



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 30th November 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports a woman in jail for the murder of a mother who has been given leave to receive IVF is being refused treatment by public hospitals and major private IVF providers, arguing the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act states that the “welfare and interests of persons born or to be born as a result of procedures” are considered “paramount”.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 3) reports guidelines for asthma treatment in Australia may follow changes from the UK advising Ventolin puffers no longer be prescribed due to a lack of efficacy beyond short-term symptom relief and environmental concerns.
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 3) reports the ANZCA is facing criticism over the removal of Professor Joanna Sutherland from her safety and quality committee chair position following comments made to The Age regarding allegations of alleged misconduct by anaesthetists, with a number of members calling for her immediate reinstatement.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 3) reports waitlists for specialists in South Australia have increased since last quarter, with 4630 surgeries deemed necessary listed as overdue and 11 consultations reaching maximum wait times of over five years, a reduction from the 16 year wait lists recorded for some appointments in 2018.

- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 5) reports mental health organisations are calling on the government to fund policy to address a mental health crisis among teenagers and children following the passing of a social media ban for under 16s.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 6) reports David Crisafulli has announced the members of a new review board to look at infrastructure and venues for the Brisbane Olympics, with Sports Minister Anika Wells being informed of the appointments live on stage. When asked on Mr Crisafulli's lack of communication the minister said "I think it's reasonable that 50-50 partners will be consulted and collaborate. I think (the Premier) and I are unified on that".
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 7) reports South Australians are being urged to vaccinate their children as the state hits 1349 whooping cough cases for the year, a seven year high and 13 times more than last year.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 9) reports a potential breakthrough in blood pressure treatment that combines three existing medications and controlled high blood pressure in 70 per cent of patients in international trials is being hailed as a "game-changer" by researchers involved in the study.

MINISTER BUTLER

What NIB boss Fitzgibbon learnt from Ted Lasso

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 30/11/2024, Michael Smith, Page 23

One of Mark Fitzgibbon's more left-field directives to executives at insurance giant NIB over the past two decades has been to watch the US sports comedy series Ted Lasso.

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

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First a flag, now a cure for cancer

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 30/11/2024, Glenn McFarlane, Page 11

Outgoing Collingwood president Jeff Browne is the new chairman of Myeloma Australia and has vowed to stay in the role until a cure is found. [...] At a recent AFL final, he discussed with Health Minister Mark Butler how a financial commitment could save lives through groundbreaking Tcell therapies.

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Bulk billing rises in regional Victoria

Geelong Times, Other, 30/11/2024, Ellie Claringbold

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.

Also reported by: [Surf Coast Times \(Online\)](#), [Bellarine Times \(Online\)](#).

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I'm a GP who's worked in one of Mark Butler's urgent care clinics

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/11/2024, Charlene Chideme

I am a GP fellow who has worked at one of the urgent care clinics in Morayfield in Queensland. I'd like to give you an insight into my experiences. I've been practicing as a GP in Australia for the past six years, having previously worked as a GP in Zimbabwe.

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The week in review

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/11/2024, Megan Haggan

There was a mixed bag of news this week, but a bag containing a couple of medicines shortages. In Canberra, health minister Mark Butler launched the 9th National HIV strategy, hinting at Budget

measures to be taken to reduce transmission, while minister for immigration Tony Burke suggested the states and territories could do more to...

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Anti-HIV measures to be a 'very big investment in this year's Budget': Butler

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/11/2024, Megan Haggan

Just ahead of World AIDS Day (1 December), Health Minister Mark Butler has said in a statement that the Albanese government has launched the 9th National HIV Strategy...

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Publication of ministerial advice raises questions about the evidence given at Senate Estimates

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 29/11/2024

Documents tabled in the Senate today raised serious questions about the information provided on PBAC deferrals at Senate Estimates. The advice to Mark Butler indicates the committee's chair may have been indirectly involved in formulating the plan, that the department is legally required to evaluate submissions lodged for March regardless of capacity constraints, and that officials did not consult the industry as directed.

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Shootout at the Pathology Upload Corral

Health Services Daily, Other, 29/11/2024, Jeremy Knibbs

A very senior clinician working on some of our key healthcare review committees in Canberra rang me out of the blue a couple of weeks back confused as to what the sharing by default legislation might end up actually achieving. [...] If they comply to the letter of what the government would like, they will almost certainly be inviting short to mid-term drops in their revenue lines, as healthcare providers and consumers start coordinating far better and avoid unnecessary testing or repeat testing, an inefficiency which the Department of Health and Aged Care has identified as being as large as 25% of the system.

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UK's approach to physician associates tainted with 'desperation'

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/11/2024, Laura Woodrow

Physician assistants are unregulated, a safety risk and unnecessary in the Australian context, says the AMA president, amid concerns about following in the UK's footsteps. [...] In a letter penned to federal health minister Mark Butler, AMA president Danielle McMullen said PAs were not the solution to the workforce crisis, especially given the lack of regulation and training programs in Australia.

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MINISTER WELLS

Everybody to get a say on the Olympics

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 30/11/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 6

Every single Queenslander, including stadium developers and private investors, will be invited to submit proposals to the newly appointed Olympics review board, as Premier David Crisafulli adopts an "open slather" approach to fixing the 2032 Games. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells learned for the first time on stage the identities of those chosen for the board and details of the terms of reference.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Yarrawonga Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cobram Courier \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Benalla Ensign \(Online\)](#), [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader \(Online\)](#), [Oberon Review \(Online\)](#), [Braidwood Times \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Southern Cross \(Online\)](#), [Cobram Courier \(Online\)](#), [Campaspe News \(Online\)](#), [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo](#)

[Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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Aged care: monumental step forward or work in progress?

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/11/2024, Catherine Henry, Page 48

As the term of the federal parliament draws to a close, the Aged Care Bill 2024 has finally passed. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells claimed in Parliament this week that the bill before parliament implemented this key recommendation.

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ASC to invest \$385mn across 70 sports in huge boost for future Olympics and Paralympics

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/11/2024

Australia's hopes of success at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and Paralympics have been boosted by a record \$385m in funding from the Australian Sports Commission. [...] "Our record \$385m investment in high performance sport over the next 18 months, which includes a doubling of investment in Para sport, will enable our athletes to win well on the road to Los Angeles while also encouraging more Australians to play sport," federal Minister for Sport Anika Wells said.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [Busselton Dunsborough Times \(Online\)](#), [Sound Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Great Southern Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Olympic Games: The monster investment to kickstart athletes' preparation for the LA Games

Northern Territory News, Other, 29/11/2024, Julian Linden

The sports that didn't quite live up to their own expectations in Paris have all been given another chance as part of a monster funding package for the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028. [...] "This is a record funding package for Australian sport, so they can take full advantage of the generational opportunity between now and Brisbane 2032," the Minister for Sport Anika Wells said.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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Australian sporting bodies welcome \$250m govt funding boost

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/11/2024

Australia's sporting bodies have welcomed A\$385 million (\$250.98 million) in federal government funding over the next 18 months announced on Friday by the Australian Sports Commission. [...] "This is a record funding package for Australian sport, so they can take full advantage of the generational opportunity between now and Brisbane 2032," said Australia's Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells.

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\$385m stake in finding Olympic champions

Yahoo! Sports Australia, Other, 29/11/2024

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Paralympics Australia welcomes game-changing win well, play well

Investment confirmation

Paralympics Australia, Other, 29/11/2024, Hody Hong

Paralympics Australia (PA) is delighted with confirmation of how the Federal Government's historic investment in Paralympic sport will be allocated, calling it a "game-changer" for Australia's sporting future. [...] "We commend the leadership of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Minister for Sport Anika Wells and the Australian Sports Commission," Ms Creagh said.

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Swimming Australia bolstered by record investment from Federal Government

Swimming Australia, Other, 30/11/2024

Swimming Australia today welcomed Win Well (High Performance) and Play Well (Participation) investments announced by Federal Minister for Sport Anika Wells and the Australian Sports Commission. CEO of Swimming Australia Rob Woodhouse said today's announcement represents a welcome, significant and timely boost in investment to support Swimming Australia's role inspiring the nation and encouraging more Australians to swim.

[Read More](#)

Australian Sailing Team welcomes government funding ahead of LA2028

mysailing.com.au, Other, 29/11/2024

The Australian Sailing Team has welcomed the Australian Institute of Sport's (AIS) announcement confirming funding for its High Performance program through to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. [...] Record Funding Package Minister for Sport, the Hon Anika Wells said:.

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"We've been ignored": outrage as Communications Minister's Office apologises for delayed gambling ad reforms

B & T Online, Other, 29/11/2024, Aimee Edwards

The Office of Communications Minister Michelle Rowland has apologised to people harmed by the gambling industry after repeatedly delaying long-awaited reforms to gambling advertising. [...] Minister for Sport Anika Wells recently suggested that the financial viability of sporting codes—many of which depend on gambling revenue—was one of the reasons the government's proposed cap on gambling ads had not yet been finalised.

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Sky News Live, News Night, 29/11/2024, Rhiannon Elston

Queensland Premier David Crisafulli has unveiled the team tasked with shaping the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The newly appointed board will spearhead a 100 day review of the games venues, which officially kicked off today. [...] Key leaders including Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells, Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner and former Sydney Olympic boss Rod McGeogh joined the discussion on stage.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Newsday, 29/11/2024, Holly Stearnes

Panel discussion with Qld Premier David Crisafulli, Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells, and Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner. Wells points out that she wants Australia to come out on top in the medal tally in 2032 Brisbane Olympics. She mentions that one in four people with disability play sport but three out of four wants to.

[Play Now](#)

3AW, 06:30 News, 29/11/2024

Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells is announcing an average cash boost of 64 per cent for almost every Olympic and Paralympic sport. It's believed that Australia's most successful sport, swimming, will

get a 35 per cent boost, however, athletics is the real winner with an extra 65 per cent boost.

Similar content in: [Hope 103.2 \(Sydney\)](#), [Smooth FM 95.3 \(Sydney\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

These Coalition MPs have been accused of promoting a policy they branded 'reckless socialism'

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/11/2024, Angira Bharadwaj

Coalition MPs have been blasted as "disingenuous" after they promoted the government's free TAFE program to voters despite voting against it and labelling it as "reckless" "socialism". [...] Caption: Assistant Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Minister Emma McBride has commended the Labor government's proposal of 100,000 fee-free TAFE courses, calling the scheme "important", particularly for those located in outer suburbs and regional areas.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

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

Nepean 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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Hub gets early present

Ocean Grove Voice, General News, 29/11/2024, Page 10

Christmas arrived early to Bellarine Community Health's new Child, Youth and Family Hub in Ocean Grove thanks to the Ocean Grove & District Men's Shed. [...] Funding for stage one of the project has been provided through the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care and the Anthony Costa Foundation with the land in Kingston Estate Ocean Grove donated by the Corless Family Trust.

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'Significant' jump in COVID-19 cases ahead of Christmas

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 29/11/2024, Melissa Meehan

A "significant" jump in COVID-19 hospitalisations and infections has health authorities urging caution as the festive season heats up. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care vaccination rates were down for all states and territories in the November reporting period.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Anaesthetists 'tarnished in the court of public opinion' by whistleblower's fraud claims

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/11/2024, Carmel Sparke

A group of more than two dozen specialists accused in the national media of fraudulently billing their patients have still not been contacted by investigators over the claims, 6minutes has been told. Published in The Age last week, the allegations were apparently made by an anonymous staff member at their clinic who sent the Department of Health and Aged Care a list of the doctors' names spelling out alleged wrong-doing.

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VACCINES

Warning of Christmas COVID spike

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 30/11/2024, Page 8

A "significant" jump in COVID-19 hospitalisations and infections has health authorities urging caution as the festive season heats up. The number of people hospitalised with the virus in Victoria increased by 59 per cent between October and November, the State's latest COVID-19 surveillance report revealed.

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Victoria records spike in Covid cases ahead of Christmas

The Australian, Other, 29/11/2024, Duncan Evans

Victoria is recording a sharp rise in Covid infections ahead of the Christmas period, with chief health officer Dr Clare Looker urging at-risk residents to take precautions now. In its latest Covid surveillance report ending November 26, the state's health department recorded a spike in the number of people in hospital with Covid, with the seven day average now at 197, a 59 per cent increase from the same period in October.

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

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The births, deaths and mortgages

Courier Mail, General News, 30/11/2024, Viva Hyde, Page 26

Families are forking out thousands of dollars more to secure a dream home in Queensland's baby boom suburbs, where intense competition is driving up property prices. An analysis by KPMG reveals a demographic divide is reshaping the real estate market, with the nappy valley city fringe suburbs thriving as births outnumber deaths by a staggering ratio of 14 to one, while the tombstone towns of the older coastal and regional areas lose nearly one resident every day.

Also reported by: [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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95yo victim's dismayed family 'struggling' with taser cop's bail

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 30/11/2024, Page 28

The family of a 95-year-old woman who died after a police officer tasered her inside a nursing home say they are "struggling to understand" why the officer was granted bail while he awaits sentencing for her manslaughter. Sen. Const. Kristian White, 34, had been called to Yallambee Lodge nursing home in Cooma before 5am on May 17, 2023 to assist with a "very aggressive" resident who was holding two knives.

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A feeling that's become a dire problem

Burnie Advocate, General News, 30/11/2024, Anthony Caggiano, Page 6

One of Australia's governments is considering the idea of a minister for loneliness as a new epidemic sweeps over the country. NSW is conducting a state inquiry into loneliness as it has become a public health issue following the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Cop avoids detention for tasing woman

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 30/11/2024, Page 42

A police officer found guilty of unlawfully killing a 95-year-old woman will spend Christmas at home, with a judge declaring it's not certain he will serve jail time for the crime. Senior Constable Kristian James Samuel White fatally discharged his Taser at Clare Nowland in a treatment room at Yallambee Lodge aged-care home in the southern NSW town of Cooma during the early hours of May 17, 2023.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Star Ratings raising the bar on aged care

Australian Seniors News, Other, 29/11/2024

Since it was introduced in 2022, Star Ratings for residential aged care has seen a 30% increase in the number of homes with 4 and 5 stars and an increase in reported levels of satisfaction from residents. 69% of all homes across Australia are now rated as delivering good care (4 stars) or excellent care (5 stars).

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POPULATION HEALTH

Ultra-processed food is killing you

AFR Weekend, General News, 30/11/2024, Snag Snafu, Page 33

As anyone who's ever tried to stop at just one potato chip can tell you, the stuff is moreish and scientists are discovering more about the harmful effects. For millennia, people have altered food to please their palates.

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Killer faces IVF ban

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 30/11/2024, Laura Placella & Brooke Grebert-Craig, Page 1

A killer seeking to have IVF treatment while behind bars now faces a baby ban. Victoria's public hospitals will not treat convicted murderer Alicia Schiller, and nor will major IVF clinics.

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Where healing happens

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 30/11/2024, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 6

It looks like a luxury resort that tourists would pay top dollar to stay at. But the swimming pool, saunas, gym and other attractions at an upscale new Helensvale estate mask a more serious mission helping people cope with life's greatest hurdles.

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Conscientious objection can complicate abortion access, but what is it?

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 29/11/2024, Tahlia Sinclair

A medical ethics expert has said people living in the regions are in a grey area when medical practitioners are moral objectors to legal procedures. Medical practitioners have the right to conscientiously object to procedures that violate their moral or faith-based beliefs, but when practitioners are in short supply, an objection can have a larger effect.

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

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Health, community orgs call for CLP to walk back plans to repeal minimum alcohol floor price

Cairns Post, Other, 29/11/2024, Fia Walsh

A group of community, health, research and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations have renewed calls for the Northern Territory government to walk back its plan to scrap the alcohol floor price. On Thursday the government introduced legislation to repeal the minimum unit price (MUP), which serves to effectively ban cheap cask wine in the Territory.

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

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Inhaler fears signal shift in asthma care

Weekend Australian, General News, 30/11/2024, Penny Timms, Page 3

Australia may soon follow changes made to asthma treatment and management in the UK, where doctors have been advised to stop prescribing blue puffers because they are not the best treatment and damage the environment. Britain's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence said the blue salbutamol inhalers, which in Australia are sold over the counter under the brand name Ventolin, only relieved the symptoms of asthma, rather than treated the causes.

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

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Show putting cancer in the picture

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/11/2024, Genevieve Holding, Page 4

"We all know we're going to die, but when you face your mortality, and it's an ongoing health issue, it can be quite confronting," Hobart woman Judi Adams said. Ms Adams has been faced with a confronting pancreatic cancer diagnosis since 2021, taking on various advocacy and workshops to assist herself and others with a life-limiting illness.

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How regular heavy drinking can lead to dementia

The Australian, Other, 29/11/2024, Fiona Harari

Heavy drinking? Among a litany of potential health problems, there is one notable risk with excessive alcohol consumption that appears to be widely overlooked.

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The way we've treated severe asthma for the last 50 years could be about to change

SBS, Other, 29/11/2024, Julia Abbondanza

There may be a more effective treatment for severe asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) attacks than that used as the standard of care for 50 years, according to a recent study. [...] John Blakey, a medical advisor to Asthma Australia, said the study results were promising but they highlighted a bigger problem with how Australia treats asthma and COPD.

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Andrei thanks cancer screening for precious moments with wife, daughters

The Senior, Other, 29/11/2024, Rowan Cowley

Andrei Norris knew he was at high risk of prostate cancer, but when his doctor confirmed he had an aggressive form of the disease it turned his life upside down. His father had been diagnosed years earlier and he'd had his first PSA screening test at the age of 40.

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PRIMARY CARE

It's going to hurt, but you can cut health insurance bill

Weekend Australian, Business News, 30/11/2024, James Kirby, Page 30

If your expensive private health insurance won't get you access to some private hospitals, is it worth the money? Healthscope, one of the big private hospital operators, has dramatically ripped up its contracts with Bupa and the AHSA group (which represents 26 of the smaller health insurers).

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Annie died on her terms but law still denies dignity for many others

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/11/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 8

In the end, there were no grand speeches. Annie Werner had said everything she needed to say. "Everyone knew that she loved them. Her whole life was love as a verb," said her friend Sarah Barry.

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

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Six-year wait for elective surgery

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/11/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 3

Waiting times for key specialist outpatient appointments at public hospitals have blown out, with the

maximum wait for 11 consultations now more than five years including two more than six years. The longest maximum wait in the last quarter was 76 months to see a general surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, followed by 74 months for an ENT consultation at Lyell McEwin and 70 months to see an immunologist at Flinders Medical Centre.

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

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Silent ramping a curse for those who wait years

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 30/11/2024, Page 36

The huge queues and years-long wait to see a specialist at a public hospital for elective surgery only to then possibly be put in another queue is effectively "silent ramping". There is no union jumping up and down about it, no TV vision of rows of patients stuck in waiting rooms or ambulances, because these people are largely invisible.

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Premier must act on gender

Courier Mail, General News, 30/11/2024, Des Houghton, Page 52

A courageous Queensland Health psychiatrist who was suspended for daring to question the "affirmation model" at the Queensland Children's Gender Service says she now feels vindicated. Dr Jillian Spencer should be reinstated immediately, and the new Health Minister Tim Nicholls should offer her a public apology.

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

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New clinic a significant milestone for the region

Ballarat Courier, General News, 30/11/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 15

Heavy or abnormal menstrual bleeding significantly impacts the quality of life of one in four women, and a new clinic at Grampians Health aims to reduce the impact and improve women's well-being. Grampians Health has launched the first Heavy Menstrual Bleeding Clinic in the region to help relieve women's discomfort from abnormal periods.

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Hundreds sign to save bulk-billing clinic

Border Mail, General News, 30/11/2024, Ted Howes, Page 6

More than 600 residents from Corowa and surrounding districts, shocked at the loss of the only dedicated bulk-billing GP in town, have signed a petition calling to halt the decision to axe a GP clinic. Today is the last day of Neetu Shokeen's engagement with Corowa after the provider of her Sanger Street practice, Logic Medical Services, decided to close the clinic.

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Clinic move slammed as 'sham' process

Western Advocate, General News, 30/11/2024, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 8

Community advocates and Member for Bathurst Paul Toole claim they were misled by the Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) about the decision to temporarily relocate the Panorama Clinic. The community consultation, which the health district said was extensive, has also been dismissed as a "sham", with Mr Toole and the advocates believing the decision was made months ago.

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

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RACGP welcomes Victorian Parliament passing tax bill with amendments to protect bulk billing

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 29/11/2024

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has welcomed the Parliament of Victoria passing omnibus tax legislation with amendments to protect bulk billing for Victorians. The State Taxation Further Amendment Bill 2024 passed the Senate yesterday with amendments exempting GPs from payroll tax on bulk billed services.

[Read More](#)

Aussies could pay hundreds more for health cover in 2025

9News, Other, 29/11/2024, Adam Vidler

Australians have been warned they could be paying hundreds of dollars more for health insurance in 2025, with premiums predicted to rise. Comparison website Compare the Market said the federal government was set to announce an industry average adjustment in the coming months.

[Read More](#)

'Young GPs are amazingly smart': Dr Bruce Willett on mentoring the next generation, dealing with polities and his sharp shoes

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/11/2024, Ciara Seccombe

Many GPs will know Dr Bruce Willett for his sartorial style, particularly the shoes. The RACGP's former vice-president suggests the shoes are the only interesting thing about him. This is clearly untrue.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Social ban done, now to make it happen

Weekend Australian, General News, 30/11/2024, Sarah Ison, Page 5

Testing on teenagers for Labor's world-first ban of social media will begin in coming months, as parents and child safety advocates hail the passing of the new law as a "reclamation of childhood". But experts say the government's ban now sets a clear expectation that it heed calls for other substantive policies and funding to address the mental health crisis in adolescents and children across the country.

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

How the social media ban harms children

The Saturday Paper, General News, 30/11/2024, Maggie Perry, Page 3

It's been very hard to be a transgender 15-year-old in central Queensland. Luckily for me, my friends and fellow journalists at 6 News have been there every step of the way.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#).

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

Spotting the early signs of depression

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 30/11/2024, liz hammond, Page 120

Depression often begins subtly, with signs so small they can easily go unnoticed. Addressing these early indicators can be critical to improving outcomes, but stigma and fatigue around mental health messaging remain significant barriers.

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

Business picks up a 'phenomenal' win

Daily Advertiser, General News, 30/11/2024, Finn Coleman, Page 5

A counselling service founded in Coolamon has gained international attention after winning a prestigious award from New York. Tina Kendall founded Anytime Counselling as an online platform to give people choice and control.

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

Surf's up: how one man's surfing school is saving veterans' lives

The Australian, Other, 29/11/2024

Tony Pearce is living proof of the transformative power of surfing. Every Saturday morning, the 52-year-old army veteran drives for two hours to the NSW South Coast in his work van, which he's kitted out with a bed and a surfboard rack and, on the dashboard, some healing crystals.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Family effort to save father's life

Western Advocate, General News, 30/11/2024, Alise McIntosh, Page 3

In August this year, Andrew Breen almost died. That's why he, alongside his wife Natalie and two daughters, Maddy and Danika have decided to raise awareness surrounding the importance of CPR training.

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Regional insights are good medicine for students

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 30/11/2024, Anneke De Boer, Page 8

More than a year since opening, Kalgoorlie-Boulder's rural health department has helped dozens of healthcare students better understand the region with the help of local healthcare workers. To mark National Rural Health Month this November, the Goldfields University Department of Rural Health has recognised the dedication of the region's rural and remote health professionals.

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Nurses pop a gentle reminder under the Health Minister's Christmas tree

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 29/11/2024, Janine Graham

Health Minister Ryan Park might not have been there to accept the offering from the nurses union but there are now some distinctly medical additions to his annual Christmas toy drive. Community-minded members of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association dropped off about 30 mini nurses' kit for the toy appeal at Mr Park's Corrimal office on Friday, November 29, 2024.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Lower interest rates, richer households

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/11/2024, Shane Wright, Page 18

Interest rates would be half a percentage point lower and Australian households up to \$5000 better off as part of a decade-long overhaul of the banking sector and economywide reforms ranging from mechanics to medicines agreed to by the nation's treasurers. As federal treasurer Jim Chalmers revealed the most significant change to the Reserve Bank in a generation would start just before next year's election, he and his state counterparts were warned by the Productivity Commission that years of inaction had to be turned around to lift the living standards of all Australians.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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

Telehealth care only part of the picture

Daily Advertiser, General News, 30/11/2024, Tahlia Sinclair, Page 2

Telehealth specialist appointments are essential for rural and regional communities, but they are not the silver bullet to equal health care. Family Planning NSW (FPNSW) chief executive Sue Shilbury said access to sexual and reproductive health care is essential but admitted telehealth appointments do not remove all barriers to access.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

College hit by revolt for sacking chair

The Saturday Age, General News, 30/11/2024, Henrietta Cook & Melissa Cunningham, Page 3

Doctors are staging a revolt against one of Australia's top medical colleges after it sacked one of its chairs for speaking out against fraudulent medical billing. The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) has been inundated with complaints from members after it asked Associate Professor Joanna Sutherland to resign as safety and quality committee chair following her recent comments to this masthead.

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

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

SA psychologist Samantha Angelakis' appeal dismissed after deliberately misleading the Psychology Board about relationship with client

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/11/2024, Lucy Rutherford

A "goody-two-shoes" psychologist had her appeal dismissed after she said her shame over dating a client caused her to deceive the Psychology Board about the relationship timeframe. Child and adolescent psychologist Clare Rowe questions the success of Albanese's commitment to introduce a social media age limit.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Olympics probe run by donor to the LNP

Weekend Australian, General News, 30/11/2024, Jamie Walker, Sarah Elks & Lydia Lynch, Page 9

The "independent" review of Brisbane's stalled Olympic Games venues program will be headed by a businessman who gave more than \$12,000 to the Queensland Liberal National Party, with at least one other member of the seven-person panel shown to have made even bigger donations to the LNP. The revelation came as Premier David Crisafulli revived the prospect that the Queensland capital would have a new stadium for the 2032 Games, despite repeatedly ruling out the multibillion-dollar option prior to his election last month.

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

Swiatek accepts one-month ban

The Saturday Age, Sport, 30/11/2024, Tom Morgan, Page 43

Iga Swiatek, the world No.2 and French Open champion, has accepted a one-month ban after testing positive for trimetazidine (TMZ), a banned substance. In the second doping incident to rock the sport this year, the International Tennis Integrity Agency announced that the five-time major winner had eight days of a suspension left to serve.

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

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Olympics can lift our state like never before

Courier Mail, General News, 30/11/2024, Andrew Liveris, Page 6

When I accepted the role as President of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee in April 2022, it was, and remains, the honour of a lifetime. To be leading and contributing to an event that will provide a catalytic effect for athletes, businesses and communities across Brisbane, Queensland and Australia makes me incredibly excited by the infinite possibilities.

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

Political parties meddle in Games

Courier Mail, General News, 30/11/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 7

Brisbane Olympics organisers must overcome political differences if the 2032 event is to upstage Sydney and become the greatest Games of all time, Rod McGeoch has declared. The chief executive of the 2000 Bid Committee told the Future Brisbane forum the city is in a better place than Sydney to capitalise on the full potential of the Games.

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

Shaping a lasting legacy

Courier Mail, Qweekend, 30/11/2024, Tonya Turner, Page 8

To emerge a winner in the Olympic legacy stakes Brisbane has to embrace its uniqueness, emphasise people-centred development and nail transport and tech, according to the experts Brisbane is ready to take on the world, with the Queensland capital preparing to become the third city in Australia to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032. It's a big moment for the city of 2.7 million people that has well and truly shaken off its "big country town" image.

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Review vital first step in delivering successful Games

Courier Mail, Editorials, 30/11/2024, Page 54

We have a fresh start 100 days to both reinvigorate our Olympic dream and reorient our pathway toward making it a reality. Premier David Crisafulli's 100day review of the Olympics has the potential to gather the fragmented strands of this state's (let's face it) shoddy attempts at Olympic planning and create a coherent and realistic strategy which can capture the peoples' imagination and enthusiasm.

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Test great joins call

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Sport, 30/11/2024, Jackson Barrett, Page 135

Cricket Australia has publicly defended its preparation for the Adelaide Test, despite backlash from

former greats over the call to give players a week off. Australian players returned home in the 10-day break between the humiliating defeat in The West Test and the second match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Adelaide.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 29/11/2024, Iskhandar Razak

An independent 100 day review of infrastructure for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games has officially begun. The Queensland Premier says he doesn't believe Brisbane needs another stadium, but the review's scope has sparked questions about whether it leaves the door open for one.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 29/11/2024, Max Futcher

Qld Premier David Crisafulli has opened the door for a new Brisbane stadium as part of a review into Queensland's Olympic plans. In 100 days, Queensland will know what infrastructure is needed to host the Brisbane Games.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 29/11/2024, Steve Austin

Federal Parliament has wrapped for the year after almost a dozen bills were signed off on this morning. Also featured in the legislation was the creation of an independent authority to undertake a 100-day review of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, including its infrastructure.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Ageing secrets unlocked

AFR Weekend, General News, 30/11/2024, Gretchen Reynolds, Page 32

Recently, scientists at Stanford University began to wonder why identical lab mice, bred with the same DNA and brought up in identical conditions, wound up so different in their old age.

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Christmas cardio cheer

Courier Mail, General News, 30/11/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 9

A new three-in-one daily pill that could revolutionise the treatment of high blood pressure has shown in a major clinical trial that you can teach old dogs new tricks. In this case it is a novel combination of low doses of three existing blood pressure medications that have been developed into one new "super pill".

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

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Waking up at different times linked to greater risk of heart attack and stroke: study

9News, Other, 29/11/2024

Sleeping and waking up at different times is associated with an increased risk of heart attack and stroke, even for people who get the recommended amount of sleep, according to new research. While most previous research has measured the impact of sleep length on human health, less is known about the effects of changes to the sleep cycle, said researchers in a statement published this week.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 29/11/2024, Natalie Forrest

A team of international researchers has discovered a potentially game changing treatment for asthma and other chronic respiratory conditions. The simple injection is the biggest development in treatment in 50 years. A UK based study found patients who received an injection of the drug benralizumab were less likely to need steroids that come with side effects, including osteoporosis.

Also reported by: West Digital Television (Albany)

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

SWAMS dreaming big for regional eye care, officially opening its first optometry service

West Australian, Other, 29/11/2024, Oliver Lane & Busselton Dunsborough

Better access to eye care for the whole region is the goal for the South West Aboriginal Medical Service after the organisation officially opened its optometry service in Bunbury on Wednesday. While the service has been operating since May, Wednesday's opening was a chance to showcase the newly arrived "cutting edge" ZIESS technology which allows a more in-depth eye scan to diagnose symptoms.

[Read More](#)

'Extremely unlikely': inquest heard no doctors to respond to Indigenous man's shooting

National Indigenous Times, Other, 29/11/2024

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.

[Read More](#)

Laws to end path to treaty fast-tracked in shock move

SBS, Other, 29/11/2024

Premier David Crisafulli had announced he would axe the path to treaty and truth-telling after winning the October 26 election but indicated it was not a top priority. The trust of Indigenous people has been lost, advocates say, after laws scrapping a path to treaty process were fast-tracked.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Disease surge sparks jab plea

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/11/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 7

Whooping cough cases have trebled since September, hitting 1349 cases 13 times the 103 cases recorded at the same time last year. The surge has prompted another plea from health authorities for pregnant women and infants to get vaccinated.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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It's vital we win back the support for vaccination

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 30/11/2024, Peter Jones, Page 63

For a couple of weeks each year, I work at hospitals in the Solomon Islands. It may be confronting to learn that a three-hour flight from Brisbane, young babies are dying of meningitis, and young women of 40 with cervical cancer are being sent home with a single packet of paracetamol to ease their suffering.

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Prevalence of PFAS 'forever chemical' in the environment likely significantly underestimated: study

ABC Online, Other, 29/11/2024, Fleur Connick

The unexpected discovery of a soon-to-be banned "forever chemical" in firefighting foams previously used in Australia has prompted concerns the chemical may be significantly more widespread in the environment than once thought. Researchers from UNSW Sydney were analysing aqueous firefighting foams to characterise different types of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, when they made the discovery.

[Read More](#)

Asbestos diseases hitting young Aussies as warning issued to home renovators

Adelaide Now, Other, 29/11/2024, Heath Parkes-Hupton

A new generation of Australians are dealing with the fallout of decades-old decisions to allow the widespread use of asbestos in homes and buildings, with teenagers now being diagnosed with brutal diseases. Jarni Greatorex learned she had peritoneal mesothelioma two weeks after her 16th birthday in 2021, having suffering a collapsed lung and fluid rushing into her heart.

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

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 29/11/2024, Brenton Ragless

Ragless says an urgent warning is being issued to South Australians as whooping cough cases reach a seven year high at 1300 infections this year. He says the death of an infant in Queensland has been confirmed this week, with parents being urged to vaccinate their children amid falling vaccination numbers.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Is it Ozemperfect?

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 30/11/2024, Kate Emery, Page 18

Another day, another headline suggesting the new breed of diabetes and weight-loss drugs offers hope for another chronic disease. This week it was kidney disease, according to a study that showed semaglutide the active ingredient in medications sold under the brand names Ozempic, Rybelsus and Wegovy may prevent kidney failure.

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

This cheap Asian supermarket buy could delay dementia symptoms

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/11/2024, Mia Erickson

Mild cognitive impairment causes subtle memory and thinking changes - more than normal aging but less severe than dementia. [...] Though ginkgo is a widely used herbal medicine in Europe and the United States of America, the Therapeutic Goods Administration is currently working with experts to determine the quality standards for Ginkgo extracts used in medicines available in Australia.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Crisafulli vows to act if Brisbane put at risk by 'forever chemicals'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/11/2024, William Davis

Premier David Crisafulli says "there will be accountability" if residents have been put at risk by "forever chemicals" in drinking water. This masthead revealed this week that cancer-causing material PFOA has been found at up to seven times the level considered safe in the USA – and among the highest known levels in Australia – at local treatment plants.

[Read More](#)

The forever chemicals, also known as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid), are synthetic substances found in many different products including pesticides and firefighting foam.

9News, Other, 29/11/2024

PFOA in high concentrations can cause cancer, according to the World Health Organisation. "What you've been drinking in Brisbane is seven times higher than what is considered legally safe in America," former NSW Australian of the Year and Stop PFAS Action Group founder Jon Dee told 9News.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 29/11/2024, Melissa Downes

High levels of forever chemicals thought to cause cancer to have been found in some catchments of Brisbane's drinking water. Forever chemicals, also known as PFOS and PFOA, are synthetic substances found in many different products, including pesticides and firefighting foam, and sometimes it even contaminates our drinking water.

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