



# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 30th October 2023

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 1) reports the CFMEU has accused the government of betraying workers by saying the authority to regulate silicosis-causing engineered stone lies with states. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [The Age](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- [The Age](#) (page 1) reports Australians are consuming almost twice the recommended daily intake of salt, new research from the Grattan Institute has found, prompting calls to limit the amount of salt that can be added to processed foods. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 1) reports nearly 80 per cent of Queenslanders believe the state's health system has not improved over the last five months, but over 60 per cent are confident they will receive timely care. *Also reported by: [Courier Mail](#)*
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 11) reports Queensland's doctors have objected to new rules allowing pharmacists to administer a range of vaccinations to children as young as two, saying it may cause other diagnoses to be missed. *Also reported by: [Courier Mail](#)*
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 18) reports private healthcare funds are keeping up to 30 per cent of revenue rather than returning it to members through benefit payments, new analysis by the Australian Medical Association has found. *Also reported by [Herald Sun](#)*

- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 18) reports Western Sydney authorities are calling for a ban of junk food ads on public transport to help curb spiralling local obesity rates.
- [ABC News](#) reports Monday's Four Corners program will air an investigation into allegations of the torture and mistreatment of people living with disabilities and mental illness inside Australia's forensic system.
- [ABC News](#) reports an increasing number of people with terminal illness-related disabilities are being advised by the NDIS to seek state-funded palliative care services, state governments and patient advocates say.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Funds on a truth bypass

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 30/10/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 15

Health fund members are paying as much as \$3800 a year more than they need to for health insurance. A major investigation has uncovered some insurers raised premiums by up to 14.4 per cent this year, well above the 2.9 per cent "average" claimed by Health Minister Mark Butler.

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### Government urged to double Medicare levy surcharge to get more Aussies into private health

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/10/2023, Sue Dunlevy

The government has ditched a policy change that would have encouraged more people to take up private health insurance. [...] The Department of Health conducted a public consultation on the proposed change which closed in August but News Corp understands the change has not been endorsed by Health Minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

### Mark Butler announces November expanded listing for migraine therapy

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 30/10/2023

"Migraine is a debilitating condition. It is vital that medicines such as this be made available, at an affordable price, for Australians," said health minister Mark Butler.

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### 100,000 patients eligible for heart drug under PBS

HealthTimes, Other, 29/10/2023

Almost 100,000 patients are set to save hundreds of dollars per year as access to a chronic heart failure treatment is widened under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. From November 1, criteria to access empagliflozin, known by the brand name Jardiance, will be expanded. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said about 180 Australians are hospitalised daily with symptomatic chronic heart failure.

[Read More](#)

### GP fees on the rise again, but relief is at hand

Your Life Choices, Other, 30/10/2023, Andrew Gigacz

"Doctor, doctor, give me the news." So sang Robert Palmer all those years ago (in 1979 to be exact.) Those of us old enough will remember the next line: "I got a bad case of loving you." [...] "Peter Dutton froze the Medicare rebate when he was the health minister almost 10 years ago," said Mark Butler. Mr Butler, now himself health minister, highlighted the effects of "a freeze that remained in place for six long years". It led, he said, "to a very substantial decline in bulk-billing in general practice".

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## MINISTER WELLS

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### Call to curb legal, but deadly, white powder

Age, General News, 30/10/2023, Aisha Dow, Page 1

It's tasty, mostly invisible and an essential part of a healthy diet, but researchers say the average Australian is consuming almost double the maximum recommended daily amount of salt. A new report from think tank the Grattan Institute says more than 2500 Australians die each year from illnesses caused by a high salt intake and is calling for mandatory salt limits for processed foods. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney met the report's authors and said the federal government was committed to working with public health and industry bodies to reduce sodium levels in food.

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

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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## DEPARTMENT

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Fully-funded further education for care workers available

Border Watch, Other, 29/10/2023

Dementia Australia have recently announced that four fully-funded care courses have been launched for care workers. Designed and delivered by Dementia Australia, there is a range of accredited and

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### What goes in shows outwardly

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/10/2023, Alice Callahan, Page 28

If you've ever looked in the mirror and noticed a new pimple or sallow skin, it's natural to wonder if the food you eat is somehow responsible. "Our diet absolutely affects our skin," says Dr Lauren Ploch, a dermatologist in Aiken, South Carolina. The skin is an organ, just like your heart or liver, and it's built and maintained by nutrients from food, she says.

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

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### Funds keeping a third of premium

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/10/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 18

The most miserly Australian health funds are hoarding up to 30 per cent of their premium revenue instead of handing it back to members in benefit payments, it can be revealed. Australian Unity Health Limited paid the lowest of any fund in the country just seven in every \$10 dollars of premium revenue it received the latest private health insurance data shows. [...] Australian Medical Association analysis shows in October 2022 some funds were paying up to \$550 less than others for the same procedure.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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### How 22 minutes of exercise a day could reduce the health risks from sitting too long

ABC Online, Other, 29/10/2023, Emmanuel Stamatakis and Matthew Ahmadi

People in developed countries spend an average of nine-to-10 hours a day sitting. Whether it's spending time in front of a computer, stuck in traffic, or unwinding in front of the TV, our lives have become increasingly sedentary. This is concerning because prolonged time spent sitting is linked to a number of health issues including obesity, heart disease, and certain types of cancers. These health issues can contribute to earlier death.

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### Dry eye disease warning for women after menopause

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/10/2023

With evidence suggesting that menopause reduces gut diversity and increases the risk of metabolic disease, moving to a diet composed of low inflammatory functional foods offers potential to help mitigate dry eye disease in a post-menopausal population. Some chronic disease can be considered a physiological response to excesses of modern living, with the most prevalent behaviour risk factors in Australia being smoking, alcohol use, a diet high in red meat and low in whole grains, and occupational asbestos exposure ( here ).

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### ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 29/10/2023, Kathryn Robinson and James Glenday

Interview with Professor Kirsten Black, University of Sydney. A new study has found more than half of all women who are trying for a baby are not following health advice. The study, which was published in the Medical Journal of Australia, examined the habits of nearly 2400 women and asked whether they exercised, smoked or drank alcohol. Of the 70% of women who planned to have a child, about 59% had not taken any action to improve their health before pregnancy. Black discusses the importance of preparing for pregnancy.

## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Call to junk transport ads to fight obesity

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/10/2023, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 18

Junk food ads could be banned on buses, trains, trams and stations, under a proposal to tackle Western Sydney's shocking obesity rates. More than half of Western Sydneysiders are overweight and the region is a recognised diabetes hotspot, with twice the rate of diabetes as the rest of the city. According to the latest census data, 65 per cent of children with diabetes in Sydney live in the west, and Cancer Council research shows those using public transport to get to and from school are exposed to up to 2800 ads for unhealthy food each year.

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

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### Our crusade for Charlie

Herald Sun, General News, 30/10/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 18

A young couple who lost their baby son to a little-known disease are determined to help find a cure to save other families from the same heartache. Charlie Streeter was born at 26 weeks in November 2022 tiny, but a fighter. Parents Sophie and Nathan Streeter said he had been "cruising along" in a neonatal intensive-care unit in Queensland and putting on weight he had even progressed with his breathing.

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### Alison driven to help

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/10/2023, Sue Bailey, Page 12

New Cancer Council Tasmania head Alison Lai is passionate about helping others. Ms Lai started volunteering in her early teens and in her 20s gave freely of her expertise for the cancer screening control services reference group in the Department of Health. The keen netballer, as president of the Southern Tasmanian Netball Association, said she was happy helping people to stay engaged in sport.

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### 'I don't know who my child is any more'

West Australian, General News, 30/10/2023, Jake Dietsch, Page 20

A Busselton mother can do little more than watch and wait in anguish as her son suffers with a brain tumour and epilepsy because the necessary testing he needs before surgery is not available in WA. Eight-year-old Jaxon has epilepsy and was diagnosed with a chronic temporal lobe brain tumour in January after he began having multiple seizures last year.

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### Signs and symptoms of breast cancer: This fit Aussie mum ignored a niggling feeling. Then came the bombshell

7news.com.au, Other, 29/10/2023, Cindy Tran

I felt like my world was falling apart and I no longer had control of my life.' When Danna Diaz first felt it, she didn't think anything of it. She was a busy working mum breastfeeding two kids under the age of two so she assumed the tiny lump in her chest was nothing more than a blocked milk duct or common hormonal changes.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#)

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### 'Subtle' sign little boy had devastating disease

9News, Other, 29/10/2023, Sarah Swain

When new mother Kim Vo, 31, noticed one of her toddler Chase's eyes looked slightly different from the other, she thought it was simply one of his irises changing colour, as can happen in the early months. "The difference was so subtle," Vo said. [...] In 2022, it is estimated that 776 children were diagnosed with cancer according to Cancer Australia.

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## Liver cancer 'being missed' prompting calls for better surveillance

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/10/2023

With hepatocellular carcinoma cancer rates rising in Australia, we need a dramatic shift in the way we think about screening and understanding of this disease, experts say. Hepatocellular carcinoma cancer (HCC) used to be the 15th most common cancer-related death in Australia, but in the past 20 years, it has risen to seventh ( [here](#) ).

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## More GPs needed to keep melanoma care equitable across Queensland

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/10/2023

While access to invasive melanoma health care is fairly equitable across Queensland, people in regional areas are relying more on public hospitals for treatment rather than GPs or skin cancer specialists. New research has found that while people across Queensland have reasonable access to skin cancer checks, people in more remote areas are more likely to be admitted to public hospitals for skin cancer-related conditions.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Stacia's health 'cure' a failure

Courier Mail, General News, 30/10/2023, James Hall, Page 1

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's bold play to enlist rising star Shannon Fentiman to repair the Health portfolio has failed in the eyes of Queenslanders, as a new poll reveals 91 per cent feel it has either worsened or stayed the same since the rare ministerial reshuffle. The poll, conducted by YouGov exclusively for The Courier-Mail, reveals confidence in the health system remains concerningly low despite Ms Fentiman's bid to restore faith in the service.

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

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### Region's new \$1.9m ambo station is ready to roll

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/10/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 5

A \$1.9m ambulance station in Tasmania's north will begin operations in the coming days, with Health Minister Guy Barnett touring the facility on Sunday. The new Beaconsfield Ambulance Station replaces the previous station, which Ambulance Tasmania shared with the Beaconsfield hospital.

Similar coverage reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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

### Greenpoint solution wait

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/10/2023, Genevieve Holding, Page 6

Labor and Liberal politicians remain tight-lipped about a "future announcement" for Bridgewater's Greenpoint Medical Service, with federal Lyons MP Brian Mitchell stating he is waiting on a provider to go public. Mr Mitchell, state Lyons MP Jen Butler and Bridgewater locals joined Sunday to continue advocating for the medical centre's future.

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### Clinic eases pressure on hospital

An "urgent care" clinic in Albury's CBD is helping to ease pressure on the emergency department at the often overloaded hospital. The Border Urgent Care Centre has announced it has treated 500 patients since it opened in July. An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report in May showed emergency presentations to Albury hospital had more than doubled in the past decade.

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## **Fiddling away at disastrous design**

Border Mail, General News, 30/10/2023, Page 19

Once again the frustration at a lack of action on a replacement for Albury base and Wodonga hospitals has reared its head. While the 'Neros' in the Victorian government go back to their drawing boards and 'fiddle' with yet another disastrous design attempt for a suitable complex, citizens are conjecturing how some of those dollars that were flushed away over the 'never were' Commonwealth Games might have, in conjunction with the NSW state government, provided funding for the project to proceed past the 'pie in the sky' phase.

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## **Serious about sleep**

Cairns Post, General News, 30/10/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 4

From a unique sleep condition where people physically act out dreams to the far more common presentation of sleep apnoea, Cairns Hospital's sleep disorder centre has seen it all in the last 20 years. According to Janine Ferns, director of clinical measurements at Cairns Hospital, 90 per cent of patient referrals from the Torres Strait and The Cape to Cardwell, are for sleep apnoea - a condition where patients stop breathing for 10 seconds or more, characterised by fragmented sleep, and multiple wake-ups at night.

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## **Suite 'not fit for purpose' Parkes birthing facility blood bank hurdle**

Central Western Daily, General News, 30/10/2023, Tanya Marschke, Page 1

A former Orange paediatrician says the unused birthing suite at Parkes Hospital is not fit for purpose and doesn't have adequate blood supplies in case something goes wrong. The issue came to light amid ongoing calls to reopen the birthing suite at Parkes Hospital.

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## **Clinic expansion to boost patient care**

Daily Advertiser, General News, 30/10/2023, Page 5

Thousands more patients will soon be able to be seen by staff at Wagga Base Hospital's Rapid Access Clinic after the state government revealed a \$2.4 million expansion of the service. Regional Health Minister Ryan Park, who announced the funding boost on Friday, said the expansion would mean patients, their families and carers could access the right care, at the right time and in the right setting - easing pressure on the hospital's busy emergency department.

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## **ACT should have paediatric emergency department space, Dr Anne Mitchell tells inquest**

Canberra Times, Other, 29/10/2023, Lanie Tindale

Caring for sick children is "challenging" in the ACT and Canberra should have a dedicated space in the emergency department for children, a paediatrician says. On Friday, Dr Anne Mitchell gave evidence at an inquest into the death of her former patient at Canberra Hospital, five-year-old Rozalia Spadafora.

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## Kids still struggling in wake of lockdowns

Age, General News, 30/10/2023, Wendy Tuohy and Madeleine Heffernan, Page 1

Younger children are recovering from the lingering effects of lockdowns faster than Victorians aged 12 to 24, but the mental health of young adults continues to be worse than in other states. Levels of mental distress among young Victorians are still of serious concern to experts who spoke to The Age for a series on the wellbeing of pre-schoolers, school and tertiary students two years after lockdowns ended.

*Similar coverage reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).*

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## 'No judgment' chatbots turn therapist

West Australian, Business News, 30/10/2023, Page 37

There is a growing interest in harnessing the power of artificial intelligence and adopting it as a form of therapy, according to experts. Rapid advancements in AI technology have led to the creation of chatbots like the well-known ChatGPT tool that can simulate human conversations, opening up new opportunities in various fields including medicine.

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## No start date

Burnie Advocate, General News, 30/10/2023, Simon Mcguire, Page 1

The Coast still does not have a critical mental health response service, more than half a year after it was due to be rolled out. Premier and Mental Health and Wellbeing Minister Jeremy Rockliff said yesterday the Police, Ambulance and Clinical Early Response (PACER) team was "imminent" but did not say when it would begin.

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## Input key for new service

Cairns Post, General News, 30/10/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 12

Community members are being called upon to have their say in shaping a vital mental health support service in Cairns. The Cairns Head to Health centre is a new free service supporting people with their mental health and wellbeing where people can walk in without appointment or referral to talk to someone if they or someone they know is in distress.

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## ADHD, TikTok, Rejection Sensitivity Dysphoria — meet Matilda's brain

ABC Online, Other, 29/10/2023

TikTok is a mixed bag when it comes to mental health content. Great at raising awareness and building community, but not always accurate or evidence based. Journalist Matilda Boseley sees both sides but she says TikTok was the push she needed to seek out a formal diagnosis.

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## What are the symptoms of ADHD? I was diagnosed at 30 - here's what I want everyone to know after missing the signs for years

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/10/2023, Louise Allingham

Kelly Baums became an ADHD coach after she found out she had been living with the condition her whole life at age 30. The 33-year-old, from Chicago, felt different from her peers growing up while struggling to hold onto friendships and concentrate on school work. When she was diagnosed with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder three years ago she felt a mix of relief and grief. She finally had answers but was sad for 'little Kelly' who spent so many years feeling lost.

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## Nurses return 30 years after graduation

Ballarat Courier, General News, 30/10/2023, Page 5

A group of nurses have returned to where it all began to swap stories about their lives and careers. Most of the ACU Aquinas Bachelor of Nursing class of 1993 are still in the profession, in varying positions and locations across Australia and overseas. This month more than 45 of the 65 nursing graduates returned to Ballarat for a reunion three decades after their graduation.

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## Labor pledges support for Neuroendocrine cancer nurse

Launceston Examiner, General News, 30/10/2023, Duncan Bailey, Page 4

Tasmanian Labor on Friday said they would fund a specialist nurse position over three years to support Tasmanians with Neuroendocrine cancer, if elected. The disease is the seventh-most common form of cancer in the country, but only one Neuroendocrine care nurse exists in Australia to support some 25,000 Australians with the disease.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### \$10m in a year to recruit health workers

Launceston Examiner, General News, 30/10/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 5

Tasmanian taxpayers spent more than \$10 million on recruiting doctors and healthcare workers in the past 12 months, according to figures released under the state's Right to Information laws. Data obtained by Opposition leader Rebecca White shows that during the 2022-2023 financial year, \$4.06 million was spent with Searson Buck Group and \$4.79 million with Hays Personnel Service to fill vacancies across the Department of Health and Tasmanian Health System.

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### Making a difference: the Melbourne medical family that operates together

SBS, Other, 29/10/2023, Brianna Piazza

Thousands of people die or suffer life-altering injuries every year as a result of cancer going untreated in the Asia Pacific. A Melbourne family of health workers is trying to change that, by helping patients who can't afford critical surgery and skilling up health workers in some of the most disadvantaged areas.

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### Burnout in medicine leading to clinical errors and 'severe stress'

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/10/2023

Burnout in health care undermines the safety of patients and practitioners alike, and there are growing calls for this genuine health care crisis to be properly addressed. Burnout remains a serious problem across health care in Australia ( here ).

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Investors need to weigh irrational fear and hype over Ozempic

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 30/10/2023, Kelli Meagher, Page 22

It was a year ago that a tweet from Elon Musk regarding how he achieved dramatic weight loss sent

Google searches for the words "Ozempic" and "Wegovy" skyrocketing as #Ozempic went viral on TikTok. These words are brand names for the same underlying drug ...

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## Call for national eczema strategy to end 'treatment maze'

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/10/2023

Eczema has a devastating and far-reaching impact, with estimates showing nearly 3 million Australians are affected by the condition. It is shocking that Australia does not have a national strategy to end the "treatment maze" and address the complex challenges that eczema presents to patients and health care providers. [...] What is pleasing is the Australian Government's announcement in 2021 of the medication Dupixent (dupilumab; Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals) being listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme ( [here](#) ).

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 29/10/2023, Chris Bath

A test for three genetic diseases will become free from Wednesday when it's subsidised by Medicare. Only 10% of couples in the past have proceeded with the test, largely because of its \$400 price tag.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Inside the making of Four Corners Trapped program about the indefinite detention of forensic patients

ABC Online, Other, 29/10/2023, Alexandra Blucher

ABC Investigations reporter Alexandra Blucher gained unprecedented access to forensic patients and their families to produce a Four Corners program, Trapped, which revealed allegations of the torture and mistreatment of people living with disabilities and mental illness who are locked up indefinitely by the state.

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### Terminally ill patients left in limbo as states and NDIS argue over disability supports

ABC Online, Other, 29/10/2023, Emily Laurence

Australians with terminal illnesses are being left in limbo as state governments and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) battle over who should fund their disability supports. States and patient advocates say a wave of people with disabilities, caused by conditions like brain cancer, are being told by the NDIS their needs would be best met by state-funded palliative care services.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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## Fans maul Stan over rugby streaming

The Australian, Media, 30/10/2023, Sophie Elsworth, Page 24

Nine Entertainment-owned streaming service Stan was hit with a barrage of complaints from sports fans on the weekend after its broadcast during the Rugby World Cup was affected by a series of issues during the bronze medal match. The match between England and Argentina - which was broadcast from 5.45am AEDT on Saturday - was aired on Stan Sport, which has been promoted as the home of rugby and the place to watch every match of the tournament.

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## News Corp's big deal with Paralympics Australia

The Australian, Media, 30/10/2023, Sophie Elsworth, Page 24

Many inspiring stories will be told about Australia's top athletes competing at next year's Paris Paralympics and the Paralympic Winter Games after a new sponsorship deal was signed. News Corp Australia (publisher of The Australian) has extended its sponsorship of Paralympics Australia, ensuring the athletes' remarkable feats will be shared widely.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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## Sport bet firms offer to ditch jersey logos

Age, General News, 30/10/2023, Paul Sakkal, Page 1

The sports betting sector has offered to remove logos from club match-day jerseys amid a stand-off with the government over a looming clampdown on gambling advertisements. Communications Minister Michelle Rowland is preparing to announce curbs on TV, online and outdoor betting promotions, and has been in talks with gambling, TV and sporting code executives.

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

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## Jones jumps

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/10/2023, Page 1

Eddie Jones has dropped a bombshell on Australian rugby, announcing his resignation as Wallabies coach. In the wake of Australia's disastrous Rugby World Cup campaign, Jones revealed to The Australian's Jessica Halloran he knew his time as the coach of the Wallabies was over after the humiliating defeat to Wales.

Similar coverage reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Women deserve the dollars

West Australian, General News, 30/10/2023, Daniel Smith, Page 13

While I enjoyed watching the Matildas play in Perth as much as the next fan, it made me reflect on the challenges professional netballers face within Australia's corporate-sports landscape. Meaningful sponsorship and media interest in women's soccer has only recently been achieved in Australia, but soccer's contrast with netball appears stark.

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## Indigenous knockout carnival to feature talented stars

Central Western Daily, General News, 30/10/2023, Tom Barber, Page 22

Hundreds of the best touch footballers will be coming to Dubbo in early November when the city hosts the National Indigenous Touch Football Knockout. Touch Football Australia will bring the event to Dubbo for the second consecutive year on November 4 with Bob Dowling and John McGrath Ovals both set to host action.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### **The impact of COVID-19 on consultations at an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care service: a retrospective observational study**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 30/10/2023

Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) telehealth items were welcome additions that supported general practice care during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. They were particularly valuable for the safety of primary care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, at increased risk of COVID-19 infection, hospitalisation, and death because of the effects of socio-economic disadvantage, colonisation, and racism.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### **Union turns on Burke over stone**

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/10/2023, Angus Thompson, Page 1

A powerful union leader has accused the federal government of betraying tradies after Workplace Relations Minister Tony Burke said banning importation of toxic engineered stone would lead to its production in Australia. Burke signalled a national decision on the shiny kitchen benchtops riddling tradies with silicosis would be made this year after state and territory governments last week delayed an all-out ban.

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

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

### **Chemists to jab infants**

Courier Mail, General News, 30/10/2023, Madura McCormack, Page 11

Queensland pharmacists will be allowed to vaccinate children as young as two under major new Australian-first rules, which has immediately raised the hackles of the state's doctors. Under the state government's latest move, pharmacists in Queensland will also be allowed to administer a wider range of jabs, including for hepatitis, chickenpox, meningococcal B, HPV, typhoid, shingles and mosquito-borne Japanese encephalitis.

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

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### **Vax rate decline prompts concerns**

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/10/2023, Paul Brescia, Page 3

Townsville's vaccination rates have fallen in the past three years, sparking concern that kids could end up hospitalised with preventable illnesses. The national target for vaccination rates is 95 per cent. In North Queensland, 93.2 per cent of one and two-year-olds were fully vaccinated, with the percentage of fully vaccinated five-year-olds a little higher at 96 per cent.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Wellness boom the right pill for PharmaCare boss

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 30/10/2023, Emma Koehn, Page 24

Household budgets may be tighter than ever, but we're still spending up at the pharmacy, writes Emma Koehn. PharmaCare might not have instant name recognition, but from its Nature's Way vitamin gummies to its head lice treatment KP24, the company's products are a dominant force in the nation's pharmacies. [...] Most vitamins in Australia are regulated as low-risk complementary products, and the Therapeutic Goods Administration assesses them for safety and quality only.

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

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### Crooks 'can't hide'

Border Mail, General News, 30/10/2023, Ted Howes, Page 1

Yarrowonga police have helped a major taskforce crack down on organised crime syndicates linked to illegal tobacco. [...] They were executed with the support of the Australian Border Force's Illicit Tobacco Taskforce, the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Australian Tax Office.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### ACT criticised for 'insane' drug decriminalisation move

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/10/2023

One Nation Chief of Staff James Ashby has criticised the ACT's "insane" new drug law reforms. "Look I can't get over the fact that you cop a higher fine for speeding 13 kilometres over through that main drag of Canberra yet they're dishing out \$100 fines for serious drugs," Mr Ashby told Sky News host Paul Murray.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Healthy menu cuts costs for groceries

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 30/10/2023, Page 3

Families could save \$150 a fortnight at the checkout by choosing a healthy diet, new research has found. The affordability of shopping healthy was shown by a regional Victorian hospital's food affordability study, which compared a trolley of items that meet the Australian Dietary Guidelines to what the average Australian family buys.

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### Why you need to care about how many trans-fats you're unknowingly eating (and how to minimise them)

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/10/2023, Susie Burrell

Do you know which supermarket foods contain trans-fats, and what harm they may be causing your body? There's a good chance you've heard that discretionary or "junk" foods such as fast and fried

takeaway, cakes, biscuits, pastry and confectionery are not the healthiest of foods, and that many of us eat way too much of them.

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