



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 5th September 2023

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)  
| [Coronavirus](#) | [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](#) | [Office of Health Protection and Emergency Management](#)  
| [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office for Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)  
| [AICIS](#)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that 200 pharmacists disrupted federal parliament yesterday to protest the governments 60-day prescription policy. Health Minister Mark Butler has agreed to bring forward talks on the next funding agreement as the industry calls for \$3.3 billion in extra funding. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- **[Age](#)** (page1) reports that stroke and heart attack victims are waiting for more than an hour to receive treatment in Victoria due to overcrowded emergency departments. Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas has called for more help from the federal government, with federal Health Minister Mark Butler stating that the federal government has already embarked on a series of reforms.
- **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Australian researchers have identified more than 40 genes linked to breast cancer which will allow women to undergo genetic testing to mitigate hereditary risks. *Also reported by: [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Hobart Mercury](#).*
- **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 5) reports that Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report has found that physical activity reduced national health spending by \$320 million.

- [Canberra Times](#) (page 6) reports that Capital Chemist chief executive Andrew Topp has claimed that pharmacies could provide ACT residents with cheaper medicine if chemists weren't subject to payroll tax.
- [Age](#) (page 10) reports that the The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency will introduce new guidelines which will apply to all registered health practitioners advertising non-surgical cosmetic procedures. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Canberra Times](#)*

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Pharmacists go off script in angry federal parliament walk-out

Australian Financial Review, General News, 05/09/2023, Tom McIlroy, Page 8

Pharmacists have staged an angry walk-out of federal parliament, protesting against the Albanese government's moves to allow more than four million consumers to buy two months' worth of medicine for the price of a single prescription.

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

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### Pharmacists accused of verbal abuse

The Australian, General News, 05/09/2023, Rhiannon Down, Page 2

Pharmacists protesting against Labor's 60-day dispensing reforms have been accused of verbally abusing parliamentary staff as they left Parliament House after they stormed out of question time in a chorus of jeers and boos. [...] Mr Dick put the pharmacists on notice not to interject after they interrupted proceedings with violent coughing before they walked out in disgust while Health Minister Mark Butler was defending the policy.

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

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### White coat protesters rock \$3.3b health talks

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/09/2023, David Crowe & Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

A furious protest in Parliament House has rocked a \$3.3 billion negotiation on health after 200 pharmacists in white coats disrupted question time and sparked a warning they had broken a pledge to negotiate the deal in good faith. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told parliament he had agreed with the Pharmacy Guild last week to bring forward talks on the next funding agreement after the industry had called for \$3.3 billion in extra funding.

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

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### Heart attack victims forced to wait

Age, General News, 05/09/2023, Henrietta Cook & Aisha Dow, Page 1

It's a scenario in which every minute counts. But suspected stroke and heart attack victims are spending more than an hour on ambulance trolleys waiting for time-critical diagnosis and treatment because Victorian emergency departments are too overcrowded to admit them. [...] Yesterday, Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas called on the federal government to "step up and play its role" in addressing the drivers of the problem, while federal Health Minister Mark Butler said his government was already embarking on a series of reforms "after nine long years of cuts and neglect by the former government".

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### King's Counsel in chemists' war on scripts

Courier Mail, General News, 05/09/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 5

The Pharmacy Guild has engaged a King's Counsel to determine if it can sue the federal government over half-price scripts in a move that could cost taxpayers millions. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has

pledged to return all \$1.2bn the government saves to chemists via pharmacy programs.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#),

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## Patients left waiting months after urgent care clinic due to open

Burnie Advocate, General News, 05/09/2023, Libby Bingham, Page 3

Coastal patients will likely have to wait months until the end of the year for access to a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) that was due to open mid-year. [...] A spokesperson for federal Health Minister Mark Butler shed more light on September 4 stating the North-West UCC would open by the end of December.

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## Lung Health Scorecard

Medical Forum, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 57

With World Lung Cancer Day in August, the Lung Foundation Australia released its annual scorecard, which celebrates vital wins and highlights where action is still needed. [...] In May, Health Minister Mark Butler announced \$263.8 million from 2023/24 to implement a national screening program to start by July 2025.

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## Pressure ramps up as paramedics waste years waiting

Perth Now, Other, 04/09/2023, Rachael Ward

The federal government must step up and do more to stop paramedics wasting years waiting for patients to be seen in hospitals, according to Victoria's health minister. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the May budget included many measures designed to make it easier to see a GP and take pressure off emergency departments, including funding urgent care clinics, increasing the bulk-billing incentives and boosting the amount doctors receive for Medicare services.

Also reported by: [Mandurah Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Ararat Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#).

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## Speaker investigates after rowdy pharmacists disrupt question time in Canberra

The Guardian, Other, 04/09/2023, Sarah Basford Canales

A rowdy group of pharmacists has disrupted question time and allegedly verbally abused parliamentary staff, prompting an investigation by the Speaker into who signed them into the building. The Community and Pharmacy Support group (Caps) protested against the Albanese government's 60-day medicine dispensing changes at Parliament House on Monday, calling on the health minister, Mark Butler, to resign.

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## Pharmacists stage 'cough-in' protest in Question Time over 60-day dispensing rules

2GB, Other, 04/09/2023, Chris O'Keefe

Community pharmacists have disrupted Question Time with deliberate coughing to protest new 60-day dispensing rules. [...] Whenever Health Minister Mark Butler rose to defend the new rules, they deliberately coughed to disrupt the proceedings.

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## Immunisation body says over-75s need another Covid booster

Aged Care Insite, Other, 04/09/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The federal government's immunisation advisory body says the most vulnerable Australians should arrange to get yet another COVID-19 vaccination booster. [...] More information can be found on the

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## Mark Butler announces additional COVID-19 vaccines dose for seniors

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 04/09/2023

Health minister Mark Butler announced that the Albanese government will make an additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine available to all adults aged 75 and over.

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## Community and Pharmacy Support pharmacists protest 60-day dispensing

Camden Haven Courier, Other, 04/09/2023, Justine Landis-Hanley

Pharmacists from across the country have gathered outside Parliament House calling for Health Minister Mark Butler's resignation, angered over Labor's 60-day dispensing policy.

*Also reported by: [Boorowa News \(Online\)](#), [Milton Ulladulla Times \(Online\)](#), [Katherine Times \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Online\)](#), [The Rural \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Harden Express \(Online\)](#), [Eastern Riverina Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Glen Innes Examiner \(Online\)](#).*

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## Question Time chaos as dozens of pharmacists dressed in white storm out of Parliament and heckle the government as 'liars'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/09/2023, Brittany Chain

Pharmacists and their allies have stormed out of Parliament and heckled the government as 'liars' during chaotic scenes to kick off the new sitting week. Health Minister Mark Butler was spruiking the government's cheaper medicine policy in the House of Representatives Question Time on Monday when he drew the ire of dozens of protesters - all dressed in white - in the viewing gallery.

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## Another COVID-19 booster for over-75s: ATAGI

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/09/2023

The new guidance was released at the same time as an announcement on the upcoming closure of the COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program.. [...] The ATAGI statement release coincides with the recently announced closure of the COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program (CVTP), with the Department of Health and Aged Care no longer producing bespoke modules as it transitions to a more sustainable operation.

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## Coalition senators hit pause on cheaper medicines veto

Southern Riverina News, Other, 04/09/2023

Australians will continue to receive cheaper medicines, but a push to scrap the policy could be brought back to parliament if pharmacists' concerns are ignored. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said community pharmacies had been consulted on the changes, saying the opposition had ignored the needs of patients.

*Also reported by: [Deniliquin Pastoral Times \(Online\)](#), [Yarrawonga Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cobram Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Lismore City News \(Online\)](#).*

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## 2GB, 17:00 News, 04/09/2023

Hundreds of pharmacists have been ordered to leave Parliament House in Canberra after interrupting the Health Minister. Mark Butler was answering questions about the new 60-day dispensing rules. Under the plan, patients are now able to buy two months of medication using one script. Pharmacists yelled and booed at Butler while he was on his feet in the chamber, arguing the measure would hurt their business.

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, 14:00 News, 04/09/2023

A petition with 12,000 signatures calling for a medication that treats a rare form of epilepsy to be subsidised has been knocked back by the Federal Government. Dravet syndrome has no cure and causes frequent life-threatening seizures. Health Minister Mark Butler says the Government can't list new medication unless it has been recommended by an advisory committee.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### Public Eye: Anika Wells, Murray Watt, Richard Colbeck among politicians scoring free Matildas World Cup tickets

Canberra Times, Other, 04/09/2023, Justine Landis-Hanley & Miriam Webber

While some of us struggled to get tickets to the explosive Women's World Cup last month, more than a dozen federal politicians got in for free, according to the federal register of interests. Minister for Sport Anika Wells, unsurprisingly, scored tickets to the greatest number of matches, including 17 exclusive FIFA Suite tickets, courtesy of the scandal-plagued football federation.

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

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### Anika Dares to Dream

Internet News Unassigned - Australia, podcasts.apple.com, 04/09/2023

With now just under 3300 days to go until Brisbane 2032, Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells joins the boys to explain her plans for ensuring more talented young athletes can live their Olympic and Paralympic dreams.

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Glen for Women officially opened

Coast Community News, Other, 05/09/2023, Denice Barnes

The Glen for Women, a rehabilitation centre run by Aboriginal women for Aboriginal women, was officially opened on Wednesday, August 30, by Federal member for Dobell Emma McBride. Set in a picturesque Wyong Creek acreage, the centre provides a minimum 12-week residential program in a culturally safe and supportive environment and is the first Aboriginal community-controlled women's rehabilitation centre in NSW.

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### Minister announces expansion of Australia's first endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 04/09/2023

Assistant health minister Ged Kearney has announced that patients in Adelaide and Western Sydney can now access expert, multidisciplinary care with the opening of two new Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinics.

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## Pelvic pain costs Australian economy almost \$10bn a year

The Medical Republic, Other, 04/09/2023

New clinics are opening to help improve access to timely diagnosis and care for women with endometriosis and pelvic pain. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney officially opened the Adelaide clinic on Sunday at the Thrive Family Practice in Glenelg.

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## ABC, Q and A, 04/09/2023, Patricia Karvelas

Panel discussion with Ged Kearney, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Andrew McKellar, CEO, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts, lawyer and advocate for human rights, Darcy McGauley-Bartlett, proud Gunai Kurnai Man and 2023 Victorian Young Australian of the Year, and Freya Leach, director of youth policy, Menzies Research Centre. Kearney was asked how the Government will address inequities to ensure abortion, which is a legal health care right can be accessed compassionately across Australia in all public hospitals. To her response, Kearney says she established a Women's Health Advisory Council to grapple with the big issues of what she calls a bias in the health system.

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Ask the patient

Medical Forum, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 4

Australia will take part in an global study into community-based health care that will explore the outcomes, experiences and satisfaction of patients with chronic diseases who are treated in GP practices. [...] The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is implementing the survey here with ORIMA Research, on behalf of the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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### Immunisation body says over-75s need another Covid booster

Aged Care Insite, Other, 04/09/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The federal government's immunisation advisory body says the most vulnerable Australians should arrange to get yet another COVID-19 vaccination booster. [...] More information can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care's website.

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### AMA Submission to Department of Health and Aged Care's Draft National Consumer Engagement Strategy for Health and Wellbeing (NCESHW) Consultation

Australian Medical Association, Other, 04/09/2023

The Department of Health and Aged Care consulted on the draft National Consumer Engagement Strategy for Health and Wellbeing (NCESHW) in mid-2023. This Strategy is designed to strengthen partnerships between health policy makers and the community, as set out in one of the immediate priorities for action under the National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030.

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### Another COVID-19 booster for over-75s: ATAGI

The new guidance was released at the same time as an announcement on the upcoming closure of the COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program. [...] The ATAGI statement release coincides with the recently announced closure of the COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program (CVTP), with the Department of Health and Aged Care no longer producing bespoke modules as it transitions to a more sustainable operation.

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## Register your practice now to get ready for MyMedicare

Services Australia, Other, 04/09/2023

Health Professionals can start registering their general practice for MyMedicare now through the Organisation Register in HPOS. Registration for MyMedicare is voluntary for patients, practices and providers. [...] Find out more about how to access MyMedicare Read more about MyMedicare on the Department of Health and Aged Care website.

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## ABC Coffs Coast, Breakfast, 04/09/2023, Fi Poole

Pre-recorded interview with National Rural Health Commissioner Ruth Stewart, who says that access to culturally safe maternity care is a pretty major issue for Indigenous women right across regional New South Wales. The National Rural Maternity Services Forum was attended by 70 experts and they are calling on the Government to reform birthing services. Some of the solutions they're putting on the table include more investment in the rural midwife workforce and maternity facilities.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CORONAVIRUS

### Long COVID symptoms can improve, but their resolution is slow and imperfect

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 04/09/2023

Around 510% of people who get infected with SARS-CoV-2 will experience symptoms that persist way beyond the initial acute period, a clinical syndrome we are learning more about, known widely as long COVID. Shortness of breath, brain fog, lethargy and tiredness, loss of smell or taste are common features of long COVID , as is the development of new conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, depression and dementia.

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### Radio National, Breakfast, 04/09/2023, Hamish Macdonald

Macdonald is joined by Dr Norman Swan, presenter of Health Report. Researchers, clinicians and patients have gathered in Victoria for a conference devoted to the issue of long COVID. The latest research was presented as well as the results of a unique long COVID survey with some dramatic results. Swan says a survey of more than 12,000 people with COVID has found that in Victoria alone, there are 400,000 people with long COVID symptoms, while the average percentage who developed persistent symptoms was 14%.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Unique care tailored to the individual

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/09/2023, Page 28

A Sydney service provider is helping an ageing community stay at home longer through premium home care. A new study from Macquarie University's Australian Institute of Health Innovation has found that Australians increasingly are delaying a move into permanent residential aged care, opting instead to stay in the comfort of their own home.

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## Dementia care green light

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 04/09/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 3

Sunraysia will be the test bed for a nation-first project aiming to improve the quality of life for people living with early-stage dementia, and their carers. Funding of \$1.7 million from the Australian Government has been delivered to a consortium of six rural aged care organisations, stretching from Heathcote to Merbein.

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## Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia: ADA Link to connect Townsville seniors with vital services

Adelaide Now, Other, 04/09/2023, Natasha Emeck

A new free initiative set to extend a lifeline to vulnerable seniors in Townsville is being rolled out next week by Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia.

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## 3D-printed food on the menu for these aged care residents

HelloCare, Other, 04/09/2023, Bianca Iovino

More Australian researchers are investigating whether 3D-printing technology could help make food both safe and appetising for people with dysphagia. Researchers at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) are looking at ways that 3D-printed food could be used to improve the visual appeal of texture-modified foods in aged care and thus encourage more food to be consumed.

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[Back to Top](#)

# POPULATION HEALTH

## Soldiers 'are using drugs'

Courier Mail, General News, 05/09/2023, Jami Roberts, Page 1

The use of performance enhancing drugs is rife within a North Queensland military base, according to a serving member of the armed forces. The soldier's explosive claims come as a former member said he was medically discharged when he used the same substances, selective androgen receptor modulators, commonly known as SARMs, while he served.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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## State's presumptive cancer list to be extended

Launceston Examiner, General News, 05/09/2023, Matt Maloney, Page 5

This week, the government will introduce legislation to extend the list of presumptive cancers for firefighters to add another nine types of cancers. It will include female-specific cancers like cervical, ovarian and uterine cancer.

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## Police respond to the increase in overdoses

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 05/09/2023, Jessica Howard, Page 8

Young and first-time GHB users are presenting at the city's emergency department as South West Healthcare reports an increase in the number of overdoses in recent months. SWH executive director nursing and midwifery Sue Anderton said the health service had seen an increase in the number of



people presenting to the emergency department having overdosed, or needing assistance with GHB withdrawals.

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## Every breath we take

Medical Forum, General News, 01/09/2023, Jan Hallam, Page 1

Doctors are warning that e-cigarette and vaping-associated lung injury (EVALI) is a real threat now It's a critical time to talk about lungs. While we are still having the conversation about smoking harm, 30 years of ongoing public health campaigns have made enormous inroads into smoking cessation rates.

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## People dealing with drug issues need more support, not demonisation

Canberra Times, Other, 04/09/2023, Bill Bush

On October 23, Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform will hold its 28 th remembrance ceremony in honour, as we say, of those who have died from our efforts to save them from drugs. This annual ceremony at the memorial stone in the beauty of Weston Park began in 1996, a year after the group's formation.

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## How GPs can start to talk about weight issues

ABC Online, Other, 05/09/2023

General practitioners can have a great positive effect on unhealthy behaviours when patients seek help for smoking or alcohol issues. But GPs may hesitate to approach a discussion about weight loss because of the risk of body shaming and stigma.

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[Back to Top](#)

# CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

## Fibre up; your gut will love you

Age, General News, 05/09/2023, Alice Callahan, Page 16

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.

*Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#).*

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## Cancer genes identified

Courier Mail, General News, 05/09/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 1

Australian researchers have identified more than 40 new gene mutations of breast cancer that may cause the condition to run in families. New hope in cancer fight Researchers discover 40-plus hereditary gene mutations linked to breast tumours.

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

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## 25-years of saving our skin

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/09/2023, Genevieve Holding, Page 1

Celebrating Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek, Slide SunSmart message in Tassie schools [...] Cancer Council Tasmania chief executive Penny Egan said the program had been successful in starting sun-smart behaviours early.

## Blood cancer support plea

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/09/2023, Page 5

Leukaemia Foundation is urging all Australians affected by the disease to do one simple action . Reach out for support.

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

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## Early detection front of mind

Border Watch, General News, 05/09/2023, Page 12

There has been a 25 per cent increase in the number of deaths from prostate cancer in Australia since 2007, according to the Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia (PCFA). The new figures have renewed called for greater awareness of the disease with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimating 25,487 Australian men being diagnosed with prostate cancer this year.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Border Watch \(Mt Gambier\)](#).

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## Landmark Roundup class action kicks off

Border Mail, General News, 05/09/2023, Page 8

A landmark class action over a widely used weed killer will come down to science as hundreds of Australian cancer patients seek reparations. The case, launched by Maurice Blackburn Lawyers on behalf of more than 800 non-Hodgkin lymphoma patients, alleges the active ingredient in the popular Roundup herbicide called glyphosate caused their disease.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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## Presumptive cancer list to be extended

Burnie Advocate, General News, 05/09/2023, Matt Maloney, Page 7

This week, the government will introduce legislation to extend the list of presumptive cancers for firefighters to add another nine types of cancers. It will include female-specific cancers like cervical, ovarian and uterine cancer.

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## Right under your nose

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 05/09/2023, Amaani Siddeek, Page 7

Picking habit could contribute to Alzheimer's disease A world-first Gold Coast clinic is asking the big question: Could picking your nose lead to Alzheimer's and dementia?

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## Multi-faceted research targets MS

Medical Forum, General News, 01/09/2023, Kathy Skantzios, Page 32

MS Australia is ramping up research to find out more about the neurological disease to combat the sharp surge in prevalence. The prevalence of multiple sclerosis (MS) has increased in every world region from 2013 to 2020, with a person diagnosed every five minutes, according to MS Australia CEO Rohan Greenland.

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## AFL legend has brain implants adjusted — from 700km away

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/09/2023, Brad Crouch

Mark Mickan does not take a backward step in his fight against Parkinson's disease. Former AFL champion Mark Mickan's unflinching battle with Parkinson's disease has taken a new twist his Melbourne doctor can now remotely tweak his brain implants to control tremors and other symptoms.

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

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## Fracking projects in NT risk exposing people to cancer and birth defects, report finds

The Guardian, Other, 04/09/2023, Natasha May

Fracking projects fast-tracked by the Australian government risk exposing people to cancer, birth defects, asthma, cardiovascular disease and other harms, a new report published on Monday has found. The report, led by the University of Sydney, was written in response to paediatricians in the Northern Territory who are deeply concerned about a full-scale fracking industry in the Beetaloo Basin.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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## Laurie Cronin's story

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 05/09/2023

Laurie Cronin is urging Victorians to take the free bowel cancer test in a new campaign launched today by Cancer Council Victoria.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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## Asthma sufferers urged to be ready

Shepparton News, General News, 05/09/2023, Monique Preston, Page 9

Asthma sufferers are urged to ensure their asthma action plans are up to date this National Asthma Week, which runs from September 1 to 7. One in nine Victorians live with asthma, a serious airway condition that is usually manageable with medication and a daily plan.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

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## Channel 10, 10 News First, 04/09/2023, Hugh Riminton

A class action lawsuit has begun to investigate whether the popular weedkiller Roundup caused cancer in more than 800 Australians. In the United States, Monsanto, the company that manufactures the product has so far paid out more than \$10b to customers who developed non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

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## Channel 10, 10 News First, 04/09/2023, Jennifer Keyte

Prostate cancer claims the lives of 10 Australian men every day and the number is on the rise, but medical experts say there is a simple solution and it all starts with an open and frank conversation between mates. Alarming new evidence shows more than 70 Australians are diagnosed with prostate cancer every day, while prostate cancer deaths have soared 25% since 2007.

Also reported by: [SBS \(Sydney\)](#), [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).

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## Channel 10, 10 News First, 04/09/2023, Hugh Riminton

More than 50% of women aged between 50 and 74 are behind on their breast cancer screening, according to the NSW Government. It's estimated 625,000 women need to book a mammogram, prompting the launch of a new campaign. Appointments can be made through BreastScreen NSW.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#).

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 04/09/2023, Rebecca Levingston

Interview with Associate Professor Cleola Anderiesz, CEO, National Breast Cancer Foundation, discussing how common is it for families to have multiple members succumb to breast cancer. This is in light of tonight's episode of the Australian Story, where Erica Packer and Jo Hunter opened up about

losing their mother, aunt and grandmother to breast cancer. Anderiesz says they've estimated in Australia about 10 to 15% of all breast cancers that are diagnosed each year are caused by an inherited gene mutation that runs in the family. That equates to about 1500 women each year who are diagnosed with familial breast cancer that they don't know the genetic cause of.

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[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### 'Unfair': Pharmacists claim payroll tax double standard

Canberra Times, General News, 05/09/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 6

Canberrans could access cheaper medication if chemists weren't subject to payroll tax, a pharmacist boss says. Capital Chemist chief executive and pharmacy guild member Andrew Topp says if doctors are granted a payroll tax exemption, pharmacists should get one, too.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Guild of Australia \(Online\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

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### New senior roles in Health Department

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/09/2023, Page 6

Implementing better ways to ensure the safety of children in hospitals will be one of the key duties of a new senior appointment in Tasmania's health system. Health Minister Guy Barnett on Monday announced three key senior roles within the department, including Tracey Turner as the new director, Recovery and Child Safeguarding.

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### On-call staff will ensure broken bones can be treated at Burnie hospital

Burnie Advocate, General News, 05/09/2023, Helen Kempton, Page 7

A two-night shortage of orthopaedic consultants at the public hospital in Burnie will be abated by registrars and an on-call consultant in Launceston, the government says. Labor's health spokesperson Anita Dow said the government needed to explain how the staffing situation had become so dire that there were no orthopaedic consultants available at the North West Regional Hospital after hours on Monday and Tuesday to attend to broken bone presentations.

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### Million-dollar success

Cairns Post, General News, 05/09/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 4

The Cairns community has smashed a million-dollar target towards an upgraded cancer treatment centre with three generous donors stumping up the final contributions amounting to \$250,000. Fundraising for the Cancer Care Hub, a \$3.4m project to upgrade cancer facilities in the Far North, began in February this year with \$1.9m pledged by the Cairns Hospital.

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### 'Years' lost waiting

Shepparton News, General News, 05/09/2023, Page 7

The Federal Government must step up and do more to stop paramedics wasting years waiting for patients to be seen in hospitals, according to Victoria's health minister. Ambulance Victoria documents obtained by The Age newspaper show staff spent about 523,000 hours waiting at emergency departments over the past five years, equivalent to about 120 years.

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

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### GPs could be the answer to ADHD logjam

The increasingly desperate plea from parents and doctors alike for better access to child developmental care has reached crisis point. [...] Dr James Best, Chair of the RACGP's Specific Interests Child and Young Persons' Health Group, says most parents can't afford hundreds of dollars for a private paediatric appointment (then there is the cost of any medication) so they use GPs.

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## Could your breast implants be making you sick?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/09/2023, Rebecca Douglas

They could be the cause of hard-to-pinpoint health issues It's been a cosmetic surgery staple for decades. [...] "The exact causes of BII are still unknown and being investigated," says Dr Alia Kaderbhai, a GP and chair of the RACGP Specific Interests Breast Medicine network.

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

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## 'Gaming the system': How doctors bypass a 50-year-old health insurance ban

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/09/2023, Jared Lynch

Doctors are admitting some patients to hospitals for procedures they can perform in their rooms, to spare patients out-of-pocket costs totalling hundreds of dollars. Doctors are admitting some patients to hospitals for procedures they can perform in their rooms, bypassing a 50-year old ban on private health insurance to spare patients out-of-pocket costs totalling hundreds of dollars, according to the peak health fund lobby group.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## My daughter Martha died needlessly in hospital – we believe this change would have saved her

The Guardian, Other, 04/09/2023, Merope Mills

Martha's Rule would give patients the right to call for an urgent second opinion, which could have prevented the unforgivable mistakes made in her case.

[Read More](#)

## Loss of maternity units a 'slippery slope' for healthcare, doctors warn

Australian Doctor, Other, 04/09/2023

More than 150 rural obstetric units have closed in two decades, with knock-on impacts on the 'wider community'. Closing a maternity unit in a rural area is a "slippery slope" that effects not only women and their families, but entire communities who stand to lose local doctors too, the RDAA has warned.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Today, 04/09/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen, and Brooke Boney

Interview with Dr Tony Bartone, GP and former AMA president, discussing the new ramping data that reveals paramedics in Victoria have spent a cumulative 120 years waiting to admit sick or injured patients to overcrowded hospitals in the last five years. Bartone says investment, funding and staff resources must come together to make sure that everyone goes through the system in the appropriate timeframe.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

## How screening for insomnia can optimise mental health outcomes

Medical Forum, General News, 01/09/2023, Dr Melissa Ree, Page 50

Insomnia and mental health is a complex dance. Insomnia disorder, characterised by difficulty falling asleep and/or staying asleep, accompanied by daytime impairment, affects 10-15% of the adult population in Australia (although 30% have symptoms of insomnia at any one time).

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Urgent call for midwife recruits

The Australian, General News, 05/09/2023, Angelica Snowden, Page 7

Victoria's midwifery workforce is "acutely and chronically" understaffed, a new study has found. The first research into the state's midwifery workforce, spearheaded by La Trobe University fellow and clinical midwife Robyn Matthews, showed there was high turnover in the workforce due to ageing, concern about work-life balance and burnout from the pandemic.

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

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### Funding boost for mums

Cairns Post, General News, 05/09/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 7

The Far North can expect an expansion in the popular Midwifery Group Practice model of care, following the government's commitment of \$16m for regional, rural and remote areas announced last month. MGP, regarded as the "gold standard of care" for women with low-risk pregnancies, is where the expectant mother has the same midwife covering antenatal, birth and postnatal care.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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### Trauma probe under way

Daily Advertiser, General News, 05/09/2023, Stephanie Gardiner & Luke Costin, Page 1

Women need to be empowered with information about what could go wrong during childbirth so they're not meeting a doctor in an emergency situation, an inquiry has been told. The NSW parliamentary inquiry is investigating the prevalence of birth trauma, its long-term effects and whether there are sufficient protections in the health system to prevent it.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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### Brisbane woman Zena Mason says she's been devalued, doubted during maternity care due to her weight

ABC Online, Other, 04/09/2023, Melissa Maddison

When Zena Mason was preparing to conceive her youngest child, the last thing she thought she would need was a "bikini body". But the Brisbane mum of two children, aged six and 18 months, said that's exactly how she felt after a series of demoralising appointments with healthcare professionals.

[Read More](#)

### ABC, ABC News, 04/09/2023, Juanita Phillips

A landmark inquiry into birth trauma has begun in Sydney after receiving 4000 submissions. Some studies show as many as 1 in 3 women who give birth will experience physical or psychological trauma. And today the inquiry heard about the changes that are needed to prevent it.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Our economic antidote

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/09/2023, Camden Smith, Page 1

A pioneer of remote medical training who helped secure a medical school at James Cook University predicts the Northern Territory will 'inevitably' secure its own medical school in a 'game changer' for the economy. CDU Menzies School of Medicine has applied for 40 out of 80 places being offered by the Commonwealth in the Increasing Rural Medical Training Grant Opportunity.

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### Local interventions possible treatment for nursing shortages

Border Watch, Other, 04/09/2023

A few small changes could be what the regional medical workforce needs to address nursing shortages, according to a University of South Australia (UniSA) study. The study, which looked at challenges early career nurses face in regional areas, suggested measures including better workplace support and more social gatherings could help retain regional nurses.

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[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Coalition's pharmacy veto put on pause

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 05/09/2023, Page 6

Australians will continue to receive cheaper medicines, but a push to scrap the policy could be brought back to Parliament if pharmacists' concerns are ignored. [...] The agreements usually last five years and spell out how much pharmacies are reimbursed by the government for dispensing drugs listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#)

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### Here's what new 60-day prescriptions for pharmacy medications mean for you and your hip pocket

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 04/09/2023, Andrew Bartlett & Nial Wheate, Page 6

As of last week, there are significant changes to how some common medicines are prescribed and dispensed in Australia. [...] The maximum price you pay at the pharmacy for a PBS script (known as the co-payment) is not changing.

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

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### Keytruda access

Medical Forum, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 10

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) announced in August that Keytruda (pembrolizumab) will be recommended for subsidy on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for early-stage triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). Keytruda is one of the first immunotherapies that has shown to when combined with chemotherapy after surgery, it can reduce the risk of cancer recurrence when compared to chemotherapy alone.

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## UTI pharmacy prescribing doctors reply

Medical Forum, General News, 01/09/2023, Dr Michael Page, Page 28

Some WA pharmacists have started prescribing for 'uncomplicated' UTIs. RACGP WA and AMA (WA) heads Dr Ramya Raman and Dr Michael Page respond to questions from Medical Forum.

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## How AI is joining the fight against superbugs

Canberra Times, Other, 04/09/2023, Katharina Richter

The World Health Organization has identified antimicrobial resistance as a global health threat with the potential to eclipse COVID-19. Invisible to the naked eye, bacteria are constantly evolving in their quest for survival.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#)

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## First Trans-Tasman hospital pharmacy partnership forged

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 04/09/2023, Megan Haggan, Tom Simpson & Sian Dawson

Professional collaboration and the advancement of practice in Australian and New Zealand pharmacy is a step closer today, say hospital pharmacists from both countries. This follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) and

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

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[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Botox, fillers focus of health crackdown

Age, General News, 05/09/2023, Laura Banks, Page 10

Injectables such as Botox and fillers will be the focus of an upgraded health regulator review targeting rogue operators in the cosmetic industry, in an attempt to "strengthen the hand of the consumer". The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the Medical Board of Australia will begin scrutinising doctors, nurses, dentists and other practitioners who perform fillers, anti-wrinkle and fat-dissolving injections and thread lifts.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#)

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### Rise in online telehealth services prompts new medical board regulations Connect with ABC News

ABC Online, Other, 04/09/2023, Tessa Flemming

For those who fall ill, just getting out of bed can pose a massive hurdle, let alone getting to a doctor's appointment. [...] From the 1st of September, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Medical Board made it harder to provide healthcare without a real-time consultation.

[Read More](#)

### RACGP submission to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) on the new power to issue interim prohibition orders



## (IPOs)

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/09/2023

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) on the new power to issue interim prohibition orders (IPOs).

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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[Back to Top](#)

## SPORT

### Sport saves more than \$320 million

Canberra Times, General News, 05/09/2023, Natalie Vikhrov, Page 5

More than \$320 million was shaved off national health spending as a result of Australians being physically active in 2018-19, an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report has found.

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

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### Informal sports

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/09/2023, Page 11

A landmark Monash University study is investigating the economic and social contribution informal sports participation has on the wellbeing of diverse groups of people. Over the past decade there has been a continued decline in organised sport participation and the Intergenerational Review of Australian Sport report is predicting that this participation will drop by a further 10 per cent by 2030.

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

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### Basketball Australia to bid to host 2031 FIBA Basketball World Cup

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/09/2023, Peter Rolfe

Basketball World Cup, inspired by the success of the Matildas in uniting the nation. And Melbourne will host key games under the plan. Australia is set to bid for the basketball world cup in the wake of last month's record breaking FIFA Women's soccer World Cup.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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### Qld grassroots sport funding slashed nine years before 2032 Games

The Mercury, Other, 04/09/2023, Hayden Johnson

The state government has been accused of "savagely and secretly" cutting over \$1 million in grassroots sport funding less than a decade before the Brisbane Games. The state government has "savagely and secretly" slashed over \$1 million in funding from dozens of Queensland grassroots sporting organisations less than a decade before the 2032 Olympic Games.

[Read More](#)

### 'There's definitely hope': Wallabies seek to rediscover winning habit at Rugby World Cup

The Guardian, Other, 05/09/2023, Angus Fontaine

With a blend of youth and experience, Australia hope to reestablish the team's identity on a smash and

grab mission in France Days out from the World Cup, and Australian fans are on tenterhooks. Winless in their five lead-up games, the Wallabies enter rugby's big dance ranked ninth in the world with the youngest squad since 1991 (average age 25.8) and only five players over 30. Most pundits and bookmakers don't give them a hope in hell.

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

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## **4BC, Afternoons, 04/09/2023, Sofie Formica**

The Courier Mail reports that the Qld Government has been accused of savagely and secretly cutting over \$1m in grassroots sport funding less than a decade before the Brisbane Olympics. The latest publicly available information for the Active Industry Fund showed that 77 funding recipients were allocated a total of just over \$9.5m for 2021-2022. Meanwhile, the new model called Active Industry Base Fund brings that list down to 74 and those have been allocated \$16.8m over the two years. It's also been revealed that sporting organisations who were able to access a \$300,000 annual grant from the State Government have said that would fall down to a maximum of \$250,000.

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[Back to Top](#)

## **HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH**

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## **FIRST NATIONS HEALTH**

### **Being there and sharing knowledge**

Medical Forum, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 10

WA has always done things a little differently we have had to, being a vast land mass with vastly different health needs within it. When this is translated to GP training in WA, which has been one of the state's, indeed the country's most pressing need, the turbulent 1980s and 90s of disruptive primary care policy were replaced by two decades of a single training organisation WA GP Education and Training (WAGPET) which was under the leadership of Dr Janice Bell for 18 of those 20 years.

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### **The preventable disease killing First Nations people**

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 05/09/2023, Eelemarni Close-Brown

Two Indigenous people are dying each week of an entirely preventable heart disease. When most people pick up the Strep A bacteria, it's a simple case of being treated by antibiotics.

*Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).*

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### **Radio National, PM, 04/09/2023, Samantha Donovan**

Report by Flint Duxfield. A Victorian inquiry examining how the state's criminal justice and child protection systems affect Indigenous people has found evidence of systemic racism and gross human rights abuses. The Yoorrook Justice Commission is led by Aboriginal people and is known as the first formal truth-telling process in Australia. The Commission has made 46 recommendations and has called for wide-ranging changes to laws they say criminalise poverty, including offending linked with homelessness, disability and mental ill health.

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[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### **Silicosis: what does that mean for general practice?**

Medical Forum, General News, 01/09/2023, Dr Aden Mclaughlin & Dr Arjuna Somanathan, Page 56

Silicosis is one of the oldest known causes of occupational lung disease referring to a spectrum of preventable pulmonary disease caused by the inhalation of free crystalline silica. Written record of lung disease related to inhalation of silica dates to ancient Egypt and Greece.

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[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### **France announces plan to make disposable nicotine vapes illegal**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/09/2023

Disposable electronic cigarettes are in the firing line as a major world player makes moves to stamp out nicotine addiction. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration told news.com.au that it and the Australian Border Force have been "working closely" to find and evaluate nicotine vaping products being brought into the country, and infringements have been issued.

*Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).*

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[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### **Cannabis spotlight**

Medical Forum, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 10

Australians living with one of 200 chronic conditions may be eligible to participate in a global study into the impact of medicinal cannabis treatment on health economic outcomes and quality of life for patients suffering from chronic health conditions. The QUEST Global study, led by Curtin University and sponsored by medicinal cannabis supplier Little Green Pharma (LGP) and HIF health insurer, will assess whether medicinal cannabis reduces the economic impact of chronic disease, by reducing both the number of medications a patient requires and their need for health-care services.

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[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### **Food fraud is a big money spinner paid by consumers' trust and health**

The New Daily, Other, 04/09/2023, Parker McKenzie

The lack of co-ordinated and routine testing for food fraud' in Australia poses a serious risk to the health of consumers and trust in brands, experts say. Beef sold as veal, wood filler instead of parmesan cheese and counterfeit wines are all examples of food fraud, and it is estimated to cost the Australian economy between \$700 million and \$1.3 billion each year.

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### **Radio National, Breakfast, 04/09/2023, Hamish Macdonald**

Interview with Georgia Beattie, CEO of Bulla Park and chair, Australian Mushroom Growers

Association. The death of three people and the sickening of a fourth believed to have ingested death cap mushrooms in regional Victoria last month made headlines around the world. But it's also putting people off buying mushrooms and supermarkets are telling their mushroom suppliers that sales have dropped between 7 to 10% in the past few weeks. Beattie says previous food recalls and incidents in Australia are being used as an example to have rigorous certifications and processes before food products go into stores.

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[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

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[Back to Top](#)

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