



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 12th December 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that federal Health Minister Mark Butler has responded to new findings by the Australian National University (ANU), which revealed Australian hospitals were short of 10,000 mental health beds, as “a stain on our nation”.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 3) reports that a new study by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has revealed a steady decline in Australians' health, including high levels of obesity and illicit drug use and a lower consumption of fruit.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Cricket Australia has made a joint proposal with the Brisbane Lions to build a new stadium at Victoria Park, with CA chief Nick Hockley saying it would replace the Gabba as a Test venue.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 9) reports that the Australian Federal Police (AFP) has warned people to be vigilant of a new party drug to emerge onto Sydney's streets called pink cocaine, with AFP Commander Paula Hudson saying it could lead to serious injury - and even death.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 13) reports that NSW Health Minister Ryan Park could be set to introduce pill testing during this summer's music festival season, following revelations the government requested the co-chairs of last week's drug summit Carmel Tebbutt and John Brogden to provide interim advice for a trial.

- [The Herald Sun](#) (page 15) reports that new findings by the Victorian Cancer Registry (VCR) have revealed a significant increase in the number of young Victorians being diagnosed with bowel cancer with researchers pointing to diet as a leading cause.
- [The Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 5) reports that new data has shown a rise in ambulance ramping in South Australia in the month to November, with SA Health Minister Chris Picton saying "there is still more to do" to improve the ramping system at the state's hospitals.
- [The Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 6) reports that an inquest in the death of a woman from a fatal brain clot, has heard the testimony from the first doctor to treat her, who said he would have sent her to the emergency department (ED) if had received vital information from paramedics.
- [The Hobart Mercury](#) (page 9) reports that rural communities in Tasmania are set to receive \$1.6 million from the state government to help boost mental health support following an announcement by Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing Roger Jaensch.
- [ABC News Online](#) reports that big tobacco companies and pharmacy chain Chemist Warehouse are competing for a slice of Australia's lucrative vaping market, following new regulations introduced by the federal government.

MINISTER BUTLER

Mentally ill plight 'stain on nation'

The Australian, General News, 12/12/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

The plight of those with severe mental illness is "a stain on our nation", according to federal Health Minister Mark Butler who has described the findings of a new study into the decades-long neglect of those with complex needs as "a shocking reflection on our community". The Australian National University report, compiled in partnership with The Australian, contains groundbreaking health economics analysis of the unmet needs in mental health care, housing and social services, and is augmented with empirical reporting and human stories told at the frontlines of the nation's mental health crisis.

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

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Urgent question

Burnie Advocate, General News, 12/12/2024, Tess Kelly, Page 1

The path forward for a potential Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) in Burnie remains up in the air. [...] When asked whether any funding had been allocated for a clinic in Burnie, or if there was any sort of timeline on the opening of a urgent care facility in the area, federal Health Minister Mark Butler did not directly answer the questions.

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Former MP Andrew Laming takes election watchdog fight to High Court

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/12/2024, Stephen Brook & Kishor Napier-Raman

At CBD, we are often in the business of wondering "Where are they now?" about some of our more colourful former politicians. [...] Plenty of time to quit, or switch to vapes, which despite what Mark Butler will tell you, haven't gone away.

[Read More](#)

Revealed: How our hospitals fail half their seriously ill patients

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/12/2024, Angus Thomson

Less than half of seriously ill patients attending NSW emergency departments are receiving treatment on time as the state's health minister blamed unprecedented demand for hospitals and ambulances on declining access to bulk-billed GP visits. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said urgent care clinics funded by the federal government were taking pressure off NSW emergency departments, and more doctors had joined the health system in the past two years "than at any time in the past decade".

Also reported by: [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

The fallen MP and the disappearing act

WA Today, Other, 11/12/2024, Stephen Brook & Kishor Napier-Raman

It has been quite the fall for Sam Hibbins, the former Victorian Greens co-deputy leader, who quit the party after admitting to a consensual affair with a staffer, and then quit parliament a few weeks later. [...] Plenty of time to quit, or switch to vapes, which despite what Health Minister Mark Butler will tell you, haven't gone away.

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Labor's healthcare decarbonisation pledge a 'prescription for higher cost'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/12/2024, Clare Armstrong

Labor has not ruled out approving new medicines that are more expensive than other available options if they have lower emissions to achieve its pledge to decarbonise Australia's healthcare system. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was asked if Labor would rule out either approving more expensive medicines or declining those with comparable costs based on their carbon footprint, but his statement did not directly answer the questions.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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Billions in hospital funding 'won't fix broken system'

Canberra Times, Other, 11/12/2024, Luke Costin

A damning report on emergency healthcare illustrates an urgent need to improve both GP affordability and hospital funding, medical groups say. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler pointed to rebate increases, a record number of GPs-in-training and increased use of bulk-billing urgent care clinics.

Also reported by: [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Batemans Bay Post \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Southern Cross \(Online\)](#).

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Healthcare workers concerned about service double-up as urgent care clinic opens in Hervey Bay

ABC Online, Other, 11/12/2024, Lucy Loram, Nikki Sorbello & James Taylor

The federal government has opened a new urgent care clinic in Queensland's Hervey Bay, but some local healthcare staff say the money would be better spent on the existing local workforce. [...] "It's up to [Federal Health Minister] Mark Butler to demonstrate ... they're not going to rob Peter to pay Paul and simply see GPs and other health practitioners move from existing providers to this new facility," Federal Member for Hinkler Keith Pitt said.

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One in four ED patients could have gone to their GP

Batemans Bay Post, Other, 11/12/2024, Luke Costin

Close to a million people attending hospital emergency departments each year agree they could have been treated elsewhere, a new report suggests. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, however, defended the system in light of a record number of GPs in training, while noting thousands of people in NSW have attended fully-bulk-billed urgent care clinics.

Also reported by: [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [Southern Cross \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Rising from the ashes – yet more controversy and concern in the private health sector

Croakey, Other, 11/12/2024, Melissa Sweet

The phoenix is an immortal bird with a long and colourful history in mythology, and is also known for making an appearance in poetry and literature over the centuries. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler issued a statement saying "insurers are putting a new name on the same policy, with a higher price tag".

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The Health Wrap: remarkable achievements, medical misogyny, another reason to avoid war – and tackling Trump

Croakey, Other, 11/12/2024, Melissa Sweet

Amid a deluge of worrying news – including infectious diseases alerts, and the Trump Administration's likely impacts upon health, locally and globally – this column also links to some positives, including the "enduring strength and resilience" of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. [...] Here in Australia, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has recently announced \$95 million to further prepare and protect the nation against H5N.

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Australia launches first-ever national LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing action plan

Sydney Star Observer, Other, 11/12/2024, Chloe Sargeant

The federal government has today launched Australia's first-ever national action plan for the specific health and wellbeing challenges and discrepancies faced by the LGBTIQ+ community in Australia.[...] It was launched today in Melbourne, by Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and Assistant Minister to Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney , along with a host of guests, including many community members who were a part of the Expert Advisory Group that worked on the Action Plan.

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Health insurers now put on notice over 'price gouging'

Aged Care Housing News, Other, 11/12/2024

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has addressed private health insurers about proposed increases to health premiums.

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National Dementia Action Plan released by govt

agedhealth.com.au, Other, 11/12/2024

The plan was developed in partnership with state and territory governments and informed by people living with dementia, their carers and families, aged care providers and workers, advocates, health professionals, researchers and peak industry bodies and organisations. [...] Progress against the plan will be tracked and reported annually through an online dashboard developed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare "Dementia is a national health priority for our government and the National Dementia Action plan reflects this," said Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care.

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10-year plan to tackle dementia crisis in Australia

Healthcare Channel, Other, 11/12/2024, Ritchelle Drilon

The Australian Government has launched the National Dementia Action Plan 2024–2034 , a comprehensive blueprint to tackle one of the nation's most pressing health challenges. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells highlighted the urgency: "It is estimated that over 411,000 Australians live with dementia and, without intervention, this number is projected to more than double by 2058."

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Minister urges GPs to claim bulk billing millions

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 11/12/2024, Jolyon Attwooll

Around \$140 million remains 'on the table' following the introduction of the tripled bulk-billing incentive last year. Some health services have not been claiming the newly increased bulk-billing incentive.

Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler has urged GPs to claim up to \$140 million that remains up for grabs following the introduction of the tripled bulk-billing incentive last year.

[Read More](#)

WIN Gippsland, WIN News, 11/12/2024, Bruce Roberts

The Flying Doctors are receiving a multi-million dollar boost to close the gap in medical treatment offered in the bush compared to major cities taking healthcare delivery in the bush to new heights. Federal Health minister Mark Butler says the funding boost will help deal with the cost escalation that RFDS is facing, along with health providers across the country.

Also reported by: [WIN Bendigo \(Bendigo\)](#), [WIN Ballarat \(Ballarat\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

4CA AM, John Mackenzie, 11/12/2024, John MacKenzie

Compere mentions that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has visited Cairns yesterday. He notes that according to Butler, the general practise business model is flawed due to numerous medical clinics closing across the Far North in recent years. Compere added that Butler mentioned that budget priorities had been put in place to help medical professionals who were willing to innovate.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Far North, Breakfast, 11/12/2024, Charlie McKillop

Pre-recorded interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Compere mentions a new urgent care sector in South of Cairns and its opening. She states that Butler has dropped by their yesterday. Butler says the clinic has already seen 15,000 people from Cairns.

Similar content in: [ABC Far North \(Cairns\)](#).

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ABC Radio Adelaide, 18:00 News, 11/12/2024

The Federal Government says the rollout of new vape laws has already seen promising results when it comes to reducing rates of vaping. The laws prohibit the importation of all vapes without a licence and permit. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the government is doing everything it can to keep vapes out of kids hands.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Drive, 11/12/2024, Ali Moore

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister. Butler discusses the new laws targetting vapes and illegal cigarettes, saying that smoking rates are increasing among the youth in Australia and that organised crime are now involved in the illegal trade.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Melbourne, 16:00 News, 11/12/2024

The Albanese Government has announced it will commit \$107m to enforce Australia's new vaping laws. The funds will support the crackdown on non-therapeutic vapes and the enforcement of the vape advertising ban. Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler says the Federal Government is dedicated to eliminating recreational vaping among kids and teens.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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MINISTER WELLS

Alexandra Speedway secures funding for female-focused upgrades

Women and girls in Alexandra will find it easier and more enjoyable to play sport and be active as a result of a \$74,666 grant to the Alexandra Speedway.. [...] Minister for Sport Anika Wells said, "Play Our Way is all about creating greater opportunities for women and girls to have an equal chance to get the fun, satisfaction and health benefits sport offers.

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Wheel meals more dollars

Ipswich News Today, General News, 12/12/2024, Page 12

From 1 January, all providers of Commonwealth Home Support Program meals will receive a one-off 10 per cent cost of living top up to their 2024-25 support. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said cost and demand for Meals On Wheels and Cabanda Care was increasing, calling for additional funding from the Australian Government.

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Cash welcome, but wait list stays

Ipswich Tribune, General News, 11/12/2024, Rob Mellett, Page 1

Ipswich Meals on Wheels says a federal cash injection is welcome news but falls short of helping reduce its wait list of 200 hungry clients. Federal Member for Blair Shayne Neumann last week announced that Aged Care Minister Anika Wells would provide a \$37 million cost-of-living funds boost over three years for 500 aged care meals providers.

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Almost half a million for GraniteHill upgrade

Euroa Gazette, Other, 11/12/2024

The federal government is investing \$497,867 in Euroa Health for a major equipment update of 75 beds at GraniteHill Aged Care. [...] "Older Australians deserve access to safe and quality aged care services – regardless of where they live," Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said.

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How Australia could achieve a home care revolution

agedhealth.com.au, Other, 11/12/2024

The group includes five universities, healthcare providers, local health districts and the NSW Smart Sensing Network It says wearable devices can track and report lifestyle and biometric data, such as activity data and blood pressure readings, and trigger preventative and urgent alerts about falls and seizures to family members and carers. [...] The federal Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, said the once-in-a-generation reforms acknowledge older people want to stay in their own homes for longer so they can remain healthy, active and socially connected.

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South Australian Sports Institute launches para-Sport Unit

Australasian Leisure Management, Other, 11/12/2024

Aiming to support para-athletes in competing at the highest level, the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) has announced the launch of a new SASI Para-Sport Unit. The Para-Sport Unit is part of the federal government's commitment of \$54.9 million in additional para sport funding, doubling the existing support, as announced by Federal Minister for Sport, Anika Wells in June and forms part of the South Australia Government's new \$88 million SASI facility.

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10-year plan to tackle dementia crisis in Australia

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Meal providers get handy boost

The Bunyip, Other, 11/12/2024

Meal providers across Australia, including in Gawler and Adelaide's north, will receive a top-up payment to start the new year in a bid to relieve cost of living pressures. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells described CHSP meal providers as an essential service for older people.

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Reform roadmap on the agenda for inaugural meeting of Aged Care Transition Taskforce

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/12/2024, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Transition Taskforce (ACTT) has released a summary of what was discussed at its inaugural meeting, held on 28 November 2024. [...] Among the 15 in attendance at the meeting were: Anne Burgess AM, Chair Michael Lye, Deputy Chair and now former Deputy Secretary Ageing and Aged Care with the Department of Health and Aged Care Janet Anderson, Commissioner of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission; Simon Miller, CEO of Anglicare; and Tom Symondson, CEO of Ageing Australia (formerly named Aged and Community Care Providers Association).

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HammondCare CEO welcomes National Dementia Action Plan

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/12/2024, Caroline Egan

HammondCare CEO, Andrew Thorburn, who stepped into the top job in June, has welcomed the release last week of Australia's National Dementia Action Plan 2024-2034. [...] Speaking on the plan last week, Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells stated: "It is estimated that over 411,000 Australians live with dementia and, without intervention, this number is projected to more than double by 2058.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

The Bayer class action decision shows women's pain is still not taken seriously

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/12/2024, Sarah Mitchell

Ahead of this year's National Women's Health Summit, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said "consistent themes [of women reporting healthcare-related discrimination] included feeling dismissed and disbelieved; being stereotyped as 'hysterical' and a 'drama queen'. Women reported that their symptoms and pain were often attributed to other causes such as menstruation, lifestyle factors or even 'faking it'."

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

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The Health Wrap: remarkable achievements, medical misogyny, another reason to avoid war – and tackling Trump

Croakey, Other, 11/12/2024, Melissa Sweet

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"enduring strength and resilience" of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. [...] Here in Australia, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has recently announced \$95 million to further prepare and protect the nation against H5N.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

Play our way to grant winners

Border Times, General News, 11/12/2024, Bridget O'Driscoll, Page 1

A key sporting organisation in the Southern Mallee has successfully obtained a major grant to build new sporting facilities in Lameroo. [...] The Play Our Way Program is an initiative from the Department of Health and Aged Care that aims to provide \$136m in funding Australia-wide for local solutions and improvements that address participation barriers faced by women and girls.

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'Emergency no longer exists': Doctors call for Covid vaccines to be pulled to reassess safety

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/12/2024, Frank Chung

A petition calling for the "immediate suspension" of mRNA Covid vaccines has attracted a number of high-profile backers — including the man picked by US President-elect Donald Trump to lead the country's main public health research agency. [...] 'No credible evidence' Claims that Covid vaccines have contributed to a rise in excess deaths have repeatedly been rejected by the Australian government, including the Department of Health and Aged Care and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), as well as independent bodies like the Actuaries Institute, which maintain there is "no credible evidence" supporting such a link.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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ABC 2025 Heywire winners reveal 'brave and authentic' stories of life in regional Australia

ABC Online, Other, 11/12/2024

Heywire acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts; Department of Health and Aged Care; Department of Employment and Workplace Relations; the Office for Youth and AgriFutures Australia.

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Labor's healthcare decarbonisation pledge a 'prescription for higher cost'

Adelaide Now, Other, 11/12/2024, Clare Armstrong

Health Minister Mark Butler has not ruled out taking the advice of the Health Technology Assessment process on decarbonisation. The review, which was conducted independently through the health department, argued there was a "case" for approving a higher cost new health technology if it had "a much lower emissions footprint" than existing treatments.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Aged care star ratings 'a fail'

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/12/2024, Page 18

The Commonwealth Ombudsman has made a damning criticism of the government's aged care star ratings system stating it's "not sufficiently meaningful to help people make informed decisions about their aged care". [...] Following widespread concerns, Ombudsman Iain Anderson said his office took a closer look and sought information from the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Tenterfield Care officially opens 28 new aged care beds

Aged Care Online, Other, 11/12/2024

Stephen Becsi OAM, CEO of Apollo Care, says: "We're thrilled to fulfil the promise we made to locals to complete this new extension when we became the Approved Provider in November 2023. [...] Apollo Care gratefully acknowledges the contribution of a capital grant to this project by The Department of Health & Aged Care.

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Call for sustainable funding to support older Australians at home

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

The Albanese Government has announced a \$37 million funding boost for aged care meals providers under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), aiming to improve services for older Australians. [...] ACCPA has engaged extensively with the Department of Health and Aged Care to advocate for sustainable funding and support during the transition to Support at Home.

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New quality indicators: Will lifestyle care minutes add to your reporting headache?

Hellolenders.com.au, Other, 11/12/2024, Alex Jacobs

Residential aged care providers face a quick turnaround to prepare for new quality indicator reporting as additional staffing reporting requirements are likely to stretch already strained resources. [...]

Previous comments by the Department of Health and Aged Care have suggested that providers are already collecting the relevant data for staffing quality indicators as part of their Quarterly Financial Report (QFR).

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Gov report praises advocacy impact despite residential aged care barriers

Hellolenders.com.au, Other, 11/12/2024, Alex Jacobs

An independent government report has found that the National Aged Care Advocacy Program (NACAP) is providing high-quality information and services to older people, yet residential aged care access continues to be a roadblock at times. The NACAP is managed by the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) and delivered by its nine-member service delivery organisations (SDOs) nationwide. In August 2023, the Department of Health and Aged Care (the department) engaged Australian Healthcare Associates (AHA) to evaluate the NACAP's implementation, effectiveness and efficiency.

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Medical cost transparency site inspires anger, but why?

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/12/2024, Holly Payne

For years, the Department of Health and Aged Care struggled to get non-GP specialist doctors to list fees on its \$20 million Medical Costs Finder website. Six months ago, startup Zable Health went live with a site showing not just price ranges for specialist doctors, but average wait times too.

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Digital mental health tools in TGA crosshairs

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/12/2024, Lincoln Tracy

Feedback provided to the TGA suggests two-thirds of people feel certain digital mental health tools should no longer be excluded from regulation. [...] Tracey Duffy, first assistant secretary of the medical devices and product quality division, told the AIDH's AI Care conference in Melbourne today how the TGA viewed the association between AI and software as a medical device.

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Reform roadmap on the agenda for inaugural meeting of Aged Care Transition Taskforce

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/12/2024, Caroline Egan

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Two key Dept architects of the aged care reforms are moving to new jobs

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/12/2024, Caroline Egan

Michael Lye, the Deputy Secretary, Ageing and Aged Care, and Nick Morgan, Assistant Secretary, Support at Home Reform, with the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) have new jobs in the public sector that will shift them away from aged care, only months before significant reforms are scheduled to be implemented.

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Albanese advertising blitz: Pre-election splurge using taxpayers' money

Weekly Times Now, Other, 11/12/2024, Peter Hunt

The Albanese Government has launched a \$476m advertising blitz this year, in the lead up to next year's election, which must be held by May 17. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has topped the rankings in advertising, locking in \$75m of contracts this year, while the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has limited itself to just \$3m in promoting the government's work.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Baby boomers caught in rushed aged care changes

The Australian, Business News, 12/12/2024, Robert Gottliebsen, Page 21

Next year, the oldest of them will turn 80, so a looming area of change will be the choice between home and residential aged care. A major step in that change came on "Mad Thursday" last month, when among the 30 or so bills rushed through the Senate without debate was home care for baby boomers.

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

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Group runs out of cash monthly

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 12/12/2024, Blair Jackson, Page 7

More and more older Australians' quality of life has fallen in the past two years as a small number report they have stolen essential items to get by, new research finds. A report commissioned by Australian Seniors found the pension is only covering 76 per cent of monthly expenses, and 40 per cent of over 50s report a decline in their quality of life since the start of 2023.

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Bridgetown community voice disapproval at proposed cutbacks to Silverchain-run social sessions

West Australian, Other, 11/12/2024, Anjelica Smilovitis

Senior citizens in Bridgetown have been left "flabbergasted" with worries they will be left "isolated" as Silverchain reduces its social sessions hours. Friendship Club members and Bridgetown shire president Jenny Mountford have championed for the Bridgetown Social Centre social sessions to remain the same after a notice about a reduction in hours.

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

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Seniors not left behind with cash

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/12/2024, Page 3

National Seniors Australia chief executive Chris Grice said, "It's great to see the government has listened to the needs of seniors and shows the effectiveness of people power!" "According to the RBA, 7 per cent of Australians use cash for 80 per cent plus of transactions. When retailers refuse cash, it inconveniences customers and can lead to genuine hardship for those who rely on cash," Mr Grice said.

Also reported by: [The Senior - QLD \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Not festive, just confusing

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/12/2024, Eileen Wood, Page 9

One of the many Australian couples who will be impacted by dementia this Christmas is Jonathan and Sophie Brown. Jonathan was diagnosed with younger onset dementia in late 2023 at just 55 years old and at the height of his engineering and business career.

Also reported by: [The Senior - QLD \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Elder abuse goes under-reported

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/12/2024, Eileen Wood, Page 14

Authorities are urging people to believe any older person who discloses to them they are a victim of abuse, as they ramp up efforts to stamp out elder abuse. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 598,000 older Australians experienced some forms of abuse last year.

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Bain Capital-owned Estia Health reportedly secures \$300M finance line

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/12/2024, Caroline Egan

Estia Health, which Bain Capital acquired for more than \$830 million at the end of last year, has secured financing worth \$300 million through Japanese bank Nomura, according to the Australian Financial Review's Street Talk column. It's expected the funds will be used for growth and acquisitions, and is a capital injection for Bain Capital, which has reportedly invested heavily in operational improvements for the formerly Australian Stock Exchange (ASX)-listed aged care provider.

[Read More](#)

With its closest aged care home 1,200km away, St Vincent's Care Services sells Townsville facility to Ozcare

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/12/2024, Caroline Egan

St Vincent's Care Services has sold its 140-bed aged care home in Douglas, Townsville, about 1,300km north west of Brisbane, to not-for-profit Ozcare. Ozcare was established as part of the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland in 1996 and nearly 30 years later has more than 50 locations throughout Queensland including 18 aged care homes, with several in and around Townsville

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Apollo Care's Tenterfield Care in NSW opens 28 new aged care beds

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/12/2024, Caroline Egan

Tenterfield Care's Haddington Aged Care Community, about 670km north of Sydney, opened 28 new aged care beds this week, a development made possible with the investment of Apollo Care, which was founded in 2017 for exactly this purpose - to support struggling Not For Profit aged care homes in regional Australia.

[Read More](#)

Work begins on \$62.8M public aged care home in regional VIC

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/12/2024, Caroline Egan

Victoria's Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt has announced the commencement of work on a new 30-bed aged care home at Mansfield District Hospital, 180km north east of Melbourne, replacing the ageing Buckland House. The facility will be built alongside the existing 42-bed Bindaree Retirement Centre aged care home, which will also be refurbished and upgraded.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Fruit is down but weight, drugs up

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 12/12/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 8

Australians are eating less fruit and skipping vaccinations, while obesity levels remain high and illicit drug use is more popular, a new report finds. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has found several measures of our health have declined in recent years, putting us on track to miss crucial 2030 targets unless we can reverse the trend.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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Deadly cocktail in pink cocaine

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/12/2024, Madeline Crittenden, Page 5

"Pink cocaine" is making its way on to Sydney streets with authorities warning it can be lethal and rarely contains any actual cocaine. Also known as "tusi", "pink panther" and "pig nose", the drug is usually sold as loose powder or pressed into blocks or tablets imprinted with symbols, similar to cocaine, while its pink colour is created with food colouring or dye.

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

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

Fat chance of living a healthy life

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/12/2024, Page 20

Being overweight or obese has overtaken tobacco smoking as the leading risk factor contributing to disease burden in 2024, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The study estimates the millions of years of healthy life Australians lose because of injury, illness or premature death from more than 200 diseases and injuries.

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

Employed but homeless

Herald Sun, General News, 12/12/2024, Page 5

The number of working Victorians seeking help for homelessness has surged to a record high, with a 23 per cent rise over the past five years, according to alarming new data. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report found that 13,715 employed Victorians sought homelessness assistance this financial year.

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

Allan slams contraceptive device ruling

Herald Sun, General News, 12/12/2024, Alex White, Page 10

Premier Jacinta Allan has lashed out at a Victorian Supreme Court judge's ruling on the failed class action brought by thousands of women against Bayer Australia, saying we have to stop telling women to "have a Panadol and lie down" when they are suffering serious medical conditions. Justice Andrew Keogh on Tuesday in the Victorian Supreme Court ruled against thousands of women's claims against the pharmaceutical company and found the female contraceptive device, Essure, was not at fault for the women's ill health.

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

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

Bakery sued by smoking Crust

Courier Mail, General News, 12/12/2024, Vanda Carson, Page 17

A popular Brisbane bakery has been accused of discrimination by a hearing-impaired and nicotine-addicted baker who claims they broke the law when they sacked him for smoking, when he did not understand their ban. Flour and Chocolate Pty Ltd, which trades at Northgate, Morningside and Redcliffe, was hit with the complaint of breaches of human rights laws by baker Simon Crust, filed in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission in September 2022.

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

Overweight No.1 burden

Courier Mail, General News, 12/12/2024, Page 21

Being overweight or obese has overtaken tobacco smoking as the leading risk factor contributing to disease burden in 2024, a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare says. The study estimates the millions of years of healthy life Australians lose because of injury, illness or premature death from more than 200 diseases and injuries.

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Heavy truth of how obesity is stripping healthy years off Aussie lives

West Australian, General News, 12/12/2024, Page 6

Being overweight or obese has overtaken tobacco smoking as the leading risk factor contributing to disease. The Australian Burden of Disease Study 2024, released on Thursday by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, estimates the millions of years of healthy life Australians lose because of injury, illness or premature death measuring over 200 diseases and injuries.

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

ACT policy threatens Queanbeyan abortion clinic

Canberra Times, General News, 12/12/2024, Steve Evans, Page 9

An abortion clinic in Queanbeyan is under threat of closure because of the ACT government's policy of offering free abortions to residents of Canberra. The medical director of Gynaecology Centres Australia which runs the clinic on Morisset Street in Queanbeyan said that its exclusion from the ACT scheme meant the clinic was no longer viable.

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

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

Being overweight No.1 health burden

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/12/2024, Page 9

Being overweight or obese has overtaken tobacco smoking as the leading risk factor contributing to disease burden in 2024, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The study estimates the years of healthy life Australians lose because of injury, illness or premature death from more than 200 diseases and injuries.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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

Hidden cache of tobacco

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 12/12/2024, Tahlia Leathart, Page 5

A sweep of Gold Coast retailers has revealed a cache of illicit inventory, concealed by clever mechanisms. Footage of a hidden room in a Gold Coast store has been released after targeted inspections of retailers by the Gold Coast Public Health Unit (GCPHU).

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

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

Police aren't keeping records of drink spiking, even though it's a crime

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/12/2024, Courtney Kruk

Queensland police might change the way drink spiking is reported and recorded, after concerns the system fails victims and does not capture accurate spiking rates. Drink spiking – adding alcohol or drugs to someone's drink without their consent – is a crime in Queensland, with a maximum sentence of five years' jail.

[Read More](#)

'Devastating' proof Australia is broken, with the rise of the 'working homeless'

Northern Territory News, Other, 11/12/2024, Shannon Molloy

The average income in Australia hit six figures this year, but new data reveals a job is no longer a safeguard against financial ruin. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Across Australia in 2023-24, there was no housing support available for the 70 per cent of people who needed long-term accommodation support, Ms Colvin said.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

ABC News

ABC Online, Other, 11/12/2024, Daniel-Miles & Daniel-Franklin

Dr South, chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' Obesity Interest Group, says the language medical professionals use when talking about larger bodies matters. She says that's because labels like overweight and obese, while technically accurate when aligned with certain diagnostic tools, have the ability to harm people rather than help.

[Read More](#)

Big tobacco and Chemist Warehouse battling to gain market share in Australia's pharmacy vape market

ABC Online, Other, 11/12/2024, Rhiana Whitson

Pharmacy chain Chemist Warehouse and big tobacco have become unlikely rivals, in a battle to gain market share among Australia's nicotine-addicted smokers and vapers. Regulations introduced by the federal government have created a lucrative new market for vapes sold through pharmacies.

[Read More](#)

Being overweight now top risk to Australians' health as smoking rates decline, data shows

The Guardian, Other, 12/12/2024, Natasha May

Being overweight has overtaken tobacco smoking as the leading risk factor contributing to disease in 2024, new government data shows. The Australian Burden of Disease Study 2024, released Thursday by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), estimates Australians lost 5.8m years of healthy life due to living with illness and injury, or dying prematurely. This loss of healthy life is called the "burden of disease".

[Read More](#)

Being overweight now a bigger cause of disease than smoking for Australians

The New Daily, Other, 11/12/2024

Obesity has this year overtaken smoking as Australia's leading risk factor contributing to disease, according to a national study. The Australian Burden of Disease Study 2024, released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, estimates the millions of years of healthy life Australians lose because of injury, illness or premature death.

[Read More](#)

Watch 7NEWS

7news.com.au, Other, 11/12/2024, Demi Huang

'NSW's homelessness crisis remains entrenched and unresolved — and we must do more to fix it.' NSW continues to grapple with a homelessness crisis, with about 68,000 people seeking assistance from homelessness services annually over the past two years. New figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, reveal that 67,900 people sought help for homelessness between July 2023 and June 2024, closely matching the 68,400 recorded the previous year.

[Read More](#)

Dentist reveals why your mouth can reveal if you are more likely to die in your sleep - and other ways teeth and gums are the 'gateway' to the health of your body

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/12/2024, Amanda Bechara

The Australian Dental Association considers the mouth the 'gateway' to the body, with the condition of our teeth and gums playing a huge role in our overall health. Here are four surprising conclusions a dentist can make about a patient's health simply by examining their teeth and mouth

[Read More](#)

GSSC students ignite awareness of vaping epidemic at exhibition

Shepparton News Online, Other, 11/12/2024, Taylah Baker

Gssc Year 10 students Giselle Pringle, Noor Alali and Chloe McCabe at the launch of the anti-vaping exhibit. [...] Yet 28 per cent of teenagers aged 14 to 17 in Australia used a vape or e-cigarette last year, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

[Read More](#)

Diet right with 'real foods'

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/12/2024, Anthony Caggiano, Page 4

One of Australia's prominent sports medicine physicians didn't notice his "healthy" eating habits were slowly making him obese. "I put on half a kilogram a year for 30 years, just slowly getting thicker around the waist," Dr Peter Brukner OAM said.

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

Drop in opioid prescribing

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/12/2024

Australia's use of prescription opioid painkillers dropped by 21 per cent between 2015 and 2022, according to a new analysis. The trend was driven by a 33 per cent reduction in Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) dispensing claims for opioids, but the decline was partially offset by a 55% jump in private scripts.

[Read More](#)

Australia's new leading contributor to burden of disease

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/12/2024, Anastasia Tsirtsakis

Smoking tobacco has been overtaken by overweight and obesity as the leading modifiable risk factor, according to a new report. [...] The findings are from the latest Australian Burden of Disease Study, released on Thursday, by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Cancer's worrying growth

Herald Sun, General News, 12/12/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 15

More Victorians than ever were diagnosed with cancer in 2023, an alarming new report reveals. The report by the Victorian Cancer Registry (VCR), released today, also uncovers a worrying spike in cancer in young women, in particular. [...] The VCR's Cancer in Victoria 2023 report will be released by Cancer Council Victoria.

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

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Cancer rise locked in

Herald Sun, Editorials, 12/12/2024, Page 28

The Victorian Cancer Registry report found 38,715 people, an average of 106 a day, were diagnosed with cancer last year. The rate was up 5.7 per cent on 2022, almost double the percentage increase on previous years with some good news that melanoma rates were down but offset by an increase in bowel cancer.

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Extra trauma that patients don't need

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/12/2024, Julie Cross, Page 23

Ken Hird lost his wife 25 years ago to Huntington's disease, a very cruel disorder that attacks the brain, causing nerve cells to die, eventually leaving the person unable to walk, talk and eat. Unfortunately, for Ken, who is 75, his two children, a son and daughter in their 40s, also inherited the disease and are in the latter stages.

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Teen overcomes arthritis setback

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 12/12/2024, Anneke De Boer, Page 1

For most people, the thought of arthritis might conjure up an image of the elderly and frail which is why it came as such a shock to Dawn Milligan when she was diagnosed with the condition at the age of 13. Despite the daily aching joints and throbbing pain in the years that followed, the young Kalgoorlie-Boulder resident graduated from high school last year with accolades to show for her efforts.

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'A game changer': help on way for rural women with endo

Endometriosis Australia is aiming to help sufferers living in regional and rural areas through a scholarship program giving 100 country nurses specialist training to recognise and treat the disease. The first 15 recipients of the scholarship, in partnership with the Australian College of Nursing Foundation, were announced on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Microneedle device could revolutionise diagnosing skin cancer in Australia

7news.com.au, Other, 11/12/2024, Taylor Aiken

A new way to diagnose skin cancer has been validated in patient trials for the first time, paving the way for invasive skin biopsies to become a thing of the past. Currently, the only way to diagnose skin cancer is through a skin biopsy, which can only be performed by a doctor or dermatologist.

[Read More](#)

Woman's unconventional way to relieve pain from cancer treatment

9News, Other, 11/12/2024

An Ipswich grandmother left with debilitating pain after undergoing cancer treatment has revealed the unconventional way she finally found relief. For two years after radiation treatment for breast cancer, Kaylene Stokes suffered debilitating pain down her side.

[Read More](#)

Shocking map highlights an alarming trend facing a growing number of Australians

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/12/2024, Harrison Christian

Australia has the highest cancer rate globally among people under 50, with 135 cases per 100,000 people, data from the World Bank shows. [...] A spokesperson for Cancer Australia told Daily Mail Australia that early-onset of the disease was an 'emerging issue of concern globally'.

[Read More](#)

My son has suffered from a common condition since he was a little boy. But I never expected it would kill him until my worst nightmare came true

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/12/2024, Freddy Pawle

A devastated Aussie mum has shared the heartbreaking moment she was forced to turn off her son's life support after he suffered a fatal asthma attack. Michael Stallion-Gatt, 36, was gardening at his home in Morwell in eastern Victoria when the hot weather sparked the severe attack on November 26.

[Read More](#)

'I am bad at retirement'

The Senior - TAS, General News, 01/12/2024, Desiree Savage, Page 4

A trailblazer for women's cancer research, who's also "bad at retirement", has been awarded the Tasmanian Senior Australian of the Year for 2025. [...] In 2018, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to her field, she was appointed by the Federal Minister for Health to the Cancer Australia Advisory Council and was reappointed in 2021.

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PRIMARY CARE

Childcare splurge to slug taxpayers \$1bn

Taxpayers will bankroll Labor's \$1bn pledge to build 160 new childcare centres, in a re-election vow that echoes Kevin Rudd's 17-year-old broken promise to construct 260 daycare centres at schools. Anthony Albanese has announced a new Building Early Education Fund to provide 160 centres in poorly serviced neighbourhoods from July next year, if voters re-elect his government.

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NDIS cost to outstrip GDP growth

Australian Financial Review, General News, 12/12/2024, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

The government is on track to rein in the growth of the runaway National Disability Insurance Scheme to 8 per cent a year earlier than expected.

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

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Labor cuts with one hand, hands out with the other

Australian Financial Review, Editorials, 12/12/2024, Page 30

A head of leaving politics next year, Bill Shorten says he is confident that the runaway cost of the National Disability Insurance Scheme for which he is responsible is being brought under control.

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'See, I told you I'd fight'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/12/2024, Julian Linden, Page 10

Staring death in the face the same way she stared down her opponents when she was winning Olympic gold medals for Australia in the pool, Dawn Fraser's fighting spirit has pulled her through one of her life's toughest battles. Told by doctors that she might die on the operating table after suffering horrific injuries in a fall at her Queensland home last week, "Our Dawn" didn't flinch for a second.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Ramping back on the rise

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/12/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 5

Ambulance ramping is back on the rise, hitting 3224 hours in November after falling to 2983 hours in October. The figure for patients stuck in ambulances in hospital carparks remains well above the 2711 hours recorded when the state election was held in March 2022.

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

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Doctor's tears at mistake for Kate

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/12/2024, Leah Smith, Page 6

The first doctor who saw a woman suffering from a fatal brain clot has broken down on the stand as he told a court she "should have gone straight to a hospital". On Wednesday, Dr Lyall Henderson said had he received vital information from ambulance officers, he would have told Kate Marie Sylvia, 32, to go to emergency and not seen her as a patient.

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

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Dawn could have died

Courier Mail, General News, 12/12/2024, Mikaela Mulveny, Page 1

Our Dawn's light refused to be dimmed Julian Linden Mikaela Mulveney Doctors warned Olympic swimming legend Dawn Fraser could die on the operating table after suffering horrific injuries in a fall at her Queensland home, her daughter has revealed. Fraser was rushed into emergency surgery with a broken hip and ribs last Thursday after the fall at her Noosa home.

One in four emergency patients could have gone to their GP

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 12/12/2024, Page 8

Close to a million people attending hospital emergency departments each year agree they could have been treated elsewhere, a new report suggests. The survey of NSW emergency department visitors found two in seven thought their condition "definitely" or "to some extent" could have been treated by a GP or other health professional.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#)

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Failure to read the room

Border Mail, General News, 12/12/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

Wodonga's mayor and deputy mayor have accused Albury Wodonga Health leaders of ignoring community sentiment in responding to concerns over the planned upgrade of Albury hospital and patient woes. The medical service's chair Jonathan Green and chief executive Bill Appleby were asked about the \$558 million expansion in submitted queries put to them at Albury Wodonga Health's annual meeting on Tuesday.

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Clinic offered as part of pilot program

Daily Liberal, General News, 12/12/2024, Ciara Bastow, Page 3

The Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) Women's Health Service has recently commenced a Medical Abortion Clinic in Dubbo. The clinic is a planned pilot program, that will operate four hours per week at the Women's Health Clinic.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#)

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Sleepy's to help provide vital space in hospital for sick kids

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/12/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 11

A courtyard and garden will be built at John Hunter Hospital's new paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) with a \$536,000 grant from Sleepy's Foundation. The Newcastle charity's co-founders Robynn and Peter Slep announced the move with hospital staff yesterday.

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Better care access for patients

Shepparton News, General News, 12/12/2024, Page 5

Goulburn Valley Health and Hume Rural Health Alliance (HRHA) have announced the implementation of a fully consolidated Patient Administration System across 14 health services in the Hume region. The new system introduces a region-wide patient identifier to improve the continuity of care for patients.

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

Christmas is worst time of year for dental health: 10 top tips to look after your teeth

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/12/2024, Robyn Riley

From how to get rid of that furry feeling after a long-haul flight to making teeth cleaning part of play for kids, the new Federal President of the Australian Dental Association says there are ways to fix the top cavity-causing culprits and still enjoy some holiday cheer. "Children are out of routine because they are not going to school and they may be forgetting to brush their teeth" Dr Chris Sanzaro said.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Patients waiting longer for treatment in emergency departments

Canberra Times, Other, 11/12/2024, Carla Mascarenhas

The latest Bureau of Health Information (BHI) report shows patients are waiting the longest time in a decade for their treatment to start, as ED attendance increased by 2.1 per cent. The December report measures the performance of public health services in NSW from July to September 2024.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

'Something has happened': Australian inquest searches for answers after baby found dead in freezer

The Guardian, Other, 12/12/2024, Adeshola Ore

For a life lived for just three short months, there are endless questions about KP. Most importantly, what happened in the days before the lifeless baby's body was discovered in a freezer in a home in a small town on the New South Wales-Victorian border?

[Read More](#)

SA woman misdiagnosed with a migraine despite presenting with 'stabbing' pain and slurred speech, inquest hears

7news.com.au, Other, 11/12/2024, Molly Magennis

A young Adelaide woman who died from a stroke after being wrongly diagnosed with a migraine told her mother she was "dying on the bathroom floor" and in "agony" because of the severe pain. Kate Sylvia's mother Kathryn fronted a coronial inquest on Tuesday following the death of her daughter in December 2021.

[Read More](#)

Half of NSW emergency room patients not seen on time, report finds

9News, Other, 11/12/2024, Mikala Theocharous

Less than half of patients presenting to emergency rooms across NSW are seen on time, the Bureau of Health Information [BHI] has revealed. The quarterly report into the state's healthcare was released today and referred to data collected by the independent body between July and September of this year.

[Read More](#)

More unwanted records set at emergency departments, as GP shortages bite

Newcastle Herald, Other, 11/12/2024, Damon Cronshaw

Bureau of Health Information [BHI] data showed 33,778 urgent cases [not life threatening] and 15,904 emergency cases [potentially life threatening] presented to the district's emergency departments (EDs) in the quarter. The data, to be publicly released on Wednesday, showed the median time patients spent in Hunter New England EDs was 3 hours and 41 minutes, the worst result on record.

[Read More](#)

Sick system: 'More seriously ill patients than ever before'

Newcastle Herald, Other, 11/12/2024, Damon Cronshaw

John Hunter Hospital's emergency department has recorded the worst result on record for the time to start treatment of patients with "imminently life-threatening conditions". NSW Health benchmarks require hospital staff to start treatment of patients in this emergency category within 10 minutes of arrival.

[Read More](#)

VAD and dementia: what you need to know

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 11/12/2024, Catherine Henry

In recent years, voluntary assisted dying, or VAD, has become a legal option across the country. Each of the six states plus – most recently – the Australian Capital Territory, offers terminally ill people the

potential to access VAD. The process can be accessed only in very specific circumstances and following careful review.

[Read More](#)

Registrar who fought 'antiquated' AHPRA fee rules says 30 per cent rebate for parental leave doctors is not enough

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/12/2024, Ciara Seccombe

A registrar who campaigned to reduce AHPRA registration fees for doctors on parental leave says the changes announced this week are positive but not enough. On Monday, AHPRA announced a 30 per cent fee rebate for health practitioners who took six months of parental, disability or carer's leave in the 2024-25 registration year.

[Read More](#)

Time for doctors to focus on patient-care: Guild

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/12/2024, James Tsaoucis

Criticism of community pharmacy by leaders of the medical profession needs to stop, Gerard Benedet, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's executive director says.

[Read More](#)

Injection interrupted: what happens when the dose doesn't go in?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 11/12/2024, Chloe Hava

If the process of administering a vaccine is interrupted (for example by syringe-needle disconnection), pharmacists should ask themselves: According to the Australian Immunisation Handbook (AIH), if at least half of the vaccine dose was administered (estimated), it is considered a valid dose.

[Read More](#)

Hospital out-of-pocket costs rise

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/12/2024

Australians with private health insurance hospital cover are paying 71 per cent more in out-of-pocket costs compared to five years ago, according to an analysis by Australian finance platform money.com.au. The cost of in-hospital services in Australia has risen by 22 per cent over the same period, with Medicare coverage increasing by 18%, and private health fund contributions by just 12 per cent.

[Read More](#)

ED data highlights need for urgent GP investment: RACGP

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 11/12/2024, Chelsea Heaney

GPs are the 'best medicine' to fix NSW's overloaded hospitals and 'pouring billions into non-doctor services' is not the solution, says the college. The NSW Government said 102,000 people were diverted away from EDs due to their phonenumber HealthDirect service.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 11/12/2024, Manny Tsigas

Interview A coronial inquest into the sudden death of 32 year old Kate Sylvia in Adelaide has heard evidence from a doctor who diagnosed her with a migraine days before she died from a brain bleed. GP doctor Lyell Henderson told the inquest a neurological assessment of Miss Sylvia showed no abnormal results and her symptoms were consistent with a migraine.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Breakfast , 11/12/2024, Peter Fegan

Compere points out that according to AMA Qld President Dr Nick Yim, the scheme of providing incentives for doctors' worth up to \$70,000 is a great initiative.

[Play Now](#)

NSW emergency departments are under record pressure, with nearly 790,000 patients visiting in the September quarter last year. A lack of accessible GPS is being blamed, with data indicating 1 in 4 patients would have gone to a GP if they could.

[Play Now](#)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

'Nowhere to go' for those with severe mental illness

The Australian, General News, 12/12/2024, Steve Robson, Page 7

More than a quarter of a million people with chronic severe mental health conditions call Australia home. It is impossible to overestimate the profound effect these illnesses have, not only on the lives of those affected, but on their families and those who care for them. Unfortunately, as a nation, we have let many of them down badly.

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

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

Players bear too much blame for positive drug tests: Dokic

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 12/12/2024, Millie Muroi, Page 45

Jelena Dokic wrote about her struggles in a 2017 autobiography, most recently adapted to a documentary film: Unbreakable, released last month both of which she said helped her find her voice and continue her mission of changing perceptions and normalising conversations about issues such as child abuse, domestic violence and mental health.

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

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An empty chair at their tables

Courier Mail, General News, 12/12/2024, Thomas Chamberlin & Kate Kyriacou, Page 4

The inquest, before State Coroner Terry Ryan, heard of communication black spots in regional areas and issues with interstate information sharing between police, amid calls for more funding for mental health, officer training and access to aerial drones. Rachel and Matthew's families have called for drones to be made available to police to scope potentially dangerous situations before entering properties.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#). [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#). [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#). [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Magic formula to boost blokes' mental health

Courier Mail, Sport, 12/12/2024, Ben Dorries, Page 48

Two horses heading for the Gold Coast Magic Millions 2YO Classic have an important men's mental health focus and may have already made a significant difference in the lives of some of their owners. Tony Gollan-trained two year-old fillies Formula Rossa and La Bella Boom have Black Soil Bloodstock as managing owner and both fillies look to have locked away their spots in next month's \$3m Magic Millions 2YO Classic.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#). [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#). [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Boost to rural mental health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/12/2024, David Killick, Page 9

The state government will provide \$1.6m to boost support for mental health in rural communities. Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing Roger Jaensch announced the funding for specialist rural mental health organisation Rural Alive and Well (RAW) on Wednesday.

Veteran charity has Christmas to share

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12/12/2024, Page 6

For former and current serving personnel, school holidays can be a difficult time to keep kids entertained which is why a local veteran charity is providing an exciting variety of activities for the whole family. Townsville charity, Mates4Mates offers a range of different support services for veterans and their families which include mental health services, physical rehabilitations services and social connection activities.

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

Lifeline WA receives \$150,000 donation to recruit more volunteers in wake of suicide report's grim findings

West Australian, Other, 11/12/2024, Rebecca Turner

Arc Infrastructure will donate \$150,000 for Lifeline WA to train an extra 36 volunteer crisis support workers over three years in the wake of alarming new figures on regional suicide rates. The Australian Bureau of Statistics' Cause of Death report, released in October, revealed suicide rates in remote areas were double that recorded in major cities between 2019 and 2023.

[Read More](#)

Vulnerable women housed next to male sex offenders in immigration detention

SBS, Other, 11/12/2024

The Australian Human Rights Commission has documented women being cat-called and threatened in immigration detention. Women in immigration detention who have experienced sexual violence are being held metres from male sex offenders, exposing them to harassment and trauma.

[Read More](#)

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Change to nursing planned to help patients receive care quickly, 'without stress of waiting for a GP'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/12/2024, Sarah Booth

Nurses will be allowed to prescribe medication if they complete extra training, under new rules set to kick in mid next year. [...] The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia chair Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey said similar international healthcare systems already had similar programs, and they were "confident" it could be done safely.

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

[Read More](#)

Nurse prescribing of S8 drugs to start in 2025 but will not be 'open slather'

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/12/2024, Heather Saxena

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia says it will provide details on the postgraduate training requirements in March. Nurses have received the green light to prescribe 'in partnership' with doctors or nurse practitioners from mid-2025, including S8 drugs for cancer and palliative care.

[Read More](#)

Registered nurses' prescribing powers expanded

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 11/12/2024, Morgan Liotta

Nurses who have undergone extra training will soon be able to work to a broader scope of practice

under a new prescriber arrangement. Under the new model, designated RNs can prescribe Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines in partnership with an authorised health practitioner.

[Read More](#)

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Fresh injection of new doctors

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/12/2024, Alex Treacy, Page 8

A nurse out of Adelaide who wanted a career change and a precocious young CDU graduate from Darwin are among 21 who received their Doctor of Medicine from Flinders University at the Darwin Convention Centre this week, providing a timely boost to the NT health workforce.

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

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

Island seeks federal help with upgrades to airport

Launceston Examiner, General News, 12/12/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 2

Flinders Council will be seeking funding of \$20 million for urgent airport upgrades ahead of the upcoming federal election. [...] She said the ageing electrical system risked seriously impacting the Royal Flying Doctor Service, as well as search and rescue services.

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

LNP axes \$70k worker incentives

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 12/12/2024, Hayden Johnson & Jackie Sinnerton, Page 6

Incentives worth up to \$70,000 luring Queensland Health workers to remote and vacant roles have been axed by the state government. Queensland Health staff were told the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme would be cut from January 1 as the government realigns its workforce strategy to programs offering better value for money.

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

The ANU's Medical Centre will not have any doctors next year

Canberra Times, Other, 11/12/2024, Sarah Lansdown

The Australian National University's Medical Centre is set to be without any doctors for the start of the next academic year, leaving students without access to bulk-billed appointments and certain medications. Three general practitioners will retire and one will leave after resigning in December, while The Canberra Times understands the fifth doctor is likely to retire early next year.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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Fake paramedic convicted as warning to others

West Australian, Other, 11/12/2024, Miklos Bolza

A man who unlawfully claimed he was a paramedic at dangerous motocross events has been convicted to reflect the community's disapproval of those who impersonate medical practitioners. [...] The 31-year-old was convicted on Wednesday after a successful prosecution by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Organisation invests \$80m into NQ health

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12/12/2024, Holly Fishlock, Page 6

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network invested more than \$80 million into the region's primary and mental health care in the past year, with the delivery of 205 primary healthcare service contracts. The investment was highlighted in the network's 2023-24 Annual Report, released on Monday.

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

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SPORT

DAZN in Sydney to talk Foxtel buyout

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 12/12/2024, Sam Buckingham-Jones, Page 18

The chief executive of DAZN has been in Australia this week as the British global sports streaming platform, backed by billionaire businessman Len Blavatnik, assesses a bid for News Corporation's Foxtel.

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

Legal win for Seven over Hayne incident

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/12/2024, Michaela Whitbourn, Page 8

The Seven Network has won a legal bid to overturn a decision ordering it to pay almost \$40,000 in damages for defamation to a supporter of former NRL player Jarryd Hayne over a social media post about an ugly incident outside a NSW court. Mina Greiss, one of Hayne's longtime friends, spat towards the complainant in Hayne's sexual assault trial outside Newcastle District Court in May 2021.

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

War survivors make a splash with free swim lessons

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/12/2024, Julie Power, Page 21

Only a few months ago, Adam Murad, 9, and Mohammed AlBashiti, 10, were living in Gaza where swimming lessons were virtually non-existent even before war destroyed most infrastructure. Now refugees living in Sydney's western suburbs, the boys jumped into Australian culture on Sunday with free learn-to-swim lessons at Roselands Leisure and Aquatic Centre tailored for those who have experienced the trauma of war.

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

Police raid soccer club in probe over match-fixing

Age, General News, 12/12/2024, Nick McKenzie, Page 1

Anti-gang and sports corruption detectives are investigating suspected match-fixing involving a

National Premier League semi-professional soccer club, raiding the team's headquarters and the homes of club supporters and a senior official. Officers from Victoria Police's sports integrity unit and Viper taskforce swooped on the headquarters of the Dandenong Thunder and several nearby homes yesterday morning searching for evidence that matches may have been rigged to deliver betting windfalls.

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

PNG set for NRL licence today in historic green light

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/12/2024, Brent Read, Page 3

Papua New Guinea is set to be granted an NRL licence today as its historic expansion bid gets the green light after more than a decade of negotiations with the Pacific nation. PNG Prime Minister James Marape is due to visit Sydney and barring any 11th hour breakdown in negotiations, he and Anthony Albanese will front the official announcement.

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

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

Sailing, to the supermaxi

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/12/2024, James Willis, Page 14

The Daily Telegraph was given exclusive access to the yacht yesterday, as the crew of 19 took part in a final hitout before the main event. The yacht is so big, it can't be properly lifted out of the water in Sydney without the assistance of a massive crane.

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

Give us a stadium

Courier Mail, General News, 12/12/2024, Robert Craddock, Page 1

Cricket Australia has launched a push to have the Gabba scrapped as a Test venue and replaced by a new stadium that could sustain the sport "for 50 years" across town at Victoria Park. And, as a fitting farewell to the iconic venue, Cricket Australia boss Nick Hockley will propose playing the gold medal cricket match of the 2032 Olympics at the Gabba before the sport relocates to the Victoria Park venue.

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

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

Cricket's right: We need new stadium

Courier Mail, Editorials, 12/12/2024, Page 24

In the summer after next, Australia's third-biggest city and its fastest-growing state will not host a cricket Test match. It will be the first time that has happened in half a century. That is because Brisbane's now seriously ageing Gabba is ranked the fifth venue in the nation by Cricket Australia, and the 2026-27 summer will see a only four-Test series against New Zealand.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'My boy's death in prison was abuse'

The Australian, General News, 12/12/2024, Paige Taylor, Page 3

The mother of Cleveland Dodd, the 16-year-old boy from the West Australian desert who took his own life in a maximum security men's prison in Perth, has told a coroner her son lost the will to live after

being locked down alone in a concrete cell for 23 hours a day for 75 days. Nadene Dodd asked a friend to read her statement on Wednesday to WA Coroner Philip Urquhart.

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

The only way is up

The Australian, Special Report, 11/12/2024, David Prestipino , Page 4

The Indigenous business sector continues to soar at a time of expansion challenges, writes David Prestipino "If you build it, they will come ..." These famous words, adapted for the 1989 film Field of Dreams, now resonate within Australia's burgeoning Indigenous business sector, which is primed for unprecedented growth.

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

Reaping the rewards of perseverance

The Australian, Special Report, 11/12/2024, David Prestipino, Page 9

The evolution of one of Western Australia's major Indigenous-owned operations, Leedal Group, showcases how a strong community vision and perseverance can create lasting impacts. As trustee for the Fitzroy Crossing Trust, Leedal Group, led by chairman Patrick Green, drives economic development across six Indigenous communities in the Fitzroy Valley.

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

The future of Indigenous affairs lies in economic development

The Australian, Special Report, 11/12/2024, Ben Wyatt, Page 11

The failure of the referendum on Constitutional recognition to establish a "Voice" has highlighted that Indigenous policy has been tied to a successful referendum, and its failure has left national Indigenous policy becalmed. The comprehensive rejection of the referendum and the Uluru Statement from the Heart has left the Commonwealth Government bureaucracy frozen.

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

Prisoner was shackled to his isolation

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/12/2024, Zizi Averill, Page 3

A man dying of cancer spent the final 600 days of his life with no visits from family, carted back and forth from his Darwin prison cell and repeatedly shackled to a hospital bed. Remand prisoner Mati Tamwoy was waiting for his Supreme Court trial over an alleged robbery, aggravated assault and breaching a domestic violence order when he died in Darwin Royal Hospital.

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

New Ground in helping kids enjoy early learning

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/12/2024, Fia Walsh, Page 6

A not-for-profit organisation helping Central Australian children stay healthy and engaged with education and culture says it is proof First Nations solutions can lead to long-term change. An evaluation of Children's Ground in four Alice Springs communities showed measurable success in its efforts to engage children in early learning and families in employment, and to promote healthy lifestyles.

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

Marion Scrymgour: Addressing the invisible legacy of gender-based violence

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/12/2024, Marion Scrymgour

As a community we must do better to prevent and support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who are experiencing domestic violence, writes Member for Lingiari Marion Scrymgour. It was with great sadness that I read the Northern Territory Coroner Elisabeth Armitage's findings, following her landmark inquest into the domestic violence deaths of four Aboriginal women.

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

[Read More](#)

The West Australian exclusive World-first research program to find out why First Nations children have worse cancer outcomes, survival rates

West Australian, Other, 11/12/2024, Hannah Cross

A world-first program led by Perth researchers will investigate why First Nations children with cancer have poorer survival rates in a bid to transform the way they are treated. The Kids Research Institute Australia program, launched on Wednesday, aims to identify the main barriers to improved outcomes and why the side effects of cancer treatment are so severe in Aboriginal children.

[Read More](#)

Men called to action during Broome march to stop domestic violence in the community

West Australian, Other, 11/12/2024, Natasha Clark

"A key part of prevention of domestic violence lies in men as allies," Men's Outreach Service Aboriginal Corporation cultural guidance worker Nelson Bieundurry said during a heartfelt speech in Broome on Tuesday. The address followed a community march marking the conclusion of the 16 Days in WA campaign to stop gendered violence.

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

[Read More](#)

Coroner calls for urgent closure of troubled youth jail

Canberra Times, Other, 11/12/2024, Aaron Bunch

More funding should be provided for training corrections staff and the prison watchdog's powers should be beefed up, with coroner Philip Urquhart also calling for the justice department to be stripped of its role overseeing young people. Cleveland Dodd was found unresponsive inside a cell in Unit 18, a youth wing of the high-security adult facility Casuarina Prison in Perth, in the early hours of October 12, 2023.

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

[Read More](#)

'Thought my son was safe': heartbroken mum tells court

Canberra Times, Other, 11/12/2024, Aaron Bunch

The heartbroken mother of an Indigenous teen who fatally self-harmed in youth detention says her son was locked in an inhumane, filthy concrete box as she calls for those responsible to be held to account. Cleveland Dodd was found unresponsive inside a cell in Unit 18, a youth wing of the high-security adult facility Casuarina Prison, in the early hours of October 12, 2023.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Coroner in Cleveland Dodd inquest indicates he will call for urgent closure of Unit 18

ABC Online, Other, 11/12/2024, Keane Bourke

The notorious prison unit where WA's first child to die in youth detention spent his final days should be closed as a "matter of urgency", the coroner investigating the teenager's death has said. [...] The teenager had been detained in Unit 18, a maximum-security adult prison unit hastily turned into a youth detention facility in mid-2022.

[Read More](#)

'Loss of faith in police': Indigenous victims of crime fear not being believed, Victorian study finds

The Guardian, Other, 12/12/2024, Benita Kolovos

Conducted by researchers at RMIT's Centre for Innovative Justice (CIJ) in partnership with Djirra, Dardi Munwurro and Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service, the study found First Nations people are disproportionately victimised but receive "inadequate support" throughout the criminal

justice process – from reporting to navigating the court system and accessing support services afterwards.

[Read More](#)

Labor is pledging a 'nation-defining journey' on childcare. What would it mean for you?

The Guardian, Other, 11/12/2024, Sarah Basford

The 2025 federal election's battle lines are being drawn with Anthony Albanese's government arguing its policies will create a more equitable future Anthony Albanese is committing big on early childhood care and education in one of his final major announcements of the calendar year. [...] Parenthood's chief executive, Georgie Dent added the activity tests disproportionately affected First Nations children and children from low-income and disadvantaged households, who would benefit most from early learning.

[Read More](#)

Dementia awareness grants awarded to raise awareness in diverse communities

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/12/2024, Joseph Guenzler

Dementia Australia has awarded more than \$320,000 in grants to 11 Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community organisations through its inaugural Diversity Small Grant program. Each recipient received up to \$30,000 to fund initiatives aimed at increasing dementia awareness and understanding in their communities.

[Read More](#)

QAIHC pushes for targeted investments in First Nations Health

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/12/2024, Joseph Guenzler

The Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council has met with Health Minister Tim Nicholls and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Fiona Simpson to advocate for practical local solutions to address health disparities for First Nations Queenslanders.

[Read More](#)

Experts call for Aboriginal homelessness target as rates in Victoria soar

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/12/2024, Dechlan Brennan

First Nations homelessness in Victoria is twice that of the national average, new data has revealed. The specialist homelessness services annual report 2023–24 from the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing revealed nationally, around 78,300 First Nations clients received support from specialist homelessness services (SHS)— 28.

[Read More](#)

University of Adelaide researchers awarded grant to boost economic development in Indigenous communities

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/12/2024, Brendan Foster

Researchers from the University of Adelaide's business school have received a \$330,000 grant to foster economic development for First Nations communities. Dr George Mihaylov, Dr Ivan Obaydin, and Professor Ralf Zurbruegg have been awarded the funding from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) under their Prescribed Bodies Corporate Capacity Building program.

[Read More](#)

Commonwealth needs to stand up for the human rights of Australian children, Child Commissioner says

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/12/2024, Dechlan Brennan

Australia's Children's Commissioner has called on the federal government to affirm its commitment to the human rights of Australia's children as the Queensland government this week looks set to pass the controversial Making Queensland Safer Bill. The new legislation, which has been condemned by Indigenous, legal, and human rights advocates as offering no community safety improvements whilst

simultaneously incarcerating more vulnerable children, will not face opposition from Labor, who has put forward amendments but will vote for the bill.

[Read More](#)

Federal plan to drop 'activity test' will help more Indigenous children access childcare, advocates say

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/12/2024, Giovanni Torre

Advocates have welcomed the federal government's promise to cut the "Activity Test", which will see 126,000 more children able to access early learning. SNAICC – National Voice for our Children chief executive Catherine Liddle said the announcement by the Prime Minister would see thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children able to access early education and care.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

NSW Labor considering pill testing this summer

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/12/2024, Michael McGowan, Page 13

Health Minister Ryan Park has sought a preliminary report from the drug summit ahead of the coming music festival season, in a clear sign the government is considering pill testing this summer. The Sydney Morning Herald can reveal that, at the end of last week's summit, Park asked co-chairs Carmel Tebbutt and John Brogden to provide interim advice before their final report is tabled next year.

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

'Use the grid': Case firms for nuclear

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/12/2024, John Rolfe, Page 4

An electricity grid that includes nuclear power is cheaper than one mainly reliant on solar and wind because far less new transmission infrastructure is required, an Australian energy expert says. Ahead of the release of the first costings of the federal Opposition's proposal for seven nuclear reactors to be built in Australia, former Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) chief Adi Paterson told The Daily Telegraph that there was a "compelling logic" in the Coalition's plan because the sites selected were already connected to the power grid.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Mould in Qld hospital

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

Gladstone Hospital is tackling a mould problem on ceilings, but executives say patients and staff are not at risk of respiratory illness. Over the next three weeks, ceiling tiles will be removed and professionally cleaned.

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

Mould contamination discovered in Qld hospital inspection

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/12/2024, Jackie Sinnerton

Gladstone Hospital is tackling a mould problem on ceilings but executives reassure patients and staff they are not at risk of respiratory illness. Over the next three weeks ceiling tiles will be removed and professional cleaning will be carried out in Block 1.

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

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Pill testing trial could be coming to NSW music festivals as drug reform advocates pressure Premier Chris Minns

NSW could be home to pill testing in a matter of weeks with 7NEWS understanding the government plans to announce a trial before Christmas. It's unclear whether the drug safety testing could be practically implemented this festival season though, and changes need to go through NSW Cabinet.

[Read More](#)

South Australia 'Potential for more tragedies' are 'on the table' for NSW as calls to implement pill testing mount

NEWS.com.au, Other, 11/12/2024, Clareese Packer

An expert has issued the stark warning that "tragedies at festivals" are "on the table" this summer as experts and Labor MP's add mounting pressure on the NSW government to implement pill testing following the state's drug summit. Labor MP Dr Michael Holland and Independent Alex Greenwich are among a group that put forth an open letter to NSW Premier Chris Minns pushing for the practice to be introduced ahead of festival season.

[Read More](#)

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

ABC News, News Breakfast, 11/12/2024, Michael Rowland & Bridget Brennan

Doctors are worried about a national shortage of Clonazepam, a drug used for preventing epileptic seizures. About a quarter of a million Australians have epilepsy, with many of them relying on the drug. The Therapeutic Goods Administration says increased demand caused the shortage, but supply may be restored by early February.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 11/12/2024, Craig Zonca & Loretta Ryan

The Australian Government has shared intentions of establishing what will be known as a unique device identification hub, which is a system to track medical devices. The ABC has contacted the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Health Department for comment.

[Play Now](#)

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

What is 'Bali belly'?

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/12/2024, Sarah Falson, Page 43

Food Safety Information Council CEO Lydia Buchtmann provided some tips to lessen your risk. Wash your hands with soap and water frequently. Don't drink tap water. Check the seal is unbroken on bottled water, and don't leave opened bottles without tops as they could get contaminated. Brush your teeth in bottled water only. Never eat ice cubes or consume drinks that have had ice in them.

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'Asbestos of today' a scourge

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/12/2024, Fia Walsh, Page 6

PFAS chemicals found in NT Submissions close next week for a federal inquiry into the "asbestos of the 21st century", contaminants that have plagued Northern Territory waterways for decades. A senate select committee on PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) was appointed in August to inquire into the extent, regulation and management of PFAS around the country.

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

'Fluoride can get stuffed'

Cairns Post, General News, 12/12/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 6

The campaign against fluoride has succeeded, with Cairns Regional Council voting to stop the tooth-strengthening mineral from entering the city's water supply at a rowdy ordinary meeting. But anti-fluoride councillors were met with strong resistance, led by Division 7 councillor Anna Middleton, who attacked Mayor Amy Eden for refusing to meet with leading experts and using survey results to support her position.

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

Courage in face of anger

Cairns Post, General News, 12/12/2024, Page 30

Cairns Regional Council Division 7 councillor Anna Middleton should be congratulated for her address to council on Wednesday. On multiple occasions the packed public gallery jeered and insulted the councillor who questioned a council report recommending the council keep fluoride out of its water supply.

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

'Wait and see' for Warialda after PFAS is found in water

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 12/12/2024, Fiona Ferguson, Page 4

Free bottled water is being distributed to residents of a northwest community after high levels of dangerous chemicals were discovered in the local water supply. Tests are being conducted on bores that supply the drinking water to Warialda.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

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

Cairns opposes fluoride

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12/12/2024, Page 6

Cairns councillors have voted to keep fluoride out of the town's water supply in front of a rowdy public gallery that resorted to shouting and insults throughout the public debate. Division 7 councillor Anna Middleton, along with Division 4's Trevor Tim and Division 5's Rob Pyne spoke passionately in favour of using fluoride, arguing that it would improve the overall health and standard of living for residents.

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

Cairns Regional council votes on fluoridating city's water supply

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/12/2024, Samuel Davis

Cairns councillors have voted to keep fluoride out of the town's water supply in front of a rowdy public gallery that resorted to shouting and insults throughout the public debate. Division 7 councillor Anna Middleton, along with Division 4's Trevor Tim and Division 5's Rob Pyne spoke passionately in favour of using fluoride, arguing that it would improve the overall health and standard of living for residents.

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

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'Kicking the can down the road' on packaging reforms

Big business has escaped a mandatory regime on reducing packaging waste and the harmful chemicals they contain for another year. The plastic waste crisis will continue after the federal government failed to lock in an extended producer responsibility scheme, Greens spokesperson for waste and recycling Peter Whish-Wilson said on Wednesday.

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

[Read More](#)

Warialda residents offered free bottled water after PFAS found in drinking water

ABC Online, Other, 11/12/2024, Xanthe Gregory

Residents of a NSW town are being offered free bottled water after forever chemicals were detected in drinking water. Tests conducted by NSW Health have found per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at levels that exceed Australian drinking water guidelines in a bore water supply at Warialda, about 200 kilometres north of Tamworth.

[Read More](#)

Free bottled water for NSW town after high levels of 'forever chemicals' found in bore water

The Guardian, Other, 11/12/2024, Caitlin Cassidy

A community in regional New South Wales is being offered free bottled water after dangerous levels of "forever chemicals" were discovered in a bore water supply. The high levels of PFAS were found to exceed current Australian drinking water guidelines after tests conducted by NSW Health of a supply at Warialda, New England.

[Read More](#)

Steer clear of troubled waters at Lake Eildon

Shepparton News Online, Other, 11/12/2024, Georgia Tacey

Goulburn-Murray Water is warning people to avoid direct contact with the lake, with high levels of the algae found. Lake Eildon will remain open to the public for any activities that do not involve direct contact with water, with warning signs at recreational areas and around the lake.

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