



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 21st July 2024

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

LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that Health Workers' Union secretary Diana Asmar says healthworkers have been spat on, punched and stabbed as emergency departments in Victoria experience increasing assaults against staff.
- **[The Sunday Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports that women suffering from endometriosis and other gynecological conditions have called for more public funding of services for complex gynecological conditions, with a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care saying that changes from July 2025 will ensure longer consults and larger rebates for these conditions but that they can't force specialists to bulk-bill or reduce their feeds
- **[The Sunday Age](#)** (page 4) reports that private maternity hospitals are asking for major reforms to counteract increasing out-of-pocket fees and insurance costs, saying that the current model is unviable and will force more closures of private maternity services. *Also reported by: [Sun Herald](#)*
- **[The Sunday Age](#)** (page 4) reports that a new advertising campaign urging elderly Australians to report neglect and exploitation among increasing reports of families taking advantage of their elderly relatives. *Also reported by: [Sun Herald](#), [Sunday Canberra Times](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*

- [The Sunday Tasmanian](#) (page 8) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has said an urgent care clinic has taken an important step towards completion in Tasmania's north as tenders opened, saying, "The Bridgewater Urgent Care Clinic ... will mean more Tasmanians can access this fantastic health service to receive urgent bulk-billed care instead of waiting in hospital emergency departments".
- [The Sun Herald](#) (page 5) reports that cold and flu medication containing phenylephrine has been found to be less effective when ingested orally according to advice given to the FDA, with a spokesperson for the TGA saying it would monitor the situation but did not have any plans to conduct their own review. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Age](#)
- [The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#) (page 5) reports that over 10,000 Queenslanders on public elective surgery waitlists will be outsourced to private care to ease pressure on the public system among rising wait times as part of \$100 million surgery connect program.
- [The Sunday Herald Sun](#) (page 12) reports that cancer advocacy groups are calling for a review of the PBS as thousands of cancer patients are unable to access their recommended medications on the scheme due to the medication either not being listed for their particular type of cancer or because wait-times for new medication listings can take up to seven years. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Telegraph](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide](#), [Sunday Herald Sun](#), [Sunday Tasmanian](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Selling the house to save your life

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 21/07/2024, Sue Dunlevy, Page 12

Australia's medicine subsidy scheme is so crippled by delay, a staggering 10,000 patients a year are being forced to fund their own lifesaving cancer treatment. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was contacted for comment.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#)

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Why it's time to end Australia's cancer roulette

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Editorials, 21/07/2024, Page 65

Barely a household in Australia is untouched by the insidious disease we call cancer. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler stepped in and agreed to fund the lifesaving treatment for the disease that can cost families \$500,000, but only after Holly featured on the front page of The Advertiser earlier this month.

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Tenders out for care clinic in Bridgewater

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 21/07/2024, Page 8

Expanded access to bulk-billed medical care is on the cards for the northern suburbs with tenders called for a new urgent care clinic. Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said this was an important step in delivering a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic for Bridgewater.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Opening has to be Seine

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 21/07/2024, Jacquelin Magnay, Page 6

Athletes and the hundreds of thousands lining the Paris Games opening ceremony along the River Seine will be "enveloped in love" and protected by a web of counter drone machines. [...] Australia will

be represented by Sport Minister Anika Wells and the Australian ambassador Gillian Bird.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Scholarships open for healthcare workers

The Bunyip, Other, 20/07/2024

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.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Suffering in silence

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 21/07/2024, Lauren Richardson, Page 1

Canberra woman Drina Veljaca feels pushed out of the system and unacknowledged after being diagnosed with endometriosis last August. [...] A Department of Health and Aged Care spokeswoman said they were committed to supporting access to high quality and affordable healthcare.

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There's a new COVID-19 variant in Australia — and it could spread faster than others

SBS, Other, 20/07/2024, Madeleine Wedesweiler

A new COVID-19 variant, which experts say could be more transmissible, is circulating in Australia. [...] A Department of Health spokesperson said there had been confirmed cases of LB.1 in Australia.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

'Disturbing' trend in abuse of the elderly

Sunday Age, General News, 21/07/2024, Paul Sakkal, Page 4

Grandparents being exploited, neglected or financially coerced are the target of a new education campaign to eliminate abuse of older people in Australia. From today, a \$5 million advertising campaign will run on television, online and at medical clinics telling older people to open up about the poor treatment they receive, including from their children and grandchildren.

Also reported by: [Sun Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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\$4.8m for elder abuse campaign

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 21/07/2024, Dana Daniel, Page 17

Abuse of older people is a "shameful and often hidden form of cruelty and mistreatment", Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus will say as he launches a \$4.8 million national awareness campaign. The campaign, which will run across television, social media, outdoor and search advertising, aims to help people aged 65 and over feel more comfortable sharing concerns - and boost awareness that support is available.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Pension rules punish people who don't own property

Sunday Herald Sun, Business News, 21/07/2024, Anthony Keane, Page 62

Much is made of high prices and interest rates locking young first home buyers out of the housing market, but Australians at the other end of the age spectrum are also hit hard by a lack of home ownership. [...] About 14 per cent of over-65 households are renting, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, with single people (22 per cent) much more likely than couples (6.2 per cent) to be renters.

Also reported by: [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Return of cheap alcohol would cause more harm

Sunday Territorian, General News, 21/07/2024, Dr Nic Taylor, Page 13

A recent opinion article in the NT News claimed the only way the alcohol floor price of 2018 had an impact on alcohol-related harm was by manipulating data to distort reality. The article never elaborates on how or what data has been manipulated.

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How young Aussie from a cattle farm is changing the conversation around consent, one student at a time

7news.com.au, Other, 20/07/2024

A junior doctor at Toowoomba Hospital is changing the conversation about consent and rape culture in Australia, one student at a time. [...] Data from The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows one in five Australian women have experienced sexual assault.

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Memory cafes create friendly communities for people living with dementia

ABC Online, Other, 20/07/2024, Ethan French

A special kind of get-together takes place on the last Monday of every month in Bunbury, 200 kilometres south of Perth. People living with dementia and their carers meet at a cafe for cakes, coffee and camaraderie. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare said more than 420,000 Australians were estimated to be living with dementia.

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[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Calls from Cancer Council to get rid of junk food adverts at new Melbourne train stations

7news.com.au, Other, 20/07/2024

The Cancer Council is demanding junk food advertising be banned from Victoria's public transport network. Over the next year, five new Metro Tunnel stations are set to open across Melbourne and the Cancer Council wants them free of advertisements for unhealthy food.

[Read More](#)

How one Wagga resident has managed her diabetes for more than 60 years

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 20/07/2024, Jeremy Eager

A lot has changed over the past six decades when it comes to managing diabetes and Wagga's Annette Forsyth has seen it all. [...] Ms Forsyth received a medal from Diabetes Australia in recognition of 60 years managing the disease and while she's had some scares over the six decades, she's been able to put her journey into perspective.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Private maternity system contracts painfully

Sunday Age, General News, 21/07/2024, Kate Aubusson, Page 4

Australia's private maternity hospitals face collapse without major reforms to combat the soaring costs of running the services for a shrinking pool of women, who pay thousands in out-of-pocket fees and increasingly unaffordable health insurance. Operators say insurers must include maternity in lower policy tiers, after several private maternity hospitals shut, pushing more women into the overburdened public system.

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

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Hospital war zones

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 21/07/2024, Shannon Deery, Page 1

Staff in emergency department 'war zones' are being assaulted in record numbers, prompting calls for urgent intervention. In some instances up to four code grey alerts are being issued in under a minute, with dozens being recorded daily.

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Operations go private

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 21/07/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 5

State outsourced elective surgeries to reduce massive waiting lists in public system Tens of thousands of Queenslanders on public elective surgery waitlists are being transferred to private hospitals for treatment, as the state government ramps up efforts to clear the mammoth surgery backlog. More than 110,000 elective surgeries including gastroenterology, ophthalmology, and ear, nose and throat surgeries were performed at public hospitals during the 2022-23 financial year, with the government outsourcing a further 24,000 to private care.

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

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Our ailing state of health

Sunday Herald Sun, Editorials, 21/07/2024, Page 56

Victoria's cash-strapped hospitals are in a sick state. Security staff have told the Sunday Herald Sun how emergency departments are now like war zones, given the number of alerts of potential violence they get each day.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Sextortion 'is costing lives'

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 21/07/2024, Aneeka Simonis, Page 11

Anti-sextortion measures must be stronger to prevent a growing number of youths ending their lives after being blackmailed, a coroner says. Shocking new figures reveal 13 young Victorians in the past decade took their own lives after intimate images were weaponised against them.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Midwives prepare for Queensland Health's first homebirth program

ABC Online, Other, 20/07/2024, Owen Jacques

Midwives are preparing to assist in Queensland's first public health system homebirths. The Sunshine Coast will be used as a pilot site for the program, with the first baby due to be born within weeks.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Fiona's costly battle

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 21/07/2024, Natalie Vikhrov, Page 13

When Fiona Wooldridge suffered a haemorrhage in August 2022, she thought it was fibroids. [...] The

immunotherapy drug is used to treat several cancers but is not on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for Mrs Wooldridge's type of cancer.

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Selling up to gain a few more years

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 21/07/2024, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 16

For Dr Brungeswara Konda, beating cancer to see his daughter grow up is what is most important to him but that means selling the family home and car and asking strangers for money. [...] He must now have chemotherapy and radiation while taking medications not covered under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

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'It shouldn't be going on in this day and age'

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 21/07/2024, Page 50

Michelle Le Grew is paying \$90,000 out of her own pocket for her lifesaving breast cancer medicine. The 53-year-old knew she had the cancercausing BRCA 2 gene and had her ovaries removed and a hysterectomy to prevent it.

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Health budget must pay for cancer drugs

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 21/07/2024, Page 58

That up to 10,000 Australians are being forced to fund their own lifesaving cancer treatments each year is a serious indictment of an Australian healthcare system so frequently labelled "world class". [...] Rare Cancers Australia, aware that between 8000 and 10,000 Australians are paying themselves for lifesaving medicines not subsidised by the nation's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, insists the system has to change to ensure those most in need of urgent, lifesaving medical treatment can get it.

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Charlie Teo hit with medical malpractice lawsuit

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/07/2024, Brenden Hills

Exiled neurosurgeon Charlie Teo is being sued by the widower of one of his patients in a medical negligence case potentially worth more than \$1 million. The woman, a 41-year-old Perth mother of three who can legally only be known as Patient A, failed to regain consciousness and died in 2019 after Dr Teo performed brain surgery.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

New liver 'a gift' to Canberra artist

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 21/07/2024, Lauren Richardson, Page 13

Heather Aspinall, a 56-year-old artist from Canberra, was given a new chance at life after a successful liver transplant. [...] Stories like Ms Aspinall's are why DonateLife chief executive Lucinda Barry stressed the importance of signing up to be a donor and having conversations with family about wanting to donate.

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[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Why gene doping is the next frontier in cheating

Sun Herald, Sport, 21/07/2024, Adrian Proszenko, Page 40

When he stands on the blocks for the Enhanced Games, an Olympics-style event where performance enhancing drugs are not only permitted but encouraged, Australian swimmer James Magnussen's regime may include genome doping. "At this point I'm early in the process and still researching everything myself, plus getting medical advice, both individually and from the Enhanced Games," Magnussen says.

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

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Sports vouchers missing mark

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 21/07/2024, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 5

New analysis shows children from areas facing socio-economic challenges are less likely to use government-issued sports vouchers, compared to children from the state's more advantaged areas. In SA, more than \$48m worth of sports vouchers have been delivered since the program aimed at helping ease the cost of sports participation was launched in 2015.

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Pride in the jumper

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 21/07/2024, James Bresnehan, Page 1

The 18 AFL clubs that insisted Tasmania have a new roofed stadium at Macquarie Point before backing it for a licence are said to be "thrilled" by the recent designs. It comes as the AFL Commission on August 1 will hear from the Tasmania Football Club board, led by chairman Grant O'Brien, on the growth of the Tasmania Devils, as well as the state government's proposed \$715m, 23,000-seat undercover stadium.

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Women score funding goal

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 21/07/2024, Page 18

Newcastle Council is doubling down on women's sports, announcing plans to invest \$3.3 million in facility upgrades aimed at increasing female sporting participation. Funds provided by both the City of Newcastle and the state government's Level the Playing Field Program will be spread across three sporting hubs in the Lambton and Carrington areas, providing an upgrade of buildings, storage facilities and grounds.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

'Deadly' program at HMRI to help improve life for First Nations people

Newcastle Herald, Other, 20/07/2024, Damon Cronshaw

The "Deadly Images" was launched at on Friday in a bid to improve Aboriginal health. It will enable the Aboriginal community to make sure research addresses their needs and "historical mistrust".

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Researchers develop app that uses AI to detect whether you have an STI

Sunday Age, General News, 21/07/2024, Mary Ward, Page 18

An app developed by Melbourne researchers is showing promise in diagnosing sexually transmitted infections (STIs) using artificial intelligence, amid a surge of people testing positive to the diseases. There has been a post-pandemic upswing in cases of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis, a trend attributed to increased testing but also a decline in condom use.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Still blocked up as the drugs don't work

Sun Herald, General News, 21/07/2024, Jewel Topsfield, Page 5

It's the middle of a chilly winter of virus soups, runny noses, red eyes and hacking coughs, with many reaching for cold and flu tablets to ease symptoms. [...] Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said it would continue to monitor the outcomes of the FDA review.

Also reported by: [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Hows Maz Coote's fertility struggle inspired Australia's first at-home AMH test

The Australian, Other, 20/07/2024, Jessica Wang

It may not have felt like it at the time, but a "bum-steer" GP appointment that left Sydney PR maven Maz Coote crying and fearing she wouldn't be able to have children became the inspiration to create Australia's first at-home fertility test. At age 31, single and prompted by a family history of unexplained infertility, Ms Coote took an AMH test, which measures the amount of anti-Mullerian hormone in the blood and can give a rough indication of a woman's egg reserve and her remaining fertile years.

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

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Tasmanian agriculture chasing slice of lucrative traditional Chinese herbal medicine market

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/07/2024, Duncan Abey

The state's chances of breaking into the \$130 billion traditional Chinese medicine market have been boosted by a two-year extension to Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture's herb research centre. TIA Associate Professor Dugald Close said the \$1 million Research Hub for Traditional Chinese Herbs had

been due to shut down this year, before a funding injection from AEMG Education to keep it open until the end 2026.

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

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Custom-mixed hormone therapies misleading menopausal women to think personalised products are necessary, experts say

The Guardian, Other, 20/07/2024, Natasha May

Prof Susan Davis was shocked to see her name on the website of an Australian telehealth menopause clinic offering a product she believes "is frankly reprehensible" and "misleading women". [...] While MHT sold in ordinary pharmacies contain known quantities of hormones and are approved by drugs regulator the Therapeutic Goods Administration, therapies made by a compounding pharmacist are not subject to the same dosing, quality or safety standards.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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