



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 28th November 2024

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **[Illawarra Mercury](#)** (Page 1) reports that a tender has been awarded to Stephen Edwards Constructions to build the new Warrawong Community Health Centre, set to be completed in 2026.
- The **[Launceston Examiner](#)** (Page 1) reports that a dispute was launched by the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) with the Tasmanian Industrial Commission on November 26 following the government and Department of Health's failure to follow through with commitments that would have resolved the issue.
- The **[Gold Coast Bulletin](#)** (Page 6) reports that new data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare via a 10-year study has found that the mortality rate amongst those who sought support from homelessness services in the 12 months before their death was 1.8 times that of other people.
- The **[Northern Territory News](#)** (Page 7) reports that approximately 51,000 Territorians will experience difficulty accessing services due to the operator behind Darwin Private Hospital, Healthscope recently terminating its contract with Bupa and Australian Health Service Alliance (AHSA).

- The [Gold Coast Bulletin](#) (Page 8) reports that research from scientists at the University of Sydney and Monash University have found that those with irregular sleep patterns could be at a higher risk of heart-related death, heart attack, heart failure and stroke.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (Page 9) reports that nitazene, a counterfeit oxycodone tablet has been discovered at the CheQpoint pill test centre at Brisbane's Bowen Hills, sparking a call on the government to ensure that Queensland is better prepared.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Mums and bubs to receive free RSV vaccines from 2025

Cowra Guardian, General News, 28/11/2024, Page 4

Expectant mothers will be able to access a potentially lifesaving vaccine in the new year, after an announcement made by the Federal Government last week. Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler, announced the free RSV vaccination program would be accessible to mothers before the Winter 2025 flu, cough, and cold season.

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### Drug subsidy bridging fund required for cancer patients, experts argue

The Australian, Other, 27/11/2024, James Dowling

On her 59th birthday, Jacinta Frawley was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, yet still holding to her manners she made it her mission to get to know her new oncologist, asking him about his family. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was contacted for comment.

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### History made with first Voice to Parliament address

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 27/11/2024, Duncan Evans

A leader with Australia's first state-based Voice to Parliament has delivered a historic address decrying continued Indigenous disadvantage, with a call for radical change in how governments interact with First Nations people. [...] Hindmarsh, held by Health Minister Mark Butler, takes in working-class Port Adelaide, the Adelaide Airport and the beach suburbs to the north, and voted 61.6 per cent for No.

*Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).*

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### Third Degree: The digital mental health service Mark Butler should look at

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/11/2024, Cate Swannell

Dervla Loughnane provides mental health care via text, reaching the infamous 'missing middle'. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care and its \$588 million investment in its "low intensity digital mental health service", she says, isn't interested in talking to small operators like her who have been providing care successfully for years.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### 200 on meals limbo as funds dry up

Ipswich Tribune, General News, 27/11/2024, Rob Mellett, Page 1

Ipswich Meals on Wheels has been forced to put 200 of its most frail customers on to a lengthy wait list. [...] He said he has been in regular contact with Aged Care Minister Anika Wells about the problem.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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## DEPARTMENT

### **How to stay COVID-safe this festive season, from the latest vaccine advice to tips for shopping and socialising**

ABC Online, Other, 27/11/2024, Jessica Riga

While case numbers are "essentially meaningless now", infectious diseases physician and clinical microbiologist Paul Griffin says other indicators are pointing to high levels of COVID-19 activity. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, COVID-19 vaccination rates were down in all states and territories for the November reporting period.

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## VACCINES

### **Mums and bubs to receive free RSV vaccines from 2025**

Cowra Guardian, General News, 28/11/2024, Page 4

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### **Reforms to spur aged care deals**

The Australian, Business News, 28/11/2024, Bridget Carter, Page 14

The passing of the Albanese government's aged care bill in parliament this week is expected to kick-start a fresh round of merger and acquisition activity in the sector, with private equity firms said to be actively assessing opportunities. The law changes address recommendations of the royal commission into the aged care industry and introduce a tougher regulatory model and more funding, including

worker pay rises, capped management fees and improved transparency around the finances and operations of providers.

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## Boutique radiology practices help meet surging demand of ageing population

Australian Financial Review, Other, 27/11/2024

A worldwide shortage of radiologists and Australia's ageing population underpin the rapid growth of healthcare company Panorama Radiology Specialists on the Gold Coast.

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## Free pricing report available

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/11/2024

Sector consultancy firm Mirus Australia is offering residential aged care providers personalised data-driven insights to help them maximise revenue potential. The cap for lump-sum bonds for a room in residential aged care – Refundable Accommodation Deposits – will increase from \$550,000 to \$750,000 from 1 January and be indexed annually.

[Read More](#)

## New laws to protect aged care village residents

Australian Seniors News, Other, 27/11/2024

The South Australian Government says retirement village residents will have enhanced protections as a result of new laws passing both houses of State Parliament last night. The State Government's retirement villages reforms will deliver increased protections for retirement village residents, mandate greater contract transparency, strengthen the role of the regulator and improve industry standards.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Broken promise hard pill to swallow

Herald Sun, General News, 28/11/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 14

Labor was voted into office in 2014 partly on the back of a bold vision to fix a healthcare system it said was neglected under the Coalition, promising to slash waiting lists. But 10 years and one unprecedented pandemic later, hospitals are grappling with huge deficits while wait times have increased for surgery and in emergency departments.

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### Killer pill puts LNP to a test

Courier Mail, General News, 28/11/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

A highly dangerous drug that can kill with one pill has been detected in inner-city Brisbane. The government-funded CheQpoint pill test centre at Brisbane's Bowen Hills was presented with a nitazene a counterfeit oxycodone tablet and the find has sparked the state's drug experts to call on the government to ensure that Queensland is better prepared for the arrival of dreaded synthetic opioids.

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### Death rate of homeless

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/11/2024, Page 6

People experiencing homelessness in Australia have a death rate almost double the wider population, shocking new data has revealed. An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 10-year study found the mortality rate for people who sought support from homelessness services in the 12 months before their death was 1.8 times that of other people.

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

## Vapes may soon be hard to get

Burnie Advocate, General News, 28/11/2024, 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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## Pill testing Qld: High alert as Brisbane site finds potentially deadly drug

Cairns Post, Other, 27/11/2024, Jackie Sinnerton

Just days after the LNP Government confirmed it will axe funding for pill testing sites, one of its inner-Brisbane units has detected a highly dangerous drug, with just one pill having the potential to kill. The government's pill testing unit has detected a highly dangerous and potentially deadly drug at an inner city site – and just one tablet could kill.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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## Australians expected to spend \$1 billion on medical cannabis this year as use of drug rockets

9News, Other, 27/11/2024, Sarah Swain

Australians are expected to spend an estimated \$1 billion on medical cannabis this year as use of the drug skyrockets. Exclusive data has revealed reliance has quadrupled in just two years while illicit marijuana use is climbing.

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## Keeping cool is Cass' 'full time job' as heatwave puts the health of 122,000 Aussies at risk

9News, Other, 27/11/2024, Maddison Leach

Blackout risk for NSW and Queensland today as heatwave stretches energy grid. [...] Figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare suggest that thousands of Australians were living in their vehicles in the 2022-2023 financial year alone and homelessness support services say that number is on the rise.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 27/11/2024, Rachel Mealey

New research by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows how deadly the crisis is. Around 12,500 people accessing homelessness services in their last year of life died in the decade ending in 2022.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Doctors fight for cancer patients

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 28/11/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 4

Campaign to have Medicare fund reconstructive surgery for head and neck cancers [...] Run by Head and Neck Cancer Australia, and organised by Prof Ashford and Wollongong anaesthetist Trevor Gardner, the Ride Beyond Five event raises funds for research, advocacy and quality-of-life interventions like prosthetics.

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## Men's brains drain earlier

Cairns Post, General News, 28/11/2024, Page 9

Men at high risk of cardiovascular disease also face brain health decline a decade earlier from their mid-50s to mid-70s than similarly affected women, according to UK researchers. An Imperial College London team found higher levels of abdominal fat were linked with lower brain grey matter volume in women and men.

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## Drug subsidy bridging fund required for cancer patients, experts argue

The Australian, Other, 27/11/2024, James Dowling

On her 59th birthday, Jacinta Frawley was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, yet still holding to her manners she made it her mission to get to know her new oncologist, asking him about his family. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was contacted for comment.

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## Victoria warned of thunderstorm asthma event that could hit parts of the state

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/11/2024, Emma Kirk

Victorians have been warned of a "high risk" for an epidemic thunderstorm asthma event to sweep through parts of the state. The Department of Health issued a warning on Wednesday alerting residents in the North Central, West and South Gippsland districts to be prepared and stay inside.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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## Thunderstorm asthma alert issued

Shepparton News Online, Other, 27/11/2024, Georgia Tacey

VicEmergency has issued a thunderstorm asthma warning for Shepparton for Wednesday, November 27. The moderate warning extends across most of the state, including Central, North Central, North East, South West, Wimmera, Northern Country, North East, South and West Gippsland regions.

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## Thunderstorm asthma warning for north central Victoria, Gippsland regions

ABC Online, Other, 27/11/2024, William Howard

Victorians have been warned to close their doors and windows immediately as a possible thunderstorm asthma weather event approaches. An urgent epidemic thunderstorm asthma warning has been issued for people in North Central and West and South Gippsland forecast districts.

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## Victorians warned of potential for Thunderstorm Asthma epidemic

9News, Other, 27/11/2024, Eleanor Wilson

Thunderstorm Asthma event today, as passing storms spread allergens. Melbourne is forecast to experience heavy rain and potentially severe thunderstorms with damaging winds this afternoon and evening, which, paired with a high pollen count, will culminate in a moderate risk for a Thunderstorm Asthma event in Melbourne and south-west Victoria.

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## Ballarat residents warned of thunderstorm asthma risk on Wednesday

Ballarat Courier, Other, 27/11/2024, Adam Spencer

Thunderstorm Asthma warning issued for much of Victoria on Wednesday. The warning extends across the Central, North Central, North East, South West, Wimmera, Northern Country, North East, South and West Gippsland regions as rain and storms continue across the state.

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## Breakthrough could transform eye condition screening for children with arthritis

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/11/2024

Experts have pinpointed genetic changes in children with a common form of arthritis to help predict if they will go on to develop a complication that can cause blindness. The breakthrough could pave the way for more effective screening in patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), which affects an estimated 12,000 youngsters in the UK.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### World-class system is in good health

Herald Sun, General News, 28/11/2024, Steve Bracks, Page 15

The Government has redeveloped and built new hospitals across the state, including Australia's first dedicated cardiac hospital, the Victorian Heart Hospital, Bendigo Health, Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital, and Latrobe Regional Health. While construction is underway on many more, including the new Footscray Hospital, Frankston Hospital, Warrnambool Base Hospital, Ballarat Base Hospital, and Barwon Women's and Children's.

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### Health milestone

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 28/11/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 1

For now, the crumbling 1960s structure of the old Port Kembla Hospital still stands over Warrawong, but in two years, a brand new community health centre will be up and running. The NSW government has announced the Sydney-based Stephen Edwards Constructions has been awarded the tender to build the new Warrawong Community Health Centre, which it says will be completed in 2026.

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### Mobile unit a brush with free dental

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 28/11/2024, Tegan Guthrie, Page 3

Free dental services will be available for Laverton students and adults thanks to funding provided to a Kalgoorlie-Boulder dental clinic. Goldfields Family Dental will travel to Laverton on Wednesday next week for a three-week stint during which local students, adults and elderly people will receive free general dental care.

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### Funds' terminal illness

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/11/2024, Darcy Fitzgerald, Page 7

About 51,000 Territorians will soon find it harder to access services at the NT's only private hospital due to a fallout between the hospital's operator and a group of insurers. The operator behind Darwin Private Hospital, Healthscope, recently terminated its contract with Bupa and Australian Health Service Alliance (AHSA).

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

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### Online medical care helps coughers avoid waiting rooms

West Australian, Other, 27/11/2024, Luke Costin

Leaving a sickbed to visit a doctor for a script or medical certificate will be a thing of the past under a new free service. The adult-focused virtual urgent care service to be rolled out in December expects to treat thousands of people each month for illness or injuries such as coughs, colds, fevers, vomiting, minor infections and rashes.

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## Corowa in healthcare crisis

Shepparton News Online, Other, 27/11/2024, Robert Muir

Last Friday's announcement that Corowa Mediclinic is to close on Sunday, December 1 has sparked community outcry. It is particularly devastating news because it is the only fully bulk-billing practice in town, leaving many residents - already grappling with financial hardship - without accessible healthcare.

[Read More](#)

## Should the medical board be worried about the rise of instant medical certificates?

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/11/2024, Mohana Basu & Paul Smith

There has been a significant increase in the number of online providers. The Medical Board of Australia has raised numerous concerns about the risk of bad medicine with the rise of telehealth services, particularly those offering instant scripts and instant referrals to patients willing to enter their debit card details.

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## Core GP research platform rebranded

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/11/2024

The RACGP's research platform has undergone a rebrand, to reinforce the 'critical role' of research in advancing general practice. Evolving from the RACGP Foundation to drive innovative research that directly enhances healthcare, the Australian General Practice Research Foundation was launched at GP24 at a Research Breakfast.

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## FIVEAA, Afternoons, 27/11/2024, Stacey Lee

Interview with Michael Baigent, Flinders University Professor and AMA SA Member. Compere mentions that the AMA South Australia is calling for the Federal Government not to delay what they call vital gambling advertising reform. Baigent says the reforms are looking to regulate the gambling advertisements and they're going to work over some time over a number of years to ban advertising for online gambling.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Younger Aussies fear cost of living

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/11/2024, Holly Truelove, Page 7

Cost of living has emerged as the number one national issue for young Australians, eclipsing climate change and mental health, Mission Australia's latest survey has revealed. Of the more than 17,400 Australians aged 15-19 who responded to the Youth Survey Report, 56 per cent said cost of living was one of their primary concerns.

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

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### Principals face threats

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/11/2024, Page 12

More than 80 per cent of Australian principals have experienced critical incidents in their schools, including violent security threats, mental health crises, suicide attempts and medical emergencies, new Australian Catholic University research shows. And most school leaders feel the frequency of critical incidents is increasing.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).



## Young people's anxiety soars over cost of living

West Australian, Other, 28/11/2024, Abe Maddison

Young Australians' concerns over the issue that worries them most are rising as quickly as the issue itself: the cost of living. It is the first time it has featured as the number one issue in Mission Australia's annual Youth Survey Report, which polled 17,400 young people aged 15-19.

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## Third Degree: The digital mental health service Mark Butler should look at

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/11/2024, Cate Swannell

Dervla Loughnane provides mental health care via text, reaching the infamous 'missing middle'. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care and its \$588 million investment in its "low intensity digital mental health service", she says, isn't interested in talking to small operators like her who have been providing care successfully for years.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### The final straw

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/11/2024, Saree Salter, Page 1

The Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) launched a dispute with the Tasmanian Industrial Commission about unreasonable workloads and minimum staffing levels. The dispute was launched on November 26 after the government and Department of Health failed to follow through with commitments that would have resolved the issue, ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary Emily Shepherd said.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Community needs not being addressed

Herald Sun, General News, 28/11/2024, Jeff Kennett, Page 15

The majority of Victorians rely on the public health system. The government has for a long time failed to address the staffing requirements across the state.

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### Spinner pay cut

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/11/2024, Aden Hill & Andrew Hough, Page 15

An official new chief spin doctor's taxpayer-funded salary will be cut by more than \$100,000 after the Premier admitted it failed the "pub test". The Department of Premier and Cabinet had promoted a Government Advertising and Insights Hub executive director job with an annual pay band of between \$257,462 and \$429,104.

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### New ANF boss Romina Raschilla wants pay deal by Christmas, to avoid election fight

West Australian, Other, 27/11/2024, Dylan Caporn

The new boss of the WA Nurses Union does not want prolonged wage negotiations to drag into next

year's election campaign, despite scuttling the State Government's first offer to members. Speaking to the media on Wednesday after rejecting the 12.25 per cent pay rise over three years, Australian Nurses Federation State secretary Romina Raschilla said she expected another offer from the Government before Christmas.

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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 ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### **Bad sleep, bad heart**

Herald Sun, General News, 28/11/2024, Page 10

People who have an irregular sleeping pattern could be at a higher risk of heart-related death, heart attack, heart failure and stroke. Scientists, including researchers from The University of Sydney and Monash University, say this risk persists even if you get the recommended amount of sleep.

*Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).*

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

## History made with first Voice to Parliament address

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 27/11/2024, Duncan Evans

A leader with Australia's first state-based Voice to Parliament has delivered a historic address decrying continued Indigenous disadvantage, with a call for radical change in how governments interact with First Nations people. [...] Hindmarsh, held by Health Minister Mark Butler, takes in working-class Port Adelaide, the Adelaide Airport and the beach suburbs to the north, and voted 61.6 per cent for No.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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## Chronic conditions are on the rise among Indigenous people

SBS, Other, 27/11/2024

Almost half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a chronic health condition, with those living in remote areas more likely to be affected, the survey found. The Australian Bureau of Statistic's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey,

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Measles alert in Brisbane

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 28/11/2024, Page 5

A measles outbreak has prompted a health warning after an infected person travelled to various locations around the Brisbane region. Metro South Health announced the infection on Wednesday and said symptoms included high temperatures, cough and a runny nose followed by a red spotty rash and sore.

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

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### Epidemic concern as cough kills bub

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/11/2024, Nathan Schmidt & Clareese Packer, Page 7

A baby has died in Queensland after contracting whooping cough as the nation grapples with its largest epidemic of the illness since vaccines against it were introduced. The baby was reportedly just two months old, according to the ABC.

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

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### Infant dies amid worst Queensland whooping cough epidemic on record

The Guardian, Other, 27/11/2024, Ben Smee & Andrew Messenger

An infant in Queensland died after contracting whooping cough, amid a national outbreak of the infection and concerns about declining vaccination rates. Queensland Health confirmed that a child had died in the state from the highly contagious respiratory tract infection, as case numbers have increased 23 times compared to 2023. No further details about the death were available, but the ABC has reported the child was two months old.

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### Queenslander dies from whooping cough as case numbers reach unprecedented levels

9News, Other, 27/11/2024, Yashee Sharma

A patient has died from the highly contagious whooping cough infection in Queensland as case numbers across the country reach an unprecedented level. Queensland Health confirmed the death

happened this year but would not provide any further details due to privacy reasons.

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## Baby dies amid unprecedented whooping cough outbreak

The New Daily, Other, 27/11/2024, Emily Verdouw

A two-month-old baby has died as an unprecedented whooping cough epidemic continues to spread across Australia, alarming health authorities who are grappling to contain soaring infection rates. 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

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Drug bridging fund a matter of life and death

The Australian, General News, 28/11/2024, James Dowling, Page 6

Cancer and other patients can't wait for PBS approval. [...] Pharmaceutical industry body Medicines Australia currently estimates the funding gap between a drug being approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and subsidised by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme at 442 days.

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### Cannabis 'policy muddle' requires clarity: report

Canberra Times, Other, 28/11/2024, Rachael Ward

Sales of medicinal cannabis have gone through the roof as authorities continue to bicker over the pros and cons of legalising other forms of the drug. In the first six months of 2024 there were some 2.87 million containers of medicinal cannabis sold in Australia, according to data provided to the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#)

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### Bundaberg tobacconists shut down under tough new tobacco, vape laws

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 27/11/2024

Three stores in Bundaberg have been closed down after authorities allegedly seized more than \$1m in illicit tobacco and vaping products, the first time new laws have been used in the state. [...] Wide Bay Public Health Unit's Environmental Health team works closely with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), and Queensland Police Service (QPS) to enforce the state's tobacco laws.

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### Australia's 'booming' medicinal cannabis trade on track this year to quadruple 2022 sales

The Guardian, Other, 28/11/2024, Natasha May

The medicinal cannabis business is "booming", with Australian sales likely to have quadrupled in the past two years, according to a new report. [...] The Penington Institute obtained the sales data provided by companies to the drugs regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, on a six-monthly basis.

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### New pathway could ease HRT shortage crisis for patients

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 27/11/2024, Chloe Hava

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a Serious Scarcity Substitution Instruments (SSSI) to help pharmacists and patients manage the shortage of hormone replacement therapy (HRT)

patches. A global shortage of menopausal hormone therapies (MHT) has persisted throughout 2024, leaving many women 'unable to function'

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### **Rabbits Eat Lettuce festival to forge ahead with pill testing program despite LNP's decision to defund clinics**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/11/2024, Jessica Klein

Queensland's LNP government has remained firm in its conservative approach to drug use, pulling funding for the state's controversial pill testing scheme. Health Minister Tim Nicholls confirmed the government would not renew the contracts of the two CheQpoints in the southeast when they expired in about April or May.

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

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## FOOD STANDARDS

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## AICIS

### **Six reservoirs near Melbourne record PFAS detections**

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 27/11/2024

Six drinking water supplies located to the west and north west of Melbourne have had PFAS chemicals detected in them over the past 16 months according to a Freedom of Information request from Greater Western Water. All detections were recorded in raw water, however treatment methods at water treatment plants often have limited success in removing PFAS and apparently no testing was conducted on the drinking water itself.

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