



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 29th November 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (Page 3) reports that the Royal Melbourne Hospital has warned its 2024 intake of early-career nurses to expect fewer hours thus prompting calls for the health minister to issue a please-explain following the state's health services were granted an additional \$1.5 billion in funding.
- The **Geelong Advertiser** (Page 3) reports that according to research from RMIT University a new gold-based drug can slow tumour growth in animals by 82 per cent and target cancers more selectively than standard chemotherapy drugs.
- The **Townsville Bulletin** (Page 4) reports that a clinical trial has found that injections given in some cases of asthma and COPD attacks are more effective than steroid tablets, reducing the need for further treatment by 30 per cent.
- The **Australian Financial Review** (Page 6) reports that new data has revealed that more than 15 million Australians now have private health cover with a surge of young people in the September quarter, resulting in a record high despite the cost-of-living crisis.
- The **Herald Sun** (Page 7) reports that four private hospitals had nurses and midwives stop working for more than two hours on Thursday afternoon following the EBA negotiations broke down.

- The [Herald Sun](#) (Page 35) reports that the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association has called for an overhaul of the state government's funding system for drug and alcohol rehab, after new data revealed a significant rise in wait lists for people seeking treatment.

MINISTER BUTLER

Young people pile into health cover

Australian Financial Review, General News, 29/11/2024, Michael Smith, Page 6

Medical insurance a surge in young people taking up private health insurance drove membership to a record high in the September quarter, despite a cost-of-living crisis and rising out-of-pocket costs that have been pushing patients into the public sector. ...

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

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Bulk billing rises in regional Victoria

Armstrong Creek Times, General News, 29/11/2024, Ellie Claringbold, Page 31

The proportion of doctors' visits bulk billed across regional Victoria over the past 12 months has increased to 77.1 per cent, figures released by the federal government have revealed. [...] "Labor introduced Medicare 40 years ago and we have defended and strengthened it ever since," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Mums and bubs to receive free RSV vaccines from 2025

Canowindra News, 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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Locums cut back

Eyre Peninsula Advocate, General News, 28/11/2024, Luca Cetta, Page 1

The use of locum doctors in Ceduna has been scaled back by the Eyre and Far North Local Health Network (EFNLHN) following a review into the town's requirements. [...] "Our government worked with the South Australian Government, as a priority, to ensure patients in the Eyre Peninsula can access MBS (Medical Benefits Billing) rebates for allied health and mental health services," Minister Butler said.

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Blame game holds up help

Eyre Peninsula Advocate, General News, 28/11/2024, Bev Story, Page 5

Access to badly needed mental health treatment has not been within the reach of many - thanks to Medicare claims being rejected for the past six months. [...] Conversely, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's office said the questions should be directed to SA Health.

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MINISTER WELLS

Communications minister's office admits gambling ad reform taking 'longer than hoped'

Emails seen by Guardian Australia from Michelle Rowland's office say they 'can't commit to a revised timeframe' on the long-awaited reforms. [...] The government has not given a specific reason for not having yet responded to the Murphy report, but sports minister Anika Wells said on Monday that sporting codes' financial viability was a factor in Labor Rowland's staffer, in the email to Kempster, said they acknowledged "the ongoing toll this is taking on you and others, and I'm personally very sorry that we have not been able to secure an outcome thus far."

[Read More](#)

Aged Care Bill 2024: Amendments and key sector changes that got it passed

Aged Care Insite, Other, 28/11/2024, Stefanie Schultz

After Labor's historic aged care Bill was passed in the Senate last week, the Lower House was quick to add its stamp of approval on Monday, officially enshrining the rights-based legislation into law. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said that Albanese government has kept their word in delivering the landmark reform before the end of the year.

[Read More](#)

What Increased Mandatory Care Minutes Mean for Aged Care Residents

HelloCare, Other, 28/11/2024, Alex Jacobs

The mandatory number of minutes of direct care per day for aged care residents has been raised from 200 to 215 minutes, with at least 44 of those minutes to be provided by a registered nurse. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has expressed disappointment at the current lack of compliance with the new reforms, and said in no uncertain terms, there is an expectation that providers should spend government funding on meeting the mandatory care minute targets.

[Read More](#)

Residential aged care earnings improved in Q4 2023-24 but storm clouds ahead

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The earnings of residential aged care homes is likely to come under pressure in the current financial year as the majority of providers still fail to meet both mandatory care minute and 24/7 RN requirements and pressure mounts from the Government to comply. [...] For Profits under scrutiny Anika Wells The report also notes that since the care minute targets were introduced, Not For Profit providers have consistently exceeded the mandatory targets, while For Profits have not met targets.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today , 28/11/2024, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo

Panel discussion with Minister for Sport Anika Wells and Scott Emerson, political strategist. Compere discusses that \$2b was presented to fix the Brisbane River ahead of the Brisbane Olympics. Wells points out that she actually asks those in the Paris Olympics whether they have done the same when it comes to cleaning their water areas and she believes they should have focused on quelling the open water swimmers' nerves when swimming around bull shark nest.

Similar content in: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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3AW, 07:30 News, 28/11/2024

Minister Anika Wells has told Today that Dementia is a leading cause of death in Australia.

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DEPARTMENT

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Your GP can be a safe place to seek support for domestic, family or sexual violence

Western News, General News, 29/11/2024, Page 9

Wentworth Healthcare, the provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, is supporting the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign. [...] Wentworth Healthcare provides a program called Care and Connect, funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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There's a new DIY test for infections hitting thousands each year. Experts have a warning

SBS, Other, 28/11/2024, Jessica Bahr

A new STI self-test has been approved in Australia, but experts say it's important to understand the test's limitations. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, about one in six Australians will get an STI in their lifetime.

[Read More](#)

Aged Care Act passes parliament — what you need to know

Australian Medical Association, Other, 28/11/2024

The Department of Health and Aged Care has provided an update regarding the new Aged Care Act and what it means for you. The Australian Parliament has passed the Aged Care Bill, which means the new Aged Care Act will start from 1 July 2025.

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Montelukast due for 'stronger' side effects warning

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/11/2024, Mariella Attard

Psychiatric adverse events are rare but warrant awareness, experts say. [...] A spokesperson for the

Department of Health and Aged Care told TMR that 339 adverse events had been reported since late 2014 in which the patient was taking montelukast; a psychiatric condition was noted in 204 of them.

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Home care management fees stay at 17% for six months, despite Govt plans to mandate 10% cap

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Act brought in by the Albanese Government includes the new Support at Home program, which will set a 10% cap for care management fees from 1 July 2025. The Department of Health and Aged Care's own Quarterly Financial Snapshot – Quarter 4 2023-24 showed operator's care management fees for all Home Care Packages are 17% per Package, less than the current cap of 20%, which repeats the Quarter 3 2023-24 figures.

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Bupa and Ramsay Health Care partner on unique 3-month nurse exchange

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/11/2024, Caroline Egan

Graduates nurses employed with Bupa Villages and Aged Care and Ramsay Health Care will have the opportunity to swap places on three-month exchanges under a new partnership set to begin next year. [...] The gap has decreased substantially in the last six months, largely due to the Aged Care Work Value Case, which was predicted to bring 10,000 workers into the sector annually by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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HealthConsult paid \$25,000 per day for IHACPA's 2024 residential aged care costing study

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) has awarded the healthcare consultants a \$1.2 million extension on its contract for 'Residential Aged Care Cost Collection 2024'. [...] The findings form the basis of IHACPA's pricing recommendations to the Department of Health and Aged Care, which sets prices.

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The \$18M contract to operate My Aged Care – the website with 56% customer satisfaction

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The Department of Health and Aged Care has awarded digital consultants Liquid Interactive a \$4.9 million extension on their contract to "operate and enhance" the My Aged Care website. The move takes the 2.5-year contract to an overall value of \$18.3 million.

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River 1467, 12:08 Local News, 28/11/2024

Doctors warn there's a growing disparity between medical research in the city and the bush. A report from the Department of Health and Aged Care shows just 13% of the nation's medical researchers are based in the regions.

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VACCINES

Mums and bubs to receive free RSV vaccines from 2025

Canowindra News, 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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AGEING AND AGED CARE

PM gets upper hand in upper house with raft of key vote wins

Age, General News, 29/11/2024, David Crowe & Paul Sakkal, Page 4

Labor is claiming victory in a fight to deliver help to households before the federal election after winning Senate votes on housing, food prices and social media policies, while also securing a last-minute deal to toughen migration laws. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese declared he was turning "promises into progress" after also gaining Senate approval this week for a cut to student debts and the final element of a sweeping change to the aged care sector.

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Rare site is snapped up

Courier Mail, General News, 29/11/2024, Chris Herde, Page 66

A rare large infill development site in Brisbane's northern suburbs attracted "fierce" buyer interest before being bought by an aged care provider. According to CoreLogic, Southern Cross Care paid \$9.9m for the 1.32ha site at 1A Northmore St, Mitchelton, in an established residential area with expansive views over the Kedron Brook and parklands and close to the Brookside Shopping Centre.

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Age pension 'left on the table' as retirees delay their applications

The Australian, Other, 28/11/2024, Anthony Keane

Senior Australians are missing out on money when they enter retirement, as many don't seek an age pension for two or three years after they leave work. Confusion, apathy and a lack of understanding and advice around the generous age pension assets test are among reasons for the delays, financial specialists say.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Top funds team up for \$585m health and life sciences hub in Sydney

The Mercury, Other, 28/11/2024, Ben Wilmot

Industry superannuation fund-backed fund manager ISPT has teamed up with the heavyweight Australian Retirement Trust with a scheme to develop a \$585m health and life sciences hub in Sydney's inner-city Camperdown. The pair have won the rights under a 99-year lease from St John's College at the University of Sydney to develop the centre, which will become a key part of the emerging precinct.

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More than 1,000 aged care residents have COVID-19 two years after restrictions were lifted

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The epicentre of the wave appears to be in Victoria, with nearly 100 Victorian aged care homes in the grips of a COVID-19 outbreak during the week to 21 November 2024. New outbreaks were reported in 39 homes during the week.

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Smoke driving rise in fatal heart disease

West Australian, General News, 29/11/2024, Page 30

About 1.5 million deaths per year globally have been linked to the health impacts from air pollution caused by landscape fires between 2000 and 2019, according to an Australian-led study. Landscape fires include bushfires, fires in agricultural and rural-urban fringe areas and controlled or prescribed burns.

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State vape laws 'too much' argues senator

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/11/2024, Simon Mcguire, Page 22

Tasmanian independent senator Tammy Tyrrell believes the state's proposed new laws on vaping are "way too much". New vaping regulations requiring Tasmanians to have a prescription to use e-cigarettes legally has passed the state's lower house.

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Candidate demands immediate action

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 29/11/2024, Monique Patterson, Page 3

The federal government needs to step up and address the homelessness crisis in south-west Victoria, according to independent candidate for Wannon Alex Dyson. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 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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Drug 500 times stronger than heroin detected at Brisbane pill-testing site

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/11/2024, Courtney Kruk

Queensland Health has issued an urgent warning after a potent and potentially lethal synthetic drug was detected in Brisbane, only days after the LNP government announced it would strip funding from the state's permanent pill-testing sites. The operator of the Bowen Hills pill-testing site, CheQpoint, confirmed the synthetic opioid nitazene was discovered in counterfeit oxycodone.

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Labor's 10 years in power: Insiders say the pandemic merely exposed cracks in already dysfunctional health system

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/11/2024, Sarah Booth

A decade on from Labor's bold vision to fix the healthcare system, hospitals are grappling with huge deficits while wait times have increased for surgery and in emergency departments. 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.

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Like smoking 15 cigarettes a day: A feeling that's become a dire problem

The Border Mail, Other, 28/11/2024, Anthony Caggiano

One of Australia's governments is considering the idea of a minister for loneliness as a new epidemic sweeps over the country. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare analysis of household, Income, and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) data showed in 2022, one in six people aged 55-64, and in 65+ felt lonely.

[Read More](#)

Australia's plan for eliminating HIV in the next six years

The Mandarin, Other, 28/11/2024, Melissa Coade

Last year an HIV taskforce recommended what priority areas the government should act on, with the new strategy informed by its findings. The federal government has launched a new plan to stop HIV transmission by 2030.

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'Dangerous': Calls to premier for more gas ban rebates

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 28/11/2024, Holly Hales

Major medical and equity organisations are calling on Victoria's premier to provide greater rebates to replace gas appliances, flagging "dangerous" health risks. Healthcare workers and community advocates gathered on the steps of the state's parliament on Thursday morning to deliver a letter to Premier Jacinta Allan.

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

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Bad sleep, bad heart

Daily Mercury, General News, 29/11/2024, Page 11

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.

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Cancer survivors to hit the disease for six

Daily Mercury, General News, 29/11/2024, Mitch Turner, Page 39

For many men with cancer, their battle can be a silent one, with few - if any - of the people around them ever made aware of the struggles of overcoming their disease. But the Trudy Crowley Foundation, in partnership with the Mackay Cricket Association, is looking to change the narrative.

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Gold standard cancer drug

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 29/11/2024, Page 3

A new gold-based drug can slow tumour growth in animals by 82 per cent and target cancers more selectively than standard chemotherapy drugs, according to RMIT University research. The study reveals a new gold-based compound that's 27 times more potent against cervical cancer cells in the lab than standard chemotherapy drug cisplatin.

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

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Cool new tool in cancer fight

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 29/11/2024, Allan Murphy, Page 6

Cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy at Mildura Base Public Hospital have additional resources at the disposal of their clinicians in the fight against the potentially deadly disease. The hospital's chemotherapy unit has recently replaced its Paxman scalp cooling machine with a new device that gives patients the possibility of hair retention during cancer treatment and faster hair regrowth in the event of hair loss.

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Injection of hope

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 29/11/2024, Page 4

An injection given during some asthma and COPD attacks is more effective than steroid tablets and reduces the need for further treatment by 30 per cent. The clinical trial findings could be "game-

changing" for millions of people with asthma and COPD around the world, King's College London scientists say.

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

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Terminally ill patients being refused access to voluntary assisted dying by doctors who object their wishes

West Australian, Other, 28/11/2024, Jessica Page

The terminally ill are being refused access to legal euthanasia by doctors who "conscientiously object" to their patients' wishes. WA's voluntary assisted dying laws were passed in 2019 but some medics who disagree continue to refuse to allow their patients access.

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Breathe Easy This Pollen Season with Coway's Sensitive Choice Approved Air Purifiers

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 28/11/2024

As Australia transitions from spring to summer, rising pollen counts and increasingly extreme weather conditions are expected to worsen allergy and asthma symptoms across the board. As various grasses enter their peak flowering season, air quality is set to be significantly impacted, making it harder to breathe and potentially triggering asthma symptoms in affected individuals.

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Macquarie University Spinout Secures Landmark \$16.75M Funding for Breakthrough ALS Gene Therapy

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 28/11/2024

A raises for an Australian biotech start-up, raising \$16.75M to advance its program for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) disease. This landmark financing round was led by Uniseed, Australia's longest-running research commercialisation fund, with a major contribution from hedge fund manager and ALS patient, Mr Iomar Barrett, and support from tertiary education sector superannuation fund UniSuper.

[Read More](#)

Doctors hail first breakthrough in asthma and COPD treatment in 50 years

The Guardian, Other, 28/11/2024, Andrew Gregory

Results of trial of benralizumab injection could be 'gamechanger' for millions of people around the world Doctors are hailing a new way to treat serious asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease attacks that marks the first breakthrough for 50 years and could be a "gamechanger" for patients.

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First treatment in 50 years for serious asthma attacks is 'game-changer'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/11/2024

A new way of treating serious asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) attacks could be a "game-changer" and is the first leap in treatment for 50 years, researchers say. Offering patients an injection is more effective than the current care of steroid tablets and cuts the need for further treatment by 30%, according to a study.

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PRIMARY CARE

Young people pile into health cover

Australian Financial Review, General News, 29/11/2024, Michael Smith, Page 6

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

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Bupa puts customer service offshore

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/11/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 25

Private health giant Bupa will move part of its customer service centre offshore in another blow to the fund's 4 million members, who will soon lose access to Australia's second-largest private hospital network Bupa staff were informed this week that the company would outsource its digital customer service platform to a team in the Philippines from the middle of next year, affecting 140 staff. In an email to affected staff, the company said it has seen a "significant shift in customer preferences" towards digital messaging, and the existing Australia-based team could not keep up with demand.

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Life support for ailing plan

Herald Sun, General News, 29/11/2024, Carly Douglas, Page 31

A new medical centre designed to drive down the state's huge elective surgery waitlists has blown out by almost \$15 million and will open more than eight months late. Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas quietly approved an extra \$14.7m to complete two new operating theatres at the Blackburn Public Surgical Centre last year amid warnings the multimillion-dollar shortfall would reduce the centre's capacity to deliver thousands of planned surgeries.

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The angels who've helped so many kids

Courier Mail, General News, 29/11/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 29

Almost half a million sick children have been treated at the Queensland Children's Hospital since the doors opened 10 years ago and for many of the young patients, miracles have happened. After a decade of healing, Newsweek this year ranked the QCH 10th in its annual list of the world's best specialist paediatric hospitals.

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Medibank's push for 'hospitals in the home'

West Australian, Business News, 29/11/2024, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 54

The boss of Medibank's health services business has called on WA's public hospitals to ramp up their adoption of "virtual hospitals" as the country grapples with a stretched health system. Ampliar Health chief executive Robert Read said in many respects, WA had already experimented with different virtual health settings, pointing to the State's remote monitoring service Health in a Virtual Environment, or HIVE, as an example.

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Call to demand hospital backflip is unanimous

Border Mail, General News, 29/11/2024, Ted Howes, Page 5

Wodonga councillors have voted unanimously to call on the Victorian and NSW governments to halt the redevelopment of Albury hospital and provide a health service that meets the needs of Border regional communities. Deputy mayor Michelle Cowan, a longtime advocate for a new greenfield hospital, moved a notice of motion on Monday that slammed the proposed redevelopment of Albury hospital, saying it fell "critically short of meeting community needs".

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'Difficult' decision leaves town without bulk-billing doctor

Border Mail, General News, 29/11/2024, Ted Howes, Page 7

A GP clinic in a Border town will close its doors next month, prompting more than 200 people to sign a petition calling for the provider to reverse its decision. The move will leave Corowa without a dedicated

bulk-billing GP when Neetu Shokeen, the only doctor who practised at the clinic, is transferred to Lavington Doctors on December 1.

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Bulk billing rises in regional Victoria

Armstrong Creek Times, General News, 29/11/2024, Ellie Claringbold, Page 31

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Steve Bracks: Victoria's health system is world class thanks to big Labor investments

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/11/2024, Steve Bracks

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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There is no considered plan how the increasing health needs of the community are going to be efficiently addressed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/11/2024, Jeff Kennett

Victoria's health system is under increasing stress and most public hospitals are running at a financial loss, putting abnormal pressures on hospital administrators. The majority of Victorians rely on the public health system.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 28/11/2024, Natalie Forrest

Doctors are warning about the dangers of so-called weight loss wonder drug Ozempic. The Australian Medical Association says it can have damaging effects on the digestive system and should be a treatment of last resort.

Similar content in: [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#), [10 Cairns \(Cairns\)](#), [10 Bundaberg Wide Bay \(Bundaberg\)](#)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Blame game holds up help

Eyre Peninsula Advocate, General News, 28/11/2024, Bev Story, Page 5

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses in pay walkout

Herald Sun, General News, 29/11/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 7

Nurses and midwives have walked off the job at four private hospitals in Melbourne in the latest industrial dispute to hit healthcare. Workers at St Vincent's private hospitals in East Melbourne, Kew, Werribee and Fitzroy stopped work for more than two hours on Thursday afternoon after EBA negotiations broke down.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

More junior nurses have hours slashed

Age, General News, 29/11/2024, Broede Carmody & Brittany Busch, Page 3

A second major Melbourne hospital is cutting the hours of junior nurses, prompting calls for the health minister to issue a please-explain after the state's health services were handed an extra \$1.5 billion in funding. The Royal Melbourne Hospital has told its 2024 intake of earlycareer nurses to brace for fewer hours next year after The Age revealed on Tuesday that hundreds at Alfred Health had their work slashed from a 32-hour working week to 24 hours.

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

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'Feel like a failure': Nurses walk off the job to demand parity with public sector wages and ratios

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/11/2024, Ryan Bourke

Hundreds of nurses and midwives from Melbourne's St Vincent's Private Hospital have walked off the job on Thursday, saying management has refused to address union demands for mandated minimum nurse-to-patient ratios. If implemented, the mandated ratios would bring St Vincent's Private in line with the state's public hospitals that have had similar ratios in place for decades.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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NSW public sector wages: What essential workers earn compared to private industry

The Courier Mail, Other, 28/11/2024, William Tyson

NSW public sector employees have been in heated pay disputes in recent months, with a closer look at salaries revealing significant disparities across professions. Many industries have been negotiating for higher levels of pay, with NSW Police receiving approval for drastically increased pay packets in a new deal struck to address crucial staff shortages revealed earlier this week.

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Hundreds of St Vincent's Private Hospitals nurses and midwives stop work for safe staffing

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 28/11/2024

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Victorian Branch Nurses and midwives are standing together, putting quality and safety for patients first and seeking solutions to the current understaffing and high patient workloads at St Vincent's Private Hospitals. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Victorian Branch) has been negotiating nurses' and midwives' wages and conditions for members at St Vincent's Private Hospitals in Fitzroy, East Melbourne, Werribee and Kew.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

FIVEAA, Breakfast, 28/11/2024, Will Goodings & David Penberthy

Compere says SA now has some of the toughest penalties in the nation when it comes to the sale of illicit vapes and tobacco. He states that from today, breaches can attract a fine of up to \$1.5m.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Major Australian breakthrough could revolutionise hypertension treatment

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 28/11/2024

In a significant international breakthrough for the more than one billion people suffering from hypertension, Australian-supported research recently published in three of the world's leading medical journals - The Lancet, the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC) - has produced outstanding Phase III clinical trial results for an innovative triple combination of drugs, which could revolutionise the management and treatment of high blood pressure.

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'Extremely unlikely': no doctors to respond to shooting

Canberra Times, Other, 28/11/2024

Health authorities have defended having no medical staff at a remote community when the "extremely unlikely" fatal police shooting of an Indigenous teenager occurred. Warlpiri-Luritja man Kumanjayi Walker bled to death on a police cell floor in Yuendumu after being shot by then-constable Zachary Rolfe during a botched arrest at a home in the Northern Territory community in November 2019.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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NT government seeks to "dodge responsibility" for tenants' drinking water

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/11/2024, Giovanni Torre

The Northern Territory government will challenge a ruling that found it is legally responsible for providing safe drinking water to its tenants, many of whom live in remote Indigenous communities, in the NT Court of Appeal on Friday. The Territory government will argue NT landlords are not required to supply water at all to tenants.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Cryptosporidiosis outbreak smashes records with 13,400 cases this year

Australian Doctor, Other, 28/11/2024, Mohana Basu

Doctors have diagnosed over 13,400 cryptosporidiosis cases this year, 3.5 times higher than last year's total case count and 2.5 times higher than the previous annual record. "We believe the spike is due to a combination of changing weather patterns and an increase in recreational water activities," said Associate Professor Vincent Ho, a gastroenterologist and academic at Western Sydney University.

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4BC, Breakfast , 28/11/2024, Peter Fegan

A measles outbreak in Brisbane has prompted an urgent health warning. It's understood a person with measles was out and about over the past week. They visited places in Holland Park, Sunnybank, Coopers Plains, Tarragindi and Upper Mount Gravatt.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Health Check: It's goodbye to ugly grey 'job filler' as SDI's aesthetic alternative gains traction

The Courier Mail, Other, 28/11/2024, Tim Boreham

Dental supplies chain SDI reports promising initial sales of its "exciting" aesthetic amalgam filling replacement product, Stela. Toothy white smiles as SDI reports strong initial sales of its company-

making Stela fillings Trivarx awaits FDA key decision on its trial design [...] The local Therapeutic Goods Administration and European and Brazilian regulators followed suit.

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

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Paradigm clear for phase 3 following US FDA review

The Courier Mail, Other, 28/11/2024, Special Report

The US FDA concludes 30-day review of Paradigm Biopharmaceuticals' phase III trial protocol for new knee osteoarthritis treatment, clearing a Q1 CY25 start date. [...] Paradigm also expects a response to its determination application recently submitted to the local Therapeutic Goods Administration by the end of December.

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

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Cannabis 'policy muddle' requires clarity: report

Ballarat Courier, 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: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Medicinal cannabis sales are booming but unethical prescribing is putting Australians at risk, report finds

ABC Online, Other, 28/11/2024, Paige Cockburn

The amount of money Australians are spending on medicinal cannabis continues to skyrocket, with new data showing this year's sales are on track to double those from 2023. [...] Most medicinal cannabis products are not registered medicines in Australia and a doctor must apply for access through the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on behalf of a patient.

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TGA announces 12-month labelling exemptions for paracetamol

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/11/2024, Ajp Staff

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has implemented two temporary labelling exemptions for certain Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 paracetamol products. With new requirements set to come into effect from 1 February 2025 that will reduce the maximum pack sizes

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Prescriber deficit limiting access to medicinal cannabis

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/11/2024, John Smith

TGA data shows growth in medicinal cannabis approvals, but barriers to access remain Sales of medicinal cannabis products in 2024 are on track to double the number sold in 2023, the Pennington Institute reports. The Cannabis in Australia 2024 report flagged a continued increase in the number of patient access approvals via the Therapeutic Goods

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Rehab system failing addicts

Herald Sun, General News, 29/11/2024, Athos Sirianos & Stuart Kavanagh, Page 35

11 overdoses a week; queues increase Wait lists for drug and alcohol rehab in Victoria have blown out amid an overdose "crisis", with the state's peak drug services body demanding an overhaul of the government's "inadequate" funding system. The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association revealed wait lists for treatment had almost doubled since 2020, with more than 4600 people waiting for treatment on any given day.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 28/11/2024, Michael Rowland & Emma Rebellato

New data reveals Australians are spending big on medicinal cannabis. Drug policy organisation the Penington Institute has found sales this year are on track to double 2023 figures, with Australians having spent \$400 million on medicinal cannabis products in the first six months of this year.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Webinar explains new food standards

Shepparton News Online, Other, 28/11/2024

Agriculture Victoria horticulture standards engagement officer Emily Scott said the new rules would help lift food safety standards across the industry. "We are working closely with industry bodies and growers to support businesses implementing the new standards with a timely awareness and engagement campaign," Ms Scott said.

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AICIS

Cancer-causing 'forever chemicals' found in Brisbane drinking water

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/11/2024, William Davis

A "forever chemical" known to cause cancer has been found in Brisbane drinking water, according to test results the government-owned water authority did not want to release. Official documents show synthetic material PFOA – used to make non-stick pans and other consumer goods – has been detected at south-east Queensland treatment plants at among the highest known levels in the country.

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