



# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 9th December 2023

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that leading endocrinologists have warned against a lack of research funding for diabetes. Currently there is no funding attached to Australia's national diabetes strategy which the federal government signed in 2021.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a paramedic industrial dispute has caused NSW Health Minister Ryan Park to warn parliament may be recalled to pass emergency legislation in an effort prevent industrial action crippling the triple zero network on New Year's Eve.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 7\)](#)** reports that Medicines Australia is calling for an overhaul of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, citing the need for quicker approval and access to new, and potentially lifesaving drugs.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 9\)](#)** reports that SA Chief Public Health Officer Professor Nicola Spurrier has warned that when it comes to total disease burden, being overweight is almost as bad as smoking.

## No funding for killer disease plan

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/12/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Australia's national diabetes strategy signed in 2021 has not one single dollar attached to any of its aims and has no implementation plan whatsoever, it has emerged. Top endocrinologists have hit out at the erosion of research funding for diabetes over the past decade and the lack of any funding or implementation plan attached to the diabetes strategy. Health Minister Mark Butler said he is looking forward to an upcoming parliamentary report into diabetes, but has not addressed the lack of current funding.

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

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## Anger at medical funding

Cairns Local News, General News, 08/12/2023, Page 9

Federal Leichhardt MP Warren Entsch has lashed the Labor government, led by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler, to exclude James Cook University (JCU) Cairns from receiving any Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) for medicine students. He said it was "a slap in the face to Far North Queensland".

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## PSA welcomes climate strategy

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 08/12/2023, Page 1

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has issued a statement welcoming the government's National Health and Climate strategy, announced earlier this week. The society's National President Dr Fei Sim thanked Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney for their leadership in recognising the impact that climate change has on health.

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## Renewing Australia's efforts to end the HIV epidemic

Star Observer, General News, 01/12/2023, Mark Butler, Page 22

It's hard to put into words the sense of terror in the early years of the HIV epidemic. [...] Mark Butler is the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care.

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## Pathology company starts using My Health Record again after minister's rebuke

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/12/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Pathology company Healius has started uploading test results to My Health Record again, a week after it was accused of risking patient safety. Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said Healius stopped uploads on 12 September and that there were subsequently three million fewer pathology uploads to My Health Record in September compared with August.

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## Dietitians welcome the release of Australia's new National Health and Climate Strategy

Dietitians Australia, Other, 08/12/2023

Dietitians Australia is congratulating the Hon Mark Butler MP Minister for Health and Aged Care and the Hon Ged Kearney MP Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care on the release of Australia's new National Health and Climate Strategy. The Strategy includes actions that acknowledge the critical role of food intake and nutrition in strengthening both population and planetary health, encompassing all levels of the health system.

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## **“I match the colours to my nails”: How vaping takes hold of people's lives**

Junkee, Other, 08/12/2023, Ky Stewart

Come January 1, 2024, the importation of disposable vapes will be banned in Australia. Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care, announced that the reforms are only the beginning of tightening restrictions to "protect Australians, particularly young people" from vaping.

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## **CDU misses out on funding to train doctors, given funding to accredit medical school**

NT Independent, Other, 07/12/2023

Charles Darwin University has missed out on funding to train 40 medical students in a proposed new medical school which was announced in November 2021, but has instead been given \$2.8 million by the federal government to seek the accreditation required to establish the medical school. [...] The NT News reported on the day after the federal funding announcement that CDU vice-chancellor Professor Scott Bowman had told the paper he had written to the federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler at an undisclosed time, saying the "preliminary exploratory work" the government had said the \$2.8 million was intended for had already begun, and asked for the \$21.8m in funding "at the earliest opportunity ahead of the 2024-25 budget".

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## **Darryl O'Donnell steps down as CEO of Health Equity Matters**

OUTinPerth, Other, 08/12/2023

Darryl O'Donnell has announced he is stepping down from his leadership role at Health Equity Matters. [...] "Among his many achievements, Darryl has most recently helped shape the work of the HIV Taskforce chaired by the Hon Mark Butler MP, and the LGBTIQ+ Health Ten Year Action Plan chaired by Assistant Minister the Hon Ged Kearney MP.

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## **Newborn babies in SA will soon have greater access to genetic screening**

PS News, Other, 07/12/2023, Andrew McLaughlin

South Australian families with newborn babies will have greater access to genetic screening thanks to a State Government investment into multiplex neonatal screening equipment. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said every newborn deserves access to world's best screening.

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## **ABC News, Mornings, 08/12/2023, Sarah Morris**

Single-use vapes will be banned right across the country. The Government says it wants to reduce the number of children and adults addicted to nicotine. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says many shops selling vapes will have to close.

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## **ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 08/12/2023, Leon Compton**

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler says the import of all disposable vapes will be illegal starting January in a bid to choke off the supply of the vapes that are not therapeutic and which were mostly used by children. He notes it will be a single set of federal laws that will be able to be effectively enforced at a state and territory level. Butler states they are going to have to make sure there's strong enforcement at the border by the Australian Border Force.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).*

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## MINISTER WELLS

### **Netballers may have a new pay deal, but the sport remains in a precarious position**

New Daily, Other, 08/12/2023

While 2023 was a watershed year for Australian women's sport due to the Matildas' stirring run at the Women's World Cup, netball is going through its worst period ever. [...] As Sports Minister Anika Wells put it, "netball is too important for it to not be successful".

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### **Darryl O'Donnell steps down as CEO of Health Equity Matters**

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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## No funding for killer disease plan

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/12/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Australia's national diabetes strategy signed in 2021 has not one single dollar attached to any of its aims and has no implementation plan whatsoever, it has emerged. Top endocrinologists have hit out at the erosion of research funding for diabetes over the past decade and the lack of any funding or implementation plan attached to the diabetes strategy. Health Minister Mark Butler said he is looking forward to an upcoming parliamentary report into diabetes, but has not addressed the lack of current funding.

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

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## Fight to get earlier access to lifesaving medicines

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/12/2023, Madeline Crittenden, Page 7

Jack Roche was just five weeks old when he was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, but the medication that could improve his health isn't available on the PBS for children under six even though it's approved for use in kids aged two and over in several other countries. [...] A spokesman for the Department of Health and Aged Care said the Government supported the goal of reducing time to access for Australian patients so that they could access new health technologies as early as possible.

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

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## RNH aged care scores improve

Warracknabeal Herald, General News, 08/12/2023, Page 2

Three of the region's aged care homes have now received a coveted five-star status under the government's rating system. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care studies Quality Measures, Residents' Experience and Staffing.

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## Can you dial a GP diagnosis?

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 1

You would probably expect most doctors to hang up on anyone suggesting they could make 80% of their diagnoses over the phone. However, Professor Paul Glasziou, a GP turned professor of evidence-based medicine, thinks it is possible. He was part of the Department of Health and Aged Care's early review of telehealth at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and has published multiple reviews comparing telephone, video and face-to-face consultations.

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## Frustration over menopausal hormone therapy patch shortage

9News, Other, 08/12/2023, Sarah Swain

A shortage of menopausal hormone therapy patches, which has left Australian women scouring pharmacies, is expected to last into the new year. [...] The Department of Health said if the medicine is not on the PBS, then it is supplied as a private (non-PBS) prescription at full price as it is not subsidised by the Commonwealth.

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## Why claims of a new 'genetic vaccine' being given to Australian children don't align with reality

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2023, David Campbell

This week, we debunk viral social media posts that claim a new "genetic vaccine" has been added to the national vaccine schedule for children aged 2-6 months. [...] The NIP schedule is "a series of immunisations given at specific times throughout your life", the Department of Health website explains.

## 'Psychedelic' portrait of chef Maggie Beer by Del Kathryn Barton unveiled at the National Portrait Gallery

ABC Online, Other, 07/12/2023, Kate Midena

Two of Australia's most remarkable women have joined forces for a new portrait, unveiled at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra today. [...] Since being named Senior Australian of the Year in 2010, Beer has dedicated herself to reforming the food served in aged care facilities. She formed the Maggie Beer Foundation in 2014, funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care, to provide education and training on the quality and nutritional value of food.

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## PBS clarifies biosimilar warning codes

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/12/2023, Raymond Wilson

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) says Pharmacists receiving PBS warning reason codes 162 and 163 when substituting a biosimilar for a reference brand are being urged to ensure they have the correct item code of the dispensed product.

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## Monovalent vs Bivalent Vaccines for COVID-19

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 08/12/2023, Jarrod Clarke

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has advised the Australian Government regarding the use of new monovalent Omicron XBB.1.5 vaccines for eligible recipients. The new monovalent vaccines will be available from 11 December 2023, coinciding with the expected rise in COVID-19 cases over the holiday period.

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## Helping our community Live Well With Dementia

Blue Mountains Australia, Other, 09/12/2023

On 28 November, Wentworth Healthcare, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, held a Live Well With Dementia community event in the Blue Mountains. [...] The event was made possible through funding from the Department of Health and Aged Care as part of the Aged Care reforms and catering was sponsored by Belong Blue Mountains.

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## Test and rest: Covid on the march again; Aussies urged to avoid infection

InQueensland, Other, 07/12/2023, Tara Cosoleto

Another COVID-19 wave is making its way through the community, with Australians being advised to test and rest at home if they're feeling unwell this festive season. Chief medical officer Paul Kelly confirmed the nation was in its sixth Omicron wave but it was less severe than previous waves, with fewer hospitalisations and intensive care admissions.

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## 'Minefields': Christmas gatherings could spike COVID-19 cases across Australia

NEWS.com.au, Other, 08/12/2023, Fergus Ellis

Aussies have been warned Covid-19 cases could spike during Christmas celebrations this year. [...] Chief medical officer Paul Kelly said Australia was in the midst of its third wave this year and while the number of cases should subside, the festive season threatened a further spike.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## RACGP welcomes opioid dependence medicine decision

The Northern Rivers Times, Other, 07/12/2023

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has warmly welcomed the Albanese Government acting to stop vulnerable patients who rely on opioid dependence treatment drugs falling between the cracks of our health system and called for the Government to pursue a long-term solution. [...] "I understand that the Department of Health and Aged Care will be working with the states and territories to make sure that GPs have continued access to long acting injectable buprenorphine and has encouraged those jurisdictions which restrict pharmacies from administering Schedule 8 drug injections to amend their regulations.

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## CORONAVIRUS

### Festive Covid warning

Herald Sun, General News, 09/12/2023, Fergus Ellis, Page 59

Australians have been warned of a likely Covid-19 spike during Christmas celebrations. Reported cases have surged to start December with 6685 cases alerted to the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System to Friday.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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### Townsville's public hospital under pressure as 106 staff test positive to COVID-19

ABC Online, Other, 07/12/2023, Chloe Chomicki and Rachael Merritt

More than 100 staff at North Queensland's only tertiary hospital are on sick leave with COVID-19 as cases surge in Townsville. The outbreak is slowing down operations in Townsville University Hospital's (TUH) emergency department and some elective surgeries have been suspended.

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### ABC News, News Breakfast, 08/12/2023, Bridget Brennan and Catherine Murphy

More than 100 staff at Townsville Hospital and Health Service have tested positive for COVID-19. The outbreak has seen emergency department operations slowed down at the Townsville University Hospital and some elective surgeries suspended. It is also affecting health campuses in surrounding towns.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### What will we look like in 50 years' time?

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/12/2023, Bernard Salt, Page 17

Last month, the Australian Bureau of Statistics released the latest version of a regular five-yearly report that projects the Australian population 50 years into the 21st century. Earlier iterations dared to look

further to the year 2101. [...] The aged and disabled care worker was the fastest growing job on the Australian continent between the last two censuses, up 95,000 across five years to 280,000 in 2021.

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

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## Study reveals toll of AI on elderly

Courier Mail, Home, 09/12/2023, Stephen Nadin, Page 11

A world-first Monash University study has found using artificial intelligence in aged care homes can exacerbate ageism and social inequality. The paper, published in the Journal of Applied Gerontology, reveals the unmet value of artificial intelligence (AI) to help solve aged care issues including loneliness of residents through chat, video and image shaRring, through to medical diagnosis and assessments tools.

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## Top-up grants to help aged care sector

Barrier Truth, General News, 06/12/2023, Jason Irvine, Page 2

Despite its isolation, there is set to be no change to Broken Hill's Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification until 2026. However, Council has been advised of a new temporary grant opportunity for oneoff support in 2024/25.

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## The importance of connections as we age

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 09/12/2023, Patrick Reid, Page 68

It's that time of year again when we find ourselves saying things like: 'Hasn't time flown?'; 'Where did the year go?'; and, 'Wasn't it Christmas just yesterday?' Some say that time passes quickly as we age. Others say time flies when you're busy or having fun. Whether the year for you has flown by or dragged on, it's undeniable that the festive season is in full swing.

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## AGM three months late

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 09/12/2023, Ben Silvester, Page 8

Lyndoch Living has confirmed it will hold its annual general meeting on January 23, 2024, nearly three months after it is legally required to. Lyndoch's company constitution mandates the AGM take place between July 1 and October 31 each year.

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## Seniors want more than just bath salts

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 09/12/2023, Susan Brandis, Page 69

In 2023 Australia, the age-old assumption that the seniors in our midst aren't tech savvy is increasingly being proven wrong. Research by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) into the digital lives of older Australians shows that while younger age groups are still leading the charge in the extent and types of online behaviours, there has been more significant change in the online habits of those aged 65 and older.

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## Partnership increases home care workforce

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 08/12/2023

An industry collaboration aiming to plug the home care workforce gap has so far enabled more than 175 workers to enter the sector. Tasked with delivering the government-funded Home Care Workforce Support Program in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, community-based, not-for-profit organisation Settlement Services International teamed with national support worker platform Hireup in May to create the Home Care Staffing Support initiative.

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## Aged care move 'even greater impetus' for scope

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/12/2023, Megan Haggan

Pharmacists practising to the top of their scope is key in helping keep older Australians out of hospital, and discharging them earlier, says a leading member of the profession.

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## Southern Cross Care gets federal funding

Barrier Truth, Other, 08/12/2023, Jason Irvine

Broken Hill's sole aged care provider, Southern Cross Care, will receive \$4.4 million in federal funding under the Market Adjustment Program with Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton having advocated for the people in the community who rely on their services.

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## Nepalese aged care nurse brings a "summit" of smiles

HelloCare, Other, 08/12/2023, Bianca Iovino

From the foothills of the Himalayas to the suburbs of Canberra, a group of aged care workers are sharing their culture and care with older Australians. A special bond is unfolding between residents at Goodwin House and their Nepalese carers, whose warmth, laughter and spirit illuminate their daily lives.

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## IHACPA partners with University of Sydney to tackle skills shortages in health and aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 08/12/2023, Lauren Broomham

The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) has announced a new collaboration with the University of Sydney's Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Economics to create training and career opportunities for the health and aged care workforce.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 08/12/2023, Bridget Brennan and Catherine Murphy

Aged care residents are benefiting from a Monash University pilot project called Living Well Together, helping those with dementia to live fuller lives by encouraging them to take on simple tasks and do more things for themselves. The aged care model incorporates the Montessori approach, which is much more well-known in child care centres and education.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Riding the heatwave

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/12/2023, Jessica McSweeney, Page 3

Sydney is on high alert as temperatures are set to soar into the high-30s and mid-40s for most of the state today. The NSW Rural Fire Service issued extreme fire warnings for the Greater Sydney region, central west and northern Riverina, with 42 fires burning across the state and 20 blazes not yet controlled as of 4pm yesterday.

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### Weighing in on obesity rates

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/12/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 9

Chief public health officer Professor Nicola Spurrier says being overweight is almost as bad as smoking when it comes to "total disease burden". She has sounded a clarion call to arms to fight disease risks ahead most of which are avoidable.

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## Data bungle exposes why towns let down

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 09/12/2023, Sarah Crawford, Page 16

Just as a butterfly flapping its wings can cause a cyclone, an email sent in error can rip through an organisation like an earthquake. That is what a police staffer inside the Office of Information Management discovered when they accidentally sent an email containing sensitive data meant only for the eyes of the Director of Liquor Licensing to the ABC as well.

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## Childbirth pain lingers

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/12/2023, Page 6

At least 40 million women a year across the world experience a long-term health problem caused by childbirth, researchers say. They say more than a third of post-partum women experience pain during sex, 32 per cent have lower back pain, 19 per cent anal incontinence, with anxiety and depression suffered by at least one in 10.

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## Reasons to be wary of coal-fired power

Western Advocate, General News, 09/12/2023, Bernadette Mullaney, Page 6

Right now, NSW coal-fired power stations are having their five-yearly review of regulations on pollution standards. Why should we be interested?

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## Medically unexplained symptoms

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Professor Louise Stone, Page 35

Medically unexplained symptoms are defined as "those symptoms having little or no basis in underlying organic disease, [and] when organic disease exists, the symptoms are inconsistent with it or out of proportion to it".

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## Obesity through a different lens

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Dr Rosemary Atkinson, Page 52

Obesity is generally acknowledged to be a major global health issue with associated comorbidities that can affect quality of life and life expectancy. Interventions have largely focused on weight loss, with most recommendations involving restrictive dietary changes and intensive exercise regimens.

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## Industry welcomes reforms to WA's Banned Drinkers Register

National Liquor News, General News, 01/01/2024, Page 28

New laws to strengthen Western Australia's Banned Drinkers Register (BDR) have been passed through Parliament to improve its effectiveness in reducing alcohol-related harm. Under the BDR, licensees and their staff must scan a customer's ID before the purchase of takeaway alcohol, restricting the access of impacted individuals by alerting sellers when they scan the identification.

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## Students measure air quality in Sydney suburbs to better understand impact of environment on people

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2023, Rosemary Bolger

Standard air quality measurements for big cities could be "misleading" indicators as they fail to take into account significant variations within suburbs and sometimes even in the same street. University of

Technology Sydney (UTS) students have collected air quality data showing changes across short distances depending on tree canopy, levels of construction and traffic, and time of day.

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## **During her pregnancy, Sophie drank occasionally. At 14, her son received a diagnosis.**

Mamamia, Other, 08/12/2023, Isabella Ross

From the moment Sophie found out she was pregnant, she was excited for the future that lay ahead. She was 30, and this was going to be her first child.

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## **Hottest year on record declared as heatwave intensifies on Australia's east coast**

NEWS.com.au, Other, 08/12/2023, Madeleine Achenza

Sydneysiders are being warned about scorching temperatures as extreme heatwave conditions sweep through the city. The concerning spike comes as 2023 is declared the hottest year on global record, according to the European Union's Climate Change Service.

*Similar coverage reported by: [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).*

[Read More](#)

## **Study finds more than 1 in 3 women have lasting health problems after giving birth**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 08/12/2023, Jessica D Argenio Waller

Ask any person who's been pregnant if they have any lingering health problems after childbirth, and get ready to hear a laundry list of issues. Long-term health effects caused by labor and delivery may be more common than we realize, according to a new study published in "The Lancet Global Health".

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## **Lower emissions and improve health by reducing meat consumption, says UN**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 08/12/2023, Danny Halpin

Governments that support the alternative meat sector can help lower emissions and improve people's health, according to a report by the United Nations (UN). Animal agriculture accounts for up to 20% of global greenhouse gases, the biggest emitter after fossil fuel energy use, and causes soil, water and air pollution.

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## **Channel 7, Sunrise, 08/12/2023, Monique Wright and Matt Shirvington**

Panel Discussion with Seven News reporter Nick McCallum and journalist Deb Clay. Shirvington says four Qld schools are locking bathrooms during class time in a bid to stop vaping. McCallum says it will be good as long as the teachers know their students well, especially their medical conditions. Clay notes the broader issue is dealing with the problem of vaping itself and the aggressive tactics that these advertisers are using to try and lure in these kids.

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## **ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 08/12/2023, Charlie Pickering**

Interview with Monash University's Professor Beverley Vollenhoven. Pickering says Australian IVF researchers will trial the use of artificial intelligence with genetic sequencing to personalise fertility drugs for women to improve pregnancy outcomes. Vollenhoven says they aim to look at their reproductive genes in particular and look to see whether there are any tweaks they can do to the medication based on their genetic profile to make their cycle more successful.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Our breast cancer fight

AFR Weekend, General News, 09/12/2023, Emma Connors, Page 17

After decades of effort, the percentage of Australians dying has dropped but increased cases means that the number of deaths is rising.

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

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### Half the chemo, twice the health benefits

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/12/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 29

Molly Penhall was 38 weeks pregnant when she discovered a lump in her left breast, which she initially dismissed as a result of changes during pregnancy and breast feeding. After insisting on a biopsy, the 35-year-old, who was juggling the stress of looking after a toddler and new baby during the Covid lockdowns, was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer.

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

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### LaTrobe 'custom' cancer facility

Herald Sun, General News, 09/12/2023, Mitch Clarke, Page 19

Victorians diagnosed with hard-to-treat cancers will soon have access to custom-made and personalised immunotherapies as part of a new technology hailed a "game-changer" in cancer research. Under a partnership struck between the Allan government and German biotechnology giant BioNTech, La Trobe University in Bundoora will be home to a new research and manufacturing facility that will produce "next generation" mRNA vaccines and treatments for clinical trials.

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

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### Women skipping life-saving test

Daily Liberal, General News, 09/12/2023, Orlander Ruming, Page 2

Dubbo women are putting themselves at risk by not getting regular cervical screening checks. [...] "If I could give the Australian women a message, it would be to know if they have been vaccinated and to know when you're due for an HPV screening test," Ms Browne said in Cancer Council NSW's new campaign.

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

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

### Medical limbo

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 09/12/2023, Madeleine Clark, Page 1

The daughter of an 89-year-old Coolgardie man who has multiple myeloma and is in heart and kidney failure has expressed deep concerns about the limitations of medical services in the town. Tania Higgins' father Gorrie Williams was diagnosed with the cancer, which affects the plasma cells of his bone marrow, six years ago when it was discovered he had several cancers, with the main area of concern his spine.

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### Cancer journey 'a team effort'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 09/12/2023, Katrina Lovell, Page 19

Vietnam veteran Doug Heazlewood knows what it's like to do battle, so when he was diagnosed with liver cancer he knew he had to rely on his team. And if it wasn't for the arrival of the cancer centre in

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

## Foot ulcer updates 'empower' GPs

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 2

Patients at moderate to high risk of diabetic foot ulcers require medical-grade footwear and should self-monitor foot skin temperatures daily for early signs of ulceration, updated guidelines suggest. Doctors are also advised to diagnose foot infections based on the presence of at least two symptoms of local inflammation, including swelling/ induration, erythema, tenderness/ pain, warmth or purulent discharge.

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## False positive 'ups cancer risk'

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Carmel Sparke, Page 8

Women who receive a false-positive mammography result are 61% more likely to develop breast cancer over the next 20 years than women without a false positive, Swedish researchers report. Their population-based study also suggests a 7% and 84% increased risk of all-cause death and breast cancer death, respectively, following a false-positive result.

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

## 'Very difficult': As a wheelchair user, Renee couldn't get a mammogram

Canberra Times, Other, 08/12/2023, Lucy Bladen

When Renee Heaton needed to have a mammogram recently it was not an easy experience. She was unable to simply use the typical X-ray machine used for mammograms as it did not cater for her wheelchair.

[Read More](#)

## 'It was so special when he heard his family for the first time'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/12/2023

When Sydney's Jessica Kerr's much anticipated first born baby arrived, he brought both overwhelming joy and unforeseen heart ache and challenges. Nixon's deafness, discovered early on, sent ripples of doubt and self-reflection through Jess' thoughts.

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

[Read More](#)

## Radiation leaked from cancer treatment room at Monash Medical Centre in Melbourne, documents reveal

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2023, Danny Tran

A cancer treatment room of a major Melbourne hospital has been leaking radiation, with authorities rebuking the facility for providing misleading information about the safety of the space. The Monash Medical Centre in Clayton had to temporarily shut down its thyroid cancer treatment room, where radioactive iodine was administered, after discovering that concrete slabs separating the building's floors were much thinner than was originally believed.

[Read More](#)

## Thousands of Victorians thought to have undiagnosed cancer, new data suggests

9News, Other, 07/12/2023

Thousands of Victorians are likely to be living with undiagnosed cancer, according to new data, with a record number of people having missed health checks during COVID-19 lockdowns. New data from the Victorian Cancer Registry has estimated that at least 6660 Victorians could be living with undiagnosed cancer, or are at risk of death or poorer outcomes due to late discovery of the disease.

[Read More](#)

## Flaxseeds may reduce risk of breast cancer, study suggests

Flaxseeds - usually sprinkled on acai bowls or mixed in smoothies - may reduce the risk of developing breast cancer, a study suggests. Researchers in Nebraska and Canada gave female mice a solution of flaxseed oil, which contains lignans, a compound found in fiber-rich foods like grains, seeds, nuts, and drinks like coffee.

[Read More](#)

### **ABC News, News Breakfast, 08/12/2023, Bridget Brennan and Catherine Murphy**

Monash Medical Centre's cancer treatment room has been leaking radiation, prompting them to report itself to Victoria's Health Department. It happened because concrete slabs separating the room from other hospital floors were 14cm thick and not 40cm. The medical centre says no one was exposed to unsafe levels of radiation.

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 10, 10 News First, 08/12/2023, Jennifer Keyte**

BioNTech has partnered with La Trobe University Peter McCallum Cancer Centre to deliver vaccines and develop treatments for cancer. It will work to develop mRNA technologies for hard to treat cancers such as pancreatic, cervical, and esophageal cancers.

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 7, Sunrise, 08/12/2023, Monique Wright and Matt Shirvington**

The Cancer Council is worried thousands of Australians could be living with cancer and not even know it after the decline in the number of new cases compared with last year. Testing rates for bowel, breast, lung and prostate cancers are all down.

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### **ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 08/12/2023, Paul Gough**

Interview with Immunisation Coalition chair Dr Rod Pearce. Pearce says high heat can actually increase the risk of asthma due to a handful of potential irritants. He notes people with asthma should take prevention medication.

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### **ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 08/12/2023, Craig Zonca and Loretta Ryan**

Interview with Queensland Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath. D'Ath says they have the highest rate of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers in the world. She notes nail technicians are able to spot melanomas under the nails. D'Ath states it comes as they are facing another possible heatwave which might result into massive skin damage.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### **Reforms mean \$3.7b cost will have to be met**

AFR Weekend, General News, 09/12/2023, Michael Read, Page 4

Federal and state governments may have to find \$3.7 billion a year to support people with mild autism and less severe disabilities outside the NDIS, but Disability Minister Bill Shorten says he is confident his overhaul of the scheme will save...

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

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## Calvary 'deeply concerned' about VAD

Canberra Times, General News, 09/12/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 8

Calvary is "deeply concerned" the ACT's proposed voluntary assisted dying laws could force them to allow practitioners to enter their facilities to discuss euthanasia with residents. The Catholic healthcare organisation has criticised the territory's proposed laws and has called on the government to make the scheme more in-line with those in NSW.

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

## VAD legislation must be amended in ACT

Canberra Times, General News, 09/12/2023, Ross Hawkins, Page 55

Calvary assists people to die in comfort and with dignity and we will continue to provide this assistance in dying whether or not the proposed Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2023 (ACT) becomes law. As a healthcare provider who coordinates care with partners in NSW, Calvary expresses significant concerns about potential confusion arising from discrepancies between the proposed ACT framework and that of neighboring NSW.

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

## Hospital palliative care on the increase

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/12/2023, Page 35

The number of palliative care-related hospitalisations in Australia is spiking, data reveals. Palliative care-related hospitalisations soared by 29 per cent compared with a 10 per cent overall increase in hospitalisations in the seven years up to 2021-22, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

## Palliative care drain

Herald Sun, General News, 09/12/2023, Page 31

The number of palliative care-related hospitalisations in Australia is increasing at a faster rate than for all hospitalisations, data reveals. Palliative care-related hospitalisations soared by 29 per cent, compared with a 10 per cent overall increase in hospitalisations in the seven years up to 2021-22, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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## Surgery put off to free up beds

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/12/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 5

As South Australia grapples with a ramping crisis some non-urgent elective surgeries requiring an overnight stay have been postponed to help create capacity at the Royal Adelaide and Queen Elizabeth hospitals. Central Adelaide Local Health Network officials said: "While we experienced unprecedented demand for our services, we had to take the difficult decision to reschedule 17 nonurgent elective surgeries requiring an overnight stay so far this month.

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

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## Your health is a lifestyle choice

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 09/12/2023, Page 46

Record ramping figures released this week shows there is a long way to go to "fix" the ramping crisis and ease pressure on emergency departments regardless of the state government throwing "unimaginable" amounts at the health system, as Premier Peter Malinauskas put it. Part of the solution is in our own hands.

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## Public shift for birthing services

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/12/2023, Simon McGuire, Page 6

North-West maternity services have been transferred back to the public system in what the state government says is a "significant milestone". The move followed the North West Private Hospital (NWPH) being deemed not fit to deliver children. [...] The state government initially said it would transfer services by November 2024 but moved it forward to December 2023 amid pressure from the AMA and Labor.

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## Forced to fly to fill script

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/12/2023, Tia Ewen, Page 26

Faced with a lengthy delay for essential medication, a Tasmanian woman was forced to travel to Melbourne to get help for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or wait up to six weeks for script approvals. [...] "The Poisons Act makes it really difficult if you've been prescribed something in Melbourne, you can't get it filled in Tasmania because all the states have different poisons acts," said GP Toby Gardner, chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Tasmania, and the owner of Newstead Medical.

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## Palliative care rise

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 09/12/2023, Justin Langer, Page 38

Palliative care-related hospital admissions in Australia are increasing at a faster rate than other admissions. Palliative care-related hospital admissions soared 29 per cent compared with a 10 per cent overall rise in hospital admissions in the seven years up to 2021-22, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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## Hospital project takes big step forward as lab opens

Ballarat Courier, General News, 09/12/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 2

Redevelopment works at St John of God Ballarat Hospital have reached another milestone with the opening of its new catheterisation laboratory. The \$80.5 million hospital expansion started in July at the same time while works were under way for a \$595 million overhaul at Grampians Health's Ballarat Base Hospital next door.

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## Pharmacy pilot a plus

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/12/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 23

Geelong patients can get antibiotics for urinary tract infections and refills of the contraceptive pill at pharmacies without seeing a GP for a prescription as part of a statewide pilot program. [...] The Australian Medical Association opposed the program, saying there was "nothing uncomplicated about a UTI".

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

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## Hospital funding snub

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 09/12/2023, Ben Silvester, Page 1

The Victorian government is refusing to add a cent to the Warrnambool Base Hospital redevelopment while adding \$584.3 million to similar projects across the state. Construction cost increases since the announcement of the upgrade in November 2020 mean the project is now at serious risk of losing its 120-space underground patient car park unless the budget is extended.

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

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## 'We seem to be forgotten'

Weekend Post, General News, 09/12/2023, Peter Carruthers, Page 3

The state government has been lashed over a major budget blowout and six year wait for a much-needed Cairns Ambulance station upgrade, which paramedics at Anderson St base are crying out for.



## GP vs 'super clinic'

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Paul Smith and Heather Saxena, Page 1

Listening to Dr Graham Rowlands describe his career would probably give GPs the idea that he is treasured by the community he cares for. He mentions his years of service in Norseman along with a few references to the on-call hours, the emergency work and his training in obstetrics and anaesthetics.

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## Medicine's hard end point is not captured by numbers

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Antony Scholefield, Page 14

Professor Trish Greenhalgh's real-life general practice parable goes like this. It's Britain in the late 1990s. Her patient is a first-time mother. As a frontline GP, she says she used to "pop in" to her home for five minutes every day for a week, where she watched the woman handling her baby.

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## Are we failing to deliver? Are we failing to deliver positive birthing experiences?

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Dr Vijay Roach, Page 16

The record number of sub missions to the ongoing NSW parliamentary inquiry into birth trauma underscores that the birth of a baby, while a joyous occasion, is associated with significant physical and psychological trauma for many women, with sequelae that can be life changing.

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## 'Praying' to quit addictions

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 09/12/2023, Ann Wason Moore, Page 6

A Gold Coast private rehabilitation centre has been blasted by a peak alcohol and drug organisation. Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies CEO Rebecca Lang, whose organisation represents the non-government treatment sector, said she was "disturbed" by reports about Victory House, which has three recovery centres on the Gold Coast and Northern NSW.

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

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## Perth grandmother turned away from Fiona Stanley Hospital after it ran out of beds

7news.com.au, Other, 08/12/2023, Rhiannon Lewin

Diane Furniss, 77, was flown hundreds of kilometres to hospital with breathing difficulties. But when she arrived, she found her bed had been given to someone else.

[Read More](#)

## Doctor explains why he charges \$400 for attending VAD deaths

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/12/2023, Carmel Sparke

At the beginning Dr Cam McLaren provided voluntary assisted dying services to terminally ill patients for free, as an altruistic act given the pain and suffering they were experiencing. But as more patients came forward for his care, and the many hours it involved became clearer, he began charging and he encourages other euthanasia doctors to do the same.

[Read More](#)

## Pharmacists needed to help keep Aussies out of hospital

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/12/2023, Megan Haggan

Patients are waiting longer in emergency departments, prompting pharmacy stakeholders to point out how members of the profession can help The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released new data on hospitals, including on emergency departments.

## PSA backs National Health and Climate Strategy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/12/2023, Paul Sapardanis

Moves to address the health system's greenhouse gas emissions as part of a new National Health and Climate Strategy are being welcomed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

[Read More](#)

## Elective surgery backlog causing long waiting times

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 08/12/2023, Anmj Staff

Public sector elective surgery waiting times are at the highest level in 20 years despite an increase in surgeries performed in the past year. The number of patients undergoing elective (non-emergency) surgery in Australia's public hospitals increased by 18% from 202122 to 202223 but many patients are still facing long wait times, according to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

[Read More](#)

## Tedd Noffs Foundation open landmark Caboolture Drug and Rehabilitation Centre

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 08/12/2023, Brayden Heslehurst

The opening of the Caboolture Drug and Rehabilitation Centre operated by the The Tedd Noffs Foundation. Queensland's first residential youth drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility has opened in a landmark moment to tackling the youth crime crisis in the state's southeast.

[Read More](#)

## Govt orders review into 'concerning' ambulance ramping claims

In Daily, Other, 07/12/2023, Thomas Kelsall

The state government has launched a review into claims that health executives are prioritising treatment for patients who arrive via ambulance instead of sicker patients in hospital waiting rooms. Health Minister Chris Picton said on Thursday that senior clinicians Bill Griggs and Keith McNeil would review the allegations made this week by South Australian Salaried Medical Officers Association (SASMOA) president David Pope.

[Read More](#)

## 'Unimaginable sums' spent on hospital system in crisis

In Daily, Other, 07/12/2023, Thomas Kelsall

Premier Peter Malinauskas says record ramping figures coming after heavy investment in health are "exceptionally disappointing", and the \$2.4 billion Royal Adelaide Hospital which opened just six years ago will need to be expanded at some point. Amid record ambulance ramping and bed block across the hospital system this week, the Premier said today that the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) "will have to be expanded" to meet the state's future health needs.

[Read More](#)

## Northern NSW Local Health District annual meeting covers voluntary assisted dying, low birth rates, ageing population and more

Northern Territory News, Other, 07/12/2023, Catherine Piltz

Lower birthrates, a growing ageing population, worker shortages, and voluntary assisted dying have been raised as key issues by Northern NSW Local Health District. The senior population is predicted to boom by 31 per cent from 312,000 to about 331,000 by 2036 – and it will require an "an innovative approach" to meet demand.

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

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## APC supports and advances initiatives in response to the Final Kruk

## Report

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 08/12/2023

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) welcomes the release by National Cabinet of the findings of the final Kruk Report. The report, an independent review of health practitioner regulatory settings, highlights the need for streamlined processes for overseas-trained pharmacists to reduce workforce shortages.

[Read More](#)

### **Channel 9, Today, 08/12/2023, Alex Cullen, Sylvia Jeffreys, and Lara Vella**

Interview with NSW Ambulance associate director Marty Nichols. Jeffreys says parts of NSW are bracing for their hottest day in four years this weekend with temperatures set to soar into the 40s and it comes as the Ambulance Service is already stretched to its limits at the moment. Nichols says they are always able to answer calls for help and they triage and prioritise how they are going to respond to anyone, but people should know where they should get the appropriate health care from.

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### **2CC, Canberra Live, 08/12/2023, Leon Delaney**

Interview with ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith. Delaney says the latest figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show that the waiting times in Canberra emergency departments have improved but it is still below the national standard. Stephen-Smith says they are confident that the team is on the right track with the changes they made such as the establishment of the acute medical unit to pull people from the emergency department.

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### **5AA, Mornings, 08/12/2023, Matthew Pantelis**

Interview with retired physician Dr. Bill Griggs. Pantelis says SA Salaried Medical Officers Association president Dr David Pope made the explosive claim that ambulances being ramped on hospital waiting areas are given preferential treatment over sicker people who might be in the waiting room or in already in an effort to keep ramping hours down. He notes SA Health Minister Chris Picton has ordered an inquiry which will be headed by Griggs. Griggs says he will try to work out what the issues are and what is driving the behaviour.

[Play Now](#)

### **ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 08/12/2023, James Vyver**

Interview with euthanasia advocate Marshall Perron. Perron says it is refreshing to finally learn what the ACT is proposing when they release their voluntary assisted dying bill, which is currently before the parliamentary committee. He notes the ACT have listened to the community, to doctors and even to reports from state overview bodies that have been looking at what's been going on as there's been a strong recommendation that time limits are dropped completely.

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### **ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 08/12/2023, Kylie Baxter**

Interview with Flinders University Women and Gender Studies' Barbara Braid. Braid says her research has revealed the public health sector across the country does not do enough either to provide abortion services in public hospitals and public health centres or to provide information. She notes Tasmania is doing a lot better than other states and territories.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### **Ketamine tablet trial to help depression**

A human trial of an anaesthetic used by some as a party drug could transform the lives of people living with depression where other treatments have failed. The Royal Adelaide Hospital in partnership with the Central Adelaide Local Health Network, is seeking eligible volunteers to test the world-first, slow-release ketamine tablet.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#)

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## Players happy to assist program

Herald Sun, Sport, 09/12/2023, Page 80

Southside stars Maddy Rocci, Leilani Mitchell and Bec Cole combine to form one of the best passing trios in the WNBL. The three guns hand out nearly 13 assists a game between them, led by point guard Rocci's 5.3 apg fifth in the league.

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## New shed gives men the right tools

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 09/12/2023, Jack Evans, Page 14

A giant new shed in Dareton will provide a space for men to talk, work and forget about the hard times for a while. And the \$1.5 million project is expected to be completed in time for the town's 100-year centenary next April.

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## 'Shear madness' as volunteers get busy

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 09/12/2023, Madeleine McNeil, Page 8

Fluff Hodge will never forget the mental anguish and hardship farmers faced during the drought and tough agricultural times. She was working in the trucking industry as a wool traveller but found herself comforting desperate farmers who didn't know if they could continue.

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## Reversing the spiral

Australian Mining, General News, 01/12/2023, Page 90

I can recall the day I attended the house where a 14-year old girl committed suicide in the bathroom while her parents sat on the balcony on their phones. The parents were heavily engaged in somebody else's life while unaware of the dangers lurking in their own home.

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## End workplace bullying

Big Rigs, General News, 08/12/2023, Danielle Gullaci, Page 16

A recent call from a distressed truck driver facing bullying at work was the catalyst for Big Rigs to dive deeper into the issue and the prevalence of bullying in the workplace - particularly in the transport sector. "It's belittling and you can't even say anything without getting your head chewed off. My boss rang one day and said if you don't like working here, why don't you leave," said the experienced truck driver, who's been on the road for decades.

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## NSW's inquiry into gay and trans hate crimes was a crucial step

Star Observer, General News, 01/12/2023, Nicolas Parkhill, Page 5

NSW's leading LGBTQ health organisation, ACON, commends the conclusion of NSW's Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ Hate Crimes and expresses our gratitude to all those who contributed to this significant and vital process. This inquiry has been a crucial step towards addressing historical injustices and shedding light on the often-overlooked violence against the LGBTIQ community.

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## **Mindfulness, meditation among suite of tools to re-engage students in Townsville high school**

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2023, Baz Ruddick

It's a typical Thursday afternoon at Thuringowa State High School, in the outer Townsville suburbs. A rambunctious cohort of year seven students, full of post-lunch energy, file into the classroom.

[Read More](#)

## **Bullying, harassment and lack of trust reported at SA Forensic Mental Health Service, review finds**

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2023, Josephine Lim

Reports of bullying, harassment, gaslighting, and feeling unsafe at work, leading to high turnover rates at a South Australian forensic mental health service, have been laid bare in an independent review. The external review was sparked by a letter sent by "concerned staff" at Adelaide's James Nash House in June, alleging a culture of bullying at the facility

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## **National domestic violence phone service introduces 'discreet' text messaging option**

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2023, Nour Haydar

The national phone and online counselling service for victims of domestic, family, and sexual violence is being expanded to include a new "discreet" text messaging option. 1800RESPECT launched as a 24/7 confidential counselling and referral service over a decade ago under the first national plan to reduce violence against women and children.

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

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## **Calls for better youth mental health support after Bunbury mother loses autistic sons to suicide**

ABC Online, Other, 07/12/2023, Nadia Mitsopoulos and Amelia Searson

The Western Australian government has said community hubs aimed at improving mental health services for young people would be rolled out across the state, after a mother lost her two autistic sons to suicide. Bunbury mother Michelle was left shattered in February this year when her 14-year-old boy Jye Dyer took his own life, followed by his 21-year-old brother Xavier, who died by suicide seven months later.

[Read More](#)

## **National Mental Health Commission staff scores hit rock bottom**

The Mandarin, Other, 08/12/2023, Julian Bajkowski

Still reeling from a workplace investigation that culminated in the departure of its chief executive earlier this year, the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC) has delivered a truly dreadful set of numbers on staff morale and engagement from its Australian Public Service Employee Census.

[Read More](#)

## **Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide given three more months to get job done**

The Mandarin, Other, 08/12/2023, Melissa Coade

The government has granted another three months to the defence and veteran suicide royal commission following several requests from the commissioners and calls from advocates to handle the volume of evidence and consider the complex issues before it.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 08/12/2023, Bridget Brennan and Catherine Murphy**

Interview with Government Services Minister Bill Shorten. Murphy says Australians living with a disability are still digesting the impact of this week's major review into the National National Disability Insurance Scheme. Shorten says they are learning a lot more about people who are neurodivergent and we're learning a lot more about autism in the last number of years and children who need to be in the scheme will remain on the scheme. He notes early intervention can help children with developmental delays do better.

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### **Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 08/12/2023, Laura Jayes**

Interview with Government Services Minister Bill Shorten. Shorten says they need to work out how to provide early intervention support for kids with mild and developmental delays rather than just saying it is nothing or the NDIS. He notes it has to be more than just ten Medicare visits or ending up in the emergency ward at a hospital.

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### **Radio National, Breakfast, 08/12/2023, Patricia Karvelas and Hamish Macdonald**

Interview with Independent Senator David Pocock. Pocock says they were able to convince the Government to split their industrial relations bill and they have agreed to pass the change in the presumption for post-traumatic stress disorder. He notes people who work in the Australian Border Force, the AFP, ambulance officers, paramedics, emergency services, communications operators and firefighters will now have the presumption that they developed PTSD at their work if they have one and Comcare will have to prove if it isn't.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### **Paramedic pay dispute deteriorates**

Sydney Morning Herald, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 09/12/2023, Michael McGowan and Laura Banks, Page 1

Health Minister Ryan Park has warned that parliament may be recalled to pass emergency legislation to stop paramedics crippling the triple zero network on New Year's Eve in an increasingly bitter industrial dispute. The government was reeling yesterday after the Health Services Union walked out on mediation following an eleventh-hour pay offer Park described as a "once in a generation" deal that would see an average ambulance officer receive a 19 per cent pay rise.

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

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### **Ambos' pay rise fight rolls on**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/12/2023, Linda Silmalis, Page 11

A wage fight between paramedics and the Minns government has escalated dramatically with the dispute landing in the Industrial Relations Commission after the union rejected what was described as "the largest government pay increase in recent history". The government has not ruled out recalling state parliament to introduce emergency legislation to ensure the triple-0 service would not collapse should paramedics continue to refuse to renew their registration.

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## **A town with no midwives**

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 09/12/2023, Josh Zimmerman, Page 26

Carnarvon Health Campus does not have a midwife, leaving pregnant women and their babies without direct access to vital skills in the event that they go into labour unexpectedly. The absence of midwives in the Gascoyne town which has a population of more than 5000 has been slammed by the Australian Nursing Federation for "exponentially" increasing the risk to expectant mothers.

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## **Honoured for work in war zones**

Ballarat Courier, General News, 09/12/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 19

A Ballarat nurse has received the International Red Cross' highest honour, the Florence Nightingale Medal, for his humanitarian work overseas - the first male to win the award since 1920. QuickFit Delacombe gym owner Nick Prince has completed 17 international deployments with the Red Cross movement including four with the British Red Cross and 13 with the Australian Red Cross - the most recent to Hungary last year to support the Ukraine crisis.

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## **Rural docs welcome review**

Border Mail, General News, 09/12/2023, Dakota Tait, Page 32

Rural doctors are welcoming a federal review into the distribution of health professionals across Australia, but say there won't be a quick fix to improve access for rural and remote communities. The Working Better for Medicare review will look into the policies which are currently used to encourage staff to work in the areas where they're needed most, such as laws governing when overseas-trained doctors can access Medicare benefits.

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## **Triple zero fears as paramedics reject government's pay offer**

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/12/2023, Luke Costin and Kathryn Magann, Page 23

Paramedic shortages could cripple NSW emergency services after union officials walked away from a huge pay rise offer to realign salaries with skills. The record offer would have delivered professional rates of pay for paramedics and an average 19 per cent pay hike, the state government said.

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## **Health snub for our unis**

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 09/12/2023, Anne Webster, Page 24

This week has been a slap in the face for patients in Sunraysia and the two universities that offer education here. As the federal Member for Mallee and shadow assistant minister for regional health, I was looking forward to hearing who the successful applicants for Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) for medical students would be.

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## **GP special interests recognised**

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Heather Saxena, Page 6

GPs with special interests can pay \$1350 to have their skills formally recognised by the RACGP. The college's "extended skills certificate" will initially cover five special interest areas: dermatology, psychological medicine, addiction medicine, integrative medicine and developmental disability medicine.

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## **'We won't see gender parity in our lifetime'**

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Carmel Sparke, Page 7

It will take eight generations, or more than 180 years, before the number of female orthopaedic and cardiothoracic surgeons is the same as their male colleagues, Australian researchers predict. They calculated the expected number of years it would take to reach gender parity in nine surgical subspecialties, based on the current pace of women entering each field.

## **RACGP announces CEO exit**

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Paul Smith and Rachel Carter, Page 13

The RACGP has revealed that its CEO, Paul Wappett, has left the organisation, but is not revealing why. Australian Doctor had been told he had been forced out following a recent board meeting.

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## **Ex netball chief scores Guild role**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/12/2023

Former Netball ACT chief executive, Matthew Battams, will take on the leadership of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland branch Battams, who has been working as the senior manager for membership, business support and policy at the Guild's Queensland branch for just over 12 months has been named as the new branch director.

[Read More](#)

## **South Australia 24/7 pharmacy in underpayment probe**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/12/2023, David Rowley

The South Australian government has awarded one of its three 24/7 pharmacy contracts to a Chemist Warehouse outlet that is currently under investigation for alleged wage underpayment.

[Read More](#)

## **NSW paramedics given wage offer ahead of New Year's Eve deadline that could 'cripple triple-0'**

NEWS.com.au, Other, 08/12/2023, Jessica Wang

Paramedics will consider a pay offer after a protracted wage battle threatens to remove more than 1900 of them from the workforce on New Year's Day. NSW paramedics are seeking clarity on a wage offer put forward by the NSW government in what could end a tense and protracted pay dispute that could have removed 1900 paramedics from the workforce from New Year's Day.

[Read More](#)

## **Pharmacy Guild Queensland appoints Matthew Battams as Branch Director**

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 08/12/2023

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland Branch is pleased to announce the appointment of Matthew Battams as Branch Director. Queensland Branch President Chris Owen said Mr Battams is an experienced executive with extensive experience leading member-based organisations, as well as holding executive positions within the financial services industry.

[Read More](#)

## **2GB, Drive, 08/12/2023, Chris O'Keefe**

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park. O'Keefe says Park claims he has offered NSW paramedics around 20% pay rise but HSU and Gerard Hayes have disputed it. Park says he took an offer that would have seen the rates of pay for paramedics on average get a 19% pay rise which would make them on par with Qld paramedics and they are willing to have a team from NSW Health work through concerns. He notes the Health Services Union decided to leave those discussions and those are now in the Industrial Relations Commission.

[Play Now](#)

## **ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 08/12/2023, Rod Quinn**

Interview with NSW Health Services Union's Gerard Hayes. Quinn says talks between the Australian Health Services Union and the NSW Government about a pay rise for paramedics have broken down again without an agreement. Hayes says there were some anomalies and inconsistencies with the Government's offer. He notes all they are trying to do as a union is stop the haemorrhage of



paramedics leaving to go to every other state and the Government acknowledges that. Hayes states they were attacked by the Government in an article by the Telegraph.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Rural docs welcome review

Border Mail, General News, 09/12/2023, Dakota Tait, Page 32

Rural doctors are welcoming a federal review into the distribution of health professionals across Australia, but say there won't be a quick fix to improve access for rural and remote communities. The Working Better for Medicare review will look into the policies which are currently used to encourage staff to work in the areas where they're needed most, such as laws governing when overseas-trained doctors can access Medicare benefits.

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### Asynchronous advice to expand

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Rachel Carter, Page 10

A system for GPs to send formal advice requests to other specialists and receive a typed response within three days is expanding after a "really positive" response. The eConsultant system currently lets GPs request clinical advice from dermatologists, endocrinologists and cardiologists.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### GP jailed for child-sex images

Herald Sun, General News, 09/12/2023, Imran Ali, Page 36

An unblemished life has come to a crashing halt for a GP after he was found with child-abuse material. Dr Richard Whitehouse, of Wonthaggi, has relinquished his registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and will now have to serve three months in jail before being released on a two-year good-behaviour bond.

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### Ban for Hobart anti-vax doctor

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/12/2023, Amber Wilson, Page 3

An anti-vax Hobart GP accused of "wild west" behaviour during the Covid pandemic has been deregistered and barred from calling himself a doctor. [...] One of the allegations related to Mr Hindley using "abusive and belittling" language to Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) officers dealing with a complaint against him, using slurs like "a gang of criminals", "large invertebrates", "government stooge" and that they "barely qualify as human beings".

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

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### Why I broke medical laws

A WA doctor-turned-politician who intentionally broke strict medical rules governing the prescription of dexamphetamine is fighting to save his career as a GP. [...] The website of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, which oversees national health boards, details the action against Dr Walker.

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## Nurse was 'off her tree' at work after stealing medications

Border Mail, General News, 09/12/2023, Page 3

A nurse who was "off her face" while working in the grips of an opioid and benzodiazepine addiction has been banned from working for two years, with a tribunal told she posed a serious risk of harm to patients. [...] Mallows self-reported to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency four days later, and hasn't worked in healthcare since.

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## Doctor struck off after misconduct

Burnie Advocate, General News, 09/12/2023, Matt Maloney, Page 14

A Tasmanian doctor and former One Nation candidate has been deregistered by the Medical Board of Australia after he told a patient who had received the COVID-19 vaccination that she would die from cancer as a result of it. [...] The tribunal heard that after Mr Hindley received notification from Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency about a complaint against him, he accessed AB's contact number from clinical records held by the practice he worked at and phoned her about the complaint.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#)

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## 'I declare all my criminal history to AHPRA'

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Sarah Simpkins, Page 3

Tasmanian GP Dr Lisa Searle was arrested last month - her fourth arrest this year and 12th in total. She had used a metal device to attach herself to the entrance of NSW's state-run Forestry Corporation, based in Sydney, which oversees timber production on public land.

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## Drugged and assaulted by her would-be supervisor

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Heather Saxena, Page 56

In the days after Dr Dominique Lee was assaulted by a senior radiation oncology consultant at his home, the thought of going to the police was not something she entertained. She was struggling to believe that someone she trusted had intentionally harmed her.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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## SPORT

### The NRL's biggest gamble yet

AFR Weekend, General News, 09/12/2023, Zoe Samios, Page 21

Documents obtained by AFR Weekend provide the clearest insight yet about what exactly the league is planning in its big push into the lucrative US market...

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

## Game playing of a Premier deep in crisis

Weekend Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 09/12/2023, Jamie Walker and Lydia Lynch, Page 1

It was the last straw for Adrian Schrinner, the calculated snub that shattered his confidence in the Queensland government's ability to deliver the 2032 Olympic Games and deepened the crisis engulfing Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's leadership. The Brisbane Lord Mayor missed a phone call from the state's Sports Minister, Stirling Hinchliffe, at 4.21pm last Thursday, November 30. It was about a meeting from which Schrinner had been pointedly excluded.

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## Foxtel secures cricket extension as boss plays down new Amazon deal

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/12/2023, Calum Jasper, Page 14

Foxtel boss Patrick Delany is unfazed by the potential impact of Amazon's ICC broadcasting rights deal as his company announced its own contract extensions with the South African, English and Indian cricket boards. Amazon shook up the world of cricket broadcasting earlier this week with a deal to show the next four years of World Cup, World Test Championship final and Champions Trophy action behind a paywall on its Prime Video service, but Delany said it was not the shift in broadcasting dynamics it had been made out to be.

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

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## While rugby tackles the greatest danger to game, golf has dropped the ball

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 09/12/2023, Darren Kane, Page 54

Sports administrators shoulder hefty responsibilities that demand deftness, courage and commitment. But above all else, they are custodians of the sports they are charged with governing and their objective should be to leave the sport in a better place than they found out.

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## Learn-to-swim offer changes lives at a stroke

Herald Sun, General News, 09/12/2023, Helena Powell, Page 39

Thu Fampidi and Buzz Billman have big plans for their futures and learning to swim is a start. Due to early negative experiences Ms Fampidi and Mr Billman have had a fear of water and never received proper swimming lessons as children.

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## Swim safety focus

Herald Sun, Editorials, 09/12/2023, Page 64

As summer holidays approach, Australians in their thousands will head to the beach or enjoy public and backyard pools. But in recent years, drowning deaths have increased sharply, and the alarm bells are ringing loudly, particularly since the pandemic years disrupted the swimming lessons for many children.

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## Legend calls for change at top

Courier Mail, General News, 09/12/2023, Courtney Gould, Page 10

Australian netball legend Joyce Brown has demanded the top brass at Netball Australia be sacked and held accountable for throwing the sporting body into turmoil. The former Australian captain and three-time world champion coach put her name to a letter attached to a petition to the sporting body's board shared on Friday afternoon.

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## Stadium questions answered

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/12/2023, Page 14

It's one of the hottest topics in Tasmania. The ultra-modern \$2.3bn Mac Point 2 stadium and its accompanying precinct proposal has delighted footy fans, quietened some development dissenters and made others object even harder.

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## Swim city

Central Western Daily, General News, 09/12/2023, Nick McGrath, Page 1

A dedicated, indoor learn-to-swim pool in Orange appears a natural fit for a city where thousands of children and adults participate in classes. The demand has led council to investigate the feasibility of such a facility at the Orange Aquatic Centre.

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## State serve for mayor

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/12/2023, Olivia Shying, Page 5

The state government has lashed out at Geelong's mayor after he called for funding earmarked for an Armstrong Creek pool to be diverted to a basketball complex. Mayor Trent Sullivan wrote to Premier Jacinta Allan on Thursday saying funding pegged for the pool, promised for the now-cancelled 2026 Commonwealth Games, would be better spent on an indoor sports complex.

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## It's time to show us the money

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/12/2023, Page 32

The devil is in the detail is a popular phrase used by many. It encapsulates the notion that small things often have big meaning. Ironically, the phrase also comes with scant details about its own origin and authorship.

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## 'We've seen the importance of defibrillators'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 09/12/2023, Kevin Anderson, Page 14

Of all the grant programs governments make available to our community groups, the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program may be the most important. We hope that defibrillators at sporting fields will never need to be used, but when someone goes into cardiac arrest, medical experts tell us that the first eight minutes is critical, meaning those on the ground will be responsible for saving a life.

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## Yes we Cairns

Weekend Post, General News, 09/12/2023, Isaac McCarthy, Page 1

Can our region be home to an NRL team? Cairns is a top contender to be a home base for an NRL team as early as 2027, a leading figure in the expansion of the competition has said.

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

## Renewed call for stadium's GST exemption

Canberra Times, Other, 08/12/2023, Ethan James

Tasmania's treasurer is frustrated the federal government hasn't provided clarity on whether a contentious waterfront stadium project will be exempt from GST calculations. Securing funding for the 23,000-seat roofed stadium at Hobart's Macquarie Point was a condition of the AFL granting Tasmania a licence for a team in May.

[Read More](#)

## Concussion report from 1993 uncovered in class action against the AFL

7news.com.au, Other, 07/12/2023, Rachael Ward

An AFL report on concussion from 30 years ago is being used in a major class action against the code on behalf of dozens of players. The case of lead plaintiff and former Geelong star Max Rooke relies on

an AFL medical officer's report dated November 26, 1993, according to a statement of claim filed in Victoria's Supreme Court on Wednesday.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Pushing the limits

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 09/12/2023, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 142

WA has proven it is highly entrepreneurial with a strong risk appetite, but a Perth-based investor says the State must now drive innovation beyond mining, property and agriculture. Purpose Ventures co-founder and general partner Kylie Gerrard said entrepreneurs had the opportunity to learn from the success of those sectors to help diversify the economy. "Historically, we've done (entrepreneurship) well in industries like mining, property and agriculture," she said.

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### HMRI's top researchers honoured

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 4

Three Newcastle researchers and a research team won HMRI excellence awards at an event at NEX in Newcastle last night. The awards ceremony was held before an audience of donors, colleagues and community members.

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### Statins 'equally effective'

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Kemal Atlay, Page 10

Rosuvastatin and atorvastatin are equally effective in cutting the risk of death and cardiac events despite greater LDL cholesterol lowering with rosuvastatin, show results from a head-to-head trial. But rosuvastatin carries a higher risk of new-onset diabetes and cataract surgery compared with atorvastatin, said the researchers from Yonsei University in South Korea.

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### Pharmacy Guild blasts Sigma-Chemist Warehouse deal

Australian Financial Review, Other, 07/12/2023

Powerful lobby group The Pharmacy Guild of Australia argues the imminent reverse takeover of Sigma Healthcare by Chemist Warehouse poses "significant questions and risks" to patient care, community pharmacy ownership, and competition in the sector.

[Read More](#)

### Guild slams CWH-Sigma takeover with 'increased commercialisation' warning

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/12/2023, Megan Haggan

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia says it believes the "apparent imminent takeover" of Sigma Healthcare by Chemist Warehouse poses significant questions and risks.

[Read More](#)

### Guild warns of Sigma and CW merger

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/12/2023

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has stated that the imminent merger of Sigma Healthcare and Chemist Warehouse "poses significant questions and risks" in a statement released Thu night. Yesterday it was widely reported, including in this publication (PD 07 Dec), that that a deal was being worked on which would see Sigma and Chemist Warehouse merge, with the latter finally listed on the ASX after previous float rumours.

[Read More](#)

## Investors encouraged not to sleep on medtechs

West Australian, Other, 08/12/2023, Michael Philipps

Wake up! Now that we have your attention, it is time to reveal the latest ASX runners of the week and this time around, it features a company that claims more than 35 years of excellence in sleep diagnostics.

[Read More](#)

## 2GB, Mornings, 08/12/2023, Ray Hadley

Interview with Baird Institute's Professor Paul Bannon. Bannon says they are trying to raise funds to help them perform a world-first trial on replenishing the energy stores of hearts in people undergoing heart surgery, hoping to be able to improve their heart function, avoid heart failure and improve their quality of life long-term. He notes they still need around \$50,000 to really get it kicked off.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Doctors, covert contraception and the Stolen Generations

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Professor Max Kamien, Page 4

Last month Australian Doctor reported on the campaign by indigenous women in Greenland for compensation after being fitted with IUDs, without their consent or knowledge, in an attempt to limit Inuit birth rates.

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### Take a look at the future Warrawong Community Health Centre

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 08/12/2023, Natalie Croxon

The first designs of the future Warrawong Community Health Centre have been released, about six months before work on the development is due to start. The new centre will be built on part of the Port Kembla Hospital site and will include a number of health services. These include child and family health services, the Aboriginal maternal infant health service, community nursing, community mental health, the sexual health service, drug and alcohol services, and the equipment loan pool.

[Read More](#)

### Flinders University is supporting the next generation of Indigenous doctors

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/12/2023, Joseph Guenzler

A group of 12 Indigenous health professionals are set to graduate from South Australia's Flinders University next week. They include proud Ngarabal man, Jordyn Tomba, who is on the verge of graduating as a doctor.

[Read More](#)

### Victoria's peak Indigenous health body backs appointments of state's Treaty Authority

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/12/2023, Jarred Cross

Victoria's peak Indigenous health body says the state's newly-appointed inaugural Treaty Authority highlights a "staunch" commitment to steps forward. Earlier this week, Dr Petah Atkinson, Thelma Austin, Jidah Clark, Andrew Jackomos and Duean White were announced as members of authority - effectively an independent umpire to Treaty Negotiations in Victoria with guaranteed funding.

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## 'Help heal our town': Kimba's plea to PM

Weekend Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 09/12/2023, Sarah Ison, Page 4

The Kimba council has called on Anthony Albanese to help fix the damaged relationship with First Nations people after eight years of bitter fighting over the nuclear waste facility that was ultimately scrapped by Labor in July following a Federal Court decision over native title. It also says if the commonwealth refuses to reconsider the region as a site for the facility, it should commit the money it would have spent in Kimba on initiatives to help the South Australian town "transition" towards other markets.

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## Shingle minded

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 09/12/2023, Robert Drewe, Page 125

Not a phrase which trips readily off Australians' tongues, but "cheers to the Federal Government" for providing five million of us with a free vaccine to protect us against shingles. The Government has committed \$826.8 million to provide the vaccine to people at risk of shingles: everyone 65 and over, First Nations people over 50 and people over 18 with weakened immune systems.

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## Revellers urged to take care and 'party safe' this weekend

Ballarat Courier, General News, 09/12/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 12

The region's much-loved music festival is rocking for another year and once again revellers are urged to take care of themselves and each other. Meredith Music Festival kicked off yesterday after vocal support from event organisers to introduce pill testing at such festival events.

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## Outreach a 'real gap' in pharmacy NIP service

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/12/2023, Paul Sapardanis

Urgent changes to the NIP Vaccination in Pharmacy (VIP) program rules need to be made to enable vulnerable patients to access vaccines through pharmacy outreach service, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) vice president, Dr Shane Jackson says.

[Read More](#)

## Will Japanese encephalitis return this summer? What about other diseases mosquitoes spread?

The New Daily, Other, 08/12/2023, Cameron Webb, Michael Walsh and Victoria Brookes

The past two summers have been swarming with mosquitoes, thanks to near-constant rain and flooding brought on by La Nina. With the return of El Nino, and a hot, dry summer in store, what's the outlook for Japanese encephalitis and other mosquito-borne diseases?

[Read More](#)

## WHO 'very worried' about spread of mpox in DR Congo

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 09/12/2023

A World Health Organisation expert is "very worried" about the spread of a severe form of mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, that has killed nearly 600 people, mainly children, in the Democratic Republic of Congo this year. The country has reported more than 13,000 cases in 2023, more than twice as many as during the last peak in 2020, with the disease occurring in almost every province.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Sunrise, 08/12/2023, Monique Wright and Matt Shirvington

Interview with NSW Pathology's Dr Cameron Webb. Shirvington says mosquitoes are targeting people based on the smell of the skin and the blood type. Wright notes it is a perfect storm right now for

mosquito infestation with the hot and humid weather creating plague-like proportions right across the country. Webb states people should expect this summer to get bitten by at least a few mosquitoes. and they have mosquitoes in Australia that spread some of the pathogens that can cause fatal illnesses.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Unlocking the mind

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 09/12/2023, Trudi Case, Page 8

Catherine squirts the esketamine nasal spray up one nostril and then up the other under the watchful eye of medical staff. [...] In 2019, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) recommended against approval of the drug due to a lack of efficacy data and later sought expert advice from the Advisory Committee for Medicines (ACM).

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### Nebule shortage: 'Switch to inhalers'

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/12/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 13

A looming shortage of low-dose salbutamol nebulas is an opportunity to switch patients with asthma to a metered-dose inhaler, a leading GP says. The TGA's medicine shortage database indicates that Ventolin 2.5mg/2.5mL salbutamol inhalation solution ampoules will be in short supply until August 2024.

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### Cannabis gummies black market booms in Australia as demand for illegal lollies grows

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/12/2023, Natalie O'Brien

They look like kids' lollies and are being eaten in plain sight but the demand for the popular jellies is driving a booming black market despite risk of jail sentences. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) rules dictate that a patient can only be prescribed medicinal cannabis for chronic pain if other medications proved unsuccessful.

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

[Read More](#)

### Psychedelic prescribing guidelines 'virtually unworkable'

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/12/2023, Rachel Carter

A new group of psychedelic practitioners say they want less restrictive guidelines for prescribing MDMA and psilocybin. A new psychedelic practitioner group is calling on the TGA and the psychiatrists' college to relax what it claims are "virtually unworkable" guidelines for MDMA and psilocybin prescribing.

[Read More](#)

### NBN Newcastle Hunter, NBN News, 08/12/2023, Natasha Beyersdorf and Gavin Morris

A global shortage of hormone patches to treat menopause will continue into next year. Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration says manufacturing issues are interrupting supply of estradot.

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## Illegal cannabis gummies can leave very sour taste

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/12/2023, Natalie O'Brien, Page 5

They look like lollies and are being passed around and eaten in plain sight. But the popular brightly-coloured jellies flooding homes and nightclubs are illegal unless prescribed by a doctor and the demand is driving a booming black market around the country.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Hard Solo to relabel as Hard Rated

National Liquor News, General News, 01/01/2024, Page 30

Carlton & United Breweries (CUB) will rename Hard Solo to Hard Rated, following a decision by the Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code (ABAC) Scheme. Though the packaging for Hard Solo originally passed the ABAC prevetting process, the final decision was made that the packaging breached the Code by having strong or evident appeal to minors.

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### Experts fighting against food waste make call to scrap 'best before' dates

7news.com.au, Other, 08/12/2023, Rhiannon Lewin

About \$2500 of food per household is wasted each year. Here's what experts say must change. [...] However, only Food Standards Australia can change the guidelines on use by and best before dates, and currently they say they have no plans.

[Read More](#)

### Access to affordable food needs government intervention, report finds

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2023, Jane McNaughton

Appointing an Australian minister for food and establishing a food council are some of the ways the nation could improve food security, the Australian Parliament's agriculture committee has found. A year-long inquiry released its findings this week, after examining ways to strengthen and safeguard Australia's food security, focusing on production, supply chains, and key inputs as well as climate change, biosecurity, and food insecurity.

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## AICIS

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