



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 31st October 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that new euthanasia laws set to be introduced in the ACT will be the most liberal in country and will be available to terminally ill patients in nearby towns in NSW with “links” to the capital. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#), [Canberra Times](#)
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas has written a letter to peak doctor groups offering to waive fees imposed by the government’s retrospective payroll tax extension.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that Australian Bureau of Statistics data has revealed that an ageing population and unhealthy lifestyles are killing more South Australians than usual, with the worst figures recorded in country towns.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that a Queensland-led international team of scientists have accidentally discovered that a new class of drug is effective at killing leukemia cells.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page1) reports that a real-time imaging probe that could more accurately detect breast cancer is currently being trialled at the Fiona Stanley Hospital in West Australia.

- **Daily Telegraph** (page 3) reports that research from the Australian Taxpayers' Alliance has found that regulating and taxing nicotine vapes could add \$6bn to the federal budget. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has yet to say when a ban on disposable vapes will come into force. Also reported by: [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#)
- **The Canberra Times** (page 3) reports that an inquest into the 2022 death of five-year-old Rozalia Spadafora at the Canberra Hospital emergency department has seen two doctors each claiming the other was responsible for the child's treatment.
- **Hobart Mercury** (page 3) reports that Professor Gary Kilov, director of the Launceston Diabetes Clinic, is calling for NDSS subsidies for continuous glucose monitoring systems to be extended to people with type 2 diabetes.

MINISTER BUTLER

How to puff up revenue

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/10/2023, James O'Doherty, Page 3

Regulating and taxing nicotine vapes could inject up to \$6bn into the federal budget's bottom line by 2026, new research from the Australian Taxpayers' Alliance has found. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is refusing to say when a promised ban on disposable vapes will come into force, but the government will seek to outlaw the importation of non-prescription vaping products through parliament this year.

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

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Diabetes policy panned

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/10/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 3

One of Tasmania's foremost diabetes experts has called for subsidies provided for continuous glucose monitoring systems to be extended to people with type 2 diabetes, which would benefit tens of thousands of Tasmanians with the condition. [...] The Mercury asked the office of federal Health Minister Mark Butler why the NDSS distinguished between the two classes of diabetes, and how much it would cost the budget annually to extend the subsidy to Australians living with type 2 diabetes, but did not receive a response.

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Australian health and wellbeing status report

Gippsland Times & Maffra Spectator, General News, 31/10/2023, Zoe Askew, Page 7

Improved life satisfaction, increased psychological distress and excess mortality - what does the latest two-yearly Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report on the welfare and wellbeing of Australians tell us? Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and Minister for Social Services Amanda Rishworth recently launched the latest AIHW report on the welfare and wellbeing of Australians.

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Toowoomba Medicare urgent care clinic opens

High Country Herald, General News, 31/10/2023, Page 6

Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN has announced the opening of the Toowoomba Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, located in Toowoomba Medical and Dental Centre. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, The Hon Mark Butler, said the urgent care clinics played an important role in supporting primary care and keeping emergency for emergencies.

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'End seven-day lock on test results'

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Antony Scholefield, Page 7

Health officials will weigh up whether pathology and imaging results in the My Health Record should still be "locked" from patient access in the first week after they are uploaded. [...] However, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said earlier this year that the delay was "a barrier to good clinical practice [and caused] untold frustration for Australians".

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GPs shut out of urgent care deal

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Sarah Simpkins, Page 8

A Medicare urgent care clinic contract worth \$7.1 million has gone to five nurse-led walk-in centres with no plans to recruit any GPs. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has confirmed the Federal Government has chosen them as part of its \$135 million plan to establish 58 urgent care clinics across Australia.

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'Tell your MP to fix telehealth'

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Antony Scholefield, Page 12

The RACGP has developed a pro forma letter for GPs to send to local MPs about the bureaucratic rules for bulk-billed telehealth consultations. [...] Last month, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said his department was drawing up options to address GPs' concerns, including possible changes to the Health Insurance Act 1973.

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Indigenous Wellbeing Centre announced as Bundaberg Medicare Urgent Care Clinic

Cairns Post, Other, 31/10/2023, James Taylor

A bulk-billed clinic offering urgent health care will begin operations before the end of the year, helping to relieve pressure on the Bundaberg Hospital. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinic will provide a significant boost to the availability of healthcare in the region.

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

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Expanded PBS eligibility for heart failure and migraine medications

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 30/10/2023

More than 100,000 combined patients are expected to benefit from the changes, which will take effect from 1 November. [...] PBS eligibility criteria for two medications aimed at patients who suffer from heart failure or episodic migraines are set to expand from next month, Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler has announced.

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MINISTER WELLS

World Class to World Best returns to the AIS

Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), Other, 30/10/2023

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) campus in Canberra is gearing up to host almost 400 of the best and brightest from across the Australian high performance sport system for the nation's premier sport conference, World Class to World Best (WC2WB). [...] The Minister for Sport, The Hon Anika Wells MP, will open proceedings on Tuesday morning.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

'Screen for bowel cancer at 45, not 50'

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Kemal Atlay, Page 1

Patients with average bowel cancer risk are now recommended to start two-yearly screening at age 45 rather than 50. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said: "The government is carefully considering the implications of the recommendation in the updated guidelines to lower the eligible age of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program to 45 years, including the costs and flow-on implications for the broader health system."

Also reported by: [Australian Doctor \(National\)](#).

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'Secretive' abortion push riles doctors

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Heather Saxena, Page 7

A new Queensland Government plan to allow registered nurses to prescribe MS-2 Step is an "ad hoc and opaque" attempt to expand their scope of practice, doctors say. [...] His submission said the State Government should wait for the results of the federal Department of Health and Aged Care's scope of practice review, due in October next year, before introducing the change.

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Practice \$500,000 in debt

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Sarah Simpkins, Page 8

A mums and bubs GP practice and charity owes potentially \$500,000 to creditors, including the federal Department of Health and Aged Care, administrators say. Possums for Mothers and Babies clinic, founded by GP Dr Pamela Douglas 12 years ago, had also offered training courses for doctors before it entered voluntary administration in August.

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Qlik honours ANZ healthcare, public sector customers

CRN, Other, 30/10/2023

Data analytics and software integration company Qlik has announced the winners of its 2023 Australia and New Zealand Health and Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards. [...] Elsewhere, Australia National University took home the ESG-centred App Innovation award, while the federal Department of Health and Aged Care was honoured with the Patient-centred App Innovation award.

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CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Cheating death in age of loss

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/10/2023, Andrew Hough, Page 1

More people are dying than usual in SA, especially in the regions. Covid is only part of the answer.

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

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Aged and confused at service

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 31/10/2023, Blair Jackson, Page 7

Changes to aged home care have left a Townsville man in the lurch with a garden he was scared could burn his house down. Townsville pensioner William Bell woke up every morning terrified his unkempt garden would burn his and the neighbours' houses down.

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Retirement living could reduce aged care costs

Build Australia, General News, 01/10/2023, Page 13

The Retirement Living Council (RLC) has provided the Commonwealth Aged Care Taskforce with a range of solutions and opportunities to address the challenges of keeping the aged care sector operational, fair and equitable in the face of soaring costs. RLC Executive Director Daniel Gannon said the submission makes clear that the sector - which houses more than 260,000 older Australians - is uniquely equipped to reduce costs and resource load on government-funded health and aged care.

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New research on the need for aged care staff to be “in the moment” with residents living with dementia

Aged Care Insite, Other, 30/10/2023, Arshmah Jamal

New research has found the need for aged care staff to be "in the moment" for residents with dementia to have quality care. However, meaningful engagement is challenging due to staff shortages, workforce demands, and time constraints.

[Read More](#)

Aged care watchdog puts MercyCare Rockingham on notice over poor care of dying resident

West Australian, Other, 30/10/2023, Kimberley Caines

A Perth nursing home has been rebuked over poor care, with the sector watchdog finding it breached standards on the management of a dying resident. MercyCare Rockingham has been put on notice by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission for a series of troubling issues over the past 12 months.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Keep abreast of the dangers

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/10/2023, Mikaela Wilkes, Page 14

Breast implant illness is not a matter of luck, but a matter of time. That's the message Australian TV host, podcaster and author Andi Lew is shouting from the rooftops after narrowly surviving a life threatening implant rupture in March.

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

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Retinol starters must face facts

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/10/2023, Melinda Wenner Moyer, Page 23

Smear tactics simply won't wash with this product, writes Melinda Wenner Moyer. Over-the-counter retinol products are popular for good reason: in addition to helping to control acne, they can improve the overall appearance of skin and lessen the signs of ageing.

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

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State against state: Data reveals Qld kids more active, adults less so

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/10/2023, Sean Parnell

Australians are reverting to their pre-pandemic fitness habits and Queensland adults are among the least active in any state. The latest AusPlay data, for 2022-23, reveals children are returning to the organised sport and physical activity that was interrupted during the COVID-19 restrictions but women are participating less.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Blood cancer drug hope

Courier Mail, General News, 31/10/2023, Kylie Lang, Page 1

The accidental discovery of a new weapon against blood cancer could save countless lives, with QIMR Berghofer scientists describing it as a "eureka moment". The Queensland-led international team stumbled on the breakthrough while investigating why a new class of drug was effective in killing leukaemia cells.

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

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Better tool to bridge care divide

West Australian, Today, 31/10/2023, Katie Hampson, Page 1

WA scientists have developed a real-time imaging probe that has the potential to improve survival rates for breast cancer. The new handheld probe can distinguish "stiffer" cancerous tissue from normal tissue and is being trialled at Fiona Stanley Hospital before it heads to the US.

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Weight loss drugs tied to GI disorders

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 9

Patients using glp-1 receptor agonists for weight loss are nine times more likely to develop pancreatitis than those taking bupropionnaltrexone, researchers say. Use of liraglutide and semaglutide were also associated with a near fourfold increased risk of bowel obstruction and gastroparesis compared with the older fixed-dose combination treatment.

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'Post-stroke seizures up mortality'

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Rachel Carter, Page 12

Patients with post-stroke seizures have more than double the risk of death and poor functional

outcomes compared with those without, report researchers in the largest review to date. The Yale University-led team which included Australian doctors said, while post-stroke seizures were known to affect neurological and cognitive outcomes, published data on the association with death and disability had been inconsistent.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 30/10/2023, Jennifer Keyte

A new type of scan is providing another weapon in the battle against the disease as a more accurate and less invasive way of diagnosing and maybe even managing prostate cancer. Prof Michael Hofman, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre says PSMA PET Scan will revolutionise the diagnosis of prostate cancer. Last year, more than 24,000 Australian men were diagnosed with prostate cancer and it claimed the lives of 3500, making it the second leading cause of cancer death in Australian men. Research teachers are recruiting more than 600 men, Australia wide to take part in a new trial.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Evenings, 30/10/2023, Kelly Higgins-Devine

Professor Simon Lewis, Director of the Parkinson's Research Clinic at the Brain and Mind Centre at Sydney University, joins Philip Clark on Nightlife to discuss what has changed in our understanding of the condition.

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PRIMARY CARE

ACT's bill 'state-sponsored suicide'

The Australian, General News, 31/10/2023, Rhiannon Down, Page 1

The ACT is set to introduce the most liberal euthanasia laws in Australia, with no need for a predicted time of death for terminally ill patients to access the scheme, which will also be available to residents in nearby towns in NSW with "links" to the nation's capital. Former ALP candidate and anti-euthanasia advocate Brendan Long told The Australian he understands the Labor-Greens cabinet had endorsed what will be the Territory's first assisted suicide legislation, due to be introduced in the ACT parliament on Tuesday.

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

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GP tax chaos

Herald Sun, General News, 31/10/2023, Mitch Clarke, Page 1

A deeply unpopular new tax on GPs has been thrown into chaos with Treasurer Tim Pallas quietly offering to waive fees for doctors at risk of going under. The offer is in a letter to peak doctor groups, seen by the Herald Sun.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#)

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Vital funding is dying out

Herald Sun, General News, 31/10/2023, Alex White, Page 13

More dying Victorians will be forced into hospitals rather than being cared for at home, putting huge strain on the state's health system, sector leaders warn. Frontline agencies have revealed the state government has frozen or terminated funding to some organisations.

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

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Menopause toolkit

Care for women with menopausal health issues should improve globally following the release of an updated Monash University-led toolkit that guides health professionals in assessing and treating them. Endorsed by the International, Australasian and British Menopause Societies, the Endocrine Society of Australia and Jean Hailes for Women's Health, the 2023 Practitioner's Toolkit for Managing the Menopause is designed to be used anywhere in the world.

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Otway Heart hopes to reduce wait times for scans

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 31/10/2023, Ben Silvester, Page 2

A new heart clinic has opened in Warrnambool, hoping to bring down wait times for patients needing cardiac diagnostic scans. Otway Heart has clinics in Colac and Timboon but owner Jayne Graves said it had noticed growing demand from western parts of the region.

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Doctors warned of TikTok bomb

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Rachel Carter, Page 3

Doctors are facing an explosion of patients requesting ADHD diagnoses and treatments after watching videos on TikTok and other social media platforms, a leading psychiatrist says. While social media has been credited for raising awareness of ADHD, psychiatrist Professor Richard Harvey said it had also led to "unrealistic expectations" about assessments and treatment.

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Calls continue for an increase to the Patient Assisted Travel scheme

West Australian, Other, 30/10/2023, Olivia Ford

Rural people travelling long distances to get medical attention need more financial support, according to a petition to be presented to the State Government. For many rural Australians, going to a doctor's appointment is not as simple as taking a day of work and driving down the road.

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Victorians may soon be sent home on the same day as major hip and knee surgery

3AW, Other, 30/10/2023, Neil Mitchell

Victorians having hip and knee replacement surgery could be sent home the same day or the following day under a push to cut public surgery wait times. The Elective Surgery Reform Commission, a clinician board which reports to government, has put forward the proposal.

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Out-of-pocket costs linked to decline in GP services

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 31/10/2023

GP attendances in the first six months of 2023 were 9.1% lower than the same period last year, according to a new AIHW report. [...] ' Dr Cathryn Hester, a member of the RACGP Expert Committee Funding and Health System Reform (RECFHSR), notes that the report shows out-of-pocket rates are still lower than at most points since Medicare was founded, apart from during the peak of COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

Bulk billing fixes are meant to improve medical access. Some say the opposite could happen

SBS, Other, 30/10/2023, Gavin Butler

There are concerns the government's plan to make bulk billing more accessible excludes some of Australia's most vulnerable people, while failing to address the more serious issues facing clinics. [...] The AMA acknowledges "in most cases, the incentive and your rebate do not cover your doctor's true cost of providing healthcare.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

The cost of living and dying

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/10/2023, Bianca Orsini & Nieves Murray, Page 19

The link between the cost-of living crisis and suicide risk is something we can no longer afford to ignore. For Australians, it's a pervasive and heartbreaking issue that calls for our collective action.

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Patients abscond mental health units

Canberra Times, General News, 31/10/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 10

Thirty-one patients have absconded from Canberra's mental health units over the past year, health authorities have revealed. A majority of the patients who absconded were those who were out on approved leave and failed to return to their unit at the appointed time.

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Bennett on strong men 'fallacy'

Courier Mail, General News, 31/10/2023, Robert Craddock, Page 17

NRL coaching sage Wayne Bennett has warned the world that seemingly strong men are not immune from suicidal thoughts. Dolphins mentor Bennett, who has been coaching at senior level since the 1970s, speaks in *The Promise*, a suicide-prevention documentary that spotlights the emotional journey of former ABC sports broadcaster Craig Hamilton, who suffered from depression and suicidal thoughts and was admitted to hospital and diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

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

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Long wait for service disappointing

Burnie Advocate, General News, 31/10/2023, Alex Fair, Page 12

The fact the North-West Coast has been forced to wait longer than what was promised for the introduction of a critical mental health response service is disappointing. It still might only be in its infancy, but the Police, Ambulance, and Clinician Early Response program, which is otherwise known as PACER, is an important part of the healthcare puzzle in Tasmania.

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Regions set for extra mental health support

Shepparton News, General News, 31/10/2023, Gabriel Garcia, Page 9

The Victorian Government is on track to deliver nine 'Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals' across the state, including to the Goulburn Valley region. The Locals act as a 'front door' to the mental health system and, staffed by fully qualified mental health professionals, already have a successful history in regional and metropolitan Victoria.

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Mental health of Victorian children worse than the rest of Australia

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/10/2023

New research shows the mental health of young adults in Victoria post-COVID is still declining. Younger children are recovering from the effects of the lockdown faster than Victorians, aged 12 to 24.

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

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How can you tell if a child is struggling with mental health issues?

A children's mental health charity has called out a lack of support for children under 14 experiencing mental health issues. KidsXpress has found one in 3 parents in Australia may not be able to recognise the signs of ill mental health in children, which could result in lasting negative impacts in adulthood.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Pregnancy, baby loss: Let's end the silence

Launceston Examiner, General News, 31/10/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 7

Every day in Australia, six families experience the tragedy of losing a baby in the final weeks of pregnancy, while two babies pass away before they reach 28 days old. And although there are limited statistics on miscarriages and termination for medical reasons (TFMR), hundreds of thousands of Australians know the reality of these figures all too well.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Teens told get career in health

Courier Mail, General News, 31/10/2023, Isabella Holland, Page 8

The state government has announced a \$1m campaign promoting a career as a healthcare worker to teenagers during a statewide shortage. The youth recruitment drive #GoHealth, announced by Health Minister Shannon Fentiman, will promote careers in the public health sector to Queenslanders aged 15-18 and their parents through social media channels including TikTok and Instagram.

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Some scans disrupted as Lake Imaging takes action

Ballarat Courier, General News, 31/10/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 3

Allied health professionals at Lake Imaging's St John of God Hospital and Howitt Street sites have held a two-hour stop work and community event as they fight for better pay and conditions. Radiographers, nuclear medicine technologists and sonographers fear current negotiations will leave them lagging behind workers at Ballarat Base Hospital and other private operators in regional Victoria, making it harder to attract and retain staff.

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

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More courses in nursing

Border Mail, General News, 31/10/2023, Beau Greenway, Page 4

A border university hopes to ease a shortage of regional nurses with a major investment to double course capacity. Construction will start in November at La Trobe University's Albury-Wodonga campus on new nursing simulation labs, built to hospital standards to give students a realistic experience before they enter the workforce.

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Is scrapping high-stakes clinical exams for registrars undermining standards? The AMC responds

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/10/2023, Philip Pigou

In response to Dr Andrew Amos' opinion piece , Scrapping high pressure clinical exams for trainees makes it dangerously easy to become a specialist' the Australian Medical Council (AMC) would like to outline the advice it has provided to specialist medical colleges concerning assessment.

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

PBAC approves injectable PrEP for HIV

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Kemal Atlay, Page 9

Patients with contraindications to daily oral HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis could soon access a PBS-subsidised long-acting injectable. Following its September meeting, the PBAC has recommended a streamlined authority listing for long-acting cabotegravir (Apretude) as an HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) alternative.

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More pharmacist jobs criticised as ‘gambling’ with children’s health

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/10/2023, Megan Haggan

The Australian Medical Association has attacked an announcement by the Queensland government which will see pharmacists vaccinating children aged two and older, as well as delivering vaccines in more settings, including in GP practices, aged care

Also reported by: [Australian Pharmacist \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Vic prescribing pilot starts

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 30/10/2023

The commencement on Friday of the Victorian Community Pharmacist Prescribing Pilot means participating community pharmacists can prescribe antibiotics for women experiencing an uncomplicated urinary tract infection. Community pharmacists can also repeat the supply of oral contraceptives (PD 04 Aug).

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UTIs drive MedAdvisor

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 30/10/2023

New pharmacy programs in Australia for services such as uncomplicated UTI treatment continue to drive demand for the MedAdvisor platform, according to an update from the firm today. The ASX-listed medication management technology firm this morning reported a strong start to the financial year, with \$25.

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Queensland leading nation on pharmacist vaccination scope

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 30/10/2023

Queensland is continuing to lead the nation on vaccination policy, with Health Minister the Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP announcing expanded vaccination scope for Queensland pharmacists from 30 October 2023. The new Extended Practice Authority (EPA) will allow pharmacists to vaccinate Queenslanders aged 2 years and older and will also authorise pharmacists to deliver vaccinations in more settings, including general practices, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander health services, and aged care facilities.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 30/10/2023, Max Futcher and Sharyn Ghidella

Parents now have more options when it comes to vaccinating their children. Pharmacies have been given the green light to administer jabs for children from the age of two. Queensland is leading the nation with a rule change allowing toddlers to be vaccinated against childhood diseases at their nearest pharmacy.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

'If GPs don't do it, someone else will': RACGP president calls on GPs to support patient enrolment

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/10/2023, Antony Scholefield

Dr Nicole Higgins connected MyMedicare to a review of health workers' scope of practice. Pharmacists and nurse practitioners will have more leverage to take on core GP roles if the MyMedicare patient enrolment scheme fails, the RACGP president says.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

TikTok's nip and tuck ad barrage

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/10/2023, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 14

Young women are being bombarded with ads for cosmetic surgery on social media platforms as experts call for an urgent intervention in marketing the procedures to impressionable young people. customers no longer need to walk past a salon window to be enticed down a rabbit-hole of cosmetic changes, with surgeons and specialists now able to bombard them through their phone screens.

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

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Doctors deny responsibility for sick kid

Canberra Times, General News, 31/10/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

Two Canberra Hospital emergency doctors claim the other was responsible for treating a sick child who ultimately died. On Monday, emergency department staff specialist Dr Amy Ying Yee Ting gave evidence at an inquest into the death of five-year-old Rozalia Spadafora.

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

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Doctor 'suicidal about roster'

Courier Mail, General News, 31/10/2023, Taylah Fellows, Page 17

A doctor has told a court he was left devastated when accused of leaving his colleague suicidal by excluding him from a roster. James Friebe, along with Kate Kerridge, obstetricians and gynaecologists at Brisbane's North West Private Hospital, have denied icing out former colleague Christopher Price during a roster switch in 2021, during which Dr Price claims he was purposely exiled by a group of six doctors.

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

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Corporate manslaughter and the Letby case

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Dr Paul Nisselle AM, Page 56

Hospital bosses, not just doctors, have a duty of care to patients. In a note found by police in her house, Lucy Letby had scribbled a mass of words in what appeared to be a frenzy.

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GP failed to check notes before prescribing wrong lithium dose

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Carmel Sparke, Page 10

Carmel Sparke a GP prescribed the wrong lithium dose to a patient despite receiving a hospital discharge summary and reports with the correct dose, an inquest has heard. Andrew Stubbs died three months later from dialysis disequilibrium syndrome (DDS), a rare complication of dialysis to treat severe lithium toxicity and kidney failure.

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A third of doctors admit to Googling patients

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Paul Smith & Carmel Sparke, Page 1

Should doctors be banned from looking up a patient on Facebook or Instagram or watching their TikToks? Is this an unethical act if it is about gaining insight to help you as a clinician?

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Should vapers be paying their way?

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 31/10/2023, Page 18

Cigarette smokers or at least the remaining few are sometimes accused of overloading our health system. Against that, smokers can at least point to their huge contribution to the health system in the form of tobacco taxes.

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NSW considering junk food ad ban on public transport

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/10/2023

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park is considering banning junk food ads on public transport. The move is in an effort to tackle diabetes rates in Western Sydney.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Stores in Shepparton, Seymour and Yarrawonga raided in statewide operation

Shepparton News Online, Other, 30/10/2023, Murray Silby

Regional raids: Six stores in Shepparton and one each in Seymour and Yarrawonga have been raided by police as part of a statewide illicit tobacco investigation. Victoria Police say more than \$2 million worth of illicit tobacco products have been seized in centres across regional Victoria, including Shepparton.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 30/10/2023, Adam Shirley

Interview with Daisy Gibbs, an evaluation officer at the Burnet Institute. Ms Gibbs discusses the institutes study into the effectiveness of drug detection dogs. The study found that 94 per cent of participant who encountered the dogs at music festivals expected to see them there, and therefore took steps to hide their drugs rather than not take them.

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SPORT

I won't quit over Jones' resignation: McLennan

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/10/2023, Tom Decent, Page 1

Rugby Australia chairman Hamish McLennan says he will not quit because he does not want to further

destabilise the game following the resignation of coach Eddie Jones. RA has been in damage control since Sunday night, when Jones announced he was walking away following the Wallabies' disappointing World Cup campaign, but McLennan was adamant he was not considering his own position.

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

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Open to a Mac 2.0 move

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/10/2023, David Killick, Page 1

The state government is open to considering an alternative plan for an AFL stadium on Hobart's waterfront but needs to see more detail from the proponents, Premier Jeremy Rockliff says. An unsolicited "Mac Point 2.0" proposal to construct a roofed stadium on reclaimed land off Regatta Point with 450 apartments built into its waterfront facade has been floated by engineer Dean Coleman.

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Cricket Australia wants third umpire for all WBBL games next season

The New Daily, Other, 30/10/2023

Cricket Australia will look to introduce third-umpire technology for all WBBL games next season in a bid to introduce parity between televised and streamed matches. Inconsistencies in officiating have been highlighted time and time again this season, raising concerns from current and past players.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Ageing well one nap at a time

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/10/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 5

An extra five to 10 minutes of deep sleep at night may help prevent dementia, but the key is starting good sleep habits early in life. A new study by Melbourne researchers has found that maintaining good quality sleep with ageing could help prevent the condition which impacts cognitive function and affects more than 400,000 Australians.

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

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Croc block - traditional medicine provides pain relief

Canberra Times, Other, 30/10/2023, Rudi Maxwell

John Watson, his son Anthony and some friends were fishing on their country in the Kimberley in 1986, hoping to catch a tasty meal, when a crocodile took objection - and John's finger. They immediately treated the wound with bark and gum from the mudjala mangrove tree, medicine their Nyikina Mangala ancestors had been using for generations to relieve pain and also for stunning fish, to make them easier to catch.

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

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Telethon Kids Institute: Perth study finds key link between RSV and asthma in children

West Australian, Other, 30/10/2023, Claire Sadler

A first-of-its-kind study has found that children who contract the potentially deadly respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in their infancy are at a much higher risk of developing asthma. The Telethon Kids Institute study reveals for the first time that pre-term children and those who contracted RSV aged between 6-12 months, had the highest risk of developing asthma later in life.

Sky News Live, News Night, 30/10/2023, Unspecified

There is a new hope for Australians living with the most common and deadliest form of brain cancer. A life changing clinical trial has opened in Melbourne, and is being fully funded by the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Australia's abusive coil campaign

Australian Doctor, General News, 03/11/2023, Page 15

While working in an Aboriginal medical service in Victoria, I was caring for a female Elder with abdominal complaints. I undertook some radiological investigations and noted an IUD. I asked when she'd had the IUD inserted, what it was placed for and how long it was supposed to remain.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Asthmatics' storm alert

Herald Sun, General News, 31/10/2023, Page 9

Victorians are again being warned about thunderstorm asthma conditions, with west and south Gippsland advised on Monday that the region was at high risk. Victoria is headed into its earliest start to a grass pollen season in decades.

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

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'Kicking the can down the road': State delays ban on lethal engineered stone benchtops

2GB, Other, 30/10/2023, Deborah Knight

The State and Federal Governments are accused of kicking the can down the road' as they delay imposing a ban on lethal engineered stone benchtops. The decision follows a harrowing Safe Work Australia report from August linking the common material to the fatal silicosis disease, prompting urgent calls from health experts and unions for an immediate ban.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Radio National, Breakfast, 30/10/2023, David lipson

Interview with Adele Ferguson, ABC investigative journalist. Around Australia, millions of homes have benchtops made with engineered stone, a product now known to cause irreversible and fatal lung disease. Ferguson says a new report by Australia's Safe Work is calling for a complete ban of the product, but governments are yet to decide next steps. Lipson says the Cancer Council estimates more than half a million workers have been exposed to silica dust through dry cutting or grinding of engineered stone. Ferguson notes New South Wales Premier Chris Minns said if he's prepared to lead the way and ban it completely while South Australia has said the same and Queensland and Victoria. She states Tasmania and WA are dragging their heels.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Sunscreen gets a spray

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/10/2023, Page 5

A warning has been issued over a popular Australian brand of facial sunscreen that could lead to irritation, "coughing and sneezing". The Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised the instructions printed on the packaging of the Bondi Sands Everyday Protection Face SPF 50+ Sunscreen Mist are incorrect.

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

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ASX Health Stocks: Amplia's pancreatic cancer trial boost; Emyria MDMA therapy step closer

Adelaide Now, Other, 30/10/2023, Eddy Sunarto

Amplia Theapeutics' treatment for pancreatic cancer has taken a step forward, with encouraging results from a key trial. [...] The approval is the first stage of a two-step evaluation, where final approval is still required from Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 30/10/2023, Greg Jennett / Matthew Doran

Interview with ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith. New laws have come into effect here in the ACT, decriminalising small amounts of illicit drugs, such as cocaine, heroin, ice and MDMA. The ACT is the first jurisdiction to move in this direction, labelling it as a health-based approach to managing drug use. Stephen-Smith says harm minimisation is the overarching objective of the National Drug Strategy that was agreed by the Commonwealth and all States and Territories under the previous Coalition Government. She notes that engagement with the criminal justice system is a harm associated with the use of illicit drugs that can be reduced.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 30/10/2023, Leon Delaney

Small quantities of nine illicit drugs became decriminalised in the ACT. People caught with these drugs will be offered the opportunity to participate in a one hour information and education session with a team from Canberra Health Services.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Shake up of salt limit regulations sought

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/10/2023, Eleanor Campbell, Page 7

There have been calls to slap stricter limits on food manufacturers as research reveals the "killer" impact of salt on Australia's health. Research from independent think tank the Grattan Institute has found some 2500 people living in Australia are dying from illnesses caused by high salt intake annually.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#),

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Tempo Foods' 'Fresh Milk' urgently recalled from Woolworths and Coles over E.coli fears

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/10/2023, Sarah Liversidge

A popular Australian brand of fresh milk has been swiftly recalled by major and independent supermarkets across New South Wales and Victoria. Tempo Foods 2L bottles of full cream, light and skim milk have been found to be contaminated by E.coli

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 30/10/2023, Adam Shirley

Interview with Lachlan Fox from the Grattan Institute on a report from the institute about the amount of salt within processed foods. The report has recommended government regulation to set limits on the amount of salt the food industry can put in tins product.

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