



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 22nd December 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Queensland hospital workers have been advised to wear masks as the state leads the nation in a new Covid-19 wave, with 322 people in hospital with Covid.
- **[Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that Chief Psychiatrist Dr John Brayley has stated a review will be conducted into the release of Shaun Michaels Dunk from the Urgent Mental Health Care Centre hours before he murdered Julie Seed.
- **[Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports that a \$70m High Performance Centre will be built on Rosny Parklands as part of the requirements to establish a Tasmanian AFL team.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 2) reports that an increasing number of non-smokers are being diagnosed with lung cancer due to pollution and workplace exposure to silica dust, asbestos and dust.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 4) reports that Cricket Australia and the ICC have banned Usman Khawaja from wearing shoes with human right slogans written on them at the Boxing Day Test match.

- [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 5) reports that the Department of Health's Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2022 results found that smoking rates rose to 15 per cent, and only 35 per cent of Tasmanians met the recommended daily fruit intake.
- [The Australian Financial Review](#) (page 6) reports that medical experts have warned of potential user error and degradation in replica versions of the diabetes drug Ozempic being sold at pharmacies across Australia.

MINISTER BUTLER

Disappointing Christmas for key mental health services

Canberra Times, General News, 22/12/2023, Marjorie Collins & Caroline Hunt, Page 48

The week before Christmas 2022, Health Minister Mark Butler announced to the shock of many, even those in government, a cut to Medicare's Better Access rebated psychology sessions from 20 to 10 sessions. There was an outcry as clinical trials show more than 10 sessions are needed to properly treat most mental health conditions.

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

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Royal Far West Children's Health bushfire recovery program 'needs funding'

Northern Territory News, Other, 21/12/2023, Tom McGann

A south coast program aimed at helping children from bushfire-ravaged areas move past the mental trauma could come to an end if essential funding is not secured. [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler was contacted for comment on whether the grant would be considered.

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

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Youth workers say support needed for withdrawal, mental health issues after national vape ban

ABC Online, Other, 21/12/2023, Keira Proust

Lani Pomare is worried that symptoms of vape withdrawals will escalate next year. [...] Extra measures rolling out from next year In a statement, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was committed to stamping out vaping.

[Read More](#)

ABC Coffs Coast, Breakfast, 21/12/2023, Fiona Poole

Report on new national bans that will come into force, which the Federal Government says is going to make it a lot harder for people to get certain types of vape. However, some experts and professionals are a little worried that there could be an increase in anti-social behaviour and violence amongst younger people when that happens. According to, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, the government is committed to stamping out vaping. The Federal Government has committed nearly \$30m over four years to deliver specialised programs, including an online hub that contains tools and resources to help people quit vaping.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Drive, 21/12/2023, Peter Gleeson

Gleeson says about 3500 Australian men die each year from prostate cancer and 1 in 55 men in Australia will die from prostate cancer before the age of 85. He adds Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is abolishing the yearly free PSA test, making it free every two years and that decision is a scandal because it will cost lives.

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MINISTER WELLS

Hope Aged Care lags in ratings

Swan Hill Guardian, General News, 22/12/2023, Page 3

Swan Hill's Hope Aged Care has been listed as one of 11 aged care facilities in Victoria as needing improvements based on the government's latest star ratings. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the data had shown a significant lift in the standard of aged care across the country.

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Waiting game no fun at all

Mudgee Guardian & Gulgong Advertiser, General News, 22/12/2023, Cheryl Field, Page 11

Senior life 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.

Also reported by: [North West Star \(Mount Isa\)](#), [Macleay Argus \(Kempsey\)](#), [Ararat Advertiser \(Ararat\)](#), [Mudgee Guardian & Gulgong Advertiser \(Mudgee\)](#).

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Aged care homes reaching for the stars

CathNews, Other, 21/12/2023, Mikala Theocharous

The latest star ratings show a sizeable improvement in the quality of aged care homes across the country, according to government data. [...] "One year on and star ratings data show the Albanese Government is delivering its promise to lift the standard of aged care in Australia," said the Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, in a statement.

[Read More](#)

Quality of aged care homes soars across the nation in remarkable improvement

Starts at 60, Other, 21/12/2023, Matthew Hart

Australia's aged care sector is witnessing a remarkable improvement in the quality of care provided to older Australians, as revealed by the latest data from the Aged Care Star Ratings system. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the introduction of the Aged Care Rating System is "proving valuable" for the aged care sector.

[Read More](#)

Usman Khawaja charged by ICC over Palestine protest in Australia Test

The Guardian, Other, 22/12/2023, Jack Snape

Australian batter Usman Khawaja has been charged by the ICC for wearing a black armband in the first Test against Pakistan, in support of people in Gaza. [...] Khawaja's right to express his views was supported by the Australian sport minister Anika Wells.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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DEPARTMENT

In Practice: 1 January MBS changes

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/12/2023

The new year will bring changes to Medicare Safety Net and smoking cessation MBS items. [...] General practice survey The Department of Health and Aged Care (DoH) is seeking feedback from GPs via an online survey to measure the impact of Strengthening Medicare reforms.

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Mental health support on the way

Star Community, Other, 21/12/2023, Emma Xerri

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) are moving forward with cautious optimism after good news that the CMHA has welcomed the recommendation for foundational community-based mental health and psychosocial support outside of the NDIS, which will be implemented with 50:50 funding from the National Cabinet. [...] "Clearly alternative pathways are needed to channel future demand and to help meet the massive gap that is being revealed in the current national assessment of unmet need being commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

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NBN Lismore, NBN News, 21/12/2023, Natasha Beyersdorf and Gavin Morris

Residents of Feros Care Byron Bay are celebrating their triumph, winning the battle to stay in their homes. New providers are scheduled to take over the facility next month. The facility was set to close earlier this year after it was deemed to no longer meet modern requirements. But last week, the residents got a letter acknowledging that officially relinquished their bed licenses back to the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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CORONAVIRUS

Masks back in hospitals

Courier Mail, General News, 22/12/2023, Taylah Fellows, Page 1

Hospital workers have been advised to wear masks amid a nation-leading spike in respiratory illness cases in Queensland. There are currently 322 people in Queensland hospitals with Covid about 100 more than NSW and chief health officer Dr John Gerrard said children's hospitals were reporting "significant numbers" of a bacterial infections, which can turn into pneumonia.

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

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Risk from new COVID strain likely low

Daily Advertiser, General News, 22/12/2023, Page 3

Coronavirus variant jn.1 has been classified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a "variant of interest" but experts say the public risk is low. The new strain, first detected in the US in September, is a related subvariant of Pirola.

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

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Surge in Queensland respiratory illness prompts warning to stay away from older relatives

ABC Online, Other, 21/12/2023, Janelle Miles

Queensland has recorded more than 73,000 cases of influenza this year, significantly more than the 44,431 in 2022. Queensland is experiencing an unseasonal surge in respiratory infections, prompting Chief Health Officer John Gerrard to warn people with symptoms to stay away from elderly relatives during the festive season.

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GPs crucial to fighting future pandemics: RACGP

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/12/2023

The college is calling for recognition of GPs as frontline workers if a pandemic hits, while pleading with leaders to cut us some slack'. The RACGP says changes are needed to ensure Australia's most vulnerable populations have access to quality care during a pandemic.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care provider acts to rebuild trust

Burnie Advocate, General News, 22/12/2023, Helen Kempton, Page 7

The aged care provider which operates Somerset's Yaraandoo Hostel has entered into a deal with the aged sector's watchdog as part of its "process of renewal." Southern Cross Care Tasmania has entered into a voluntary enforceable undertaking with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission with the aim to improve workplace culture, strengthen governance and provide quality care for its residents.

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Agency rates Illawarra's aged care providers on performance

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 22/12/2023, Natalie Croxon, Page 9

Performance ratings of aged care homes show Illawarra providers all rank between acceptable and good, although staffing levels are an especially common problem as a workforce shortage continues to grip the sector. The ratings, determined by federal government agency My Aged Care, show all providers in the region scored three or four stars out of a possible five for their overall ratings.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#)

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In-house dental clinic helps elderly Kalgoorlie-Boulder residents receive oral health care

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 21/12/2023, Carwyn Monck

Elderly residents at Southern Cross Care's Victoria Park Nursing Home received a dental check-up on Wednesday afternoon. Goldfields Family Dental treated three patients at the Kalgoorlie-Boulder nursing home's in-house dental clinic.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Warning call ahead of deadly drowning week

Canberra Times, General News, 22/12/2023, Anna McGuinness, Page 10

Lifeguards have issued an urgent water safety warning as Australia nears the deadliest week for drownings. A quarter of drownings during the 2022-23 summer happened in the week from Christmas Day to New Year's Day, according to Royal Life Saving Australia.

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

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

Smoking, obesity on rise

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/12/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 5

The latest triennial Tasmanian health survey has revealed we are smoking more, slowly gaining weight and eating less fruit and vegetables, but overall pretty happy with our lot in life. The Department of Health's Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2022 results were released on Thursday.

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

Nationwide schools survey reveals increase in teens susceptible to smoking, confirms big rise in vaping

West Australian, Other, 21/12/2023, Bethany Hiatt

High school-age kids are showing renewed interest in taking up smoking tobacco for the first time in 30 years. Results of a major survey have not only confirmed rapid uptake of vaping by teens aged 12 to 17 in the past five years, but they paint a worrying picture of increased susceptibility to smoking.

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'We need to intervene': landmark vaping study shows increased uptake among teenagers ahead of reforms

The Guardian, Other, 21/12/2023, Melissa Davey

The number of students in years 7 through to 12 who have vaped in the past month has almost quadrupled in the past five years, data from the latest Australian secondary students' alcohol and drug survey shows. [...] Higher proportions of female students and older students reported ever vaping, past month vaping, regular vaping and daily vaping.

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Following the Med diet can boost women's chances of having a baby

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/12/2023, Xantha Leatham

When it comes to trying for a baby, there are plenty of tips and tricks that promise to boost the chances of conceiving. But rather than turning to supplements, women going through IVF should adopt the Mediterranean diet to improve their chances of having a baby, according to an expert.

[Read More](#)

STI rise is Wagga's reminder to keep your 'gift' wrapped at Christmas

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 21/12/2023, Dan Holmes

Public health experts are concerned about a (STIs) over the last 10 years. Research from released on Monday show Australian diagnoses of gonorrhoea have doubled, while diagnoses of syphilis have tripled.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 20/12/2023, Kathryn Robinson

Well, there are calls in Victoria from an urgent review of e-scooter safety. Frustrated doctors say the current playing field places an unacceptable burden on the state's health system. A new study has

found treating badly injured e-scooter users, who are usually riding drunk or without a helmet, cost one hospital nearly \$2 million last year.

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Radio National, Life Matters, 21/12/2023, Hilary Harper and Michael Mackenzie

Incoming new national vape bans could see a decline in youth mental health, according to some health professionals. Single-use vapes will be banned across Australia from January, and refillable non-therapeutic vapes will be banned from March. Australian Psychological Society President Catriona Davis-McCabe says while it's the right decision, the bans could lead to more young people relying on health and community services.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

\$10m injection for sun-smart start-up

The Australian, Business News, 22/12/2023, Joseph Lam, Page 16

A clothing brand founded by a former investment banker who spent 10 years in London has raised \$10m to pursue a dream of tackling skin cancer. Melbourne-based Solbari has received a \$10m shot in the arm from Australian Business Growth Fund, which is looking to help grow the wholesale side of the business.

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

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How a jogging fall helped save Andrew from cancer

Age, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 22/12/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 2

Increasing numbers of non-smokers are being diagnosed with lung cancer, writes Henrietta Cook. When Gavin Wright became a surgeon 22 years ago, it was unusual for him to encounter lung cancer patients who had never smoked.

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Traffic noise takes big toll

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/12/2023, Page 12

Sydney residents living on the city's busiest roads should be worried by more than just loud traffic noise keeping them awake, new research suggests. First-of-its-kind data has shown excessive road noise can have negative effects on heart health and increase the risk of stroke.

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

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Cholesterol sticks to you

Herald Sun, General News, 22/12/2023, Page 15

Having high cholesterol or high blood pressure before the age of 55 increases your risk of heart disease in later life even if you're eventually able to lower your levels according to Australian and international research. The George Institute for Global Health, the University of NSW and the University of Sydney team analysed the lifetime cholesterol levels in about 135,000 people, blood pressure in a further 135,000 people and their subsequent risk of heart disease.

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

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Cancer experts concerned as rate of diagnoses drops in major state

The number of people being diagnosed with cancer in Victoria has dramatically dropped, causing alarm among experts that Aussies are living with the disease unnoticed. Recent statistics from the Victorian Cancer Council saw an unprecedented decline in reported diagnoses of cancer when compared to what was expected for 2022.

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PRIMARY CARE

GP plea answered

Border Watch, General News, 22/12/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

An agreement between medical professionals and the state government to bring more general practitioners to the Limestone Coast has been celebrated. [...] Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton said he wanted to thank the AMA and the Rural Doctors Association for the "collaborative nature" of the negotiation.

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Emergency wait times at least 4 hours

Burnie Advocate, General News, 22/12/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 10

A minimum four-hour wait in Tasmanian hospital emergency departments is likely, according to new data. Latest government health figures show that one in two people who present at emergency departments will wait at least four hours to be seen.

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

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New technology has skipper back on his feet

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 22/12/2023, madeline grace, Page 7

A Noosa man has learned to walk again after losing his leg last year when he was hit by a car on the way to an interview for his dream job. Twelve months ago, retiree Wes Raddysh lost his right leg when hit by a car at Tewantin, on the way to a job interview with Noosa Ferry and Cruises.

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Outpatients still facing long waits in ACT health system

Canberra Times, Other, 21/12/2023, Lucy Bladen

Canberrans needing to access outpatient appointments in areas including general surgery, cardiology and gastroenterology are being faced with longer waits despite efforts to tackle waiting lists. There were more than 35,000 on the wait list at the end of October with waiting periods of more than four years in some specialties.

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Paramedics plead with Victorians not to use them as taxis

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/12/2023, Sarah Booth

Paramedics say Victorians with minor ailments — including conjunctivitis — have been told by some GPs to call triple-0 in the mistaken belief they will skip emergency department queues. [...] Royal Australian College of General Practitioners president Dr Nicole Higgins said she would be "very surprised" by GPs giving this advice, but the college does not have visibility over "every single" GP's actions and triple-0 should be for "emergencies only".

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 21/12/2023, Monique Wright and Matt Shirvington

Paramedics in Victoria are asking people not to use them as taxis for minor ailments, with the Victorian Ambulance Union saying some people are ringing 000 after GP visits. They're doing so under the belief

they'll skip emergency department queues.

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Channel 9, Today, 21/12/2023, David Campbell, Sylvia Jeffreys, Lara Vella

Victorians are being warned ambulances are not taxis amid a growing number of unnecessary 000 calls in hopes of skipping emergency department queues.

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Channel 9, Today, 21/12/2023, David Campbell, Sylvia Jeffreys, Lara Vella

Qld Ambulance drivers are furious at being told to bypass the emergency department at Brisbane's Mater Hospital. According to a report in the Courier-Mail, an insider claims patients have been waiting up to 60 hours, with a hospital spokesperson putting it down to the closure of two wards for maintenance.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Why was he free

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/12/2023, Riley Walter, Page 1

The man who allegedly murdered an Adelaide mother in her workplace was released from a government-funded mental health unit just hours earlier. Police and the fiance of victim Julie Seed say the tragedy is a failure of the mental health system.

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

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What's an inpatient treatment order and how do they work?

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/12/2023, Page 8

An Inpatient Treatment Order is the legal way of giving a person treatment against their will when they have a mental illness and are at risk. Under the Mental Health Act 2009, an order can only be made when there are no less restrictive ways of ensuring a person gets appropriate treatment.

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We must be united to battle loneliness

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/12/2023, Nieves Murray & Colin Seery, Page 23

A head of Christmas, we encourage Australians to take time out to plan for how they will cope with challenges over the coming weeks and consider whether they, or someone they know, might need additional support. With technological advancements we are now more connected than ever and, ironically, data is pointing to a loneliness epidemic.

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Smart phones make us daft

Herald Sun, General News, 22/12/2023, Kirrily Schwarz, Page 16

Smartphone use has been blamed for a huge 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.

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

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Headspace to remain open

Border Watch, General News, 22/12/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 4

Mental health services will still be available over the Christmas and New Year period with headspace Mount Gambier continuing its Talk Soon program. Those in need will be able to call or walk into the local headspace office and receive support on the spot.

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SA chief psychiatrists reveals 15 per cent surge in Inpatient Treatment Orders

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/12/2023, Brad Crouch

Restraining treatment orders for dangerous mental health patients have soared by 1665 cases across six years to almost 13,000 last financial year, as the health system buckles under demand. Chief Psychiatrist Dr John Brayley's annual report released last month shows Inpatient Treatment Orders, where mental health patients can be held in treatment centres and treated against their will due to safety concerns, are rocketing.

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

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'I feared for my life': three women in mental distress say they were further traumatised by NSW police

The Guardian, Other, 21/12/2023, Catie Mcleod

During the first Covid-19 lockdown in April 2020, Jane* said she had an adverse reaction to a new ADHD medication and "ended up having a manic episode". She claims she was experiencing domestic violence at home and ran out on the street in Sydney's inner west naked to get help. She was "really scared and confused".

[Read More](#)

The groundbreaking app helping young Australians reduce anxiety and depression

3AW, Other, 21/12/2023

A new study has found a groundbreaking app made in Melbourne that tackles "stuck thinking" for young people helps reduce anxiety and depression symptoms for 80 per cent of users. The app is called "Mello" and it's made by scientists and researchers at Orygen Digital in Parkville to help the 1.3 million young Australians living with depression and anxiety.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 21/12/2023, Monique Wright and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Dr Tanveer Ahmed, psychiatrist, on being manipulated using psychological means, leading people to question their sanity or even their memory, intelligence or self-worth. Around 37% of Australians have experienced emotional abuse since the age of 15. Ahmed says gaslighting is another version of coercive control and it's a type of emotional abuse over a long period.

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3AW, Breakfast, 21/12/2023, Ross Stevenson and Russel Howcroft

Interview with Dr Imogen Bell, Psychologist and Research Fellow, Orygen Youth Mental Health, a new evidence-based tool called Mello that aims to help improve the quality of life of 1.3 million young Australians living with anxiety or depression. It is the first-of-its-kind smartphone app that has been shown to reduce anxiety and depression by targeting stuck thinking. Bell says when people spend too much time going over and over negative thoughts in their minds, it can become consuming and unhelpful.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Super lupe

Herald Sun, General News, 22/12/2023, Lily Mccaffrey, Page 1

Little Lupe is one of Victoria's smallest surviving babies, and one of the most determined. Born when her mum was less than 23 weeks into her pregnancy measuring not much bigger than her hand the tiny battler spent 135 days in intensive care at the Royal Women's Hospital, only coming home last week.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nurses and midwives switching from permanent roles to agency work for better pay, flexibility

ABC Online, Other, 21/12/2023, Jack Hislop

Emma Stodart is part of a growing trend of registered nurses moving away from permanent employment in Australia's hospitals. The 33-year-old — and many of her peers — are instead quitting, to take temporary contracts facilitated through workforce agencies.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Deliveries reaching more flood-affected pharmacies

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 21/12/2023

The National Pharmaceutical Services Association (NPSA), which represents Community Service Obligation wholesalers is reporting that distributors are getting medical supplies through to a growing number of pharmacies in flood-affected areas.

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No barriers, Pharmacy Board confirms

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 21/12/2023

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) has reconfirmed its 2019 position statement on pharmacist prescribing, maintaining it has no regulatory barriers in place for pharmacists to participate in public health initiatives approved by states and territories. The update was issued in light of the numerous changes to state and territory medicines and poisons legislation in the years since, which have resulted in increased public access to health services delivered by pharmacists, including administering a wider range of vaccines and supplying medications that do not require prescriptions.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Banned 'psychologist' still involved in counselling services in NSW

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 21/12/2023, Angus Thomson

A man barred from providing health services in NSW continues to run counselling clinics in Sydney, Melbourne and the UK despite having no formal qualifications and a conviction for fraud. The NSW Health Care Complaints Commission issued a statement on Wednesday warning it is "not safe to receive any counselling or health services from Mr David Kaye" after members of the public tipped them off to his involvement with a Sydney-based clinic.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Action on addiction support service gaps

Launceston Examiner, General News, 22/12/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 9

Individuals with addiction issues are now being supported to detox in their own homes, which is one of many improvements being made in the alcohol and drug sector. Tasmania Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council has pointed to a need for the community to get more involved in alcohol policy, and highlighted gaps in harm-prevention.

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High seize: The battle of wits to stop drugs slipping into our jails

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 21/12/2023, Cloe Read

Behind the razor wire of a high-security prison about an hour north of Brisbane, an inmate waits. There, at Woodford Correctional Centre, a drone buzzes overhead.

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Groundbreaking research shows stark gender divide in drug deaths

Canberra Times, Other, 21/12/2023, Steve Evans

Young men are the most likely to die after using drugs at music festivals. Young women may just be too sensible to overdose, according to one of the country's leading experts who is a Canberra doctor and academic.

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SPORT

Khawaja defiant despite new ban

The Australian, General News, 22/12/2023, Peter Lalor, Page 4

Usman Khawaja has been banned from a human rights protest on his shoes at the Boxing Day Test after a series of meetings with Cricket Australia in recent days but has resolved not to back down, arguing "nothing worthwhile is easy". The Australian revealed ahead of the first game against Pakistan that Khawaja planned to wear shoes with the words "all lives are equal" and "freedom is a human right".

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

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Power move to Radford

Canberra Times, Sport, 22/12/2023, Melanie Dinjaski, Page 64

The Canberra Capitals have been forced into a game-day scramble to find a new venue, shifting their game from the National Convention Centre to Radford College in a move which further exposes the AIS Arena closure. In what will go down as an embarrassing moment for the ACT and federal

governments, the most successful team in WNBL history played a professional match in a school gym on Thursday night.

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A punt on rosny

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/12/2023, James Bresnehan, Page 1

Tasmania's AFL team will kick a huge goal in its evolution on Friday, when dual sites at Rosny are announced as the location for the club's \$70m High Performance Centre. The competition to win the state-of-the-art facility came down to Clarence City Council and Kingborough Council, which each submitted outstanding proposals to host the home of the AFL's expansion team.

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

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Talented sports stars given funding to help cover travel costs

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 22/12/2023, Ben Loughran, Page 2

An aspiring Matilda, state representatives and potential Olympians were among the handful of Bendigo's best and brightest upcoming sports people presented with grants to help them achieve their dreams. Bendigo's Federal member Lisa Chesters presented the grants on December 19 to help the young people with travel, accommodation or equipment for their respective sports.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No drugs in sport deaths

Herald Sun, General News, 22/12/2023, Page 17

People who die from sports-related sudden cardiac death are less likely to have drugs in their system than those who have a sudden cardiac death that isn't sports-related, according to Australian and international researchers. The team from the University of Sydney, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute and University Hospital-Rigshospitalet in Denmark compared the toxicology findings for 219 sports-related deaths and 2970 other sudden cardiac deaths.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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Premis thriving as adults: study

Herald Sun, General News, 22/12/2023, Robyn Riley & Lily Mccaffrey, Page 9

A unique study of babies born extremely prematurely has found these littlest Victorians are thriving as young adults. All born under 28 weeks' gestation, they are part of the Victorian Infant Collaborative Study, one of the world's longest-running research programs involving such premature babies.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY

Asbestos fears not enough for WorkSafe

West Australian, Business News, 22/12/2023, Adrian Rauso, Page 40

WA's workplace health and safety regulator will not increase its scrutiny of CITIC Pacific Mining's Sino Iron magnetite mine, despite fears the Chinese-run operation in the Pilbara has been potentially exposing thousands of workers to deadly asbestos. On Tuesday, The West Australian revealed concerns at Sino Iron regarding the lack of adequate asbestos decontamination procedures for workers, given the high risk of exposure at the mine.

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Victorian parents warned as gastro-like cases emerge in public swimming pools

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/12/2023, Alexandra Feiam

The Victorian government has warned parents of a spike in gastro -like cases linked to public swimming pools after people reportedly swam while infected. Days before Christmas, an alert was issued by Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Dr Clare Looker, that cases of a gastro-like infection, cryptosporidiosis (crypto), are on the rise.

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

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Queensland Health sees spike in respiratory infections ahead of Christmas

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/12/2023, Aisling Brennan

Aussies are being urged to practice good hygiene over the festive season, as one state battles an unseasonal increase in respiratory infections. There are currently 322 patients in Queensland hospitals with COVID-19 and 66 patients in hospital with influenza, according to Queensland Health.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 7, Seven News, 21/12/2023, Katrina Blowers

A sudden and significant surge in COVID-19, flu and pneumonia cases is sweeping Qld. It has prompted a warning from the Qld Chief Health Officer as hospitalisations increase. Also making the rounds in the community is mycoplasma infection, a contagious form of pneumonia that affects all age groups. The unseasonal spread of infection is being put down to seasonal festivities, including Christmas gatherings and interstate and overseas travel.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 21/12/2023, Melissa Downes

Queenslanders are being given a holiday health warning with a wave of illnesses sweeping the state. Hospitals now reporting a surge in not only COVID patients but also young children with infections. Right now, there are 322 patients in hospital with COVID-19, more than 60 Queenslanders hospitalised with influenza and the number of children with mycoplasma pneumonia has tripled since November.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Ozempic replica prone to user error

The pharmacies and start-ups selling a replica version of Ozempic face a little-known problem: experts say the way the faux version is delivered leaves it prone to user error and possible degradation.

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How to choose the right sunscreen

Herald Sun, General News, 22/12/2023, Holly Berckelman, Page 55

By mid-December, most Australians will have already felt the full effects of our country's glorious summers. [...] In Australia, the TGA heavily regulates sunscreen marketing, packaging and formulation, which makes our sunscreens the gold standard across the world.

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RHH \$22 million pharmacy

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 21/12/2023

A multimillion-dollar pharmacy redevelopment project has kicked off at Tasmania's Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) to deliver a state-of-the-art hospital pharmacy, including sterile pharmaceutical production facilities. [...] . The pharmacy, which will be constructed on the site of the existing statewide pharmacy and expand into the former Central Sterilising area, will also house Therapeutic Goods Administration accredited manufacturing facilities for jack jumper immunotherapy products for people with jack jumper ant venom allergies.

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