



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 8th December 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)
| [Vaccines](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |
[First Nations Health](#) | [Interim Australian CDC](#) | [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#)
| [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#) | [AICIS](#)

LINKS

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sun Herald](#)** (page 1) reports NSW Attorney-General Michael Daley has ordered a review of the Connect Global rehabilitation centre following allegations of a lack of qualified staff and treatment plans, criticism over its lack of NSW Health accreditation, numerous bail breaches of patients and close proximity to accommodation where alcohol and parties are permitted.
- **[The Sunday Territorian](#)** (page 1) reports Northern Territory residents are being warned to take precautions against the tropical disease melioidosis as five infections have been recorded since October, with six people dying from the disease last year.
- **[The Sunday Examiner](#)** (page 3) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has welcomed the release of concept designs for a palliative care centre in Launceston, with the \$20 million project to be funded by the federal government. “[We’re] delivering on a commitment to ensure access to high-quality hospice and palliative care services in northern Tasmania,” Mr Butler said.
- **[The Guardian](#)** reports the LNP’s cancellation of the state’s truth-telling and healing inquiry has been criticised by local Indigenous groups who were to give evidence this week, with Director of the Minjerribah Moorgumpin Elders in Council Corporation, Dale Ruska saying “We’ve already seen generations of our elders pass without being able to have that opportunity to have some sort of conscious healing, and for those now that are ageing, it’s definitely disappointing”. The

LNP says they will direct the remaining funds towards improving Indigenous health, education outcomes and housing.

- **The Sunday Telegraph** (page 13) reports a cosmetic dentist has been ordered to complete an “Ethics in Dentistry” course and undergo psychological treatment as part of conditions placed on him for six months by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal after he failed to inform the health regulator of previous drug convictions.

MINISTER BUTLER

Government releases designs for \$20m Northern Hospice

Sunday Examiner, General News, 08/12/2024, Declan Durrant, Page 3

The concept designs for the Launceston hospice - the state government's proposed, purpose-built centre for palliative care in northern Tasmania - have been unveiled. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, welcomed the release of the new designs.

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

HMRI future in the balance, amid money troubles in medical research sector

Singleton Argus, Other, 07/12/2024, Damon Cronshaw

Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) has backed calls for more government funding to ensure the survival of Australia's medical research sector. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said "the Albanese government unequivocally supports Australian health and medical research".

Also reported by: [Port Stephens Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Gloucester Advocate \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend), 07/12/2024, Chris Bath

Jessica Heatley reports that the federal government has announced it will subsidise a popular type two diabetes treatment and that will slash the out of pocket costs for more than 100,000 Australians every year. Benjamin Macdonald from Astrazeneca says patients will now be able to access Forxiga and Xigduo on the PBS earlier. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says the move will give patients relief earlier and before more damage is done.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

VACCINES

COVID virus finds a home in your brain

Sunday Times, General News, 08/12/2024, John Flint, Page 9

A landmark study has found the virus that causes COVID-19 accumulates and persists in the body especially the brain for years after infection. The international team of scientists believe what they have discovered can help explain long COVID.

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

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

The rehab with bikies, TV stars and brawls

Sun Herald, General News, 08/12/2024, Jordan Baker & Perry Duffin, Page 1

An isolated holiday spot at Port Stephens has been raided by police, is frequented by bikies and criminals, and has been subject to lawsuits and turf wars. The site became a minefield when Hillsong-linked pastor Ross Pene, backed by a Newcastle property developer, began using some of the cabins as a rehabilitation facility called Connect Global a decade ago, despite objections from council and other cabin owners and tenants forced to share a tennis court with alleged crime figures and drug dealers.

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

Chroming

Sunday Territorian, General News, 08/12/2024, Page 30

It's like something out of a horror movie. A sequence of pictures showing teenage girls one hunched over in the gutter, one lying unmoving, stupefied, on her back. Another stands front and centre, as if challenging the photographer.

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

Chroming fears on rise

Sunday Territorian, General News, 08/12/2024, Harry Brill, Page 1

Residents of a tiny Darwin cul-de-sac are calling for improved intervention measures following a spike in kids using their neighbourhood as a chroming hotspot. The calls come after disturbing photos

showed multiple girls – one of them passed out – chroming by the roadside on Kwinana Court at Karama.

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

Dad's neardeath brush with tropical disease

Sunday Territorian, General News, 08/12/2024, Fia Walsh, Page 1

A Darwin dad is lucky to be alive after watering the garden left him with amputations and a moniker of "the sickest man in the Northern Territory". Mark Davis, 59, was tending to his small Stuart Park apartment garden digging, laying turf and planting when he contracted melioidosis in January this year.

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

Dementia is the leading cause of death for Australian women. How can you delay its onset?

The Australian, Other, 07/12/2024, Fiona Harari

She seemed, in the words of a researcher who observed her for years, the gold standard for healthy ageing. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, more than 410,000 Australians – or roughly 15 people per 1000 – have dementia.

[Read More](#)

The incidence of strokes in young people is rising globally, but finding a village can be a challenge

ABC Online, Other, 07/12/2024, Nicola Bray

There was a lot I imagined when I thought of a stroke survivor, which was admittedly not very often. They were elderly; perhaps with another underlying medical condition; and not in the best of health to begin with. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, men aged 65 years and older make up many strokes in Australia.

[Read More](#)

How much water should you drink on a hot day, and do cold drinks really cool you down?

ABC Online, Other, 07/12/2024

Summer is here, and things are getting hot. It's shaping up to be a scorcher, with dangerous heatwaves predicted, and we humans can only take so much heat. Our ideal body temperature sits at around 37 degrees Celsius, but basically none of us will survive if our core temperature reaches 43C.

[Read More](#)

Doctors weigh societal costs of using drugs to treat obesity crisis

ABC Online, Other, 07/12/2024, Rachel Clayton

It could be one of the most transformative medical advancements since the contraceptive pill: an injection of a peptide that mimics a hormone to suppress appetite. This is not hyperbole. Recent data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows obesity rates there are declining.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Angelina Jolie and I started a revolution — and it's not over yet

The Australian, Other, 08/12/2024, Kristi Funk

It was more than 11 years ago that my patient Angelina Jolie – a carrier of the BRCA gene mutation – provided me with an opportunity to save thousands of lives. As this brave woman and I prepared for surgery to remove her breasts, I already had an inkling that this moment could start a revolution in women's health.

'Can't continue like that': Fallout from Edwina Bartholomew's cancer diagnosis

The Courier Mail, Other, 07/12/2024

Sunrise star Edwina Bartholomew opens up about the cancer diagnosis that changed everything – and the hardest people to break the news to. Sunrise presenter Edwina Bartholomew talks about the life-changing cancer diagnosis she received earlier this year in a powerful interview with Stellar.

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

[Read More](#)

Young mum's urgent warning to all Australians

Adelaide Now, Other, 08/12/2024, Claudia Poposki

A young mother has issued a warning for Australians to be sun safe as the weather heats up after discovering a "pimple" was in fact cancer. Rachel Olivia, 32, suddenly had a pimple pop up on her forehead near her hairline. It felt as though it had appeared overnight.

[Read More](#)

Sunrise's Edwina Bartholomew gives emotional update on her 'life-changing' cancer battle and shares plans to cut down on TV work amid new role rumours

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/12/2024, Kate Dennett

Edwina Bartholomew has given an emotional update on her 'life-changing' cancer battle and spoke about her career plans. The Sunrise star, 41, revealed that she had been diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) - a type of blood and bone marrow cancer - live on air in September.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Mum left us on her terms but the system is flawed

Sun Herald, General News, 08/12/2024, Andrea Dixon, Page 32

With NSW the last Australian state to legalise Voluntary Assisted Dying, Andrea Dixon writes it gave her mother a dignified, pain-free end but is a far from perfect process. On February 23, an anaesthetist at Nepean Hospital ended the life of my 86-year-old mother with three injections.

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

Rozalia's death must not be in vain

Sunday Canberra Times, Editorials, 08/12/2024, Page 29

The death of a child is always cause for soul-searching - for families, communities, health systems and governments. The death of Rozalia Spadafora is a case that has sparked a thorough review of the systems in place - or lack thereof - in the Canberra Hospital emergency department.

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

Woman told booking for vital injection 'impossible'

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 08/12/2024, Douglas Smith, Page 5

When Judy Beacham went to book in for a vital medical injection at a rural hospital last month, she said a receptionist told her no one would be available to administer the shot. "I was told that it was 'impossible' because all the nurses were going on annual leave together which I thought was pretty bloody stupid," she told the Sunday Mail.

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

Priority plan for nurse safety

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 08/12/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 29

A "90 seconds of terror" video produced by The Sunday Mail exposing the extreme dangers facing nurses as they walk to their cars down dark alleys after night shifts, has prompted Health Minister Tim Nicholls to launch a priority plan to keep health workers safe. "Yes, I watched the video and the safety of nurses and healthcare workers is a key concern.

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

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

'I relive it every single day': Mum's outrage after 5yo daughter's inquest findings

Canberra Times, Other, 07/12/2024, Lanie Tindale

The mother of a little girl who died at Canberra Hospital does not believe the medical professionals who failed her daughter were held accountable during a coronial inquest. Rozalia Spadafora died at Canberra Hospital on July 5, 2022, after suffering from fulminant myocarditis, a rare complication of influenza A.

[Read More](#)

Are Canberrans held hostage to ACT's only tertiary hospital, as Rozalia Spadafora's mother suggests?

ABC Online, Other, 07/12/2024, Georgia Roberts

Rozalia Spadafora's mother didn't mince words as she held back tears, speaking directly to Canberra Health Services after the coronial inquest into her daughter's untimely death. "I would be grateful to the coroner for telling me if there was anything more I could have done for my daughter," Katrina Spadafora said.

[Read More](#)

The surgeries Wagga patients are waiting far longer than counterparts for

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 07/12/2024, Emily Anderson

Although it doesn't cost a cent to have elective surgery in a public hospital, patients pay with the time they spend waiting. Tolland resident Barbara Geal knows she won't be able to afford the luxury of a three-week wait time for her next operation, after she paid thousands from her super for knee and spinal surgeries at private hospitals.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Trial of screening tool at clinic finds high levels of abuse

Sunday Times, General News, 08/12/2024, Claire Sadler, Page 14

Doctors have warned of domestic violence victims flying under the radar as a first-of-its-kind screening tool at a Perth sexual health clinic reveals the high percentage of women facing abuse. Perth Sexual Health Quarters developed a tool to screen patients for intimate partner violence and reproductive coercion, which can include interference with birth control, forcing a person to get pregnant, and controlling the outcome of a pregnancy.

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

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Dentist's coke problem

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 08/12/2024, Page 13

A cosmetic dentist has been reprimanded for failing to declare his cocaine convictions to the health regulator. Baulkham Hills dentist, Dr James Hanna, was ordered to complete an "Ethics in Dentistry" course as well as seek psychological treatment and other conditions put in place for six months by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

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

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Kidney research gives hope to Tasmanian women dreaming of motherhood

Northern Territory News, Other, 07/12/2024, Eleanor de Jong

Making patients cry has never been a goal for Professor Matthew Jose, a distinguished kidney expert.

But that changed when he told a female patient with chronic kidney disease that she could finally have a child — and she burst into tears of joy. “Up until very recently, women of child-bearing age with chronic kidney disease were told not to have children,” Prof Jose said, adding that historically, most kidney researchers were men.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Highly successful Aboriginal-led Kimberley youth programs earn two-year funding boost

National Indigenous Times, Other, 07/12/2024, Giovanni Torre

Aboriginal-led programs for vulnerable young people and to keep the community safe as part of the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy will receive an additional \$9.7 million over the next two years. On Saturday the Western Australian government announced the funding as part of the Strategy (KJJS), which it described as a key component of its response to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

[Read More](#)

Six years to create, two days to dismantle. What happens now Queensland's Indigenous truth-telling inquiry has been scrapped?

The Guardian, Other, 07/12/2024

On the first full sitting day of the new Queensland parliament, the government added an amendment to an otherwise innocuous bill which would signal a dramatic shift in its approach to Indigenous affairs. its effect: to repeal the Path to Treaty Act and thereby scrap the state's truth-telling and healing inquiry , just five months after it began.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

US issues order mandating bird flu testing of milk supply

Australian Financial Review, Other, 07/12/2024, Leah Douglas

The US issued a federal order on Friday (Saturday AEDT) mandating that the national milk supply be tested for bird flu, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told Reuters, as authorities seek to grapple with rapid spread of the virus among dairy...

[Read More](#)

Concerns H5N1 strain of bird flu ravaging US farms could become new pandemic

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/12/2024, Heath Parkes-Hupton

A new study has flagged the potential for a strain of bird flu to become the next human pandemic, after a string of infections across the US. There have been almost 60 human cases of the H5N1 bird flu virus across seven states this year in America, where authorities are concerned about outbreaks on dairy farms.

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

[Read More](#)

Sunshine Coast health managing measles case after Brisbane arrival from Vietnam

A confirmed case of the measles on the Sunshine Coast is now being investigated to discover those who may be at risk of infection. In a statement on Saturday afternoon, Sunshine Coast Health said their public health unit were managing a confirmed case of the infectious disease.

Also reported by: [Sunshine Coast Daily \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

The key takeaways from NSW drug summit's Sydney hearings

ABC Online, Other, 07/12/2024, Joseph Hathaway-Wilson

Earlier this week, several hundred politicians, policy experts, police, health professionals, and people with lived experience of drug use packed into Sydney's International Convention Centre to discuss drug-related harm in New South Wales. The two-day summit followed similar conferences in Griffith and Lismore in October.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

The nightmare after Christmas

Sunday Times, General News, 08/12/2024, Katie Hampson, Page 30

Remember that scene in the movie Bridesmaids when Annie takes the bridal party to a cheap restaurant and then food poisoning takes unstoppable hold of the group? The gross-out sequence, set in a luxury bridal boutique, does a pretty good job of capturing the awful truth of food handled poorly.

Also reported by: [Sunday Times \(Perth\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.
See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)