



# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 28th August 2023

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 1) reports the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union is advocating for standards around welding fumes to be brought in line with Germany and the Netherlands following studies showing exposure to welding fumes can increase the risk of cancer. A federal government spokesperson said exposure limits are under review by Safe Work Australia "as part of a broader review of workplace exposure limits for airborne contaminants".
- [The Age](#) (page 1) reports trained pharmacists would have stronger prescription powers under a revamp of the primary care workforce being considered by Health Minister Mark Butler. It's hoped the move would ease pressure on general practices following new data showing less than 52 per cent of Australians are consistently bulk-billed by their GP, while out-of-pocket costs rose to \$42.55 last year. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 1) reports people with type two diabetes can significantly reduce their blood sugar levels, lose weight and cut down on their diabetes medication by following an Australian digital nutrition program. T2Diet developer Dr Jedha Denning said participants in a study of Australian adults were still improving a year later and called for the global adoption of a

similar digital, easy-to-access information program to help diabetes patients. *Also reported by: [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin](#)*

- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 1) reports increased construction costs have put the future of a proposed Hobart health and wellbeing facility in jeopardy after market submissions to build it returned costs around double its budget. Hobart Mayor Anna Reynolds said the city council is moving quickly to seek additional funding for the vital hydrotherapy project, with federal grants contingent on funding being spent by the end of 2023.
- The [Launceston Examiner](#) (page 1) reports more than 1,000 patients have passed through Launceston's Urgent Care Centre since it opened in July, but Tasmanians are being urged to familiarise themselves with care options available as hospital emergency departments face ongoing pressure. Launceston Medical Centre managing director Jerome Muir-Wilson said the Lucc would need to work with the state government as more people became aware of the clinic to ensure the number of patients attending remained sustainable. *Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury](#).*
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 3) reports advocates are calling for reform to tackle soaring numbers of unintentional drug overdoses. New research by the Pennington Institute found 1,675 of 2,231 drug-induced deaths in 2021 were unintentional. Men accounted for seven out of 10 unintentional overdoses, while Indigenous Australians were four times more likely to die by unintentional overdose. Pennington Institute chief executive John Ryan said the national response to the problem had been "wholly inadequate compared to the scale of the problem". *Also reported by: [Courier Mail](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#), [SBS](#)*
- The [West Australian](#) (page 4) reports COVID symptoms have become less severe in children as the virus mutates, a new study by the Telethon Kids Institute and the University of Queensland has found. Intensive care admissions of children dropped from 13.5 per cent to just 5.5 per cent between 2020 and 2022, with unvaccinated children accounting for 75 per cent of those admissions. Children under five were found to remain at higher risk despite the easing symptoms.
- The [Australian Financial Review](#) (page 11) reports a new global health commission says fatal instances of sudden cardiac arrest could be significantly reduced if defibrillators became mandatory in all workplaces and public buildings. Monash University Department of Paramedicine adjunct professor Karen Smith has been appointed to a special commission launched by the Lancet medical journal aimed at lowering sudden cardiac deaths globally.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Pharmacies in prescribing push

Age, General News, 28/08/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

Trained pharmacists would be able to prescribe pain pills, asthma preventers and medicines for chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes under the profession's push to expand the role that pharmacies play in the strained primary care system. Health Minister Mark Butler wants to boost the capacity of different healthcare workers to relieve pressure on general practice.

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

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### Private health insurers clash on need for big premium hikes

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 28/08/2023, Colin Kruger, Page 22

Private health insurers are split on the need for a big hike in premiums this year to keep pace with rising health costs as low claims and soaring policyholders reflect a sector in rude good health. Two of Australia's largest private health insurers, Medibank and Nib, delivered full-year results last week that show Australia's private health insurance industry had a great year, buoyed by a postpandemic environment where customers prioritise their health. [...] He will need to convince the federal health minister Mark Butler to approve any premium increase.

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

## The common medication involved in killing more Australians than alcohol

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/08/2023, Amber Schultz

Anti-anxiety medications are fast becoming one of the leading contributors to overdoses and are involved in more accidental deaths than alcohol, heroin or cocaine. One in 20 Australians are prescribed benzodiazepines, such as Xanax and Valium. [...] A spokesperson for Health Minister Mark Butler referred questions to the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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

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## NSW Health funding, national workforce to come under review

Government News, Other, 27/08/2023, Judy Skatssoon

A special commission of inquiry will examine governance and accountability in the funding of public hospitals and community health services by NSW Health. It's one of two major inquiries into the health care system announced last week, along with a review of Australia's health workforce ordered by the federal government. [...] Optimising the primary care workforce Meanwhile, health system and public policy executive Professor Mark McCormack will lead an independent review of the nation's health workforce, federal health minister Mark Butler announced last Thursday.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Get kids back on their bike

Courier Mail, General News, 28/08/2023, Jackie Epstein, Page 3

Michelle Bridges says life is more fun on two wheels. The health and wellbeing expert and mum of one is throwing her support behind a new national learn-to-ride program called AusBike, aimed at getting kids back on their bikes. [...] AusBike, designed by expert coaches and based on CORE4Skills, is backed by the federal government and the Australian Sports Commission, and will officially be launched on Monday by Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells in Brisbane.

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

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### NSW greyhound industry claims ban on gambling ads would result in dogs suffering

The Guardian, Other, 27/08/2023, Henry Belot

The New South Wales greyhound racing industry is urging members to lobby federal ministers not to ban gambling advertising, arguing it would result in dogs suffering and animal welfare programs closing. [...] The GRNSW letter encouraged people to email their concerns to the communications minister, Michelle Rowland, the social services minister, Amanda Rishworth, and the sports minister, Anika Wells.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### ALP sees red over Greens appeal to voters

The Australian, Media, 28/08/2023, Nick Tabakoff, Page 19

The Labor Party is privately very concerned about the threat of the Greens, who are already campaigning in ALP heartland seats ahead of the next election about the shortage of rental properties for young millennial voters. [...] The ad guru hosted Victorian Labor state secretary Chris Ford, ex-ACTU leader Ged Kearney, Queensland Senator Anthony Chisholm, NSW Transport Minister Jo Haylen and Inner West Sydney Mayor Darcy Byrne as panellists.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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## DEPARTMENT

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## CORONAVIRUS

### Study finds COVID severity reduced in kids as virus mutated

West Australian, General News, 28/08/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 4

Covid was less severe in children as the virus mutated into different strains, a first-of-itskind global study has revealed. The study - led by researcher Yanshan Zhu from the Telethon Kids Institute and the University of Queensland - examined 31,000 hospitalised children, aged six months to 17, across nine countries to investigate the changing severity of COVID symptoms during the pandemic.

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

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### Covid jabs can protect patients by giving them antibodies against 21 other viruses - including potentially fatal SARS and MERS

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/08/2023, Eve Simmons

COVID 19 jabs can also provide protection from 21 other viruses some of which are deadly a US study suggests. Researchers from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York tested blood samples from 85 US citizens and found that those with Covid antibodies also had protective proteins against other coronaviruses a family of viruses that cause respiratory and intestinal illnesses including potentially fatal SARS and MERS.

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### COVID EG.5 variant symptoms experts say you need to watch for

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 27/08/2023, Luisa Colón

What to Know About Long COVID Luisa Coln The symptoms of Eris are similar to previous strains of the virus, but Eris can more easily elude antibodies that people have developed from previous infection or vaccines. An updated booster shot, available in Fall 2023, may help protect people from Eris.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Don't panic! We're all fine

West Australian, Business News, 28/08/2023, Nick Bruining, Page 49

Last week's Intergenerational Report confirms the myth perpetuated by many involved in the sales of retirement investment solutions as being just that - a myth. "You better take action now because by the time you reach retirement, there won't be a pension". Garbage. As Your Money has been saying for the past 20 years, Australia's retirement income system isn't ranked No.6 in the world without good reason.

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

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### Time to bring the dementia conversation out of the shadows

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/08/2023

There is a poignant scene early in the movie Still Alice (2014) in which Julianne Moore plays a 50-year-old linguistics professor. Speaking to a university hall full of language students she suddenly dries up mid-sentence. The word she was searching for escapes her. She gets a polite laugh from the audience when she jokes: "I knew I shouldn't have had that champagne."

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Push for workplace defibrillators

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/08/2023, Euan Black, Page 11

Defibrillators should be mandatory in all Australian workplaces and public buildings to reduce the number of deaths from sudden cardiac arrest, according to leading academics. The calls come as The Lancet medical journal launches a new commission aimed at...

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

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### Disability expo boom

Cairns Post, General News, 28/08/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 6

Disability service providers, participants and their families have a mega event to look forward to this week as the Cairns Disability Network holds its annual expo featuring more than a hundred stallholders. The event will move from old venue Cazaly's to the Pier Marketplace for the first time to accommodate for a bigger show this year.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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### Knowledge is power

Shepparton News, General News, 28/08/2023, Djembe Archibald, Page 3

If you died suddenly, would your family know how you wanted to be honoured? Death is a heavy topic, but it is an important part of life that not many of us think to plan for. According to the Groundswell Project Australia, 90 per cent of people die without sharing their wishes, 45 per cent of people die without a will, 80 per cent wish to die at home but only 20 per cent actually get to.

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### Teen smoking increases

Geelong Times, Other, 27/08/2023, James Taylor

The rate of smoking among Australian teenagers has increased for the first time in 25 years, according to new research by Cancer Council Victoria. The five-year study found the number of 14 to 17 year

olds smoking has tripled in four years, and teens who vape are three times as likely to take up smoking.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Program is a diabetes beater

Courier Mail, General News, 28/08/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 1

A unique digital nutrition program has been shown to change the lives of people living with type 2 diabetes. In an Australian first, the the T2Diet was developed by nutritionist Dr Jedha Denning at Deakin University's Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition and investigated in a new randomised study of adults around Australia.

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

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### Dance teacher's chronic pain fight

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 28/08/2023, Monique Patterson, Page 5

A Warrnambool woman struck down in the prime of life with two debilitating conditions has vowed to dance again. Riahna Byron, 29, first experienced Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) 10 years ago after sustaining an impact fracture to her left foot. Miss Byron said the often misunderstood condition led to excruciating pain and extremely limited mobility.

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### Bowel cancer tests go missing in the mail under Telstra Health program for Australians

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/08/2023, Sue Dunlevy

Hundreds of Australians are missing out on lifesaving bowel cancer screening kits that are meant to be delivered in the mail under a controversial contract with Telstra Health. And the return of completed samples by the postal service is often so slow the sample has been spoiled before the pathology lab can test it, Bowel Cancer Australia revealed.

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### 'Let me be your miracle': Amanda Phillips has defied death for a decade

Adelaide Now, Other, 27/08/2023, Evangeline Polymeneas

Amanda Phillips was diagnosed with stage four cancer and told she had weeks, That was a decade ago. Breast Cancer Network Australia Vicki Durston discussed concerns over delays in diagnosis and access to treatment for breast cancer patients in Queensland.

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### Melbourne woman's \$645 blow amid cancer scare sparks call for change

7news.com.au, Other, 27/08/2023, Molly Magennis

Despite having a family history of breast cancer, the 29-year-old was ineligible for a Medicare rebate. When Alexandra Duffin noticed some inflammation on her left breast , she was understandably concerned. After she also found a lump, she decided to go to her GP and get it checked out - she did have a family history of breast cancer after all.

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### How a woman's slight neck strain turned out to be a flesh-eating bacterial infection that spread to her spine and left her paralysed

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/08/2023, David Southwell

A woman has been left paralysed after what she thought was a simple neck strain turned out to be flesh-eating bacteria that almost claimed her life. Western Australian resident Karen Stevens, 54, began experiencing neck pain four weeks ago and put it down to straining a muscle from her cleaning job.

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## Young woman reveals the three symptoms doctors ignored for months before she was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer just before her 24th birthday

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/08/2023, Carina Stathis

A young woman who noticed a lump in her neck, lost weight and felt 'incredibly fatigued' was told by doctors that her symptoms were 'nothing to worry about'. However, the side effects continued and 18 months later Charlotte Squires was diagnosed with stage four Hodgkin's lymphoma the week before her 24th birthday.

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## 4BC, Weekends, 27/08/2023, Spencer Howson

Howson says hundreds of Australians are missing out on life saving bowel cancer screening kits that are meant to be delivered under a controversial contract with Telstra Health. Telstra Health has refused to answer questions from News Corp, but the Health Department says more than 3.2 million kits are issued each year and on average 679 are not delivered. But Bowel Cancer Australia says that that's likely to be the tip of the iceberg.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Under the pump

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/08/2023, Blair Richards, Page 1

A much-needed Hobart health and wellbeing facility is in doubt after a tender process resulted in the best quote coming in at double the project's budget. The Hobart City Council's proposed hydrotherapy pool is the latest in a growing list of Tasmanian projects facing huge cost blowouts due to inflated construction costs.

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

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### Heart goals

Burnie Advocate, General News, 28/08/2023, Helen Kempton, Page 1

Labor has called on the government to publicly release the findings of Professor Andrew MacIsaac's review into cardiac services in Tasmania as a first step to improving what is currently a potentially-deadly situation. Health Minister Guy Barnett on Sunday confirmed the report had been received by the Department of Health and was now being reviewed.

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### Health an urgent matter

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/08/2023, Duncan Bailey, Page 1

Tasmanians are being urged to familiarise themselves with the range of health treatment pathways available, as pressure builds on emergency departments around the state. Since the Launceston Urgent Care Centre opened late July, more than 1000 Tasmanians have passed through, including patient Jackie Hannaford who came to the clinic after slicing her finger open.

Similar coverage reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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## MP pleads with government to address ambulance response times

Shepparton News, General News, 28/08/2023, Jay Bryce, Page 3

The call by state Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell for increased resources to address ambulance response times in the region has prompted a response from the state government. The government said it refused to be lectured by the same individuals who previously made cuts to Victoria's health system and clashed with paramedics.

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## What's happening at North Canberra Hospital post-transition

Canberra Times, Other, 27/08/2023, Lucy Bladen

A few months ago it was the most talked about hospital in the country. The ACT government's forcible acquisition of Calvary Public Hospital Bruce faced a significant backlash. [...] Some staff were left reeling at the government's decision and there were calls from the Australian Medical Association for a longer time frame for the transition.

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## 'We're ready to use it': Anger at controversial inventor dubbed 'Dr Death' who says his controversial 3D-printed coffin-like 'suicide capsules' will be used for the first time this year

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/08/2023, Jonathan Chadwick

It may look like something from a Hollywood sci-fi movie but this coffin-like pod has a far more controversial purpose. [...] 'I've been in Switzerland in the last week talking to our Swiss lawyers just to make sure there are no further Swiss requirements that are needed before use,' said Dr Nitschke, who has offices in Amsterdam but hails from South Australia, a state that introduced new assisted dying laws in January

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## Tyranny of distance: emergency aeromedical retrieval in outback Australia

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 28/08/2023

A new partnership will allow medical students to train on live emergency aeromedical evacuation flights in the Northern Territory a service essential to rural and remote health care. Sometimes it is just you keeping a critical patient alive. [...] The Commonwealth funding was welcomed by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### A father's mental wellbeing can affect the health of his children

Age, General News, 28/08/2023, Sarah Berry, Page 14

When Matt Grant found himself sitting in his car, crying before work, he recognised something was wrong, but he didn't know what. "I was struggling big time. I was hiding my emotions, and it was building up," says the leadership facilitator. It took Grant, then 20, about six months to understand what was happening, and eventually sought help from a doctor.

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### Hopes high as schools wait for news on vital project

Border Mail, General News, 28/08/2023, Jodie O'Sullivan, Page 4

Schools and support agencies are holding their breath as they await confirmation the NSW state government will extend funding for the ground-breaking Albury Project beyond the end of the year. In an address to parliament on Tuesday, August 22, Albury MP Justin Clancy called for the continued support of the program that delivers life-changing homelessness and mental health support for youth.



## Careers program inspires counsellors

Burnie Advocate, General News, 28/08/2023, Simon Mcguire, Page 5

A new program is aiming to address shortages in the mental health workforce in the North-West. The Headspace Early Career Program has seen two newly graduated mental health workers set up shop in Devonport. The program employs psychology, social work, and occupational therapy graduates for two years as they work across different Headspace centres across Australia.

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## It's not always psychosis

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/08/2023, Chris Mackey, Page 14

I've long been interested in how some life experiences can be confused with psychosis. It's an under-recognised mental health issue. As a clinical psychologist, it has always been part of my role to help determine whether people are suffering from mental illness. A common referral I received in psychiatric hospitals was to help determine whether someone was psychotic, or had lost touch with reality. It was often accompanied by auditory hallucinations, among other unusual experiences.

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## Suicide risk and gambling problems among Australian veterans

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 28/08/2023

Veterans are exposed to challenging life circumstances after military service, and Australia's lax gambling regulations make it too easy for veterans to gamble and fall on hard times, write Sean Cowlshaw, Olivia Metcalf and Nicole Sadler. Suicide is a major public health issue globally and in Australia, where deaths due to intentional self-harm are a leading cause of premature mortality.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### State's first medical centre midwife

Courier Mail, General News, 28/08/2023, Samantha Scott, Page 11

A Gold Coast medical centre is now offering its own midwife to expectant mums amid long hospital waits and an escalating statewide maternity crisis. It comes as internal Queensland Health documents revealed crippling staff shortages have forced hospitals across the state to enact birthing bypass orders for days at a time.

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

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### Nurse incentives doubled

Shepparton News Online, Other, 27/08/2023

Local nurses and their supporters at one of last year's rolling strikes. The NSW Government is doubling the incentives offered to healthcare workers to relocate to remote and rural areas, from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Canberra GPs lash ACT government, Andrew Barr over payroll tax, bulk billing policy

Canberra Times, Other, 27/08/2023, Lanie Tindale

Leading Canberra doctors have eviscerated a new ACT government policy, calling it "bribery and corruption" and "a rude shock". Medical practices that bulk bill 65 per cent of all patients will be exempt from payroll tax in the ACT for two years. The fee applies to clinics with a payroll of \$2 million a year or more.

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

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## Doctors-in-training need system reform, not more resilience

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 28/08/2023

Reform, not resilience, is the key to changing the narrative and culture of the medical profession and will save doctors' lives, write Dr Emma Hodge and Dr Elise Witter. The rampant prevalence of poor mental health of doctors in training is a silent epidemic within the health care sector.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### NDIS costs model kept secret

The Australian, General News, 28/08/2023, Michael Mckenna and Geoff Chambers, Page 1

Secret economic modelling underpinning plans to cut \$59bn off surging National Disability Insurance Scheme costs has been blocked from public release by the Albanese government. The NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework - setting an annual growth target of 8 per cent by mid-2026, down from the current 14 per cent yearly rise in costs - was announced 11 days before the May 9 budget, but the Department of Social Services has blocked a request to release it.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Health exec defends 'clear-cut' sacking

Canberra Times, General News, 28/08/2023, Blake Foden, Page 2

A senior health executive has defended sacking a nurse without waiting for her response to misconduct claims, saying any explanation would not have changed things. "The breaches were so clear-cut that I don't believe there were going to be mitigating circumstances," Cathie O'Neill, of Canberra Health Services, told the Fair Work Commission on Friday.

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### Former Border nurse stole scripts, gave false information

Border Mail, General News, 28/08/2023, Page 5

A former Border nurse has had her licence cancelled and been banned from practising for two years after stealing and writing herself scripts and giving false information to health authorities. Kristy Kindl last worked in nursing at Albury Wodonga Private Hospital in 2011.

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## South Australian public hospitals record 80,000 "incidents" and payout

## millions in compensation

Adelaide Now, Other, 27/08/2023, Brad Crouch

Almost 80,000 "incidents" ranging from catastrophic failures causing deaths to serious mistakes with medications, dangerous falls and near misses have occurred in South Australian public hospitals in 12 months. The 2021-22 SA Health data comes as bumbles in the state's public hospitals saw 903 patients awarded more than \$140m in compensation in the past 13 years, with another 350 cases pending.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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## Dr Gaby Bolton vs hospital bosses: Why doctors should regard her as a hero

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/08/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

She speaks with AusDoc about her legal battle and her 'relief' at the Federal Court judgement. In a landmark decision, the Federal Court of Australia this month ruled that Victoria's Peninsula Health contravened the Fair Work Act by not paying overtime to junior doctors.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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## SPORT

### Mitchell camp contacts NRL as 'attacks' mount

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 28/08/2023, Michael Chammas, Page 40

Latrell Mitchell's adviser Matt Rose has contacted NRL boss Andrew Abdo to complain about "personal attacks" against the South Sydney star and raise concerns about his welfare. Rabbitohs officials gave the under-siege Mitchell the weekend off following a week of turmoil.

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

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### Town picked for Games, but it had no rugby clubs

Age, General News, 28/08/2023, Rachel Eddie, Page 1

Morwell was chosen to host rugby sevens for the now-cancelled 2026 Commonwealth Games despite having no local union or league teams, with both the NRL and Rugby Australia raising questions about the event's value to the Gippsland town. The sporting codes made submissions to a Senate inquiry before the Games were canned, calling for the event to be moved, and highlighted concerns about the community benefit when there was "no existing" participation base in the area.

Similar coverage reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#).

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### Mia's making her mark

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/08/2023, Genevieve Holding, Page 1

The best of southern Tasmania's junior female players battled it out on Sunday at North Hobart Oval, the athleticism on display showing the hard work behind the Southern Tasmanian Junior Football League. Under-16 team Clarence gained the win 76 to 21 against Kingborough Tigers Black after an unsteady start in the first quarter, firing back with five goals from Millie Richardson.

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## 'It can't be a team at all costs': rally told

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/08/2023, Joe Colbrook, Page 1

Politicians and aggrieved voters say they will fight the proposed stadium at Macquarie Point to the bitter end. About 100 people gathered in Launceston's Civic Square for a "Yes AFL Team, No Stadium" rally, where they heard from speakers including politicians Jacqui Lambie, Rosalie Woodruff, Ruth Forrest, Meg Webb and Lara Alexander.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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## Report giving clubs a sporting chance

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/08/2023, Joe Colbrook, Page 4

Regional sporting habits have been revealed by a report presented to City of Launceston councillors. The Northern Tasmania Sports Facility Plan is the first document of its kind for the region, and is a collaboration of five councils including the City of Launceston.

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## Ad ban would 'kill' sport

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/08/2023, Kathryn Magann, Page 12

Greyhound Racing NSW is urging its members to lobby against the rollout of a ban on online gambling advertising, warning the cuts to revenue would "kill the sport". The federal government is looking at a multi-year plan to phase out online gambling, with several ministers examining recommendations out of a committee report.

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

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## Facilities in focus as Cricket ACT participation surges

Canberra Times, Other, 27/08/2023, Cameron Mee

Cricket ACT officials have expressed concerns the region's surge in junior participation could be throttled if facility investment does not keep pace. The organisation unveiled data for the 2022-23 summer, with growth outpacing the national average by a considerable margin.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Vital for cancer research and other medical work, foetal calf blood is in short supply and increasingly expensive

ABC Online, Other, 27/08/2023, Matt Brann and Karen Hunt

A vital ingredient used by laboratories around Australia is in short supply and its rising value is having an impact on important research. Foetal calf blood, mostly used in medical research and pharmaceutical industries, has this year reached a record price of \$683 a litre, ex-abattoir.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Failure on Gap targets a divide

Cairns Post, General News, 28/08/2023, Clare Armstrong, Page 5

Of the 17 critical targets identified as part of Closing the Gap only four are being met, while the rates of Indigenous suicide, children in out-of-home care and adults in jail are going backwards. Important improvements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander preschool enrolments, employment rates, youth

detention and land rights are being overshadowed by successive governments' failures across other key measures.

Similar coverage reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### A career's deadly legacy

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/08/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 1

Eddie Lorenzi was a welder from the day he left school at 16 to the day he died, of lung cancer, aged 64. He loved his job it was the only one he ever had but it was ultimately what killed him. "Everyone always told me, when I was walking down the street, what a great man he was, and what a hard worker," said Debra Vivarini-Lorenzi, his wife of 19 years. "He didn't deserve to die at 64. He had so much living to do, and a family that loved him."

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### 800,000 Australians will live with this condition by 2058. Are we prepared?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/08/2023, Mary Ward

Donna Ward has clear, though disappointing, memories of the conversation she had with the doctor when her sociable, creative mother was diagnosed with dementia. "We had a delightful doctor, but they basically just asked if we had a lawyer and said we should get her affairs in order," she recalled. [...] One, Lecanemab, an intravenous infusion that assists the nervous system in clearing the proteins in the brain that cause the disease to progress, has been under consideration by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration since June.

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

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### Popular teething and mouth ulcer remedy to be pulled from supermarket shelves

9News, Other, 27/08/2023, Allannah Sciberras

Popular teething and mouth ulcer remedy, Bonjela will be pulled from supermarket shelves The Therapeutic Goods Administration has changed its categorisation of Bonjela Teething Gel and Bonjela Mouth Ulcer Gel, which means only pharmacies will be able to stock it.

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### 2GB, Healthy Living, 27/08/2023, Dr Ross Walker and Ned Green

Interview with Dr Maree Colosimo, Medical Oncologist, Mater Hospital about new medicine called Trodelvy which has now been registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Colosimo says they're starting to have it available for patients with advanced breast cancer.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

## Driving test for medical cannabis

Age, General News, 28/08/2023, Rachel Eddie, Page 10

Medicinal cannabis users will be put behind the wheel on a closed track to test when they can drive safely, as part of an 18-month trial next year. But Legalise Cannabis state MPs say this process will take too long and medicinal cannabis patients need to be treated like any other patient taking prescription medication.

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

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## Drug overdose deaths at 'crisis' levels

Canberra Times, General News, 28/08/2023, Callum Goode, Page 3

Every four hours an Australian is dying of a drug overdose, prompting a renewed call for urgent action to combat the longterm crisis. An annual report by public health research group Penington Institute shows there were 2231 drug-induced deaths reported in Australia in 2021. Of those, 1675 were unintentional. "The annual number of unintentional drug-induced deaths surpassed the road toll in 2014," reads the 244-page report published.

Similar coverage reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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## Coked up capital

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/08/2023, Mark Morri, Page 1

Sydneysiders are expected to flock to Canberra for drug fuelled parties as the ACT becomes the first state in Australia to decriminalise the use of nearly every drug including heroin, meth, cocaine and LSD. And AFP deputy commissioner Neil Gaughan also fears his city is about to become a honey pot for organised crime.

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## Sydney has a cocaine problem. Is decriminalisation the solution?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/08/2023, Amber Schultz

Delays in introducing reform is fuelling drug consumption and crime in NSW, experts have warned, calling for the government to implement decriminalisation for small quantities of illicit substances. Australia is now the highest per capita user of cocaine worldwide , consuming an estimated 5.

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## International Overdose Awareness Day – honouring lives, fostering change

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 28/08/2023

Join us this week, Thursday 31 August 2023, to heighten community understanding of overdose, reduce stigma, and create lasting change Let's unite for International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) 2023, as we remember lives lost, challenge stigma, and work together for a safer, more compassionate community.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Salt is no longer in season

West Australian, General News, 28/08/2023, Kate Pickles, Page 20

Adding salt to every meal increases your risk of heart problems by just over a fifth, a study shows. Those who always season their food were 22 per cent more likely to suffer an irregular heartbeat than those who never or rarely use the condiment. The condition, known as atrial fibrillation, can increase

your risk of a stroke by five times. AF can cause the heart to beat too fast, causing problems such as dizziness, shortness of breath and tiredness.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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## You're probably not getting enough fibre. It's a problem

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/08/2023, Alice Callahan

Decades of research have shown that fibre-rich diets offer a range of health benefits, including healthier guts, longer lives and reduced risks of chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and some types of cancer. Yet time and again, research has found Australian adults and children aren't consuming enough fibre.

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## Calories and kilojoules: How do we know the energy content of food, and how accurate are the labels?

ABC Online, Other, 27/08/2023, Emily Burch, Katelyn Barnes and Lauren Ball

Everything we consume contains energy our bodies use to move, grow and maintain health. To work out how much energy is in different foods and drinks, we need to first look at a few core concepts. Firstly, you've probably heard of the units of measurement for energy calories as well as the metric equivalent, which is joules. One calorie is defined as the amount of energy required to raise the temperature of 1 gram of water by 1 degree Celsius.

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## ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 27/08/2023, Kathryn Robinson and Emma Rebellato

Mammalian meat allergy was discovered in 2007 by Australian allergy specialist Professor Sheryl van Nunen. Nunen says like most allergies, there was a broad range of how people with MMA could react. She states mammalian allergen is in a number of medical products. It's not just food sources that can set off the allergy. New flu vaccines, snake anti-venoms, even ventolin for asthma sufferers can all contain animal products and cause life-threatening reactions for MMA sufferers.

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## AICIS

### Compo all-clear over impacts of PFAS

Border Mail, General News, 28/08/2023, Ted Howes, Page 3

Hundreds of people in Wodonga will be included in a multi-million dollar compensation from toxic firefighting foam after the Federal Court approved the sum. They are among thousands of landowners affected by the foam used at Defence bases across Australia who will share more than \$130 million in compensation from the federal government. About 30,000 landowners living in seven sites claimed they were affected by toxic PFAS chemicals found in the foam.

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### Paper, bamboo straws contain 'forever chemicals' more often than plastic straws, study finds

7news.com.au, Other, 27/08/2023, Aria Bendix

All the straw manufacturers should take warning and say, 'Hey, do we use this stuff?' Because at the moment, they're not even asking that question. [...] Scientists in Belgium recently tested dozens of straws from supermarkets, retail stores and fast-food restaurants in the country, and found that the majority contained PFAS a family of synthetic chemicals used in the manufacture of consumer products because they can resist stains, grease and water.

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