



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 23rd December 2023

A more automated version of Today's News will be provided on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. It will still capture the main media stories, but will not include an Executive Summary. The report will be emailed to subscribers at the later time of 7:30 am.

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)
| [Coronavirus](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that cyber criminals have breached St Vincent's health networks. Acting National Cyber Security Coordinator Hamish Hansford said "My team is working with Services Australia, the Department of Health and Aged Care, and relevant state and territory agencies to ensure a coordinated government response to this incident and to mitigate any flow-on effects".
- **[The Saturday Paper \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Catholic-owned St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney will reportedly be insolvent by April 2024 according to leaked financial documents, despite being largely funded by the NSW state government.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 1\)](#)** reports that families and researchers have made submissions to Minister for Health Mark Butler, applying for \$21 million in funding for DIPG childhood cancer research.

- **[The Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Melbourne scientists have developed an at-home type 1 diabetes finger prick blood test which could be available within two years.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Chris Smith has vowed to fight for changes to the mental health system after his fiancé Julie Seed was fatally stabbed on Wednesday by a man who had just left a free mental health service in the Adelaide CBD.
- **[The Hobart Mercury \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the Tasmanian government has released a plan to address hospital ramping within the state including non-urgent patient triage and discharge procedures, however some critics have argued the plan does not address staffing shortages.
- **[The West Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that health experts, doctors and parents of victims are urging parents not to purchase e-scooters for children this Christmas after a dozen patients a week have been admitted to Royal Perth Hospital with serious injuries caused by accidents.

MINISTER BUTLER

Out of time

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/12/2023, Cydonee Mardon, Page 1

Ryley was the poster boy for brain cancer who died 14 months after diagnosis Minister, why are these kids still waiting for your help? [...] And while they wait on federal Health Minister Mark Butler, other children are dying without hope.

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

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Mick's picks

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/12/2023, Page 4

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler knows the tragic story of little Ryley Kemp who lost the battle with the aggressive monster. His parents told him the story as part of a pitch for \$21m in research funding months ago.

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'Mum, I am so scared I will die'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/12/2023, Cydonee Mardon, Page 8

Sydney eight-year-old Eve Sari-Daher's DIPG tumour has shrunk by 80 per cent and she is still alive almost 34 months post diagnosis. [...] Ms Sari was part of the group of parents and researchers who met with Health Minister Mark Butler, telling him: "How can I promise her hope when there is little to no funding into this researching and this disease?"

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Bulk-billing urgent care clinics easing the pain of trying to find a doctor

Newcastle Herald, General News, 23/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 21

More than 1600 patients have accessed new bulk-billing clinics in the Hunter New England/Central Coast primary health network since they began to open in October. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Lake Haven clinic was the final one to open in NSW.

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Power 50: SA's most influential people of 2023 ranked

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/12/2023, Paul Starick, Cameron England and Michael McGuire

The financial crunch facing households and businesses has up-ended the annual list ranking South Australia's most powerful and influential people. [...] Mark Butler - Hospitals across the country are under severe pressure in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 22/12/2023, Monique Wright and Matt Shirvington

Wright and Shirvington are joined by David Koch, former Seven presenter, about the rise of the health insurance premiums. Koch points out that everyday, health premiums keep on rising. He states that the health premiums industry have applied to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler a six percent rise with Butler denying the industry of that rise.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 22/12/2023, Alicia Loxley

Millions of Australians have had their most sensitive health data compromised by a cyber attack on the country's largest not for profit health and aged care provider St Vincent's Health saying it doesn't know what data has been stolen. According to Chris Blake, CEO, St Vincent's Health Australia, they have found evidence that cyber criminals had removed some data from their network. Cyber Security Minister Clare O'Neil and Health Minister Mark Butler were briefed on the matter last Thursday.

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Sky News Live, News Night, 22/12/2023

St Vincent's health customers have become the latest victims of illicit hackers, with their most sensitive health data becoming compromised. [...] The hack was contained by Wednesday morning with St Vincent's alerting Cyber Security Minister Clare O'Neil and Health Minister Mark Butler.

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MINISTER WELLS

Waiting game no fun at all

Wimmera Mail Times, General News, 22/12/2023, Cheryl Field, Page 21

And so another year draws to an end and we look forward to a new one - but unfortunately, it looks very much like bringing with it not-so-new problems. [...] Now Aged Care Minister Anika Wells tells us the new system will be introduced in two stages - Home Care Package clients from July 1, 2025, and home support program clients waiting a further two years, until July 1, 2027.

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Give your feedback on new Aged Care Act

The Senior, Other, 22/12/2023

The federal government is asking for public feedback on its new Aged Care Act. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the government is working hard to improve the standard of care.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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DEPARTMENT

Hackers hit health network

Weekend Australian, General News, 23/12/2023, Sarah Ison, Joseph Lam and David Murray, Page 1

Cyber criminals have hacked one of Australia's biggest health networks, stealing data in an attack that has set off alarm bells across the nation. [...] "My team is working with Services Australia, the Department of Health and Aged Care, and relevant state and territory agencies to ensure a co-ordinated government response to this incident and to mitigate any flowon effects," Mr Hansford said.

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

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We could be on the cusp of another COVID-19 wave right before Christmas. Here's an expert's advice

ABC Online, Other, 22/12/2023, Dannielle Maguire

Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Western Australia have reported an increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases in the lead-up to Christmas. [...] Here is what the federal health department's website says about COVID-19 symptoms:...

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Power 50: SA's most influential people of 2023 ranked

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/12/2023, Paul Starick, Cameron England and Michael McGuire

The financial crunch facing households and businesses has up-ended the annual list ranking South Australia's most powerful and influential people. [...] Mark Butler - Hospitals across the country are under severe pressure in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

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St Vincent's Health Australia says data stolen in cyber-attack

The Guardian, Other, 22/12/2023, Benita Kolovos

St Vincent's Australia's largest not-for-profit health and aged care provider has confirmed it has fallen victim to a cyber-attack and hackers have stolen some of its data. [...] The national cyber security coordinator said work was being done with National Office of Cyber Security, Services Australia, the Department of Health and Aged Care, and relevant state and territory agencies "to ensure a coordinated government response to this incident and to mitigate any flow-on effects".

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Top of their game: Senior public service appointments of the year

The Mandarin, Other, 22/12/2023, Melissa Coade

Here's a round-up of the most powerful mandarins to feature in this year's Movers & Shakers list. [...] July Blair Comley was chosen to replace Department of Health and Aged Care secretary Brendan Murphy, who retired in early July.

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Give your feedback on new Aged Care Act

The Senior, Other, 22/12/2023

The federal government is asking for public feedback on its new Aged Care Act. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the government is working hard to improve the standard of care.

Channel 7, Seven News Qld at 4pm, 22/12/2023, Kendall Gilding

The nation's largest hospital and aged care provider has been hacked, with St Vincent's Health confirming data has been stolen. A cyber attack on their computer systems and three days on, they still don't know how serious it is. Chris Blake, CEO, St Vincent's Health, says any breach is a significant issue and they are distressed of what has happened. [...] Saint Vincent's Health has hired external security experts, and government authorities are working on this too, including the National Office of Cyber Security and the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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ABC Coffs Coast, Breakfast, 22/12/2023, Fiona Poole

Pre-recorded interview with Todd Yourell, CEO, St Andrew's Village Ballina. Compere points out that residents and their families at the Feros Aged Care Village at Byron Bay have decided to take matters into their own hands after the aged care provider announced they would be shutting the centre in February 2023, but since eight residents protested, the Ballina-based aged care centre St Andrew's is taking over. Yourell points out that they are working with the Department of Health and Aged Care and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission regarding this matter.

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4BC, Drive, 22/12/2023, Peter Gleeson

Gleeson added that the organisation first suspected the hack on St Vincent's Health occurred on Tuesday this week. He confirms that there have been some personal data that have been removed in St Vincent's database yet no patient records have been targeted. Gleeson says Cyber Security Coordinator Darren Goldie has also now confirmed that his team is working with Services Australia, the Department of Health and Aged Care and State and Territories on the matter.

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CORONAVIRUS

Is it likely I will get long COVID?

Canberra Times, General News, 23/12/2023, Andrew Baillie, Page 30

Australia has trailed behind the US, the UK and Europe in rolling out care for long COVID. EG.5 or the Eris COVID variant is dominant in parts of Australia.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#) and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Covid of interest

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/12/2023, Page 16

The World Health Organisation has declared a new Covid-19 variant of interest, known as JN.1, due to its rapidly increasing spread. The variant JN.1 was previously grouped under its "parent" variant, known as BA.2.86, but has now been listed as a separate variant of interest.

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

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COVID vaccine rates plummet but antiviral use up, as COVID cases rise

Newcastle Herald, Other, 22/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw

COVID vaccine rates in the Hunter have dropped to 8 per cent of people aged 18 and over, but infections are rising in the lead-up to Christmas. This, which fell six per cent in a month, represents people in the last six months.

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'Emergence of JN. 1 in Victoria is expected to contribute to prolonged high levels of Covid-19 through December and January'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/12/2023, Mandy Squires

COVID hospitalisations in Victoria have soared in the past week, as the number of people dying from the disease also rose. It comes as it's revealed the worrying Covid mutation JN.1 — declared a World Health Organisation variant of interest — is now the most prevalent single subvariant in Victorian wastewater.

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

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Long COVID questions answered: How common is it and what are the symptoms?

SBS, Other, 22/12/2023

While Australia's current COVID wave appears less severe, the risk of long COVID remains. Here's what's different this time around, and the symptoms to be aware of.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 22/12/2023, Jayne Azzopardi

COVID cases have risen, particularly in children, recently. About the number of emergency department presentations has been climbing steadily over the past three weeks, driven by children and people aged between 17 and 49. New South Wales Health Sewage Surveillance now pointing to Bondi, Liverpool and Quakers Hill as the virus hotspots with new variants on the rise

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 22/12/2023, Kieran Gilbert

Queensland is recording a significant increase in Covid hospitalisations. Admissions are four times higher than in October. More than 300 people are currently in hospital suffering from the virus. Hospitals are also seeing a rise in the number of children being admitted for mycoplasma pneumonia.

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5AA, Afternoons, 22/12/2023, Angie McBride

McBride says there have been 1657 new cases of COVID reported in the last week. She reminds the listeners to wash their hands and wear a mask.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Astrid feels magic of flying again

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 23/12/2023, Gabriel Rule, Page 18

Bendigo's Astrid Poot, 89, cannot wipe the smile off her face as she clutches her handmade boarding pass and puts on her flying headset. "I am just very excited," she says.

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Aged care homes make the grade

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 23/12/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 3

Every aged-care facility in Mildura has achieved at least a three-star overall rating, according to the latest My Aged Care review. The Federal Government grading system, which updated most recently on December 12, shows quarterly assessments of compliance, staffing ratios, quality measures and residents' experiences at aged-care homes across Australia.

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Ageing population presents housing challenges

Australian Seniors News, Other, 22/12/2023

The Federal Government has today released the Centre for Population's 2023 Population Statement, which underlines the ageing, housing and care-related challenges on the horizon for Australia. "Australia is ageing, and this presents challenges around housing, care and affordability," said Retirement Living Council Executive Director, Daniel Gannon.

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Holiday call to combat loneliness among older Australians

HelloCare, Other, 22/12/2023, Bianca Iovino

With the holiday season around the corner, Council on the Ageing Australia (COTA) is calling on all Australians to help combat loneliness by connecting with their older neighbours, friends, and family in their communities. COTA Australia Chief Executive Officer, Patricia Sparrow, said that while the festive season can be a time of joy, it is a time where feelings of isolation and loneliness can become more pronounced for some older Australians.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Staying healthy in the holidays

Canberra Times, General News, 23/12/2023, Scott Lear, Page 17

With the festive season upon us, many people will be gathering with family and friends, whether it's a workplace party, a friend's get-together or a quiet night at home watching Christmas movies. While enjoyable, these events can disrupt your healthy lifestyle habits.

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Don't buy this for Xmas

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 23/12/2023, Hannah Cross, Page 1

Doctors are urging parents to avoid buying e-scooters for their kids this Christmas. It comes amid revelations a dozen patients are being admitted to a Perth hospital with serious injuries sustained in accidents involving e-scooters each week.

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Tips to beat the heat this summer

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 23/12/2023, Page 16

Barwon South West is set to experience a hot summer, so our paramedics are asking communities to take simple steps to stay safe from heat illnesses this festive season. We know people look forward to this time of year to enjoy holidays, get-togethers with friends and family, and some well-earned time in the sun.

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Warning dangerous new drug stronger than fentanyl found in Australia

9News, Other, 22/12/2023, Richard Wood

A potent new illicit designer drug could be behind a series of recent drug-related deaths on the New South Wales Central Coast, health authorities warned today. The potentially lethal opioid nitazene was found in drugs in a yellow powder form.

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How to minimise harm if drinking and breastfeeding these holidays

ABC Online, Other, 22/12/2023, Kellie Scott

Most breastfeeding women are "understandably confused" about how to minimise harm when

consuming alcohol. Jen says if she wants to have a drink, she plans it around her son's feeding schedule.

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Night owls almost twice as likely to have clogged arteries as early risers, study suggests

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/12/2023, Victoria Allen

Night owls may have almost twice the risk of hardened arteries compared to early birds. Hardened arteries, caused by a build-up of fatty deposits in the blood vessels, are more common in older people with high blood pressure and cholesterol, and increase the risk of having a heart attack or stroke.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 22/12/2023, David Reilly

Tasmanians are smoking and eating fewer fruits and vegetables, according to the latest statewide health survey. The results show just six percent of Tasmanians met the recommended vegetable intake and just over a third met the fruit intake guidelines.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Testing rates for second most deadly cancer stagnate

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/12/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 15

When Andrea Hogan went into hospital for a colonoscopy the week of her 40th birthday, she knew almost immediately that something was wrong. [...] It was now up to the federal government to fund and implement the recommendation, said Bowel Cancer Australia chief executive Julien Wiggins.

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Tomorrow is too late for funding

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/12/2023, Cydonee Mardon, Page 9

Lucy McAleer spent the last five weeks of her life trapped in a body that wasn't working. Her mum and dad would ask her questions and she would blink to tell them yes or no.

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Stop the lip service, cough up some cash

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 23/12/2023, Page 52

To our readers, the issue of funding for aggressive brain tumours is cut and dried the federal government needs to spend more money on research and clinical trials. There is no ambiguity.

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Diabetes test leap

Herald Sun, General News, 23/12/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 1

An at-home type 1 diabetes test pioneered by Melbourne scientists is set to revolutionise screening for the disease around the world. A trial of the simple fingerprick blood test confirms it works, is accurate and amounts to a cheap, reliable population screening test that could be available within two years.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Our research shines

Herald Sun, Editorials, 23/12/2023, Page 60

Once again Melbourne's world-class biomedical research is leading the way in producing a new

diagnostic tool that holds hope for better health around the globe. As revealed in today's Herald Sun, the world-first trial of an at-home type 1 diabetes test is set to revolutionise global screening for the chronic disease.

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Radiopharm set for “game-changing” lung cancer trial

West Australian, Other, 22/12/2023, Doug Bright

Radiopharm Theranostics has stepped closer to kicking off what it says could be a "game-changing" trial for patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) after a successful initiation site visit to Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital. The important visit was made ahead of the trial that will evaluate the safety and efficacy of the company's radiotherapeutic treatment, known as "177Lu-RAD 204", for advanced NSCLC – the most common type of lung cancer.

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Elle's immune system is so severely compromised she has to live in a bubble with her 'bubble mummy'

ABC Online, Other, 22/12/2023, Janelle Miles

Eleven-month-old Eleanor Ahern is a modern-day bubble baby. Nicknamed Elle, she was born with a severe immune system disorder, making her highly susceptible to infections.

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I've had more than 100 dangerous skin cancers removed since I was 16 - this is what I want every Australian to know this summer

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/12/2023, Louise Allingham

A woman who has had more than 100 dangerous sun spots cut out of her skin is issuing a warning to Aussies about protecting their complexions under strong UV rays. Lana Kelly, from Brisbane, got her first skin cancer diagnosis when she was just 16 after growing up on the Sunshine Coast with a lax approach to sun protection.

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PRIMARY CARE

Exclusive: St Vincent's Hospital to be insolvent by April

The Saturday Paper, General News, 23/12/2023, Rick Morton, Page 1

A key Sydney hospital is on the precipice of insolvency, according to leaked internal memos, and will soon be unable to pay its staff. A critical public hospital in inner-city Sydney has forecast it will run out of money from April 2024 and will not be able to pay its staff, according to a leaked internal finance update.

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St Vincent's hit by cyber attack

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/12/2023, David Swan, Page 3

Hackers have stolen data from St Vincent's Health Australia's network. The hospital and aged care provider has launched a massive investigation into the size and scope of the cyber attack.

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

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Major hack at health provider

Courier Mail, General News, 23/12/2023, Madura McCormack, Page 13

A major private health and aged care provider with significant Queensland holdings has been hacked, with confirmation cyber criminals have taken some data. St Vincent's, Australia's largest not-for-profit

health and aged care provider, confirmed it has been dealing with a cyber security incident since Tuesday December 19 and late on Thursday found evidence some data had been removed.

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Emergency measures

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/12/2023, Amber Wilson, Page 1

The state government has released a ramping action plan that includes speeding up hospital discharges for overnight patients, better systems for dealing with non-urgent patients and "alternative methods" for treating aged care patients. But critics say it won't address serious staffing issues plaguing the hospital and ambulance workforce.

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

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

Barnett's holiday health wishlist

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/12/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 7

Health Minister Guy Barnett says he has placed more Commonwealth intervention in primary care, and a reduction in emergency department presentations for non-urgent matters, at the top of his Christmas wishlist. Mr Barnett, speaking alongside the Ambulance Tasmania director of operations North/ North-West Alistair Shephard and Launceston General Hospital acting CEO Dr Viney Joshi on Friday, said Tasmanians should spare a thought for their health workforce this Christmas, many of whom will not get a holiday.

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GP clinic 'with no doctors' to close

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/12/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 9

Yet another Tasmanian GP clinic is set to close, with the inability to replace departing doctors cited by management as the key reason. Patients of Davey Street Medical Centre in Hobart were informed by text message earlier this week the centre would close on February 29 next year.

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Bullet point hospital plan

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 23/12/2023, Page 28

In the realm of healthcare, time is of the essence, and nowhere is this truer than in our hospital emergency departments (EDs). The current state of prolonged wait times and extensive ramping counters the world-class care and compassion patients receive in our hospitals.

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Mergers would be 'disaster'

Border Mail, General News, 23/12/2023, Ted Howes, Page 4

Two North East MPs fear forced health service amalgamations are coming, despite Victorian government claims there are "no predetermined plans for mergers". Euroa MP Annabelle Cleeland and Ovens Valley MP Tim McCurdy yesterday said they believed mergers "were on the cards".

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Ambo boost to help meet holiday demand

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 23/12/2023, Page 8

Extra paramedics will be working in Mildura these holidays to help cater to the influx of people in the region. Ambulance Victoria said it was boosting its capability in tourist towns and areas of population growth across the Loddon and Mallee regions by arranging additional resources from late December.

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Streaky Bay Medical Clinic unable to afford doctor as locum prices, red tape add to stress levels

Streaky Bay Medical Clinic board chair Jonas Woolford says he loses sleep some nights, wondering where the money will come from to pay for locums to fill a doctor shortage in the Eyre Peninsula town. He said some weeks, they couldn't afford a doctor at all.

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St Vincent's Health Australia says data stolen in cyberattack

The Guardian, Other, 22/12/2023, Benita Kolovos

St Vincent's Australia's largest not-for-profit health and aged care provider has confirmed it has fallen victim to a cyber-attack and hackers have stolen some of its data. In a statement, St Vincent's Health Australia confirmed it began responding to a cybersecurity incident on Tuesday. It discovered late on Thursday that data had been stolen.

Similar coverage reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Victoria to offer free healthcare to those who have fled Israel-Gaza war

The Guardian, Other, 23/12/2023, Benita Kolovos

People fleeing the Israel-Gaza war will receive free healthcare under a Victorian initiative, amid calls for other states to follow suit. The state's health minister, Mary-Anne Thomas, will on Saturday announce people fleeing the conflict who aren't eligible for Medicare due to their visa will be able to access essential healthcare, specialised mental health support and language services.

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Urgent or emergency? Do you know how to navigate Illawarra's new medical options

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 22/12/2023, Kate Mcilwain

When you're making a choice about where to turn for medical advice when something goes wrong, you want to get it right. And with three urgent care centres now operating in the Illawarra, there's now a more complex decision to be made than just GP or emergency department

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Birthing at Buderim Private Hospital maternity ward on Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 22/12/2023, Letea Cavander

A midwife, mum and specialist have shared intimate details of the tales of triumph and heart-stopping moments at a Sunshine Coast special care nursery and maternity ward. The special care nursery at a major Sunshine Coast hospital became a second home for a mother-of-four who spent more than 50 days there as medical staff cared for her twins.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 22/12/2023, Tracy Voon

The head of trauma at Royal Perth Hospital is sounding the alarm tonight over a popular Christmas gift. Doctors are treating an average of 12 patients a week injured in e-scooter crashes. The Australian Medical Association Trauma Surgeons and the WA Government agree any parent thinking about giving their child an e-scooter needs to be familiar with the regulations.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 22/12/2023, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Andrew Hughes, Lecturer in Marketing at the College of Business and Economics, Australian National University, about how will the Government utilise their budget spending in the next 12 to 18 months. Hughes points out that one aspect to consider is hospital wait times as he has heard horror stories in Canberra Hospital of long waiting times wherein hours upon hours would take for a patient to receive care. He believes that the Government has yet to fix this issue even now.

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 22/12/2023, David Lipson

All over Australia, State and Territory Governments are searching for ways to relieve pressure on overstretched emergency departments. In Victoria, the government has put a lot of faith in so-called priority primary care centres, which offer an alternative to hospital emergency for patients with urgent but not life threatening needs. The Victorian Government's rollout of GP led priority Primary Care Centres or PCCs, was designed to give patients across the state with non-urgent medical needs a place to go instead of an emergency

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Just so wrong

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/12/2023, Tara Miko, Page 1

The grieving fiance of property manager Julie Seed, who was fatally stabbed on Wednesday, has vowed to fight, in her honour, for changes to the mental health system. Chris Smith's world shattered in a random instant when a man, who had sought help, didn't get it.

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Accused was 'in a really good place'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/12/2023, Lauren Novak, Page 7

Shaun Michaels Dunk was "in a really good place" when he left a mental health centre just hours before allegedly killing a mother of two and wounding her colleague. Staff and peer workers who dealt with Dunk at the Urgent Mental Health Care Centre (UMHCC) told SA's Mental Health Commissioner Taimi Allan that the 30-year-old seemed well when he left the centre on Wednesday.

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

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Lifeline calls for volunteers as demand grows

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 23/12/2023, Jonathon Magrath, Page 3

For Giselle Lawler, volunteering at Lifeline Loddon Mallee is all about being there for somebody when they need it most. The full-time working mum-of-three has been completing her training at the local crisis support and suicide intervention organisation's call centre, which has involved 12 weeks of intensive workshops and training before even touching a phone.

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Mates' mission at an end

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 23/12/2023, Tegan Guthrie, Page 8

After 12 years of raising awareness of depression and suicide prevention following the sudden loss of a loved one, the founders of Mates 4 Mates Goldfields are saying goodbye to Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Kathy Nikolaenko and Rod "Rocket" Marra are making the move to Perth, but have left the organisation, born out of the loss of Rocket's son to suicide, in the capable hands of fellow Mate Sean Fitzgerald, who promises to continue their great work.

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Support service funded to grow

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 23/12/2023, Sarah Buchecker, Page 2

Support for Mildura's LGBTQIA+ community will soon be expanded to provide more opportunities for young people to connect and reduce isolation. Headspace Mildura this month received a \$10,000 grant as a part of Youth Affairs Council Victoria's HEY Grants.

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Smart to turn off

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 23/12/2023, Kirrily Schwarz, Page 22

Smartphone use has been blamed on a rise in mental health issues, as well as an equally worrying decline in IQ test scores. The new National Health Survey shows mental health conditions have almost tripled since 2007, when the first smartphones hit the market.

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Health Minister Chris Picton says independent review will probe whether the health system failed by releasing Shaun Dunk

The Mercury, Other, 22/12/2023, Kathryn Bermingham, Paul Starick and Riley Walter

Shaun Michaels Dunk was released from hospital days before Julie Seed was fatally stabbed - a review will decide whether the health system failed. Health Minister Chris Picton has refused to concede the health system failed by releasing Shaun Michaels Dunk from hospital in the days before Wednesday's fatal stabbing – insisting it will be for an independent review to decide.

[Read More](#)

Townsville crew of Son of a Son launches Sydney to Hobart campaign for mental health education

ABC Online, Other, 22/12/2023, Rachael Merritt

Peter Webster is no stranger to the perils of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. The experienced north Queensland skipper of more than 40 years has tackled the 628 nautical mile journey from Sydney Harbour to the River Derwent three times already.

[Read More](#)

WA psychiatrist to review murder charge mental health case

In Daily, Other, 22/12/2023, Thomas Kelsall

The chief medical officer of the Western Australian mental health commission will lead a review into the case of a man released from the Royal Adelaide Hospital on Monday and charged with a stabbing murder two days later. Dr Sophie Davison, WA's former deputy chief psychiatrist, will lead the review into the circumstances surrounding the discharge of a 30-year-old man from the RAH on December 18.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Young mum released for Xmas

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/12/2023, Isabel McMillan and Sean Fewster, Page 1

A young mother who had been accused of murdering renowned doctor Michael Yung has had her charges downgraded and been released on home detention. Jacinta Davila wept over video link as Adelaide Magistrates Court heard prosecutors were no longer pursuing allegations she participated in Dr Yung's alleged home-invasion murder.

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'Falling in love' with job easy for ambos

Border Mail, General News, 23/12/2023, Sophie Else, Page 17

Four graduate paramedics with a shared love for helping people have landed work in Wodonga. One of them is Zachary Griffin, who after spending years at university discovered through a work placement

that being a paramedic was his calling.

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

Dad tries to make sense of the senseless

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/12/2023, Angela Thompson, Page 5

Steven Tougher was a physical giant, a tender-heart, a carer. He was the one who gave out homemade First Aid kits to the neighbours as a little boy.

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Nurse practitioners fill key medical gap

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 23/12/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 8

The value of nurse practitioner roles in addressing the growing health needs of the community has recently been showcased in Mildura. Sunraysia Community Health Services held a briefing seminar this month, to recognise and honour the dedication and contributions of nurse practitioners in health care.

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

Rural GPs incentive applications open

Barrier Truth, Other, 22/12/2023, Jason Irvine

A new incentive payment that rewards investment in specialist qualifications and credentialed skills has become available for GPs with advanced skills working in regional, rural, and remote communities, with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) encouraging applications.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

'A system in decay'

The Senior, Other, 22/12/2023, Eileen Wood

A Senate inquiry has thrown down the gauntlet to the federal government to provide Australians with access to universal dental and oral care. With one in three adults having untreated tooth decay, one in five regularly experiencing toothache and one in 10 with severe tooth loss (less than 21 teeth), the bipartisan select committee's report describes the nation's dental care as "a system in decay"

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Suspension for pharmacist

Herald Sun, General News, 23/12/2023, Timothy Cox, Page 17

A Ballarat pharmacist has been reprimanded for professional misconduct after he dispensed controlled drugs to aged care residents without prescriptions. According to VCAT documents, pharmacist Park Rest inappropriately prescribed medicine at Ramsay Health Wendouree between February and August 2019 and at Chemist Warehouse in June 2020.

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Doctor remains registered ahead of sentencing for domestic violence offences, as regulator monitors case

ABC Online, Other, 22/12/2023, Tahlia Roy

A doctor whose medical registration remains intact is set to be sentenced in the ACT Magistrates Court for domestic violence offences. [...] In a statement to the ABC, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) said it has been "monitoring criminal proceedings against Dr Dawe".

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Cricket great's stand for Khawaja

Weekend Australian, General News, 23/12/2023, Peter Lalor, Page 2

West Indian great Michael Holding has criticised cricket authorities over the "fiasco" of banning Usman Khawaja's human rights protest as the Australian batsman admits being sanctioned for wearing a black armband has left him frustrated. Holding said authorities lacked any "moral standing".

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New pool's in the swim

Herald Sun, General News, 23/12/2023, Page 7

A highly anticipated aquatic centre in Torquay is a step closer to opening. After designs for the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre were finalised in August, the centre is set to go to tender with a shortlist of builders in January.

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One foot in the water

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 23/12/2023, Will Keech, Page 12

Torquay is one step closer to the opening of its highly anticipated aquatic centre. With designs for the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre finalised in August, the centre is set to go to tender with a shortlist of construction companies in January.

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Students stand for their stadium and community

Shepparton News, General News, 22/12/2023, Jay Bryce, Page 7

The neglect the Shepparton basketball community and the 50-year-old Shepparton Sports Stadium have endured over our city's history is a blemish on our otherwise developed and valued sporting culture. It's such a glaring issue that primary school students are talking about it at recess and lunch.

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Usman Khawaja to challenge ICC reprimand over black armband worn in first Pakistan Test

ABC Online, Other, 22/12/2023

Usman Khawaja says the black armband he wore in the first Test against Pakistan was for a "personal bereavement" and he will contest the International Cricket Council's (ICC) reprimand. Khawaja was reprimanded by the ICC on Thursday for wearing the armband during the 360-run win over Pakistan in Perth.

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

[Read More](#)

Albany Indoor Adventures closes as public liability insurance issue spreads across Australia

ABC Online, Other, 22/12/2023, Samantha Goerling

An indoor gym and rock climbing business is to close after it was no longer able to secure appropriate liability insurance cover for its ninja obstacle course. The business in Western Australia's Great Southern region is the latest in the industry to shut up shop due to what has been dubbed the "amusement insurance crisis".

[Read More](#)

South Asian community 'critical' for cricket growth

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/12/2023

Australia's South Asian communities are critical for the growth of cricket as the governing body unveils its plan to appeal to people from wider multicultural backgrounds. Cricket Australia released its multicultural action plan on Friday, identifying the fast growing South Asian community as an integral part of its expansion plans.

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Most Australian beaches aren't patrolled. So what can be done to prevent drowning deaths?

SBS, Other, 22/12/2023, Rob Brander

Australians are regularly told to swim between the flags at patrolled beaches to stay safe. Is that advice enough, when an overwhelming percentage of the country's beaches are unpatrolled?

[Read More](#)

Radio National, PM, 22/12/2023, Sarah Dingle

Australian cricketer Usman Khawaja has defended his decision to wear a black arm band during their first test against Pakistan. He claims that the move was for personal bereavement and had nothing to do with the war in Gaza. Dr Catherine Ordway, Sporting Integrity Research Lead, University of Canberra, believes the ICC response is extremely problematic, particularly on Khawaja being reprimanded.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Keeping tabs of sudden deaths

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/12/2023, Page 19

Australian scientists will build the world's largest registry of sudden cardiac arrest deaths. Starting with Victoria, the work, supported by the Heart Foundation and led by Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute's Dr Elizabeth Paratz, will examine cardiac arrest data from two large and existing databases.

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

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New study shows traffic noise has a negative effect on heart health

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 22/12/2023, Tamaryn McGregor

New data has shown excessive road noise can have negative effects on heart health and increase the risk of stroke. Does your street make the list of dangerously noisy roads?

[Read More](#)

2GB, Mornings, 22/12/2023, Ray Hadley

New research shows living on busy roads could increase a person's risk of heart attack and stroke because the noise spikes, blood pressure.

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4BC, Breakfast , 22/12/2023, Laurel Edwards, Gary Clare and Mark Hine

Australian scientists have the support of the Heart Foundation to develop the large database called Codex. It will collect information from ambulances and forensics to better understand the triggers of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, which affects 25,000 Australians each year.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

First of its kind Healing Forum brings together Midwest's Mullewa community

National Indigenous Times, Other, 22/12/2023, Callan Morse

After years of planning, the Midwest community of Mullewa held its inaugural healing forum earlier this month. The forum, known as Mullewa Healing Forum 2023: Healing Together saw nearly 190 participants attend the Aboriginal led and designed two-day event.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Festival drug deaths all preventable

Canberra Times, Editorials, 23/12/2023, Page 28

All of the 64 drug-related deaths at music festivals across Australia since the year 2000 were preventable. That's the equivalent of a busload of young people, three-quarters of them male, are dead because of outdated approaches to managing illicit drug use that fail to recognise it is a health issue, not a law and order one.

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Syphilis warning as cases increase

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/12/2023, Page 21

Syphilis cases increasing in Tasmania and nationally, prompting the Department of Health to remind the public of the need for regular sexual health checks. Director of Public Health Mark Veitch said anyone who was sexually active could get syphilis.

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Watch on gastro bug

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 23/12/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 4

A number of people with a gastro caused by a parasite that recently shut local pools have presented to emergency departments amid rising cases in Geelong. Cryptosporidiosis is a type of gastroenteritis caused by the parasite cryptosporidium.

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

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SA expands vax scope

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/12/2023

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed the South Australian Government's decision to expand the scope of pharmacist immunisers. Announced today, the move will allow the administration of vaccines from five years of age as per both the South Australian and National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedules.

[Read More](#)

FIP: let's talk vaccines

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/12/2023

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has launched a new campaign to support pharmacists in increasing vaccination uptake. The 'Let's talk about vaccines!' initiative aims to heighten awareness and understanding of the benefits of vaccination among vulnerable groups through community pharmacies.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Woolies recalls mince pies over metal contamination

Canberra Times, Other, 22/12/2023, Jessica Coates

Woolworths has issued a recall notice for a popular brand of meat pies days before Christmas over metal contamination concerns. Shortcrust Summer Berry Mince Pies sold across stores in New South Wales were recalled due to the "presence of foreign matter" and potential injury concerns. Food Standards Australia New Zealand issued the notice on December 22, urging customers to return the product.

Widely syndicated across regional publications. Similar coverage reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#).

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This is how long can you safely eat Christmas leftovers

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/12/2023, Mia Erickson

Not sure how many days your fridge of leftover ham and trifle can safely be enjoyed? [...] As a rule of thumb, Scott-Young follows the advice of Food Standards Australia and New Zealand when it comes to keeping or discarding food, which is based on how long a dish has been kept out in temperatures higher than 5 degrees.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 22/12/2023, Amber Irving-Guthrie

Pre-recorded interview with Dan Richards, Managing Director, Humpty Doo Barramundi. Richards

mentions that in Australia, the Federal Government announced a mandatory country of origin labelling for food service. He says this gives Australian producers the ability to differentiate their products from imported goods and consumers have the whole truth in what they are purchasing.

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