hosted by the Member for Gosford, Liesl Tesch MP, students from across the region joined together at the University of Newcastle, Central Coast Research Institute, to discuss the future of leadership, exploring what leadership means to them, and discussing how young people can be empowered to address issues that matter most to them. The school leaders were also given the opportunity to ask questions of Ms Tesch and Member for Dobell, Emma McBride MP, who spoke of their journeys of leadership and the key issues facing the community.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

\$71m on new contracts

Canberra Times, General News, 25/11/2024, Miriam Webber, Page 1

The Department of Health spent the most on consultants for a second year, as federal government agencies report varied progress on a mission to slash outsourced labour. Analysis of 2023-24 financial year annual reports shows Health handed out \$70.8 million worth of new contracts, spending \$13.9 million more than it had in the preceding year.

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A contentious \$580m LGH question

Launceston Examiner, General News, 25/11/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 12

Is the \$580 million slated for upgrades to the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) the best use of funds as hospitals struggle to retain staff? [...] In the Department of Health and Aged Care's Nursing Supply and Demand Study 2023-2035, baseline projections across all sectors showed a national under supply of 70,707 full time equivalents (FTE) by 2035 with around 79,473 nurses needed to fill the gap.

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

We now know when a new COVID vaccine will be released. Should you get a booster?

SBS, Other, 24/11/2024, Elfy Scott

Australia is set to get a new COVID vaccine in the next two weeks, but what variant is it targeting? And should we all still get boosters? [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has confirmed Pfizer's JN.1 vaccine is set to be available from 9 December.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Older Aussies suffer aged-care anxiety

The Australian, Business News, 25/11/2024, Chris Herde, Page 18

Older Australians are suffering from significant aged-care anxiety, with most preferring to stay in their family home, a new survey suggests. The AMP-commissioned survey found four out of five Australians 65 and over don't feel they are prepared for the transition into aged care, with half wanting to receive care at home, while seven in 10 worry about the cost of going into a facility.

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How transitional aged care helps keep older Aussies out of hospital

Your Life Choices, Other, 25/11/2024, Brad Lockyer

Older people admitted to hospital are at a greater risk of experiencing a decline in motor skills or cognition once they leave hospital – often leading them straight back there. Transitional aged care offers temporary care specialised in helping older people transition back into daily life after a hospital stay.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Forrest calls for tax on production of plastic

Age, General News, 25/11/2024, Jesinta Burton, Page 18

Mining magnate Andrew Forrest has implored those negotiating an ambitious treaty to end plastic production to include a tax on manufacturers, amid mounting research into the human health impacts. In an opinion piece published online by The Age, the billionaire called on delegates finalising a global treaty to end plastic pollution in South Korea this week to impose a "polymer premium", arguing the world needed more than downstream measures to avoid a plastic health and environmental crisis.

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Safety first a legacy of Hughes' death

Canberra Times, Sport, 25/11/2024, Scott Bailey, Page 31

Somewhere in Perth, a driver owes the quick medical response he received following a heart attack to the legacy of Phillip Hughes. The same goes for a patron at the WACA, who had to be revived by a doctor during a state game.

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Insurance risk bombshell

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/11/2024, Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

A Newcastle business owner's application for insurance has been rejected by their insurer, due to concerns a new tobacconist nearby was at risk of being fire bombed by organised crime gangs fighting for control of the illegal tobacco trade. The building's owner, who the Newcastle Herald has chosen not to name for fear of reprisals, said they were shocked when their run-of-the-mill insurance renewal for a commercial building was denied.

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The most common injuries causing hospitalisation and death

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 25/11/2024

A report on the causes of injury leading to hospitalisation and death over the last decade has been released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). In the latest update of its report, falls continue to be the main injury that people are admitted to hospital for and the leading cause of injury related death.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 24/11/2024, Dr Ross Walker & Ned Green

Interview with Dr Ross Walker discussion the relationship between cholesterol, trans fats and cardiovascular disease. Dr Walker says there a number of factors that affect cardiovascular disease and that there are large scale studies that show saturated fats and cholesterol do not have a direct correlation to cardiovascular disease, but that trans fats have been found to have a correlation to higher rates of heart disease.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Big questions can't weight

Herald Sun, General News, 25/11/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 19

Talking to patients about their weight remains an uncomfortable topic for some GPs, who admit in research to having weight bias and even avoiding the subject altogether. Senior author Gemma Sharp said it found doctors and other health professionals wanted to do the right thing by their patients, but many felt they lacked the tools to start difficult conversations about weight.

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Call for help in cancer fight

Daily Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2024, Page 11

Around 250,000 men in the Australian community have been impacted by prostate cancer, and many of them are on hormone therapy to keep the cancer at bay. Although it slows disease progression and increases survival, hormone therapy can cause both physical and psychological side effects that severely impact quality of life.

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Brave Emily in the fight for her life

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2024, Abby Walter, Page 9

A Lara 11-year-old has had an audience with the acting prime minister to share her story of battling brain cancer. Emily Cooke has been fighting a ganglioglioma of the brain stem, a rare form of brain cancer, for six years.

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Hepatitis B care lacking in Victoria

Shepparton News, General News, 25/11/2024, Page 9

New data has revealed less than one third of Victorians living with hepatitis B are receiving lifesaving follow-up care. [...] Early detection manager at Cancer Council Victoria Charissa Feng said low

awareness and barriers to medical care are contributing to the treatment gap.

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Jonathan was diagnosed with dementia at 55, here's how Christmas will change

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 24/11/2024, Eileen Wood

How would you feel if during a Christmas gathering, all the happy chatter was going on around you and you couldn't participate because you have dementia and it's all too much? Christmas is a time of parties, feasting and family time but for people with dementia, it can be a time of additional confusion and isolation and for their carers a time of added stress.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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2GB, Healthy Living, 24/11/2024, Dr Ross Walker & Ned Green

Interview with Dr Felix Marsh-Wakefield, post-doctoral researcher at the Centenary Institute, University of Sydney. He discusses a new study he authored about immune cell interactions in liver cancer, particularly hepatocellular carcinoma or HCC—the most common type of liver cancer among Australians. Dr Marsh-Wakefield and his team found that immune cells near blood vessels in tumors called perivascular macrophages produce VEGF, a protein that aids blood vessel formation and allows tumor growth and spread. By targeting macrophages, Dr Marsh-Wakefield says treatment outcomes could improve.

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PRIMARY CARE

Ramsay investors push for shake-up

Australian Financial Review, General News, 25/11/2024, Anthony Macdonald, Page 1

Major Ramsay Health Care investors are demanding the private hospital giant spin off or sell offshore assets and focus on its struggling local business, with frustrated shareholders lobbying the company's new chairman, David Thodey, to move faster.

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Challenge to meet rising care demand

Canberra Times, General News, 25/11/2024, Lucy Bladen, Page 6

Demand in Canberra's public health system is on track to increase by 20 per cent over two years as health authorities explore ways to meet the "extraordinary" surge while dealing with a workforce that has not gone up by the same amount. Activity in the system was up 12.3 per cent in the 202324 year and is already up by about 8 to 9 per cent in this financial year.

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Code Red

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 25/11/2024, Page 20

For two hours on Saturday evening, a rising Northern Territory footy star lay on a Darwin field in agony after sustaining a horrific injury. Darwin Buffaloes Premier League player and Essendon listed VFLW medium forward Tayla HuntAluni suffered what has been described by onlookers as a sickening lower leg injury.

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Health WorkCover surge

Ballarat Courier, General News, 25/11/2024, Ben Silvester, Page 1

Two of Victoria's biggest regional health services have seen their WorkCover premiums double in 2023/24, in a year when hospitals needed billions in bailout cash to stay afloat. Bendigo Health suffered a 122 per cent surge in its premium, while Grampians Health saw an 83 per cent spike.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#).

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Regional women owed duty of care by hospitals

Daily Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2024, Tahlia Sinclair, Page 1

A former GP providing travelling Wagga women with abortion care has called for an end to hospitals turning women away. It comes as Family Planning NSW's chief executive says the lack of surgical termination access is forcing the state to fall behind the rest of the country, while Riverina women who travel to the city to access public surgical terminations aren't eligible to be treated there.

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'A bad system will beat a good person': massive restructure for ACT health system

Canberra Times, Other, 24/11/2024, Lucy Bladen

Canberra's fragmented public health system has let patients down, the boss says, as the organisation embarks on a massive restructure. Dave Pepper said the service is shifting away from a management structure focused on divisions and towards a structure putting patients at the centre of the system.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

In no mood for stress

Herald Sun, General News, 25/11/2024, Hannah Wilcox, George Al-Akiki & Rebecca Borg, Page 13

Family relationships, money and sleep quality are among the biggest influences on the mental health of young Aussies, a survey has revealed. Almost 600 young people around the country were asked what affected their mental health most in the Be Part of the Ripple survey conducted by mental health charity Prevention United.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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First look at mental health centre designs

Ballarat Courier, General News, 25/11/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 2

Designs have been revealed for Ballarat's Youth Prevention and Recovery Care Centre, to provide mental health support treatment for young people, with construction due to start before the end of the year. The 10-bed centre, to be built in Durham Street, Newington, will provide step-up and step-down care for people aged 16-25 experiencing mental health challenges.

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'My soul left my body': Grieving mums find connection with Amber NT, but say more funding needed

Adelaide Now, Other, 24/11/2024, Fia Walsh

It's the club no one wants to join, but this Darwin mum doesn't know where she'd be without it. "I'd probably be dead," Karine Foulkes says bluntly. "Or I would've blown up the hospital, that's how bad it was.

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

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'Resilience interventions do work' – why coping strategies should be a staple of education

The Guardian, Other, 25/11/2024, David Robson

I was about 16 when I had my first bout of depression, but 29 when I sought help and received a diagnosis. In the intervening period, I thought I could weather my low moods alone, but the waves of hopelessness didn't lessen; they only gained momentum.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Strike to hit private hospital giant

Australian Financial Review, General News, 25/11/2024, David Marin-Guzman, Page 5

Nurses' strikes are set to disrupt 17 hospitals owned by the country's largest private health provider, as record public sector pay rises fuel private sector demands across the industry and spur fears of prolonging inflation. More than 1000 nurses and mid...

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

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Wellbeing training for nurses

Herald Sun, General News, 25/11/2024, Amelia Swan, Page 9

Holmesglen Institute will introduce mindfulness and well being training for its nursing students, as the mental health crisis reaches an "all-time high". The TAFE provider's program will be embedded into the curriculum for Diploma of Nursing students and staff.

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

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How to drive nurses crazy

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 25/11/2024, Madeleine Bower, Page 7

There is a gap of at least \$30,000 between the average salaries of a train driver and a registered nurse in NSW, figures show, as the Minns government prepares to enter intense negotiations with the rail union this week. After plans for a three-day, network-wide shutdown by rail staff were paused in a last-minute amnesty between the Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) and the NSW government last week, the union will now forge ahead with demands for more than 14,000 rail staff to be awarded a 32 per cent pay rise over four years.

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Supporting medical students to pursue a career in general practice

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 25/11/2024

If we want to encourage more medical students to choose general practice as their specialty, it is vital that we invest in peer-driven initiatives to encourage more students to consider general practice early in their medical education. The recent Health of the Nation 2024 report from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) presents both encouragement and concern for the future of general practice in Australia.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Telehealth gives family peace of mind

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/11/2024, Lucy Arundell, Page 10

Leighla Paranthoiene could not get her son a pediatrician appointment for more than a year. Living in the Hunter Valley, there weren't many children's doctors available and accessing specialist help meant a long drive.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Accused doctor is back on duty

Courier Mail, General News, 25/11/2024, Kate Kyriacou, Page 1

A doctor who left his employment with Queensland Health amid multiple allegations by female nurses including rape is back working for the service again as he faces a fresh police investigation for alleged stalking-like behaviour. [...] Neither the Office of the Health Ombudsman nor the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency would say whether they had received any complaints about the doctor.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Cowboys' plan still on track

Cairns Post, General News, 25/11/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 5

The North Queensland Cowboys will double down on plans to relocate its NRLW team to Cairns despite a change of government that has created a potential \$15m shortfall for the club. In October, Labor announced plans to build a \$25m high performance centre at Barlow Park with the Cowboys tipping in \$10m as part of a bold plan to move their women's team to the Far North by 2026.

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

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Abuse of legend mars Test

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 25/11/2024, Ben Horne, Page 29

Cricket Australia and Optus Stadium will ramp up security in Perth after a heated altercation between commentary star Wasim Akram and an abusive fan after play on Saturday. It's understood the fan verbally abused the Pakistan cricket legend for close to an hour after play when Akram was trying to complete his cross for Indian broadcaster Star near the boundary fence at Optus Stadium.

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Derelict Murray Street building set to be transformed into state-of-the-art medical facility

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 24/11/2024, John Flint

A three-storey heritage building in the centre of Perth that sat derelict for decades is being converted into a top medical research and innovation hub. It's part of the State Government's push to make Perth a powerhouse in the sector.

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

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Decolonisation, Indigenous health research and Indigenous authorship: sharing our teams' principles and practices

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 25/11/2024

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' knowledges and practices are grounded in the principles of relationality, which are foundational for flourishing communities. The historical and contemporary legacies of colonisation remain in everyday practices.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Plea as axe hangs over free flu jabs

Courier Mail, General News, 25/11/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 4

Flu jabs should be kept free for all Queenslanders amid a cost-of-living crisis, the state's peak medical body has warned, as the new government wavers on a decision to keep the program alive. The state government has provided free flu jabs for all Queenslanders for three years running, but newly-minted Health Minister Tim Nicholls revealed he wanted to consider the program's efficiency before making a decision.

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

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Beyond The Valley festival to offer pill testing in Victorian first

Daily Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2024, Page 7

Tens of thousands of revellers at Victoria's Beyond The Valley music festival will be able to check illicit drugs for harmful and potentially deadly chemicals. The four-day event in Hesse, west of Geelong, will be the first of 10 festivals across Victoria to offer access to mobile pill testing as part of a controversial state government-backed trial.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News](#)

[\(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Seb's mould nightmare

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 25/11/2024, Mark Murray, Page 1

A Geelong schoolboy is eating through his nose using a tube due to toxic mould inhalation, with his distraught parents forced to gut and vacate their family home. Lara teenager Seb Bridge, 13, has spent three weeks in the Royal Children's Hospital after suffering further complications from a rare auto-immune disorder triggered by a blackmould infestation hiding behind the walls of his house.

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End nigh for pill testing SE sites

Courier Mail, General News, 25/11/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 4

Drug testing sites across Queensland's South East will shut in early 2025, with the state government confirming it will not provide more funding. And the two clinics in Bowen Hills and Burleigh will close before the final independent report on the pros and cons of the program can be handed to government.

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

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Hopes for reduced infant RSV hospitalisations

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 25/11/2024

Expanded access to respiratory syncytial virus vaccines will cover all Australian babies. This year has seen surging rates of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), particularly in infants.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Medicine's 'Space X' moment as heart invention comes to life

The Australian, General News, 25/11/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

For years, it was shrouded in secrecy. It was heart surgery's Manhattan Project, whispered to be set to change the world. Now, after a 25-year obsessive quest by a biomedical engineer, Australia's own titanium heart looks like it might do just that.

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

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What science says about sleep trackers (and beware of orthosomnia)

Australian Financial Review, Other, 24/11/2024, Euan Black

Whenever sleep scientist Dean Miller gives a presentation about wearable sleep trackers, he starts by asking his audience for a show of hands: are they for or against them? The crowd usually splits down the middle.

[Read More](#)

'Recipe for a national disaster': Big problem could spread across Australia

The Courier Mail, Other, 22/11/2024, Brielle Burns

A notorious pest which could cause up to six deaths per year and spark a "national disaster" has

spread across state borders from Queensland to New South Wales, prompting urgent calls from experts. [...] But the NFAEP said the use of the granular treatments was considered safe by Australia's pesticides and veterinary medicine authority, along with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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

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Therapeutic Goods Administration says children under six shouldn't use Phenergan

ABC Online, Other, 24/11/2024

This week, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) put out an alert saying children under the age of six should not be given promethazine hydrochloride. The medication, commonly known by the brand name Phenergan, is used to treat allergies and hayfever, and for short-term sedation.

[Read More](#)

Epilepsy medication affected Sophie's pregnancies. Should Australia adopt tougher guidelines?

The Guardian, Other, 24/11/2024, Natasha May

More than 100 pregnant women have been exposed to medication for epilepsy and bipolar disorder which carries a high risk of birth defects, as the government's independent medical and scientific committee opted against recommending stricter prescribing rules for the drug. [...] Australia's drugs regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), asked the ACM for advice on whether similar changes should be made, FoI documents showed, noting the high quality of the UK's evidence and guidance.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

ABC News, ABC Evening News (Weekend), 24/11/2024, Mariam Saab

As many as 35,000 young revellers can avail themselves of free pill testing run by Loop Australia at the Beyond the Valley music festival in the New Year. Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan says young people must have access to health-focused, supportive advice about what is in their pill. Health Minister Ingrid Stitt hopes the trial will yield the drug intelligence that they need to identify dangerous nitazenes and synthetic opioids.

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FOOD STANDARDS

'Disgusting': Aussie's gross find in food

The Courier Mail, Other, 24/11/2024

An Australian woman's video footage has shown the "disgusting" find in a steak she ordered at a restaurant, which revealed live maggots wriggling inside the meat. The woman had headed out for a meal on November 10 with her husband and son.

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

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Plan to clean up deadly chemicals from Albion Park site

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 25/11/2024, Glen Humphries, Page 7

Fire and Rescue NSW will spend \$2.6 million to clean deadly PFAS chemical residue from the Albion Park fire training facility. The facility, located across the road from Shellharbour Airport, has been used to train firefighters for around 20 years.

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More funding needed to investigate impact of PFAS on human health

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 25/11/2024

The human impact of possibly carcinogenic chemicals in Australia's water needs to be investigated with more government funding. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) constitute a class of over 14 000 chemicals that have been used extensively in a range of consumer and industrial products since the 1950s, including in firefighting foam, given their exceptional interfacial properties and stability.

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