



# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 5th December 2023

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)  
| [Coronavirus](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)  
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)  
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)  
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)  
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)  
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |  
[First Nations Health](#) | [Office of Health Protection and Emergency Management](#)  
| [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office for Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)  
| [AICIS](#)

## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that doctors have questioned the independence of a University of Sydney study that found Nestle Optifast shakes to be a key treatment in combating diabetes after the company donated their shakes to be studied for free.
- **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that data from NSW Health's employee survey has revealed that over the past two years nearly 2000 NSW Health workers lodged compensation claims for psychological injuries.
- **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that former Queensland Labor secretary Cameron Milner is calling on Anastacia Palaszczuk to drop out of hosting the 2032 Olympic Games due to the current cost-of-living crisis.
- **[Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that South Australian Chief Public Health Officer Professor Nicola Spurrier has warned that climate change is "the most significant global threat to human health", and that South Australia is currently in a state of "permacrisis" due to back-to-back natural disasters and the emergence of new diseases.
- **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 4) reports that Queensland will update its guidelines to allow people who chose voluntary assisted dying to donate organs and tissue.

- **The Australian** (page 7) reports that Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate has written to the Commonwealth Games Federation, stating that the city will not move forward in its bid to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells previously claimed she was open to the idea of hosting the games on the Gold Coast, while Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk state her focus was on the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games.
- **Northern Territory News** (page 8) reports that a new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic offering walk-in care and bulk-billing will open from Monday located in the Northside Shopping Complex in Alice Springs and will be operated by the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress. "The Alice Springs Medicare UCC will make a big difference to local patients who will be able to walk in during extended hours and receive convenient, high-quality care from a nurse or a doctor," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Cut durry damage by vaping

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/12/2023, Ross Fitzgerald, Page 37

Although Sydney was once the epicentre of Australia's HIV epidemic, it may soon become the first city in the world to effectively eliminate HIV transmission. [...] In this current parliamentary session, Health Minister Mark Butler has led debate about his proposed vaping legislation.

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### New bulk-billed option for healthcare in Alice Springs

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/12/2023, Talara McHugh, Page 8

Alice Springs residents will have better access to health care with the opening of a new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic offering walk-in care and bulkbilling from Monday. [...] Assistant Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said it would make health care "accessible and affordable" for patients in the region.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### 'I'm not jumping on the bandwagon': Martin speaks out

Burnie Advocate, General News, 05/12/2023, Libby Bingham, Page 6

Councillor Steve Martin has denied he's jumping on the bandwagon without offering constructive solutions to save the East Devonport Medical Centre (EDMC) from closing in February. [...] Mr Barnett has also joined her and both are calling for federal Health Minister Mark Butler who is responsible for primary care to do more.

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

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### Charles Darwin University bypassed for doctor training funding

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/12/2023, Camden Smith

Charles Darwin University has missed out on the substantive funding required to train medical students at its stand-alone medical school. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler during Question Time in Canberra on Thursday.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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### Community hopes to replicate Bridgewater grassroots campaign and save East Devonport Medical Centre

ABC Online, Other, 04/12/2023, Isabella Podwinski

Trudy McGlone has been a patient at the East Devonport Medical Centre in north-west Tasmania for

more than 30 years. [...] Devonport mayor Alison Jarman has labelled the closure plan as "outrageous" and has tried multiple times to contact federal health minister Mark Butler to intervene.

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## Radiation Treatment study due to begin

Border Watch, Other, 04/12/2023, Charlotte Varcoe

The much anticipated feasibility study on radiation treatment facilities in Mount Gambier/Berrin will begin today with the Limestone Coast Local Health Network (LCLHN) expecting its completion in June next year. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler was contacted for comment.

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## Delayed opening of Broome Urgent Care Clinic leaves residents struggling with healthcare access

West Australian, Other, 04/12/2023, Cain Andrews

The Broome Urgent Care Clinic, promised by the Federal Government to open within "weeks" in October, remains shrouded in uncertainty with no opening date provided. Speaking with the Broome Advertiser in October, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Broome Urgent Care Clinic would open within "the coming weeks".

Also reported by: [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [Countryman \(Online\)](#).

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## Katter calls out Health Minister

connectfnq.com.au, Other, 04/12/2023

Federal Member for Kennedy Bob Katter says the Health Minister is not doing enough to strengthen Australia's bone marrow donor registry despite acknowledging the seriousness of the situation nearly a year ago. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler in response acknowledged that it was an "area of healthcare that had moved too slowly in this country".

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## AHHA welcomes newly released National Health and Climate Strategy

Eco Voice, Other, 04/12/2023

The Australian Healthcare and Hospital Association would like to congratulate the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, 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 yesterday's release of the National Health and Climate Strategy.

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

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## Canberra provides '100%' guarantee to plug midwives PI gap

InsuranceNews.com.au, Other, 04/12/2023

The Federal Government will pay "100% of any eligible and approved" professional indemnity (PI) insurance claims made in relation to intrapartum care provided outside of a hospital setting by privately practicing midwives. [...] "The Albanese Government recognises that midwifery continuity of care is incredibly important and has the best outcomes for women and babies and we will continue to work to make sure that it is accessible and supported," Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said.

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## Community hopes to replicate Bridgewater grassroots campaign and save East Devonport Medical Centre

MSN Australia, Other, 04/12/2023

Trudy McGlone has been a patient at the East Devonport Medical Centre in north-west Tasmania for more than 30 years. [...] 'Slap in the face': Devonport Mayor Alison Jarman has labelled the closure plan as "outrageous" and has tried multiple times to contact federal Health Minister Mark Butler to intervene.

## **\$90m+ cash splash for training in bush and NT**

The Medical Republic, Other, 04/12/2023

More medical student places are on the way along with a \$2.8m grant to explore setting up a medical school in the Top End. [...] Northern Territory Senator and federal Assistant Indigenous Health Minister Malarndirri McCarthy described the opportunity as a potential gamechanger.

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## **New bulk-billed urgent care clinic opens in Alice Springs**

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 04/12/2023

A new Medicare urgent care clinic open seven days a week will offer walk-ins and bulk-billing for Alice Springs residents. [...] Assistant Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said it would make health care "accessible and affordable" for patients in the region.

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## **\$90m for extra medical students to train in rural areas in bid to lure doctors from cities**

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 03/12/2023, Clare Armstrong

A major plan to increase the amount of doctors in rural and remote areas of Australia has been unveiled. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the additional medical training places would hopefully lead to more doctors remaining in regional Australia to practice medicine.

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## **Channel 7, Seven News Qld at 4pm, 04/12/2023, Katrina Blowers**

Thousands of Australians living with biliary tract cancer are set to benefit from Imfinzi, a new treatment subsidised by the Government through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. It is used in conjunction with chemotherapy trials have shown it can extend patients' lives sometimes by years. Health Minister Mark Butler says without being listed on the PBS, it would cost as much as \$120,000 for a course of treatment, which is well beyond the means of most Australian households.

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## **2BS, Live and Local, 04/12/2023, Jaclyn Underwood**

Interview with Leanne Raven, CEO, Crohn's & Colitis Australia. Raven says Health Minister Mark Butler announced yesterday that a new treatment called Rinvoq, which is a once-daily tablet, has now been listed with the PBS, which makes it an affordable option for people. She adds it's particularly for people with Crohn's disease who haven't had a good response to their current medication.

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## **2MCE, 14:00 National Radio News, 04/12/2023**

The Federal Government is spending \$2.8m to explore the possibility of a new medical school in the NT. The funding will help Charles Darwin University obtain accreditation and aims to address the challenge of attracting and retaining doctors in the Top End. The NT has a chronic shortage of doctors and specialists, but Health Minister Mark Butler says the Government is committed to addressing the rural health crisis.

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## **Hobart FM, 08:30 AIR News TAS Edition, 04/12/2023**

A prohibition on using telehealth to access voluntary assisted dying will disadvantage Tasmanians living in rural and regional areas, according to doctors and the Government. A Tasmanian Government spokesperson said Premier Jeremy Rockliff wrote to Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus and Health Minister Mark Butler more than a year ago, noting issues for Tasmania associated with the Commonwealth Criminal Code prohibiting medical professionals from using telehealth in connection with voluntary assisted dying.

## MINISTER WELLS

### Standing 'in tatters' over Games failure

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 05/12/2023, Mackenzie Scott, Page 7

Gold Coast mayor Tom Tate says Australia's reputation on the world stage is "in tatters" after dropping the region's bid to take over hosting duties for the 2026 Commonwealth Games, leaving the event in limbo. [...] Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells previously had communicated to Mr Tate she was open to supporting the Gold Coast so long as Ms Palaszczuk was onside.

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### 71 per cent of aged carers say they're struggling to meet 24/7 care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 04/12/2023, Erin Morley

One in five aged care workers say the 200 minute per resident mandate is 'impossible' to achieve, and 71 per cent say they are struggling to retain registered nurses (RN), according to a 2023 report. [...] However, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells reported in October registered nurses were on site 98 per cent of the time across the sector, up from the missed target of 81 per cent in March.

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### Govt allocates more than \$2 billion to "boost" aged care wages

Aged Care Insite, Other, 04/12/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The Federal Government announced that over \$2 billion is being invested to "boost" aged care wages. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the \$2.194 billion commitment would support residential aged care providers to fund the recent Fair Work Commission's decision to increase the award wage for aged care staff by 5.75 per cent.

[Read More](#)

### 2026 Commonwealth Games: Mayor Tom Tate's big call on Gold Coast's bid to host sports event

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/12/2023, Andrew Potts

Australia's richest person Gina Rinehart has backed calls for the Gold Coast and Perth to host a "coast-to-coast" 2026 Commonwealth Games. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells opened the door to the bid saying she would be "willing to consider such a proposal" if support was "forthcoming from the Queensland Government".

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

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Pharmacists can play a greater role in mental health care: report

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 04/12/2023

The sixth edition of PSA's flagship Medicine Safety series, Medicine Safety: Mental Health Care report highlights the role of pharmacists in improving support for Australians using medicines to treat mental health conditions. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride MP said, "This is a timely report on the importance of medication safety in mental health given the prevalence of common mental health disorders and the medications often prescribed as part of treatment and care.

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## \$90m+ cash splash for training in bush and NT

The Medical Republic, Other, 04/12/2023

More medical student places are on the way along with a \$2.8m grant to explore setting up a medical school in the Top End. [...] Northern Territory Senator and federal Assistant Indigenous Health Minister Malarndirri McCarthy described the opportunity as a potential gamechanger.

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### Experts hail labelling crackdown

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/12/2023, Page 10

A shake-up on how packaged foods and beverages are labelled will mean products high in sugars can no longer carry "no added sugar" claims, although consumers won't see the changes for some time. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney welcomed the changes.

Also reported by: [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Canowindra News \(Online\)](#), [Singleton Argus \(Online\)](#), [Redland City Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Jimboomba Times \(Online\)](#), [The Area News \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

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### AHHA welcomes newly released National Health and Climate Strategy

Eco Voice, Other, 04/12/2023

The Australian Healthcare and Hospital Association would like to congratulate the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, 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 yesterday's release of the National Health and Climate Strategy.

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

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### Food Ministers' Meeting key outcomes

FoodProcessing, Other, 04/12/2023

The Food Ministers' Meeting (FMM) met on Friday 1 December via videoconference to consider food regulation and policy matters. Chaired by the Hon Ged Kearney MP, the FMM comprises Australian and New Zealand Ministers responsible for food, with the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Board Chair and CEO also attending to observe the meeting.

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### Senator Ruston and Assistant Health Minister Kearney unveil new report in breast cancer

Health Industry Hub, Other, 04/12/2023

Senator Ruston and Assistant Health Minister Kearney unveil new report in breast cancer Health Industry Hub.

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### Canberra provides '100%' guarantee to plug midwives PI gap

InsuranceNews.com.au, Other, 04/12/2023

The Federal Government will pay "100% of any eligible and approved" professional indemnity (PI) insurance claims made in relation to intrapartum care provided outside of a hospital setting by privately practicing midwives. [...] "The Albanese Government recognises that midwifery continuity of care is incredibly important and has the best outcomes for women and babies and we will continue to work to make sure that it is accessible and supported," Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said.

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## hit104.7 Canberra, 07:00 News, 04/12/2023

In an Australian first, Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney has launched a national plan to address the health challenges of climate change. The National Health and Climate Strategy was announced at COP28 in Dubai overnight. Kearney says it includes plans to decarbonise the health system.

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

### New bulk-billed option for healthcare in Alice Springs

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/12/2023, Talara McHugh, Page 8

Alice Springs residents will have better access to health care with the opening of a new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic offering walk-in care and bulkbilling from Monday. [...] Assistant Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said it would make health care "accessible and affordable" for patients in the region.

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### New Medicare Urgent Care Clinic opens in Alice Springs

National Indigenous Times, Other, 04/12/2023, Dechlan Brennan

Alice Springs residents will have better access to medical care with the opening of the new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic. [...] Northern Territory Senator and proud Yanyuwa woman, Malarndirri McCarthy, said the Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Medicare UCC will make health care in the Red Centre more accessible and affordable.

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[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Government publishes wrong care minute targets

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/12/2023, Natasha Egan & Christopher Kelly

Providers have been told by the federal government to calculate their own care minutes targets in wake of revelations it has been publishing incorrect data for over a year. In an email sent on Friday, the Department of Health and Aged Care informed providers that "an issue was recently discovered with the transmission of residential care exit and entry records" between Services Australia custodians of the information and the department's systems.

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### Professor John Skerritt appointed to Medicines Australia Board

Medicines Australia, Other, 04/12/2023

Professor John Skerritt has been appointed to the Medicines Australia Board as an Independent Selected Director. [...] "As a former Deputy Secretary of the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care and former head of the Therapeutic Goods Administration, John's knowledge of the Australian therapeutics regulatory environment is unmatched."

## CORONAVIRUS

### Study reveals lingering impact of long covid

ABC Online, Other, 04/12/2023, Eliza Goetze

An Australian study on the lingering impacts of COVID-19 has found up to half of participants were still struggling with the after-effects of the virus, 12 months after being infected. The most common symptoms included fatigue, memory and concentration difficulties as well as shortness of breath.

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### We need a nationally consistent vaccination approach, says top think tank

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 04/12/2023, Chloe Hava

With a plunge in vaccination rates following the COVID-19 pandemic peak, a new report says a concerted push is required, with a focus on national consistency. The Grattan Institute's A fair shot: How to close the vaccination gap report recommends action on a National Vaccines Partnership Agreement and harmonisation of the state-based regulations that determine pharmacists' authority to deliver certain vaccines which currently differ in each jurisdiction.

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[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Annuities to help counter 'longevity risk' in super

The Australian, Business News, 05/12/2023, Paulina Duran, Page 17

The Albanese government has proposed to bear more of retirees' "longevity risk" - or running out of money in retirement - in an effort to encourage funds to create more annuity-style products that are better suited for Australia's ageing population. With about 1.6 million people aged above 65 years of age and many not getting the support or products they need to make the most out of their savings in retirement, the government is also calling on super funds to "do more".

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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### Cobram Regional Care opens new facility

Shepparton News Online, Other, 04/12/2023, Barb Love

It was a special day for Cobram Regional Care when chief executive officer Tracey Gemmill officially opened a new modern office facility where it now conducts its Home Care Program. Situated within Cobram's main shopping precinct, the community has already embraced the ability to drop by for information or discuss future options with home care co-ordinator Megan Gemmill and her staff.

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### Ryman Healthcare halts building of Ringwood East Retirement Village in Melbourne as half-year profit drops

The Weekly Source, Other, 04/12/2023, Ian Horswill

Ryman Healthcare in announcing its 1H24 results to the NZX, said it had put on hold the proposed \$200 million Ringwood East Retirement Village, 31km east of Melbourne's CBD, which commenced construction last year. Ringwood East, on a 2.2ha site, was announced in May 2019 as its 10th village in Australia. Ringwood East, on a 2.2ha site, was announced in May 2019 as its 10th village in



Australia. It was to have 240 assisted living and independent living apartments, plus a 120-bed care centre.

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## **Bolton Clarke's Buddy app to be developed by Pluss Communities for NFP's network**

The Weekly Source, Other, 04/12/2023, Ian Horswill

Australia's largest Not For Profit aged care provider's prototype app for retirement village residents, Buddy, will be developed by the Queensland-based digital platform developer. The Buddy social connection app was selected in the 2023 Financial Review BOSS Most Innovative Companies Top 10 Innovations list (Government, education and NFP) last month.

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[Back to Top](#)

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### **Drunks order online**

Herald Sun, General News, 05/12/2023, Page 9

High-risk alcohol drinkers are using online delivery services to get drinks more often and are more frequently ordering same-day delivery to keep a session going, according to Australian researchers. They say the convenience of online delivery is perhaps undermining policy efforts to reduce drinking.

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

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### **Babies exposed to vapes as calls to poisons helpline spike**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/12/2023, Michael Genovese

Health experts have issued a stark warning to West Australian parents about the dangers of vaping products amid a spike in the number of calls to the poisons helpline, which include concerns over babies being exposed. The WA Poisons Information Centre has received 78 calls regarding babies and young children being exposed to e-cigarettes, liquid refills and their potentially deadly chemicals this year alone.

*Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#).*

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### **How calories and coercion do you harm — leading physicians on your healthy body and mind**

ABC Online, Other, 04/12/2023, Natasha Mitchell

Turning chronic disease into chronic health New research shows that 80 per cent of chronic diseases are driven by a common metabolic process and the risk of getting sick depends highly on your lifestyle. So how about flipping this correlation on its head.

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### **Meal kits are booming, but how do they stack up nutritionally?**

The New Daily, Other, 04/12/2023, Kylie Fraser, Alison Spence, Karen Campbell & Penny Love

For our new research we purchased a one-week subscription to nine Australian-based meal kit companies to access weekly recipes. Six companies provided their full week of recipes. The vegetable content of these recipes were analysed.

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[Back to Top](#)

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

## Food giant, research and super-sized profits

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 05/12/2023, Natasha Robinson & Liam Mendes, Page 1

A diet of Nestle meal replacement shakes has been endorsed by Australia's peak diabetes body as a key treatment to combat the disease following a study part-authored by a University of Sydney researcher who was previously a scientific adviser to the multinational food giant. [...] In endorsing the ultra low-calorie approach with shakes, Diabetes Australia said it was hoped the results would add to the growing body of evidence that type 2 diabetes can be put into remission.

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

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## Boost for cancer patients

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/12/2023, Sierra Haigh, Page 8

Alice Springs cancer patients will soon be able to access nurse counselling without leaving home for the first time. The Cancer Council NT has embedded an oncology nurse in the Alice Springs Hospital, the first time the role has been available in Central Australia.

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## Find offers hope for cancer treatment

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

Hunter researchers have made a discovery about a rare and deadly type of cancer that could lead to a new treatment and higher survival rate for older patients. The Hunter Medical Research Institute research team - Dr Danielle Bond, Dr Heather Lee and Dr Luiza Steffens Reinhardt - identified a leukaemia cell type that has high cholesterol production. .

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## Influencer's plea to Aussies after shock cancer diagnosis

The Australian, Other, 04/12/2023, Madeleine Achenza

Sydney-based influencer Katrina Chan has issued an urgent plea to young Australians to get their skin checked, after receiving her own shock cancer diagnosis. [...] There are still one in five Australians who have never done a self-check of their skin, yet two in three will be diagnosed with some form of skin cancer by the age of 70, according to the Cancer Council of Australia.

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

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## Asthma deaths up 32% amid fading COVID-19 effect

Australian Doctor, Other, 04/12/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

Asthma-related deaths increased from 355 to 467 in a year, said National Asthma Council Australia. Increased respiratory virus circulation and complacency around asthma management are driving a spike in asthma-related mortality, a leading GP says.

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## 'Screen all T2DM patients for fatty liver disease': incoming guidelines

Australian Doctor, Other, 04/12/2023, Sarah Simpkins

The new guidelines will also advise GPs to assess severity of liver disease before referring patients onto specialists. GPs could be advised to screen all adults with type 2 diabetes for metabolic dysfunction associated fatty liver disease from next year, a leading hepatologist says.

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## New resources to help people better manage arthritis

SBS, Other, 04/12/2023, Omoh Bello

There's a shortage of rheumatologists in Australia. And patients are saying they wish they had more readily available support on how to manage the condition to improve their quality of life.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### The Robin Hood fix for healthcare

Canberra Times, General News, 05/12/2023, Crispin Hull, Page 17

Axing the private healthcare rebate and stage three tax cuts can help Medicare get back on the right track. Media has been alive with comments about the Albanese government losing steam and even the possibility of Peter Dutton becoming prime minister.

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### VAD change to let people donate organs

Courier Mail, General News, 05/12/2023, Madura McCormack, Page 4

New guidelines will enable Queenslanders who choose voluntary assisted dying to donate their organs, if they wish. The change will make Queensland the second state after Victoria to allow those accessing VAD to donate their organs and tissues.

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

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### Wish upon a star & help our bubs

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 05/12/2023, Alexander Blain, Page 1

Celebrity make-up artist Tess Holmes has thrown her support behind Barwon Health Foundation's 2023 Wish Upon a Star Appeal. The foundation has set an ambitious goal to raise \$250,000 over the festive season, to help fund lifesaving and life-changing equipment needed for Geelong hospital.

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### Waiting pain: life on hold in the queue for hip operation

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 4

Kathleen Parsons lives with constant pain while waiting for a hip replacement in the public hospital system. She's on a 12-month waiting list for surgery and has faced challenges with her weight and mental state, on top of the pain.

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### Triage nurses 'don't have time' to check on patients, inquest told

Canberra Times, Other, 04/12/2023, Lanie Tindale

Triage nurses do not have time to check on patients in the waiting room, a Canberra Hospital nurse has told an inquest into the death of a five-year-old. The coronial inquest into the death of Rozalia Spadafora continued on Monday, December 4.

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### Attorney-General John Quigley: Ban on VAD via telehealth discriminates against Aboriginals, must be changed

West Australian, Other, 04/12/2023, Josh Zimmerman

A ban on doctors consulting their patients about voluntary assisted dying via telehealth discriminates against First Nations people who want to end their lives in remote WA, according to Attorney-General John Quigley. His comments come after VAD schemes operating in every State and Territory were dealt a major blow by a landmark Federal Court decision that ruled telehealth consultations about euthanasia were illegal.

Also reported by: [Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Aged Care Insite \(Online\)](#).

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### Long-in-the-tooth dental system needs 'massive overhaul' before it falls

apart

6PR, Other, 04/12/2023

The Dental Association of Australia is leaning on the Federal Government to bring about a "massive overhaul" of the national dental system, which they say is falling prey to growing inequality. ADA President Scott Davis told Gary Adshead on 6PR Mornings there are ever-increasing numbers of people avoiding dental check-ups because many can't afford it, even with insurance.

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

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## **Bridging Healthcare Gaps in Rural and Remote Australia: The Rural Locum Assistance Program's Impactful Journey**

Nursing Review, Other, 04/12/2023

In a vast and often isolated landscape of rural and remote Australia, healthcare professionals face a unique challenge: taking essential leave without disrupting the critical services they provide.

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## **Adelaide's new 24/7 pharmacy locations revealed**

The Mercury, Other, 04/12/2023, Douglas Smith

Three around-the-clock pharmacies are opening early next year in Adelaide, to reduce pressure on emergency departments. Here's where they are. South Australians living in Adelaide will soon have access to three 24/7, around-the-clock pharmacies the state government says will reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments.

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

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## **ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 04/12/2023, Stacey Lee and Nikolai Beilharz**

Interview with Penny Pratt, SA Shadow Minister for Regional Health Services, regarding regional health services in SA. Pratt says unless they see workforce incentives and outcomes as a result of an investment in regional SA, people will end up in those city hospitals putting pressure back on the system. She adds SA remains the only state without regional radiation therapy services.

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## **ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 04/12/2023, Stacey Lee and Nikolai Beilharz**

Interview with Chris Picton, SA Health Minister regarding work that is set to begin on Adelaide's new Women's and Children's Hospital. Picton says they are announcing today plans for early works worth about \$300m that will be starting in early 2024 with the hospital car park to start in the second quarter. He adds they are also upgrading the Port Pirie Hospital as well and they got \$12m to upgrade the emergency department, which they know is a significant pressure point at that hospital as well.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **Screens take mental toll**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/12/2023, Page 3

More screen time and more exposure to content not tailored for children is associated with mental health problems in kindergarten-aged children, according to new research. A team from China's Shanghai Jiao Tong University team collected data on the amount and type of screen use for nearly 16,000 children aged three, five and six and compared this data with their mental health.

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

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## Shroom for diversity

Herald Sun, General News, 05/12/2023, Page 10

Australia's magic mushroom population contains greater genetic diversity than the world's commercially available shrooms, Australian researchers say. This diversity could be harnessed to breed "designer shrooms" as a potential mental health treatment.

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

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## Stress is an eye-opener

Courier Mail, General News, 05/12/2023, Page 8

Almost two in five (39 per cent) Aussies constantly or frequently battle to sleep. Stress and anxiety are the top reasons (53 per cent), according to Real Insurance's 2023 sleep report, while financial worries (42 per cent) and family concerns (36 per cent) also contribute.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).

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## Suicide Prevention Australia report shows mental-health decline amid cost-of-living crisis

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/12/2023, Jami Roberts

The mental health of people earning as much as \$150,000 a year has sharply declined as the cost-of-living crisis continues to bite, shock new data reveals. Suicide Prevention Australia's 2023 study of 1035 adults found the stress gap has tripled between working middle-aged and retired Australians since December 2022, from 11 per cent to 33 per cent.

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

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## Radio National, AM, 04/12/2023, Sabra Lane

Report on mental health insurance discrimination. Mental health advocates are warning laws that allow insurers to discriminate on mental health grounds are causing people to avoid seeking help and are out of step with community expectations.

Report continues on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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## Radio National, Breakfast, 04/12/2023, Patricia Karvelas / Hamish Macdonald

Mental health support service Beyondblue says insurance companies need to create better policies for people living with mental health conditions. Beyondblue wants the financial regulator to be able to investigate breaches within the insurance industry.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Count the babies win: Queensland to introduce midwifery ratios

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 04/12/2023, Anmj Staff

After years of campaigning by the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) to have babies counted as separate patients on postnatal maternity wards, the state government has committed to

introducing landmark minimum midwife-to-patient ratios across public hospitals. The move, made possible by changes to the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No.2) 2023, will establish a ratio of one midwife to every six patients, and importantly will count babies as a separate patient when they are staying in the same hospital room as their birth parent.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Breaking point for health workers

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/12/2023, Laura Banks, Page 1

Eight nurses have taken their lives and nearly 2000 NSW Health workers have lodged compensation claims for psychological injuries over the past two years, data reveals. More than 33,500 NSW Health employees have claimed they are burnt out, while 21,000 workers say they have witnessed bullying in the workplace.

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### Funding snub for medical places

Cairns Post, General News, 05/12/2023, Peter Carruthers, Page 3

Cairns has missed out on a share of a fresh round of \$90m to provide Commonwealth Supported Places for medicine students. The federal government on Monday announced an extra 160 medical student places in regional communities in Victoria, WA, Tasmania, New South Wales and Rockhampton.

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

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### \$83m building blitz for uni

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/12/2023, Michael Parris, Page 6

University of Newcastle has launched construction of its new \$63.8 million Central Coast Campus and started a \$19.4 million overhaul of its nursing school at Callaghan. The Central Coast Campus at Gosford is likely to offer greater choice in business, education and social work degrees and pathway programs when it opens in 2025.

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### Medical students boosting workforce on the frontline

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/12/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

Medical students are being paid to gain work experience in Hunter hospitals and aged care in a NSW government bid to boost the medical workforce. The government dubbed the move "an Australian-first initiative to boost hospital staff and provide medical students with invaluable paid experience".

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

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### Former TGA head joins Medicines Australia board

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 04/12/2023, Ajp Staff

Pharmaceutical peak body appoints Prof John Skerritt as independent selected director. Professor John Skerritt, who headed the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for ten years, has joined the board of pharmaceutical industry peak body Medicines Australia (MA) as a independent selected director roles.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Clinic's data breach reminder to bolster security

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/12/2023

The personal details of more than 5000 patients may have been compromised' after a Brisbane medical centre's email account was breached. The health sector remains the highest-reporting industry for data breaches, with 63 reported in the first six months of this year.

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[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Nurse cops 1-year ban

West Australian, General News, 05/12/2023, Page 14

A registered nurse who stole medical supplies from a hospital at the height of the coronavirus pandemic has been banned from practising for a year. Selvarani Burwood was a clinical nurse facilitator at Osborne Park Hospital when she convinced three students to help her steal personal protective equipment from the facility between March 4 and 6, 2020.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Life-saving overdose reversal drug to be more widely available, but advocates say they're 'celebrating crumbs'

ABC Online, Other, 04/12/2023

Victorians will be able to get an opioid overdose-reversal drug directly from addiction support services at no cost from this week, in a move advocates say is long overdue. More than one person every day dies of an opioid-related overdose in Victoria, according to the Coroners Court.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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### Warning over 2030 hepatitis C elimination target

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/12/2023

Australia requires further interventions to end the threat posed by the virus, public health experts have said. The number of treatments started for hepatitis C has fallen significantly in recent years.

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### Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 04/12/2023, Laura Jayes

Interview with Ryan Park, NSW Health Minister, on vaping. Park says it's the biggest public health challenge that he thinks they face at the moment. He adds it's something that he is concerned about, and he supports the Federal Government legislation to essentially ban the importation of vapes to make sure that they completely rule them out, except under a very strict smoking cessation model.

## SPORT

### Amazon snaps up key cricket rights

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 05/12/2023, Zoe Samios, Page 16

Some of the world's biggest cricket tournaments will sit behind a paywall from next year after Amazon Prime Video signed an exclusive local deal with the sport's governing body.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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### It'll send us broke

Courier Mail, General News, 05/12/2023, Robert Craddock & Hayden Johnson, Page 1

Test star Usman Khawaja fears Queensland Cricket could go broke within four years unless Anastacia Palaszczuk's government honours a handshake agreement to help with the huge cost of displacement during the Gabba redevelopment for the 2032 Games. Queensland Cricket has been asked to pitch in a portion of the \$91m needed to redevelop the RNA Showgrounds for cricket and Australian rules football during the four years from 2025 when the Gabba is out of action.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).

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### Keep the Open in Sydney and play on regardless

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/12/2023, Paul Nicolaou, Page 37

All who support our city's reputation for big events should be alarmed that we could lose the Australian Open Golf tournament to Melbourne. Sydney should fight like hell to stop this wonderful event on the international sports calendar going south along with its economic benefits.

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### Games boss cops Coast call

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 05/12/2023, Andrew Potts, Page 4

The Commonwealth Games Australia boss says he "understands" why Mayor Tom Tate pulled the pin on the Gold Coast's bid to host the 2026-27 Games. Mr Tate said on Monday morning he was abandoning the push, citing a lack of support from the state or federal governments.

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

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### Channel 9, Today, 04/12/2023, David Campbell, Sylvia Jeffreys, Lara Vella

Queensland won't be saving the Commonwealth Games after all. The Gold Coast is scrapping its \$700m bid to host after Vic made the shock announcement to pull out in July. Failing to gather support from the state and federal governments, the Gold Coast Mayor says their vision for the Games doesn't align.

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[Back to Top](#)



## Liver cancer cell hunt

Herald Sun, General News, 05/12/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 10

A world-first Melbourne project is on the hunt for liver cancer's mystery "cell of origin" as new data reveal the disease's mortality rate has climbed. Victorian Cancer Registry statistics show the liver cancer mortality rate has risen by 190 per cent in four decades.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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## Doctor facing 'certain death' does unthinkable

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/12/2023, Brielle Burns

Professor Richard Scolyer had earned a reputation as a world leading pathologist when he was diagnosed with an incurable brain tumour in June. The 56-year-old, who has been recognised for his pioneering melanoma research, knew the cancer diagnosis meant "certain death".

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

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[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Funding to save lives

Courier Mail, General News, 05/12/2023, Page 4

A suicide prevention pilot program aimed at queer First Nations Queenslanders will be expanded to six more areas under a nearly \$1m state government boost. The funding will go to the Queensland Council for LGBTI Health to deliver the Yarns Heal and Talking Heals pilot programs into the six locations within the state's South East, the Torres and Cape, the Western Corridor and the Central Coast.

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### Indigenous kids all ears

Herald Sun, General News, 05/12/2023, Page 2

The number of First Nations children in Australia with an ear or hearing problem nearly halved from 2001 to 2018-19, according to a report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The report, which looked at hearing problems in children aged 0-14, says the rate is down from 11 per cent in 2001 to 6.9 per cent by 2019.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#)

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### ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 04/12/2023, Jo Laverty

A national report into the ear health of First Nations children has found rates of preventable ear and hearing problems are excessive. More than 6000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged under 14 underwent ear-related hospital procedures between 2020 and 2022. Of those, 90% were found to have a middle ear disease while 40% of First Nations children living in remote areas are diagnosed with recorded hearing loss. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Jo Baker says it's important people are educated about ear health.

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[Back to Top](#)

## Permacrisis: Spurrier's climate call

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/12/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 1

South Australia faces a state of "permacrisis" as climate change fuels back-to-back disasters, the emergence of new diseases and exacerbation of chronic conditions leading to ramping, chief public health officer Professor Nicola Spurrier warns. In her biennial report on the state of public health, she calls climate change "the most significant global threat to human health".

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

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## Earth is running a fever 'and it's contagious'

Canberra Times, International News, 05/12/2023, Page 13

With Planet Earth running a fever, United Nations climate talks have raised the spotlight on the contagious effects on human health. Under a brown haze over Dubai, the COP28 summit moved past two days of lofty rhetoric and calls for unity from top leaders to concerns about health issues like the deaths of at least seven million people globally from air pollution each year and the spread of diseases like cholera and malaria as global warming upends weather systems.

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

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## Engineered stone query

Herald Sun, General News, 05/12/2023, Page 7

Australian researchers have found that it may not just be the quartz, or silica, in engineered stone that is causing the lung disease silicosis, raising questions about the safety of alternative products. Researchers at the universities of Adelaide and Tasmania found that aluminium and cobalt in the engineered stone were associated with cell toxicity.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 04/12/2023, Mark Ferguson

The NSW Government's new crackdown on deadly silica dust is catching those ignoring the laws. NSW Work Health and Safety Minister Sophie Cotsis says inspectors are now targeting building sites without warning, such as construction, excavation, tunnelling, demolition and installation sites. Cotsis says 25% of workers are contracting silicosis and people are still doing the wrong thing.

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[Back to Top](#)

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