



# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 22nd July 2024

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that AMA president Steve Robson says he is concerned over data revealing that 28 per cent of the poorest households in Australia have delayed or avoided medical treatment due to cost-of-living pressures, saying "Paying \$40 or \$50 or even more out of pocket every time you see your doctor means often you can't pay your rent or put food on the table, you can't buy school books".
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that a decision to include submissions from anyone who identifies as a woman in Victoria's The Inquiry into Women's Pain has received criticism from The Women's Forum of Australia, while a spokesperson for the Victorian government said that "A range of demographic data is being collected ... to ensure recommendations are robust and reflect the diversity of women's experiences of pain".
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports that a healthcare worker recruitment drive in Tasmania has appointed 500 additional staff since April, however ANMF Tasmanian branch secretary Emily Shepherd says there are still staffing shortages across the state. *Also reported by:* [Burnie Advocate](#), [Launceston Examiner](#)
- **[The Daily Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that the NSW government has awarded a \$1 million research grant to Macquarie University for a project investigating why rates of MND in parts of the Riverina are seven times higher than the rest of Australia.

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 4) reports that the AFL Fans Association's annual poll has revealed that 75 per cent of respondents support stronger illicit drug policy enforcement, with the result coming after Sport Integrity Australia called for an overhaul of the current "medical model" system that allows players to avoid strikes.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 7) reports that Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan has responded to reports of growing violence in emergency departments as "deeply disappointing" while saying that claims around hospital funding facing cuts are incorrect, with budget-setting negotiations ongoing.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 10) reports that documents released under Right to Information laws have revealed that two patients died in the past six months while waiting for ambulances as strained emergency departments deal with ramping delays of up to six hours across south-east Queensland.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 14) reports that a man who lost sight in his eye after a routine procedure went wrong in 2015 is suing the Sydney Eye Hospital for negligence and breaching its duty of care, with the Supreme Court to decide court dates later this month.

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## MINISTER BUTLER

### How much would you pay for drugs to save your life?

Cairns Post, General News, 22/07/2024, Sue Dunlevy, Page 14

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: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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### Born in 'wrong country'

Cairns Post, General News, 22/07/2024, Sue Dunlevy, Page 14

Michelle Le Grew is paying \$90,000 out of her own pocket for her lifesaving breast cancer medicine. [...] Ms Le Grew scraped together the funds from an insurance payout after appeals to pharmaceutical company Astra Zeneca, Health Minister Mark Butler and even the committee that decides which drugs get subsidised were unsuccessful.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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

### On The Lookout in Framlingham?

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 22/07/2024, Jessica Howard, Page 1

A new location proposed for The Lookout could bring an end to the city's hard-fought campaign to open a residential rehabilitation centre. [...] He is expected to travel to Canberra with Uncle Lenny and Mr Powell to meet with Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Linda Burney this year.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Labor push for female quotas on sports boards

Australian Financial Review, General News, 22/07/2024, Zoe Samios, Page 8

The country's peak sporting organisations would be forced to set aside a predetermined number of board positions for women in exchange for funding under plans being developed by the Albanese government and the states. Sports Minister Anika Wells, who is t...

## Pollies left at starting blocks

Age, General News, 22/07/2024, Stephen Brook & Kishor Napier-Raman, Page 2

As business leaders, celebrities, sporting bureaucrats and miscellaneous grifters head to Paris for the Olympics, one group that will be largely sidelined is politicians. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese won't be making the trip to Paris to cheer on the Australian Olympic team. Official duties will instead fall to Sports Minister Anika Wells.

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

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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## DEPARTMENT

### New Covid-19 variant LB.1 is in Australia and could spread faster than others

The Courier Mail, Other, 22/07/2024, Merryn Johns

A new coronavirus variant is circulating in Australia and experts warn it could spread faster than other variants. A Department of Health spokesperson confirmed cases of LB.1 in Australia, however, the JN.1 variant (and subvariants KP.2 and KP.3) caused the majority of new infections for the 7 May to 11 June period.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### Endometriosis sufferers in Canberra feel 'completely disregarded'

Braidwood Times, Other, 21/07/2024, Lauren Richardson

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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### Digital psychological services play a vital role in the mental health care landscape

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/07/2024

Anxiety disorders and depressive illnesses are very common, but only a small proportion of those affected have access to evidence-based care. [...] Digital mental health service (DMHS) is a term used by the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care to refer to any app, consumer forum or internet-based clinical service that addresses mental health concerns.

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## CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Call to include family homes in pension test

Australian Financial Review, General News, 22/07/2024, Michelle Bowes, Page 9

The government should consider including family homes above \$2.1 million in the age pension asset test to encourage retirees to downsize, according to the Actuaries Institute. In a discussion paper released today, the institute advocates a series of reforms...

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### Pressure point as baby boomers face retirement squeeze

The Australian, General News, 22/07/2024, Helen Trinca, Page 5

Suzanne and Robert Boisse were keen to downsize but they spent two years on the baby boomers' new waiting list the queue to buy into a retirement village in what could become one of the nation's boom housing sectors. Six weeks ago, the couple finally moved into a new home in The Willows retirement village in Winston Hills, 28km west of the Sydney CBD.

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### How paying for your funeral now may be a good investment

Canberra Times, Business News, 22/07/2024, Noel Whittaker, Page 20

There's an investment you may not have considered that can achieve good returns, and it's guaranteed that you're going to need it one day. It's your funeral.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#).

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### Before you sign on the dotted line

West Australian, Business News, 22/07/2024, Nick Bruining, Page 41

Australia's retirement income system is justifiably ranked as one of the world's best. But it is probably also the most complicated.

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### Ad campaign to tackle 'ugly' elder abuse

Daily Advertiser, General News, 22/07/2024, Page 2

An advertising campaign will be rolled out in a bid to stop the scourge of elder abuse amid reports the form of mistreatment is on the rise. From Sunday a series of awareness initiatives will run across Australian television, online channels and in health clinics to shine a spotlight on elder abuse.

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## Stepping up fight against elder abuse

Newcastle Herald, General News, 22/07/2024, Andrew Brown & Samantha Lock, Page 7

A multimillion-dollar ad campaign will be rolled out in a bid to stop the scourge of elder abuse amid reports the form of mistreatment is on the rise. From July 28, a series of awareness initiatives will run across Australian television, online channels and in health clinics to shine a spotlight on elder abuse.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

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## TV ad tackles elder abuse

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 22/07/2024, James Campbell, Page 3

A TV commercial encouraging people to talk to older people about how they are going will be at the centre of a national campaign to cut elder abuse. The \$4.8 million campaign, to be launched at the National Elder Abuse Conference in Adelaide on Monday by Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus will focus on the idea ending the abuse of older people "begins with a conversation".

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## Julia Busuttill Nishimura's stuffed zucchini with pork mince and potatoes for Maggie Beer's Big Mission

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2024

Maltese stuffed zucchini with potatoes, also known Qarabaghli Mimli Fil-forn, is a comforting and nourishing dish that's very close to my heart. It's a dish dedicated to my mum and I'm sharing the recipe as part of Maggie Beer's Chef Challenge.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### 4yo sent home with 'fat' note

West Australian, General News, 22/07/2024, Bethany Hiatt, Page 1

A mother has been left horrified after her healthy four-year-old son was put on scales at school and sent home with a note saying he was overweight. The mother lodged a complaint with health authorities after receiving the note from her son's Perth public school as well as flyers talking about healthy eating and how to live a more active lifestyle.

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### Pension rules punish people who don't own property

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 22/07/2024, Anthony Keane, Page 18

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: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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### 'Excessively high' cigarette taxes 'fuelling' black market, as retailers fear expansion of tobacco wars

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2024, Jane Norman

In a small town deep in a verdant valley, something doesn't quite add up. The shops have been popping up along the main street in the past 12 months, nestled among the Victorian-era buildings, bakeries and pubs.

## GPs use AI to boost cancer detection rates in England by 8%

The Guardian, Other, 21/07/2024, James Tapper

Artificial intelligence that scans GP records to find hidden patterns has helped doctors detect significantly more cancer cases. The rate of cancer detection rose from 58.

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## Can you prepare for a good menopause? Perhaps start by thinking of it as a 'second spring'

The Guardian, Other, 21/07/2024, Natalie Parletta

There's a hilarious sequence of events in Miranda July's latest book, *All Fours*, in which the central character looks at a graph that shows how oestrogen goes off a cliff during menopause. Worried about what this might mean for her sex drive, she desperately surveys her older friends about their experiences, gathering anecdotes and wisdom in a valiant effort to be prepared for the onslaught.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Women's fury on pain

Herald Sun, General News, 22/07/2024, Alex White, Page 1

Biological males who identify as female, and their doctors, are being encouraged to join a Victorian taxpayer-funded inquiry set up to investigate women's pain, including issues such as endometriosis. In a move women's advocates have labelled "absurd", the government is inviting submissions from people with experience of women's pain, including "anyone who identifies as a woman".

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

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### Brand teams with Cancer Council

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 22/07/2024, Rachel Clark, Page 3

The Treatment Trend Co. has partnered with Cancer Council NSW. The partnership marks a huge step forward for entrepreneurs Deanna Chapman and Stevie Reading's modern treatment wear business.

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### Alcohol companies must stop 'pink washing' cancer danger

Western Advocate, General News, 22/07/2024, Sarah Rusbatch, Page 14

I stared at my phone in disbelief at what I was seeing. In the image, a wine bottle with a sticker on it saying that \$2 from every bottle of this special edition ros was going to help fund breast cancer research.

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### 21-year-old reveals she is addicted to tanning in sunbeds

The Courier Mail, Other, 22/07/2024, Abigail Wilson

A woman has revealed that she is addicted to sunbeds and loves her bronzed glow. Sam Corey, 21, has by concerned social media users who fear she is "too dark" and may develop skin cancer.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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**'I'm so sorry, I've got cancer': why do two of every five Australian men die early from preventable conditions?**

After Shehan Karunaratne noticed a lump on his testicle, the 26-year-old went to the doctor – but only mentioned the pain going up his leg. The general practitioner recommended physiotherapy.

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

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## A guide to mimics of inflammatory bowel disease

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/07/2024

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) affects over 80 000 people in Australia, which has one of the highest rates of IBD in the world. The numbers of IBD — which comprises Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis — are rising globally, and are expected to affect 1% of the population by 2030.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Health dogma 'fails to support dying patients'

Australian Financial Review, General News, 22/07/2024, Jill Margo, Page 10

Australia's "death-denying" culture is hampering hospitals across the country, according to a new report on how and where people spend the last phase of life. It found a quarter of all public hospital beds are occupied by patients who are predominantly e...

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### Private maternity 'extinct by 2030' as ward closures grow

The Australian, General News, 22/07/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 5

Health insurance is being rendered useless for thousands of families around the nation who took out top cover in anticipation of having a baby in the private system as maternity ward closures and enormous out of pocket expenses render a private birth impossible. In some pockets of the nation, there is now no option to give birth in the private system at all as private hospitals move to mothball maternity wings that are marginally profitable and hard to staff.

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### Cost-of-living crunch pushes the middle class into hardship

The Australian, General News, 22/07/2024, Natasha Bitá, Page 1

Struggling Australians across every age and income bracket are slashing spending on basic needs such as food, electricity and transport, in the wake of 13 interest rate rises that have failed to snuff out rampant inflation. [...] AMA president Steve Robson said Medicare rebates for GP visits had failed to keep up with the rising cost of providing care, so doctors had to charge more to cover increases in rents, insurance and staff wages.

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### MP takes on 'armchair generals'

The Australian, General News, 22/07/2024, Ben Packham, Page 6

Liberal MP and Afghanistan veteran Phillip Thompson has accused Defence of lagging behind the major sporting codes in protecting personnel from serious brain injuries, and lashed "armchair generals" and political leaders for failing to address blast-related harm. Mr Thompson, who suffered a traumatic brain injury from an improvised explosive device during his service, said despite the well-known risks to soldiers' brains from using heavy weapons, Defence had failed to track individuals' blast exposure or ensure critical research was undertaken.

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

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## 'Wellbeing' budgets no solution to economic woes

The Australian, Editorials, 22/07/2024, Page 12

Unless inflation is controlled, householders will continue to struggle. Australians do not need a new "wellbeing budget" from Jim Chalmers, to be produced in the next term of parliament, to know how tough they're finding life economically. [...] As AMA president Steve Robson said: "Paying \$40 or \$50 or even more out of pocket every time you see your doctor means often you can't pay your rent or put food on the table, you can't buy school books."

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## His eye 'burst like a balloon' now he is suing hospital

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/07/2024, Angus Thomson, Page 14

A man is suing Sydney Eye Hospital over a routine procedure he says caused his eye to erupt like a "balloon full of water". It left him screaming, crying and, ultimately, blind in that eye.

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## New hospital for the CBD

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 22/07/2024, Erin Jones, Page 6

A 60-bed hospital and health centre for low acuity mental health conditions is planned for the old Calvary Wakefield Hospital site, on the corner of Wakefield and Hutt streets. Private firm, 300 Wakefield Pty Ltd, has applied to the state's peak planning authority to build the six-storey centre, housing consulting rooms, a hospital and rooftop terrace.

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## Dialling down need for ambos

Courier Mail, General News, 22/07/2024, Page 10

About 30,000 incidents not requiring an ambulance have been headed off by Queensland Ambulance Service's Clinical Hub 24/7 service in the 2023-24 year. The hub, which now has the equivalent of 100 fulltime staff including senior paramedics, doctors, emergency medical specialists, social workers, nurse navigators and mental health clinicians offers phone or video callbacks to check in on patients waiting for an ambulance, or to assess issues that may not require emergency care such as cuts, rashes, minor infections and medicine advice.

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

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## Patients died while waiting

Courier Mail, General News, 22/07/2024, Rachel Riley, Page 10

Two patients died while another had a "negative outcome" after waiting too long for ambulances, amid ramping delays up to six hours and increased call centre workloads. Three Queensland Ambulance Service "significant incident" reviews, obtained by The Courier-Mail through Right to Information laws, have detailed ongoing health pressures across the southeast.

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

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## Revealing the true impact of ramping

Courier Mail, Editorials, 22/07/2024, Page 20

The besieged state of our health system has been laid bare in our report today of the reviews into the tragic deaths of two Queenslanders and the "negative impact" on another. Ambulance delays were noted in all three case reports obtained through Right To Information laws but it is the details of the external pressures that caused these delays that has pulled back the curtain on what is often happening whenever you call triple-0.

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## Threats to health workers 'on everyone'

Herald Sun, General News, 22/07/2024, Jordan McCarthy, Page 7

Premier Jacinta Allan has called reports of unprecedented violence faced by hospital workers "deeply disappointing" while adding that talks are still taking place on hospital budgets. The Sunday Herald Sun revealed that hospitals were issuing record numbers of security alerts as staff reported being spat on, punched, attacked with furniture and even stabbed by frustrated and drug or alcohol-affected patients.

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## Public patients going private

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 22/07/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 5

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 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.

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## A career path towards community

Daily Liberal, General News, 22/07/2024, Tanya Marschke, Page 2

"When you're offered an opportunity, take it," is a mantra that's led Rebecca Walsh to shift from the corporate world into a rewarding decade at one of the city's most prominent charities. Miss Walsh will celebrate her 10th anniversary as executive officer of Ronald Mc-Donald House Central West in November but said there was no personal reason for her shift from the corporate world to the charity house.

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## Small gym goes from strength to strength

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 22/07/2024, Rachel Clark, Page 3

A proposed expansion of the Home of Strength gym will take its co-owners one step closer to their goal of creating an one-stop health facility. The team behind the gym, Grace Parker and SamForan, have submitted plans to Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) to expand their Kable Avenue space into the nextdoor former Mooney and Wikes Auto Electrical shop.

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## RFDS expands

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 22/07/2024, Tegan Guthrie, Page 1

An additional Royal Flying Doctor Service crew will soon be rostered on weekends in Kalgoorlie-Boulder to boost the service's ability to provide care for Goldfields patients. The decision is part of the State Government's more than \$800 million 10-year contract to expand aeromedical services in WA.

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## Palliative care's bid for help

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 22/07/2024, Nikita Mcguire, Page 2

Volunteer Tony Hallo has made a name for himself at Townsville Palliative Care Centre, with his weekly musical performances becoming a favourite with patients. Playing his piano every Friday, Mr Hallo (pictured) said he has been able to share the gift of music with people who need it.

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## Audrey Wallace's palliative care wish comes true with unicorn princess party

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2024, Jessica Lamb

Unicorns, princesses and fairy floss are key elements for any six-year-old's dream party but for Audrey Wallace, it's literally a wish come true. The Gold Coast girl is in palliative care and lives with treatment-resistant epilepsy.

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## Editorial: Festering issue minister couldn't keep out of the headlines

Cairns Post, Other, 21/07/2024, The Editor

The besieged state of our health system has been laid bare in our report today of the reviews into the tragic deaths of two Queenslanders and the "negative impact" on another. Ambulance delays were noted in all three case reports – obtained through Right to Information laws – but it is the details of the external pressures that caused these delays that has pulled back the curtain on what is often happening whenever you call triple-0.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#),

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## Surf Coast Shire to consider controversial Anglesea health hub plans

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 21/07/2024, Will Keech

A concept plan that would see affordable housing added as part of an upgrade to an Anglesea health hub will be put before council in the face of strong community opposition. Plans for the Anglesea Community and Health Hub go before Surf Coast Shire at their meeting on Tuesday.

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

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## WorkCover changes causing further GP strain

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/07/2024

Recent changes to WorkCover in Victoria have raised the ire of unions and criticism from psychologists. A two-year review of the WorkCover scheme in Victoria led to its state government labelling it "fundamentally broken" and "not fit for purpose" last year.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Nine signs your ambition is out of control

Australian Financial Review, Other, 21/07/2024, Euan Black & Julie Hare

When the desire to excel tips into perfectionism, your mental health can suffer. Perfectionism is often portrayed as something to strive for, a positive trait that drives success at work, enviable physiques, tidy homes and clean fingernails.

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### Mental health care in Australia: can we do better?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/07/2024

Recent tragic events have heightened emotions across Australia, particularly anger, fear, helplessness and sadness. Some of the most profound practice and policy changes happen during challenging times, so could Australia use this opportunity to have a robust look at the mental health service ecosystem and turn it around?

[Read More](#)

### Loneliness is killing men – and without proper support and intervention nothing will change

The Guardian, Other, 22/07/2024, Xavier Mulenga

Last year, I read *Of Boys and Men* by Richard Reeves. In his research, Reeves outlines various factors leading to boys and men feeling excluded from society and failed by various systems, whether it be education or the workforce.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Mental health frontline revealed

Courier Mail, General News, 22/07/2024, Rachel Riley, Page 11

The growing number of mental health-related triple-0 calls has seen the number of specialised Queensland ambulance clinicians equipped to deal with their complex needs more than triple. Eight mental health clinicians now operate across each 24-hour period at the Queensland Ambulance Service's Brisbane Operations Centre.

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### Health boast doubts

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/07/2024, Rob Inglis, Page 1

The state government is celebrating the progress of its healthcare recruitment "blitz", announcing it has appointed nearly 500 extra staff since April but Tasmania's nurses' union says workloads and stress levels in the health system are "the highest that they have ever been". Health Minister Guy Barnett said on Sunday that 494 additional health staff had been recruited since a concerted recruitment effort launched three months ago, including 138 new nurses.

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### Health recruitment drive hailed a hit

Burnie Advocate, General News, 22/07/2024, Page 4

The Tasmanian Government has hailed its healthcare recruitment drive a success after almost 500 people joined the industry. Launched on April 28 in an effort to expand the sector, the initiative attracted doctors, paramedics, support staff, and 138 new nurses.

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

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### Update on union negotiations and Shepp's new paramedics

Shepparton News, General News, 22/07/2024, Nicola Ceccato, Page 7

On Wednesday, July 10's episode of Digging Deeper, the News' Nicola Ceccato sat down to chat with some paramedics in light of International Paramedics Day on Monday, July 8. Pete Geddes was one of these paramedics and new to the scene in Shepparton as a graduate paramedic.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### I became a Yank to live

Cairns Post, General News, 22/07/2024, Sue Dunlevy, Page 15

Australian businessman Chris Javkolovski had to become a US resident in order to access a lifesaving treatment for his rare genetic condition. Although the treatment Belzutifan has now been approved for use in Australia, it is still not subsidised and costs \$12,000 a month.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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## Paying up to save your life

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 22/07/2024, Sue Dunlevy, Page 11

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. [...] Rare Cancers Australia backed up the survey findings, saying it was aware of between 8000 and 10,000 Australians paying for life saving medicines not subsidised by the nation's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Medicare hits middle age, and the future for our GPs is uncertain

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/07/2024

2024 marks the 40 th year of Australia's Medicare, and it has been fitting that a number of initiatives have marked the milestone. Some ideas were good, while others — such as a commemorative Medicare card — were perhaps a little passé.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Psych's conduct a failure of duty

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/07/2024, Lucy Rutherford, Page 5

A female psychologist fell substantially below the professional standard after she commenced a sexual relationship with a police officer she was treating for PTSD, a tribunal has found. Samantha Angelakis, 36, was then found to have provided misleading information about when their relationship began after eventually marrying the client.

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### Doctor cleared of touching patient

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 22/07/2024, Adelaide Lang, Page 14

A psychiatrist has successfully appealed his conviction for sexually touching a young patient on his therapist's couch. Dr Robert Wotton was last year sentenced to a two-year intensive corrections order after he was found guilty of aggravated sexual touching.

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### Doctors warn of significant increase in people hospitalised with psychosis after being prescribed medicinal cannabis

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2024, Janelle Miles & Elise Worthington

Medicinal cannabis is causing harm to some patients, with doctors warning of a significant increase of people ending up in hospital with psychosis after being prescribed the drug. [...] In February, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) convened a forum of health regulators to share information and discuss how they could best work together to protect the public in relation to the prescribing and dispensing of medicinal cannabis.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Breast cancer screening in Australia may change. Here's what we know

so far

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/07/2024

There's international debate on the age women should be invited for screening. But an even larger change being considered worldwide is whether to screen women at high and low risk of breast cancer differently.

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## ABC Radio Darwin , Sundays, 21/07/2024, Lyrella Couzens

Interview with Craig Jackman, former owner, Vape4Life. Couzens points out that five Vape4Life stores have been closed down in total and 11 staff had to be let go since 1 July because of new Federal legislation when it comes to vaping and vape products. Jackman says as an industry they have constantly tried to warn the Government that their refillable vape products are completely safe in comparison to those who are selling disposable ones.

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## SPORT

### Doping scandal has swim champ wary of equality

The Australian, Sport, 22/07/2024, Julian Linden, Page 26

British swimming legend Adam Peaty has plunged head first into the Chinese doping scandal that is threatening to overshadow the Paris Olympics by questioning whether the world's greatest sports event will be a "fair fight". Peaty has been a longtime critic of the way doping cases are dealt with in swimming and he's not impressed by the handling of the latest Chinese bombshell.

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

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### Game on

Sydney Morning Herald, TV Guide, 22/07/2024, Michael Lallo, Page 5

When the residents of Sydney's Olympic village snapped up all 70,000 condoms on offer, forcing organisers to hurriedly replenish supplies, much snickering ensued. But the real story is more nuanced.

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### Fans tell AFL: Go ahead, make our day

Courier Mail, General News, 22/07/2024, Peter Rolfe, Page 5

Footy fans have sent an overwhelming message to the AFL to leave grand final day in its traditional timeslot. The league is yet to announce what time this year's premiership decider will be staged, but 83 per cent of spectators who responded to the AFL Fans Association survey said they wanted it to remain a 2.30pm start.

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### Footy illicit drugs code strikes out

Herald Sun, General News, 22/07/2024, Peter Rolfe, Page 4

Footy fans have called on the AFL to get tougher on players who take illicit drugs and scrap its contentious three strikes policy. The AFL Fans Association's latest annual poll has revealed spectators are fed up with football stars being given the soft touch when busted using drugs.

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

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### Head case

West Australian, General News, 22/07/2024, Glen Quartermain, Page 1

The potential solution to the concussion crisis gripping contact sports just might have been discovered in the backyard workshop of a South Fremantle home. Industrial designer Graeme Attey is in advanced talks with the AFL, the NRL and rugby league in the UK over his helmet that uses a system of balls to lessen the impact of head knocks.

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

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## Bigotry AFL's big problem

West Australian, Sport, 22/07/2024, Georgie Parker, Page 57

There is a homophobia problem within the AFL and sadly there is a large portion of the fan base which believes otherwise. A third player, St Kilda's Lance Collard, has just been suspended for using homophobic language this season, on top of coach Alastair Clarkson's spray earlier this year.

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## 2032 Olympic Games: Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate reveals his view on what needs to change by 2032

The Courier Mail, Other, 21/07/2024, Tom Tate

Venue uncertainty, cost blow-outs, board resignations, athlete unrest and contradictory comments from the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) over venues and costs have abounded. These issues are magnified by political posturing in the looming shadow of a State election, followed soon after by a Federal election, infecting clear, visionary decision making.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### The crusade for answers

Daily Advertiser, General News, 22/07/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 1

A project that could help determine why rates of motor neurone disease (MND) are seven times higher in parts of the Riverina than elsewhere in Australia has received a big government cash injection. The NSW government has awarded \$1 million for research aiming to predict random cases of MND that occur in the state, including clusters within the Riverina.

Continued [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#).

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### A forever one-shot flu vaccine

Courier Mail, General News, 22/07/2024, Page 15

A single-shot vaccine against flu that would provide a lifetime of protection even against future mutations could be available in "five years or less", scientists have said after making a breakthrough. The researchers created a vaccine to target a 106-year-old strain of Spanish influenza that killed millions in 1918 and 1919 after the First World War.

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

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### UOW part of \$4.5 million investment to replace animals in medical research

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 22/07/2024, Joel Ehsman

The University of Wollongong is excited to be a part of the state's \$4.5 million bid to reduce and replace animals in medical research and the role they are set to play in it. The NSW Government announced that the sizable grant will be used to set up three pillars.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Council set to consider historic MOU with Indigenous groups

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 22/07/2024, Jonathan Hawes, Page 2

Tamworth council is poised to take a strong step towards achieving equality for First Nations people at its upcoming meeting on Tuesday, July 23. Councillor Marc Sutherland has put forward a motion for Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) to endorse the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the newly-formed Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (TACCO).

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Welders exposed to dangerous fumes: new study

West Australian, General News, 22/07/2024, Page 4

Research has revealed at least 46,000 Australian welders could be exposed to high levels of dangerous, potentially cancer-causing fumes at work and little is being done to protect them. The Australian-first study, a joint Curtin University and Sydney University project, surveyed more than 600 workers and employers involved in welding and revealed about 90 per cent were being exposed to carcinogenic fumes.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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### Rise in cases of respiratory illness RSV sparks warning for older Australians

9News, Other, 21/07/2024, Sarah Swain

Anyone with a child in day care is familiar with the seemingly endless cycle of infectious bugs like RSV but grandparents are also at serious risk. Ita Buttrose is heading up a national campaign to raise awareness among older Australians, as the number of cases of the respiratory illness matches the flu.

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### Australia braces for 'catastrophic' bird flu strain after mass wildlife deaths overseas

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/07/2024, Chantelle Francis

Australia's iconic wildlife is facing a potentially devastating threat. A highly pathogenic avian influenza strain has emerged in the last few years and left a trail of destruction with mass outbreaks and mortalities worldwide – and not just in birds.

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

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Cannabis gummies like 'a glass of wine with dinner' for a growing number of Australians

The Guardian, Other, 21/07/2024, Natasha May

Ruth started taking cannabis gummies two years ago, "in a similar way to people having a glass of wine with dinner or a beer after work". [...] A spokesperson for the drugs regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), said "in most states and territories in Australia, it is illegal to use, possess, cultivate or sell recreational cannabis".

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Aldi recalls popular chicken snack over undeclared allergen

The Australian, Other, 21/07/2024, Duncan Evans

Supermarket giant Aldi has issued an urgent recall for a popular chicken finger snack T-Rex Bites. The retailer recalled the 1kg family pack snack from Farmwood over an undeclared allergen.

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

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## AICIS

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