



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 14th December 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)
| [Vaccines](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the former chair of Mental Health Australia Matt Berriman has said the current state of Australia's mental health system is "one of Australia's greatest health failings in generations" following his resignation from the peak advocacy group six months ago, citing a lack of engagement from the government. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has said the recent data from an ANU report detailing the lack of support for the severely mentally ill is "a stain upon the nation".
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 2) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has reached an agreement with Sanofi to ensure the eczema medication Dupixent remains on the PBS after unexpected uptake of the medication led Sanofi to consider removing the drug from the scheme. "Since it was first listed on the PBS in 2021, Dupixent has improved the quality of life for thousands of Australians with severe eczema ... The demand has been higher than expected, and we've worked hard to make sure that it remains affordable" Mr Butler said.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 2) reports changes to aged care pricing schemes will be delayed for 12 months following discussions between the federal government and industry stakeholders. "This decision has been made based on feedback from the sector and the opposition about the need to avoid service disruption and ensure continuity of care for older people," Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said.

- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 3) reports the aged care Star Ratings guide for 2024 has been released, with Aged Care Minister Anika Wells saying there has been a marked improvement in ratings since the scheme's inception two years ago. "We will continue to develop and refine Star Ratings so they provide the transparency that older people want when choosing their care," she said. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Weekend Post](#)
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (3) reports West Australia Liberal leader Libby Mettam has called for Australia to ban puberty blockers for children following a UK ban until clinical trials are completed, with the Department of Health and Aged Care saying gender services are a state and territory decisions based on multidisciplinary care.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports the government has responded to the ADHD National Inquiry, with the government agreeing to the development of a national standard for prescribing and supporting a number of other recommendations in principle. A spokesperson for the federal health department said that "the Albanese Labor government is committed to ensuring that all Australians have equitable access to healthcare".
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports an independent report into the South Australian government's response to a patient record error that miscalculated pregnant women's due dates found there was no "material harm" caused by the incident, while making six recommendations to improve future responses.

MINISTER BUTLER

Psychiatric care locked in silence

Weekend Australian, General News, 14/12/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

It's the kind of memory most people keep locked away. Trauma has a way of blanketing such memories in silence. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler this week described the long-time neglect of the severely mentally ill as "a stain upon the nation".

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

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'Life-changing' eczema treatment secured on PBS

Weekend Australian, General News, 14/12/2024, Rhiannon Down, Page 2

Health Minister Mark Butler has struck a deal to secure the place of a "life-changing" eczema treatment on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, saving patients about \$20,000 a year. After higher-than-anticipated uptake risked that drug sponsor Sanofi would withdraw the medicine from the PBS, the federal government forged an agreement with the healthcare company to ensure it remains listed.

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

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We should copy UK puberty-blocker ban: state Lib leader

Weekend Australian, General News, 14/12/2024, Paul Garvey, Page 3

The bipartisan endorsement of a UK ban on puberty blockers for children should stir parliamentarians across the country to consider similar steps, Western Australian Liberal leader Libby Mettam says. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler referred questions on the matter to the Department of Health and Aged Care, which said gender services were the responsibility of the states and territories, but all models are centred on multidisciplinary care.

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

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No cuts to NDIS music and art therapy

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/12/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 15

Thousands of families who use the National Disability Insurance Scheme for art and music therapy will keep receiving funding of nearly \$200 an hour after the agency paused its plans to cut subsidies

following a massive backlash from parents and practitioners. [...] Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth or Health Minister Mark Butler are most the most likely interim options, while Aged Care Minister Annika Wells is also a contender.

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

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Hope Vale Mayor Bruce Gibson says Indigenous community had record preventable deaths in 2024

Adelaide Now, Other, 13/12/2024, Arun Singh Mann

A Far North Queensland community has broken its own tragic record for the most preventable deaths in any given year. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler visited Cairns on Tuesday, and said he was hearing the calls from Indigenous leaders in his portfolio.

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

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Private health set for reforms

Business News WA, Other, 13/12/2024, Sam Jones

A slew of reforms to the private health sector, including expanding access for maternity cover, have been floated today as part of a push to make private hospitals more viable. Health Minister Mark Butler presented the package at the inaugural Private Health CEO Forum today – which was formed in response to a financial check of the sector conducted by the Department of Health.

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Key Minns government minister backs HMRI funding push

Hunter Valley News, Other, 13/12/2024, Damon Cronshaw

A key Minns government minister has backed HMRI's call for more federal funding for the medical research sector. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government had commissioned the National Health and Medical Research Strategy to "strengthen research capability".

Also reported by: [Macleay Argus \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Singleton Argus \(Online\)](#), [The Scone Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Cessnock Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Port Stephens Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Manning River Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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AMP becomes first super fund to invest in crypto

Money Magazine, Other, 13/12/2024, Nicola Field

It's been a crazy few weeks for bitcoin, which made headlines globally when it smashed through the \$US100,000 barrier earlier this month. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says the loophole is making the best value policies disappear and forcing customers to take out more expensive policies.

[Read More](#)

South Australia aged care Home Star Ratings guide 2024

Northern Territory News, Other, 13/12/2024, Julie Cross

More than half of all aged care homes in South Australia have seen an alarming rise in the proportion of residents given antipsychotic drugs without a prescription. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said since the creation of Star Ratings more than two years ago, the number of aged care homes with 4 and 5 stars has substantially improved.

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

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The 2024 Australian Digital Health year in review: part four

Pulse+IT, Other, 13/12/2024, Kate McDonald

The Australian Digital Health Agency's work on the modernisation of the My Health Record system and the new HIE, along with a lot of activity in primary care, virtual care, and EMRs, were the stand-out news stories in the last quarter of the 2024 year in Australian digital health. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told the Victorian Healthcare Week conference that the government would soon introduce legislation to Parliament to support its 'sharing by default' policy, which will mandate the sharing of key health information with consumers starting with pathology and diagnostic imaging report uploads to their My Health Record.

[Read More](#)

Free mental health support for northern suburbs parents

The Bunyip, Other, 13/12/2024

New and expectant parents in the northern suburbs will get free, personalised support with a new perinatal mental health centre to be established in Elizabeth. [...] "It's common to be overwhelmed and tired during pregnancy and as a new parent, but many Australians are faced with far greater challenges," Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 13/12/2024, Joel Rheinberger

The NT Government is sending extra police to Alice Springs following an alleged home invasion in which a two-month-old baby has been struck in the head. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is expected to join Federal Member for Lingiari Marion Scrymgour, next week to meet with health services in Alice Springs.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

'Rushed' aged-care reforms delayed a year

Weekend Australian, General News, 14/12/2024, Sarah Ison & Rhiannon Down, Page 2

Key measures to overhaul the home care system for elderly Australians are being delayed by 12 months following outcry from the sector that providers may be unable to meet the mandated requirements because of "a lack of lead time". [...] "This decision has been made based on feedback from the sector and the opposition about the need to avoid service disruption and ensure continuity of care for older people," Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said.

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

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Care home sedative spike

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/12/2024, Julie Cross, Page 3

Report finds rise in antipsychotic drugs used on residents without doctor diagnosis Nearly half of all aged care homes in NSW have seen an alarming rise in the proportion of residents given antipsychotic drugs without a prescription. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said since the creation of Star Ratings more than two years ago, the number of aged care homes with 4 and 5 stars has substantially improved.

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

[Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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CHA Welcomes move to pricing benchmarks in aged care

Catholic Health Australia, Other, 13/12/2024

Catholic Health Australia (CHA) has welcomed the Government's decision to support more flexible pricing to deliver high quality aged care services in the home as part of the Support at Home program which begins on 1 July 2025. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells is to be congratulated for this pragmatic decision which will help the Support at Home program achieve its goals.

[Read More](#)

Boost for women in sport: Football club and council successful with grants

Port Stephens Examiner, Other, 13/12/2024

Women and girls in Port Stephens will find it easier and more enjoyable to play sports and be active with government grants set to improve conditions. [...] 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 enjoy the fun, satisfaction and health benefits of sport.

[Read More](#)

Janet Anderson out, new Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner in

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/12/2024, Lauren Broomham

The inaugural Commissioner of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, Janet Anderson PSM, will depart the role next month after six years in favour of a new face. [...] A statement from Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said Ms Hefren-Webb is an experienced leader with an extensive background in social policy and programs who brings strong strategic capabilities and highly developed stakeholder engagement and decision-making skills.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

New plan to improve health and care for LGBTIQ+ communities

Croakey, Other, 13/12/2024, Melissa Sweet

The largest ever national consultation to inform LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing priorities has been undertaken over the past 18 months, to inform development of the National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ People 2025 – 2035, according to Ged Kearney, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health. The plan, launched this week, will save lives and improve healthcare, and deserves the support of all parliamentarians regardless of their

political stance, says Nicky Bath, CEO of LGBTIQ+ Health Australia, and a member of an expert advisory group for the plan.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

'Rushed' aged-care reforms delayed a year

Weekend Australian, General News, 14/12/2024, Sarah Ison & Rhiannon Down, Page 2

Key measures to overhaul the home care system for elderly Australians are being delayed by 12 months following outcry from the sector that providers may be unable to meet the mandated requirements because of "a lack of lead time". [...] "This decision has been made based on feedback from the sector and the opposition about the need to avoid service disruption and ensure continuity of care for older people," Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said.

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

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We should copy UK puberty-blocker ban: state Lib leader

Weekend Australian, General News, 14/12/2024, Paul Garvey, Page 3

The bipartisan endorsement of a UK ban on puberty blockers for children should stir parliamentarians across the country to consider similar steps, Western Australian Liberal leader Libby Mettam says. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler referred questions on the matter to the Department of Health and Aged Care, which said gender services were the responsibility of the states and territories, but all models are centred on multidisciplinary care.

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

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The dairy giants milking insecurity

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/12/2024, Patrick Begley, Page 3

The federal government is fuelling the sale of expensive "toddler milks" to families in poorer nations, backing the rise of an ultra-processed product Australian health authorities have warned parents not to buy. [...] The Department of Health now describes the infant formula scheme as "no longer fit-for-purpose".

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

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Alarm at aged care drug rise

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/12/2024, Julie Cross, Page 4

More than half of all aged care homes in South Australia have seen an alarming rise in the proportion of residents being given antipsychotic drugs without a prescription. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said since the creation of Star Ratings more than two years ago, the number of aged care homes with 4 and 5 stars had substantially improved.

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(Online), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Doctor can see you now

Courier Mail, General News, 14/12/2024, Toby Crockford, Page 27

An anti-vax doctor whose professional licence was suspended more than two years ago has won his legal challenge against medical regulators. [...] He further yelled at the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly calling him "a liar" and accusing him of "gaslighting".

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Early Christmas for pony club

Ararat Advocate, General News, 13/12/2024, Page 1

Ararat Pony Club will soon be the envy of clubs across Victoria with funding announced this week to construct a year-round covered equine arena. [...] The new covered sports arena for the Ararat Pony Club is supported by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Patients abandon ADHD diagnosis process due to delays, high costs

ABC Online, Other, 13/12/2024, Charlotte Wilkes

When Emily Murphy decided to pursue an ADHD diagnosis, she did not expect the journey to be such a challenge. After the Ballarat resident paid \$1,600 for extensive psychological assessments, she then had to consult a psychiatrist. [...] A federal Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said the government welcomed the Senate report.

[Read More](#)

Gov announces changes to Support at Home pricing arrangements

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 13/12/2024, Alex Jacobs

Christmas has come early for home care providers after the government surprised the sector by announcing that price caps on services in the new Support at Home program will be staged. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care will survey providers in early 2025 to seek information about their prices under Support at Home.

[Read More](#)

Staged price caps announced for Support at Home program

Inside Ageing, Other, 13/12/2024, Amy Clarke

The government has confirmed the introduction of staged price caps for the Support at Home program, starting 1 July 2025 – providers will set their own prices during the program's first year. Government-set price caps will begin on 1 July 2026, as per updated guidance from the Independent Health and Aged

Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA). [...] Catholic Health Australia During the transition, IHACPA and the Department of Health and Aged Care will closely monitor market behaviour, including transparency and consumer safeguards, alongside existing protections like bans on hidden fees, capped co-contributions, and a financial safety net.

[Read More](#)

The Hot Top 20 most-read stories on Pulse+IT in 2024

Pulse+IT, Other, 13/12/2024, Kate McDonald

The most popular story this year was the announcement that former Sydney LHD CEO Teresa Anderson was appointed head of the newly announced NSW Single Digital Patient Record (SDPR) implementation authority, set to oversee the roll-out of the \$1 billion Epic EMR to the whole of NSW. [...] This was accompanied by the Department of Health and Aged Care's digital health blueprint and action plan.

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Private health set for reforms

Business News WA, Other, 13/12/2024, Sam Jones

A slew of reforms to the private health sector, including expanding access for maternity cover, have been floated today as part of a push to make private hospitals more viable. Health Minister Mark Butler presented the package at the inaugural Private Health CEO Forum today – which was formed in response to a financial check of the sector conducted by the Department of Health.

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Govt bows to pressure on delaying full implementation of Support at Home pricing

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/12/2024, Lauren Broomham

In what appears to be another concession to its reform agenda, the Federal Government has revealed overnight that it will stage the introduction of price caps on services in the new Support at Home program over a 12-month period. [...] In a statement issued by the Department of Health and Aged Care late on Thursday afternoon (12 December 2024), the Government has promised to consult with older people, consumer advocates and the sector on the development of these measures from January 2025.

[Read More](#)

ABC Shepparton, Breakfast, 13/12/2024, Nic Healey

Central Victorian doctors are requesting more support to encourage medical research to regional Australia. An audit from the Department of Health and Aged Care on the country's medical researchers found 13% of the workforce lives in regional Australia but serves 30% of the country's population.

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[Back to Top](#)

VACCINES

New imaging shows virus invading the body and lingering for years, potentially explaining long COVID

7news.com.au, Other, 13/12/2024, John Flint

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

[Read More](#)

Will we have a Covid wave, spike or blip this Christmas? It depends where you live

As the holiday season approaches, Covid cases are rising again in Australia, particularly in Victoria and Tasmania. This is now the fourth year running with a summer rise of Covid, and the second year with a roughly six-month gap between waves.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Never going to retire? You're not alone, and the trend is on the rise

Weekend Australian, Business News, 14/12/2024, Neal Templin, Page 30

There are people who count the days until they stop working. Then there is 86-year-old Don Betterton of Lawrenceville, New Jersey, who works seven days a week counselling high schoolers on how to get admitted to top universities.

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Push to keep seniors fighting fit for free

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 14/12/2024, Kate Emery, Page 22

Older West Aussies should be given free fitness class vouchers to keep them strong, fit and out of nursing homes for longer, according to a 2025 wish list from a seniors advocacy group. Council on the Ageing WA wants politicians of all parties to consider making cheap fitness accessible, via \$150 vouchers, ahead of next year's State election.

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Aged care training solution could be rolled out nationwide

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 14/12/2024, Monique Patterson, Page 8

A first of its kind mobile teaching tool has taken out a bronze medal. The Aged Care Mobile Skills Lab, which allows training for the aged care industry to be taken on the road, took out the Industry Collaboration Award category at the 2024 Australian Training Awards last Friday.

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1 year delay on Support at Home price caps

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/12/2024, Natasha Egan

The government has announced providers will continue to set their own prices for the first year of incoming home care program as they do under the current system. From 1 July 2026, government set price caps will apply for the Support at Home program – 12 months after it replaces the Home Care Package and other programs on 1 July 2025.

[Read More](#)

OPAN welcomes new aged care commissioner

Australian Seniors News, Other, 13/12/2024

The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) has welcomed the appointment of Liz Hefren-Webb as the new Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner. OPAN CEO Craig Gear OAM, said Ms Hefren-Webb will play an important role leading the country's national regulator of aged care.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Urgent fight against our health crisis

AFR Weekend, General News, 14/12/2024, Terry Plane, Page 20

When former prime minister Scott Morrison announced Dr James Muecke as Australian of the year on a January night in Canberra in 2020, the recipient was delighted, honoured and surprised.

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

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Cops seize \$1m haul as tobacco crackdown heats up

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/12/2024, Dasha Havrilenko & Aden Hill, Page 13

Police have made the largest single retail seizure of tobacco products, as part of a series of raids by taskforce Operation Eclipse. The seizure was made at a Welland retail premises on Wednesday, as raids on a further 14 tobacconists, gift shops, and small supermarkets turned up \$1m worth of illicit tobacco products and over \$8000 in cash.

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

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Huge challenge looms in aged care

Courier Mail, Editorials, 14/12/2024, Page 62

We have known for decades about the demographic tsunami headed our way, yet we are clearly still fumbling our way towards providing adequate aged care for our rapidly rising tide of seniors. [...] Yet the statistics, provided by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, are stark.

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

What booze does to us

The Nightly, General News, 13/12/2024, Sarah Di Lorenzo, Page 34

This time of year the festive or silly season really starts to kick off. The pressure to drink alcohol for many ramps up with work Christmas parties, end of year catch ups and that feeling of holidays around the corner.

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Warning about obesity danger

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/12/2024, Alex Blair, Page 7

Australia's health crisis has just hit a grim new milestone. The latest Australian Burden of Disease Study 2024, released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, has revealed a big shift in what is causing diseases for Aussies.

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Majority of children in detention are Indigenous boys

Canberra Times, Other, 13/12/2024, Tess Ikonomou

Almost 850 young people are locked up in detention nationwide on any given night, with nine in 10 being boys, and the majority Indigenous children. A report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on Friday, showed how many young people were in detention between June 2020 to June 2024.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

From best to worst 2024: Is your APS agency a good place to work?

Canberra Times, Other, 13/12/2024, Brittney Levinson, Miriam Webber & Connor Pearce

A government agency that once sought to improve mental health outcomes for Australians had the worst culture in the federal bureaucracy in 2024, with under a third of staff recommending it as a good place to work. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Commonwealth Grants Commission and the National Health Funding Body also received scores above 90 per cent.

[Read More](#)

Broome shire secures Government funding to expand needle disposal services

West Australian, Other, 13/12/2024, Cain Andrews

The Shire of Broome has secured State Government funding to help clean up the increased presence of used needles on the streets. The \$187,000 12-month grant agreement will run from December 16 and include the installation of additional needle disposal bins around Broome and the hiring of an additional community clean-up crew staff member.

[Read More](#)

Police and health officials seize 6,000 vapes, 150,000 cigarettes in raids on West End tobacconists

ABC Online, Other, 13/12/2024

Nearly 6,000 vapes, 150,000 cigarettes and more than 63 kilograms of loose tobacco were seized from three Brisbane businesses last week by police and health officials. Metro South's Environmental Health team have removed more than half-a-million dollars worth of illegal cigarettes and vapes under Queensland's new tobacco laws, which came into effect in September.

[Read More](#)

Charities uncertain of future as younger givers increasingly hard to reach

ABC Online, Other, 13/12/2024, Anna Levy

Australians are a generous bunch. Four in five of us give financially to charities, according to a recent report by market researcher McCrindle. [...] McCrindle's research, as well as data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, shows that the older you are, the more likely you are to donate.

[Read More](#)

Celebrity Kids While some measures – such as a decline in smoking rates – improved, many recorded little or no progress

The Mercury, Other, 12/12/2024, Sarah Booth

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Play it safe amid fun times ahead

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/12/2024, Alison Lai, Page 45

As the end of the year draws ever closer, I know that many Tasmanians are looking forward to Christmas. It's a time for families to get together from across the state and from other states. [...] May I wish all of Tasmania and the thousands of Cancer Council Tasmania supporters around the state the merriest of festive seasons.

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

'Like coming home': Funding push for cancer support

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/12/2024, Duncan Bailey, Page 2

It was a routine mammogram that led to a shock diagnosis for Carol Fogarty in 2021. Days before leaving for her new home in Tasmania with her husband, Ms Fogarty learnt she had breast cancer. [...] According to donor relationships manager Carissa Campbell, the Cancer Council Christmas appeal is vital to the organisation's ongoing fundraising.

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Australian young people have highest rates of bowel cancer in the world, new study reveals

9News, Other, 13/12/2024, Lara Pearce

Australia has the highest rates of bowel cancer among young people in the world, concerning new findings published in a top medical journal this week have revealed. The research conducted by the American Cancer Society and published in The Lancet compared bowel cancer rates in those aged under and over 50 in 50 countries worldwide.

[Read More](#)

The bizarre sign of cancer that's surging - which woman spotted on her husband's face

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/12/2024, Emma Nelson

A former teacher has told of the bizarre sign that he was suffering tongue cancer — a disease that's around 25 per cent more prevalent than it was a decade ago. Stuart Kingston, 67, from Merseyside, wasn't aware that his face 'appeared uneven', until it was spotted by his wife, Carol.

[Read More](#)

Changes to BP measurement advice possible as GPs say current protocols take too long

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/12/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Advice on optimal blood pressure measurement could change next year to reflect improving technology and the lack of available time in general practice, a leading cardiologist says. Heart Foundation chief medical adviser Professor Garry Jennings said current guidance remained evidence-based, but may be updated after eight years.

[Read More](#)

Alarming rise in under-50s bowel cancer

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/12/2024

The number of under-50s being diagnosed with bowel cancer is increasing worldwide, and Australia has the highest rate of early-onset cancer among the 50 countries included in an international study. The reason for the increase is largely unknown, but thought to be due to changing diet (from one rich in low-fat and high-fibre foods, to an increased consumption of red and/or processed meat, sugars and convenience foods) and physically inactive lifestyles.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Access denied

The Saturday Paper, General News, 14/12/2024, Madison Griffiths, Page 11

There is a mother and baby unit at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, a maximum-security women's prison in the Melbourne suburb of Deer Park, but it hasn't accommodated any babies for several years. According to reports received by the advocacy group FIGJAM from pregnant women over the past year, inmates have been transferred from the prison to hospital to give birth and return days later to no medical attention or aftercare.

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Premmie bubs 'heal themselves'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/12/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 10

They are the tiniest and most vulnerable of babies born way too soon and much too small but now Australian scientists may have found a way to help premature bubs protect themselves from brain injuries. In a world first, the team at Monash Children's Hospital have successfully collected and reinfused umbilical cord blood cells in babies born before 28 weeks, known as extremely premature.

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

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Rise tipped in extra charges

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/12/2024, Satria Dyer-Darmawan, Page 23

Increased out-of-pocket costs for patients accessing the region's only private mental health clinic are a possibility after negotiations failed between a private hospital operator and private health insurance company GMHBA. Healthscope, which operates the Healthscope group of hospitals, has made the decision to terminate its contract with GMHBA.

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

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

Not so healthy

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 14/12/2024, Page 28

Traveling across regional Victoria in recent weeks, I have been struck by the stories of frustration, heartbreak, and failure in our health system. There is nothing to celebrate after 10 years of Labor and Jacinta Allan, and it's clear regional Victorians have been left behind.

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

Residents petition to return 24-hour ED

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 14/12/2024, Simon Chamberlain & Lydia Roberts, Page 2

NSW Regional Health Minister Ryan Park will never forget the name of Wee Waa, a town of 2000 people wanting a simple Christmas present: 24-hour emergency access to its hospital. Narrabri Shire Council's mayor, Darrell Tiemens, said the council had launched a petition to save its hospital to get 10,000 signatures to get the opening hours extended beyond their current 8am to 5.30pm daily.

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

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

Fix for due date bungle at SA hospitals involving hundreds of pregnant women 'inappropriately prolonged'

ABC Online, Other, 13/12/2024, Stephanie Richards

The South Australian government's response to a bungle that resulted in the potential miscalculation of 1,700 pregnant women's due dates was "sub-optimal" and "inappropriately prolonged", but there was no harm caused to patients, an independent review has found. In a report to the government, SA's Commissioner for Excellence and Innovation in Health Professor Keith McNeil, wrote that his review highlighted a "real probability that a significant clinical event may/will eventuate in the digital environment in the future", if issues are not fixed.

[Read More](#)

'No cuts': Health Minister vows regional communities will keep all services

The Border Mail, Other, 13/12/2024, Ben Silvester

Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas has ruled out any loss of services in regional Victoria in the upcoming hospital system reforms. Several regional communities and their health services across the state have expressed deep concerns about hospitals losing amenities and services, forcing locals to travel further for care.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

GP payroll tax, first homebuyer stamp duty scrapped

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 13/12/2024, Savannah Meacham

A tax purported to make GP visits cost more and a barrier to entering the housing market have been removed by a state government fulfilling more of its election promises. The Liberal National

government scrapped a "patient's tax" during the final Queensland parliament sitting on Thursday, a move it vowed to do after it won the October 26 election.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Bunbury Hospital ambulance ramping among WA's worst

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 13/12/2024, Warren Hately

Ambulances are spending more time than ever queued up outside Bunbury Hospital in a sign of major struggles in the health system, the State's Opposition claims. WA Liberal leader Libby Mettam this week singled out Bunbury's difficulties with ambulances which are the worst recorded in the South West since reporting began.

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

[Read More](#)

Anger over need to see GP to get long-term repeat prescriptions

The Mercury, Other, 12/12/2024, Jackie Sinnerton

A Queensland patient forced to see a doctor at full cost every three months for repeat prescriptions for medicines that he has been taking for decades feels ripped off and is calling for a probe into the practice. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners president Michael Wright has told The Courier-Mail that GPs are trained to have the professional autonomy and clinical independence to prescribe safely and in line with good medical practice.

[Read More](#)

After being dismissed by doctors, Kate sent one final heartbreaking text.

Mamamia, Other, 13/12/2024, Nicole Madigan

When Kate Sylvia messaged her mother from the bathroom floor, she thought she was suffering a migraine "Sorry, migraine pain, agony ; dying on the bathroom floor," she messaged her mum, Kathryn, on December 1, 2021. The next morning, the 32-year-old was still in excruciating pain , and vomiting profusely.

[Read More](#)

Federal Government backs ADHD prescribing consistency

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 13/12/2024

The Federal Government has given its full support to the development of uniform and nationally consistent attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) prescribing rules. The backing comes as part of its response to a Senate inquiry into ADHD assessment and treatment barriers, which was handed down more than one year ago.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

When a system breaks down

Weekend Australian, General News, 14/12/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 17

The sloping manicured lawns and crumbling sandstone blocks of Rozelle Hospital in Sydney's inner west are suspended in time. Surrounded by metal fences dotted with signs warning of asbestos and hazardous materials, the buildings' windows boarded, the site is a perfect metaphor for Australia's policy torpor on the care of those living with severe mental illness.

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

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

NDIS families to keep art and music therapy funding

The Saturday Age, General News, 14/12/2024, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 3

Thousands of families who use the National Disability Insurance Scheme for art and music therapy will keep receiving funding of nearly \$200 an hour after the agency paused its plans to cut subsidies following a massive backlash from parents and practitioners. The agency will instead reassess pricing and re-evaluate the evidence behind creative therapies which proponents say help develop communication skills and regulate emotions as it walks back its plan to reduce spending on the treatments because there was not enough proof they were effective.

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New AI controls after teens succumb to chatbots

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/12/2024, Page 19

Character.AI has announced new safety measures to protect teenage users as it faces lawsuits in the US alleging its chatbots have contributed to suicide and self-harm. The California-based company, which was founded by former Google engineers, is among several firms offering artificial intelligence companions chatbots designed to provide conversation, entertainment and emotional support through human-like interactions.

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'Woefully inadequate': ADHD advocates 'disappointed' by government's inquiry response

SBS, Other, 13/12/2024, Amy Hall

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) experts and advocates have described the federal government's long-awaited response to a landmark Senate inquiry report as "woefully inadequate", saying it clearly "didn't listen" to the urgent needs of the community. A Senate committee examined submissions and evidence from over 700 people, community organisations, and medical professionals last year, making 15 recommendations to improve access to assessment and support services for over one million Australians living with ADHD.

[Read More](#)

Federal Government will push for nationally-consistent ADHD prescribing rules

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/12/2024, Rachel Carter

The Albanese Government will pursue nationally-consistent ADHD prescribing rules but has equivocated on 14 other recommendations from last year's Senate report on ADHD assessment and support services. The Senate report, released last November, spanned 304 pages and received more than 700 submissions.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Ultimatum given to nurses in pay row

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

Nurses and midwives at seven private hospitals risk having up to a third of their pay docked if they continue to refuse to mop floors, fill in paperwork, deliver meals or empty bins, a dramatic escalation in a long-running pay dispute with embattled hospital giant Healthscope. Australia's second-largest private hospital operator told staff at seven of its NSW facilities on Thursday that it would cut the pay of

nurses and midwives refusing to perform any non-clinical duties as part of an ongoing campaign for improved pay and conditions.

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

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More needed in health blitz

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/12/2024, Simon Mcguire, Page 26

About 1500 new workers have joined the Tasmanian health service since April, the state government says, with the Liberals marking the recruitment milestone at Royal Hobart Hospital on Friday. However, the Department of Health has admitted that about 1130 people left the service in the same period, and the nursing union says more than 100 full-time positions remain unfilled.

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Simulation suite way to attract workers

Border Mail, General News, 14/12/2024, Madilyn McKinley, Page 14

A multi-million dollar lab has doubled its capacity to respond to demand and train more healthcare workers on the Border. A clinical simulation suite was unveiled last Friday at La Trobe University's Albury-Wodonga campus as part of a \$170 million investment to improve health education resources across its Victorian campuses.

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Fulfilling a healthy, vital role

Daily Advertiser, General News, 14/12/2024, Page 43

Becoming a nurse practitioner isn't easy, but those who do the job say is gratifying and vital to healthcare. Wagga's Stacey Casley has been a nurse practitioner (NP) for about 10 years, having returned to the regions following her study.

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

New nurses to walk onto wards

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 14/12/2024, Lewis Nancekivell, Page 9

Students from La Trobe University will take the next big steps on their journey into healthcare careers in 2025 with grad year roles at Mildura Base Public Hospital. This initiative followed an agreement made in 2021 between university and hospital staff to collaborate by providing local students with work experience.

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'We're better prepared'

Weekend Post, General News, 14/12/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 8

A brave Cape York nurse has recalled the night he spent trapped on a roof caring for a young patient and his mother as floodwaters rose around them, almost a year ago during a devastating natural disaster that hit the Far North. Wujal Wujal Primary Health Care Centre's nursing director Vincent Connellan led staff during the Far North flood that forced the entire community to be evacuated last December.

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

Health union boss powers restricted until case decided

Canberra Times, Other, 13/12/2024, Tara Cosoleto

Health Workers Union boss Diana Asmar will not be allowed to carry out her duties as branch secretary until a judge rules on whether the union should be placed into administration. Federal Court Justice Craig Dowling made the orders on Friday, following a push from the national Health Services Union (HSU) to further restrict Ms Asmar's role in the Victorian branch.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Major surgeries affected as nurses and midwives strike

West Australian, Other, 13/12/2024, William Ton

Major surgeries will be halted at a major hospital as hundreds of nurses and midwives strike in their ongoing fight for better staffing levels amid wage negotiations. Nurses and midwives at St Vincent's Private Hospitals in Melbourne began rolling protected industrial action across morning, afternoon, and night shifts on Friday.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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NSW maternity staffing changes spark concern among midwives, expectant mums

ABC Online, Other, 13/12/2024, Claire Simmonds

Pregnant nurse Teagan Beeby felt "pure fear" when she was told about midwifery roster cuts at her workplace. She is 36 weeks pregnant and works at Port Macquarie Base Hospital, where she also intends to give birth to her first child.

[Read More](#)

Surgery prepared to splash some cash in search of more doctors

The Border Mail, Other, 13/12/2024, Beau Greenway

Attracting doctors to regional areas has long proved a challenging task. But Beechworth Surgery is thinking outside the box to address its GP shortage. The practice is offering a \$1000 reward to anyone who can connect them to a doctor who starts work at the surgery, to be donated to a community group of their choice.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Audit-General finds 'poor processes' in digital health record payments

Canberra Times, Other, 13/12/2024, Lucy Bladen

The ACT Health Directorate had "poor processes" to assess whether payments made for services related to the delivery of the digital health record had been provided, the Auditor-General has found. The ACT Audit Office has reaffirmed findings made over several other audits that the management of invoicing and payments was ineffective.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Providing friendships for older residents is more than a job for Kathryn Bredin

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 13/12/2024, Finn Coleman

Wagga's Kathryn Bredin spends her days ensuring older people aren't lonely for one simple reason: "I just like to help people". Ms Bredin, who has lived in Wagga all her life, is the program coordinator for the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme, an initiative of the Australian government to combat isolation and enhance the well-being of older community members.

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[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Predator in the vault

Weekend Australian, General News, 14/12/2024, Jessica Halloran & Stephen Rice, Page 1

Australia's most celebrated pole-vaulting coach groomed, propositioned, sexually harassed and inappropriately touched multiple young female athletes in his care, in a pattern of predatory behaviour that was ignored and then kept secret by the West Australian Institute of Sport for more than 15 years. The Australian can reveal how Russian-born pole vaulting coach Alex Parnov was able to prey on a succession of vulnerable girls and young women, many of whom complained about him but were told he was too important to the sport's success to be sacked.

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

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'Backflips wasted Games time'

Weekend Australian, General News, 14/12/2024, Jamie Walker, Page 3

Chopping and changing governance arrangements for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics had helped squander years of extra time to plan for the Games, the Queensland Auditor-General says. The watchdog's performance review, released on Friday, found that the backflips under former Labor premiers Annastacia Palaszczuk and Steven Miles meant organisers had "not necessarily been able to maximise" the additional four years to prepare.

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

Swans in abuse lawsuit

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/12/2024, Laura Placella, Page 9

A promising young footballer robbed of the chance to play AFL is suing the Sydney Swans after he alleges he was sexually abused by his development coach over a traumatic two year period. Thomas Marino* was only a boy when Mark Heaney, who spent the mid-2000s coaching junior footy players in Melbourne's east, allegedly started grooming him after he was recruited to the Sydney Swans Junior Academy more than a decade ago.

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

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Chloe's clear focus

Adelaide Advertiser, Sport, 14/12/2024, Erin Smith, Page 69

Chloe Logarzo's desperation to work her way back into the Australian women's football team was there for all to see. She stood on the field and begged the team doctor to let her keep playing, even though she couldn't focus her eyes.

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

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

Stadium GST victory

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/12/2024, David Killick, Page 5

The federal government will exempt \$240m of funding for a multipurpose stadium from Tasmania's GST calculations. Friday's announcement comes after a long campaign by the state government. It means the federal funding for the Macquarie Point precinct will not result in reduced revenue for the state.

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

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No need to suffer in silence

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 14/12/2024, Page 20

A Warrnambool chiropractor is one of only a few in the state who has trained under a man leading change when it comes to treating a concussion. Ben Lowe, a Doctor of Chiropractic, completed a course under Brett Jarosz, who has treated hockey player and Olympic silver medallist Lachlan Sharp, along with professional surfer Tyler Wright and several AFL players.

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

Olympics would bring gold

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/12/2024, Tom Gillespie, Page 1

A new Toowoomba Equestrian Centre at the showgrounds capable of hosting Olympic events could deliver more than \$12m to the city during the 2032 games, generate upwards of \$5m a year outside of it and turn Australia into an equine sporting powerhouse. That's the view of economic experts and sporting bodies, who have continued to make the case for the TEQ's inclusion in the Brisbane Olympics in eight years' time.

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

Liveris declares stadium support

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/12/2024, Hayden Johnson, Page 5

Brisbane's powerful 2032 Olympic Games boss Andrew Liveris says a new stadium should be built at Victoria Park. The stunning revelation adds significant firepower to the growing campaign for Brisbane to create a world-leading sport and entertainment park that can be used for AFL and cricket after 2032.

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Sky News Live, News Night, 13/12/2024, Rhiannon Elston

One of Australia's most successful athletics coaches has been accused of abusing a string of athletes in his care. An exposé in The Australian newspaper has claimed Russian born pole vaulting coach Alex Parnov preyed on a succession of young females in his care. He's facing claims of grooming, sexual harassment and inappropriate touching, while it's alleged the West Australian Institute of Sport knew about the behaviour and kept it a secret.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Arthritis rising among working-age patients: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 13/12/2024

Patients still of working age will be increasingly impacted by arthritis, causing 'major implications for national workforce participation', according to a new study. Published in The Lancet Rheumatology, the new research aimed to project the burden of arthritis among adults and children in Australia to the year 2040.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Expanded bush food and medicine garden to help share Aboriginal knowledge and cultural practices

West Australian, Other, 13/12/2024, Carwyn Monck

A garden which aims to preserve and share Aboriginal knowledge of native plants has grown to accommodate a variety of new species. The Aboriginal Bush Food and Medicine Garden was established at the Museum of the Goldfields in 2022 to highlight how native plants have been an effective source of nutrition and medicine for Indigenous peoples across WA.

[Read More](#)

Silverchain launches fourth Reconciliation Action Plan

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/12/2024, Brendan Foster

Leading in-home care specialist, Silverchain, has launched its fourth Reconciliation Action Plan which aims to build a deeper connection between health, culture and Country. Silverchain chief executive, Dale Fisher, said the organisation was committed to reconciliation. "Reconciliation is our investment in a shared future where everyone can thrive," he said.

[Read More](#)

New 10-year plan to tackle Indigenous suicide rates

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/12/2024, Joseph Guenzler

The Federal Government, in partnership with Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia, has launched the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025-2035. The strategy aims to address the disproportionately high suicide rates among First Nations people through culturally informed, locally driven solutions.

[Read More](#)

First Nations and Pfizer team up on COVID

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/12/2024

Pfizer Australia has launched a groundbreaking health awareness campaign developed in collaboration with First Nations communities, to improve access to COVID treatments. Data shows that First Nations communities continue to face more severe COVID outcomes than the general population.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Biotech boom for Brisbane

Courier Mail, Business News, 14/12/2024, Glen Norris, Page 65

Brisbane is set to become the first city in the southern hemisphere to host over 400 top immunologists, vaccine researchers, engineers, healthcare professionals, and scientists at a major vaccine technology conference. The International Healthcare Conference on Microneedles will be held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre between May 11 and 14 next year focused on microarray patch technology and its groundbreaking applications in transdermal delivery, diagnostics, and healthcare.

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Major health alert issued after measles detected in two travellers returning to Australia from Singapore

The Australian, Other, 13/12/2024, Emma Kirk

A major health alert has been issued after cases of measles were detected in two recent travellers who returned to Perth from Singapore. One return traveller arrived at Perth Airport on Singapore Airlines SQ225 on December 8 between 5.30am and 6.30am.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Measles case reported in Perth after infected traveller returns from Singapore

9News, Other, 13/12/2024, Rebecca Masters

A case of measles has been identified in a returned overseas traveller to Singapore who passed through Perth Airport. The person travelled from Singapore to Perth on Singapore Airlines SQ225 in the early hours of Sunday December 8 and passed through terminal 1 of Perth Airport between 5.30am and 6.30am.

[Read More](#)

Mystery disease kills dozens in Congo – what we know so far

The New Daily, Other, 13/12/2024, Andrew Lee

A "mystery disease" recently struck the south-western corner of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), killing between 67 and 143 people over two weeks . The disease was reported to cause flu-like symptoms of fever, headache, cough and anaemia.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Smokers turn to dope

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/12/2024, Page 20

New research has revealed older Australians who smoke cigarettes are turning to cannabis as the price of tobacco increases. The federal government increases tax on tobacco twice a year, with the price of cigarettes increasing from a few dollars in the 1990s to about \$70 for a 25-pack today.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#).

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Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission wastewater reports reveal surge in cocaine usage in Melbourne

Adelaide Now, Other, 13/12/2024, Mark Buttler & Olivia Jenkins

Cocaine use in Melbourne surged by 300 per cent in seven years as the state's spending on the drug pushed past an estimated \$1 billion. The explosion in cocaine use has been exposed by an analysis of Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission wastewater reports, which began in 2017.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

Grand Eastern Trading issues recall alert for Indomie products over undeclared allergens

Adelaide Now, Other, 13/12/2024, Duncan Evans

A cult-favourite instant noodle meal beloved by students has been recalled and pulled from Aussie shelves over food safety fears. [...] "Any consumers who have a milk and or egg allergy or intolerance may have a reaction if the product is consumed," Food Standards Australia said in its recall alert this week.

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

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Experts call for caution as lab-grown meat nears Aussie tables

9News, Other, 13/12/2024, Adam Vidler

A range of experts and scientists have sounded a note of caution as lab-grown meat gets closer to Aussie tables. Food Standards Australia New Zealand is dealing with an application by Vow Group to permit the sale of cell-cultured quail meat as food.

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[Back to Top](#)

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Testing shows PFAS levels in Tamworth water are safe

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 14/12/2024, Fiona Ferguson, Page 3

Tamworth Regional Council has released the results of PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) testing on the region's water supplies. It shows all water systems across the region meet all guideline limits.

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