



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 2nd July 2024

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports disability advocates have expressed concern a drop-off in NDIS plan reassessments may be driving a fall in the scheme's expenses rather than actual cost-cutting measures.
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 1) reports New South Wales will equip public hospital security guards with body cams as part of a 12-month trial to assess if the devices reduce instances of physical assault.
- **The Age** (page 1) reports health experts have warned about the rise of sexual strangulation amongst young people and a lack of understanding about the associated risk of brain injury. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [The Guardian](#)*
- The **Canberra Times** (page 1) reports the TGA will work with state and territory authorities to crack down on shops stocking vapes illegally, Health Minister Mark Butler has warned. *Also reported by: [Herald Sun](#), [Courier Mail](#), [The Guardian](#)*
- The **Herald Sun** (page 1) reports over \$1 billion could be cut from Victoria's public hospitals in the form of front-line services and staff due to state government cost-saving measures, whistleblowers say. *Also reported by: [ABC Online](#)*

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports Victoria's ambulance union has called on the state's service to improve workloads and how shift fatigue is managed after a paramedic fell asleep and crashed their car after an 18-hour shift. *Also reported by: [7news.com.au](#)*
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports parents have criticised Meta's vice-president and global head of safety Antigone Davis for remarks to a parliamentary inquiry saying she believed social media was not harmful to teenagers' mental health.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports women have been urged to move regularly during pregnancy rather than concentrating on scheduled periods of exercise following new research showing sitting for long periods may harm the health of the foetus. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#)*
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 1) reports medical imaging firm Jones Radiology will cut bulk-billed services across regional South Australia, with patients set to face gap bills from "around \$40 to several hundred dollars".
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 1) reports a Tasmanian nursing home has applied for emergency guardianship over a violent resident so he can be assessed for the Specialist Dementia Care Program.
- [The Australian](#) (page 6) reports pay rises for aged care workers will be phased in across 2025, the FWC has ruled, with a cumulative 13.5 per cent applied in stages in January and October. *Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

Private hospital operators hand over profit data

Australian Financial Review, General News, 02/07/2024, Tom McIlroy, Page 5

Private hospital operators have agreed to hand over sensitive commercial information about the cost and profitability of individual facilities and medical procedures, as part of a major review into the \$22 billion sector. Data about break-even points and ...

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

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Vape shops flout new ban

Canberra Times, General News, 02/07/2024, Dana Daniel, Page 1

Nicotine vapes are still available in Canberra despite a federal ban on their sale with maximum penalties of seven years in jail or a \$2.2 million fine for individuals. Under the Albanese government's ban, which came into force on Monday after legislation passed last week, a company selling nicotine vapes in a retail store can be fined up to \$21.2 million. "We expect businesses to comply with this, we are very deadly serious about making sure these laws work," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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

City home to nest of black-market vapers

Herald Sun, General News, 02/07/2024, Suzan Delibasic and Susie O'Brien, Page 2

Dodgy vaping sellers across Melbourne are flouting tough new laws by continuing to sell black-market vapes despite the threat of jail time and millions of dollars in fines. Australia is the first country to crack down on the sale of vapes outside of pharmacies, with other businesses and vendors selling vapes risking up to seven years in jail and as much as \$2.2m in fines from yesterday. [...] To gain Greens support in the Senate, Health Minister Mark Butler watered down his tough new vaping ban by removing the need for a prescription.

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

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

Import of vapes from China tumble as Albanese Government's new crackdown forces users to flood Facebook Marketplace

West Australian, General News, 02/07/2024, Remy Varga, Page 14

Imports of vapes from China have plummeted ahead of a ban on the sale of e-cigarettes as part of a regulatory overhaul by the Albanese Government. Major tobacco companies including Philip Morris International and British American Tobacco have also pulled the online sale of their vaping products in Australia. [...] The ABF and the Therapeutic Goods Administration have jointly seized nearly three million vapes since the import ban came into effect on January 1.

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

Cut off Wollongong schools supply? Good luck with that

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 02/07/2024, Page 3

The author of this article is a 17-year-old Illawarra high school student who has been smoking cigarettes and vapes for five years. Vapes are every parent's worst nightmare, so I am sure there were many sighs of relief today as the crackdown on vapes came into full effect. [...] According to the Health Minister Mark Butler, these laws are designed to protect children.

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

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

Butler 'marched out' of store

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 01/07/2024, Page 2

The Federal Health Minister Mark Butler (pictured) was "marched out" of his local pharmacy one Sunday morning as he was refused sale of pseudoephedrine. He recalled his experience in Parliament last week, and explained why Project STOP, the system which restricts the sale of pseudoephedrine S3 products, will not be used for vapes.

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

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

'Dob in a vape shop': Australia's new e-cigarette commissioner urges

Canberra Times, Other, 01/07/2024, Dana Daniel

The Albanese government has appointed Erin Dale as its inaugural Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner, to ramp up its crackdown on nicotine vapes. Ms Dale told reporters in Canberra on Monday that it was "a critical time for law enforcement response to tackle this crime" given the well-established evidence of harm from nicotine vapes. [...] Since a ban on importing disposable vapes began on January 1, ABF and the Therapeutic Goods Administration have jointly seized close to 2.9 million illicit vapes, Ms O'Neil said.

[Read More](#)

No more pretty packaging and flavours, new vape laws

Canberra Times, Other, 01/07/2024, Andrew Brown

Black-market tobacco and e-cigarettes are in the sights of authorities as overhauled vaping laws come into effect. From now on vapes will only be allowed to be sold in pharmacies over the counter, and only after chemists have a discussion with the customer about the health harms. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the measures would protect younger generations from becoming addicted to nicotine.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Billy Hearn to speak at Power of Speech event highlighting need for support for children with hearing loss

The Burdekin Advocate, Other, 02/07/2024, Nikita McGuire

For nine-year-old Billy Hearn, life in Ayr is a whirlwind of family, friends, sports, and zooming around the beach on his four-wheeler. But this Wednesday, Billy's voice will echo far beyond his hometown as he takes the stage at Parliament House in Canberra to advocate for better support for children with hearing loss. [...] Bringing even more pride to his parents, Billy is one of six children from across Australia and New Zealand who will speak in front of 30 parliamentarians, including Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler.

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Final tranche of anti-vape laws come into effect

ABC Online, Other, 01/07/2024, Rachel Mealey

It's now illegal to sell, supply, manufacture or import non-therapeutic vapes in Australia. The new laws came into effect today...and with them came a new focus on keeping the illegal products off our shores. The Federal Government has appointed an illicit tobacco and e-cigarette commissioner in a bid to crack down on the black market trade in vapes.

[Read More](#)

Australia restricts vape sales to pharmacies as new laws take effect

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/07/2024

New vaping regulations in Australia came into force on Monday, moving e-cigarettes behind pharmacy counters in a bid to curb youth vaping although opponents forced the government to walk back a stricter prohibition. [...] In April, Health Minister Mark Butler said border police had seized more than 1.5 million illegal vapes.

[Read More](#)

Shock, out of stock and secret supplies: what we found when we tried to buy vapes in Australia

The Guardian, Other, 02/07/2024, Melissa Davey

The federal government has banned tobacconists, vape shops, and convenience stores from selling vapes. But are they sticking to the rules? [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, told reporters in Canberra on Monday that stores should expect to be held to account in coming weeks.

[Read More](#)

Health minister 'deadly serious' about enforcing new laws as vapes ban kicks in – video

The Guardian, Other, 01/07/2024

From today, it is illegal to sell vapes other than for therapeutic reasons and fines of up to \$2.2m and jail time of up to seven years may apply to those who flout the government's new laws. Mark Butler, the minister for health and aged care, has stressed to business

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Labor steps up fight against illicit vapes

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/07/2024

Australian Border Force Assistant Commissioner, Erin Dale has been appointed as the inaugural Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner.

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Assistant Health minister steps in to announce July PBS listings

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 02/07/2024

On a day during which Health Minister Mark Butler issued several media releases, including announcements on \$20 million in funding for artificial intelligence and the appointment of an interim Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner, he delegated the PBS listings to a junior minister.

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New vaping laws are “insulting”, major pharmacies say

cityhub.com.au, Other, 01/07/2024, Grace Johnson

Major pharmacies across Australia are speaking out against the new legislation that will allow vapes to be sold behind the counter. [...] In response to pharmacies saying they were not consulted, Health Minister Mark Butler said pharmacies were made aware of these changes when the government raised the option last year, and that the Guild did not attend Senate hearings of the regulations.

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The Zap: a comprehensive wrap of the latest health and aged care

news, plus consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 01/07/2024, Melissa Sweet

The Pharmacy Guild's fascinating reaction to the Government's vaping reforms, recommendations for tackling diabetes, shortages of pain relief medicines, innovation in rural healthcare, and the latest excess mortality data are covered in this week's edition of The Zap. [...] Readers after a plain, spin-free summary of exactly what is involved in the new regime should read the Therapeutic Goods Administration's media release issued on 28 June.

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NT-proBNP blood test on MBS for PAH risk assessment

The Limbic, Other, 01/07/2024, Siobhan Calafiore

Pro B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) testing has been added to the MBS for ongoing risk assessment of patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). [...] In its advice to the Minister for Health Mark Butler, MSAC said while there was uncertainty around the total financial impact of publicly funding the test, a new MBS listing was likely to result in cost savings or, at worst, a small net cost.

[Read More](#)

A bunch of new laws go into effect today from tax rules to vape restrictions, here's the lowdown

Pedestrian TV, Other, 01/07/2024, Laura Masia

Happy new financial year everybody ! It's tax time ! [...] Australia's Health Minister Mark Butler claims the updated legislation will see vapes and e-cigarettes return to what they were originally sold to the public for — "therapeutic products to help hardened smokers kick the habit".

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Australia's health report 2024: Australians' health faring well despite ongoing challenges

Science Media Exchange (Scimex), Other, 02/07/2024

Australia's health report 2024: Australians' health faring well despite ongoing challenges Australians' overall health continues to fare well when compared with similar countries despite significant impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing burden of chronic conditions, according to the latest Australia's health 2024 report from The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW). [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) biennial flagship report card of Australians' health was launched today by the Hon. Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care.

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ABC, ABC News, 01/07/2024, Jeremy Fernandez

Australia's watered-down, but world-first vaping laws have come into force today with a ban that has been met with scepticism from some experts. Pharmacists tasked with administering prescribed vapes say legal and supply issues haven't yet been resolved. Health Minister Mark Butler says it's a tool from Big Tobacco deliberately designed to recruit a new generation to nicotine addiction.

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ABC Mildura - Swan Hill, Breakfast, 01/07/2024, Andrew Murdoch

Report on new laws that will come into effect from today, meaning the only place to buy a vape is from a pharmacy, and only if you have a prescription. It's part of new legislation designed to disrupt the flow of unregulated and potent vapes. Vape users say the new laws will only be effective if there's better enforcement. Health Minister Mark Butler says vaping has become a public health menace and says these reforms are a chance for Parliament to do something meaningful and lasting to improve the health of young people.

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

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 14:00 News, 01/07/2024

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has warned there'll be heavy penalties for businesses that continue to sell vapes illegally. Under reforms, vapes can only be sold at pharmacies unflavoured and in plain packaging. The requirement for a script will be axed in October.

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MINISTER WELLS

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

'It's simply not good enough': McCormack slams planned cuts to Cootamundra Hospital maternity services

About Regional, Other, 01/07/2024, Shri Gayathirie Rajen

Federal Member for Riverina Michael McCormack has voiced strong opposition in Parliament to the proposed cuts to the maternity services at Cootamundra Hospital. [...] "I've written to the Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health and, whilst I appreciate that this is very much at the foot of the Minns State Government, I felt compelled to raise this issue with Minister [Emma] McBride to impress upon her the importance of, at the very least, maintaining health services in regional and rural areas, because that is her portfolio.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Assistant Health minister steps in to announce July PBS listings

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 02/07/2024

On a day during which Health Minister Mark Butler issued several media releases, including announcements on \$20 million in funding for artificial intelligence and the appointment of an interim Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner, he delegated the PBS listings to a junior minister.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 01/07/2024, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan

It's not just tax cuts helping people's hip pockets that kick in today because there's also relief for thousands of patients with four more medicines now being listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme including a drug that treats lupus, the world's most common autoimmune disease, with nine out of ten patients women. Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney says it is incredibly important for the recognition of this condition.

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ABC Radio Canberra, 07:00 News, 01/07/2024

Tax relief will kick in for millions of Australians from today, delivering a boost of just over \$2,000 to those on an average wage of around \$98,000 a year. Superannuation contributions are also set to rise, along with the minimum wage and award wages, and there's also relief for thousands of Australian patients, with four new drugs being listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney says it'll reduce costs of around \$1,500 a month to just \$36 a month.

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

The Zap: a comprehensive wrap of the latest health and aged care news, plus consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 01/07/2024, Melissa Sweet

The Pharmacy Guild's fascinating reaction to the Government's vaping reforms, recommendations for tackling diabetes, shortages of pain relief medicines, innovation in rural healthcare, and the latest excess mortality data are covered in this week's edition of The Zap. [...] Readers after a plain, spin-free summary of exactly what is involved in the new regime should read the Therapeutic Goods Administration's media release issued on 28 June.

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DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

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CORONAVIRUS

Will we ever get the truth on Covid in Queensland

Courier Mail, General News, 02/07/2024, Mike O'Connor, Page 21

Politicians rejoice in the addiction of the masses to their smart phones and social media's constant stream of mindless trivia which is slowly reducing the consistency of the national cerebrum to that of porridge. What happened yesterday is quickly forgotten, the appetite for temporary and immediate sensory stimulation which does not require even the faintest flicker of intelligence insatiable.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Opal HealthCare courts buyers as Morgan Stanley brought in

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 02/07/2024, Page 14

What comes around, goes around at Opal HealthCare, where investors including Singapore's GK Goh Holdings and AMP Capital funds have brought in Morgan Stanley to work out whether it's time to put the aged-care operator up for auction. GK Goh had similar th...

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

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Aged-care raises to be phased in for 250,000

The Australian, General News, 02/07/2024, Ewin Hannan, Page 6

Pay rises of up to 13.5 per cent for 250,000 aged-care workers will be phased in next year after the federal government convinced the Fair Work Commission to stagger the increases in two tranches over nine months. Unions wanted the wage increases paid immediately but given the government is fully

funding the pay rises, the commission largely upheld the commonwealth position to delay their implementation.

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

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'Volatile' resident

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/07/2024, Amber Wilson, Page 1

A legal battle has broken out with an 80-year-old man accused of bashing other elderly nursing home residents, including a woman said to have died from an injury he inflicted. The "volatile" man, whose name has not been released, has been accused by the aged care home of a list of attacks including pushing a woman, who died from a fracture sustained in her fall.

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

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Collaborative palliative care pilot project empowers aged care staff

Aged Care Insite, Other, 01/07/2024, Stefanie Schultz

Two Victorian aged care providers are changing the way they deliver end of life care. Peninsula Home Hospice and Vasey RSL Care Frankston South have joined forces on a pilot project that focuses on the education and empowerment of staff, ensuring all residents have the opportunity to die with dignity.

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Most aged care homes are falling short of minimum care standards – new report

Aged Care Insite, Other, 01/07/2024, Michael Woods

New analysis has revealed many Australian aged care residents are not receiving the levels of care they need and are entitled to. The UTS Ageing Research Collaborative, which we are involved in, recently released its 2023–24 mid-year report on Australia's aged care sector

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More HCP providers offering self-managed care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 01/07/2024

Do all home care package providers need to rethink their traditional service models? In the recent KPMG Aged Care market analysis report, one key trend emerged: the rapid growth of Home Care Package (HCP) providers offering self-managed care.

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New intervention prepares pharmacists for aged care governance

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 01/07/2024, Amelia Stapley, Amanda Cross and Simon Bell

The Aged Care On-Site Pharmacist (ACOP) program kicks off today (1 July 2024). To improve Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) in aged care, seven pioneering pharmacists have trained to become 'knowledge brokers' through the Australia-wide EMBRACE trial. The participating pharmacists have received funding to work across 19 residential aged care facilities (RACFs) operated by four aged care providers to establish the new role, which entails implementing the latest research findings and guidelines to improve medicine safety.

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Retirement village operators urged to strengthen elder abuse protections

HelloCare, Other, 01/07/2024, Jakob Neeland

Australia's Age Discrimination Commissioner, Robert Fitzgerald AM, has issued a compelling call for the retirement living sector to enhance its measures against elder abuse. This follows a growing concern about the prevalence and impact of such abuse within these communities.

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

No More Shame: Hospitals unite to combat plight of elder abuse

The Senior, Other, 01/07/2024, Anthony Caggiano

Being abused by someone you love is hard to accept, let alone speak up about and find help. But health providers may play a role in breaking this. The No More Shame trial aims to help health providers spot the signs of abuse, tactfully respond to it, and where necessary, get the victim connected to support. Staff working in subacute care in 10 hospitals in WA, NSW, VIC and SA are participating in the trial, which lasts about nine months at each site.

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Exclusive: new research predicts disaster for aged care beds in FY25

The Weekly Source, Other, 01/07/2024, Caroline Egan

Australia is set to hit the iceberg head-on in the next 12 months, based on new research released by its largest Not For Profit aged care provider Bolton Clarke. If current trends continue, the supply of aged care beds across the country will decline by around 1,000 in 2024-25 despite an increase of more than 7,000 potential residents, Tim Hicks (pictured right), Bolton Clarke's Executive General Manager Policy & Advocacy, told The Weekly Source.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Politicians ... working together?

Canberra Times, General News, 02/07/2024, Crispin Hull, Page 17

The unanimous support in the Senate for the law regulating vapes was a pleasant departure from the growing polarisation in Australian politics. For some time, it appeared that the opposition was going down the path of opposing for opposing's sake or rejecting evidence and science in favour of the commercial interests of their donors and supporters.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Stores flout tough new laws

Courier Mail, General News, 02/07/2024, Tayla Couacaud, Page 7

Brisbane stores are still selling vapes in violation of new laws that rolled out on Monday. Under the world-first federal laws, vapes may only be sold by pharmacies, and vapes containing nicotine or a zero-nicotine substance require a prescription. From October 1, therapeutic vapes with a nicotine concentration under 20mg/ml will be available without a prescription to those 18 or over. The Courier-Mail on Monday visited multiple tobacconists in Brisbane's inner city and western suburbs.

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

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Dry July may open eyes to reality of relationship with booze

West Australian, General News, 02/07/2024, Emma Jarvis, Page 38

Alcohol is Australia's most socially acceptable legal drug, but the truth is, alcohol and the misuse of it can cause significant harms. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimated that social cost of alcohol use in Australia was \$66.8 billion in 2017/2018, \$3.6b of that workplace costs due to absenteeism, and in 2022, there were 1742 alcohol-related deaths in Australia, from causes like liver cirrhosis and alcohol poisoning. This is the extreme end of harm but it does lead to a question of what can we do to mitigate and reduce these effects?

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

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Longer life expectancy brings growing disease burden

Canberra Times, Other, 02/07/2024, Alex Mitchell

Australians are living longer compared to 20 years ago but are spending more time battling health conditions. A flagship study run by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare also found no improvement in First Nations infant and child death rates in the past decade. Life expectancy has dropped by 0.1 years for both men (81.2 years) and women (85.3) from 2019-2021 to 2020-2022, but those numbers are both 0.3 years above pre-pandemic levels.

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

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Closing the gender exercise gap starts with evening up the workload in the home

ABC Online, Other, 01/07/2024, Kellie Scott

Finding time to exercise can be hard, and the research shows that's especially true for mums. "When you ask people 'why don't you do more physical activity', the most common reason is they don't have enough time," says Lyndall Strazdins from Australian National University.

[Read More](#)

Australia on track for worst year of whooping cough since 2016 as cases surge across the country

ABC Online, Other, 01/07/2024, Annika Burgess

Australia is heading towards a whooping cough epidemic, with cases surging past 11,000 over the past six months, compared to 2,447 in all of last year. The highly infectious disease is most dangerous for babies under six months of age, who are too young to be immunised. [...] About one in 125 babies under the age of six months with whooping cough dies from pneumonia or brain damage, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

[Read More](#)

Homelessness affects young people's health, safety, education. Here is Hailey's story

ABC Online, Other, 01/07/2024, Leah White

Hailey would often joke to her teachers that she couldn't do her homework because she didn't have a home. The 16-year-old says humour was her way of coping with a situation that "felt like hell on Earth". When Hailey's family found an eviction notice on the doorstep of their home in The Channon, in northern New South Wales, in early 2021 life changed. The family had called the house their home for seven years. "Mum would apply for literally everything on the market ... and everything got knocked back," Hailey says.

[Read More](#)

'Sleeper issue': Australians urged to prepare for retirement bills

In Daily, Other, 01/07/2024

A new report from Vanguard Australia has revealed almost one in five Australians are renting in retirement, while 30 per cent expect they will still be paying down their mortgage after working. [...] Separate data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has showed the proportion of 30-34 year olds that own homes has fallen from 65 per cent in 1971 to just 50 per cent in 2021.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 01/07/2024, Candice Wyatt

The costs of buying a vape have surged with pharmacies now the only places where e-cigarettes can be legally purchased, and they're doing it with very little guidance from regulators. It'll be in plain packaging with flavours restricted to mint, menthol and tobacco. However, not all pharmacies will stock vapes, including major chains and they claim it is so rushed the rollout has come before the rules.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

How artificial intelligence helped childhood cancer charity boost donations

The Australian, Technology, 02/07/2024, Jared Lynch, Page 20

The Kids Cancer Project has been able to almost double regular donations to \$2.2m a year, despite the cost of living crisis, thanks to artificial intelligence. The charity partnered with US analytics giant SAS to increase the productivity of its workforce, automating tasks such as financial processing and combing through copious amounts of data to determine who is likely to give more.

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

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Turning 45? Time for a test

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/07/2024, Page 11

Bowel Cancer Australia has welcomed a milestone after a six-year campaign, with the lowering of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program age from 50 to 45. A total of 1716 Aussies are diagnosed with early-onset bowel cancer each year, with those aged 40-49 accounting for 56 per cent of new cases and 64 per cent of deaths in those diagnosed under 50.

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

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Expert tips for a better back

West Australian, Today, 02/07/2024, Katie Hampson, Page 1

A Perth chiropractor shares her secrets to keep back pain at bay, from how you sleep to the way you hold your mobile phone. Whether it's from activities such as lifting heavy household items or sitting for long periods in an office chair, back pain blights the lives of millions of Australians. Now a Perth chiropractor has revealed five common triggers and how everyday tasks can be completed safely so you do not damage your back.

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

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I'm not scared of dying

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 02/07/2024, Page 1

Death is something we all face and yet it can seem so far away. But nothing puts life into focus like truly appreciating it will end. The Addy's Chelsea Bunting is speaking to those taking their final steps on the journey, giving them a chance to share their stories and the lessons they have learnt.

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Insights and support at forum

Shepparton News, General News, 02/07/2024, Page 8

Connection, information and support was at the forefront when the Breast Cancer Network Australia visited Shepparton as part of its national information forum series. The forum brought experts to the local community to provide insights on a range of breast cancer topics.

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

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A definitive guide to health tests you should have (at every age and stage)

The Courier Mail, Other, 01/07/2024, Ashley Lowe

For most of us, it's often not until we personally experience a health scare, or witness a loved one fall victim to a more serious health issue, that we give much thought to our ongoing health and vitality. [...] For melanomas specifically, The Cancer Council's ABCDE system is a good one to remember:

Keeping an eye on A symmetry B order irregularity C colour changes and combinations D iameter changes E volving spots How often: See your GP at least once a year for a full skin check – and if you're at a high risk for skin cancer, every six months.

[Read More](#)

I couldn't get rid of my belly fat but doctors told me it was 'normal' and 'hormonal'... until I was told the devastating truth

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/07/2024, Belinda Cleary

When Karen Lurati looks in the mirror she sees the body that betrayed her - and is still coming to terms with the fact she may never be able to 'trust it again'. The mother of two, from Melbourne , was diagnosed at the age of 48 with liposarcoma, an extremely rare cancer that grows in fat cells.

[Read More](#)

'Round 2': Eagle Jamie Cripps' wife Liv shares update in thyroid cancer battle

NEWS.com.au, Other, 01/07/2024, Andrew McMurtry

The wife of West Coast Eagles star Jamie Cripps has shared an update from her hospital bed, three years after her initial cancer diagnosis. Andrew McMurtry Sports Reporter The wife of West Coast star Jamie Cripps has shared an update from her hospital bed after undergoing surgery for thyroid cancer. [...] The Cancer Council reports the five-year survival rate for thyroid cancer is 97 per cent.

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

[Read More](#)

Government indifference to Riverina's astonishingly high MND rates shows rural lives don't matter

PS News, Other, 01/07/2024, Oliver Jacques

If a fatal illness impacted Sydneysiders at seven times the rate of the national average, the NSW Government would be doing everything in its power to investigate and address this issue. But the lack of action by the Labor, Liberal and National parties on the abnormally high prevalence of motor neurone disease (MND) in the Riverina suggests rural lives don't matter as much to them.

[Read More](#)

Mum mistaken for pregnant after 7.5kg mass 'invaded body like alien'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/07/2024, Sophie Coghill

An Aussie mum is urging others to keep an eye out for easily missed cancer symptoms after she dismissed her own as signs of menopause , while others around her simply assumed she was pregnant. Karen Lurati was in her 40s when she first started to notice changes in her body and for years put it down to menopause, believing she was simply transitioning into a different stage of life.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 01/07/2024, Sandra Sully

Australians aged 45 and over are now eligible for bowel cancer screenings after the age was lowered from 50. Roughly 7700 Australians are diagnosed with early onset bowel cancer annually, with people aged between 40 and 49 accounting for over half of that number. Anyone eligible can ask their GP about a screening test, with an opt-in for an automatic reminder every two years.

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PRIMARY CARE

Next health centre to be built in Griffith

Canberra Times, General News, 02/07/2024, Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 10

Griffith will temporarily lose a playground and a car park to make way for the ACT's Inner South Health

Centre, ready for use in 2027. The site is located behind the Griffith shops in Throsby Park, at the corner of Throsby Lane and Throsby Crescent. Existing community infrastructure will be demolished and rebuilt, Minister for Health Rachel Stephen-Smith said when she announced the site on Monday, July 1.

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

Budget fears at hospitals

Herald Sun, General News, 29/06/2024, Shannon Deery and Alex White, Page 1

Victorian hospitals fear more than \$1bn will be wiped from their budgets in a major blow to the state's public health system. Hospital whistleblowers say the extent of cost saving measures being demanded by the Allan government are unsustainable and will force a dangerous reduction in frontline services, job losses and permanent bed closures.

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

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

Labor laments surgery waitlists, ambo responses

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/07/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 9

Tasmanians are waiting too long for vital health services, Tasmania's opposition has claimed, with Labor spokeswoman Ella Haddad citing recently released data which reveals a jump in elective surgery waitlists, and record high ambulance response times in the state. Ms Haddad said Health Department system dashboard figures for June indicated elective surgery waitlists reached a 12-month high of more than 8000, with patients waiting for urgent Category 1 surgery rising by almost 20 per cent during the month.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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

Ramping hits a peak

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 02/07/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 8

Ambulance ramping hit unprecedented highs in Queensland this year, with new data showing patients waited more than seven hours outside major hospital emergency departments. While quarterly health data only provides average total ramping times, government documents have revealed the worst individual cases of ramping at each Queensland hospital over the March quarter.

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

'Extra pressure': Hospital forced to declare code yellow

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 02/07/2024, Katrina Lovell, Page 7

A 'Code Yellow' was declared at South West Healthcare when an increase in patients put the Warrnambool hospital under strain. But the hospital was able to take quick action. South West Healthcare chief executive officer Craig Fraser said the hospital had been feeling the pressure. "We have been in a period of code yellow mid-late last week however were able to Warrnambool stand this down within the hour once we had capacity."

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

Loss has 'dealt a significant blow'

Western Advocate, General News, 02/07/2024, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 4

If Bathurst council was to change its position, or a government grant became available, a group of general practitioners believe the proposed integrated medical centre could still be a possibility. Louise McMahon, Dr AtmaRana, Dr Sarah Koffmann and Dr Marcus Hayward - the owners of Bathurst General Practice Group (BGP) - made the argument in a letter to the community following decisions that have put an end to the Bathurst Integrated Medical Centre "in the foreseeable future".

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

Violence in Darling Downs public hospitals worst in Queensland

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 01/07/2024, Christine Schindler

Darling Downs hospital workers have spoken out after a survey revealed eight out of 10 hospital staff

have experienced workplace violence. Here's what they have to say: Hospital staff have spoken out after a survey revealed that workers in the Darling Downs - which stretches across Toowoomba, Warwick, Dalby and Kingaroy - were the most likely in Queensland to experience violence at work.

[Read More](#)

Vacancy control is the last thing needed in Tasmanian hospitals, says AMA

ABC Online, Other, 01/07/2024, Leon Compton and Rachel-Edwards

Last month, an internal memo from the acting secretary of the Tasmanian Health Department was leaked that said as the department was over budget and "vacancy control" measures would be brought in. The government says no patient-facing jobs would be affected by the vacancy control measures.

[Read More](#)

Over 100 patients choose to end their lives in first three months of new laws

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/07/2024

More than 100 people have been helped to end their own lives in the first three months since Voluntary Assisted Dying was made legal in NSW. The state was the last to introduce a legislated voluntary assisted dying regimen for people with incurable, terminal illness.

[Read More](#)

The Health Wrap: election focus, privatisation problems, cuts at CSIRO, hair stylists for health – and an amazing story from Indiana

Croakey, Other, 01/07/2024, Melissa Sweet

Catholic hospitals are calling for a fundamental overhaul of the way private health insurance premium rises are calculated and approved, with the costs pressures faced by hospitals taken into account in yearly increases that should be decided through an independent process. [...] However, there is a rapid review of the financial viability of private hospitals currently underway within the Department of Health and Aged Care.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 01/07/2024, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Queensland hospital patients waited more than seven hours outside emergency departments in the first three months of the year. Brisbane's Mater Hospital saw some of the worst cases of ramping in the state, with average wait times stretching out to 44 minutes.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Breakfast , 01/07/2024, Luke Bradnam

New data points to a growing concern around the average wait time for patients stuck waiting to access an emergency department at Queensland hospitals. According to the Courier Mail, ambulance ramping has seen patients wait more than seven hours at major hospitals.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Porn fuels rise of risky strangulation

Age, General News, 02/07/2024, Wendy Tuohy, Page 1

Sexual strangulation has become so popular that more than half of Australian young people have used it for pleasure, though it can cause lasting brain damage in seconds and death within minutes. Known as sexual "choking", the practice has taken off because it is mainstreamed in contemporary pornography, researchers say, but new national data shows it is so widespread that 57 per cent of those aged 18 to 35 have been strangled during sex at least once.

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

Facebook

Herald Sun, General News, 29/06/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 1

Social media is not harming children, tech giants have sensationally claimed, rejecting mountains of evidence that it is fuelling an alarming surge in poor mental health and eating disorders. Families who have lost children to suicide following online bullying and sextor- tion have accused the social media platforms of having "blood on their hands" following extraordinary testimony at a federal parliamentary probe on Friday.

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

Schools urged to get with program

Courier Mail, General News, 02/07/2024, Jade Gailberger, Page 13

Schools are being urged to invest in a world-leading body image program found to dramatically reduce the number of kids troubled by their looks. The program, developed by Adelaide researchers and costing just \$495, is for late primary and early secondary school students, and teaches kids to challenge "ideal" images they see in the media that can lead to dangerous eating disorders.

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

Why you might want to think twice before you listen to TikTok therapists

The Courier Mail, Other, 01/07/2024, Hannah Vanderheide

The pandemic has accelerated our demand for accessible mental healthcare, so it's only natural that we're turning to the new 'Dr Google' for help. The 2020s have seen a surge in mental health content across TikTok and Instagram. The content is a mix of mental health professionals providing explainers and bite-sized morsels of mental health wisdom, and creators sharing their lived experiences with mental illness, working to destigmatise previously taboo conditions such as borderline personality disorder (BPD) or more common conditions like depression and anxiety.

[Read More](#)

NRMA Insurance and Lifeline Launch toolkit to address mental health impact of natural disasters

2GB, Other, 01/07/2024, Bill Woods

Are you concerned about the impact of natural disasters on your mental health or that of your loved ones? The NRMA Insurance has partnered with Lifeline to create a Natural Disaster Support Toolkit, addressing the emotional toll of floods, bushfires, and other extreme weather events.

[Read More](#)

'No hope for the future': Eco anxiety is fuelling the youth mental health crisis

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/07/2024, Vicki Kotsirilos

I have heard some interesting comments from teenagers about climate change: "I don't want to have children; we will contribute to the huge population growth which is taking resources from our planet." "I don't want to eat red meat, especially cows, as they are contributing to climate change.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today, 01/07/2024, Karl Stefanovic and Amelia Adams

TikTok's algorithm is intensifying users eating disorders by bombarding them with extreme appearance-related videos, according to damning new research. Melbourne University professor Scott Griffiths says confronting content is pushed to new users in under three minutes of using the app.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 01/07/2024, Kate Freebairn

Nurses and midwives at a busy North Eastern Suburbs hospital have flagged safety concerns following reports of assaults in the area. A nurse was walking to an interchange after an evening shift at Modbury Hospital when she was verbally abused by a group of youths and struck in the chest. The incident was among a string of recent attacks in the area around Modbury Hospital.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Hospital staff to wear body cameras

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 02/07/2024, Christopher Harris, Page 1

Body-worn cameras will be strapped to staff during their shifts at public hospitals across the state in a bid to crack down on rising rates of violent assaults. There are now about 18 physical attacks a week in the state's hospitals, while three homicides took place in the 12 months to March, according to Bureau of Crime Statistics figures.

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

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Clinician saved the lives of countless women

Age, General News, 02/07/2024, Page 32

Dr William (Bill) Chanen, AM, who has died at the age of 96, was a pioneering international gynaecologic oncologist. He made it his life's work to improve women's health through the early detection and treatment of precancerous conditions of the cervix, thereby reducing the need for radical surgery and avoiding lifealtering complications.

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

Paramedic near miss

Herald Sun, General News, 02/07/2024, Sarah Perillo, Page 1

A paramedic is "lucky to be alive" after crashing down an embankment in the Hume region following an 18-hour shift. The worker had endured a "shift from hell" having worked from 7am until 1.30am the following morning when he fell asleep at the wheel on Thursday. Victorian Ambulance Union secretary Danny Hill said the "extremely experienced" paramedic had not stopped throughout the whole 18.5-hour shift.

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

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

How to simplify healthcare

ABC Online, Other, 01/07/2024, Kirsten Diprose

When struck down with illness, the last thing most people want is to deal with bureaucracy. But so often access to treatment or medicine is hidden behind a convoluted system of referrals and waitlists, with GPs playing the role of health system navigator.

[Read More](#)

NSW Ambulance reveals most trivial calls made to Triple Zero

9News, Other, 01/07/2024, Miriah Davis

Constipation, toothaches and hiccups were some of the emergency calls phoned in to Triple Zero last year, according to NSW Ambulance. The latest data from NSW Ambulance revealed in 2023 thousands of calls were made to Triple Zero that were either hoaxes or for trivial matters.

[Read More](#)

'Medicine is moving back to its roots': Will the next generation of doctors shun city practices?

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/07/2024, Rachel Carter

"My most memorable case where I had to put my foot down was an 18-year-old tradie apprentice who had put a circular saw across the back of his hand," Dr Adam Overweel recalls. "There was tendon damage, and he was flat out refusing to go anywhere."

[Read More](#)

'No more excuses' for low pay: union

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/07/2024, Megan Haggan

Professional Pharmacists Australia says that the 8CPA was delivered by the Federal Labor Government to provide more affordable medicines and boost funding to existing community pharmacist services.

[Read More](#)

The prescribing pharmacist

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 01/07/2024, Chloe Hava

James Buckley MPS, fitness fanatic and partner at LiveLife Pharmacy Port Douglas, is full speed into the expanded Queensland prescribing pilot. My high school chemistry teacher told me, 'James, choose something you like, and something you're good at'. I was good at chemistry at school and loved helping people, so why not do both? Pharmacy to me is about helping people understand their health through teaching them about their medicines.

[Read More](#)

Pill resupply starts

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/07/2024

From today, pharmacists in Tasmania can resupply a combination or progestogen-only contraceptive pill for an extra year to women between 16 and 50 years with a current prescription from their GP. Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tas branch President Helen O'Bryne said, "this move will help with easier access to the pill given the state's high rate of unplanned pregnancies".

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

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 01/07/2024, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

A paramedic has narrowly avoided serious injury after falling asleep at the wheel at the end of a marathon shift. Ambulance Victoria chiefs have rejected claims he was on the clock for more than 18 hours, but the union says they've got no idea.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 01/07/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Julian Schiller

Panel discussion with Stephen Mullighan, SA Treasurer, David Speirs, SA Opposition Leader, and Dr John Williams, SA President, Australian Medical Association, regarding the new GP payroll tax that will come into effect from today. Williams says it is going to be an increased cost of at least \$10 per consultation for a private consultation and is just a crazy policy taking money out of general practice. Speirs says it's regrettable that they've been deliberately misleading South Australians about the current situation with payroll tax as it relates to GPs.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 01/07/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Julian Schiller

The Australian Medical Association says some general practices may close as a result of a new GP payroll tax taking effect in the state from today. Doctors in private practice will pay the tax, but bulk

billing services will be exempt. The change follows a NSW tribunal ruling viewing doctors as employees instead of contractors. The AMA says patients will pay an additional \$10 for a private consultation.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Lupus drug gets PBS tick

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/07/2024, Page 11

Aussies with lupus can access a new treatment on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme following the listing of anifrolumab marketed as Saphnelo for patients. It's the first time a targeted treatment for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) has been reimbursed on the PBS.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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Health Products Portal depreciation drives the above-inflation fee increase

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 01/07/2024

The Department of Health and Aged Care says the above-inflation rise in PBS cost-recovery fees is due to capital costs, defined as IT system depreciation, related to the Health Products Portal. ...

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 01/07/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Julian Schiller

Australians are set to receive tax cuts from today and increases to superannuation contributions. Those on an average wage of about \$98,000 a year will get tax cuts worth just over \$2,000 for new medicines listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme including a drug for the most common autoimmune disease lupus. It will reduce costs from around \$1,500 a month to \$36. Melbourne's Monash Health Director of Rheumatology Professor Eric Morand says making medicine more accessible will dramatically improve people's lives.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

NDIS cost pressure eases, as do checks

The Australian, General News, 02/07/2024, Stephen Lunn, Page 1

The National Disability Insurance Agency reassessed tens of thousands fewer NDIS plans in the March quarter than a year earlier as it flagged success in bringing cost growth in the \$42bn scheme under greater control. An analysis of NDIS data shows that in the quarter to March 2024 there were 40,708 plan reassessments completed compared to 71,160 in the March 2023 quarter, a drop off of more than 30,000.

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Bulk bill kill shock

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/07/2024, Brad Crouch, Page 1

Leading medical imaging firm Jones Radiology is dumping bulk billing - but only for regional patients. Pensioners and concession cardholders will continue to be bulk billed and hardship cases may be given a 50 per cent discount. However, amid cost of living pressures other patients at regional clinics face gap fees from "around \$40 to several hundred dollars", according to officials, with the company saying the fees are needed to keep clinics open. A letter to doctors said the company understood

Here's what the other docs charge

The Medical Republic, Other, 01/07/2024, Holly Payne

Internal medicine has overtaken allergy/immunology as the medical specialty with the lowest bulk-billing rate, while GPs continue to be among the top bulk-billers. New data on the government's Medical Costs Finder should put concerns about GP bulk billing to bed, with some specialties revealed to be charging a gap for up to 80% of patients.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Struck-off surgeon using newname

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 02/07/2024, Michael Koziol, Page 3

A Sydney surgeon struck off the medical register after he used a patient "as a prop for a joke" has returned to practice under a different name. Colorectal surgeon Gary Donald McKay legally changed his name to Barry John McCabe earlier this year, and the public register of practitioners included no record of the previous findings against him until the Herald asked questions. It comes as the regulator, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, announced several changes yesterday designed to improve transparency and patient safety in other cases, including listing doctors' alternative names on the register.

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

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Due date bungle latest fail

The Nightly, General News, 01/07/2024, Mike Smithson, Page 11

A public health system medical bungle has left 1700 pregnant women shell-shocked. That's enough to put anyone on edge. Details have emerged in South Australia of a major stuff-up with electronic medical records which has given expectant mums a miscalculation of their due dates. The unforgivable bungle stretches over an eight-month period to June, with all hands now on deck to ensure those affected are informed of the error.

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Disability support worker busted with drugs and weapons

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 02/07/2024, Savannah Pocock, Page 4

A Tweed disability support worker has learnt his fate over a string of serious drug and weapon crimes after his arrest while on shift with a special needs client. Hit with an array of charges, Bryce Tupling (pictured) pleaded guilty at Tweed Heads Local Court to possessing or using an illegal weapon without permit and having an amount of (drug) precursor prescribed by regulations.

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A 91-year-old attack victim says more needs to be done to protect visitors after he was assaulted at Modbury Hospital

Adelaide Now, Other, 01/07/2024, Talara McHugh

A 91-year-old is calling for better security at Modbury Hospital after he was left in intensive care during an alleged assault in May. less than 2 min read An elderly man who almost died after being attacked in an alleged triple assault at Modbury Hospital last month says more needs to be done to protect visitors.

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

[Read More](#)

Tasmania Police declines to investigate whistleblower claims of

Launceston deaths cover-up

The Mercury, Other, 01/07/2024, Amber Wilson

A whistleblower has been left stunned after Tasmania Police told her it would not criminally investigate her claims a Launceston General Hospital boss routinely falsified death certificates. Tasmania Police has told a whistleblower it would not criminally investigate claims a Launceston General Hospital boss routinely falsified the death certificates of deceased patients.

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

[Read More](#)

Pippa White inquest: Toddler was rushed to Cowra Hospital with flu symptoms and was dead within hours. Two years on, her family are still fighting for answers

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/07/2024, Pranav Harish

The grieving parents of a toddler who died two years ago say they owe it to their little girl to continue fighting for answers over the tragedy. Pippa White was rushed to Cowra Hospital in central-west NSW, in 2022 after she fell ill with flu symptoms. The two-year-old wasn't seen by doctors until several hours later, where they failed to detect that Pippa likely had sepsis.

[Read More](#)

Children's nurse who moved to the city for work is accused of stalking three women including politician she met on a dating app

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/07/2024, Candace Sutton

A children's nurse has been arrested and charged with allegedly stalking a female politician after meeting her on a dating app. The senior MP, who Daily Mail Australia has chosen not to name, was allegedly stalked and harassed by 39-year-old Adrienne McKinney via the nurse's mobile phone, and Instagram page warmhoneyandmilk, after they met on Hinge.

[Read More](#)

'These powers will only be used in exceptional circumstances'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/07/2024, Megan Haggan

Unregistered practitioners—including suspended practitioners—can be prevented from treating patients under a suite of new AHPRA powers. These new powers enable the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and National Boards to better protect the public, the regulator says.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Code brought to its knees

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/07/2024, Dean Ritchie, Page 5

It is the racial divide that threatens to bring a regional rugby league competition to its knees literally. Central Coast club Woy Woy Roosters led by former Sharks, NSW and Australian star Andrew Fifita took to one knee before playing last weekend in solidarity, claiming they are the victims of racism and bullying by other clubs.

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I-MED snaps up US teleradiology player StatRad

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 02/07/2024, Tess Bennett, Page 15

Australia's biggest diagnostic imaging company, private equity-owned I-MED, is making its first foray into North America, acquiring United States imaging business StatRad to bulk up its fastgrowing teleradiology division. Chief executive Shrey Viranna sai...

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Simple lung cancer test

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/07/2024, Page 14

A new sugar-sensing diagnostic device could help thousands of lung cancer patients get ahead of the disease before it spreads. A drop of blood is all that is needed for the device developed by University of Queensland researchers to spot the early signs of lung cancer, allowing clinicians to intervene quickly.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Stand up for babies

Herald Sun, General News, 02/07/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

Pregnant women who sit for excessive periods could be harming the health of their unborn babies, even if they are physically active throughout the day. Women who work at a desk for long hours during pregnancy have been warned to get up and move regularly after research associated sitting for eight hours with smaller placentas.

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

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

Tool makes cut for cancer

Herald Sun, General News, 02/07/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 14

A tiny pair of "scissors" that has the potential to fix any genetic disease has been programmed by Melbourne researchers to target RNA, a common driver of cancer, for the first time. The technology that arms these precision gene scissors to seek and modify the blueprint of damaged cells is called CRISPR, an acronym for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats.

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

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Menzies hails strides made from MS grant

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/07/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 2

Breakthrough multiple sclerosis research including a stem-cell biobank, and a new trial for brain-repair treatment is being celebrated by the Menzies Institute on the fifth anniversary of a \$10 million funding boost. The 2019 grant, made from the Medical Research Future Fund, has allowed the University of Tasmania-based medical research body to continue its 30-year role at the forefront of MS research in Australia.

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New sepsis treatment set to save lives

The Senior, Other, 01/07/2024, Eileen Wood

A simple change to the way antibiotics are given to adult patients with sepsis could save thousands of lives a year globally. Research by the University of Queensland and The George Institute for Global Health including a clinical trial and systematic review have shown that intravenously administering commonly used penicillin-like antibiotics via continuous infusion - instead of multiple short infusions - cures sepsis infections and saves lives.

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Coroner labels prison death 'preventable'

Age, General News, 02/07/2024, Erin Pearson and Erin Pearson, Page 1

Aunty Donniss Kerr sobbed as she learnt her son didn't have to die. At the Coroners Court of Victoria yesterday, she heard coroner David Ryan reveal that the death of 32-year-old Indigenous man Joshua Kerr in custody, while on remand at Port Phillip Prison, was entirely avoidable.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Hearing tests fall short

Herald Sun, General News, 02/07/2024, Page 13

Only 40 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults who self-reported hearing loss during health checks were referred for treatment and care, according to Australian research. The University of Queensland study of more than 1700 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults attending a primary healthcare clinic in Inala, Queensland found that almost 20 per cent of patients reported hearing loss but only about 40 per cent of these were referred to audiology, ear, nose and throat specialists or received other management.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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JC inquest day 1: Coroner examines police procedures and availability of mental health services in Geraldton

West Australian, Other, 01/07/2024, Jessica Moroney and Anna Cox

Details about police procedures, policies and training methods regarding the use of force will be kept under wraps from the public at an inquest into the police shooting death of Yamatji woman JC in Geraldton almost five years ago. A suppression order was made on the opening day of the inquest on Monday preventing publication of details relating to use of force "police policies and standard operating procedures, tactics or training methods, including the operational capacities of force options.

[Read More](#)

Legalised alcohol set to return to Aurukun in shock new move as sly grogging escalates

Cairns Post, Other, 02/07/2024, Luke Williams

Alcohol could return to the dry community of Aurukun following a push from the local council with the backing of a federal MP. Aurukun Shire Council has had alcohol restrictions in place for 22 years but is preparing to make an application to the state government for a licence to re-open a limited hours tavern. If approved the tavern would operate with restricted opening hours, customer quotas and limits on the strength of alcohol sold.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Stone ban a lifesaver

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 02/07/2024, Page 9

The CFMEU's Stop The Killer Stone campaign led to a ban of the deadly product that causes silicosis an incurable condition from July 1. "Our union has stopped the asbestos of the 2020s in its tracks,"

CFMEU national secretary Zach Smith said. "This is a once-in-a-generation moment for workplace health and safety."

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Melbourne Royal Show cancels poultry competition amid Victoria's bird flu outbreak

ABC Online, Other, 01/07/2024

The Melbourne Royal Show has announced it will cancel this year's poultry competition, as Victoria grapples to contain the nation's biggest outbreak of avian influenza. Strains of the bird flu have been found on eight farms in western Victoria, and more than one million birds have been culled to try and stop the spread

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

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Teen dies hours after complaining of sore throat and cough

NEWS.com.au, Other, 01/07/2024, Jasmine Kazlauskas

A "healthy" teenager has died just hours after being diagnosed with the flu. The family of William Jones have been left reeling from the unimaginable loss, sharing that they found him unresponsive by his bed on June 14. The 16-year-old, from Wellington, New Zealand, had developed a sore throat and cough, with his concerned mother-of-three Rebecca Rollason calling the doctor the day before he died.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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ABC News, ABC News Afternoons, 01/07/2024, Ruby Cornish

Australia is heading towards a whooping cough epidemic with cases spiking across the country. Researchers warn that 2024 is on track to become the worst year for the potentially deadly disease since 2016. Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly has urged people to be vaccinated against the disease.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 01/07/2024, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

Australian states have begun rolling out bans on engineered stone benchtops but the swift changes to the popular product have led to some supply issues and confusion for customers. The ban on engineered stone aims to protect workers from silicosis caused by exposure to crystalline silica dust. Queensland, Victoria and the Act are banning the product immediately while other states will fulfil pre-existing orders until the end of the year.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, 20:00 News, 01/07/2024

Australia is on track towards a whooping cough epidemic as cases surge across the country at its worst rate since 2016. Cases have surpassed 11,000 over the past six months, compared to just over 2400 in all of last year. The highly infectious disease is most dangerous for babies under six months of age who are too young to be immunised. Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly is advising people to check their vaccination status and get a booster.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Vape shops flout new ban

Canberra Times, General News, 02/07/2024, Dana Daniel, Page 1

Nicotine vapes are still available in Canberra despite a federal ban on their sale with maximum penalties of seven years in jail or a \$2.2 million fine for individuals. Under the Albanese government's ban, which came into force on Monday after legislation passed last week, a company selling nicotine vapes in a retail store can be fined up to \$21.2 million. "We expect businesses to comply with this, we are very deadly serious about making sure these laws work," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Import of vapes from China tumble as Albanese Government's new crackdown forces users to flood Facebook Marketplace

West Australian, General News, 02/07/2024, Remy Varga, Page 14

Imports of vapes from China have plummeted ahead of a ban on the sale of e-cigarettes as part of a regulatory overhaul by the Albanese Government. Major tobacco companies including Philip Morris International and British American Tobacco have also pulled the online sale of their vaping products in Australia. [...] The ABF and the Therapeutic Goods Administration have jointly seized nearly three million vapes since the import ban came into effect on January 1.

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Neurotech forms expert panel after TGA meeting

The Australian, Other, 01/07/2024

Neurotech International will establish an internationally recognised expert advisory group to provide strategic advice on children diagnosed with Paediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Paediatric Acute Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS). Neurotech (ASX:NTI) says establishment of the advisory group follows a productive pre-submission meeting with the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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'Dob in a vape shop': Australia's new e-cigarette commissioner urges

Canberra Times, Other, 01/07/2024, Dana Daniel

The Albanese government has appointed Erin Dale as its inaugural Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner, to ramp up its crackdown on nicotine vapes. Ms Dale told reporters in Canberra on Monday that it was "a critical time for law enforcement response to tackle this crime" given the well-established evidence of harm from nicotine vapes. [...] Since a ban on importing disposable vapes began on January 1, ABF and the Therapeutic Goods Administration have jointly seized close to 2.9 million illicit vapes, Ms O'Neil said.

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Dodgy traders flouting new laws restricting the sale of vapes

The Courier Mail, Other, 01/07/2024, Tayla Couacaud

Dodgy Queensland tobacco and convenience traders are ignoring new legislation that has banned the sale of vapes outside of pharmacies. Dodgy vaping operators across Brisbane are flouting tough new laws that could see jail time and millions of dollars in fines for businesses found in breach. [...] The TGA laws have also restricted flavours to mint, methyl and tobacco and the vapes will have plain packaging.

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GLP-1 RAs slapped with ileus warning after TGA investigation

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/07/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

The product information for semaglutide, dulaglutide and tirzepatide has been updated. New safety warnings about the risk of ileus have been added to all GLP-1 receptor agonists following a TGA investigation into local reports of the gastrointestinal event.

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Profession needs vape guidelines

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/07/2024, Glenn Turner

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) needs to review the safety, efficacy and performance of

vaping products before pharmacists will feel comfortable stocking them, an NSW-based pharmacist says.

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The Zap: a comprehensive wrap of the latest health and aged care news, plus consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 01/07/2024, Melissa Sweet

The Pharmacy Guild's fascinating reaction to the Government's vaping reforms, recommendations for tackling diabetes, shortages of pain relief medicines, innovation in rural healthcare, and the latest excess mortality data are covered in this week's edition of The Zap. [...] Readers after a plain, spin-free summary of exactly what is involved in the new regime should read the Therapeutic Goods Administration's media release issued on 28 June.

[Read More](#)

ABC, Late Night ABC News, 01/07/2024, Jade Barker

Australia's world first vaping laws have come into force, but the pharmacists, given the task of administering prescribed vapes, say legal and supply issues haven't been resolved. They're the little devices packing an addictive nicotine punch. [...] There are absolutely no products that we know of that are registered as a therapeutic product with the TGA, but the TGA says there are other avenues.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Airport workers caught helping crime ring with drug smuggling

Age, General News, 02/07/2024, Page 7

Dozens of Melbourne Airport staff have been accused of working for organised criminals attempting to smuggle drugs into the state. Aviation workers were the subject of a Border Force investigation aiming to bust crimes within airport supply chains. The probe found 70 staff at Melbourne Airport had breached security checks over the past 12 months, including some suspected of working within organised crime.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Screen saviour

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 02/07/2024, Page 8

Geelong is leading regional Victoria when it comes to the of people being charged with possession. Figures compiled by Crime Victoria show 811 drug were laid in the year March more than in any region in the state. Cannabis had the highest of charges (284), followed methamphetamine with 200.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Why that 'healthy' supermarket snack with the five-star rating might be bad news

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 01/07/2024, Susie Burrell

Star symbols are common on supermarket food products, from 0.5 to five full stars. What do they really mean? And how much should you rely on them? How do you make healthy food choices? Do you scan the nutritional panel? Or the ingredient list? Perhaps you try and buy snacks from the health food section of the supermarket, or maybe you use the Health Star Rating system.

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