



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 28th December 2024

Today's News will not be sent on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, or New Year's Day. Prominent media items captured during this period will be reported in the following day's summary. Access to Isentia's Mediportal will be available during this period and any recurring reports set up in the platform will be delivered as normal.

Please contact writing.support@health.gov.au if you have any questions.

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

LINKS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Saturday Age** (page 1) reports two sailors have died in separate incidents during the Sydney to Hobart race amid high winds and surf. *Also reported by:* [Weekend Australian](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [West Australian](#)
- **The Weekend Australian** (page 3) reports Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner has urged the GIIA to recommend a new stadium be built for the 2032 Olympics under a public-private partnership.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 3) reports the first of 10 pill testing sites in Victoria is set to operate at the Beyond The Valley festival, the largest site in the country to offer testing, with 35,000 attendees expected. *Also reported by:* [Saturday Age](#), [Ballarat Courier](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#)
- **The Courier Mail** (page 3) reports a new treatment for depression utilising deep brain stimulation designed with Queensland researchers will begin clinical trials next year, to be

funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council. Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Daily Telegraph](#)

- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 4) reports Tasmanian MP Andrew Wilkie has written to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler raising concerns over the Pfizer Covid vaccine being the only available vaccine in the state, with a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care saying "[the] supply of Moderna and Novavax's original Covid vaccines have been exhausted and are no longer manufactured. Moderna's JN.1 submission is currently under consideration, and subject to regulatory approvals supply is anticipated from onshore production in mid-2025".
- **[The Toowoomba Chronicle](#)** (page 6) reports Queensland's chief health officer has warned of a Covid wave hitting the state, with Queensland Health confirming the average number of people in hospital for Covid had doubled between December 1 – 15.

MINISTER BUTLER

It looks like Albo might need that beach house in 2025

AFR Weekend, General News, 28/12/2024, John Black, Page 47

It became clear to your humble Financial Review election analyst in September that the Coalition, under the charismatically challenged Peter Dutton, looked like it could form a minority government after the 2025 federal election – and I explained why and how on September 16.

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

MP disturbed by limited choice on Covid vaccines

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/12/2024, Sue Bailey, Page 4

The federal member for Clark, Andrew Wilkie, has written to the health minister saying it is "disturbing" that Pfizer is now the only Covid vaccine available in Australia under the national immunisation program. [...] A spokesman for the Department of Health and Aged Care said supply of Moderna and Novavax's original Covid vaccines "have been exhausted and are no longer manufactured".

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

Funding decision contributing to mental health decline

Central Western Daily, General News, 28/12/2024, Marjorie Collins, Page 48

Recently, in response to an Australian National University report on the unmet needs in mental health care, housing and social services in Australia, Health Minister Mark Butler said that "the plight of those with severe mental illness is a stain on our nation and a shocking reflection on our community". With terms as Health Minister from 2010 to 2013, and in the current government, surely Mr Butler bears some responsibility for our current predicament.

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

West Coast District Hospital stage one upgrades complete with funding secured for the second part of the redevelopment

Northern Territory News, Other, 27/12/2024, Simon McGuire

Federal funding for the second stage of the redevelopment at the West Coast District Hospital has been secured just as the first part of the upgrades have been completed. [...] Meanwhile, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the upgrades would improve aged care and allied health facilities.

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

[Read More](#)

2GB, Mornings, 27/12/2024, Mark Levy

Compere mentions that he would like to encourage the health authorities and Health Minister Mark Butler to step in to save a five-year-old child who's in need of health assistance. He states that he

understands Butler is on his Christmas holiday, but he's hoping that Butler would provide the signature today and not tomorrow or next week.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

My favourite story from 2024 showed how medical misogyny is 'haunting' women

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 27/12/2024, Annika Rhoades

There were a few stories this year that I really enjoyed writing or thought made a small impact, but my favourite would have to be my story on medical misogyny. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney, said women's health had been "ignored and overlooked" for too long.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

MP disturbed by limited choice on Covid vaccines

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/12/2024, Sue Bailey, Page 4

The federal member for Clark, Andrew Wilkie, has written to the health minister saying it is "disturbing" that Pfizer is now the only Covid vaccine available in Australia under the national immunisation program. [...] A spokesman for the Department of Health and Aged Care said supply of Moderna and Novavax's original Covid vaccines "have been exhausted and are no longer manufactured".

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

ERH's year of growth and innovation

Shepparton News Online, Other, 27/12/2024, Ryan Bellingham

As part of the Riv's year in review, we spoke to Echuca Regional Health chief executive Robyn Lindsay about the highs and lows of the past 12 months, and looked ahead to next year. Looking back on the highlights of this year, providing care close to home was number one on Ms Lindsay's list.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

VACCINES

State in grips of Covid wave

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 28/12/2024, Madura McCormack , Page 6

Queensland is in the grips of a Covid-19 wave the chief health officer has warned, with the number of people hospitalised with the virus doubling in a fortnight. Experts believe the risk of getting sick will increase through the festive season as they issue a plea for Queenslanders to get the most up to date vaccine against newer variants.

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

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

Channel 9, Nine News, 27/12/2024, Josh Bavas

Authorities say COVID hospitalisations in QLD have doubled this month, warning of a summer surge of a mutant variant. The elderly and unvaccinated are most at risk, with officials and COVID sufferers urging people not to become complacent.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Old and dying? It's time to have the conversation

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/12/2024, Dr Magnolia Cardona, Page 56

In a world that celebrates medical miracles and advertisers who would have us believe healthy ageing looks like surfing septuagenarians, death continues to be a taboo topic. But it's a conversation we need to have.

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

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Warning to brace for hottest day of year

Courier Mail, General News, 28/12/2024, Greg Stolz, Bella Munro & Iwan Jones, Page 11

Parts of South East Queensland will swelter through the hottest day of the year before showers and possible storms bring relief to the region, as the run of perfect festive holiday weather comes to an end this weekend. The mercury is forecast to nudge 40C in Ipswich on Saturday, with 37C predicted for Brisbane, 36C for the Gold Coast and 35C for the Sunshine Coast.

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

[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Cancer diagnosis missed after losing 11kg in a month

Courier Mail, General News, 28/12/2024, Isabella Pesch, Page 25

A woman whose cancer was overlooked despite losing 11kg in a month says sick young people like her are falling through the cracks every day because they are not eligible for lifesaving genetic tests. Renee Gosney was just 25 when she went to the doctor seeking answers for why she had lost so much weight.

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

No smoke without concern

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 28/12/2024, John Conroy, Page 7

Poor air quality caused by bushfires is a concern for a majority of Australians, a survey has found, and an increasing danger for people with asthma. An Asthma Australia survey found 81 per cent of Australians are stressed about the impact of air pollution on their health heading into the bushfire season.

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

A stroke hasn't stopped Bev's spin classes at a sprightly 105 years of age

Daily Liberal, Other, 27/12/2024, Joel Ehsman

Eight weeks ago, Beverly 'Bev' Sherwood had to re-teach herself how to walk at 104 years old after suffering a stroke while gardening. It was not the first time Ms Sherwood had to re-learn how to walk after she suffered from "an unknown health condition" as a child which took away her ability to walk.

[Read More](#)

It has no cure, but this doctor believes he has an answer to chronic fatigue

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/12/2024, Boudicca Fox-Leonard

In 1989, a patient with myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) came to see Dr Raymond Perrin in his capacity as an osteopath. The man had postural problems but when Perrin worked with him using osteopathic techniques something else happened.

[Read More](#)

Pace your partying so your heart stays healthy

The New Daily, Other, 27/12/2024, Caleb Ferguson

It's the time of year for workplace Christmas parties, and gatherings with family and friends. Maybe you'll drink a lot in one go. [...] Information about alcohol and the heart is available from the Heart Foundation .

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 27/12/2024, Samantha Donovan

Interview with Sally Blane, Cancer Council, who discusses proper sunscreen use in the face of a growing anti-sunscreen movement on TikTok. She recommends 35mL for the entire body, with most Australians reportedly not using enough sunscreen. She says proper protection with sunscreen and clothing prevents skin cancers and that it is important to learn those behaviours early on.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 27/12/2024, Samantha Donovan

There are fears this anti SPF movement is going to impact Australians health. Doctor Cara macdonald is a dermatologist from Melbourne. She says people should be wary of influencers dishing out medical advice. Australians have the highest rate of skin cancer in the world, with 2 in 3 Australians diagnosed with some form of skin cancer in their lifetime [...] Sally Blane, from the Cancer Council said these figures are alarming because with the right protection, most skin cancers are entirely preventable.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

'I know it wasn't the life she wanted to lead. She told me many times'

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 28/12/2024, Cassidy Mosconi, Page 20

For 34 years Julie Cinanni watched her mother and aunt succumb to dementia. "Both Lorna and my mum existed for far longer than they wanted to. It wasn't a life," the South Perth woman said as she pleaded for dementia patients to be eligible for WA's voluntary assisted dying services.

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

Julie watched her mother and aunt die with dementia. Now, she wants other sufferers to have a choice

7news.com.au, Other, 27/12/2024, Cassidy Mosconi

Julie Cinanni watched both her mother and aunt succumb to the cruelty of dementia over 34 years. "Both Lorna and my mum existed for far longer than they wanted to. It wasn't a life," the South Perth woman said.

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

[Read More](#)

NDIS 'bed blocking' turnaround frees up hospital beds and saves taxpayers \$2500 a night per person

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/12/2024, Clare Armstrong

Chronic "bed blocking" where medically fit Australians with a disability are stuck in hospital waiting for somewhere to go has dropped to an average of 20 days – the lowest wait ever recorded – saving taxpayers and freeing up health resources. At an estimated cost of \$2,500 per person every night a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participant is left languishing in hospital for no medical reason, the dramatic decline in average wait times as of November has saved hundreds millions of dollars compared to two years ago.

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

[Read More](#)

Shorter hospital stays for NDIS participants saving 'hundreds of millions', Bill Shorten says

The Guardian, Other, 27/12/2024, Dan Jervis-Bardy

A major fall in the number of days National Disability Insurance Scheme participants are staying in hospital is saving the public health system "hundreds of millions of dollars", the federal government said. NDIS participants who were medically cleared to leave hospital had previously been waiting an average of 160 days to be discharged due to paperwork requirements and a lack of suitable housing to move them into.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 27/12/2024, Susannah Carr & Rick Ardon

A South Perth woman is calling for an overhaul of Western Australia's VAD laws, pushing to make dementia patients eligible The AMA WA President says any expansion of VAD here would need considerable medical and societal input. Dementia eligibility was left out of a recent statutory review of the legislation against advocates wishes.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Feeling depressed? food may be the cause

Weekend Australian, General News, 28/12/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 15

Evidence is now incontrovertible that a diet high in ultra-processed food is devastating for human

metabolic health. But the effect of the inflammation and insulin resistance in humans that highly processed foods tend to trigger across years of high consumption is not isolated to the body's digestive systems.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

NSW Govt is taking rail workers for a ride

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 28/12/2024, Arthur Rorris, Page 37

It's been another big year and for many of us, now is the time for a well-earned rest with family and friends. It's a time also to take stock of the things most important to us and our community. It's a time also to take stock of the things most important to us and our community.

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

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Sky News Live, News Night, 27/12/2024, Rhiannon Elston

There's a new raft of changes coming to federal government services. The original Medicare safety net threshold is set to increase by \$576.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

New-year winners & losers

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/12/2024, Shoba Rao, Page 20

Australians will start the new year with fee hikes, changes to welfare payments, Medicare and other laws on January 1. Here is a breakdown of what's coming. Under legislation, passport fees are indexed annually on January 1 in line with the Consumer Price Index.

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

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

Clicks cure congestion

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/12/2024, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 14

The rise of online GP consultations is saving patients money and time, while easing congestion in an under-pressure medical system. Medical centres across the Gold Coast are implementing repeat script and referrals service options online, freeing up face-to-face availability in the process.

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

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Youth grants target healthy life choices

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/12/2024, Thomas McLean, Page 5

A number of new initiatives aimed at educating young Territorians about healthy lifestyles and alcohol and drug harms have received funding under NT Health's 2024-25 Alcohol and Other Drugs Youth Grants Program. A total of \$252,782 has been awarded to 14 locally led initiatives that seek to provide education and minimise harm associated with the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs for young Territorians aged between 12 and 25.

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

SPORT

From 'apprehensive' to devastated: Sydney Hobart crews mourn lost mates

Weekend Australian, General News, 28/12/2024, David Murray, Page 1

Nine sailors walked onto the yacht Bowline for the start of the Sydney Hobart on Boxing Day, full of nervous anticipation about the challenge ahead. Only eight stepped off on Friday, their adventure tragically cut short when experienced crewmate Nick Smith, 65, was thrown against a winch in horrid conditions, suffered catastrophic injuries and died.

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

Games stadium private funding push

Weekend Australian, General News, 28/12/2024, Michael McKenna, Page 3

A new front has opened in the bitter battle over Brisbane's 2032 Olympic Games venues, as the mayor leads a fresh push backed by hundreds of public submissions for private funding to build a new stadium. Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner has urged the head of a review of the city's stalled Olympics infrastructure program to consider a public-private partnership to pay for a new stadium for the Queensland capital.

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

Foxtel's sale could be a game changer for two sports

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 28/12/2024, Calum Jaspan, Page 4

While the Foxtel-DAZN deal awaits the tick from regulators, the tie-up of the two billionaire-owned platforms is giving the bosses of the NRL and the A-Leagues plenty to think through. The seismic deal, which values Foxtel at \$3.4 billion, adds another layer of intrigue to a number of upcoming rights negotiations, particularly for the NRL, which will have to decide whether to double down on a Murdoch-less Foxtel, or to take a chance on a one-stop-shop option with either Paramount or Nine (the owner of the Herald).

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

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

Two sailors die as gales lash Sydney to Hobart

It was the news no one wanted to wake up to: two sailors fatally struck by their booms and sails in the black of the night as their yachts were smashed by violent weather on the first night of the Sydney to Hobart. It was minutes to midnight when the boom of the Flying Fish Arctos whipped around and struck 55-year-old West Australian Roy Quaden in the back of the head.

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

Swiatek says doping process 'fair'

The Saturday Age, Sport, 28/12/2024, Billie Eder, Page 39

Iga Swiatek has described her onemonth drug ban as "fair" and believes there is no reason for the World Anti-Doping Agency to appeal the sanction handed down by the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA). The Polish world No.2 spoke yesterday for the first time since news broke in November that she had tested positive to trimetazidine (TMZ) in August.

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

On my last breath

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 28/12/2024, James Bresnehan, Page 1

Sailor Luke Watkins was on his "last breath" pinned underwater when he was forced to unclip his lifeline and be swept away from the yacht Porco Rosso in pitch-blackness and chaotic seas during the Rolex Sydney to Hobart in the early hours of Friday morning. Mr Watkins, 37 – who spent three years living in Queensland as part of the Brisbane-based Alive Yachting crew before relocating back to Hobart – went over the side when the 50-footer crashed off the back of a rogue wave and slewed sideways, washing half the crew into the safety rail at 3.14am, 40 nautical miles off the NSW South Coast.

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

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

Cruel sea

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 28/12/2024, Caleb Runciman, Georgina Noack & Max Corstorphan, Page 1

The annual Sydney to Hobart yacht race has been overshadowed by the shock deaths of two men in separate boating accidents within hours of each other — the event's first fatalities since 1998. Avid sailor and drilling engineer Roy Quaden — who is from WA — was a navigator on the Flying Fish Arctos when he died just before midnight on Boxing Day.

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

Cruel sea claims SA sailor

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/12/2024, Dasha Havrilenko, Page 1

Two sailors with decades of experience died after suffering serious head injuries during the prestigious Sydney to Hobart race, with two yachts now crime scenes as police work to figure out how the tragedies occurred. Navigator of Flying Fish Arctos, Roy Quaden, died less than 12 hours into the race, after a boom swung and hit him in the back of the head in pitch-black waters off the state's south coast.

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

Mam cops \$120k fine

Courier Mail, General News, 28/12/2024, Michael Carayannis, Page 7

Ezra Mam has been hit with a \$120,000 fine including \$90,000 from the Broncos after the Brisbane five-eighth formally accepted the NRL's nine-game punishment. The Broncos have whacked Mam (pictured) with their own monetary punishment after he was banned for their opening nine games and fined \$30,000 by the NRL following his drug driving offences.

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

So lucky to be alive

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 28/12/2024, Brandon Demura, Page 11

A skipper who helped in the rescue two of four men floating in a notoriously dangerous stretch of water

in Port Phillip Bay says he is amazed no one died. Captain Dean Zanoni, who was the pilot aboard the bulk carrier Berge Snæffell, told of seeing the duo "clinging on to each other" after nearly two hours adrift.

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

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Doctors buzzing at brain results

Courier Mail, General News, 28/12/2024, Toby Crockford, Page 3

A groundbreaking depression treatment co-pioneered by Queensland researchers using a new form of brain stimulation will begin government-funded clinical trials next year. In what is described as an Australian-first and also believed to be a one-of-a-kind in the Southern Hemisphere, robotic analysis is carried out on the brain, and then it is stimulated using a pad placed on the scalp.

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

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

Aerobics to lose weight

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/12/2024, Page 12

People aiming to lose weight through exercise need to spend at least 150 minutes a week on aerobic training, new research suggests. The conclusion arose from a review of 116 clinical trials involving nearly 7000 overweight or obese adults with a body mass index of more than 25.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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

Pregnant women need 7 hours sleep

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 28/12/2024, Page 35

Women who get less than seven hours' sleep during pregnancy and their child's early years are more likely to develop health problems such as type 2 diabetes, a study claims. Researchers found a link between sleep duration in these crucial periods and a higher risk of a range of health issues.

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

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

NT Court of Appeal ends long-running water rights legal battle with victory for Aboriginal tenants

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/12/2024, Giovanni Torre

The NT's Court of Appeal confirmed this week that the NT government, through its public housing landlord, is legally required to supply water for its tenants, and the water supplied must be safe for drinking. In 2019, residents of the remote community of Laramba, west of Alice Springs, took their landlord, the NT Chief Executive Officer (Housing), to the NT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT) over concerns about their drinking water.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, News Night, 27/12/2024, Rhiannon Elston

Australian lawyers for remote Australian rites estimates there's 250,000 indigenous people who can't

rely on safe and healthy drinking supplies. There's an increasing appetite for a new approach to the way Australia produces food.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

What's in that white powder? Inside Victoria's first pop-up pill testing site

The Saturday Age, General News, 28/12/2024, Marta Pascual Juanola, Page 18

Inside a demountable in a dusty paddock in western Victoria, senior chemist Jacob Fry carefully places a small sample of white powder on a silver disk atop a printer-like machine. The sample is barely the size of a match head, but that's enough to detect whether someone is in for a bad night out.

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

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

Pill testing to begin at weekend festival

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/12/2024, Page 17

Victoria will roll out pill testing at the Beyond the Valley dance festival on Saturday in the first test of the state's new laws. The Victorian government this year passed legislation that will see pill testing roadtested at 10 festivals, in an 18-month trial.

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

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

Geelong festival to launch Victoria's first pill testing trial

Herald Sun, General News, 28/12/2024, Zoe De Koning, Page 3

Victoria's first pill testing site will operate at a festival outside Geelong this week, with the controversial service expected to test up to 200 drug samples a day. The landmark service first announced by the state government in November after long-running pushback from former Premier Daniel Andrews will operate across four days at the Beyond The Valley festival.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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

State's first pill testing at Beyond the Valley

Ballarat Courier, General News, 28/12/2024, Michelle Smith, Page 3

Victoria's first mobile pill testing service will be in action at the Beyond the Valley music festival, south of Ballarat. The four-day festival, which begins today, is expected to draw around 35,000 people to Barunah Plains at Hesse and was chosen as the first of 10 drug checking sites in Victoria over the 2024/25 and 2025/26 summers.

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

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

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 27/12/2024, Yvonne Yong

After years of debate, pill testing will finally get underway at a music festival in Melbourne's west this weekend. It's part of the Victorian government's 18 month trial that's aimed at reducing harm and saving lives.

[Play Now](#)

Victoria's controversial pill testing trial is ready for launch this weekend. Up to 800 drug samples will be tested at the Beyond The Valley Music Festival.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Good medicine on its way as breakthroughs loom

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 28/12/2024, Amanda Sheppeard, Page 14

From an oral treatment for hair loss to personalised medicine and Australia's first cancer screening program in decades, 2025 has plenty to offer in the health sphere. [...] Specialists and patients are hopeful a new non-statin, cholesterol-lowering drug will go to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for approval in Australia in 2025.

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

How I kicked junk for good

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 28/12/2024, Sarah Vine, Page 111

There is no doubt that 2024 has been the year of semaglutide. In the space of just a few months, the drug designed originally to treat type 2 diabetes and sold under a variety of brand names, chiefly Ozempic and Wegovy has kick-started a cultural and diet revolution.

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

Incoming Neurotech boss Anthony Filippis eyes global partnerships for cannabinoid drug therapy

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 27/12/2024, Cheyanne Enciso

Incoming Neurotech boss Anthony Filippis wants to set his feet firmly under the table by fast-tracking the WA biotech's bid to secure global partnerships for its oral cannabinoid drug therapy. [...] If successful, the partnerships will allow Neurotech to focus its financial resources towards multiple registrations of NT1164 in Australia, including via the Therapeutics Good Administration.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

'Why are my biceps so small?' The boys and young men turning to steroids

The Guardian, Other, 28/12/2024, Ali Pattillo

One month ago, Nick*, an 18-year-old university student living in the United States, got some devastating news: his little brother has cancer. It's one of the worst times of Nick's life, he says, but he's "still positive".

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

