



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 27th November 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Launceston Examiner](#) (Page 1) reports that a divisive motion that recognises alleged DNA contamination in COVID-19 vaccines has been approved by a Tasmanian local council as "a potential public health issue".
- The [Courier Mail](#) (Page 4) reports that a bill banning social media for individuals under 16 has received backing from health experts via a letter signed by over 120 paediatricians, psychiatrists, GPs, psychologists, dietitians, social workers, mental health nurses, research and other specialists.
- The [Daily Advertiser](#) (Page 6) reports that according to a survey of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, almost half of Indigenous people have a chronic health condition. "The increase was driven by [a jump] in the proportion of people aged two years and over with mental and behavioural conditions - up from 24 per cent in 2018- 19 to 29 per cent in 2022-23," a bureau spokesperson said.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (Page 7) reports that research published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry has found an 85 per cent spike in deliberate self-poisoning among girls aged between 5 to 14. "These findings suggest the pandemic lockdowns severely and disproportionately impacted the mental health of female adolescents," said senior author Nicholas Buckley from the University of Sydney's School of Pharmacy.

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) reports that within the past month alone more than 150 cases of whooping cough have been reported within Queensland with staff at Brisbane public hospitals reporting up to 28 times the usual amount of cases this time of year.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) reports that Transport for NSW air-quality tests revealed that silica dust exposure during the Sydney Metro project exceeded workplace exposure standards in 34 per cent of cases, with workers unprotected in 8 per cent of instances. A spokesperson for Minister Sophie Cotsis says that SafeWork NSW will meet unions to address concerns about tunnel air quality and the risks posed to workers.

MINISTER BUTLER

ACCPA hails passing of the Aged Care Bill

Buloke Times, General News, 26/11/2024, Page 6

The Aged and Community Care providers Association (ACCPA) has welcomed the passing of the Aged Care Bill in the Senate, paving the way for a new Act, as a watershed moment for older Australians. [...] The support of Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler was vital designing reforms of such magnitude.

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New title elevates

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 26/11/2024, Page 2

Last week Health Minister Mark Butler announced changes to enable pharmacists to use the title Doctor of Pharmacy, bringing the profession in line with other health disciplines such as physiotherapy and podiatry. The announcement was made at the Guild's Annual Parliamentary Dinner in Canberra, after many years of advocacy by the Guild.

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Who will win in the battle between health insurance and hospitals?

The Australian, Other, 26/11/2024, James Kirby

It all seemed to be going along just fine until one day, in mid-September, Australia's health insurers were suddenly cast as rank villains by hospital operators. [...] Ultimately, the buck stops with federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who has been expected to make recommendations on an earlier report into the area, but unfortunately for all concerned there is an election looming and no politician wants to be seen to be pushing up the prices of health cover before election day.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).

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PM promises to leave 'nothing on the field' at election

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 26/11/2024, Andrew Brown

The end of the parliamentary year may be approaching but with an election looming, a typical summer holiday might not be on the cards for the prime minister. [...] The prime minister and Health Minister Mark Butler hosted children at an event in parliament, where \$50 million over the next five years from the federal government to help find a cure.

Also reported by: [Kyabram Free Press \(Online\)](#), [Mandurah Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yarrawonga Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Nine presenter's personal reason for finding a diabetes cure

9Now Nine, Other, 26/11/2024, Tom Livingstone

There are 130,000 Australians who live with type 1 diabetes and this morning, dozens of families impacted by the autoimmune condition are in Canberra fighting for \$50 million to fund life-changing research. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has been working with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for the past 15 years?

Launch of Coalition for Preventative Health Funding

Hepatitis Australia, Other, 26/11/2024

Almost 20 consumer health organisations have come together today in Parliament House to form the Coalition for Preventative Health Funding, which is calling on the 48th Parliament to invest more on Australia's preventative health. [...] The event organised by Consumers Health Forum was attended by Minister for Health and Aged Care, The Hon Mark Butler MP, Assistant Shadow Minister for Rural Health, Dr Anne Webster MP, and Chair of Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport, Dr Mike Freeland.

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Channel 9, Today , 26/11/2024, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo

Interview with Mark Butler, Health Minister, James Bracey, father and Tilly Bracey, daughter, on 100 kids with type one diabetes currently in Canberra fighting for \$50m to fund life-changing research. James says Tilly currently has the autoimmune condition and it changes not only the kid's life but the whole family's life as well. Butler says he has been working with James for 15 years, and when the kids first came to the house about 15 years ago, the blood glucose monitoring devices that Tilly has on simply didn't exist. He adds the advances that they made in those 15 years are just extraordinary but they have to continue to push the envelope, explore the frontiers of research, and find a cure for this thing so that type one becomes type none.

Interview continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC North West Qld, Breakfast, 26/11/2024, Zara Margolis

Report on illegal retailers shirking Australia's world-first anti-vaping laws as black market surges. Under federal law, only pharmacists can sell a limited range of flavoured vapes, with customers required to go through a clinical assessment while other businesses are prohibited from importing vapes, whether they contain nicotine or not. But Deakin University criminologist James Martin is critical of that approach, saying authorities do not have the resources to make a meaningful dent in the market. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says with vaping rates among young people rising, authorities intend to crack down on illegal retailers.

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River FM, 15:00 News, 26/11/2024

Health Minister Mark Butler has urged one of the country's biggest private hospital operators to return to the negotiating table with health funds. Healthscope is tearing up agreements with many health insurers, including Bupa, over a funding stoush. Butler has told Parliament they need to sort it out.

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2GB, Drive, 26/11/2024, Chris O'Keefe

Around 2.8 million Australians live with asthma and many take a medicine called Montelukast, a chewable tablet used as an alternative to an asthma inhaler. However, researchers in the US have found some serious issues with those chewable tablets with thousands of reports of neuropsychiatric episodes, including depression, aggression and suicidal thoughts. Some local parents in Australia have written to Health Minister Mark Butler, urging him to intervene and add warning labels on the medication.

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2GB, Breakfast, 26/11/2024, Ben Fordham

Fordham says there is a bit of an arm wrestle going on involving Run DIPG, a charity aiming to find a cure for the deadly childhood brain cancer. He adds the developments haven't gone that far for that terrible type of childhood brain cancer. Fordham says after a bit of pressure earlier this year, \$20m has been allocated to find new treatments for DIPG and other childhood brain cancers. He adds according to Mark Butler's office, the outcomes of the Medical Research Future Fund are yet to be finalised and

the grant opportunity will fund research into new treatments for DIPG and other childhood brain cancers.

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MINISTER WELLS

Albanese government's jam-packed final week sparks talk of possible early election in 2025

Daily Telegraph, General News, 27/11/2024, Clare Armstrong, Page 8

Labor's packed final week of federal parliament has fuelled speculation politicians will not be returning to Canberra before the next election, as Anthony Albanese looks for wins on housing, aged care and social media reform to end his difficult year on a high. [...] Labor also this week celebrated the passage of its aged-care reforms, which Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said would ensure a "better system that puts quality care and safety first".

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Webster backs aged care revamp

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 27/11/2024, Alistair Finlay, Page 5

The Federal Government's Aged Care Bill, which passed Parliament on Monday, may provide in-home help and improve conditions and protections for those living in aged care facilities from July. [...] The \$5.6 billion package will be one of the largest improvements to the sector in 30 years, according to Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

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Outreach program Team Connect using cricket to boost confidence, help Perth schoolgirls thrive

ABC Online, Other, 26/11/2024, Samantha Goerling & Peter Barr

An outreach program targeting schools with higher rates of disadvantage across Perth by getting girls into cricket is reaping benefits for the community. [...] "Despite the many high-quality applications, it is not possible to fund every project in a competitive grant round," a spokesperson for Federal Minister for Sport Anika Wells said.

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Historic aged care reforms pass: will they deliver real change?

HelloCare, Other, 26/11/2024, Jakob Neeland

The Albanese Government's Aged Care Bill 2024 has passed Parliament, paving the way for what has been touted as the most significant overhaul of Australia's aged care system in decades. [...] While Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells has hailed the reform as a monumental step forward, the sector now faces the challenge of ensuring these ideals translate into meaningful improvements on the ground.

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The legislation that will change the retirement village sector forever

The Weekly Source, Other, 26/11/2024, Chris Baynes

The new Aged Care Act was passed in Parliament yesterday and with it Anika Wells announced 83,000 additional Home Care packages. These actions will cement care into retirement villages.

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ABC News, Mornings, 26/11/2024, Gemma Veness

Sweeping changes to the way aged care is funded and regulated have passed Parliament. It includes a

cut in waiting times, more in-home care packages and increasing the means-tested payment caps. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the laws address complex problems for older Australians.

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Sky News Live, Politics Now, 26/11/2024, Tom Connell, Kieran Gilbert, Andrew Clennell & Ashleigh Gillon

Pre-recorded interview with Anika Wells, Aged Care Minister, regarding the most significant aged care reforms in 30 years that have passed Parliament. Wells says that it is a rights-based act that puts people and their carers at the heart of aged care, and most importantly, sets aged care up for support at home to be a system that keeps people in their homes for, as long as possible. She adds they need to get it in place as quickly as possible, because people have been waiting too long for better care in aged care and good providers recognise it. Wells says to try and assist everybody with the transition, she has established a transition task force that can stress test those concerns.

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2SM, 13:00 News, 26/11/2024

Minister for Sports Anika Wells has defended the Government's decision to delay its proposed changes to gambling advertising until next year. Wells has said the changes had the potential to impact the finances of professional codes and Australia's sporting integrity reputation on the world stage.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, 12:00 News, 26/11/2024

Report regarding sweeping changes to the way that aged care is funded and regulated that have been passed by Federal Parliament. In a rare act of bipartisanship, in what could be the last sitting week before a federal election, the Coalition supported Labor's bill that also enshrines legal rights for aged care recipients. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says because of the number of people entering the system and the need to increase the quality of the services in the system, they need to find a way to put more money into a system that needs more money. Aged and Community Care Providers Association CEO Tom Symondson says it will relieve financial pressure that's been building on the sector for a long time.

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FIVEAA, 07:30 News, 26/11/2024

Reforms have passed federal parliament that will see the biggest overhaul of Australia's aged care system in 30 years. Wealthier nursing home residents will pay extra for their care while a beefed-up complaints handling system will give residents a greater say, and home care will get a funding boost. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the reforms will make the sector more viable.

Also reported by: [K-ROCK FM \(Geelong\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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DEPARTMENT

Government consultancy has completed 15 projects

Australian Financial Review, General News, 27/11/2024, Edmund Tadros, Page 34

The federal government's internal consulting service, which launched late last year, has completed 15 projects, including policy development, analytics assessments and strategy work.

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

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Walara continues to redevelop local facilities

Bunyip, General News, 27/11/2024, Page 25

The aged care sector continues to remain a challenging one for boards, management and staff particularly in regional areas. [...] Following the opening of the \$4 million Walara Hamley Bridge redevelopment, the focus has been on the \$5.9 million Walara Gilbert Valley redevelopment funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Protect our older community with vaccine

Bunyip, General News, 27/11/2024, Page 26

Older age continues to be the biggest risk factor for severe Covid-19 disease. [...] For more information, read the Covid-19 residential aged care vaccination information guide on the Department of Health and Aged Care website.

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SA readying for disaster

Yorke Peninsula Country Times - Kadina, General News, 26/11/2024, Page 4

Funded by a \$5 million Federal Department of Health and Aged Care Medical Research Future Fund mental health and suicide prevention grant, the program will also be implemented in New South Wales and Western Australia. UNE Associate Professor Suzie Cosh said the program would be vital in helping small towns prepare for increasingly severe weather events brought on by climate change.

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Rural health shortages

Yorke Peninsula Country Times - Kadina, General News, 26/11/2024, Page 8

The Department of Health and Aged Care's recent Australian health and medical research workforce audit highlighted the importance of supporting local health care to ensure rural residents enjoy the same health benefits as their city counterparts. Only 13 per cent of the nation's health and medical workforce serves the 30 per cent of the population living in rural, regional and remote areas.

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Social Services continues to drive APS headcount surge

The Mandarin, Other, 26/11/2024, Dan Holmes

APS headcount increased by 8.9% in the 2023-24 financial year, according to the State of the Service Report. [...] Other notable net increases include 1,425 at the Department of Defence; 1,173 at the Department of Health and Aged Care; and 991 at the Australian Taxation Office.

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Give Up For Good campaign releases new resources kit

Australian Dental Association (ADA), Other, 26/11/2024

An initiative of the Department of Health and Aged Care, the material in the National Tobacco & E-cigarette communication kit will help educate Australians about the harms of smoking and vaping and available quitting support. The Department of Health and Aged Care has released the National Tobacco & E-cigarette communication kit which provides a suite of resources to help educate Australians about the harms of smoking and vaping and available quitting support.

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Go-to Medicare guide aims to arm GPs with confidence

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 26/11/2024

A new RACGP-backed resource provides clarity on Medicare's principles and mechanisms to support navigation of, and compliance with, the complex system. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) Medicare Integrity Taskforce has released the Understanding Medicare: Provider Handbook – a plain English guide detailing its basics and 'core principles' to support healthcare professionals navigating the system.

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PHN pitches in for rural GP practice

The Medical Republic, Other, 26/11/2024, Holly Payne

The federal government put aside more than \$30 million in grant money over two years to prop up general practice in areas of market failure. [...] In all, the Department of Health and Aged Care allocated \$33 million – \$16.6m in both 2023 and 2024 budgets – to the grant opportunity.

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VACCINES

Concerns over surge in whooping cough

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 27/11/2024, Page 12

Authorities are grappling with a significant surge in Queensland whooping cough cases, as vaccination rates in pregnant women drop. Around 12,500 infections were reported in 2024, up from 549 cases at the same time last year according to Queensland Health.

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Yes, a small number die from vaccines. We can't let it play into anti-vax hands

Canberra Times, Other, 26/11/2024, Crispin Hull

Next month the Federal Court is to hear an application to strike out a class action against the federal government and its health authorities that seeks compensation for injury and death caused by COVID vaccines.

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

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Big surge in whooping cough cases triggers concern

West Australian, Other, 26/11/2024, Emily Verdouw

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Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Free RSV protection plan

Infants will be able to receive a free immunisation to protect them against serious illness from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), under a new \$16.6 million NSW Government RSV prevention program to begin next year. RSV is a major cause of respiratory illness infecting up to 90 per cent of children within the first two years of life.

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Queensland whooping cough vaccine numbers down in pregnant women amid huge surge in cases

ABC Online, Other, 26/11/2024, Janelle Miles

Whooping cough vaccination rates among pregnant women in Queensland have plummeted amid a surge in cases of the bacterial infection in 2024 — almost 23 times the number at the same period last year. Queensland hospital admissions for whooping cough are also on the rise this year, particularly in babies under six months old, who are at high risk if they develop the infection also known as pertussis.

[Read More](#)

Highly contagious infection explodes in one Aussie state with 23 times MORE cases than last year

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/11/2024, Harrison Christian

A massive spike in whooping cough has been recorded in Queensland with the number of cases nearly 23 times higher than last year. It comes as Australia is battling the largest whooping cough epidemic in history since the invention of vaccines against the disease

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

PM's last week to score vital home runs

Herald Sun, General News, 27/11/2024, Clare Armstrong, Page 8

Labor's packed final week of parliament has fuelled speculation federal politicians will not be returning to Canberra before an election, as Anthony Albanese looks for wins on housing, aged care and social media to end his difficult year on a high. [...] Labor also this week celebrated the passage of its major aged care reforms, which Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said would mean older Australians and their loved ones would have access to a "better system that puts quality care and safety first".

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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ACCPA hails passing of the Aged Care Bill

Buloke Times, General News, 26/11/2024, Page 6

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Anglicare SQ announces new COO

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 26/11/2024, Jodie Wolf

Aged care provider Anglicare Southern Queensland has introduced chief operating officer of aged and community services Kane Singh, a registered nurse who holds postgraduate qualifications in management and business administration. Ms Singh has extensive experience in senior leadership roles managing services across Queensland, including most recently at Carinity where served as executive manager of aged care for one year.

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Historic aged care reforms pass: will they deliver real change?

HelloCare, Other, 26/11/2024, Jakob Neeland

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Aged care providers urged to reassess RAD pricing to tackle financial challenges

HelloCare, Other, 26/11/2024, Jakob Neeland

Financial sustainability remains a critical challenge for Australia's aged care sector, with the Aged Care Effectiveness Index (ACE Index) revealing that less than 40% of aged care facilities are operating at a surplus. This concerning figure underscores the need for providers to explore additional revenue opportunities, such as Refundable Accommodation Deposits (RADs), which are often undervalued and under utilised.

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The legislation that will change the retirement village sector forever

The Weekly Source, Other, 26/11/2024, Chris Baynes

The new Aged Care Act was passed in Parliament yesterday and with it Anika Wells announced 83,000 additional Home Care packages. These actions will cement care into retirement villages.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 26/11/2024, Natalie Barr & Matt Shirvington

The Albanese Government's Aged Care Bill has passed Parliament bringing historic reforms to the sector. The Government says these are once-in-a-generation changes, putting the rights of older Australians at the centre of a new system and giving them access to better quality care. A key change is a new \$4b program that will allow more people to stay in their own homes for as long as they want to, which is exactly how many Australians want to spend their golden years. Under the changes, clinical care costs will be paid for by the Commonwealth but home support, things like cleaning or help with showering will be means tested.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 26/11/2024, Leon Compton

The Council on the Ageing says governments will have to keep a close eye on the aged care workforce to ensure there's enough staff. It comes after the Federal Government's aged care reforms passed Parliament yesterday.

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Making dentistry more affordable for all

Australian Financial Review, Features, 27/11/2024, Page 13

Cost is a major barrier for many Australians who need dental treatment, causing about one in six patients who need to see a dental professional to delay or avoid doing so. This is leading to some of them even risking their health by seeking treatment over...

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Major project workers at risk from cancer-causing dust

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 27/11/2024, Page 14

Workers responsible for major transport projects might have been exposed to unsafe levels of cancer-causing dust, which has already prompted a nationwide ban on engineered stone. The Australian Workers Union said tunnellers who worked on Sydney's \$21 billion metro line were routinely exposed to an unsafe level of toxic silica dust, pointing to air-quality tests that showed repeat breaches of national safety standards.

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

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Pharmacist review provides perfect opportunity to offer more healthcare options

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/11/2024, Joe O'Malley, Page 30

There are a range of challenges facing healthcare in Tasmania, but there is a plan that can take pressure off our hospitals and deliver more healthcare services. Last year was the release of the Pharmacist Scope of Practice Review final report a comprehensive review of the future of community pharmacy that spells out the significant opportunities to drive innovative healthcare solutions in Tasmania.

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Vapes could soon be tougher to get in state

Launceston Examiner, General News, 27/11/2024, Matt Maloney, Page 5

Tasmanians who use vapes will no longer be able to buy them over the counter in pharmacies around the state should the Legislative Council approve a government bill to crack down on the product's availability. Before October 1, e-cigarettes could only be supplied by pharmacies to people over 18 years old with a prescription around Australia after vape sales were banned from all other retailers.

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Kerosene thrown on public health fire

Daily Advertiser, General News, 27/11/2024, Caterina Giorgi, Page 10

The commercial television industry's latest proposal to extend the times that alcohol can be advertised would be a significant step backwards in protecting children from alcohol harm. In a move that would see more than 800 additional hours a year of alcohol ads aired at times when children are most likely to be watching, Free TV Australia, the industry's peak body, plans to loosen already weak advertising restrictions.

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

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'Death sentence': Exposure to silica dust more than 200 times safety standard in Sydney Metro construction

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/11/2024, Clareese Packer

Exposure to silica dust was 208 times the workplace exposure standard (WES), with 34 per cent of air monitoring results for the Sydney City and Southwest Metro in breach of the standards. Of that figure, workers were unprotected in 8 per cent of cases, according to data from Transport for NSW air-quality tests between 2016 and 2020, obtained by the Australian Workers Union under a freedom of information request.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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'Deaths of needless poverty and despair': homelessness report reveals surge in fatalities

The Guardian, Other, 27/11/2024, Cait Kelly & Christopher Knaus

Almost 1,500 people are dying in homelessness every year, with new research from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showing a 63% surge in preventable deaths. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare today released an analysis of a decade of data, showing 12,500 people who had accessed homelessness services died over the 10-year period to 2022.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Cracking deadly mystery

Northern Territory News, General News, 27/11/2024, Emma Kirk, Page 13

Australian researchers are about to embark on a new study to uncover what triggers "dangerous" thunderstorm asthma events and how they can be prevented, after people died and thousands required medical attention. The Woolcock Institute of Medical Research has designed a study in Victoria in which people reported their asthma symptoms worsened when a thunderstorm approached.

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World-first tag sheds new light on 'disordered' proteins in Parkinson's

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 26/11/2024

La Trobe University Scientists at La Trobe University have created a world-first method to investigate 'disordered' proteins in living cells, in breakthrough research that could revolutionise how we understand and treat Parkinson's disease. Published in Nature Methods, the research used a cutting-edge chemical tag called TME, which binds with the proteins and makes them light up, allowing scientists for the first time to detect and capture them for analysis while in their unstructured or 'disordered' state.

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PM promises to leave 'nothing on the field' at election

Yarrawonga Chronicle, Other, 26/11/2024

The end of the parliamentary year may be approaching but with an election looming, a typical summer holiday might not be on the cards for the prime minister. [...] While the last sitting week has been dominated by last-minute negotiations on key legislation, Tuesday also saw more than 100 children with type one diabetes take over Parliament House.

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Nine presenter's personal reason for finding a diabetes cure

9Now Nine, Other, 26/11/2024, Tom Livingstone

There are 130,000 Australians who live with type 1 diabetes and this morning, dozens of families impacted by the autoimmune condition are in Canberra fighting for \$50 million to fund life-changing research. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has been working with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for the past 15 years?

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 26/11/2024, Leon Compton

Interview with Anne Savage, CEO, Prostate Cancer Foundation and Andrei Norris, prostate cancer survivor, regarding prostate cancer. Savage says Norris has been involved in their work for quite a while and is on a high-powered steering committee that is helping us review the PSA guidelines. She adds testing for prostate cancer through the simple PSA blood test is just so important because it is a basic starting point.

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PRIMARY CARE

Ramsay resists investor calls to dump international hospitals

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 27/11/2024, Michael Smith, Page 19

Ramsay Health Care chairman David Thodey has refused to commit to a sale of the hospital operator's offshore assets despite pressure from major shareholders for clarity on how it plans to create more value from investors after months of market losses.

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Ramsay's riddle leads AGM mixed messages

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 27/11/2024, Anthony Macdonald, Page 30

Private hospitals giant Ramsay Health Care is a riddle in its own category. It is hard to think of a top-50 listed Australian company that is so jammed between payers (health insurance funds), customers (patients), staff (nurses), governments (on both sid...

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Channel 7, Seven News, 26/11/2024, Peter Mitchell

Long waits in emergency departments could be easing soon thanks to a growing medical service. Seven News reveals the program gives Australians the option to receive hospital care at home free of charge. Across the nation, Saint Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, the Royal Melbourne and Adelaide hospitals and the Royal Perth Hospital in WA are among those offering the in-home service.

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2GB, Afternoons, 26/11/2024, Michael McLaren

Interview with Sarah Whitburn, Chair of Sexual Health Medicine, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, on the number of sexually transmitted infections across the world increasing, especially among midlife and older adults. Despite that, campaigns for preventing and indeed treating these kinds of conditions are often geared more toward younger adults. Whitburn agrees there is still stigma and some people still delay or refuse to see the doctor, even if they suspect they have an STI. She adds she encourages both people and doctors to open those discussions because there is research that people want to be asked, but they want to be asked by the health professionals.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Kids ban on social media 'critical'

Courier Mail, General News, 27/11/2024, Julie Cross, Page 4

A letter signed by 120 health experts is calling on the government to back a Bill banning under-16s from social media. Paediatricians, psychiatrists, GPs, psychologists, dietitians, social workers, mental health nurses, research and other specialists have signed it, as have leading national organisations.

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Pandemic of self poisoning

Courier Mail, General News, 27/11/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 7

The devastating impact of lockdowns during the pandemic has been revealed with a new study showing an 85 per cent spike in deliberate self-poisoning among girls aged 5-14. Published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, the research also found rates of deliberate selfpoisoning were 36 per cent higher among those aged 15-19 years, than before the pandemic.

Poison of pandemic

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 27/11/2024, Page 13

A new study reveals a 37 per cent increase in deliberate self-poisonings among female Australian children and adolescents over the past four years. The increase strongly correlates with Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, the University of Sydney research shows.

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Upskilling to better manage psychosocial risk in the workplace

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/11/2024

With Australians reporting growing rates of mental health issues and work-related mental stress, employers are increasingly recognising the importance of managing mental health risks in the workplace. But experts say there needs to be a shift from focusing on individual coping strategies to thinking more holistically about managing psychosocial risks.

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AMA submission reveals stark reality of suicide prevention in the Kimberley and across the country

West Australian, Other, 26/11/2024, Cain Andrews

The Australian Medical Association has urged the Federal Government to strengthen GPs' mental health care capacity in regions like the Kimberley, noting suicide prevention outcomes have stagnated—or even worsened—over the past 30 years. [...] It is a story Kimberley residents are familiar with—the region is plagued by the highest suicide rates in the State and the second-highest in the nation, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Unlocking ways to cut mental health trauma

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 27/11/2024, Chelsea Bunting, Page 13

Deakin research explores fewer restraints for patients New research from Deakin University is finding alternatives to restrictive mental health care practices that can isolate and restrain patients, potentially leaving them traumatised. Dr James McLure, a senior peer support worker with Barwon Health and research fellow at Deakin, knows firsthand the impacts of restrictive practices on patients and staff.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 26/11/2024, Sharyn Ghidella

A confronting new Smiling Mind survey has revealed that Australian children are increasingly struggling with mental health at a younger age. More than 60% of kids are now showing signs of anxiety, stress and depression.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 26/11/2024, Steve Austin

Interview with Dr Sara Quinn, President, Australian Psychological Society, on the legislation for the social media age ban that has been introduced into Parliament. The bill aims to protect young people's mental health and it's the kind of major legislation people would probably want psychological experts to be weighing in on but the APS has formally declined to provide a submission on the bill. Quinn says they were invited to provide a submission but the time for making a submission, which they were given one business day, was inadequate to properly assess and provide input into the matter of such complexity and significance.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nurses challenge Ramsay over pay

The Australian, Business News, 27/11/2024, Cameron England, Page 15

Ramsay Health Care says it will need to reignite talks with insurers on payouts if wage costs blow out, as angry NSW nurses challenged the private hospital operator's board over their pay and protested outside its annual general meeting on Tuesday. Ramsay's board, led by chair David Thodey, also faced questions about how the company planned to revive the share price, which is languishing around decade lows.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Alfred slashes working hours for incoming graduate nurses

Age, General News, 27/11/2024, Broede Carmody, Page 12

Hundreds of graduate nurses at one of Melbourne's busiest hospitals have had their hours slashed on the eve of starting their placements, in what appears to be the latest example of hospital belt-tightening. Alfred Health has slashed next year's graduate nursing program from a 32-hour working week to just 24 hours, according to a leaked union document seen by The Age.

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Illawarra nurses still waiting for news about pay increases

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 27/11/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 10

Another week, and there's another nurses' strike - this time in the private sector as Ramsay Health workers demand a 20 per cent pay rise over three years. Dozens from the Illawarra travelled to Sydney yesterday to rally outside the private health company's annual meeting.

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Battle of the wages

West Australian, Business News, 27/11/2024, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 41

Now biggest private hospital group in fund alert Australia's biggest private hospital operator Ramsay Health Care has warned it stands prepared to renegotiate deals with health insurers in order to keep up with soaring staff wages. The comments from outgoing Ramsay boss Craig McNally on Tuesday come less than a week after the nation's second biggest private hospital operator Healthscope tore up its contracts with Bupa and the Australian Health Services Alliance, blaming the insurers' "refusal" to maintain sustainable funding for its hospitals.

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

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New title elevates

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 26/11/2024, Page 2

Last week Health Minister Mark Butler announced changes to enable pharmacists to use the title Doctor of Pharmacy, bringing the profession in line with other health disciplines such as physiotherapy and podiatry. The announcement was made at the Guild's Annual Parliamentary Dinner in Canberra, after many years of advocacy by the Guild.

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Queensland doctor exodus as complaints surge

The Courier Mail, Other, 26/11/2024, Judith Kerr

Startling national statistics showing a 10 per cent increase in actions against Queensland doctors and health care workers over the past year are being blamed for GPs quitting the profession. Startling national statistics showing a 10 per cent increase in actions against Queensland doctors and health care workers over the past year, are being blamed for an exodus of general practitioners from the profession.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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'Mali from marketing': Row erupts over taxpayer funded chief spin doctor

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 26/11/2024

South Australian taxpayers are being asked to hire a new official chief spin doctor who will earn a top end salary worth almost as much as the Premier and double the private sector.

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

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Ramsay staff have held over 50 strikes since July, still no deal reached

Nursing Review, Other, 26/11/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Hundreds of nurses and midwives from 17 Ramsay Health Care operated private hospitals across NSW are expected to walk off the job for 24 hours as the healthcare giant holds its annual general meeting this morning. NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) members have conducted more than 50 strikes since voting to take protected industrial action in July of this year.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

More GPs quitting due to watchdog

Cairns Post, General News, 27/11/2024, Judith Kerr, Page 15

Startling national statistics showing a 10 per cent increase in actions against Queensland doctors and healthcare workers over the past year are being blamed for an exodus of general practitioners from the profession. The latest data from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency reveals a 6.2 per cent jump in cases about Queensland doctors referred to the Office of the Health Ombudsman for further assessment.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

SPORT

Outreach program Team Connect using cricket to boost confidence, help Perth schoolgirls thrive

ABC Online, Other, 26/11/2024, Samantha Goerling & Peter Barr

An outreach program targeting schools with higher rates of disadvantage across Perth by getting girls into cricket is reaping benefits for the community. [...] "Despite the many high-quality applications, it is not possible to fund every project in a competitive grant round," a spokesperson for Federal Minister for Sport Anika Wells said.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Weight-loss drugs can improve kidney health, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 26/11/2024, Andrew Gregory

Weight-loss drugs can reduce the risk of worsening kidney function, kidney failure and dying from kidney disease by a fifth, according to a study. Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists are a family of medications that help people shed the pounds, manage blood sugar in patients with type 2 diabetes and prevent heart attacks and strokes in people with heart disease.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Chronic conditions on rise among Indigenous people

Daily Advertiser, General News, 27/11/2024, Page 6

Almost half of Indigenous people have a chronic health condition, with those living in remote areas more likely to be affected, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The bureau's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, released yesterday, found 49 per cent of Indigenous people had one or more chronic conditions in 2022-23, up from 46 per cent in 2018-19.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Baby dies as outbreak 'is getting worse'

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 27/11/2024, Page 15

An unprecedented whooping cough epidemic is spreading throughout Australia, alarming health authorities who are grappling to contain soaring infection rates following the death of a two-monthold baby. There were nearly 42,000 cases of the highly infectious disease recorded in 2024 up to November 8, according to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

Queensland in grip of whooping cough outbreak as cases skyrocket

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/11/2024, Catherine Strohfeltd

Queensland remains in the grip of a whooping cough outbreak, with staff at Brisbane public hospitals reporting up to 28 times the number of cases normally seen by this time of year. Between 2019 and 2023, Brisbane public health facilities had tallied an average of 213 pertussis cases by this time of year.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 26/11/2024, Max Fatcher and Sarah Greenhalgh

A two-month-old baby has died in Queensland's worst whooping cough epidemic on record. Cases of the highly infectious disease are almost 23 times greater than last year. The most concerning factor driving the surge is plummeting vaccination rates.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 26/11/2024, Sally Sara & Patricia Karvelas

There are calls, urgent calls for people to get vaccinated amid a surge in whooping cough cases in Queensland. More than 12,500 infections have been reported so far this year, compared to just 549 cases last year.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Council's vexed vaccine debate

Launceston Examiner, General News, 27/11/2024, Aaron Smith, Page 1

A Tasmanian local council has approved a divisive motion that recognises alleged DNA contamination in COVID-19 vaccines as "a potential public health issue". [...] An amendment by councillor Lynden Ferguson kept the fourth item, which will see the council receive six monthly briefings related to reported DNA contamination in mRNA vaccines from the state government and the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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Health Check: Biotech double-banger breaks the IPO drought

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/11/2024, Tim Boreham

Two new biotech companies – Vitrafy and Rernerve – listed today, breaking an eight-month drought of life sciences IPOs on the ASX. [...] Paradigm Biopharmaceuticals also expects a response to its determination application recently submitted to the local Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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

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Dr Boreham's Crucible: The rise and rise of LTR Pharma

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/11/2024, Rob Badman

As a company focused on delivering a re-purposed erectile dysfunction drug via a nasal spray, LTR Pharma is a simple story to understand. [...] That said, the company hopes the trial and the real-world data will support a marketing application to the TGA initially and the US Food and Drug Administration in early to mid-2025.

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

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Understanding how pharmacies operate in Australia

In Australia pharmacists dispense prescription medications and provide healthcare advice, educating the community on the use of medicines and disease prevention. If you're sick and your doctor prescribes medicine, your next step is to visit your local pharmacy to have your prescription filled.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Medicinal cannabis seller's dream run

Australian Financial Review, Features, 27/11/2024, Richard Pullin, Page 27

Health Prescriptions for marijuana are on the rise and so is The Entourage Effect, writes Richard Pullin. A potential career crisis for criminal defence lawyer Eidan Havas opened his eyes to an opportunity in medicinal cannabis.

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