



# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 3rd September 2024

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports a Greens proposal to add dental to Medicare is "unfeasible" due to workforce shortages and its potential impact on health insurance coverage, the Australian Dental Association says.
- **The Age** (page 1) reports the national Health Services Union has demanded its Victorian branch stand down senior leaders, cease to pay their legal fees and appoint an administrator following allegations of financial corruption.
- The **Canberra Times** (page 1) reports the Department of Health and Aged Care aims to reduce its spending on external consultants by \$9 million by the end of the financial year as part of public service-wide efforts to keep core work in house.
- The **Courier Mail** (page 1) reports nine out of 10 Queenslanders aged 14 to 25 are struggling with their mental health, while more than half are burnt out, new research from Health and Wellbeing Queensland has found.
- The **Hobart Mercury** (page 2) reports a dental therapist was not dismissed unfairly for failing to get vaccinated against COVID-19, the Tasmanian Industrial Commission has ruled.
- **The Australian** (page 3) reports a groundbreaking new study by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute has been able to recreate platelets and red and white blood cells, potentially

eliminating the need for blood and bone marrow donations for people with leukaemia and chronic conditions. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#)*

- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 3) reports New South Wales is on track to have 2,600 people waiting in hospitals for aged care placements within four years, but Health Minister Mark Butler says the federal government is spending over \$200 million to ease the delays.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 4) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has written to Meta to ensure it is complying with Australia's laws banning vape advertisements, while the Therapeutic Goods Administration is set to investigate Facebook posts about illegally importing vapes into Australia.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### WA wants urgent action on private healthcare crisis

Australian Financial Review, General News, 03/09/2024, Tom Rabe and Michael Smith, Page 4

The West Australian government has called for urgent reform of the nation's private healthcare system, with the state's health minister lamenting fundamental problems in the sector. Private hospitals in WA have asked the government to lease their wards in...

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

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### Reality bites for Greens on dental

The Australian, General News, 03/09/2024, Sarah Ison, Page 1

The Greens' \$46bn plan to add dental to Medicare would double demand on a sector that "simply doesn't have the workforce available" for such an expansion, with the Parliamentary Budget Office saying the proposal could result in changes to what health insurers were willing to cover. [...] A spokeswoman for Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was working on a new national oral health plan for 2025-2034 that would seek to "reduce inequalities in oral health status across the Australian population".

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

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### It's an age-old problem

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/09/2024, James O'Doherty, Page 3

The number of patients languishing in hospital while waiting for an aged care placement is set to explode over four years, with NSW on track to have 2600 hospital beds blocked by people who should be in a home. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Albanese government was spending "over \$200m to get people in NSW out of hospital beds and back into aged care".

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### Trials to stop pain of arthritis

Courier Mail, General News, 03/09/2024, Tayla Couacaud, Page 12

Australians are currently spending over a billion dollars on rheumatoid arthritis treatment with clinical trials set to get under way to eliminate the need for lifelong costly treatments and relieve suffers from chronic pain. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the treatment would be transformative and a world-first for sufferers.

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### Smokes will lead to fire

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/09/2024, Lachlan Leeming, Page 4

Fears that gangland wars will erupt over the black-market trade in tobacco and vapes have led to calls for tougher action, as importers of illicit products defy Australian law by spruiking stock online and gloating about the ease of bypassing Australia's border controls. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark

Butler said he had written to Meta, Facebook's owner, to ensure it was complying with Australian law, which prohibits advertising of vapes.

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## The rural healthcare gaps

Times Victor Harbor, General News, 03/09/2024, Emma Heidenreich, Page 3

Key gaps in regional healthcare has prompted action from Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie, following the release of the National Rural Health Alliance Evidence base for investment that found rural and regional areas have up to 50 per cent fewer health providers such as general practitioners, physiotherapists, psychologists, dentists, pharmacists, optometrists and podiatrists than major cities, per capita. [...] In parliamentary question time on August 22, Ms Sharkie asked the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler to explain how the Federal Government is going to address the gap.

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## Health Department review finds private hospitals 'uninvestable'

Australian Financial Review, Other, 02/09/2024, Michael Smith

Health Department officials have conceded that private hospitals are uninvestable and more will close, with Labor MPs increasingly concerned that the government is failing to fix a funding crisis that threatens to spill into the public system. The prelimi...

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## 60-day overdose risk 'simply wasn't real:' Butler

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/09/2024, Megan Haggan

Health minister Mark Butler has announced the third tranche of medicines available under 60-day dispensing, which came into effect on Sunday, 1 September 2024.

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## Minister welcomes third tranche of 60-day medicines as patient group urges caution

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 02/09/2024

Health Minister Mark Butler has welcomed the final tranche of PBS-listed medicines to be designated for double-dispensed quantities, but one patient organisation has urged caution. ...

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## Drugs in 60-day dispensing alert

Pharma In Focus, Other, 02/09/2024

A triumphant announcement by Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler that will see asthma patients cut their visits to GPs and pharmacies and effectively get two inhalers for the cost of one was shot down within hours by health experts over the weekend. At a media conference on Sunday, Butler was gleefully talking up the benefits of the newest tranche of medications eligible for 60-day dispensing which came into effect yesterday.

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## Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, 02/09/2024, Monique Wright

Another 100 more medicines will be available in 60-day prescriptions for the cost of a 30-day script from today. Health Minister Mark Butler notes the benefits of reduced costs and fewer trips to the pharmacist for patients. Treatments for conditions like acne, asthma, and Parkinson's disease are included in the change. However, concerns about medication misuse and hoarding persist.

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## 4BC, Drive, 02/09/2024, Peter Gleeson

Interview with Emeritus Professor Ross Fitzgerald, Griffith University, who criticises the government's plan to allow prescription-free vape products in pharmacies. Fitzgerald says the plan is driven by Minister Mark Butler's ideology and could encourage black market transactions. [...] Interview with

Chris Owen, Qld President, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, on vaping reforms. Owen raises concerns about legal and operational challenges for pharmacists. While he welcomes Minister Mark Butler's intentions to reduce youth vaping, he expresses doubts about the policy's feasibility.

*Interview continues on: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).*

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## **ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 02/09/2024, Nadia Mitsopoulos**

Mitsopoulos says the Australian Financial Review has reported on a preliminary review ordered by Health Minister Mark Butler that found private hospitals uninvestable and predicts more closures. On Friday, Ramsay Healthcare stated it could not fund new facilities due to low profits.

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## **Radio National, Breakfast, 02/09/2024, Sally Sara**

Interview with Gerry Georgatos, youth justice expert, on calls for systemic changes to prevent further suicides among children in custody. A 17-year-old boy, who had been in state care since infancy and had severe ADHD, took his own life shortly after being transferred to Banksia Hill detention centre. Georgatos criticises the exclusion of incarcerated children from Medicare, urging Prime Minister [Anthony Albanese] and Federal Health Minister [Mark Butler] to address the issue.

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## **MINISTER WELLS**

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE**

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY**

### **Calls for laser hair removal to be subsidised for common condition**

*Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/09/2024, Aisha Dow*

Irregular periods. Anxiety and depression. Difficulty falling pregnant. These are some of the symptoms of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), a complex hormonal condition that affects about one in 10 Australian women. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney acknowledged the difficulty of managing PCOS, but no application requesting funding for laser therapy for hirsutism has been made so far.

*Also reported by: [The Age \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).*

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES**

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## DEPARTMENT

### APS to slash outsourcing

Canberra Times, General News, 03/09/2024, Connor Pearce, Page 1

Defence will cut spending on consultants and labour hire by nearly half-a-billion dollars this financial year, as the government continues its crackdown on departments outsourcing core work. [...] The ATO aims to reduce spending on outsourced services by \$31.9 million this financial year, while Services Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care aim to reduce their consultants budget by about \$9 million each.

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## CORONAVIRUS

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Storms smash the north

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/09/2024, Stephanie Dalton, Page 6

Thousands of homes in northern Tasmanian remain without power as both the State Emergency Services and TasNetworks work to repair damage after wild winds and torrential rains lashed the state. [...] The damaging winds struck a large gum tree on Hargrove Crescent near East Tamar Primary School, causing it to fall, narrowly missing a Mayfield home and nearby vehicles, while 10 residents at the Mount Esk aged care facility at St Leonards had to be evacuated after a roof at the facility was damaged.

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### Alliance announces dementia information session

Shepparton News Online, Other, 02/09/2024, Owen Sinclair

Berrigan Shire Dementia Alliance is hosting a presentation on the holistic treatment of patients with dementia or memory loss in Finley in September. Residents from throughout the region are invited to attend and listen to the presentation by Associate Professor Alam Yoosuff. The event aims to educate guests on the broader impacts of dementia on family and friends of loved ones with the condition.

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### We're all living longer: Celebrating 500 years of life at once

Aged Care Insite, Other, 02/09/2024, Stefanie Schultz

One West Australian aged care home has celebrated the birthdays of not one, but five(!) centenarians in the last month. Amana Living's Wearne House in Mandurah marked the remarkable achievement of five residents reaching a combined age of 506 years. Centenarians Muriel Tasker, Ethel Quadrio, Dorothy Chilcott, Chu Hin Saw, and Emma Smoker celebrated with a party attended by over 100 guests, dressed to the nines in their best 1920s garb.

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### New minimum standard requirement for IT and data sharing

Aged Care Insite, Other, 02/09/2024, Stefanie Schultz

The Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency) and the Department of Health and Aged Care have announced the introduction of new minimum software requirements for clinical information and electronic medication management systems used in Australian aged care facilities. The Aged Care Clinical Information System (ACCIS) Standards aim to improve quality and safety across the sector "by

supporting a single source of truth that encourages consistency and compatibility across healthcare sectors."

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## **Dementia care that's making a difference in Queensland**

HelloCare, Other, 02/09/2024, Alex Jacobs

It's estimated that more than half of people living with dementia in residential aged care will experience dementia-related wandering, and with the risks even greater for those living in the community, Anglicare Southern Queensland is part of the team working to reduce negative outcomes. Anglicare Southern Queensland is involved in a research project called the 3Ps to Getting Home Safely with Dementia, which is led by lecturer and Registered Nurse Associate Professor Margaret MacAndrew.

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## **Perth aged care worker sentenced, likely to be deported**

HelloCare, Other, 02/09/2024, Alex Jacobs

A Perth aged care worker who pleaded guilty to three counts of 'indecently dealing with an incapable person' has been sentenced to two years in prison and is likely to be deported as a result of the conviction. Kenyan-born James Ng'Ang'A Irungu, 27, worked at various aged care facilities across Perth before the incident occurred in March this year at a site in Claremont.

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## **1 in 3 Australians experience loneliness, advocate call for greater support**

The Senior, Other, 02/09/2024, Desiree Savage

The prevalence of loneliness amongst older Australians is growing with negative impacts on health, and welfare advocates are calling for more support services. Ending Loneliness Together Scientific Chair, Dr Michelle Lim, said loneliness was a critical health issue experienced by nearly 1 in 3 Australians, though many people viewed thought it was a sign of weakness.

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## **How aged care workers are better listening to people with trauma**

The Senior, Other, 02/09/2024, Anthony Caggiano

Sometimes, life experiences can be so traumatising that it's tough to talk with others who help us in daily life. Sven, Priscilla and Jan have lived experience with trauma and have participated in training videos that help carers learn how to better empathise with clients. Their key messages are that building trust takes time, do not judge, and make it personal.

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## **12.8% return is strong institutional investment appeal for retirement living sector: new JLL report**

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/09/2024, Ian Horswill

The global property consultancy's Report - Seniors Living: One piece of the Living Puzzle - states investors, both locals and overseas, should look favourably on the sector due to the ageing population and the increasing acceptance of land lease communities (LLC). "The seniors living sector delivered strong total returns, averaging 12.8% per annum between 2013 and 2023, outperforming traditional asset classes and only slightly below the purpose-built student accommodation sector," states the report by Chamali De Alwis, Manager, Research Australia, and Andrew Quillfeldt, Head of Capital Markets Research Australia.

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## **"Governments should be throwing the kitchen sink at unleashing more retirement villages": RLC**

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/09/2024, Ian Horswill

Newly-released regional population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics provoked the Retirement Living Council (RLC) to urge governments to make it easier for "age-friendly solutions". The

data showed Australians over the age of 75 make up 9.4% of the population, with 34% of the population outside of capital cities aged over 55. "We have known about our ageing population for a long time now, but governments seem flat-footed in their response to accommodating and caring for this growing cohort of older Australians," RLC Executive Director Daniel Gannon said.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### **ALP's census mess a political debacle of its own making**

The Australian, General News, 03/09/2024, Judith Sloan, Page 11

The Albanese government has made a complete hash of the proposed inclusion of questions about sexuality and gender in the five yearly census. They were in, then they were out, and now questions about sexuality may be in. [...] The involvement of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare could have strengthened the integrity of this approach.

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### **Silencing critics will not save transgender lives**

Cairns Post, General News, 03/09/2024, Andrew Amos, Page 13

It is difficult to express a public opinion on the medical treatment of trans and gender diverse kids without being laccused of bad faith or poor practice. I am glad for the opportunity to explain to News Corp readers why I believe trans lives will be saved by open and honest debate, not by attempting to silence voices like mine.

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### **Flip menopause narrative**

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/09/2024, Elise Davey, Page 12

Western culture has an issue with ageing. At least, it has an issue with ageing women. We are taught to fight against it. While a man with grey hair is distinguished, a woman is seen as haggard. An older man in a position of power is experienced, and an older woman is over the hill. Menopause is too often seen as the start of the decline.

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### **Kinder kicking health goals**

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 02/09/2024, Allan Murphy, Page 3

A small Mallee kindergarten has been kicking big goals in improving the health and wellbeing of their children, families and staff. The Ouyen Preschool has completed all six health priority areas of the Victorian Government's Achievement Program that aims to help workplaces, schools and early childhood services create healthier environments.

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### **Tasmania's total fertility rate in decline, could have severe consequences for state: Demographer**

The Mercury, Other, 02/09/2024, Rob Inglis

Tasmania's total fertility rate is now considered "ultra-low", with the state set to reproduce less than three quarters of its current population in future generations, according to new analysis by an independent demographer. Dr Lisa Denny used population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to calculate trends in the total fertility rate (TFR) in Tasmania, finding it has plummeted from 1.68 in 2018 to 1.49 in 2024.

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### **How to tell the difference between spring allergies and a cold**

ABC Online, Other, 02/09/2024

Blossom, warmer weather and longer days are a few of my favourite spring things. Sneezing, watery eyes and a runny nose are not. For many long-time sufferers, hay fever and spring are inseparable, but how can we distinguish between hay fever and something else like a cold? What is hay fever? Associate Professor Joy Lee, from Alfred Health's Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology clinic, says the medical term for hay fever is allergic rhinitis and it falls into two categories.

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## **Alcohol-fuelled violence rates drop in WA towns with liquor restrictions**

ABC Online, Other, 02/09/2024

Six weeks after alcohol restrictions were introduced in three regional towns in Western Australia's far north, the state government says it has seen an "almost immediate" drop in rates of alcohol-fuelled family and domestic violence (FDV). According to figures provided to the government by WA Police, there has been a 42 per cent decrease in the number of alcohol-related FDV offences across Broome, Derby and Fitzroy Crossing since the restrictions were introduced on July 15.

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## **Will your money last in retirement? How to prepare in advance so that it does**

The New Daily, Other, 02/09/2024, Kaye Fallick

In this, the second article in the Road to Retirement series we tackle the challenges of making your money last as long as you do! [...] Age Pension entitlements This is the most common form of retirement income with, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), about 63% of older Australians currently receiving a full or part-Age Pension.

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## **Emotional abuse more common than Australians realise and education is key, new study finds**

7news.com.au, Other, 02/09/2024

Jas Rawlinson still lives with the invisible, emotional wounds of the abuse she suffered from her father. From ages 8 to 18, she was the target of a barrage of emotional abuse, threats and coercive control. [...] Each year, between 45,000 and 50,000 Australian children suffer substantiated cases of abuses or neglect, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

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## **A simple treatment for 'superbugs' may not be so simple**

HelloCare, Other, 02/09/2024, Georgie Waters

South Australian researchers have investigated 'superbugs' and suggested that overprescribing of antibiotics could put vulnerable older Australians at risk of later infection. [...] Around 456,000 Australians live in residential care or use aged care services, including 193,000 Australians who live in permanent or respite residential care, according to recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 02/09/2024, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan**

Interview with Dr Sven Bohnstedt, dentist and lecturer, University of Brisbane, on the effects of vaping on dental health. Bohnstedt says vaping can stain teeth, make saliva less effective, and contribute to gum disease like smoking. He says despite recent legislation restricting vape sales, loopholes allow continued access and calls for better education on the risks of vaping.

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## You and your GP are life savers

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/09/2024, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 15

A general practitioner has expressed the importance of being proactive with health in light of Ali Clarke's recent breast cancer diagnosis. Natasha Alexandrides said while it was "easy to get overwhelmed" with life, preventive health measures were lifesaving. Her comments come after the Mix 102.3 star revealed she discovered early that she had breast cancer due to a mammogram, recommended by her GP.

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

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## Be wary of spring sun

West Australian, General News, 03/09/2024, Page 14

As Australians begin to spend more time in the sun, the Royal Australian College of GPs is urging people to organise a skin check with their GP to ensure dangerous skin cancers are detected and treated early. Medical oncologist Alexander Menzies said advanced melanoma, once a terminal disease, now had a 50 per cent long-term survival rate due to the success of drugs such as immune-checkpoint inhibitors.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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## Alice Colgrove describes the mental and physical trauma of being diagnosed with breast cancer and its aftermath

Adelaide Now, Other, 02/09/2024

I am 54 years old and 6.5 years down the track of my breast cancer journey and it's been an interesting ride. I was 46 when I had my first mammogram. A friend had just died young from breast cancer and being proactive I went to BreastScreen SA to tick the box and it came back all clear. That was exactly what I was expecting. I was the youngest of 12 children, I had 6 older sisters and no one in my family, including my parents, had a history of cancer.

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## Danica was told she had two years to live. It was a 'distressing mix-up'

Daily Liberal, Other, 02/09/2024, Orlander Ruming

In 2022, just days before Christmas, Danica Bunch was told she had metastatic breast cancer with "maybe two years left". She had noticed an unexpected indentation on her right breast and it wasn't going away. The mother of two and former ballerina said it was a "whisper from [her] body that something wasn't right". A mammogram showed little bit after insisting on an ultrasound, a lump was revealed. A further biopsy would confirm it was cancerous.

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## The Cure star Roger O'Donnell fighting 'rare and aggressive' blood cancer

7news.com.au, Other, 02/09/2024

The Friday I'm In Love musician said he 'ignored the symptoms for a few months'. The Cure star Roger O'Donnell has confirmed he is fighting cancer. [...] He ended his post by thanking his medical team and the support of friends and family: "I would also like to thank my Drs, rockstars everyone of them, all the nurses and technicians, my friends, family and Mimi, sometimes it's harder to be on the other side of this ..." Blood cancers are the third-biggest cause of cancer death in Australia, according to the Cancer Council.

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## The 'skinfluencers' battling Australian cancer rates online

9News, Other, 02/09/2024

TikTok has been known to do more harm than good, but research shows so-called 'skinfluencers' may

be having a positive impact on skin cancer rates in Australia. Seven of the world's top 10 such influencers are medical professionals who boast a combined 44.8 million followers, leveraging their platforms to educate the public about crucial skincare practices, including the importance of sunscreen usage, debunking common myths, and promoting sun-safe behaviours.

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

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## 'Finally, I felt understood, like I wasn't alone, that it wasn't just in my head': Why we need to talk about concussion more

9News, Other, 02/09/2024, Angus Fanning

On this day two years ago, I counted my lucky stars. Drunk and without a helmet, I was struck by a car while riding my bike late at night on a university exchange in Lyon, France. Somehow, I escaped – I thought at the time – relatively unscathed. I spent the night in hospital, but with a "mild head injury" and a sprained ankle I was sent on my way the following afternoon. Honestly, given the circumstances, I felt OK.

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## Breaking the silence in men's health

Aged Care Insite, Other, 02/09/2024, Adrian Sheen

Contrary to what most men believe, their bodies aren't bulletproof. As men age, the body does indeed change. The most common issues are some of the more confronting – prostate enlargement, weight gain, rising blood pressure, and heart problems are likely to occur. Serious conditions such as diabetes, bowel cancer, liver problems, and urinary issues are also more common than most men realise.

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## 60-day asthma warning

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/09/2024, Megan Haggan

Organisations including Asthma Australia have welcomed the addition of asthma medicines in the third tranche of potential 60-day medicines.

Also reported by: [Australian Pharmacist \(Online\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [4BC \(Online\)](#).

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## Breast cancer survivor Robyn never takes for granted 'everyday' moments

The Senior, Other, 02/09/2024, Eileen Wood

Seventeen years ago Robyn Dawkins was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer - the most aggressive type - at age 61. Thanks to medical science the South Australian retiree is now fit and well and never takes for granted the 'everyday' moments she spends with family and friends - because every one of them is precious.

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## Aussie baby's eye removed after subtle 'change' reveals shocking diagnosis

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 02/09/2024, Sophie Coghill

A young couple are heartbroken their newborn daughter had to get her eye removed following a slight change in her pupil. Anthony and Alex Burridge were just getting used to life as new parents when the dad noticed a change to their then three-month-old Harper's left eye in their home in Ballarat, Victoria .

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 02/09/2024, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

TikTok is being used to combat skin cancer in Australia. Dermatologists and medical influencers are using the platform to counter misinformation about sun protection and educate the public on the importance of proper SPF use. Professionals stress that regular skin checks and in-person medical advice remain crucial for effective skin cancer prevention.

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## Channel 10, 10 News First, 02/09/2024, Kate Freebairn

At the start of Blood Cancer Month, a new study reveals that 70% of Australians are concerned about discrimination impacting their cancer treatment. The study also shows that two-thirds of Indigenous, regional or LGBTQI Australians fear discrimination during their cancer treatment.

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## 2CC, Canberra Live, 02/09/2024, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Andrew Rochford, on the Get Behind It! roadshow. Rochford notes the importance of the National Bowel Cancer Screening program, saying that it now includes people aged 45 and over. He says the campaign aims to boost screening rates, which are currently below 50%.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 02/09/2024, Richard Glover

Interview with Professor Tracy O'Brien, Chief Cancer Officer and CEO, New South Wales Cancer Institute, on progress towards eliminating cervical cancer by 2035. O'Brien says Australia is on track thanks to increased screening and the HPV vaccine. She discusses efforts to improve access to screening in rural areas.

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

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## 4BC, Afternoons, 02/09/2024, Sofie Formica

Interview with Anthony Flynn, Director of Health Knowledge and Translation, Asthma Australia, on recent changes allowing asthma medications to be prescribed for 60 days instead of 30. Flynn says the update could save individuals with asthma up to \$189.60 annually. He calls it an important policy for asthma management as it addresses long-standing cost issues and makes effective preventive care more accessible.

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## 2CC, Breakfast, 02/09/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Tim Murphy, General Manager of Blood Cancer Partnerships, Leukaemia Foundation, on a survey revealing that two-thirds of Australians worry about discrimination during cancer treatment. Murphy explains that the results reflect fears about potential misdiagnoses and communication issues in healthcare, especially for those facing cultural or language barriers.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Investors have moved away from 'unviable' hospitals, industry warns

Australian Financial Review, General News, 03/09/2024, James Hall and Michael Smith, Page 4

Private hospital investors have shifted away from new health projects following a surge in construction costs and collapse in profits, according to building industry figures. The Australian Financial Review revealed yesterday that the preliminary findings...

*Also reported by: [Kalkine Media \(Online\)](#).*

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### Right to die front of mind

Courier Mail, General News, 03/09/2024, Robert Schwarten, Page 21

A local bolt and steel business advertises that dementia is a number one killer, and Aa lubricant

company says it will donate a dollar from every can of its product sold to research into this dignity-defying insidious condition. Such is the cause of community concern. But no one seems to be aware that the right to die legislation the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act (VAD) - brought into this state in 2021 by this Labor Government demands a full review of the laws in the first months of next year, where stakeholders will be able to lobby to expand the scheme and include dementia.

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## Power restored to NWRH after outage

Burnie Advocate, General News, 03/09/2024, Sarah Fittock, Page 3

Mains power was restored at the North West Regional Hospital following a "temporary disruption" on Sunday night. The hospital was required to move to generator power following a mains power outage. Health Minister Guy Barnett said a "Code Yellow" response was called at the hospital yesterday morning in response to the disruption. But it was stood down. "The hospital is prioritising the continued delivery of essential services, with some non-essential services postponed as required, including outpatient appointments and elective surgery," he said.

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

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## Miles promises satellite hospital for Fraser Coast if Labor wins election

Fraser Coast Chronicle, Other, 02/09/2024, Staff reporter

A satellite hospital will be built on the Fraser Coast if Labor wins the October state election. The promise was made by Premier Steven Miles during a brief visit to the region on Monday. Mr Miles did not stipulate if the hospital would be built in Maryborough or Hervey Bay. Labor MPs currently hold both those state electorates: Bruce Saunders in Maryborough and Adrian Tantari in Hervey Bay.

[Read More](#)

## Overnight storm brings powerline down in front of ambulance station

Shepparton News Online, Other, 02/09/2024, jemma Jones

Kyabram residents woke up to blue skies and sunshine following a night of gale force winds that caused destruction to powerlines and obstructed key roads. In the early hours of Monday September 2, three powerlines were brought down by a fallen tree on Mellis Ave in Kyabram following reported gusts of 72km/h. The large tree fell onto powerlines on the opposite side of the street and in front of the Kyabram Ambulance Station, with residents reporting a loud bang and an explosion.

[Read More](#)

## Geriatric hospitals could ease bed shortages, ambulance ramping, doctor says

ABC Online, Other, 02/09/2024

The head of one of the busiest emergency departments (ED) in Australia is calling for a designated hospital for older patients to alleviate chronic bed shortages and ambulance ramping across the country. "It's very, very difficult when you've got patients sitting in beds in the emergency department, and you're trying to offload ambulances and you've got no bed space," David Green said.

[Read More](#)

## \$2.7 million urgent care clinic 'paused' six weeks after opening

Australian Doctor, Other, 02/09/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

An urgent care centre has shut down temporarily after just six weeks due to the lack of GP interest. The NSW Government had provided \$2.66 million over two years for an urgent care clinic in Armidale in northeast NSW, operating out of an existing student clinic at the University of New England (UNE).

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 02/09/2024, Sarah MacDonald

Interview with Dr Mike Freeland, Labor MP for Mearns Park and chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Health Policy. MacDonald reports the Financial Review has obtained a preliminary report from the upcoming healthcare review, indicating that more private hospital closures might occur in the coming

year. Freelanders says both private and public sectors must work together to address the evolving demands of healthcare, with the government working on policies to support the private system's viability.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Despair of the young

Courier Mail, General News, 03/09/2024, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

Nine out of 10 Queensland young people are struggling with their mental health and more than half are totally burnt out, with social media contributing to the decline in wellbeing. The shocking results from a new survey come as the state government prepares to launch a new Australian-first strategy to break the cycle of despair.

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

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

### Generous boost

Courier Mail, Business News, 03/09/2024, Glen Norris, Page 27

Sunshine Coast philanthropists Roy and Nola Thompson have made a \$3m investment to help boost mental health services on the Sunshine Coast. The funds will help mental health provider Brain & Mind Hub launch its first clinic in Maroochydore. Manager of clinical services Dr Megan Dutton says the clinic has five specialists conveniently located in central Maroochydore, offering assessment and treatment for children and adults.

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

### How one question changed mum's outlook

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/09/2024, Tamara McDonald, Page 3

Natalie Woodfull had been feeling overwhelmed for more than a year when she was diagnosed with clinical depression and anxiety. The 46-year-old from Point Lonsdale had been struggling to focus and find motivation at work and just wanted to hibernate at home after personal and professional challenges. The corporate worker, who is a mum of two and also has two stepchildren, lost interest in socialising and exercise.

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

### ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 02/09/2024, Sonya Feldhoff and Julian Schiller

Advocates for improved mental health services in regional areas say that first responders to road accidents need more support. Naracoorte GP Sarah Willoughby says first responders are in particular need of more professional help.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Let's stop sidelining mental health nurses

Canberra Times, General News, 03/09/2024, Brent Hayward, Page 14

Australia's mental health crisis is not improving. The National Mental Health Commission (NMHC) tells us so in their summary of 2023, highlighting no "improvement in mental health and wellbeing" for 10 years, with many suffering through "a decline in whole of life outcomes." [...] The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) also doesn't recognise speciality nursing because they say speciality registration of nurses does not improve patient safety.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#)

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

## Experts' freebirth warning Report into newborn's death

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/09/2024, Tamara Mcdonald, Page 1

Pregnant women are being urged to make informed choices around birth after a coroner's report detailed the tragic death of a Geelong baby weeks after he was delivered at home without medical supervision. The report, released last week, said the baby died in January 2022 when he was two-and-a-half weeks old, with his cause of death listed as pneumonia in the setting of malnutrition. State Coroner John Cain said there were other coronial investigations into the deaths of newborns during or immediately after an unassisted home birth, where medical intervention may have prevented the infants' deaths.

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

## 'Not emptying bins': nurses draw the line in pay dispute

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/09/2024, Damon Cronshaw, Page 8

Hunter nurses and midwives have ramped up industrial action for a oneyear 15 per cent pay rise, with work bans that include refusing to clean beds and bins or take calls on wards. A lunchtime rally was also held at Calvary Mater Newcastle on Monday over safe staffing, coinciding with the beginning of work-to-rule measures at other hospitals over fair pay.

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

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## 'That one decision change someone else's life': Sophie Delezio reveals 'simple' decision mums must make for their children

The Australian, Other, 02/09/2024, Clareese Packer

She was the miracle child who survived two horrific car accidents before the age five. As Sophie Delezio now awaits the birth of her own miracle baby, she has opened up about her hopes for her little boy and has lent her support to a campaign calling on expectant mothers to abstain from drinking alcohol while pregnant.

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

[Read More](#)

## Coffs, Mid-North Coast nurses in crisis amid mass walk outs, rally

The Courier Mail, Other, 02/09/2024, Toni Moon

Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour nurses and midwives say morale is the worst it has ever been and inadequate staff levels are putting patients in the public health system at risk. Mid-North Coast and northern NSW nurses and midwives say morale is the worst it's ever been and inadequate staff levels are putting patients in the public health system at risk.

[Read More](#)

## Australian Nursing Federation boss Mark Olson admits he will only be in role for two years

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 02/09/2024, Claire Sadler

Australian Nursing Federation boss Mark Olson — who was reinstated in the role after the shock resignation of Janet Reah — claims he did not want the job. Mr Olson, who resigned as the union's secretary in 2022 after a string of high-profile accusations of inappropriate workplace behaviour— also admitted he had made mistakes in the past but was now a "different person".

[Read More](#)

## 'Disgusting': 38yo nurse reveals industry salary reality

NEWS.com.au, Other, 02/09/2024, Mary Madigan

Hayli Hooper works three jobs because she's "disgustingly" underpaid as a nurse. The 38-year-old is based in Perth and has established three income streams to help her cope with the cost of living. She

works as a registered nurse and a stripper with an OnlyFans account that she set up to help fund her usually large tax bills. Her passion is helping people, but she grew up poor and wanted to get ahead financially to help her parents out.

[Read More](#)

## **6PR, Mornings, 02/09/2024, Gary Adshead**

Interview with Angela Falkenberg, President of the Australian Primary Principals Association, on the call for legislation to manage violent or disruptive parents in schools. Falkenberg notes that while schools are increasingly serving as hubs for allied health services, many lack on-site nurses. She supports trialling mental health nurses in schools to address broader mental health and support needs for students.

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## **ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 02/09/2024, Leon Compton**

Interview with Emily Shepherd, Branch Secretary, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, on the inquiry into the understaffed maternity ward at Royal Hobart Hospital. Shepherd notes the need for an independent investigation to ensure objectivity and trust from midwives.

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## **HEALTH WORKFORCE**

### **RACGP lists its top 11 red-tape headaches for GPs**

Australian Doctor, Other, 02/09/2024, Paul Smith

Getting GPs to phone for a PBS script and the abstract prose style of the MBS are on the migraine-inducing list. If you have been repeating the same thing to the same people with the same result for the last 25 years, it can be good for mental wellbeing when someone makes themselves available to hear your pain (even if the outcome is the same).

[Read More](#)

### **The medical board's plan for mandatory health checks on older doctors is age discrimination**

Australian Doctor, Other, 02/09/2024, Philip Morris

The Medical Board of Australia proposal for mandatory examinations and cognitive assessments for doctors aged 70 or older raises critical ethical questions. Profiling a specific age group based on the assumption that they inherently pose a higher risk is a form of age discrimination.

[Read More](#)

### **'We want everyone to think about pharmacy when they think about their health'**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/09/2024, Megan Haggan

Greater progression across the pharmacy profession is needed to address issues like inequitable healthcare access, medicines shortages, antimicrobial resistance, and substandard and falsified medicines, International Pharmaceutical Federation president Paul Sinclair says.

[Read More](#)

### **NT scope boost**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/09/2024

The Country Liberal Party has won the Northern Territory election, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has praised the new government's commitment to expanding pharmacy services. The initiative, through PSA's Pharmacy Scope of Practice program, will enable pharmacists to provide additional health services for up to 21 conditions, including the prescribing of treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs) within the first 100 days of government.

## ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 02/09/2024, Adam Steer

Interview with Peter Hatswell, President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's NT, on the proposed Scope of Practice program. Hatswell says the program will allow trained community pharmacists to treat common health conditions. He addresses concerns from nurse practitioners by highlighting pharmacists' expertise in medicines and their extensive training. He explains that pharmacists will follow the same therapeutic guidelines as doctors.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### A clarifying word from the GP incentives expert panel

The Medical Republic, Other, 02/09/2024, Clara Tuck and Meng Soo

I am a GP in Canberra. I am one of the owners of East Canberra General Practice. I have been involved in the ownership of three other practices as well as the inaugural CEO of the Interchange Health Cooperative. [...] What this review is looking at are the recommendations from the 10 Year Health Plan 2022-2032 and the Strengthening Medicare Task Force which called for more multidisciplinary care and an increase in the proportion of funding going into general practice in the form of blended payments from 10% to 40% of the funding.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Cafes 'key to union boss's ghost printing scheme'

Age, General News, 03/09/2024, Kieran Rooney, Page 1

Health Workers Union boss Diana Asmar and her husband allegedly stitched up a multimillion-dollar "ghost printing" arrangement during meetings at a string of cafes around suburban Melbourne. The allegation comes as the embattled union has been given an ultimatum from its national office to stand down senior officials facing civil proceedings in the Federal Court, stop payment of legal fees and appoint an administrator.

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

### Dental worker loses unfair dismissal case

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/09/2024, Duncan Abey, Page 2

A dental therapist who was sacked by the state's public health service for failing to get vaccinated against Covid-19, has had her claim for unfair dismissal thrown out by the Tasmanian Industrial Commission. Ruling on the application of Michelle Leah Biner, Commissioner David Barclay found the applicant was terminated from her role on January 13, 2022 for breaching the State Service code of conduct, after defying an order from the Director of Public Health that all staff be vaccinated against the virus.

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### Townsville University Hospital apologises after alleged sexual assault



## of nurse

ABC Online, Other, 02/09/2024

Queensland Police are investigating the alleged assault at Townsville University Hospital last month, with no charges laid. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union has called for an investigation into the health service's response. ABC North Qld: Chloe Chomicki The ABC understands it was not until the patient physically assaulted a visitor that they were moved to more secure arrangements. Hospital chair Tony Mooney said the board was briefed about the incident on Monday.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Why is there so much gender bias in healthcare?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/09/2024, Lesley Braun

Despite advancements in medical science, there are still gaps in the diagnosis, treatment, and care of women around Australia. A 2024 report by the National Women's Health Advisory Council found that two-thirds of Australian women have experienced gender bias or discrimination in healthcare. This bias can impact everything from pain management to mental and reproductive health, influencing diagnoses, treatment selection and effectiveness, and overall care.

[Read More](#)

### DSS opens consultation on disability foundational supports

The Mandarin, Other, 02/09/2024, Dan Holmes

The Department of Social Services is calling for submissions on the design of disability "foundational supports". These supports will go to people living with a disability who do not qualify for the NDIS. The first stage of consultation will tackle general supports for people with disability under 65. This includes sourcing trusted information and guidance, peer supports and capacity building.

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## SPORT

### Olympic committee must stop cyber crims from wreaking havoc at Brisbane Games

The Australian, Technology, 03/09/2024, David Rajkovic, Page 18

While the medals and the memes might dominate Olympic coverage, there is much more at stake when hosting such a global event. The Olympics are the penultimate global sporting event. With billions of viewers, it offers an unparalleled platform for politically motivated groups and cyber criminals alike to wreak havoc. The convergence of international attention, critical infrastructure, and valuable personal data makes the Games a tantalising target for attack groups.

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### 'As soon as possible'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 03/09/2024, Katrina Lovell, Page 1

A new sports and community hub at Warrnambool's Brierly Recreation Reserve would cost \$14.6 million with councillors ruling out a bigger and more expensive \$25 million proposal. Warrnambool City Council has released draft concept plans for the new pavilion as it prepares to seek government funding for the project. Plans for Brierly have been on the drawing board since 2012, and work to upgrade the oval creating two soccer pitches and a cricket wicket have just been completed at a cost of \$2.57 million with \$1 million coming from the state government.

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Interview with Vic Shadow Minister for Sport Sam Groth on reports Victoria's taxpayers will be footing the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Croucher says there are plans to use the compensation money from Victoria to fund the Games in Glasgow. Groth describes the decision as another 'kick in the guts' for the state in managing its major events.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### **Made-to-match cells put hope on the horizon for kids stuck in transplant queue**

The Australian, General News, 03/09/2024, James Dowling, Page 3

Doctors may soon be able to engineer stem cells that closely resemble those in the human body, thanks to a groundbreaking study by Australian researchers that provides a chance for children with leukaemia and other fatal conditions to bypass donor waiting lists. By culturing cells that match what is found in the human embryo, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute was able to create platelets and red and white blood cells that would be unique to each patient, eliminating the risk of the body rejecting donated blood or bone marrow.

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

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### **Research is clearing up grey areas on stress, hair changes**

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/09/2024, Sarah Klein, Page 14

It's natural to assume that stress contributes to grey hair. But if you dig into the research, you'll find few studies on the topic exist. And while some have found associations between premature greying and stress, no research has proved the link. "There's still a lot we don't know," says California dermatologist Dr Paradi Mirmirani.

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

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### **Perfect match for kids**

Herald Sun, General News, 03/09/2024, Robyn Riley, Page 5

Children with blood diseases such as leukaemia and bone marrow failure disorders may soon be treated with "perfectly matched" blood stem cells created in a lab. Melbourne researchers revealed on Tuesday they had created blood stem cells that closely resembled those produced in the human body. A world first, it has the potential to transform bone marrow transplants in children and be a lifesaver for those who are unable to find matched donors.

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

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### **Sad truth on vaping**

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/09/2024, Page 11

Australian high school students with severe depressive symptoms are more than twice as likely to have tried e-cigarettes than those reporting no symptoms of depression. The University of Sydney data showed overall higher ecigarette use among those with poorer mental health, including severe depressive symptoms, moderate and high stress and low wellbeing.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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### **Young avoid melanoma**

More young Australians are less likely to develop melanoma as the country becomes more diversely populated, new research says. A QIMR Berghofer study found nearly 30 per cent of young Australians now have a low to moderate risk of melanoma because of their ancestry and darker skin tones. Professor David Whiteman said the research suggested demographic changes have been a significant factor at the declining melanoma rate, but also credited the widespread public health campaigns of the 1980s and 90s.

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

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## Prostate cancer hope

Courier Mail, General News, 03/09/2024, Page 13

Researchers have unveiled a promising new strategy that could be used to treat the most aggressive forms of prostate cancer. The groundbreaking Flinders University and University of South Australia study explores the role of a novel drug, CDKI-73, to tackle drug-resistant prostate cancer that defies conventional therapies. Researchers found that CDKI-73 potently blocks the growth of prostate cancer, even aggressive subtypes, without causing harm to normal cells.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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## Semaglutide a lifesaver, says research

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/09/2024, Page 10

People with obesity who take semaglutide - the active ingredient in Ozempic and Wegovy - have a reduced risk of dying from any cause, heart problems and even Covid-19 compared with taking no weight-loss medications, according to US research. A Harvard Medical School team looked at death data from a semaglutide trial of about 17,500 participants aged over 45 with obesity. Half received semaglutide weekly, while the other half took a placebo.

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

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## ASX Health Stocks: Imugene reveals promise in lymphoma trial, stock soars 27pc

The Australian, Other, 02/09/2024, Eddy Sunarto

Imugene (asx:imu) has soared by 27% this morning after announcing significant progress in its Phase 1b clinical trial of azer-cel. Azer-cel is an allogeneic CAR T-cell therapy designed to treat/diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL). In the trial, patients were divided into two cohorts. Cohort A included six patients who received azer-cel along with chemotherapy (lymphodepletion); while Cohort B comprised four patients who were treated with azer-cel, chemotherapy, and interleukin 2 (IL-2).

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

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## Melbourne researchers hope new treatment for incurable brain cancer could 'melt tumours'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/09/2024, Sarah Booth

A cutting-edge cancer therapy that trains our immune system to melt tumours from within could "revolutionise" treatment for an incurable brain cancer that has few other options. Survival rates for gliomas, an aggressive tumour, have barely moved in decades, but Melbourne researchers hope a "two-in-one" therapy that "completely cured" "100 per cent" of mice during trials could change this. WEHI Professor Misty Jenkins said many treatments that succeed in preclinical trials failed in humans, but these strong results gave her confidence.

[Read More](#)

## Acute kidney injury linked to increased risk of dementia: study

Australian Doctor, Other, 02/09/2024, Mohana Basu

Acute kidney injury can increase the risk of a subsequent dementia diagnosis by more than 50%, a

population-based cohort study suggests. Preclinical studies have previously identified biochemical and pathological changes in the brain associated with acute kidney injury (AKI), according to the researchers from Sweden's Karolinska Institutet. To further investigate, their study looked at data from patients aged 65 or older with a baseline creatinine recorded between 2006 and 2018.

[Read More](#)

### **Sky News Live, Paul Murray Live, 02/09/2024, Paul Murray**

A prostate cancer trial of 162 men, led by Professor Louise Emmett and funded by Movember and the federal government, has shown significant results. Participants receiving enzalutamide combined with radiation treatment experienced double the treatment response and fewer side effects.

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### **Channel 10, 10 News First, 02/09/2024, Jennifer Keyte**

Walter and Eliza Hall Institute researchers have made a significant breakthrough that could revolutionise brain cancer treatment. The cutting-edge therapy uses the body's immune system to attack brain tumours and could be trialled in humans in two years. Lab tests show it also acts as a vaccine, attacking cancerous cells if they grow back.

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### **ABC News, News Breakfast, 02/09/2024, Michael Rowland and Bridget Brennan**

Interview with Professor David Whiteman, epidemiologist, QIMR Berghofer, on the decline in melanoma rates in Australia among younger populations. Whiteman says the 'Slip, Slop, Slap' campaign is credited with reducing skin cancer, but Australia's increasingly diverse population is also playing a role. He says those with darker skin tones, who have natural protection against UV radiation, contribute to the decrease in melanoma rates.

*Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).*

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### **Malarndirri McCarthy to visit WA detention centre after teen dies in custody**

The Australian, Other, 02/09/2024, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer

Indigenous Affairs Minister Malarndirri McCarthy will visit the detention facility where a 17-year-old Aboriginal boy took his own life last week. The boy was in custody at Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre for just two days before staff found him unresponsive in his cell.

*Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).*

[Read More](#)

### **Brewing traditional bush balm to ease pain for Alice Springs dialysis patients**

ABC Online, Other, 02/09/2024

In Mparntwe-Alice Springs, a young Pertame woman crushes irmangka leaves on an ancient rock continuing a culture thousands of years old. The scene is both therapeutic and deeply symbolic. For Tamara Stewart, this is not just a job but a personal journey intertwined with memories of her late grandmother. "I used to take bush medicine to my nanna every day after work," Tamara recalls.

[Read More](#)

### **Radio National, PM, 02/09/2024, David Lipson**

Legal experts and organisations oppose lowering the age of criminal responsibility to 10 in the NT,

citing potential harm to young offenders and worsening issues for those with mental health and cognitive disorders. Amnesty International and Aboriginal adviser Uncle Rodney Dillon also reject the change. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows half of young detainees are Aboriginal. Dr Elizabeth Moore, President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, advocates for raising the age to avoid severe impacts on very young children.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Tragic reality for baby

Cairns Post, General News, 03/09/2024, Peter Carruthers, Page 1

A five-month-old Far North Queensland baby boy is fighting for his life with a suspected case of severe meningococcal, as health authorities warn of a potential outbreak. The baby, who the Cairns Post has chosen not to name in respect to privacy of the family, was rushed to the paediatric intensive care unit of the Townsville University Hospital for emergency treatment after his condition quickly deteriorated at the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service at the weekend.

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

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### Gardeners in Western Australia warned about possible spike in legionnaires' disease

The Australian, Other, 02/09/2024, Nathan Schmidt

Spring has sprung and gardeners in Western Australia are being warned to take care to avoid a potentially deadly bacterial infection. Legionnaires' disease is a severe form of pneumonia contracted by breathing in dust from soil products contaminated with legionella bacteria.

[Read More](#)

### The vaccine trials open to Illawarra residents at new Crown Street clinic

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 02/09/2024, Kate Mcilwain

Albion Park resident Paul Tatton watched his brother go through excruciating pain with shingles, and wanted to do everything he could to avoid the same thing. However, with long waits and a \$700 cost for him to get a shingles jab he kept putting it off, until he was served a Facebook ad about a new clinical trial for a new vaccine happening in Wollongong.

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### Jack is one of the Australians who've contracted mpox. It was 'traumatising'

SBS, Other, 02/09/2024, Greg Dyett

A "genuinely traumatising" experience is how Melbourne man, Jack, described his six-week ordeal with mpox. In June, after having sex at some King's Birthday weekend dance parties in Melbourne, the 35-year-old noticed some sensitivity in his rectum and decided to have a sexual health screen. Within a few days of getting symptoms, he was diagnosed with mpox and endured excruciating pain.

[Read More](#)

### Watch out for hypervirulent Klebsiella pneumoniae

The Medical Republic, Other, 02/09/2024, Mariella Attard

With a multidrug-resistant strain reported in Australia, a local respiratory expert says don't hesitate to test. Cases of hypervirulent and multidrug-resistant Klebsiella pneumoniae (hvKp) have been reported in Australia and 15 other countries. [...] So far, only three cases were identified in 2023 and reported by the Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) working together with the Public Health Laboratory Network (PHLN).

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Smokes will lead to fire

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/09/2024, Lachlan Leeming, Page 4

Fears that gangland wars will erupt over the black-market trade in tobacco and vapes have led to calls for tougher action, as importers of illicit products defy Australian law by spruiking stock online and gloating about the ease of bypassing Australia's border controls. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said he had written to Meta, Facebook's owner, to ensure it was complying with Australian law, which prohibits advertising of vapes.

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### 'Weight loss' drug a script for danger

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/09/2024, Brooke Grebert-Craig and Suzan Delibasic, Page 27

Dodgy doctors may be putting lives at risk by unnecessarily prescribing controversial diabetes turned weight-loss drug Ozempic to vulnerable patients. [...] A Therapeutic Goods Administration spokesman said the agency was aware of weight-loss medications being illegally promoted for sale through online forums and urged consumers to exercise "extreme caution".

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### Abatacept shortages 'resolved'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/09/2024, Ajp Staff

Pharmacies can expect to have improved access to stocks of Bristol-Myers Squibb's Orencia (abatacept) 125mg/mL ClickJect autoinjector for subcutaneous injection and prefilled syringe products following months of supply issues, the company advised the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) last week (30 August 2024) "that the shortages of both abatacept subcutaneous presentations have resolved".

[Read More](#)

### Tas vape sale restrictions

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/09/2024

The Tasmanian Government announced on Fri new tighter regulations restricting the sale of nicotine-containing vapes to patients with a prescription from a GP or nurse practitioner. [...] O'Byrne highlighted concerns over the safety and efficacy of e-cigarette products, stating, "no vaping product has been approved by the TGA based on its safety, efficacy, or performance".

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### A clinic in state waste

Herald Sun, Editorials, 03/09/2024, Page 18

With the Victorian hospital sector screaming out for funds, it is beyond ironic that money has been wasted - with more to come - on a derelict Flinders St building set to become a "community health hub". On Monday, the Herald Sun revealed the former Yooralla building opposite Flinders Street Station, purchased by the then Andrews government in 2021 for \$40.3m, was in desperate need of remedial works as it sat unused, with water leaks and mould outbreaks.

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### Father's warning over deadly synthetic street drug after 18-year-old son lost his life

9News, Other, 02/09/2024

A deadly drug nicknamed the 'Frankenstein' of opioids is expected to hit Melbourne streets soon. Nitazenes, which are 500 times stronger than heroin, are being cut into party drugs and counterfeit prescription medication, experts warn. The synthetic street drug has? already taken 17 lives in Victoria, including Jetson Gordon, 18, who took what he thought was a pill to help him sleep in 2022.

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

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 02/09/2024, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

A CBD building purchased by the government three years ago for a safe injecting room is accumulating significant repair costs while remaining unused. FOI documents reveal the former site requires urgent repairs to avoid demolition. Premier Jacinta Allan says work is underway to renovate the building into a new community health facility, which is expected to open by 2026.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Who says red meat is bad? Here's the good news about a juicy steak

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/09/2024, James Muecke, Page 6

In recent years, the concept of humans consuming red meat has been coming under attack. This food source we have relied upon for millennia is now being added to lists of "things we should be afraid of" because - apparently - it could cause a litany of woes including heart attacks, stroke, dementia, cancer, and type 2 diabetes. And, if making us ill isn't bad enough, the production of red meat - apparently - is also destroying our planet's environment. While working as an eye surgeon, I've always been curious: What's making my patients ill? What's making them healthy?

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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### Australia's precision fermentation future

Food & Drink Business, Other, 02/09/2024, Keira Joyce

Not-for-profit organisation, Cellular Agriculture Australia (CAA), has released an industry-first report that shows Australia has the potential to become a global leader in the production of precision-fermented ingredients. [...] To achieve this, the white paper includes a series of recommendations outlining opportunities for Australian Federal and State governments, such as: The Department of Health & Aged Care increasing resourcing to FSANZ, thereby enabling increased capability and capacity for FSANZ to deal with applications for foods produced using gene technology and support the industry to be internationally competitive.

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

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## AICIS

### Port Kembla Copper smelter site for sale as it remediates contamination

ABC Online, Other, 02/09/2024

Gardening is one of Brigitte Pickett's favourite pastimes, but she says having her own backyard vegetable patch is too risky. Her Port Kembla home, in the industrial heartland of the Illawarra, is among 300 residential properties found to still be carrying toxic dusts emitted by a now-disused copper

smelter. The 21-hectare site on Military Road, made famous by its 198-metre stack, hasn't produced manufacturing materials since 2003.

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