



TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 5th December 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [The Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports that doctors at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital have successfully frozen the ovarian tissue of a Victorian baby with a rare cancer, in a world-first operation to help preserve her future fertility.
- [The Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 4) reports that the NSW government has been presented with a list of demands ahead of the final day of the state's drug summit, by nurses, GPs and the Health Services Union, who are pushing for the decriminalisation of drug possession.
- [The Herald Sun](#) (page 12) reports that the federal government has revealed Medicare urgent care clinics across Australia are set to record one million free visits this week, with Health Minister Mark Butler saying, "Australians now live no more than a 20-minute drive from fully bulk-billed urgent care".
- [The Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 5) reports that 30 doctors from the Northern Beaches Hospital (NBH) have contributed to a submission to the NSW auditor-general regarding the hospital's sub-standard performance, which included making a stroke patient wait more than four hours in an emergency department chair because of insufficient beds.
- [The Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 9) reports that new data from the federal government's Your IVF Success website has revealed two out of every three South Australian IVF clinics are

performing above the national average.

- **The Courier Mail** (page 9) reports that a new University of Sydney study has revealed middle-aged women could half the risk of major cardiovascular events if they engage in four minutes of daily vigorous physical exercise.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 8) reports that SA Police Minister Dan Cregan has rejected state opposition claims that mental health support for police officers is capped, saying "I am advised participants are not limited to six sessions and additional sessions can be applied for".
- **The Courier Mail** (page 13) reports that new analysis by consultancy group Arcadis has called for the construction of a \$2.6 billion stadium at Brisbane's Victoria Park, to form part of the city's Olympic sporting precinct.
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports that NT Health has criticised the counsel assisting the coronial inquiry investigating the 2022 death of Northern Territory Indigenous man Kumanjayi Walker of lacking "any coherent rationale".
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 14) reports that Meat and Livestock Australia has issued statement ensuring its beef is "safe to consume" following unfounded claims in the United Kingdom that the feed additive Bovaer is toxic and carcinogenic.

MINISTER BUTLER

Private hospitals divided over demands for emergency funding

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 05/12/2024, Michael Smith, Page 14

Martin Bowles, chief executive at Calvary Health Care and a former Health Department secretary, said a request by the Australian Private Hospitals Association for emergency funding would not solve the long-term problems confronting the industry.

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

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Urgent care clinics get 1m visits

Herald Sun, General News, 05/12/2024, Amelia Swan, Page 12

More than 1 million free visits to Medicare Urgent Care Clinics across Australia will be recorded this week, with nearly a third by children under 15. [...] "Our 87 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics mean 70 per cent of Australians now live no more than a 20-minute drive from fully bulk-billed urgent care," federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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

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Endo treatment now cheaper

Leader - Barossa Valley, General News, 04/12/2024, Page 23

For the first time in three decades, women living with endometriosis will now have access to a new treatment on the PBS. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, Visanne, a daily tablet, works to shrink and suppress the growth of abnormal tissue.

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Vaccine boss says Australia will be first in line for next shots

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 05/12/2024, Page 10

Australia will be at the top of the vaccine queue during future pandemics and first in line for the next generation of jabs targeting cancers, birth defects, and other common illnesses. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the new plant was a major step forward in ensuring Australia was prepared for future pandemics.

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Support on the line

Support is being sought for a national farmer-friendly helpline that proponents ifarmwell say could save lives, and have serious social and economic benefits. [...] The office of federal Health Minister Mark Butler was contacted by Stock Journal on multiple occasions, but no comment was received.

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New vaccine facility a shot in the arm for Australians

Canberra Times, Other, 04/12/2024, Rachael Ward

Australia will be at the top of the vaccine queue during future pandemics and first in line for the next generation of jabs targeting cancers, birth defects and other common illnesses. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the new plant was a major step forward in ensuring Australia was prepared for future pandemics, and would also tie into broader health research.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Blue Mountains Gazette \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader \(Online\)](#), [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Goulburn Post \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#).

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World-leading Moderna vaccine facility opens in VIC

Manufacturers Monthly, Other, 04/12/2024, Jack Lloyd

The Southern Hemisphere's only mRNA manufacturing facility has opened in Victoria to ensure world-class mRNA vaccines and medicines can be made in Australia. Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan today joined federal minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and acting minister for Economic Growth Danny Pearson to open Moderna's facility at Monash University's Clayton campus.

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Australia's first ever mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility opens doors in Melbourne: See inside

Herald Sun, Other, 04/12/2024, Sarah Booth

Melbourne has cemented its reputation as a Covid jab capital, with a \$2bn centre opening, that will be the only place in the Southern Hemisphere capable of producing advanced vaccine technology from "start to finish" at commercial scale. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the site was a "major step forward in helping protect Australians against future pandemics".

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

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 11:00 News, 04/12/2024

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says a new vaccine manufacturing facility in Melbourne will prepare Australia for the next pandemic. The centre, which opens today, will help with the development of vaccines for respiratory diseases like COVID, influenza, and RSV.

Similar content in: [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 04/12/2024, David Bevan

Interview with Margaret Walsh, Australian Independent Retirees. Compere plays an excerpt of Federal Health Minister Mark Butler with Yankalilla's Hannah who mentioned that older people will be out of pocket due to the heavy costs. Butler mentioned that from 1 July, if a person is on the home care package, then they'll transfer into residential aged care, they should remain under existing arrangements. Walsh mentions the aged care taskforce report that was made for [Aged Care Minister] Anika Wells for the Government wasn't consensus of the whole Committee.

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Sisters show mercy

Singleton Argus, General News, 05/12/2024, Louise Nichols, Page 1

Aged care the pressure is on to find a new aged care provider to keep Singleton's Mercy Nursing Home fully operational. [...] Federal Member for the seat of Hunter Dan Repacholi is also assisting and has spoken to the Minister For Aged Care Anika Wells about the issues surrounding the closure of the Mercy Nursing Home.

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Brisbane in CCL's future

Cruise Weekly, General News, 04/12/2024, Page 2

Carnival Cruise Line (CCL) recently partnered with The Courier-Mail for the News Corp newspaper's 'Future Brisbane' series, as the cruise line prepares for an exciting 2025 in the Sunshine State. [...] Pictured are The Courier-Mail Editor Chris Jones, Brisbane Mayor Adrian Shrinner, Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells, and Premier David Crisafulli.

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Residents enjoy upgrade

Port Pirie Recorder, General News, 05/12/2024, Neralie Bailey, Page 3

Aged care residents in the Mid North are now appreciating modern and dignified upgrades following a \$2.4 million redevelopment of the Laura and District Hospital nursing wing. [...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells said it was a key aged care investment delivered by Labor governments.

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2032 Olympics countdown begins with venue review

Emerald Today, Other, 04/12/2024, Jin Hui

The starter's gun has been fired for Brisbane 2032, with an Olympic venue blueprint to be delivered in 100 days. [...] "I don't think Brisbane needs an extra stadium," Mr Crisafulli told a Future Brisbane Forum on Friday alongside Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner and Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells.

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More govt funding for aged care meals services

agedhealth.com.au, Other, 04/12/2024

From 1 January 2025, all Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) meal providers will receive a 10 per cent cost-of-living top-up of their 2024–25 meals funding to alleviate cost pressures and reduce impact on service delivery. "Our \$37 million investment will help Meals on Wheels and other meals providers deliver an essential service, bringing healthy meals to older Australians to help them stay healthy and connected to their community," said Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells.

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\$37 million funding boost for aged care meal services

Healthcare Channel, Other, 04/12/2024, Ritchelle Drilon

In a bid to address rising costs and growing demand, the Australian Government has announced a \$37 million funding boost for aged care meal providers, ensuring essential services like Meals on Wheels continue to deliver nutritious meals to older Australians at home. [...] Announcing the initiative, Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells emphasised the critical role played by these services.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 04/12/2024, David Bevan

Interview with Margaret Walsh, Australian Independent Retirees. Compere plays an excerpt of Federal Health Minister Mark Butler with Yankalilla's Hannah who mentioned that older people will be out of pocket due to the heavy costs. Butler mentioned that from 1 July, if a person is on the home care

package, then they'll transfer into residential aged care, they should remain under existing arrangements. Walsh mentions the aged care taskforce report that was made for [Aged Care Minister] Anika Wells for the Government wasn't consensus of the whole Committee.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Funding secures future of Birthing on Country programs

National Indigenous Times, Other, 04/12/2024, Jarred Cross

\$9.9 million will be invested into existing on-Country birthing programs to extend their services for another 12 months, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Ged Kearney announced on Tuesday. Speaking at the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) 2024 Members' Conference in Canberra, Ms Kearney said "the evidence is clear.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Private hospitals divided over demands for emergency funding

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 05/12/2024, Michael Smith, Page 14

Martin Bowles, chief executive at Calvary Health Care and a former Health Department secretary, said a request by the Australian Private Hospitals Association for emergency funding would not solve the long-term problems confronting the industry.

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

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Endo treatment now cheaper

Leader - Barossa Valley, General News, 04/12/2024, Page 23

For the first time in three decades, women living with endometriosis will now have access to a new treatment on the PBS. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, Visanne, a daily tablet, works to shrink and suppress the growth of abnormal tissue.

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Bombala welcomes aged care expansion

Monaro Post, General News, 04/12/2024, Karen Forman, Page 2

Bombala's aged care leaders have applauded news that design work is to start on the expansion of the town's multi-purpose service (MPS), which will increase the number of aged care beds back to previous levels. [...] As well, Health Infrastructure, Southern NSW Local Health District and the

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care will engage with staff, residents, patients, carers and the broader community as the project progresses.

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In Conversation with Jacinta Kennedy

Shepparton Adviser, General News, 04/12/2024, Page 22

IN our final article of the year, I think it's a good time to reflect on the reality of the current experience of aged care and the exciting future of nurse management of aged care in General Practice. [...] With the assistance of funding through the Murray Primary Healthcare Network and the Department of Health and Aged Care, we are not only able to continue our work but also grow and develop our program even further.

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Help shape the star rating system

Shepparton Adviser, General News, 04/12/2024, Page 30

Older people, carers and families, as well as aged care workers, providers, experts and peak organisations are invited to have their say on how Star Ratings for residential aged care across Australia are calculated. [...] To get involved, learn more or to respond to the survey, go to the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care website or type this link into your browser: <https://bit>.

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In conversation with Jacinta Kennedy Aged Care Coordinator at Wyndham House Clinic

Shepparton Adviser, Other, 04/12/2024, Jacinta Kennedy

In our final article of the year, I think it's a good time to reflect on the reality of the current experience of aged care and the exciting future of nurse management of aged care in General Practice. [...] With the assistance of funding through the Murray Primary Healthcare Network and the Department of Health and Aged Care, we are not only able to continue our work but also grow and develop our program even further.

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New eczema pilot targets waiting times

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Other, 04/12/2024, Amanda Sheppeard

A national pilot and research program aimed at connecting parents of children and babies with eczema with expert advice while they wait to see dermatology and allergy specialists has launched in Western Australia. [...] The Eczema Connect pilot program and research trial are funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care through the National Allergy Council, a partnership between Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia and the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, the peak patient and medical bodies for allergic disease in Australia.

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Montelukast due for 'stronger' side effects warning

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Other, 04/12/2024, Mariella Attard

Psychiatric adverse events are rare but warrant awareness, experts say. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care told ARR that 339 adverse events had been reported since late 2014 in which the patient was taking montelukast; a psychiatric condition was noted in 204 of them.

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For the first time in three decades, women living with endometriosis will now have access to a new treatment on the PBS.

barossaleader.com, Other, 04/12/2024

For the first time in three decades, women living with endometriosis will now have access to a new treatment on the PBS. Dienogest (Visanne) will be listed for the first time to treat endometriosis.

According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, Visanne, a daily tablet, works to shrink and suppress the growth of abnormal tissue.

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Australia-first online tool for safe AI use in healthcare

Healthcare Channel, Other, 04/12/2024, Ritchelle Drilon

Australia is set to pioneer a safer integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into healthcare with the launch of a first-of-its-kind online tool. The Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre (DHCRC), in partnership with the Department of Health and Aged Care and AI specialists at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), is adapting the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) AI Classification Framework to the unique needs of Australia's healthcare sector.

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COVID-19 vaccine negligence claims 'needle in haystack'

HealthTimes, Other, 04/12/2024

Making sense of a lawsuit accusing the government of negligence in approving COVID-19 vaccines would take the better part of a year, according to a judge considering whether to throw the case out. [...] Pandemic-era health minister Greg Hunt is named as one of five respondents, as are former Health Department secretary Brendan Murphy and former deputy secretary for health products regulation John Skerritt.

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Sustainability strategies for the Support at Home transition and beyond

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 04/12/2024, Alex Jacobs

The sector's most experienced and knowledgeable leaders are attending the two-day event. This includes Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission Commissioner Janet Anderson PSM, Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) CEO Professor Michael Pervan and the Department of Health and Aged Care Deputy Secretary, Ageing and Aged Care Michael Lye.

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NHMRC announces new council

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 04/12/2024

Under the leadership of Professor Caroline Homer AO, a distinguished midwifery researcher and expert in maternal and newborn health care, the new council will serve until 30 June 2027. [...] Together we will shape and support Australia's health and medical research workforce and assist the Department of Health and Aged Care to develop a National Health and Medical Research Strategy.

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DHCRC project to deliver benchmarking tool for AI in health

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 04/12/2024

The initiative complements efforts by governments, peak organisations, and clinical professional and safety bodies to ensure safe deployment of AI in health care, the DHCRC said. [...] Sam Peascod, Assistant Secretary, Digital and Service Design, Department of Health and Aged Care, said, "As government looks to build community trust and promote AI adoption, we need to provide guidance on how to use AI safely and responsibly.

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Australia-first online tool for AI in healthcare

Mivision, Other, 04/12/2024

An Australian initiative is working to produce an online tool to help classify different types of artificial intelligence (AI) solutions used in Australian healthcare. [...] The project is a collaboration between the Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre (DHCRC) with the Department of Health and Aged Care and two specialist AI teams within the University of Technology Sydney – UTS Rapido and UTS Human Technology Institute.

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Calls to delay changes to B12 testing

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/12/2024, Michelle Wisbey

Potential changes to item descriptors, fees and claim frequencies are scheduled for July, but doctors are calling for further consultation, saying 'additional red tape for GPs should be avoided'. [...] The changes were first proposed within the 2024–25 Federal Budget to 'reduce unnecessary testing for better patient outcomes', with the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) promising to engage with the pathology and clinical sectors.

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B12 testing changes an incoming headache for GPs

The Medical Republic, Other, 04/12/2024, Holly Payne

Medicare says amending items related to vitamin B12 and urine testing will increase efficiency. Both the AMA and Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia have warned the Department of Health and Aged Care against proposed changes to vitamin B12 testing and urine examination items which would restrict patient access.

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VACCINES

Potential DNA contamination a serious issue

Launceston Examiner, General News, 05/12/2024, Professor Brendan , Page 16

I write in response to comments from two of my retired colleagues (Dr Barker, The Examiner November 28 "Two doctors are 'peddling nonsense' about DNA and covid vaccination" and Dr Bowring via Facebook) commenting on recent Examiner article, November 27 - 'Council's vexed vaccine debate'). I would be grateful to contribute to the discussion, as a signatory to letters written to PM Albanese and tabled by Councillor Dr Julie Sladden at West Tamar Council's meeting recently (as reported in The Examiner, November 27 - 'Council's vexed vaccine debate').

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Holiday COVID prep time

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 04/12/2024

With the holiday season rapidly approaching and COVID-19 still present in the community, now is a good time for pharmacists to remind Australians at higher risk of serious illness to take proactive steps to protect their health. These steps can include advice about preventative measures, testing, steps patients should take if they experience symptoms, and eligibility for antivirals.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Communelike housing fix

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/12/2024, Lynton Grace, Page 5

Smaller or single-parent families would be encouraged to move out of detached homes and into shared living under a plan to tackle SA's housing crisis and ageing population. Under the shake-up by Housing Minister Nick Champion to create more flexibility for affordable apartments and retirement homes, families could live together in specially-built houses that rely on shared kitchens and bathrooms, while retirement villages could hit six storeys.

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Change 'won't affect' residents

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 05/12/2024, Leighton Smith, Page 8

Staff and residents based in St Vincent's Aged Care Townsville facility have been assured that they won't be affected by a change in ownership and operations from St Vincent's Care to Ozcare. Opened at 291 Angus Smith Drive in 2019, St Vincent's Care Douglas is a 140-bed facility.

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

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Most of us are anxious about aged care. Here's how to change that

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/12/2024, Rachel Lane

The majority of older Australians are keen to avoid residential aged care, with seven in 10 against moving in to an aged care home. More than half of those surveyed indicated they would prefer to receive aged care at home if it was necessary. However, the costs associated with either option remain a significant source of anxiety.

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Family 'slurred as abusers' after helping to expose sex predator scandal in Queensland government aged care facility

ABC Online, Other, 04/12/2024, Josh Robertson

A family says they became a target of false criminal allegations as payback for helping expose a sex abuse scandal in a Queensland government aged care home. [...] The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service (CQHHS), which runs Eventide, has conceded it failed to protect Mrs Lennox but defended its subsequent reports to police against the family.

Also reported by: [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

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Aged care elevated

INTHEBLACK, General News, 01/01/2025, Cameron Cooper, Page 13

By putting people residents, clients and employees as the focus of aged-care provider Whiddon's ethos, [...] As a commercially trained accountant, Chris Mamarelis FCPA probably never expected one of his career highlights to be helping a man to tie his shoelaces.

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Many seniors isolated, lonely, finds survey

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/12/2024, Jodie Wolf

New research highlighting an epidemic of loneliness amongst older adults should be a wake up call for governments and aged care providers, says consumer peak body COTA New South Wales, who conducted the study. The report Voices of Solitude: Loneliness and Social Isolation Among Older Adults in NSW is based on a survey of 2,200 adults living in NSW aged over 50 that aimed to better understand the extent and impacts of loneliness and social isolation among this group.

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The top reasons why older people in aged care are seeking help

HelloCare, Other, 04/12/2024, Alex Jacobs

While we all hope navigating and accessing the aged care system will be a problem-free experience, like all good things, it does come with some pitfalls. These issues can be serious and may result in seeking outside support such as an aged care advocate.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 04/12/2024, Manny Tsigas

Interview A man says it became a target of false criminal allegations as payback for helping expose a sex abuse scandal in a Queensland Government aged care home. A federal MP backed the claims, saying the family was slurred as abusers after speaking out about the home's failure to stop an employee preying on residents.

POPULATION HEALTH

Women's heart health minutes away

Australian Financial Review, General News, 05/12/2024, Euan Black, Page 6

It's no secret that exercise is one of our most effective weapons in the fight against heart disease. But for women who are unwilling or unable to make it a regular habit, a University of Sydney study offers some welcome news.

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

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Why you should think twice before downing low-carb beer

Age, General News, 05/12/2024, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 21

A new Australian study suggests the "health halo" around such products is misleading and distracts from the harms that can come from even low levels of alcohol consumption. The study, published today by the George Institute for Global Health, found that "consumers are up to three times more likely to think alcoholic drinks with sugar- or carb-related claims are "healthy" compared to those without."

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

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Clinics leading way to achieve family dream

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/12/2024, Julie Cross, Annabel Fleming & Holly Truelove, Page 9

Two out of three of the state's IVF clinics are performing above the national average, latest official figures show. Repromed Adelaide in Dulwich was the top clinic in South Australia for women under 35, with 54.1 per cent of embryo transfers resulting in a baby, according to figures from the federal government's Your IVF Success website.

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Best chance for a baby

Courier Mail, General News, 05/12/2024, Julie Cross, Annabel Fleming & Jack Nivison, Page 22

Women seeking fertility treatment are twice as likely to have a baby if they seek help from the highest-performing IVF clinic in Queensland, compared with the lowest-performing one. Queensland Fertility Group Townsville was the top clinic in the state for women under 35, with 64.4 per cent of embryo transfers resulting in a baby, according to the newest figures from the federal government's Your IVF Success website.

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Drinking more if office pays

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 05/12/2024, Page 3

As workplaces across the country gear up for festive parties, new DrinkWise research reveals 62 per cent of Australians aged over 25 say they feel more empowered to choose not to drink alcohol these days compared with 10 years ago. But concerningly, there is a tendency for Australians to drink more than they should when employers are footing the bill for alcohol.

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Greens push for free birth control

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 05/12/2024, Jessica Wang, Page 6

The Greens have revealed their latest election pitch to make all TGA-approved forms of birth control free for women, including modern versions of the contraceptive pill which have fewer side effects but cost three times the price of subsidised options. Greens spokesperson for women Larissa Waters said

cost barriers to modern pills and the copper IUD forced some women to "cut corners and use cheaper options, or go without contraception," especially in a cost-of-living crisis.

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Ex-Home and Away star fights for free rides for DV victims

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/12/2024, Jack Nivison

Radio and soap star Christie Hayes, who is a domestic violence survivor, said using her platform to advocate for the Safe Rides program is not just important – it's a responsibility. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data indicates that "at the hands of a current or previous cohabiting partner," one in six Australian women will experience physical violence and economic abuse, one in five will experience sexual violence and one in four will experience emotional abuse.

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

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Australian-first eczema support program launches at PCH to fast-track children with the itchy condition

West Australian, Other, 03/12/2024, Claire Sadler

Perth Children's Hospital will be the first to launch a nation-wide program that will fast-track expert advice to families of children with eczema in a bid to stop kids suffering from the debilitating condition. Eczema Connect, a national pilot program developed by Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia, launches on Tuesday at PCH, which is the first Australian hospital to offer the initiative.

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

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Multivitamins promise glowing skin, better sleep and a longer life. But who do supplements really benefit?

The Guardian, Other, 05/12/2024, Donna Lu

The average person can get their recommended intake of vitamins (which have a plant or animal origin, such as vitamin C and vitamin B12) and minerals (elements such as iron, zinc and iodine) from food alone. "A person who is healthy and has access to a balanced diet, particularly whole foods, generally does not need vitamin supplements," says Barbara Mintzes, professor of evidence-based pharmaceutical policy at the University of Sydney.

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'No silver bullet': drug users need support, not court

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/12/2024

A mayor with a front-row seat to the most liberal drug decriminalisation policy in the US will join experts and decision-makers at a landmark Australian forum aiming to build consensus on how drug use and its associated harms will be managed in the coming years and decades. They will join representatives from almost 300 organisations and dozens of politicians on Wednesday for the Sydney leg of the NSW Drug Summit

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Sharp blade of drug addiction drawn at summit

Newcastle Herald, Other, 05/12/2024, Luke Costin

.A cross-section of MPs, justice officials and bureaucrats have heard about long waiting lists for drug treatment centres, racial differences on drug diversion and the lingering stigma of drug use that forms a barrier to people seeking help. But Health Minister Ryan Park and Premier Chris Minns have tempered hopes of decriminalisation for certain drugs, saying they lack a mandate from the community.

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

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Losing our minds a \$85b phenomenon

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2024, Matthew Kiernan, Page 32

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, for every 1000 Australians, one in 15 is affected by a form of cognitive impairment, with Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia representing the most common causes. The latest WHO statistics indicate that globally, more than 970 million people live with a mental health disorder and 55 million have dementia: 60% of the latter live in middle to low-income countries.

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Frozen futures: The art and science of oocyte cryopreservation

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2024, Arpita Ghosh, Page 42

A woman's chance of having a baby decreases with age accelerating after 35. Oocyte cryopreservation (egg freezing) has established itself as a viable option for women wanting to preserve their fertility for medical reasons (e.g. prior to cancer treatment) or for personal considerations. Modern reproductive technology utilises a rapid method for efficiently freezing eggs using a process called 'vitrification'. This has challenges, risks and costs.

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Normalising STI testing

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2024, Grace Phua, Page 43

STI testing is an important part of preventative healthcare. Early detection and treatment can prevent complications of disease and onward transmission. Primary care clinicians are encouraged to test often, treat according to guidelines, undertake contact tracing and educate their patient community about safer sexual behaviours.

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Endometriosis and its impact on fertility

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2024, Sean Copson, Page 44

Endometriosis is a common condition which affects one in seven females and those assigned female at birth. It is a complex condition that affects fertility through inflammatory pathways, impacting ovarian, peritoneal, tubal, and endometrial function.

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Chronic pain in the elderly assessment and challenges

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2024, Reza Feizerfan, Page 50

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has quoted the prevalence of chronic pain to be 20 per cent between the ages of 65-74, increasing to 24 per cent in those 85 and over. With an aging population, managing chronic pain in older adults has become an increasingly important area of healthcare, albeit with its challenges.

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

A growing trend

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 04/12/2024, Ben Wishaw

Market share of weight loss drugs on cryptomarkets has grown over the past year, an analysis has found Interest in weight loss drugs is growing, according to an analysis of drugs sold on cryptomarkets by UNSW researchers. The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) monitored 17 cryptomarkets from 1 October 2023 to 30 September

[Read More](#)

Battling social media misinformation around sunscreen

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 04/12/2024, Chloe Hava

Claims about sunscreen's dangers are targeting young people, and while pharmacists know evidence shows them to be safe and effective, many in the Australian community do not. The anti-sunscreen movement has picked up speed this year, thanks to the spread of misinformation by influencers on TikTok and other social media platforms.

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Miracle on ice

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 05/12/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 1

A Victorian baby diagnosed with a rare cancer has become the youngest child in the world to have her ovarian tissue frozen in a groundbreaking move to preserve her future fertility. Hazel was just eight months old when doctors discovered a tumour near her pelvis, requiring her to undergo lifesaving chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#)

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Daily bursts of exercise

Courier Mail, General News, 05/12/2024, Page 9

Women who averaged 3-4 minutes of vigorous intermittent physical activity daily were 45 per cent less likely to experience a major cardiovascular event, The University of Sydney study shows. They were also 51 per cent less likely to have a heart attack and 67 per cent less likely to develop heart failure.

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

Heart starters

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/12/2024, Page 3

An average of four minutes of incidental vigorous physical activity a day could almost halve the risk of major cardiovascular events, such as heart attacks, for middle-aged women. Women who averaged 3-4 minutes of vigorous intermittent physical activity daily were 45 per cent less likely to experience a major cardiovascular event, The University of Sydney study showed.

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

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Regular health checks crucial to stopping stroke

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/12/2024, Seana Gall, Helen Castley & Lisa Murphy, Page 23

Recognising the need for more awareness of stroke risk factors in the community, the University of Tasmania's Menzies Institute for Medical Research, through our Cardiovascular Research Flagship, has been doing community blood pressure measurements. So far, we have measured blood pressure on nearly 500 people. We found that three in 10 had hypertension, or very high blood pressure, and almost 60 per cent of people were not aware of this.

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Public rallies around cancer care group but more help needed

Cairns Post, General News, 05/12/2024, Jennifer Spilsbury, Page 3

There has been a groundswell of public support for COUCH as the community cancer care organisation steps up its funding fight for survival. Cairns Regional Council, Advance Cairns and the Chamber of Commerce have joined community groups and individuals in support of the Champions of COUCH campaign, which kicked off in November after the announcement its wellness centre off Reservoir Rd would have to rely on community donations once federal funding ended in March.

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Imagion set to improve cancer detection through molecular MRI

The Australian, Other, 04/12/2024

Imagion Biosystems will use funds from a recent \$3m capital raise to advance its cancer-diagnosis platform MagSense closer to market. [...] The company has completed a phase I study (IBI010103),

involving 13 HER2+ breast cancer patients at four Australian sites.

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

[Read More](#)

New study finds a few minutes of vigorous exercise can dramatically cut heart attack risk

9News, Other, 05/12/2024

A new study has found middle aged women can dramatically cut their risk of heart attack with a few minutes of vigorous exercise each day. Researchers at the University of Sydney found women aged between 40 and 79 who consistently and frequently averaged four minutes of sharp bursts of exercise daily more than halved their risk of major heart complications.

[Read More](#)

Parkinson's pesticide push

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2024, Cathy O'Leary, Page 18

Many of WA's top neurologists are backing a locally led push to ban a farm chemical that some believe could be linked to Parkinson's disease. Perth neurologist David Blacker does not know whether his diagnosis of Parkinson's disease is linked to a common herbicide, but he believes it is not worth taking the risk.

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Stroke drug trial counts the cost

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2024, Liz Dallimore, Page 35

New stroke statistics highlight the need for innovative treatments, argues neuroscientist Dr Liz Dallimore. The number of Australians having strokes is the highest it has been in more than two decades, with a new national report projecting this figure will get worse if immediate action is not taken.

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Peripheral vascular disease

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2024, Nishath Altaf & Irina Baimatova, Page 46

Peripheral vascular disease (PVD) refers to a range of symptoms usually resulting from atherosclerosis of arteries. In Australia it is estimated that 10 per cent of patients in the primary care setting suffer from PVD and 20% of all patients over the age of 75 have arterial disease.

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GLP-1 receptor agonists 'reduce kidney failure and deaths': meta-analysis

Australian Doctor, Other, 04/12/2024, Mohana Basu

Commenting on the study, Associate Professor Neale Cohen said it was an important step forward for the drug class. GLP-1 receptor agonists offer significant renal protection as well as cardiovascular benefits, a meta-analysis shows.

[Read More](#)

'An excellent change': Dapagliflozin PBS access expanded

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/12/2024, Jolyon Attwooll

More diabetes patients now have access to dapagliflozin under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), with restrictions easing on its use with metformin this month. The change means there is now no specific unmet glycaemic target required for the use of the sodium–glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor as an add-on therapy to metformin for patients with type 2 diabetes.

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Why 'Big Abortion' leads inevitably to 'Big Euthanasia'

The Australian, General News, 05/12/2024, Timothy Lynch, Page 11

Why should we suppose euthanasia is immune to the same slippage? Families across Britain, as we have seen in Europe and increasingly in Australia, will start to think about assisted dying as one of the several options that getting old presents. Just as abortion is now euphemised and celebrated as healthcare, assisted dying will become part of elder care.

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Doctors' dismay at running of hospital

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/12/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 5

A patient diagnosed with a stroke waited more than four hours in an emergency department chair because of a lack of beds at Northern Beaches Hospital, in one of several incidents reported to an audit of the public hospital's performance under private operators. In a scathing submission to the NSW auditor-general, dozens of doctors have blown the whistle on dangerously low staffing levels and chronic "bed block", saying they are frustrated with the hospital's performance under operator Healthscope and its owners, Canadian investment giant Brookfield.

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

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'Dunk tank' fun as Pinarc marks milestone

Ballarat Courier, General News, 05/12/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Pinarc chief executive Peter Newsome "could hire a dozen speech pathologists right now" - such is the demand for support services in the disability sector. Speech pathology, occupational therapy, and physiotherapy services through Pinarc have waiting lists as demand continues to grow amid a shortage of therapists across the country.

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Patients on edge

Ballarat Courier, General News, 05/12/2024, Alex Dalziel & Michelle Smith, Page 1

Patients affected by a cyber breach at a Ballarat medical centre believe the clinic is keeping them in the dark, as more questions are raised about the incident's potential impacts. Patient data, including contact details, health information and Medicare or concession card details, are believed to have been accessed by an "unauthorised third party", and some patients' data has been lost.

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Hospitals under 'significant pressure'

Border Mail, General News, 05/12/2024, Ben Silvester, Page 4

Victoria's major regional hospitals are still showing financial red flags, with some also failing to provide the healthcare they pledged to provide, ACM can reveal. An analysis of the health services' 2023-24 annual reports, as well as their statements of priority - the contracts they sign with the Victorian government - showed many recorded operating deficits running into the tens of millions of dollars.

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Gold Coasters choose their favourite doctor

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 05/12/2024, Crystal Fox, Page 5

The owner of two popular medical practices has been named the Gold Coast's favourite doctor. Medical on Robina and Medical on Burleigh owner Dr Jane Wehipeihana, 47, said the title voted by Bulletin readers was testament to the culture her team had built at the two clinics.

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

New tech assists emergency calls

Shepparton News, General News, 05/12/2024, Page 3

Ambulance Victoria has introduced new video technology to triage non-urgent callers to 000. Video assisted triage was introduced for all patients in April to allow nurses and paramedics to better assess and determine the best medical care for their needs.

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Mission Beach medical centre reopens as GP calls for rebate increase

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/12/2024, Arun Singh Mann

A Far North town is celebrating the return of its medical practice after a three-year closure, but a long-term rural GP is questioning at what cost to the long-term viability of the industry the feel-good result was achieved. [...] The centre's reopening took collaborative efforts between all three tiers of government, with Cassowary Coast Regional Council in September 2023 taking on the lease of the building in a "bold move" to offer business confidence to a potential practitioner.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Narrogin's Helen Jarvis and baby Theo reunited with the medical staff who aided in rare life-saving procedure

West Australian, Other, 04/12/2024, Hannah Whitehead

A Narrogin first-time mother was reunited with the medical staff who helped her and her unborn son survive with a rare life-saving procedure. Helen Jarvis introduced her baby boy Theo on October 29 to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and King Edward Memorial Hospital crew who gave Theo a life-saving fetal blood transfusion in February.

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

[Read More](#)

Fitzroy Crossing mum gives birth at Broome International Airport two minutes after RFDS flight lands

ABC Online, Other, 04/12/2024, Tallulah Bieundurry

When Louisiana Chungulla is old enough to apply for a passport, the place of birth on her documentation will be recorded as Broome International Airport. She was born on November 22 at 3:30pm, two minutes after her Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) plane landed on the tarmac in the Kimberley town.

[Read More](#)

Ambulance ramping is improving in Adelaide but inquest hears the crisis has 'no simple solution'

ABC Online, Other, 04/12/2024, Jordanna Schriever

According to government figures, the number of hours ambulances spent ramped in October dropped to 2,983 — the lowest level since October 2021. However, this followed a ramping peak in July this year when ambulances spent 5,539 hours waiting to transfer patients into hospital.

[Read More](#)

Construction under way for Surf Coast's \$46m Wurdi Baierr Aquatic and Recreation Centre

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 04/12/2024, Zoe De Koning

Construction of Surf Coast Shire's multimillion-dollar aquatic and health centre is under way following a sod-turning ceremony on Wednesday morning. Surf Coast Shire Mayor Mike Bodsworth said the council was "thrilled" site preparations for the new Wurdi Baierr Aquatic and Recreation Centre had begun,

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

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Paramedics sign up to new Auslan training

Shepparton News Online, Other, 04/12/2024

Ambulance Victoria has introduced basic Auslan and deaf-awareness training for all its staff and volunteers as part of a partnership with Awesome Auslan. AV disability inclusion program lead Amber Smith said the training would help remove communication barriers during health emergencies.

[Read More](#)

Metro vs rural? Medical colleges say a two-tier registration system for specialists is coming

Australian Doctor, Other, 04/12/2024, Paul Smith

The machinery for fast-tracking IMGs is meant to include internal wiring to ensure the medical colleges have some control over who can work as a specialist in Australia. But unless some of the big questions being asked find a satisfactory answer, those wires risk being severed.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

ADHD and autism overlap; so why does the NDIS favour one over the other?

The Australian, General News, 05/12/2024, Stephen Lunn, Page 7

ADHD and autism are on the same continuum of neuro developmental conditions requiring similar supports, new research shows, leading to questions about why children diagnosed with autism have had far greater access to publicly funded services through the NDIS. The groundbreaking study finds executive function problems such as paying attention and controlling impulses are similar across all neurodevelopmental conditions, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism.

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Police cop 'lip service'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/12/2024, Kathryn Bermingham, Page 8

The state government is facing calls to provide more mental health support to police by lifting a cap on the number of free counselling sessions available under SAPOL's Employee Assistance Program. But the Police Minister says the cap does not exist, and an application can be made for extra sessions.

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AI mental health study is a bold frontier

Border Mail, General News, 05/12/2024, Page 16

A new study at Hunter Medical Research Institute examines the ability of artificial intelligence (AI) to fill the role of human mental health professionals by recruiting about 100 people. Participants will be asked to rate AI and human responses to questions and scenarios related to mental health and addiction.

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Shellharbour to get new mental health unit

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 05/12/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 9

The NSW government will provide an almost \$50 million boost for drug and alcohol treatment in the Illawarra, including money for a new mental health assessment unit at Shellharbour. Up to 200 young people each year will also receive day rehab and early intervention, while the region's health district will get \$12 million to expand services including its opioid treatment program.

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

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From this little garden big things are growing

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/12/2024, Simon McCarthy, Page 1

Recently graduated occupational therapist Frances McCafferty led the project's development, partly

funded by a grant from the local grassroots social enterprise Awesome Newcastle, which provided \$1000 to get it off the ground. The intent was to integrate neurodiversity-affirming care and inclusive program design led by those with lived experience of mental illness.

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Tree branches out to give support

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 05/12/2024, Natasha Emeck, Page 14

Kirwan police are turning pain into purpose after a challenging year marred by three shootings, planting a blue tree to drive vital conversations about mental health. The station unveiled the striking tree as part of the Blue Tree Project, a global initiative encouraging open dialogue around mental wellbeing and reminding the community that it's OK to not be OK.

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FIFO construction workers in WA at high risk of taking own lives, study finds

ABC Online, Other, 04/12/2024, Charlie-Mclean & Bridget-Mcarthur

More than 16 per cent of WA's workforce were in mining and construction as of the 2021 Census. A recent survey found workers in the state's construction industry, which intersects with a range of sectors including mining, experienced suicidal thoughts and behaviours at three times the rate of the average adult Australian.

[Read More](#)

Blackwood Youth Action named winner of mental health award for prevention program

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 04/12/2024, Anjelica Smilovitis

Blackwood Youth Action was one of 11 winners in the 2024 WA Mental Health Awards for their mental health program aimed at helping young people. The Bridgetown and Manjimup-based youth services won the prevention and promotion award, coming up against more than 100 nominations in nine categories.

[Read More](#)

But what about our veteran families?

The Mandarin, Other, 04/12/2024, Renee Wilson

The recent Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide revealed that the support system is fraught with deficiencies and is in dire need of reform. It found that family support underpins Australia's Defence capability.

[Read More](#)

Guide to the subtleties of ADHD

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2024, Andrea Downey, Page 24

It affects one in 20 Australians, yet diagnosis and prescribing for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder varies across the country, with patients often having to see multiple medical professionals before finding a treatment plan that works for them. This process alone can cause stress, anxiety and disengagement from care among people who may already struggle to put their health first.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Too toxic to stay

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 05/12/2024, Samantha Newsam, Page 1

As negotiations with the government over pay drag on and shortages at Tamworth hospital remain unaddressed, some essential staff are simply walking away to restore their work-life balance. [...]

Negotiations between the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) and state government remain at a stalemate with the Minns government sticking steadfast to their offer of three per cent per year over three years.

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Calling all midwives and midwifery students: Take part in a nationwide study shaping future of breastfeeding support

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 04/12/2024, Anmj Staff

It's a question that researchers from the University of Notre Dame's School of Nursing and Midwifery are currently investigating in a bid to enhance best practices. Exclusive breastfeeding is the optimal nutritional food for newborns and babies under six months and while breastfeeding initiation in Australia is high at 96 per cent (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2011), only 29 per cent of mothers continue to exclusively breastfeed until their baby is six months old (Australian Bureau of Statistics., 2017-18).

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Bringing about change from within

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 05/12/2024, Page 6

As the first person with an intellectual disability to serve on the Southern Stay board of management, Beck Biddle hopes she's setting an example for others. This year's theme for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 'Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future' - could have been written with Beck in mind.

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Chief health officer Dr John Gerrard's interim replacement revealed

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/12/2024, Madura McCormack

An internal Queensland Health memo, seen by the Courier-Mail, has confirmed the interim replacement for the chief health officer after his resignation. A communicable disease expert will fill in as Queensland chief health officer while a permanent replacement is found for Dr John Gerrard.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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Royal Flying Doctor Service partners with Regional Health Professionals Network to boost rural healthcare

West Australian, Other, 04/12/2024, Katya Minns

The Royal Flying Doctor Service WA has taken a significant step in bolstering health care delivery in rural and remote communities by partnering with the Regional Health Professionals Network program. The collaboration between RFDS and three regional HPNs aims to enhance support for health professionals working in under-served areas and improve patient outcomes.

[Read More](#)

Government urged to increase student intake in the bush amid doctor shortage

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 04/12/2024, Rachel Chamberlain

There is no shortage of people who want to study medicine in regional and rural areas, yet those same communities are struggling to attract enough doctors to adequately serve their population. That's why Charles Sturt University (CSU) and Member for Calare Andrew Gee are calling on the federal government to increase the number of places in the university's Bachelor of Clinical Science (Medicine) / Doctor of Medicine.

[Read More](#)

Vale Dr Peter Thompson

Medical Forum, General News, 01/12/2024, Page 9

Prof Thompson was active in his research right up until his last illness, publishing work in October on the use of colchicine for secondary prevention of ischaemic stroke and atherosclerotic events. He was most recently consultant cardiologist and head of the Heart Research Institute at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and Clinical Professor of Medicine at UWA.

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Updates to RACGP training program eligibility

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/12/2024, Morgan Liotta

The RACGP has announced variations to the Fellowship Support Program (FSP) and Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program eligibility and selection process to enhance training outcomes. Coming into effect from next year for the 2025.2 intake and beyond, the updates are intended to simplify application processes for potential candidates and provide tailored support, such as financial incentives for applicants in rural areas and other areas of workforce need.

[Read More](#)

GP duo 'giving as much back to the community as possible'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/12/2024, Morgan Liotta

Moving to Australia from Scotland in 2023 with nothing but their suitcases was no smooth landing for husband-and-wife GP couple, Dr Neida Amin and Dr Mutaz Amin. Fast forward 18 months later, and the couple are soaking up their new lives after receiving the support needed to settle to a new country, including being recently awarded Fellowship of the RACGP (FRACGP) at a ceremony in Perth at GP24

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

New warning to be added for popular children's asthma medication linked to reports of suicide

9News, Other, 04/12/2024, Emily McPherson

A new black box warning will be added to an asthma drug which has been linked to reports of three suicides in Australia during the past year. The decision comes after more than a decade of lobbying by families about the dangerous potential side effects of the drug montelukast, marketed as Singulair.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Perth chiropractor banned from practising until end of 2026 after inappropriately 'massaging' patient's breast

West Australian, Other, 04/12/2024, Jessica Evensen

A Perth chiropractor has been banned from practising until the end of 2026 after inappropriately "massaging" a patient's breast "for a few minutes". The State Administrative Tribunal this week revealed the male chiropractor, referred to only as AB for legal reasons, had "behaved in a way that

constitutes professional misconduct" after the Chiropractic Board of Australia took the matter to tribunal.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No greater gift than saving a life through organ donation

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/12/2024, Merv Reed, Page 22

The gift of life or organ donation paperwork is not difficult and can be completed at the kitchen table readily. We did this and filled in all the forms and sent it all away with love in our hearts. Now a lot of people ask, and have asked me, about organ donation, the gift of life, and what really happens.

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

Drug court funding snub

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 05/12/2024, Grace Crivellaro, Page 1

A \$47.8 million funding announcement this week by Health Minister Ryan Park for substance and alcohol treatment across the region has failed to include any money for an Illawarra drug court. The snub comes despite renewed calls for the life-changing program and more than a decade of lobbying by judicial officers, lawyers and psychologists.

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

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New report highlights youth health challenges in Gannawarra

Shepparton News Online, Other, 04/12/2024, Ryan Bellingham

A report released by Gannawarra Shire Council has shed light on the health and wellbeing of children and young people in the area. The State of Gannawarra's Children and Young People report was launched by the council and other agency representatives on Wednesday, November 27.

[Read More](#)

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SPORT

Canadian company banks on Brisbane

The Australian, Commercial Property, 05/12/2024, Lisa Allen, Page 3

Canadian giant Brookfield Asset Management has bought into the hot Queensland accommodation sector by acquiring the Hotel X Brisbane Fortitude Valley, Vignette Collection, a 146-key luxury hotel for about \$90m. [...] The city is benefiting from strong sector tailwinds ahead of the 2032 Olympic Games, including a lack of new hotel supply, strong economic and population growth, a buoyant tourism industry and robust consumer spending.

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PNG minister says \$600m NRL deal 'not about China'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/12/2024, Chris Barrett, Page 8

The launch of a National Rugby League team in Papua New Guinea has "nothing to do with China", according to the Pacific nation's foreign minister, as he reveals new details about the competition's historic expansion to Australia's nearest neighbour. The NRL is expected to announce the entry of a PNG team in 2028 as early as next week after an agreement was struck between the Australian Rugby League Commission and the Australian and PNG governments.

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

Top honours for all-round great sports

Herald Sun, General News, 05/12/2024, Julian Linden, Page 3

Just as they did in Paris, Australia's four flag-bearers at the closing ceremonies for the Olympics and Paralympics have cleaned up at the AIS Sport Performance Awards (APSAs) in Melbourne. The first Australian to claim individual gold medals at the Olympics after she successfully defended her 100m and 200m backstroke crowns in the French capital, swimming sensation Kaylee McKeown beat a field including Jess Fox, Ariarne Titmus and Jakara Anthony to retain her title of female ablear.

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Vic Park 'hard to beat' for stadium

Courier Mail, General News, 05/12/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 13

A 60,000-seat stadium could be built at Victoria Park for \$2.6bn as part of a major Olympic sporting precinct that would rival Melbourne and London to deliver a lasting legacy for Brisbane, a new report reveals. Global consultancy group Arcadis which has developed business cases for other Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games venues has released a 22-page report detailing the "hard-to-beat" benefits of using Victoria Park as the city's sporting and entertainment hub in 2032.

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Bears on backburner after NRL picks PNG

West Australian, General News, 05/12/2024, Dylan Caporn, Page 9

Papua New Guinea will be the next NRL side, putting a proposed Western Bears deal in hibernation. The WA State Government has been in negotiations with the NRL about a Perth-based team for the past year, but are not close to an agreement.

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Cough up the cash

Cairns Post, General News, 05/12/2024, Arun Singh Mann & Samuel Davis, Page 5

Member for Cairns Michael Healy has called for greater advocacy from city leaders with a \$25m high performance centre near Barlow Park set to fall over without state government funding. [...] In October, Mr Healy announced plans to build the state-of-the-art facility with the Queensland Academy of Sport and North Queensland Cowboys NRLW responsible for running the facility.

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Progress slow but sure on sports camp

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/12/2024, Page 20

Lake Macquarie MP Greg Piper and NSW Minister for Sport Steve Kamper's announcement on Wednesday is welcome news to those who have been pondering what would eventuate from Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre's closure. The site shut with some urgency 2019, with the risk of earthquakes and ash dam failure cited as the reason for the rush. An independent report had concluded there was a serious potential risk that the Eraring power station ash dam would fail after major seismic activity.

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Australia steers clear of America's WADA funding threat over Chinese doping scandal

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/12/2024, Tom Minear

The Albanese government is under pressure to explain why it did not follow America's lead and hold up its funding to the World Anti-Doping Agency in a bid to force a probe into the watchdog's handling of the Chinese swimming doping scandal. US authorities have been on the warpath since it was revealed earlier this year that WADA secretly decided not to discipline 23 elite Chinese swimmers who tested positive to a banned substance before the Tokyo Olympics.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Channel 9, Today , 04/12/2024, David Campbell & Sylvia Jeffreys

The decision on which Brisbane Olympic venue plan to take has now come full circle, with a rebuilt Gabba. Some of the things which are playing in its favour is its proximity to both the city as well as the Queen's Wharf development, as well as access to public transport options.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 04/12/2024, Ashleigh Gillon

Rebuilding the Gabba is reportedly re-emerging as the most favoured stadium option to host the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games, despite being previously scrapped by the former state government. The International Olympic Committee is warning organisers to respect commitments made in Brisbane's bid to host the games.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Health Check: Pro Medicus founders are cashed up for the festive season after \$2 million share sale

The Australian, Other, 04/12/2024, Tim Boreham

A portable early stroke diagnosis tool for use in ambulances is being developed with funding from the Australian government's Medical Research Future Fund. The full body scanner program is inspired by this stroke work. The funding is handy non-dilutive capital for the company, which had cash on hand of \$3.2 million at the end of June.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Lawyer lashed over Walker inquest role

The Australian, General News, 05/12/2024, Liam Mendes, Stephen Rice & Ellie Dudley, Page 7

The counsel assisting the coronial inquiry into the death of Northern Territory Indigenous man Kumanjayi Walker has been slammed in closing submissions to the inquest, including by the Territory's health department, which accuses her of lacking "any coherent rationale" in her approach to the evidence. NT Health accused Peggy Dwyer SC of constructing a narrative around a "preconceived objective" and alleged she had urged coroner Elisabeth Armitage to "accept a particular witness's account of events, without identifying there is conflicting evidence or analysing the evidence".

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Japanese court jails Australian grandmother for drug trafficking

Australian Financial Review, International News, 05/12/2024, Jessica Sier, Page 10

Donna Nelson, the former chairwoman of an Aboriginal health service in Western Australia and a Greens candidate at the 2022 election, maintained her innocence throughout the trial.

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

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6 years jail for love scam gran

West Australian, General News, 05/12/2024, James Carmody, Page 1

A Perth grandmother who claims she was duped in a romance scam has been jailed for six years in

Japan. Donna Nelson, 58, was convicted of smuggling 2kg of meth in a suitcase by three judges and six members of the public at Chiba District Court, near Tokyo.

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Counsel assisting coroner in Kumanjayi Walker inquest had 'preconceived objective': unseen NT Health submissions

The Australian, Other, 04/12/2024, Ellie Dudley, Liam Mendes & Stephen Rice

The counsel assisting the coronial inquiry into the death of Northern Territory Indigenous man Kumanjayi Walker has been slammed in closing submissions to the inquest, including by the Territory's health department, which accuses her of lacking "any coherent rationale" in her approach to the evidence. NT Health accused Peggy Dwyer SC of constructing a narrative around a "preconceived objective" and alleged she had urged coroner Elisabeth Armitage to "accept a particular witness's account of events, without identifying there is conflicting evidence or analysing the evidence".

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Making Queensland Safer Bill public hearing snubs Far North and Indigenous communities

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/12/2024, Arun Singh Mann

Premier David Crisafulli was asked about his plans for housing a potential increase of youth offenders should his new laws pass, and what efforts were made to directly consult with Far North Indigenous communities. A spokesman for Youth Justice Minister Laura Gerber responded, saying adult time, adult crime laws were about holding serious youth criminals to account.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Empower Her Luncheon reduces stigma of family and domestic violence across the Kimberley

West Australian, Other, 04/12/2024, Natasha Clark

A woman living in a remote Aboriginal community in the Kimberley made the decision to leave her physically and emotionally abusive partner. For victims/survivors of domestic violence the decision to leave can be fraught with conflict, as well as place them at an increased risk of experiencing further abuse.

[Read More](#)

Free condoms distributed in Halls Creek amid syphilis outbreak concerns

West Australian, Other, 04/12/2024, Sarah Crawford

Young people are being advised to practice safe sex and get tested regularly as health authorities brace for a rise in syphilis cases in the Kimberley. Health authorities fear a recent spike in cases of syphilis in the Top End and Katherine could see the sexually transmitted infection spread across the border into the East Kimberley.

[Read More](#)

'Tyranny of distance' still plaguing remote health care

Canberra Times, Other, 04/12/2024, Keira Jenkins

Thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to travel more than an hour to visit a primary health care service. There are 131 of 412 Indigenous areas where more than 200 people live more than an hour's drive from one or more health services, data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare said.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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Donna Nelson found guilty of importing methamphetamine into Japan

ABC Online, Other, 04/12/2024, James Oaten

A court in Japan has found Australian grandmother Donna Nelson guilty of importing two kilograms of methamphetamine and has been sentenced to six years jail. [...] They also pointed out Ms Nelsons extensive community work, and her above average salary as Chair of the Aboriginal-run Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, meant she had no reason to become involved with illicit drugs.

[Read More](#)

Tim Marney tells inquest 'dysfunctionally toxic' culture caused problems in troubled youth detention system

ABC Online, Other, 04/12/2024, Georgy Sides

The man who had been tasked with overhauling WA's troubled youth justice system has told a coronial inquest a "dysfunctionally toxic" culture was the root cause of all problems behind bars. Coroner Philip Urquhart today embarked on a fourth round of hearings into the death of Cleveland Dodd, the state's first in youth detention.

[Read More](#)

Emotional scenes as Aussie grandmother accused of smuggling 2kg of meth in Japan is dealt a devastating blow

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/12/2024, Freddy Pawle

An Aussie grandmother will remain behind bars after she was found guilty of trying to smuggle 2kg of meth into Japan Donna Nelson, 58, was convicted by a panel of three judges and six members of the public in Chiba, east of Tokyo, on Wednesday.

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WA Children's Commissioner disappointed by government response to inquiry into state's notorious youth prisons

National Indigenous Times, Other, 04/12/2024, Giovanni Torre

Western Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People Jacqueline McGowan-Jones has expressed her disappointment with the state government's response to her inquiry into the operating model of care in WA's troubled youth detention centres. She said that in many cases the government's response to the 'Hear Me Out' Inquiry Report findings and recommendations did not go far enough toward addressing the issues raised.

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"Dysfunctionally toxic" culture plagued WA youth justice system, mental health expert tells Cleveland Dodd inquest

National Indigenous Times, Other, 04/12/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Appearing during the fourth round of hearings into the death of 16-year-old Yamatji boy Cleveland Dodd, the state's former under treasurer and mental health commissioner, Tim Marney, said a toxic culture at the Department of Justice was the cause of much of the mayhem that has led to two deaths in custody in the past 18 months.

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Aboriginal health leader Donna Nelson sentenced to six years at Japanese trial

National Indigenous Times, Other, 04/12/2024, Rhiannon Clarke

Prominent Aboriginal health leader Donna Nelson has been sentenced to six years in prison by a Japanese court after being found guilty of importing two kilograms of methamphetamine. Ms Nelson is a respected community figure for her long-time advocacy in addressing health disparities and her tireless work in supporting vulnerable communities.

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"Potential to erode the presumption of innocence": Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service slams government's proposed bail bill

Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service chief executive Jake Smith says although the Tasmanian Government has committed to closing the gap, "in the same breath they are introducing legislation that will see the number of Aboriginal people in custody skyrocket". "It (the bill) introduces an 'unacceptable risk' test that has been shown to have disastrous consequences in other jurisdictions," Mr Smith said on Wednesday.

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Breaking down period stigma in remote communities

SBS, Other, 04/12/2024, Keira Jenkins

A new teaching guide, co-designed with Indigenous students from Cape York, 'Mind your body' is helping students in remote areas understand menstrual health. Hoping to break down the stigma of talking about periods, researchers have developed a teaching guide on menstrual health for remote Indigenous communities.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Tracy 'defining moment' as St John legacy grows

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/12/2024, Sam Lowe, Page 3

This year marks a milestone in the NT's history, recognising 50 years since Cyclone Tracy ravaged the Top End. St John NT chief executive Andrew Tombs said 50 years ago was not only a defining moment for the NT, but also for the ambulance service.

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Dengue cases on the rise

Cairns Post, General News, 05/12/2024, Matthew Newton, Page 4

A spike in imported cases of dengue fever from an international tourism mecca has health authorities in the Far North on alert, with overseas travellers being urged to take precautions against mosquito bites. Tropical Public Health Services Cairns has confirmed five cases of dengue fever in the region within the past fortnight, all imported from people travelling from Bali.

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Getting mines to a future free from silicosis

Safe To Work, General News, 01/12/2024, Page 48

A 2022 study from Curtin University estimated that more than half a million Australian workers are currently exposed to silica dust across various industries including mining, quarrying and construction. The study's modelling predicts more than 10,000 Australians will develop lung cancer and up to 103,000 workers will be diagnosed with silicosis as the result of their current exposure to silica dust at work.

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Nannup shire share anti-vax sentiment with health workers, but 'does not endorse' claims

West Australian, Other, 04/12/2024, Melissa Pedelty

The Shire of Nannup have added their voice to the long-running Port Hedland COVID vaccine controversy. In an attempt to "placate" anti-vaccine advocates within the community, the shire has forwarded information they "do not endorse" from Port Hedland council regarding DNA contamination of COVID-19 vaccine vials to local medical practitioners.

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

Health authorities urge West Aussies to keep whooping cough immunisations up to date after infections surge

West Australian, Other, 04/12/2024, Hannah Cross

Health authorities are urging West Australians to keep their whooping cough immunisations up to date after the state recorded its largest number of cases in a month in almost a decade. Medical staff reported 230 cases to the National Communicable Disease Surveillance System in October — the most cases in a month since November 2015.

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

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Vax record changes

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 04/12/2024

Health professionals will see some changes from 07 Dec when recording immunisation encounters using the Australian Immunisation Record (AIR). The options in the Vaccine Type field will change.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 04/12/2024, Peter Mitchell

The southern hemisphere's first mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility has opened in Melbourne. Researchers are hoping to use the lab to develop a combined vaccine to target Covid, RSV and flu within the next two years.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Cut medicinal cannabis from special access scheme to stop inappropriate prescribing, doctors tell TGA

Australian Doctor, Other, 04/12/2024, Rachel Carter

Queensland doctors and pharmacists want medicinal cannabis removed from the special access scheme, saying the pathway is being used to bypass TGA assessment. In rare agreement, AMA Queensland and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Queensland branch both say the streamlined special access scheme B (SAS-B) pathway is enabling inappropriate medicinal cannabis use.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Labor pushed on drug testing

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/12/2024, Alexandra Smith, Page 4

A coalition of MPs, the powerful Health Services Union, nurses and GPs have issued the NSW government with a list of demands ahead of the final day of its drug summit, in a public intervention designed to force Labor into backing significant reform. Tensions at the summit began to rise yesterday over the government's refusal to support decriminalisation of drug possession, despite summit co-chair John Brogden conceding it was "very clear that the summit will want the government to decriminalise drugs".

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'Worst of both worlds': NSW warned about drug decriminalisation

Wholesale decriminalisation of drug possession in the US state of Oregon overwhelmed emergency services and led to high-level dealers acting with impunity, the NSW government has been warned, as starkly different versions of drug reform clashed at a long-promised drug summit in Sydney. Addressing the conference remotely, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler warned on Wednesday that Oregon's decision to decriminalise drug possession without adequate rehabilitation services in place led to a "free for all" for drug dealers and users, resulting in the "worst of both worlds".

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'No magic solution': Calls for the government to 'do better' at the NSW Drug Summit in Sydney

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/12/2024, Clareese Packer

The second stage of the NSW Drug Summit kicked off in Sydney on Wednesday morning, with NSW Premier Chris Minns calling drug addiction a "pervasive" issue that the government and community must address. He opened the summit by paying a special tribute to the "brave people" sharing their lived experiences during the summit.

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

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Drug decriminalisation push nipped in the bud, for now

Canberra Times, Other, 04/12/2024, Jack Gramenz

Decriminalisation is the word echoing out of a landmark forum of lawmakers, drug users and health experts but don't expect it any time soon. MPs in Australia's most populous state were urged to halt prosecutions for drug possession and see drug use almost entirely through a health lens.

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

[Read More](#)

NSW drug summit an opportunity for new government strategy to address risks of drug harm, experts say

ABC Online, Other, 04/12/2024, Sam-Nichols & Joseph Hathaway-Wilson

Academics, health workers and state leaders will be among those gathering in Sydney today for the continuation of the NSW Drug Summit. During the two-day Sydney leg of the summit, possible solutions to the harms associated with illicit substances will be discussed.

[Read More](#)

AFP destroys 500kg of cocaine seized after alleged 'black flight' from PNG to Australia crashed

ABC Online, Other, 04/12/2024, Stephen Clarke

Half a tonne of cocaine has been destroyed more than four years after it was seized by authorities when the black flight allegedly attempting to bring it into Queensland crashed in Papua New Guinea. The cocaine, which had a street value of \$800 million at the time, was found by the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) near a remote airstrip north of Port Moresby in July 2020 and sent to the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

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FOOD STANDARDS

Panic over additive sparks food furore

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/12/2024, Angus Dalton, Page 14

Unfounded claims that Bovaer is toxic and carcinogenic swept social media after Britain's biggest dairy co-operative, Arla, announced it had partnered with Aldi, Tesco and Morrisons supermarkets to trial the

additive on 30 farms. [...] Nevertheless, the furore hit Australia on Tuesday, sparking Meat and Livestock Australia to assure customers in a statement that "their favourite beef is safe to consume".

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

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What is Bovaer and why is Craig Kelly criticising Coles over its use in beef?

SBS, Other, 04/12/2024, Amy Hall

Some Australian shoppers have threatened to boycott Coles amid an online firestorm about the supermarket's use of a cattle feed supplement that aims to reduce methane emissions from cows. Former federal politician Craig Kelly was among those who raised concerns on social media this week that some of Coles' beef suppliers were adding Bovaer to their cow feed, saying he would avoid buying meat from there.

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