



# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 17th July 2024

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Cancer Council Victoria has called on the state government to ban junk food advertising from Melbourne's Metro Tunnel stations.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 3\)](#)** reports that new statistics from the ATO revealed that in 2021-22 616,903 people paid the Medicare Levy Surcharge, a 21 per cent increase from 508,535 who paid it in 2020-21.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 4\)](#)** reports that a coalition of 45 organisations including mental health groups Lifeline, headspace and the Black Dog Institute have written an open letter to Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride calling for the urgent release of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy as it could save lives.
- **[The Australian Financial Review \(page 8\)](#)** reports that discussions on aged care reform between the federal government and the opposition have reached a standstill over proposals to dramatically increase or remove lifetime contribution caps for aged care, and to impose fines and jail terms for directors.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 9\)](#)** reports that NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has criticised the federal government over failings in the NDIS and aged-care sector claiming patients waiting for

NDIS funding and aged-care shortages are straining emergency departments and increasing hospital wait times. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#)*

- **[The Herald Sun \(page 10\)](#)** reports that data from Ambulance Victoria shows over 100 paramedics have been assaulted and injured on the job in the past year and 398 reported "near misses" that involved verbal abuse and "aggressive behaviour".
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that documents obtained from the Department of Health and Aged Care under Freedom of Information laws have revealed some pathology companies made potentially "opportunistic" claims to bill extra flu and RSV tests to Medicare during the COVID pandemic. *Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia](#)*

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Government urged to act quicker to reduce suicides

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/07/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 4

The Albanese government is being accused of dragging its feet on a vital plan to reduce suicides, as more adults suffer high levels of distress amid the cost of living crisis. The nation's peak mental health groups including Lifeline, headspace and the Black Dog Institute, are uniting to demand the urgent release of the long-awaited National Suicide Prevention Strategy saying it could save people's lives. In an open letter to Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride, 45 organisations say their trust in government to deliver the 10-year road map has been broken.

*Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).*

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### Cancer drug hope provided

Plains Producer, General News, 17/07/2024, Jarrad Delaney, Page 5

For Australian children living with high-risk neuroblastoma, including a girl from Balaklava, access to an essential medicine has been made easier thanks to a funding commitment from the Federal Government. [...] However the Australian Government has provided support for children living with this disease, with Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler MP announcing last week until Norgine can establish its compassionate access scheme, interim funding will be provided to ensure major paediatric hospitals across the country can provide DFMO to all children with high-risk neuroblastoma for free.

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### New urgent care clinic decision pending

South Coast Register, General News, 17/07/2024, Glenn Ellard, Page 8

A decision on a new urgent care health clinic in the Shoalhaven is just days away. During an inspection of the Batemans Bay Medicare Urgent Care Clinic last week, South Eastern NSW Primary Health Network CEO Prudence Buist said the Health Department was examining tenders for a Shoalhaven clinic. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Gilmore MP Fiona Phillips were also part of the tour inspecting the clinic's facilities.

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### 'There are kids who relapse that need the help too'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/07/2024, Joel Erickson

"When the news came out my phone was blowing up because everyone was like, 'this is great news for Xavier'. [...] "It's not fair we have to fundraise all this money to give our kids the best outcome" Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced earlier this month that the drug DFMO would be available to sufferers of neuroblastoma.

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

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## Ozempic shortages to continue: Butler

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/07/2024

Shortages of Novo Nordisk's diabetes medication, Ozempic (semaglutide) are likely to continue into 2025, while hormone replacement patches could be resolved by September, Mark Butler the Minister for Health and Aged Care warns.

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## Gilead welcomes first regional CAR-T treatment centre in Far North Queensland

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 16/07/2024

Gilead has welcomed the opening of Australia's first regional CAR-T-cell treatment centre at the Townsville University Hospital (TUH) in Far North Queensland. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said, "The launch of CAR T-cell therapy in Townsville is a testament to what can be achieved through collaboration and investment in cutting-edge medical research.

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## Sugar tax call in national diabetes inquiry

In Daily, Other, 16/07/2024

There are calls for more government action to support Australians living with diabetes, after a National Inquiry released 23 recommendations including a levy on sugar-sweetened beverages. [...] "I think (Health) Minister Mark Butler should be looking closely at this and make us equal. He can do that with a stroke of a pen."

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## New RNA Blueprint set to guide medical manufacturing growth

Manufacturers Monthly, Other, 16/07/2024, Jack Lloyd and Aleksandr Matveev

The Federal Government has released Australia's RNA Blueprint to guide advanced medical manufacturing growth and help create more high-paying jobs. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, the hon Mark Butler, said the Government has committed to delivering a Future Made in Australia.

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## Vaping: prevalence, risks, and helping your teenager quit

SBS, Other, 16/07/2024, Zoe Thomaidou

Major regulatory changes in 2024 have brought about restricted access to vaping products in Australia. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, has described vaping as "major public health issue" and "the number one behavioural issue in many schools," which has created a " According to , one in three Australian secondary school students used e-cigarettes in 2022/2023.

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## Triple M The Border, 12:00 News, 16/07/2024

Several councils around the border at North East, are continuing their efforts to have a new hospital built on a greenfield site. Wodonga Council, among others, are set to table a report to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on the issue. Meanwhile, Wodonga Mayor Ron Mildren is set to ask the Victorian and New South Wales governments to pause redevelopment plans back at the Albury Base Hospital.

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## MINISTER WELLS

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### Government urged to act quicker to reduce suicides

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/07/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 4

The Albanese government is being accused of dragging its feet on a vital plan to reduce suicides, as more adults suffer high levels of distress amid the cost of living crisis. The nation's peak mental health groups including Lifeline, headspace and the Black Dog Institute, are uniting to demand the urgent release of the long-awaited National Suicide Prevention Strategy saying it could save people's lives. In an open letter to Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride, 45 organisations say their trust in government to deliver the 10-year road map has been broken.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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### Two cities, one community, two views on hospital

Border Mail, General News, 17/07/2024, Layton Holley, Page 3

Albury Council will not campaign for a greenfield site for the Border hospital despite Wodonga mayor Ron Mildren claiming the opposite.[...] It acknowledged Cr Mildren, Cr King, Indigo Mayor Sophie Price and Federation Mayor Pat Bourke, who, along with Indi MP Helen Haines, met with Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride in Canberra on July 5.

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

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### WIN Townsville, WIN News North Queensland, 16/07/2024, Sarah Cawte

A network of 19 new Medicare mental health centres is set to bolster Qld's care for regional patients. Federal Assistant Health Minister Emma McBride visited the site of the latest offering on the Sunshine Coast. McBride says the Australian Government knows there's increasing distress in communities, including in regional parts of Australia.

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### hit100.7 Darling Downs, 12:00 Local News, 16/07/2024

A new urgent care clinic in Toowoomba is already taking pressure off the emergency department, according to Federal Minister Emma McBride. The clinic in town gives another option to injured or unwell patients who can't wait for a GP appointment.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### Scholarships open for healthcare workers

Bunyip, General News, 17/07/2024, Page 9

Nurses and midwives working across the region and in Adelaide's northern suburbs could receive a handy boost towards the next steps in their careers as part of a Federal Government scholarship program. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said further study could have a significant and positive impact on the careers of healthcare workers.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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## DEPARTMENT

### **New urgent care clinic decision pending**

South Coast Register, General News, 17/07/2024, Glenn Ellard, Page 8

A decision on a new urgent care health clinic in the Shoalhaven is just days away. During an inspection of the Batemans Bay Medicare Urgent Care Clinic last week, South Eastern NSW Primary Health Network CEO Prudence Buist said the Health Department was examining tenders for a Shoalhaven clinic. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Gilmore MP Fiona Phillips were also part of the tour inspecting the clinic's facilities.

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### **Health department records show some pathology companies rorted Medicare during COVID pandemic, expert says**

ABC Online, Other, 16/07/2024, Alison Branley

Documents obtained under Freedom of Information laws show some pathology companies made potentially "opportunistic" claims to bill extra flu and RSV tests to Medicare during the pandemic. [...] One doctor claimed 21,000 tests in a single day, in breach of rules that doctors must clinically assess each case individually, according to documents obtained by the ABC after a three-year battle with the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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### **Aged care homes accused of 'short-changing' Australians as nearly two-thirds fail to meet care-minute targets**

The Guardian, Other, 17/07/2024, Stephanie Convery

Aged care homes should not be "short-changing" older people by making profits off government funding while falling short of mandatory care targets, advocates say, as pressure grows on the federal government to introduce the new Aged Care Act to parliament after repeated delays. [...] A spokesperson for the health and aged care department said it would continue to monitor care minutes and provider expenditure "closely" to ensure that care funding was used to meet care requirements.

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### **\$300,000 in fines for weight loss drugs advertising**

AdNews, Other, 16/07/2024

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued 21 infringement notices totaling \$319,260 for the alleged unlawful advertising of prescription-only medicines. [...] Department of health and aged care acting deputy secretary Nick Henderson said advertising prescription-only medicines directly to consumers is prohibited under the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.

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### **Conference to consider future of mission-led healthcare**

CathNews, Other, 16/07/2024, Rebecca Comini

Artificial intelligence expert Joel Pearson, motivational speaker and London bombing survivor Gill Hicks and health economist Stephen Duckett will speak at Catholic Health Australia's annual conference next month. Department of Health and Aged Care secretary Blair Comley and New South Wales deputy premier Prue Car are also among speakers for the conference, to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Sydney from August 26-28.

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### **How crooks cashed in on Covid with massive Medicare rorts - including one doctor who ordered a staggering 21,000 Covid tests in just ONE day**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/07/2024, David Southwell

Doctors and clinic operators are being accused of 'systematic fraud' after it was revealed one practitioner triggered \$1.5million worth of Covid testing in just one day. [...] Health economist Professor Stephen Duckett, who was the former Department of Health and Aged Care secretary, said it was a clear rort but was apparently signed off.

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## **Is there a link between Hearing loss and dementia?**

Hills to Hawkesbury Community News, Other, 16/07/2024, Sandra Razzaghipour

Hearing loss is a common condition. According to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care about 3.6 million Australians have some level of hearing loss.

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## **Ophthalmic voice prominent in 2024 national diabetes inquiry**

Insight, Other, 16/07/2024, Myles Hume

The ophthalmic sector has weighed in on a major government inquiry into the state of diabetes in Australia, drawing attention to "pervasive and persuasive" food marketing to children and barriers to accessing retinal imaging and intravitreal injections in diabetic retinopathy. [...] To help people manage diabetes-related eye complications, the Department of Health and Aged Care is supporting KeepSight program, which was launched in 2019 and sends regular eye check reminders to people with diabetes and is generating positive results.

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## **'Such deep sadness': Grey's Anatomy star Jessica Capshaw opens up about miscarriage experience**

WEB HoneyNine, Other, 16/07/2024, Gabrielle Oehlmann

Grey's Anatomy star Jessica Capshaw has spoken candidly about a miscarriage she experienced more than eight years ago. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care it is estimated that more than 100,000 Australian women will experience a miscarriage each year.

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## **ABC, ABC News, 16/07/2024, James Glenday**

Documents obtained by the ABC have revealed that some pathology companies engaged in what's been described as systematic rorting at the height of the pandemic. The documents were obtained under Freedom of Information laws after a three-year battle with the Department of Health and Aged Care. In one instance, a single doctor requested 21,000 tests in a day.

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## **Channel 10, 10 News First: Midday, 16/07/2024, Narelda Jacobs**

Australian pathology companies have been accused today of rorting the Medicare system during the pandemic. Documents obtained by the ABC reportedly show some companies made potentially opportunistic claims to build extra flu and RSV tests. The reports from the Department of Health and Aged Care reportedly showed it received dozens of tips alerting it to potential cases of accusations of fraud.

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## **ABC Radio Canberra, AM, 16/07/2024, Sabra Lane**

Report on Australian pathology companies being accused of rorting Medicare. New documents show Australian pathology companies were engaging in what has been described as systematic rorting of Medicare during the pandemic. The documents obtained under freedom of information laws show one doctor claimed more than twenty thousand tests in one day, a clear breach of rules. It has prompted calls for reforms to the way the publicly listed companies are funded. Documents also show the Health Department was concerned about a large number of claims coming from individual doctors.

Also reported by: [ABC News \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC News \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Aged care caps 'raised or removed' in reforms

Australian Financial Review, General News, 17/07/2024, Phillip Coorey, Page 8

Proposals to dramatically boost or abolish lifetime contribution caps for aged care, and to impose stiff fines and jail terms for directors, are two of the key sticking points preventing a deal between the Albanese government and the opposition ...

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### NDIS and aged care issues hit hospitals

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/07/2024, James O'Doherty, Page 9

Hundreds of National Disability Insurance Scheme patients are languishing in NSW hospitals waiting for funding, putting strain on emergency departments and making hospital wait times worse. Crippling aged-care shortages are also clogging up hospital beds, with patients unable to leave because they have nowhere to go.

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

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### The must-ask questions if considering retirement living

Canberra Times, General News, 17/07/2024, Rachel Lane, Page 18

The results of the PwC 2023 Retirement Living Census were released last week. The census is run in collaboration with the Property Council and provides a comprehensive overview of the retirement village sector including data on village characteristics, resident demographics, financial structures, and future development plans.

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### South West TAFE shortlisted

Border Watch, General News, 17/07/2024, Page 35

South West tafe is in the running for three major Victorian training awards. [...] The nomination is for the Aged Care Mobile Skills Lab, a workforce development collaboration between South West TAFE as the lead organisation and disability and aged care providers Eventide, Calvary Community Care, Edgarley Assisted Living, Mulleraterong.

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### Vaccinations vary by GP

Cairns Post, General News, 17/07/2024, Page 4

Too many older Australians are missing out on recommended vaccinations for Covid, flu, shingles and pneumococcal that can protect them from serious illness, hospitalisation and even death. A new Grattan Institute report shows vaccination rates vary widely from GP to GP.

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### Bouncing back

Shepparton News, General News, 17/07/2024, Kayla Jones, Page 1

Three years after Nathalia's Barwo Homestead's voluntary closure, a planning application has been

submitted to Moira Shire Council, with the committee determined to breathe new life into the building. The former 20-bed aged care facility shut down following the implementation of new requirements regarding the amount of registered nurses on site at all times after COVID-19.

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## Program promotes social connection

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 16/07/2024, Natasha Egan

A pilot of a successful digitally-enabled social inclusion initiative from Italy has just launched in Victoria to deliver interactive activities for aged care residents such as chair-based yoga and following the journey of a guide dog puppy in training. The National Centre for Healthy Ageing – an integrated healthcare research, development and implementation hub based at Monash University – together with the university, public health service Peninsula Health, and the Amplifon Foundation launched the "Ciao!" Program in Australia at Carrum Downs Aged Care last Thursday.

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## Hand hygiene matters

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 16/07/2024, Natasha Egan

It might sound simple, but hand washing by all is crucial to older people's wellbeing, infectious diseases physician and microbiologist Professor Peter Collignon tells Australian Ageing Agenda.

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## Councils call for two years to implement new Aged Care Act

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 16/07/2024, Judy Skatssoon

Local councils have called for a two-year transition plan to implement the new Aged Care Act, saying they'll need time to adapt their services to meet requirements under the new legislation. The new Act has been beset with delays and uncertainty since being announced by the federal government as part of a package of reforms in the wake of the aged care royal commission's final report in 2021.

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## Bolton Clarke launches positive ageing campaign

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 16/07/2024, Christopher Kelly

Aged care and retirement living provider Bolton Clarke has developed a drive to promote positive ageing. The TV ad campaign – which launched this month in Victoria before rolling out across other states later this year – addresses concerns voiced during the aged care royal commission, which found "as we age, we progressively shift our focus from work to other things that give us purpose and joy, yet, as a nation Australia has drifted into an ageist mindset that undervalues older people and limits their possibilities.

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## Should aged care staff be tasked with dilating post-op transgender residents?

HelloCare, Other, 16/07/2024, Jakob Neeland

Gwenda Darling, a vibrant and outspoken member of the Aged Care Council of Elders, has been a familiar face at aged care conferences over the past decade. And while vibrant pink is no longer a shock to most in the sector, some of the topics that she enjoys talking about are.

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## Major Fallout From ABC's Investigation into Lifestyle Communities

HelloCare, Other, 16/07/2024, Jakob Neeland

The recent ABC investigation aired on the 7.30 program has ignited a firestorm of controversy around Lifestyle Communities, a prominent operator of over-50s gated communities in Victoria. The expose detailed allegations of unethical practices, including exorbitant fees and the controversial policy of charging rent to deceased residents' estates.

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## Late fees and unusual purchases: Financial mistakes among the first signs of dementia

The New Daily, Other, 16/07/2024, Sezen Bakan

Managing finances can be hard enough for older people due to the pressures of a looming retirement, or already being out of the workforce. Being on a fixed income means financial mistakes can pack a heavier punch, but an ongoing chain of errors could be an early indicator of a serious health issue.

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## Lifestyle Communities promises resort-style living, but some say it's a 'financial prison'

Your Life Choices, Other, 17/07/2024

When retired policeman Geoff Gauci packed up his old life and moved to an over-50s gated community on Melbourne's northern fringe, he pictured his next chapter as peaceful. After spending 36 years investigating shoplifters, drug trafficking, burglary, fraud and deception, it was time for the quiet life.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### 'Fire ant bait in waterways'

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 17/07/2024, Tahlia Leathart, Page 7

Furious southern Gold Coast land owners say the state government is in breach of its own fire ant treatment protocols, with some seeking legal advice after bait for the dangerous pests was found in waterways. Authorities have been carrying out treatment using baits for fire ants across the Coast more regularly after colonies of the invasive creature were discovered in greater numbers in the city's south.

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### Vaping puts Tassie kids' health at risk

Launceston Examiner, General News, 17/07/2024, Paul Lupo, Page 15

As a grandfather and someone who works in the health industry, I feel immense disappointment in this country's efforts to prevent and protect people from products, such as vapes, that are specifically designed and sold to be addictive. I fear my grandchildren will be asking my generation questions about why we weren't up to making gutsy calls to keep people healthy.

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### Zero-alcohol drinks could be dangerous for children, study suggests

9News, Other, 16/07/2024, Lara Pearce

Health experts push for cigarettes-style warning labels on alcohol Zero-alcohol drinks which convincingly mimic their alcoholic counterparts are providing a "gateway" into underage drinking for Australian teenagers, new research suggests. A survey commissioned by Cancer Council Australia interviewed 679 Australian teenagers in every state and territory aged between 15 and 17 years old.

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### Anti-smoking group says illegal tobacco seizures a sign more needs to be done to crack WA's black market

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2024, Pip Waller

Detectives have seized thousands of cigarettes, vapes and tonnes of illegal tobacco in raids across WA's South West and Midwest. Investigations by the organised crime squad are ongoing.

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### Nick Coatsworth: Top doctor hits out at plans to introduce a 'sin tax' on sugary drinks in Australia

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/07/2024, David Southwell

Nick Coatsworth has hit out at a proposed tax on sugary treats arguing that '\$8 cans of coke' will only punish the poor and fail to fix the nation's obesity crisis. A recent Senate report recommended a 20 per cent tax on unhealthy products such as soft drinks in order to curb surging obesity rates, particularly in children.

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## NAC's new inhaler labels

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 16/07/2024

A staggering 94% of Australians misuse their asthma inhalers, prompting the National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) to create new supplementary labels. The labels, affixed to inhalers, provide clearer instructions on the appropriate inspiratory flow rate, crucial for effective asthma and COPD treatment.

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## New survey results suggest dangerous unintended outcome of zero-alcohol drinks

SBS, Other, 16/07/2024, Alex Anyfantis

A new report from the Cancer Council shows zero-alcohol beverages could lead young people to alcohol consumption later in their lives. The survey shows the over a third of youngsters have consumed a zero-alcohol drink, with the majority of them admitting they look rather appealing.

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# CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

## Mum put unwell daughter in nappies

The Australian, General News, 17/07/2024, Blake Antrobus, Page 5

A mother accused of withholding her daughter's insulin medication resulting in her death told police she put her daughter in nappies at school when she became critically unwell years before her death. Kerrie Elizabeth Struhs is one of 14 members of a close-knit religious circle on trial at Brisbane Supreme Court over the death of Elizabeth Struhs, 8, in January 2022.

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## Glad I have breast cancer, not long COVID

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/07/2024, Margaret Gordon, Page 19

When I was told I had grade three triple negative breast cancer, I wasn't surprised. That wasn't because I had a dream about it a few months earlier, which I did, but because when I was lying on my back in bed one day and felt a hard lump, I knew immediately it was different to anything I'd found before.

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

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## Metro ad conflict

Herald Sun, General News, 17/07/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Victoria's peak cancer body is on a collision course with the state government over a push for junk food advertising to be banned from Melbourne's Metro Tunnel stations. Cancer Council Victoria has called on the government to refuse to allow marketing for unhealthy products at the city's flagship rail project when it opens next year.

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## Antibiotics exposure may be asthma risk

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/07/2024, Page 3

Early exposure to antibiotics can trigger long term susceptibility to asthma, according to new Monash

University research. Importantly the research team isolated a molecule produced by gut bacteria that in the future could potentially be trialled as a simple treatment, in the form of a dietary supplement, for children at risk of asthma to prevent them developing the disease.

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## Harm details delay breast screening

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/07/2024, Page 17

Women in their 40s might delay breast cancer screening if they were informed about the benefits and harms. University of Colorado researchers surveyed 495 women aged 39-49, with no history of breast cancer or BRCA1/2 gene mutation that increases breast cancer risk.

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## Advance for asthmatics

West Australian, General News, 17/07/2024, Page 23

The use of antibiotics in babies can make them more susceptible to asthma, according to Monash University research. The research team isolated a molecule produced by bacteria in a healthy gut that provides an explanation as to why the frequent use of antibiotics can increase the risk of getting asthma.

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## Cancer tests revisions anticipate federal prostate cancer push

The Australian, Other, 16/07/2024, James Dowling

Confusing and outdated testing guidelines are leaving men liable to devastating health outcomes, as prostate cancer victims argue for a federally funded testing drive. Prostate cancer deaths continue to rise with the nation's growing and ageing population despite leaps in survivability.

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## Life-changing leukaemia drug could revolutionise frontline therapy

In Daily, Other, 16/07/2024

A revolutionary medication developed to treat chronic myeloid leukaemia has proven it may be worthy of becoming the new frontline therapy for people newly diagnosed with the rare form of blood cancer.

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## Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 16/07/2024, Jerrie Demasi

We now have a better reason to understand why it's not ideal to have antibiotics unless you need them. Their absence and the subsequent loss of molecules they produce, um, increases the risk of asthma. It's now one of the most common chronic respiratory problems. Animal trials of treatments have proven successful. Researchers need funding for human trials, and could have a treatment ready in the next five years.

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## Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 16/07/2024, Jerrie Demasi

Australian researchers have unlocked the reason why children are more likely to develop asthma after early exposure to antibiotics.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 16/07/2024, Peter Mitchell

Melbourne researchers have uncovered crucial answers on the link between antibiotics and asthma. The breakthrough brings scientists a step closer to a simple treatment to prevent the condition.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 16/07/2024, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

Scientists have discovered a link between antibiotics and asthma, solving a decades-long mystery.

Monash University found that antibiotics can deplete good bacteria in infants, damaging their lung cells.

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### **Channel 10, 10 News First, 16/07/2024, Sandra Sully**

A crucial link has been established between the use of childhood antibiotics and the long-term vulnerability to respiratory illnesses, like asthma. The revelation could pave the way for preventative treatments for chronic lung diseases. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' Dr Aadhil Aziz says if something new comes down the pipeline, they would be very interested to see the research and make sure it's going to be safe and effective.

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### **Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 16/07/2024, Ashleigh Gillon**

Antibiotics have long been linked to asthma, but exactly how the medication predisposes patients to the condition has remained a mystery until now. Monash University researchers have found that antibiotics deplete specific bacteria in the gut that help protect infants' airways.

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### **2CC, Canberra Live, 16/07/2024, Leon Delaney**

It has been revealed that taking antibiotics early in life can make children more susceptible to developing asthma. Researchers have found the drugs can disrupt gut bacteria, affecting the immune system and lung development in infants.

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### **2CC, Breakfast, 16/07/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo**

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, regarding their joint call with Diabetes Australia on the Government to improve screening for diabetes and support the health of patients with or at risk of developing diabetes. Higgins says around 1 in 20 Australians are having diabetes and there are a lot of people out there who've been unscreened or don't know they have it. She adds often diabetes doesn't happen on its own as it might be associated with high blood pressure and people carrying too much weight.

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## **PRIMARY CARE**

### **What can we do to break ED logjams? A lot, actually**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/07/2024, Ryan Park, Page 13

I've lost count of how many emergency departments across the state I've visited, from Broken Hill in the Far West to Tweed in the North, Moruya in the south and to Liverpool or Westmead in Sydney. While these hospitals differ in many ways, the fact is they're all under pressure.

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### **Lack of workers for new hospital**

Courier Mail, General News, 17/07/2024, Madura McCormack, Page 13

A multimillion-dollar hospital expansion has been delayed at least 18 months because the government couldn't find a contractor to build it. The \$40m Hervey Bay Hospital expansion project was meant to add 35 beds and a new rooftop helipad to the facility by November.

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

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### **Dementia's dilemma**

West Australian, General News, 17/07/2024, Kate Emery, Page 13

I don't want US President Joe Biden to die. Obviously. And, in light of the weekend's assassination attempt on rival Donald Trump, I should stress that I definitely do not want to kill him. [...] Voluntary assisted dying is now widely legal across Australia.

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## Design team appointed as ED struggles

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 17/07/2024, Kate McIlwain, Page 3

The NSW government has appointed an architect and project manager to plan upgrades to Wollongong Hospital, which will eventually be transformed into a nationally significant health precinct. This comes as the ED continues to struggle with a large number of very sick patients and clogged up beds due to a lack of aged care.

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## Family thanks Bathurst Hospital staff

Western Advocate, General News, 17/07/2024, Matt Watson, Page 6

A heartfelt tribute has been paid to the staff of Bathurst Hospital by siblings who say their father could not have been treated with more kindness and care in his final days. Di Seels and Sharon McGaw, speaking on behalf of their family, say they want to publicly praise not just the professionalism but the humanity of everyone they met during four difficult days at the hospital.

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## GP vax funding needs overhaul to help poorer patients: report

Australian Doctor, Other, 16/07/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Peter Breadon is calling for an opt-in needs-based funding scheme. Massive differences in vaccination rates at GP practices just a few kilometres apart has prompted calls for a funding overhaul.

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## Calvary Adelaide Hospital reveals fine-dining menu with cordon bleu trained chef leading an international team

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 16/07/2024, Tara Miko

It has been reported more than 80,000 patients are waiting more than a year for surgery as overstretched hospitals are filled with private patients. A cordon bleu trained chef who counts the Ritz Carlton and Disney among the highlights of an impressive resume, is availing his passion for dining to perhaps his toughest critics yet.

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 16/07/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Julian Schiller

Interview with Chris Picton, SA Health Minister, regarding new figures regarding the waiting lists to see a specialist in a public hospital. Picton says there are some significant reductions and even in the most recent report, there are 48 different clinics that have had reductions of between two weeks and 13 months of their maximum wait times for patients. He adds there's still more to do and it does highlight that some areas of the health system still have some significant waits that they are currently looking to reduce.

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

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# MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

## Burial ground backlash

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/07/2024, Judy Augustine, Page 6

Concerns over plans for mental health facility at site Hundreds of orphan children are buried at the site

of a proposed mental health facility, and a historical society says the developer should reconsider the location. The Department of Health is seeking a permit for buildings to house a new adolescent mental health service and an eating disorder clinic.

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## Oasis on new PTSD warpath

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 17/07/2024, Nikita McGuire, Page 4

A vital service helping North Queensland veterans with mental health issues wants to expand to help first responders, given their shared problems like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Serving as a base for the veteran community in Townsville, The Oasis community centre is calling for \$9m to help them continue their work for the next four years.

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## Teenager made suicidal, homicidal admissions before taking her life, Coroners Court hears

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/07/2024, Aneeka Simonis

A teenage girl made repeated suicidal and homicidal admissions to medical providers but was never admitted into psychiatric care in the lead-up to her suicide, a court has heard. The girl, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, took her life at her home following a deterioration in her mental health during the Covid pandemic.

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

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Ambos not safe on the job

Herald Sun, General News, 17/07/2024, Athos Sirianos, Page 10

Increased abuse of paramedics will "end careers", emergency workers warn, as new data reveals more than 100 ambos have been assaulted and injured on the job in the past year. According to Ambulance Victoria statistics obtained by the Herald Sun, 105 paramedics were sidelined with injuries after being physically assaulted on call-outs between July 2023 and March 2024.

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

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### Health training facility funding

Cairns Post, General News, 17/07/2024, Arun Singh Mann, Page 4

The establishment of a new \$35m health training facility is expected to boost the number of professionals entering the Far North's rapidly growing aged care, disability support and mental health care sectors, cementing the region's status as a healthcare hub.

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### Ramsay Health Care faces historic industrial action in NSW

Nursing Review, Other, 16/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Nurses and midwives in New South Wales have commenced industrial action against global health care conglomerate Ramsay Health Care, after multiple failed attempts to negotiate a pay offer that will

meet inflation. This is the first time that industrial action has been taken against Ramsay Health Care in NSW and comes after 81 per cent of Ramsay nurses and midwives rejected the proposed enterprise agreement in May.

[Read More](#)

### **3AW, Breakfast, 16/07/2024, Ross Stevenson and Russel Howcroft**

Interview with Dr Anita Munoz, Victorian Chair, Royal Australian College of GPs, on Victorian healthcare workers considering moving interstate for work following job losses and recruitment freezes at the state's cash-strapped public hospitals. Munoz says there is a need for more workers across the state and the recruitment freeze in particular is affecting morale because there's too much work for too few clinicians in hospitals.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### **Pharmacist explains why he rejects 60-day scripts (it's not for money)**

Australian Doctor, Other, 16/07/2024, Heather Saxena

Pharmacist Gary Wakeling says there are two main reasons why 60-day scripts are rejected. GPs using 60-day prescribing to dodge the PBS authority line are unwittingly costing patients long term, a pharmacist says.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### **616,000 pay extra health tax**

Herald Sun, General News, 17/07/2024, Anthony Keane, Page 3

Another 110,000 Australians have been stung by the Medicare levy surcharge, fresh figures show, amid new warnings people are wasting money through wrong health insurance choices. The latest statistics from the Australian Taxation Office show that 616,903 people paid the Medicare levy surcharge in 2021-22, up 21 per cent from the 508,535 who paid it in 2020-21.

*Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).*

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### **New body to drive digital health strategies and tech innovation**

Nursing Review, Other, 16/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

The Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre (DHCRC) has announced a national, cross-university network in a bid to advance Australia's digital health systems. The Australian Council of Senior Academic Leaders in Digital Health (the Council) will bring together academic leaders from 36 universities to "advance the application of digital technology, informatics and data science to health in Australia.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### **ABC, Late Night ABC News, 16/07/2024, Craig Smart**

Peak body Australian pathology denies claims of rorting and says some pathologists were forced to bill Medicare when states refused to pay. There has never been any significant findings of Medicare non-compliance against members of Australian pathology during the period.

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## ABC, Late Night ABC News, 16/07/2024, Craig Smart

Documents obtained by the ABC have revealed that some pathology companies engaged in what's been described as systematic rorting at the height of the pandemic. In one instance, a single doctor requested 21,000 tests in a day queuing for a Covid test was a regular feature of life in a pandemic. But some people's text message results showed more than just their Covid status.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### How the terrible tragedy of Treva Ashton, 15, who died after he was told he had a stomach bug and sent home from hospital turned into a lifeline for others

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/07/2024, Steve Williams and Lisa Edser

The devastated family of a 15-year-old boy who tragically died after being sent home from hospital have donated his organs so his legacy will live on. Treva Ashton, 15, from Mt Druitt in Sydney 's west, died from a brain infection on July 7 after his life support system was turned off.

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## SPORT

### CTE link to Parkinsonism

Age, Sport, 17/07/2024, Greg Baum, Page 36

Freshly published American research has established a new link between playing contact sport, CTE, and the development of a movement disorder known as Parkinsonism. CTE, or chronic traumatic encephalopathy, is a degenerative disease believed to be caused by repeated blows to the head that can be diagnosed only after death.

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

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### ID of sex pest coach

Courier Mail, General News, 17/07/2024, Patrick Billings, Page 7

The identity of a former elite school swimming coach convicted of sexually assaulting a schoolgirl can now be revealed, after The Courier-Mail fought to lift a suppression order imposed by a magistrate. Ex-Anglican Church Grammar School coach Benjamin James David Allen pleaded guilty in March to one count of sexual assault.

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### Roos bound for Oval blockbuster

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/07/2024, Shashi Baltutis, Page 5

The Socceroos are set to return to South Australia for the first time in more than seven years in a blockbuster match for World Cup qualification. Australia's men's soccer team will play at Adelaide Oval on October 10 for their AFC third round clash against China in a bid to secure automatic qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

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## Centre of attention

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/07/2024, James Bresnehan, Page 1

The Tasmanian Devils will have an industry-leading High Performance Centre for their players and staff from 2027 after engaging a sports facility specialist to make sure the \$70m project is the best the Tassie club can deliver. The state government is also on the verge of revealing the global firm it has contracted to design the complex slated for Rosny, which is scheduled for completion in 2027.

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## Controversial project misses out on funding

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 17/07/2024, Luke Griffiths, Page 1

A project that caused a large rift between City Hall and a local football club has failed to secure state government funding, while an upgrade of Wallington Reserve has been handed \$1m. Bell Park officials were fuming after councillor Peter Murrhly scuppered a recommendation from city officers at Geelong council's February meeting in favour of putting Newtown and Chilwell's Elderslie Reserve forward for funding.

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## In Rod we trust on games

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 17/07/2024, Andrew Potts, Page 1

In Sydney we didn't fight over stadiums Sydney's 2000 Olympics supremo Rod McGeoch is warning Queensland political leaders to unite behind the 2032 Games and end partisanship eroding public support for the extravaganza. "We've got to try and get it politically impartial because the goal is to get things to run well and be exciting," he said before his Future Gold Coast address. REPORT P4-5.

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## The opportunity of Games require careful planning

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 17/07/2024, Caroline Riot, Page 4

The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will have a significant impact on the Gold Coast, building on the city's experience in hosting major sporting events like the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games and delivering numerous economic and infrastructure benefits. The City of Gold Coast is vibrant and has a proven track record in hosting successful major events that benefit the community.

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## The Olympic environment in the brave new world

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 17/07/2024, Emma Crichton, Page 5

Critical venue infrastructure for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments, as stated in the Intergovernmental Agreement. The venue infrastructure program, which amounts to \$7.1 billion, aims to transform significant venues and precincts in Queensland, leaving a lasting legacy for the community beyond 2032.

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## Participation the name of the game

Newcastle Herald, General News, 17/07/2024, Page 14

Former Newcastle Knight Alex McKinnon and Paralympian Rae Anderson will headline an inaugural sports forum forming part of a disability inclusion festival. The Inclusive Sports Forum at McDonald Jones Stadium is one of five free activities in Newcastle council's Count Us In sport program, which runs from August 8-15.

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## Tech park gets attention

Western Advocate, General News, 17/07/2024, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 1

A mayoral minute is calling for an investigation into the prospect of activating a designated technology park, which could strengthen Bathurst's motor sport ties in new ways. Bathurst Regional Council's technology park is located on land between Conrod Straight and College Road, which is primarily vacant.

## 20,000 female condoms, 200,000 male condoms, 10,000 dental dams: will Paris 2024 be the sexiest Olympics ever?

The Guardian, Other, 17/07/2024, Arwa Mahdawi

Sex may not be an official discipline at the Olympics, but it sure looks like Paris is readying itself for vigorous indoor sports. The Covid-related intimacy ban instigated during the Tokyo Olympics has officially been lifted and a bulk order of contraceptives has been placed.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### WA key to new \$8b medtech blueprint

West Australian, Business News, 16/07/2024, Dan Jervis-Bardy, Page 33

The \$8 billion potential of the nation's RNA sector is set to be unleashed with a new blueprint drawn up to seize the golden medical science opportunity. Federal Industry and Science Minister Ed Husic will on Tuesday unveil a new strategy to guide the development of the industry during a visit to Perth.

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### Cardiologist brings 'best of best' to Ballarat

Ballarat Courier, General News, 17/07/2024, Melanie Whelan, Page 4

This clinic trial is known as Athena, named after the Greek patron goddess of heroic endeavour, trying to combat levels of heart failure that lack effective help. Grampians Health cardiology lead Ernesto Oqueli is leading the Ballarat trial, joining in a multinational study with health professional in 18 different countries.

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### Hospital admissions for epilepsy change with the weather: study

Australian Doctor, Other, 16/07/2024

Climatic changes are possible trigger factors for seizure-related hospitalisations in patients with epilepsy, a study shows. Researchers from the Friedrich-Alexander-University Hospital Erlangen in Germany looked at data on almost 9,370 patients with epilepsy who were admitted to the hospital due to epileptic seizures.

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### Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research: Data published by Medusa ransomware group, hackers claim

West Australian, Other, 16/07/2024

Data stolen from one of Perth's most celebrated medical facilities, Harry Perkins Institute, has been published on the dark web after the centre didn't pay a \$750,000 ransom, hackers claim. Medusa ransomware posted on its dark web blog that they had successfully infiltrated Perth's Harry Perkins Institute's servers and "4.6TB of internal building camera (sic) recordings have been uploaded" earlier this month, before reports on Tuesday suggested the data had been published online.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 9, Nine News Late, 16/07/2024, Natalia Cooper

Hackers claim to have published a mountain of data stolen from Perth's Harry Perkins Institute, after the medical research clinic refused to pay a ransom. [...] It's a centre for medical research which now finds itself at the centre of an international cyber crime syndicate. The Harry Perkins Institute was robbed and held to ransom, given a deadline which has now expired.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### **Malpa Young Doctors for Life program set to expand to Waroona, Bunbury schools with Alcoa Foundation funding**

West Australian, Other, 16/07/2024, Sean Van Der Wielen

Students at schools in Waroona and Bunbury are set to benefit from a culturally-based health program's expansion into WA. Waroona District High School and Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School students will participate in the Malpa Young Doctors for Life program in Terms 3 and 4, which seeks to empower Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students aged 9-12 years to be health ambassadors.

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### **Specsavers launch collaboration with Gurindji Waanyi artists to support Indigenous eye health**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 16/07/2024

Specsavers has joined forces with Gurindji Waanyi contemporary Aboriginal artists, sisters Sarrita and Tarrise King, for a new range of limited-edition frames supporting the work of the Fred Hollows Foundation. Available from July 4, the new range will see \$25 from the sale of each frame going towards The Fred Hollows Foundation's Indigenous Australia Program to help make eye care more accessible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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### **Heck of a top champion**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 16/07/2024

Chastina Heck, a senior pharmacist and First Nations advocate, credited the recent 2024 NAIDOC Week's theme -'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud' - for revitalising her dedication to her culture and community, in both her personal and professional life.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### **Australia is aiming to eradicate bird flu. This is how scientists are tracking and tracing the outbreak**

ABC Online, Other, 16/07/2024, Tom Hartley

Eleven farms have been infected with avian influenza so far across New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT. Testing has revealed three different strains appeared at roughly the same time.

[Read More](#)

### **Sealed away in steel and concrete is Australia's nuclear waste legacy at Lucas Heights in Sydney's south**

ABC Online, Other, 16/07/2024, Matthew Doran

Whenever there is a debate about nuclear power in Australia, one question regularly pops up: What do we do with the waste? It can't just be taken to the local dump along with garbage or rubble, and it has to be handled with immense care and stored in particular ways while it remains dangerous — sometimes for decades.

[Read More](#)

### **Experts prepare for new bird flu strain**

SBS, Other, 16/07/2024

The Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) is preparing for the potential arrival of the H-

5-N-1 virus. The CSIRO organisation has identified three distinct avian flu outbreaks in Australia, each caused by different strains, but has yet to confirm a single case of H5N1.

[Read More](#)

## Grim prediction on bird flu outbreak

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 16/07/2024, Jessica Wang

Australia is currently suffering through an "unprecedented" triple strain outbreak of bird flu, with government, agricultural authorities and industry bodies preparing for the potential arrival of the dangerous H5N1 strain devastating the Northern Hemisphere. As it stands, Australia is the only continent, including Antarctica, that has yet to detect the highly-pathogenic H5N1 strain, which has spread to livestock and mammals like sea lions in Argentina.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Dead rat! Would you like flies with that?

Herald Sun, General News, 17/07/2024, Paul Shapiro, Page 13

A late-night Carlton institution kept serving customers despite being ordered to close after dead mice, cockroaches and rat droppings were found littered throughout the grubby restaurant. Lambs On Lygon St director Stephen Yannoulidis fronted Melbourne Magistrates' Court to answer for multiple disgusting breaches of the food act.

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### Popular shiraz from SA wine company Brand New Vintage recalled after 'undeclared allergen' discovered

7news.com.au, Other, 16/07/2024

A popular wine is being recalled after an undeclared allergen was discovered,. [...] Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), which is responsible for developing food standards for Australia and New Zealand, issued the recall due to a "food safety hazard".

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## AICIS

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