



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 8th November 2024

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 15) reports that the CEOs of two major private health insurance companies have received large pay rises in reward for increasing profits, which critics say undermines their case for asking the government to increase premiums. Health Minister Mark Butler has indicated that he does not support the 5 to 6 per cent increase that insurers have requested.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that tech-firm lobbying against the government's newly-announced social media ban for under-16s is expected to intensify, with several companies voicing their concerns about the policy designed to protect teen mental health and wellbeing.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports that researchers from Edith Cowan University have found that female nurses are paid between 4 and 13 per cent less than their male colleagues, despite making up nearly 90 per cent of the workforce.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 4) reports that the "tar balls" that washed up on beaches in Sydney last month have been analysed by scientists at the University of NSW, who have determined that the material is likely "human generated waste," containing molecules from cooking oil, soap scum, PFAS chemicals, medications and other substances.

- **The Australian** (page 5) reports that the centrality of abortion to the US election has emboldened activists on both sides of the issue in Australia to campaign on it in the next federal election.
- **The Australian** (page 5) reports Coalition frontbencher Jacinta Nampijinpa Price says she will raise the exclusion of trans people from women's sports as an election issue following the electoral success of the Trump campaign's pledge to institute a total ban.
- **The Australian Financial Review** (page 13) reports that the ACCC has approved a merger between Chemist Warehouse and Sigma Healthcare, clearing the way for a new pharmacy giant valued at an estimated \$28.5 billion.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 16) reports that Australia is experiencing an epidemic of whooping cough as childhood vaccination rates decline, with over 41,000 confirmed cases so far this year.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Health insurer salaries in the spotlight

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 08/11/2024, Michael Smith, Page 15

The chief executives of two of Australia's big private health insurers have been granted hefty pay rises this year, drawing criticism from medical specialists and hospitals...

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

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### New pharmacy vape regulations ineffective in Queensland

Gladstone Today, General News, 07/11/2024, Page 17

A recent survey of pharmacies across Queensland highlights the failure of the new regulations intended to make low nicotine vapes (=20mg/ mL nicotine) available without a prescription as Schedule 3 medicines. Despite promises from Health Minister Mark Butler, the survey of 65 pharmacies revealed that 99 per cent (n=64) did not have vapes available for walk-in customers without a prescription.

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### '\$12 per patient to fund my clinic'

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Ciara Seccomb, Page 5

Last week, GP registrar Dr Shruti Yardi asked the panellists on the ABC's Q+A why she should bother with a career in general practice. The panellists included Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler, who no doubt wanted to hear the answer given his current grapples with the GP crisis.

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### Our dental care system is in crisis. But it is easy to fix

Canberra Times, Other, 07/11/2024, Tim Keys

Australia's dental care system is in crisis. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler's response to any cry for dental reform is that the government is too busy dealing with GP reform.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Katherine Times \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Leeton Irrigator \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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### Charlestown Medicare Urgent Care Clinic to open doors in November

Newcastle Weekly, Other, 07/11/2024, Rod Thompson

A Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (Medicare UCC) is set to open its doors in Lake Macquarie this month in a bid to ease pressure on John Hunter Hospital. [...] "There have been almost 140,000 presentations to the 20 existing Medicare UCCs in New South Wales since the first clinics opened in the state in July 2023," federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said.

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## Upper Hunter Mayor calls out Federal aged care failings

Australian Seniors News, Other, 07/11/2024

Upper Hunter Shire Council Mayor, Maurice Collison, has written to the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, requesting immediate and ongoing assistance to prevent further closures and financial losses in rural aged care. In his letter, Mayor Collison highlights the unsustainable position of small councils tasked with operating aged care facilities, like Merriwa's Gummun Place Hostel, a 16-bed facility which serves an average of 14 residents.

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## 'I wanted a baby boy so desperately, I packed up my three girls and flew overseas.'

Mamamia, Other, 07/11/2024, Nicole Madigan

Although Lucy\* had always wanted a family, becoming a first time mother came as a shock. [...] But Lucy is trying to change that, having recently launched a Change.org petition urging the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, to consider the issue and make the changes necessary to pass the bill and make it legal.

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## GPs on edge over direct referrals

Medical Forum, Other, 07/11/2024

GPs are worried about proposals to reform some aspects of primary care, warning it will make seeing a GP harder for more patients. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said the review validated the views of many health professionals that the system did not support them to deliver the care that was within their skills, training and experience.

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## And the Golden Enema goes to ...

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/11/2024

There were many stupid decisions in health in 2024 but there can only be one winner! [...] And remember, this is no ordinary bus, this is a 20-tonne silver eagle bus driven recklessly by none other than Mark Butler who doesn't know where he's going or how the clutch works.

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## hit104.7 Canberra, 06:30 News, 07/11/2024

An open letter with more than 490 signatures will be delivered to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, today, calling on the federal government to intervene in the regulation of processed food marketing. The Food for Health Alliance argues that the industry led codes are not working to protect children from excessive food marketing.

Similar content in: [hit104.7 Canberra \(Canberra\)](#)

[Play Now](#)

## Triple M Coffs Coast, Moffee for Breakfast, 07/11/2024, Michael Moffett

There's a fresh push for tougher regulations in junk food advertising after research found Australian teens are being exposed to around 100 ads for unhealthy food online each week. It comes as an open letter, backed by more than 40 individuals and groups, will be delivered to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, urging him to end the processed food industry's self-regulation.

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## FIVEAA, Mornings, 07/11/2024, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Jane Martin, Executive Manager, Food for Health Alliance. Compere says a campaign called Brands Off our Kids has launched an open letter appealing to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to bring regulations to stop marketing tactics used for processed foods to target kids relentlessly. Martin believes that these types of advertising tracks children through their lives, so when they're young it creates pester power.

## MINISTER WELLS

### **“Several shortcomings:” Inquiry proposes Aged Care Bill amendments**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 07/11/2024

The Aged Care Bill 2024 (the bill) is one step closer to fruition as the Senate Inquiry Committee charged with its review has recommended the legislation be passed. After months of negotiations, the bill was introduced to the House of Reps with bipartisan support on 12 September by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

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### **Falls QI stubbornly steady**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/11/2024, Natasha Egan

The latest report shows all clinical quality indicators – expect falls – have moved in the right direction over time, highlighting the need for more prevention interventions in residential aged care, says an expert. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the new staffing quality indicators would put the focus on key roles that support health and wellbeing.

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### **Coalition Senators make 32 recommendations on the Aged Care Bill 2024**

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/11/2024, Caroline Egan

After seeking a four-day extension, the Senate Inquiry Report was published on Monday, with the Senate Committee recommending the Aged Care Bill 2024 be passed without amendment. [...] At the recent ACCPA conference, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said it was important the Aged Care Bill 2024 was passed in November to lift the sector out of financial "limbo".

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### **Channel 9, Today , 07/11/2024, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo**

Panel discussion with Matt Canavan, Senator, and Anika Wells, Minister for Sport. Wells discusses the success of Donald Trump in the US Election. Canavan and Wells discuss a decision on Immigration Detainee wherein the High Court ruled ankle monitors and curfew are unlawful to them.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### **ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 07/11/2024, Greg Jennett & Matthew Doran**

Panel discussion with Assistant Health Minister and Member for Cooper Ged Kearney and Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston. Compere points out that Ruston was provided evidence today that a special tax on health insurance premium is affecting people in NSW. Compere mentions that Kearney

and Health Minister Mark Butler approved the premium increase request. Kearney says at the moment, they are currently looking at the private hospital system.

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## DEPARTMENT

### Health insurer salaries in the spotlight

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 08/11/2024, Michael Smith, Page 15

The chief executives of two of Australia's big private health insurers have been granted hefty pay rises this year, drawing criticism from medical specialists and hospitals...

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

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### Priceline HPV swab

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 1

Priceline says it will start offering HPV swabbing to women from this month, despite the corporate pharmacy chain failing to outline how it will follow-up patients with abnormal results. [...] A Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said health officials had "contacted Priceline to determine if the proposed model meets the safety and quality requirements of Australia's NCSP, including the provision of essential support and follow-up for patients".

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### Push to end homebirth loophole

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Paul Smith, Page 8

Homebirths with limited hospital backup remain one of the most divisive topics in healthcare. [...] An impact paper, drawn up by the federal Department of Health and Aged Care in June, listed the criteria.

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### 'Streamline health assessments'

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Antony Scholefield, Page 14

The AMA has backed the introduction of a single set of criteria for patients to access Medicare health assessments for chronic disease, diabetes and heart health checks. The Department of Health and Aged Care is reviewing all six health assessment MBS items, which GPs claimed 1.3 million times last year, for \$274 million in rebates.

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### 19-year-old dies in her sleep after going to bed with a 'headache'

Adelaide Now, Other, 07/11/2024, Isabel Shaw

When Livia Wilson went to bed with a nasty headache, her mum thought she had simply "overdone it". But sadly, she never woke up. [...] There are similar guidelines on using the MenB vaccine in Australia, with only infants and children aged under 10 able to receive Bexsero, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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## Indigenous healthcare heroes among winners at National Rural and Remote Health Awards

National Indigenous Times, Other, 07/11/2024, Giovanni Torre

Almost 200 rural health professionals and distinguished guests from across Australia gathered at the National Press Club in Canberra on Wednesday night for the second annual National Rural and Remote Health Awards, which honour professionals and organisations who have significantly contributed to improving healthcare in the bush. [...] National Rural Health Commissioner, Professor Jenny May AM, said "as a doctor working in rural all my life, I am constantly heartened and affirmed by the clinical excellence and patient-centredness that so many of the awardees tonight display".

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## Community-led partnership to deliver sustainable dialysis services for remote Queensland communities

National Indigenous Times, Other, 07/11/2024, Callan Morse

The Wakaid Tribal Council and Flinders University's Rural and Remote Health have partnered to plan the construction of a new renal unit set to service Aboriginal people on remote Queensland islands. The community-led project, which received \$3.5 million from the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care's Better Renal Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' program will establish a four-chair nurse or health worker assisted haemodialysis unit to service the three islands.

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## AMA members celebrated at Stronger Medicare Awards

Australian Medical Association, Other, 07/11/2024

The Department of Health honoured doctors this week at Parliament House with a number of AMA members among the finalists and 'Champions'. The Department of Health and Aged Care this week held an event for its Stronger Medicare Awards in Parliament House with the Health Minister and Prime Minister on hand to celebrate doctors and practices that have made a significant contribution to Australia's primary care sector.

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## The star rating scandal: Commonwealth ombudsman calls for urgent reform in aged care

HelloCare, Other, 07/11/2024, Jakob Neeland

The Commonwealth Ombudsman has raised significant concerns about the aged care star rating system, a tool intended to help Australians assess the quality of aged care services. [...] In the meantime, aged care advocates are urging the Department of Health and Aged Care to make the rating system more transparent and accessible.

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## Department of Health and Aged Care's Star Ratings “not sufficiently meaningful”: Commonwealth Ombudsman

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/11/2024, Caroline Egan

Commonwealth Ombudsman Iain Anderson has issued a 'Public Statement' claiming Star Ratings are not "sufficiently meaningful" to help people make informed decisions about aged care services. [...] In response to negative media reporting on the Star Ratings system, in February the Department of Health and Aged Care (DOHAC) awarded Allen and Clarke Consulting a \$579,472 contract to conduct an 'Independent evaluation of Star Ratings'.

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## Older Australians missing out in rural areas, 27% workforce turnover: Department of Health and Aged Care

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/11/2024, Caroline Egan

The Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) is not meeting targets on the provision of aged care services in rural and remote communities, according to its 347-page Annual Report. The DoHAC's target is to have the proportion of people in rural and remote communities representing 11.2% of all

people assessing aged care services, but as of 30 June 2024, only 7.7% of aged care residents were in rural and remote areas, and only 8.9% of home care recipients.

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## Senate Estimates 2, Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, 07/11/2024, Parliament

Blair Exell, Deputy Secretary for Health Strategy, First Nations and Sport in the Department of Health and Aged Care, answers questions from Senator Anne Ruston in Senate Estimates regarding Department of Health officials' participation in the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics, stating that four officials were in attendance as well as officials from Sport Integrity Australia and the Australian Sports Commission.

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## VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Believe an older person who tells you they've been abused, say Police

Newcastle Herald, Other, 07/11/2024, Eileen Wood

One in six older Aussies are abused every year some more than once and some with more than one type of abuse. Now authorities are being urged to believe any older person who discloses to them they are a victim of abuse.

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

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### Increased support needed for dementia

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 07/11/2024

Dementia Australia research has found more than half of Australians feel there is insufficient support for the 421,000 Australians living with dementia, a challenge that is exacerbated over the Christmas and New Year period. The Dementia Australia research shows that more needs to be done to support Australians impacted by dementia, with data also showing increased support needs as a result of the festive season.

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### Complaints about care and communication rise, reports show

Aged Care Insite, Other, 07/11/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Recent insights into how older Australians are experiencing the nation's aged care systems show growing dissatisfaction. Both the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission have released 2023-24 reports this week showing an uptick in the number of people either making complaints about, or seeking help to resolve issues with, their aged care provider.

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### “Several shortcomings:” Inquiry proposes Aged Care Bill amendments

Aged Care Insite, Other, 07/11/2024

The Aged Care Bill 2024 (the bill) is one step closer to fruition as the Senate Inquiry Committee charged with its review has recommended the legislation be passed. After months of negotiations, the bill was introduced to the House of Reps with bipartisan support on 12 September by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

## FPIP demonstrates local impact to global standard

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/11/2024, Meagan Evans

The fund manager behind For Purpose Aged Care Australia says scale is needed to tackle the sector-wide transformation needed in areas including aged care. Not-for-profit social impact and aged care sector investment fund manager For Purpose Investment Partners has released its Impact Report 2024 , outlining its approach to impact measurement and the performance of portfolio companies and projects.

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## Funding is not the issue

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/11/2024, Tim Henwood

A Monash University study has been widely quoted as finding that government subsidised exercise participation could be the solution to getting and keeping more older adults active. If you follow me on LinkedIn, have read any of my contribution to the Australian Ageing Agenda or heard me talk at a conference, you will be aware I am a passionate believer in exercise and can think of nothing better than seeing more older Australians engaged in meaningful physical activity.

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## Falls QI stubbornly steady

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/11/2024, Natasha Egan

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## Upper Hunter Mayor calls out Federal aged care failings

Australian Seniors News, Other, 07/11/2024

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## Dementia support in the spotlight ahead of holiday season

Australian Seniors News, Other, 07/11/2024

Dementia Australia research has found more than half of Australians feel there is insufficient support for the 421,000 people living with dementia – a challenge that is exacerbated over the Christmas and New Year holiday period. Dementia Australia says the research shows that more needs to be done to support Australians impacted by dementia.

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## Diwali deserters: the cultural celebration shaking up aged care rosters

HelloCare, Other, 07/11/2024, Jakob Neeland

Australia's aged care sector has long relied on the hard work and dedication of New Australians, particularly those from Nepal and other South Asian backgrounds. Over recent decades, these communities have become the backbone of the workforce, contributing invaluable skills and compassion to care for the elderly.

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## HammondCare returns to profitability as revenue from residential aged care surges 35%



The Weekly Source, Other, 07/11/2024, Caroline Egan

HammondCare's revenue increased 23% to \$586 million, driven by a 35% increase in revenue from residential aged care to \$236.6 million. Residential aged care recorded a deficit for the year of \$500,000, an improvement of \$16.6 million over the previous year.

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## **Reports of elder abuse in aged care remain in the thousands: VIC police have a plan**

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/11/2024, Caroline Egan

Police, alongside Elder Rights Advocacy, an organisation promoting the rights of older Victorians for more than 30 years, will provide information about the different types of elder abuse, how to seek help, and information about support for victims. Victoria Police is also working with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to increase awareness of elder abuse reporting requirements under the Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS).

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## **No capital, no beds, no care: can Hospital in the Home help fill the gap?**

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/11/2024, Ian Horswill

While in Adelaide two weeks ago for the ACCPA National Conference, we took the opportunity to tour SA Health's My Home Hospital service, which is delivered through a joint venture between Calvary Health Care and Amplat Health. What we saw blew us away.

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## **Risk of investing in new beds “too large” for smaller providers: Ansell Strategic**

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/11/2024, Lauren Broomham

Cam Ansell, the advisory firm's Managing Director, has warned while the Government's aged care reforms are good news for residential aged care operators, they will fall short on incentivising small and medium-sized providers to build new homes. In a five-page opinion piece 'Aged Care Bill 2024: what will it mean for investment in aged care?' accompanying Ansell Strategic's latest Board Pack, Cam (pictured) argues big providers will benefit from the legislative changes to accommodation – i.e. the higher \$750,000 threshold for Refundable Accommodation Deposits – across their existing homes.

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## **Aged care changes could cost you \$100,000**

Your Life Choices, Other, 08/11/2024, Andrew Gigacz

New rules surrounding the aged care system to be introduced next year could have devastating financial consequences for individuals. That's the warning from some experts, who say the changes could result in cost increases exceeding \$100,000 per person.

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## Pro-life activists set to target pro-choice Labor women

The Australian, General News, 08/11/2024, Sarah Elks, Page 5

Pro-life activists emboldened by the Democrats' failure at the US election will run a federal campaign aimed at unseating prochoice Labor women MPs, while unions are gearing up to target marginal Coalition seats on reproductive rights. [...] The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists opposed the bill, arguing live births after abortions did not occur, and abortion after 20 weeks occurred in about one per cent of terminations, usually due to major medical problems.

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

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## New pharmacy vape regulations ineffective in Queensland

Gladstone Today, General News, 07/11/2024, Page 17

A recent survey of pharmacies across Queensland highlights the failure of the new regulations intended to make low nicotine vapes (=20mg/ mL nicotine) available without a prescription as Schedule 3 medicines. Despite promises from Health Minister Mark Butler, the survey of 65 pharmacies revealed that 99 per cent (n=64) did not have vapes available for walk-in customers without a prescription.

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## 'Spirometry still underused in COPD'

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 19

All patients aged 35 or older with at least one recurring COPD symptom and risk factor should undergo spirometry, new guidance says. Australia's first COPD Clinical Care Standard has been drawn up by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

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## Maturity-onset diabetes of the young

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Merlin Thomas, Page 35

Diabetes now affects over half a billion people across the globe. Most of these have type 2 diabetes, driven by excess 'out of place' (ectopic) fat that leads to a progressive decline in the insulin-producing capacity of the beta cells of the pancreas to meet the requirements for sustained glucose control.

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## Food companies sell products that are less healthy in poorer countries, says report

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/11/2024

The world's biggest food and beverage companies on average sell products in low-income countries that are less healthy than what they sell in high-income countries, according to a new report. [...] The non-profit group found that across 30 companies, the products sold in low-income countries scored lower on a star rating system developed in Australia and New Zealand than those sold in high-income countries.

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## Tobacco wars have spread from Victoria and New South Wales into South Australia and police are cracking down

ABC Online, Other, 07/11/2024

Illegal tobacco and vapes have become big business for major crime syndicates in Australia. The battle over the black-market trade has been raging in the eastern states in recent years and has now jumped the border into South Australia.

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## On the Waterfront: Why a Larrakia man is drawing a line in the sand

SBS, Other, 07/11/2024, Rudi Maxwell

Dr Richard Fejo has resigned as chair of the Darwin Waterfront, saying he refuses to work under a government that is locking up kids as young as 10. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and

Welfare (AIHW) confirms that detention is ineffective in preventing future offending, particularly for children sentenced to detention as their first supervised sentence (compared to a community-based order).

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## Victoria's Opposition leader calls for more African Australians to run for office

SBS, Other, 07/11/2024, Kassahun Seboqa Negewo

Victoria's Opposition leader, John Pesutto, says his journey into politics was ignited in high school, where a deep interest in history, politics, and policy took root. [...] One in four women frequently or often experience family and domestic violence (FDV), according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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## Queenslanders warned to stay indoors and check elderly amid 'severe temperatures'

7news.com.au, Other, 07/11/2024, Sarah Keszler

'Extreme heatwave conditions have reached a severity that may pose a health risk,' the health department is warning. Queenslanders are being urged to stay indoors and check on elderly family, friends and neighbours, as heatwave conditions are forecast to increase in parts of the state.

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## Only 25% of older Queenslanders are aware of the risks heatwaves put on their health – new study

Aged Care Insite, Other, 07/11/2024

Parts of Australia are currently facing extreme heat, with high temperatures set to continue over the coming days. [...] A report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows that, of 2,150 hospitalisations due to extreme heat between 2019 and 2022, 37% were among people aged 65 and older (who make up around 16% of the population).

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Incense carcinogen risk exposed in study

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/11/2024, Mia Erickson, Page 34

For adults and children living with asthma or other chronic respiratory conditions, recognising environmental and behavioural triggers is crucial to avoiding attacks and long-term risks. As a result, asthmatics and allergy-prone individuals tend to be hyper-aware of their health, relying on medications and proactive measures to ensure they are not at risk in their surroundings.

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### 'IUD benefits outweigh cancer risk'

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Mohana Basu, Page 9

Levonorgestrel-releasing IUDs may be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer, research suggests, but a GP says the devices have significant benefits compared with their risks. In a letter published in JAMA, researchers said levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine systems (LNGIUSs) were linked to an excess breast cancer risk of 14 cases per 10,000 women.

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### Stem cell therapy reverses T1DM

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Carmel Sparke, Page 12

A 25-year-old woman with hard-to-control type 1 diabetes began producing her own insulin just months

after an autologous transplant of reprogrammed stem cells, report doctors in China. She was the first person to undergo an autologous transplantation of chemically induced pluripotent stem cell-derived (CiPSC) islets, they wrote in the journal *Cell*.

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## High blood pressure and chronic kidney disease

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Merlin Thomas, Page 25

High blood pressure affects more than a third of adults across the globe. High blood pressure is the most common reason for primary care visits and for the chronic use of prescription medications.

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## Success with VLED

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Emma Armstrong, Page 44

A very low-energy diet with meal replacements shows promising results in a patient motivated to lose weight through intense lifestyle changes. Susie is a 61-year-old office worker who is referred to a dietitian for weight-loss advice.

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## Pathologists push for life-saving blood tests to avoid adverse reactions to medication

9News, Other, 07/11/2024, Mikala Theocharous

Pathologists across the country are calling for better access to blood tests to identify which patients are vulnerable to life-threatening reactions to medications such as codeine and chemotherapy. Cancer patient Jennifer Kohne wasn't able to properly metabolise her chemotherapy tablets when going through her bowel cancer treatment.

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## Why are so many women eating steak for breakfast?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/11/2024, Emily Holgate

Like fashion and beauty micro-trends, it seems that every month a new diet, weight loss or wellness trend emerges out of the woodwork. [...] Saturated fat is known to increase total cholesterol and puts us at risk for coronary artery disease.

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

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## Got hayfever? Here's why you're in for a really rough summer

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/11/2024, Sarah Perillo

Victorians are being told to brace for a "dangerous" hayfever season this month, with "extreme" pollen levels to hit hard, particularly for asthma sufferers. [...] Victoria's dry winter, followed by the predicted above-median rainfall between October and December, creates ideal conditions for rapid grass growth, the National Asthma Council of Australia warned last month.

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

[Read More](#)

## Short bursts of exercise found to lower blood pressure

Canberra Times, Other, 07/11/2024, Jane Kirby

Adding short bursts of exercise to your daily routine, such as cycling to the shops for 15 minutes or taking the stairs, lowers blood pressure, a joint UK-Australian study has found. Increasing exercise habits - in exchange, say, for watching a bit more TV or extending a snooze - is good for the heart, researchers said.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Adding five minutes exercise a day can help lower blood pressure, study says

The Guardian, Other, 07/11/2024, Andrew Gregory

Doing just five extra minutes of exercise a day could help lower blood pressure, a study suggests. High blood pressure affects 1.28 billion adults worldwide and is one of the biggest causes of premature death.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### 'Critical milestone': ACCC clears Chemist Warehouse deal

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 08/11/2024, Carrie Lafrenz, Page 13

The billionaire founders of pharmacy chain Chemist Warehouse are a step closer to creating a \$28.5 billion sharemarket giant after the competition regulator said their planned merger with ASX-listed Sigma Healthcare could proceed. The Australian Competiti...

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

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

### Optus slugged \$12m for triple-0 failures

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 08/11/2024, Joseph Lam, Page 10

Optus has been hit with a \$12m penalty for failing to connect more than 2000 people to emergency services during a national outage. The nation's second-largest telco has paid the fine to the communications watchdog, which found Optus had also failed to conduct 369 welfare checks on customers who had tried to reach emergency services during the outage last year.

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

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

### ACCC green lights \$8.8b pharmacy deal

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 08/11/2024, Jessica Yun, Page 31

The competition watchdog says cost of living pressures were front of mind in its decision to wave through the mega-merger between Chemist Warehouse and Sigma that will form an \$8.8 billion industry titan owning 16 per cent, or 950, of Australia's pharmacies. Australian Competition and Consumer Commission chair Gina Cass-Gottlieb indicated Sigma's proposals to waive fees for pharmacies looking to exit the group and delete their data from its books got the deal across the line and helped overcome the regulator's initial concerns about reduced competition.

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

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

### Dutton is wise to steer well clear of abortion wars

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/11/2024, Samantha Maiden, Page 13

Peter Dutton made a big call this week when he urged his colleagues to cease and desist when it comes to turning abortion into a new culture war in Australia. During the Coalition's weekly party room meeting on Tuesday, he warned the lessons of the Queensland election were clear.

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

### Rural doctors' chief says lack of communication raises fears

Daily Advertiser, General News, 08/11/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 4

Six months after surgery was halted at Corowa hospital, the Rural Doctors' Association of NSW is seeking a commitment operations will resume. The Murrumbidgee Local Health District, which administers the Guy Street campus, stated in May surgery "has been paused temporarily to allow for required maintenance".

## Hospital emergency

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 08/11/2024, Chloe Grimshaw, Page 1

A leaked notice from a private Sunshine Coast hospital has detailed an extensive list of failures and improvement measures after a theatre bungle left two patients anaesthetised without the surgeon on the premises. An internal notice to hospital staff also addressed the hospital's practice of carrying out "overlapping surgery".

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

## Requests to die increasing

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 08/11/2024, Jake Dietsch, Page 6

More than 700 people requested euthanasia in its third year of becoming legal in WA, as the number of voluntary assisted deaths continues to climb. The McGowan government legalised euthanasia in its first term after a long campaign by activists that had overwhelming public support.

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

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

## GP hit by rebate rules

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 1

A GP with a non-accredited solo practice says the MyMedicare patient enrolment scheme is fragmenting care and hurting special interest GPs. Rebates for level C and D phone consultations are restricted to practices where patients are registered under MyMedicare, as are the tripled bulk-billing incentives on longer video consultations.

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

## Can bulk-billing all still work?

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Carmel Sparke, Page 2

At a time when universal bulk-billing is financial roulette, one GP says he has found a way to build a thriving practice while providing free medical care to everyone in his community. Dr Prashanth Reddy Gangapuram made the commitment in response to the support the town of Beaconsfield, Tasmania, gave him since his arrival 18 months ago.

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

## Is this a doctor tax? What it costs to stay in business

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Paul Smith & Antony Scholefield, Page 3

This year, the fee for medical registration reached four figures for most doctors some \$1027. This was not just symbolic, according to thenAMA president Professor Steve Robson. For him, it was "extortionate".

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

## Handwriting fatigue triggers KFP change

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Ciara Seccombe, Page 4

The RACGP will remove short-answer questions from its Key Feature Problem fellowship exam after registrars criticised the perceived demands of having to handwrite full-sentence responses. The updated Key Feature Problem (KFP) exam, starting in July next year, will involve 70 medical scenarios, with one multiple-choice question per scenario.

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

## GP's shock at 73,000 wasted blood bags

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Heather Saxena, Page 5

When GP Dr Toby Gardner has a patient with haemochromatosis, he encourages them to donate their blood through Australian Red Cross Lifeblood rather than undergo therapeutic venesection. So, he was taken aback when Lifeblood revealed last month that an estimated 73,000 bags of blood taken from haemochromatosis patients at GP clinics or pathology centres were being dumped each year.

## Cancers like dogs' balls in towns with no doctors

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Carmel Sparke, Page 13

Dr Michael Veal was watching his son play country footy on a wintry afternoon last year when one of the players copped a broken jaw. He offered his medical help to the stricken player.

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## Is 25 a day too many?

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Dr Craig Lilienthal, Page 22

The British Medical Association is currently recommending that GPs in Britain increase the average length of their consultations from 10 minutes to a "whopping" 15 minutes and restrict the number of patients they consult each day to 25. This is designed to improve patient safety and reduce the risk of doctor burnout.

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## Private hospitals are taking almost 100 public patients per night in the hopes of 'fixing' ramping

Adelaide Now, Other, 07/11/2024, Brad Crouch

Almost 100 public patients a night are being put in metropolitan private hospitals as part of the government plan to "fix" ramping — but officials cannot say how much this is costing. SA Health officials say it is not possible to provide a cost as the calculations vary by hospital, bed type, treatment type and so forth.

[Read More](#)

## Why did the ACCC approve the Chemist Warehouse merger with Sigma Healthcare?

ABC Online, Other, 07/11/2024, Kate Ainsworth

Australia's pharmacy sector is set to experience its largest shake-up in decades, with Chemist Warehouse joining forces with Sigma Healthcare to create a multi-billion-dollar pharmaceutical company. The final decision has been almost a year in the making and has involved months of deliberations between the two companies and Australia's competition regulator.

[Read More](#)

## NSW mum forced to drive teen son to hospital after seizure as demand surges for ambulances

ABC Online, Other, 07/11/2024, Max Tillman & Emma Rennie

When 17-year-old Nikolas Leimanis-Budden collapsed into a seizure at his local gym, the first thing staff did was call for an ambulance. His mother Julia Leimanis who was at the gym with her son at the time described it as "terrifying".

[Read More](#)

## Charlestown Medicare Urgent Care Clinic to open doors in November

Newcastle Weekly, Other, 07/11/2024, Rod Thompson

A Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (Medicare UCC) is set to open its doors in Lake Macquarie this month in a bid to ease pressure on John Hunter Hospital. [...] "There have been almost 140,000 presentations to the 20 existing Medicare UCCs in New South Wales since the first clinics opened in the state in July 2023," federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

## Regional hospitals wait times among the state's worst, despite improvement

The Border Mail, Other, 07/11/2024, Ben Silvester

Regional Victoria's biggest hospitals have all claimed unwanted records, despite emergency and

surgical wait times declining in the latest state government data. The statistics - which run to September 2024 - showed every major regional hospital lagging the statewide average for emergency department wait times over the past year.

[Read More](#)

## **RACGP applauds LNP for abolishing payroll tax on GPs**

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 07/11/2024

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has praised the Crisafulli Government for instructing Treasury to abolish payroll tax on GPs, making general practice care more affordable for all Queenslanders. RACGP Queensland Chair Dr Cath Hester applauded the new government for acting on the College's calls.

[Read More](#)

## **'This is advanced pharmacy'**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/11/2024, Megan Haggan

Advanced Pharmacy Australia's Tom Simpson says recommendations in the scope of practice review report will help build the capacity of the health system.

[Read More](#)

## **ACCC announces Chemist Warehouse/Sigma merger decision**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/11/2024, Kate Cowling

The competition watchdog has cleared the path the \$8.8bn Chemist Warehouse (CWH) and Sigma Healthcare merger, following the wholesaler's recent concessions.

[Read More](#)

## **More GP staff to get suicide education**

Medical Forum, Other, 07/11/2024

Suicide prevention training is set to be delivered to more general practice staff following the success of workshops across WA. In May and June this year, the WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) delivered free suicide prevention workshops for general practice staff in targeted regional and metropolitan areas.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 07/11/2024, Renee Krosch & Sirine Demachkie**

Interview with Graeme Samuel, former head, ACCC. Compere says the ACCC, the government regulatory body on consumer and competition, gave the green light for Chemist Warehouse to merge with Sigma Healthcare, to become the country's biggest pharmacy retailer in the country. Samuel says what the ACCC did a while ago was standard practise which is to put out there a whole range of issues that they were thinking about to try and get some reaction. He states that Sigma is a major wholesaler, but there are other major wholesalers as well in the pharmaceutical market.

[Play Now](#)

## **3AW, Afternoons, 07/11/2024, Tony Moclair**

Interview with Dr Nick Yim, Qld President, AMA, about pill testing during schoolies week. Compere says drug use is currently pervasive especially among the youth. Yim says they should acknowledge that drug use is among people's communities, and it doesn't matter where someone lives. He believes that a pill testing service during these events would enable people to get their health assisted in a safe environment, while also providing education regarding drug and alcohol use.

[Play Now](#)

## **6PR, Drive, 07/11/2024, Oliver Peterson**

Interview with Mark Ashton, Local Councillor and Pharmacist. Ashton says he's not trying to say that a pharmacist will replace a GP, but rather part of the discussion between the Pharmacy Guild of Australia



## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### 'Harming kids': social media ban world first

Australian Financial Review, General News, 08/11/2024, Paul Smith, Page 3

The government will enact world-first rules to ban children under 16 from accessing social media, setting up an early flashpoint with powerful Donald Trump ally Elon Musk, and drawing criticism from Instagram and Facebook owner Meta. Prime Minister Anthon...

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

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

### Children u16 should be banned from social media: Albanese

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/11/2024, Paul Sakkal & Michelle Griffin, Page 17

Children under 16 would be banned from social media platforms under laws Prime Minister Anthony Albanese plans to introduce to protect the mental health of young people. Albanese said yesterday that the government planned to make social media companies responsible for enforcing the ban, while children and their parents would not be penalised if they flouted it.

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

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

### Kids v tech titans

Herald Sun, General News, 08/11/2024, Clare Armstrong, Page 1

Australia will clash with global tech titans over children's online safety, with social media giants rejecting the federal government's plan to raise the minimum age of users to 16. TikTok and Snapchat have argued banning teens will push them into "dangerous" parts of the internet, while Facebook parent Meta wants responsibility for implementing a ban to fall on app stores.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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

### Social ban to 'backfire'

West Australian, General News, 08/11/2024, Caleb Runciman & Ellen Ransley, Page 1

Experts warn Anthony Albanese's social media ban for under 16s is a "bandaid solution that will backfire" and only a "speck in the galaxy" of what needs to be done to keep kids safe online. The plan imposes penalties on companies which don't take steps to keep kids off their platforms.

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### PM seeks support for social media ban

Canberra Times, General News, 08/11/2024, Dana Daniel, Page 3

The Albanese government is set to introduce legislation to ban social media for children under the age of 16. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will seek support for a national ban from his state and territory counterparts when national cabinet meets on Friday.

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

### Kids' mental health booster for schools

Herald Sun, General News, 08/11/2024, Susie O'Brien, Page 20

Three new government programs have been rolled out to help address mental health issues in Victoria's state schools. The initiatives form part of the \$200m Schools Mental Health Menu.

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## Age limit on way for social media access

Daily Liberal, General News, 08/11/2024, Page 7

Australia is set to ban social media for children aged under 16 in a bid to prevent young people from harm, as the Prime Minister prepares to introduce laws. Anthony Albanese yesterday announced the government had agreed to introduce a minimum age for social media access.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#).

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

## Keeping kids safe

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/11/2024, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer, Page 15

The federal government has unveiled "world-leading legislation" to ban social media for kids under 16, even if their parents say they can be online. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese finally revealed the hotly anticipated age restriction for social platforms on Thursday, months after trials were announced.

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## Charity a boost for mothers

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 08/11/2024, Crystal Fox, Page 4

A "critical" mental health program focused on helping parents who are struggling after having children is preparing to expand its reach. Gold Coast mum and Women of the Year nominee Tracey Tyley kickstarted charity Motherhood Village after she battled with post-partum depression, anxiety and intrusive thoughts.

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

## Support for PM's social media ban

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/11/2024, Tess Ikonomou, Page 5

Australia's bid to ban children under the age of 16 from social media has been backed by the loved ones of a teenager who died by suicide after exposure to harm online. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced yesterday the government had agreed to introduce a minimum age limit for social media access.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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

## Australia to ban under-16s from social media – but can't say how TikTok, Instagram and others will enforce it

The Guardian, Other, 07/11/2024, Josh Butler & Josh Taylor

The Australian government has pledged to legislate an age limit of 16 years for social media access, with penalties for online platforms that don't comply. But the Labor government has not spelled out how it expects Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and others to actually enforce that age limit.

[Read More](#)

## 'I'm calling time on it': PM to introduce ban on social media for children under 16

SBS, Other, 07/11/2024, Rania Yallop

Labor will introduce legislation to ban children from social media this year. The cabinet has agreed to an age limit of 16 for social media, with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to take the proposal to the states at a National Cabinet meeting on Friday.

[Read More](#)

## 'These laws would have protected her': advocates welcome social media ban

SBS, Other, 07/11/2024, Rania Yallop

Children under the age of 16 are to be banned from using social media, under a government proposal that will be introduced to Parliament this year. Advocates have welcomed the move, but experts warn

there could be unintended consequences and loopholes in the ban.

[Read More](#)

## Climate change taking a toll on men's health

Cairns Post, Other, 07/11/2024, Mandeep Singh

As we shine a spotlight on men's mental health this Movember , research shows Aussies are facing a new form of anxiety. One in five Aussie men feel "very worried" about climate change and extreme weather events according to recent data.

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

[Read More](#)

## LSD as a therapeutic treatment

ADF (Alcohol and Drug Foundation), Other, 07/11/2024

New research on the benefits of LSD show it can reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression, and can potentially help people trying to overcome a drug dependence. What is LSD? LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) is a chemical derived from a fungi that infects rye grain.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Female nurses paid less

Courier Mail, General News, 08/11/2024, Page 3

Despite making up nearly 90 per cent of workers in the healthcare industry, female nurses are still faced with a pay gap of between 4 per cent to 13 per cent when compared with their male counterparts. New research from Edith Cowan University (ECU) found that a gender pay gap of 4 per cent existed at the six-month mark, widening to 13 per cent at the three-year mark, despite wages and conditions of work for Australian nurses being controlled through an enterprise agreement made under the Fair Work Act.

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

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

### Students take their first step into health careers

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 08/11/2024, Evan Morgan, Page 3

Students from schools across Townsville have taken their first steps towards a health career after graduating from an accredited health certificate course at Kirwan High. The 16 students were rewarded for their hard work by completing a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance (AIN) course held at Kirwan High's simulated Hospital Room.

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### Doctors threaten resignation

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Carmel Sparke, Page 9

Hospital psychiatrists in NSW are threatening mass resignation unless their salaries are lifted to address a pay gap they say is behind "disastrous" staffing shortages. With the pay of public sector psychiatrists some 30% below their interstate peers, 140 of the 493 psychiatry positions in the NSW state system are now vacant.

## AMA says no to cognitive tests

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Paul Smith, Page 18

The AMA has called on the Medical Board of Australia to let GPs decide if cognitive screening of late-career doctors is necessary under the board's plan for mandatory health checks. The board argues that the increased rate of notifications for doctors aged 70 and over 81% higher than those under 70 justifies the introduction of health assessments as a condition of their registration.

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## Doctors advised to check their pay

Medical Forum, Other, 07/11/2024

The AMA WA wants members who have worked a short shift on a public holiday in the last six years to check they have not been short-changed. This follows a doctor being back paid \$255, after they were incorrectly paid for a public holiday shift.

[Read More](#)

## 2CC, Canberra Live, 07/11/2024, Leon Delaney

Doctors working for Canberra hospitals have staged a rally today as part of their long running dispute overpay and conditions. The Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation has applied to the Fair Work Commission for the Commission to act as an independent arbiter in the dispute, however, the ACT Government has opposed the application.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 07/11/2024, Jason Chong

Some New South Wales nurses and midwives are set to strike next week after a breakdown in wage talks. The Nurses and Midwives Association says it failed to reach an agreement with the state government, and the strike will be next Wednesday for 24 hours in public hospitals.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Nurse stripped of registration after tribunal rules on doll-bashing incident

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 07/11/2024, Emily Anderson

An aged-care nurse, who bashed a doll's head in front of an elderly patient who believed the toy was real, has been stripped of her registration and banned from providing health services.

Former Junee residential aged care facility nurse Sudisksha Ahuja will not be able to seek a review of her deregistration as an enrolled nurse for 12 months after the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) made its decision on November 4.

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Early skin cancer detection is the key

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 08/11/2024, Allan Murphy, Page 8

Loddon Mallee residents have been urged to check their skin and see a GP if they notice any changes following the release of data that shows almost half of Australians aren't using adequate sun protection. Mildura has one of the highest average daily sunshine hours behind Perth and Brisbane with about 132 clear days per year.

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### Where is the (Price)line in the sand?

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Page 21

I have done many women's health clinics over the years, and the opportunity to see a woman for her regular Pap smear now cervical screening test is important. They have enabled me to uncover iron-deficiency anaemia, crippling menorrhagia that the woman thought was normal and painful dyspareunia that was ruining a relationship. She thought nothing could be done.

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## SPORT

### Trans battle looms for Aussie election

The Australian, General News, 08/11/2024, Stephen Rice, Page 5

The right of transgender athletes to compete in women's sport could become a live issue in Australia's upcoming federal election after playing a critical role in the campaigns of Donald Trump and many Republican candidates in US congressional races. Transgender rights have become a political flashpoint in Australia over the past three years, most recently with Moira Deeming expelled from the Victorian Liberal Party and Coalition frontbencher Jacinta Nampijinpa Price vowing to push back against the transgender movement and its impact on children.

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### TikTok trend pushes teen boys to try steroids, starve

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/11/2024, Penry Buckley, Page 21

Personal trainers and sports scientists say TikTok's "looksmaxxing" trend, along with illegal steroid use among fitness influencers, is creating harmful physical expectations for teenagers, especially boys. Vincent Dalbo, a lecturer in sports science at CQUniversity, says social media is creating unrealistic body standards.

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

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### ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 07/11/2024, Girish Sawlani & Lorna Dunkley

The Queensland Government has revealed there's been a cost blow-out for works on three venues for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics. The bill for the Chandler Indoor Sports Centre, as well as the Sunshine Coast Indoor Sports Centre and outdoor stadium, is more than \$180 million above original estimates. Cost savings will be looked at as part of the LNP's 100 day review. id unfair wages, has returned to the Federal Court.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### 'Cutting-edge' tech targeting tumours

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/11/2024, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 18

Groundbreaking cancer research is being carried out in Sydney that could save patients from being exposed to unnecessary toxic radiation and artificial intelligence is at the heart of the revolutionary technology. University of Sydney researcher and biomedical physicist Dr David Waddington can count on one hand the number of "state of the art" MRI-guided linear accelerators being used to treat cancer patients in Australia and two of them are in NSW.

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### Welcome to Sydney's AI revolution

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/11/2024, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 18

Artificial intelligence and autonomous technology are set to reshape the face of Sydney in a cultural reset the likes of which hasn't been seen since the Industrial Revolution, experts and industry leaders say. Behind closed doors, the Harbour City's best minds are weaving artificial intelligence (AI) into cancer treatment, retail shopping, aged care and disability services, medical training, urban planning and even our traffic lights and signals.

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### Australia's first proton therapy cancer treatment facility in disarray

9News, Other, 07/11/2024

The future of Australia's first proton therapy unit is under a cloud after the South Australian government abandoned a contract to buy the machine, amid fears it wouldn't be delivered. The South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) has officially terminated its agreement with ProTom International, the American supplier of the cancer therapy unit, following months of negotiations and concerns about the delivery of the equipment.

[Read More](#)

### Hacking risk for medical devices

Medical Forum, Other, 07/11/2024

Personal health data collected by medical devices could be at risk from malicious hackers, potentially leading to poor clinical decisions, new research has found. An Australian study points to a growing concern that metabolic syndrome – the cluster of risk factors that together increase a person's risk of stroke, heart disease and type 2 diabetes — can also cause cancer.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Prices, shrinkflation top supermarket concerns

The Australian, Business News, 08/11/2024, Eli Greenblat, Page 24

The consumer watchdog's inquiry into the supermarket sector has kicked off, but it will not take evidence about the current court case the regulator is running against Woolworths and Coles over alleged "fake discounting". [...] In her testimony Martina Kingi, a financial counsellor at Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network, said remote communities struggled to gain access to affordable and healthy produce.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Community-led partnership to deliver sustainable dialysis services for remote Queensland communities

National Indigenous Times, Other, 07/11/2024, Callan Morse

The Wakaid Tribal Council and Flinders University's Rural and Remote Health have partnered to plan the construction of a new renal unit set to service Aboriginal people on remote Queensland islands. The community-led project, which received \$3.5 million from the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care's Better Renal Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' program will establish a four-chair nurse or health worker assisted haemodialysis unit to service the three islands.

[Read More](#)

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Whooping cough epidemic the worst on record

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/11/2024, Kate Aubusson, Page 16

Australia is experiencing its worst whooping cough epidemic on record, with more than 41,000 confirmed cases so far this year driven by school children, as childhood vaccination rates dip. Data from the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System show a major spike in whooping cough (also known as pertussis) among children aged 10 to 14, accounting for almost 40 per cent of the 41,013 cases recorded in 2024, which surpasses the previous record in 2011 of 38,748.

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

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### Bird flu fears: don't touch dead shearwaters

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 08/11/2024, Nadine Morton, Page 4

Dead shearwater birds are being tested for bird flu with beachgoers warned not to touch any birds washed up along the Illawarra coastline. People are flocking to the ocean as temperatures soar to 29 degrees on Thursday and 30 on Friday, it's well above the mean maximum temperature for the month of 24 degrees in Albion Park, 22.3 in Bellambi and 22.4 in Kiama.

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### Nuclear waste could add billions to Australia's energy supply costs: inquiry

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/11/2024, Jennifer Dudley-Nicholson, Page 11

Handling and storing nuclear waste could add significant costs to Australia's future energy bills, an inquiry has heard, with Canada set to spend \$26 billion to safely store depleted fuel from its reactors. The cost and time to build nuclear power plants in Australia also remained a mystery, two academics told the Nuclear Power Generation inquiry yesterday, including the demands of small modular reactors proposed for two states.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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

### 'Trojan horse': Doctors urged to sanitise their smartphones

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 5

Smartphones should be considered a threat to the nation's biosecurity, researchers claim, after they discovered that the phones of 20 doctors attending the WONCA conference in Sydney last year harboured some 2200 dirty secrets. A Bond University-led team decided to swab the devices, identifying some 2200 different microbes, including 1229 viruses, 88 fungi and five protozoa.

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### TWC tackles whooping cough

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/11/2024, Megan Haggan & Catherine Hughes

TerryWhite Chemmart has announced a five-year partnership with the Immunisation Foundation of Australia. The group says this solidifies a commitment to raise awareness about key vaccinations that protect children and vulnerable communities across Australia.

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## Shocking superbugs

Medical Forum, Other, 07/11/2024

Low level electric shocks to the skin could be an alternative to antibiotics to prevent wound infections, new research suggests. [...] The team set out to discover if electricity could be used to manipulate bacteria as an alternative to antibiotics in the face of the global antibiotic resistance crisis.

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## TWC, IFA vax partnership

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/11/2024

Ahead of Whooping Cough Day tomorrow, TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) has announced a five-year partnership with the Immunisation Foundation of Australia (IFA) to boost awareness on essential vaccines, with a particular emphasis on whooping cough (pertussis), as well as RSV, MMR, and influenza. The partnership aims to educate Australians on the importance of timely vaccinations to protect children and vulnerable groups.

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## 3AW, Afternoons, 07/11/2024, Tony Moclair

Compere mentions that 20,000 school leavers will be visiting the Gold Coast and now, the Qld Government is going to conduct pill testing. He states that this is also a hot topic in Vic.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 07/11/2024, Steve Austin

Interview with Cameron Francis, The Loop Australia, about Qld Health providing pill testing in festivals. Francis says they can pretty much test any power or liquid that's present in pills but admits that the only substance they can't test are plant-based materials or some of the confectioneries that are out there.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Diabetes drug gets green light

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 12

The TGA has approved empagliflozin for type 2 diabetes in children as young as 10 either combined with metformin or as monotherapy if metformin is not tolerated. [...] The TGA decision followed the phase III DINAMO trial, which showed that empagliflozin reduced children's HbA1c by 9.2mmol/mol after 26 weeks compared with placebo.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Doctor's 12,000 cannabis scripts

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/11/2024, Ciara Seccombe, Page 13

A doctor working for a telehealth cannabis clinic has prescribed 12,000 medicinal cannabis scripts in six months, according to AHPRA an average of 90 patients per working day. Four months ago, the



watchdog created a rapid regulatory response unit to investigate medicinal cannabis prescriptions amid concerns about medical integrity in the industry.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

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## AICIS

### Gross truth of tar balls

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/11/2024, Page 4

Scientists have revealed the "disgusting" truth behind the origin of the thousands of mysterious "tar balls" that washed up on Sydney beaches last month and sparked a health panic. [...] The sticky balls contained hundreds of different components, including molecules from cooking oil and soap scum, faeces, PFAS chemicals, steroids, medications, pesticides and veterinary drugs, he said.

*Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).*

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### ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 07/11/2024, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Dr Jon Beves, Associate Professor. UNSW. Beves points out that the chemicals that were found namely PFAS and they those that are located in NSW sewers. He states that they have lots of people in UNSW working on every piece of equipment they could find to try and tell them a little bit more information about them so they could try to identify the composition and provide some insight about where they would have come from.

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