

s22

From: s47F @isentia.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2020 6:59 AM
To: s47E(d); s22; s22; s22; News; Kelly, Paul; Coatsworth, Nick; Kidd, Michael; MCMILLAN, Alison; Grieve, Jodie; BALMANNO, Rachel; MURPHY, Brendan; s22; s22; s22; s47E(d); s47F; s47F; s47F; s22; Street, Celia; Vine, Ruth; s47F
Subject: Isentia - Insights Daily Report - 4 August [SEC=No Protective Marking]
Attachments: Coronavirus Daily Insights - 4 August Morning.pdf

REMINDER : Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Please find this morning's briefing attached.

As always if you have any questions or queries please let me know and I'll be happy to help out.

Thanks,

s47F

s47F

Insights ANZ

a. Lvl 4, 78 Victoria St, Wellington. New Zealand
isentia.com

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
 THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

Coronavirus Daily Insights

Department of Health - Morning

4 August 2020

s22

Key Stories

Overnight

- [The Victorian businesses and industries that will close](#) under Melbourne's stage 4 coronavirus restrictions

- [The vast majority of retail stores - with the exception of supermarkets - will be closed down](#) in Melbourne for the duration of lockdown.
- [Workers without sick leave to get \\$1,500 'disaster payment'](#) as form of coronavirus leave
- [Health care workers in Victoria have documented the brutal reality of life on the frontline](#) battling against the “new normal” COVID-19.
- [States going backwards on plans to open up amid panic](#) over Victoria’s coronavirus outbreak
- [Victoria is running out of options and needs community co-operation to avoid even harsher lockdowns](#) as the state tries desperately to flatten the curve of infections.
- [Victoria’s chief health officer has said the sacrifices the state’s residents have made will be reflected in the number of new coronavirus cases in the next week](#)
- [Australian states raise millions from coronavirus fines](#)
- ['Stubborn' cases will drive Sydney lockdown](#)
- [SA reimposes restrictions on social gatherings](#) as two new coronavirus cases recorded
- Queensland Premier [Annastacia Palaszczuk has called for exemption "loopholes" to be closed off](#)
- [Victoria’s second lockdown may have serious ramifications for childcare centres](#), whose staff are no longer receiving JobKeeper.
- [Economic shockwaves from Victorian coronavirus outbreak set to intensify](#)
- [An extra 250,000 Victorians are likely to be out of work as a result](#) of the state’s tough stage 4 restriction
- [Poorly trained security guards who became overwhelmed by hysterical guests](#) may have been responsible for how COVID-19 escaped into the wider community.
- [Melbourne man fined \\$1652 for entering CBD to play Pokémon Go](#)
- [Crowd numbers will be further reduced at the Melbourne Storm's next home game](#) on the Sunshine Coast amid concerns over a disregard for coronavirus social distancing rules.
- [Melbourne is missing part of its identity with no sport](#) during the coronavirus lockdown
- [The global rollout of 5G has spawned wild conspiracy theories, and the coronavirus pandemic was the perfect environment for them to spread.](#)

- [Donald Trump took a dig at Australia after a “state of disaster” was declared](#) in Victoria yesterday, despite US cases continuing to rise.
- [WHO warns there may never be a 'silver bullet' for COVID-19](#)
- NZ Prime Minister [Jacinda Ardern says Australian coronavirus transmission too high for trans-Tasman travel bubble](#)

Morning

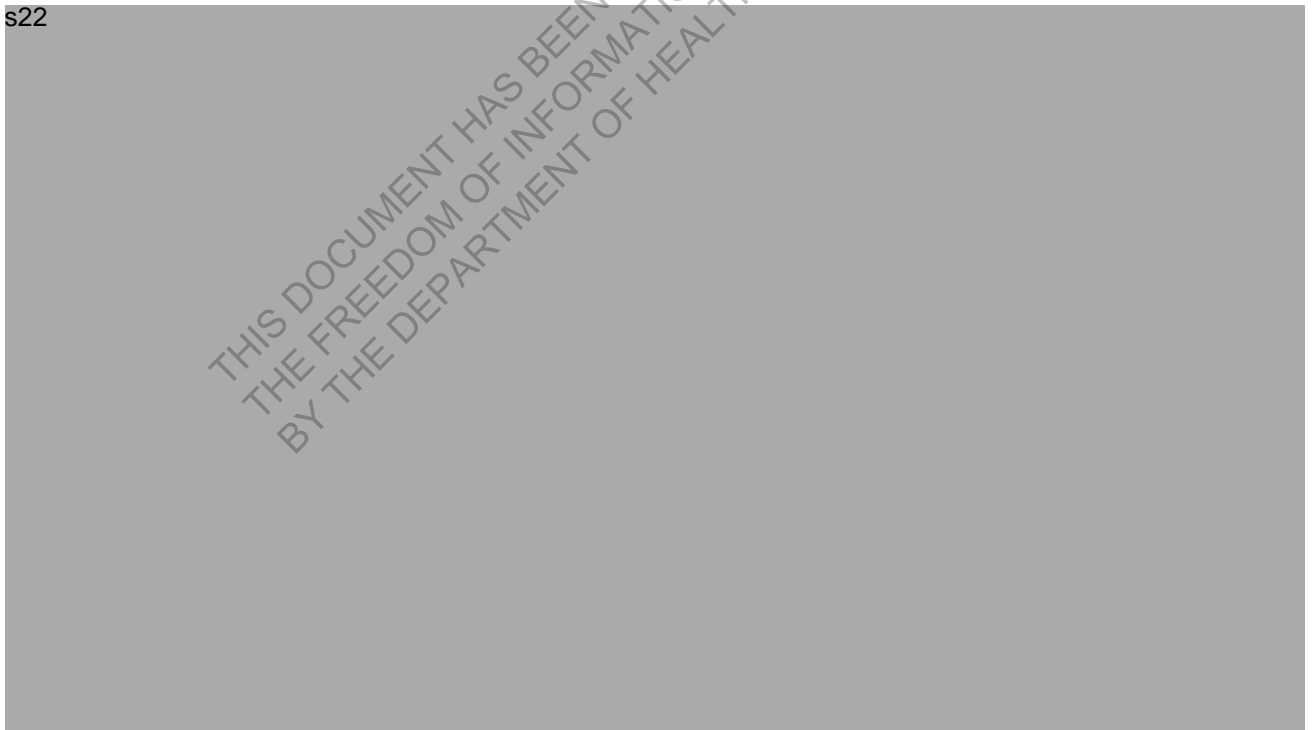
- [Melbourne is closed for business as crushing restrictions come into force](#)
- [City deserted as strict lockdown measures shutter businesses and force residents to shelter](#) at home
- [A quarter of a million more Victorians will be stood down or sent home as thousands more shops, offices and factories close their doors](#) under tough new stage four COVID-19 restrictions.
- [Virus sufferers who continue to work while sick will instead be paid \\$1500 to stay home](#), in a last ditch bid to stop those who were flouting isolation
- Health authorities fear people could be unknowingly infected, warning that [there are another six days that symptoms could develop from the now infamous Melbourne-Logan cluster](#)
- [Poorly trained security guards on a so-called “crazy floor” of the Rydges Hotel in Melbourne’s Swanston Street may have let COVID-19 escape](#) into the community
- [South Australians face new coronavirus restrictions from tonight after a new cluster of “really concerning” COVID-19 cases](#) linked with two Adelaide schools was identified
- A young Mercury reporter [has told how she spent days trying to get treatment for shortness of breath but despite presenting to hospital with symptoms, did not receive a COVID-19 test](#)
- [Another border breach: Infected traveller ‘was not exempt’](#)
- [The Berejiklian government will exhaust all options with coronavirus restrictions before it shuts down](#) the economy
- Small businesses employ 35 per cent of the workforce so [the brunt of the pain will be felt at the small end of town.](#)

- [About one in 10 people forced into mandatory quarantine in the NT during the first round of lockdown have paid or are paying off their bill](#)
- [Tasmania will keep its borders shut to all interstate and overseas visitors until the end of winter](#)
- [WA virus fight 'weakened' if Clive wins border battle](#)
- [Brutal disruption to the city's retail sector will mean some businesses die, others thrive and there are permanent changes to how we shop](#)
- [Elderly Australians are more than three times as concerned about the impact of the recession as they are about their personal health](#)
- [Uluru closed over COVID-19 fears](#)

Key Commentators

Overnight

s22



s22

- **Craig Kelly, Member for Hughes (NEG):** A Liberal MP has gone on a social media spree touting a controversial drug as a COVID treatment despite Australian authorities “strongly discouraging” it. Member for Hughes Craig Kelly posted 18 times in two days about hotly debated drug hydroxychloroquine to his Facebook page. [In one post the MP said those restricting the use of the drug as a COVID treatment, which includes Australia’s drug regulator the Therapeutic Goods Administration, have “the blood of tens of thousands on their hands”.](#)

Morning

s22

Key Stories s22

Overnight

- [Younger people living in Melbourne aged care homes fear for their safety](#) as coronavirus spreads
- [I had to move my mother twice because of appalling experiences in aged care homes](#)
- [Broken aged care system destined to fail this test](#)
- [Q+A featured lengthy discussion on aged care as part of a feature on the front lines](#) of the pandemic

Morning

- [Aged care 'talkfest' fails residents: Liberal MP](#)
- [Aged-care deaths more than reported](#)
- [Seven COVID-19-affected nursing homes in Melbourne risk having their federal funding revoked](#)
- [Hundreds more military personnel are on standby to go into Victoria's coronavirus-ridden aged-care homes](#)
- [Aged care pain exposes delusion of a flexible jobs market](#)

Leading Social Media Topics (Overnight)

- New measures in Victoria were widely discussed on social media with the economic implications the most heavily discussed. [Mental health impacts were also raised as a concern](#) given the likely increase in isolation, unemployment, and hardship.
- Mask use was highlighted given the push from officials for their use in NSW with [users highlighting increased use in the community as a result.](#)
- [Pandemic leave payments were broadly praised](#) given the role they were likely to play in increasing compliance.
- [Ongoing cases in NSW continued to be highlighted](#) with users expressing concerns that tighter measures and lockdowns may be on the horizon

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 12 January 2021 4:45 PM
To: s47E(d)
Cc: s47F
Subject: 20-01-12 Hunt - Transcript - Doorstop - Mount Martha [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 21-01-12 Hunt - Transcript - Doorstop - Mount Martha.pdf



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
 Minister for Health and Aged Care

TRANSCRIPT

12 January 2021

DOORSTOP MOUNT MARTHA

E&OE...

Topics: \$38 million for diabetes and cardiovascular research, International and domestic COVID vaccination update; Vaccine rollout - open call for general practice vaccinations next week; Emerging strains posing risk to vaccine development; Pregnant women and COVID vaccination; Acting Prime Minister's comments; Craig Kelly; National approach to traffic light system; Health infrastructure; Vaccine rollout targets; Herd immunity; Suppression vs elimination; Emergency vaccination approval.

GREG HUNT:

Thank you very much for joining us today. I'm joined by Dr Karen Price, who's the President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and it's a real privilege to have you here.

And I want to start by thanking our extraordinary medical community, our doctors and our nurses, our incredible Australian medical family. They've kept us safe. They've been courageous during the height of the pandemic.

We've seen the enormous challenges that doctors and nurses and other medical professionals have faced overseas at the height of the risk during the March and April waves in Australia and in Victoria during the second wave.

They've put themselves on the frontline and I want to take this opportunity to thank Karen and through Karen, all of our GPs, our doctors, our hospital workers, our pharmacists, our pathologists, our allied health workers, everybody associated – and especially our aged care workers – everybody associated with health and medical care and protection in Australia.

And indeed, today is about two things. One is our general health, and secondly, acknowledging the steps forward and the steps we're taking with regards to the coronavirus vaccine.

Now, in particular, I'm delighted that we are jointly able to announce \$38 million of Australian Government funding for diabetes and cardiovascular care. That's an immensely important step forward, and that will involve three elements.

Firstly, \$10 million for a National Diabetes Research Centre. This will be a competitive program. It will be open and peer reviewed, and that will focus on diabetic kidney disease, limb diseases which are complications from diabetes, hypo and hyper glycaemia and related conditions.

\$10 million for a national cardiovascular disease research centre, and that will include a focus on coronary artery disease, heart failure and stroke, amongst other conditions.

Then we have \$18 million for competitive grant programs for different projects. They could be clinical trials. They could be primary research. They could be development of devices. All of these elements will be through competitive programs.

So that's what we're doing with regards to health because, through COVID, one of the things that has been very important - together we've created telehealth and rolled it out to maintain the day-to-day health of Australians.

And we know that that challenge has been a global one, but because of the advent of telehealth in Australia, we have a particularly strong outcome.

Now, with regards to COVID-19, I think the important facts today are that there are six community cases across Australia, and I'm advised by the National Incident Centre that this compares with over 600,000 cases globally. Six cases in Australia. Over 600,000 cases globally.

And in particular, there are zero lives that have been lost in Australia. There is one Australian in ICU with COVID. And 9765 lives that have been lost, agonisingly, at the global level.

We know that that means that we're in a situation where the world has over 90 million cases. Over 1.9 million lives lost, and each of those are growing at an extraordinary rate. And all of this is against a background where we have borders, international, testing, tracing and distancing.

In terms of tests, there have been over 60,000 tests in the last 24 hours, which takes us to over 12.1 million tests Australia-wide. That's a national average of 476 per 1000 Australians, which is an extraordinary result.

In Victoria, the highest rate of testing in the country, that's 507 tests. And in Western Australia, the lowest rate of testing in the country, that's 253 per 1000. So in those jurisdictions which have lower numbers, we understand why, but we would nevertheless encourage the authorities there to work on the testing rates.

We have, in recent weeks, tested over 326 aged care facilities with zero cases amongst staff or residents.

So, those are extraordinary steps, but we know in a world of six cases within the Australian community, and 600,000 plus within the global community, that we won't be fully safe until

the world is safe, and that's part of the global vaccination rollout but it's also part of the Australian vaccination rollout.

And last week, with the Prime Minister and the Chief Medical Officer and the Secretary of the Health Department, who is also the head of the medical expert group on vaccines, we announced the national rollout plan that in particular was focusing on the population groups.

One fundamental part is the distribution process. And so we will have hospitals, most especially within the context of the Pfizer vaccine, because of the -70 cold chain.

But we will also have the very strong community rollout. Australian Government vaccination centres, state-based vaccination centres – and we've been working with all of the states and territories on those, and they're doing a tremendous job – Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations, but also general practices.

We have a national vaccination network, which last year saw us deliver 17 million vaccinations for flu, approximately.

And that vaccination network is built around our general practices with support from our pharmacies. And so our general practices will commence when the AstraZeneca vaccine commences as part of Stage 1B.

And next week, we'll be inviting all Australian general practices to participate if they wish. That will involve making sure that they're able to participate in the Australian Immunisation Register and record all vaccinations, to undertake the appropriate training, and if they wish, if they see themselves as a vaccinator, to participate in that program.

And we'll open that call for general practice vaccinations next week, which is what I'm announcing with Karen today, as well as this focus on diabetes and stroke.

So we're doing extraordinarily well. There's more to be done, but when we compare the international with the Australian outcomes, we see that our doctors and our nurses have not only kept us safe, they have delivered an outcome that is, in so many ways, the envy of just about all of the rest of the world.

And we owe Karen, you, and your fellow practitioners, a deep debt of gratitude. Thank you. Karen Price.

KAREN PRICE:

Thank you for that vote of support and I know that Australia's general practitioners are very happy to hear that Government is supporting general practice in this challenging time.

I'd like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and sea in which we work and live, and here we are in the lands of the Boon wurrung and Bunurong peoples. I'd like to pay my respects to elders past and present.

But thank you, Minister. What a time we have had in these times. Thank you to the media, also, for sharing in this historic moment.

We are about to rollout the largest vaccination program in recent history. Immunisation has made an enormous contribution to global health, along with clean water and sanitation.

And this COVID vaccine is vast. The head of the Therapeutic Goods Administration has expressed it as a significant major national effort, which requires all of us to cooperate together, which I'm pleased to say has, for the most part, been occurring.

And that includes you, the media, and clinicians like myself, and nursing staff and so forth, the general public who've been following the guidelines from the chief health officers, our scientists – I'm rather proud to have Sharon Lewin as one of my medical student colleagues. She was brilliant then and she's brilliant now – and, of course, our politicians, have all played a part in the fight against COVID. So thanks for the communications and the regular updates, because as Minister Hunt has just declared, the Australian response has been lifesaving.

We cannot emphasise enough, as general practitioners, that we still need to comply with all of the public health measures, which do change regularly and it is challenging to keep up, but thank you to people for continuing to review that information as it comes through.

And really good job, Australia. Now we're ready to roll out the vaccines, so I'd like to say: take that, 2020. It was a tough year. It was a tough year for so many. All of us have probably had experiences where we've suffered some degree, some hardships.

But I'm really proud to say that Australian general practice stands ready to support our communities from the rural and remote places, to the big city communities. GPs are ideally placed all across Australia and are highly trained and trusted members ready to inform our members of the public, ready to go through a consent process, and ready to vaccinate.

And your GP will be able to assist you with that information and help to create an understanding to the available evidence.

The RACGP is working constructively with the Government to ensure a confident vaccine rollout.

And thank you to the media for participating in responsible science communication, which is so important at this time.

Australia has historically and previously achieved around a 92 per cent immunisation coverage and I see no reason for that to change with this COVID vaccination program.

GPs also can specially help those communities with culturally, linguistically, and diverse cultures navigate the vast trust issues that we have built over the decades of our care.

So I have confidence in this vaccine for my patients, for my family, and I know it will all help us avoid hospitalisations and severe COVID disease, and help protect our community.

There are challenges, but let's not forget that we are so fortunate to be where we are right now in Australia. We really have done an amazing job.

We're able to follow quickly the overseas data and we have secured the supply chain of the vaccine with a local manufacturer, which is a really important part of a public health response.

And Australia will continue to respond as vaccines go through the regulatory TGA processes in which we can all have confidence.

So this is a historic moment, but for all the right reasons this time. Perhaps we can move on perhaps from the hardships and we can have hope. The year 2021 is a bit corny, but the year 2021 is a year of vaccination.

And GPs stand ready, willing, and able to help. So thank you very much. Thank you, Minister Hunt.

GREG HUNT:

Thank you. Happy to take any questions in the room and then turn to those on the phone.

JOURNALIST:

Do the new and emerging strains of coronavirus pose a risk to the vaccine development and rollout?

GREG HUNT:

The best advice we have is that our vaccination program is unchanged and unaffected.

Obviously, we'll keep that under review. But that's a discussion which the Prime Minister and I have been briefed on by both Professor Paul Kelly, the Chief Medical Officer, and Professor Brendan Murphy, who is not only the Secretary of the Department of Health, but also the Head of the Vaccines Advisory Group.

So at this stage, there is no sign that these strains do affect the vaccination program. In other words, our vaccinations are strong and effective.

We'll keep this under review. The world is learning every day about that, but that appears to be not just the advice in Australia, but the international advice.

JOURNALIST:

What's the current advice for pregnant women who may be considering accepting the vaccine and what is the science informing these policy positions?

GREG HUNT:

Sure. So the Therapeutic Goods Administration, to which Karen referred, that's Australia's medical regulator, will assess the advice from the vaccine manufacturers and make a definitive decision on that.

So, we don't have a final position yet, and I apologise for that. But that's simply a function of Australia taking the swift but full safety processes.

And this is one of the reasons exactly why, along with Japan and South Korea, and New Zealand, Taiwan, and others, we've chosen to go down the full safety assessment process; precisely so as when it comes to the time for vaccination, we have the best advice in the world from the best medical regulator in the world.

So, that question will be answered by the TGA when they complete their assessment.

JOURNALIST:

And on a slightly different note, do you agree with your colleague Minister McCormack that some facts can be contentious and his refusal to rebuke a Coalition MP who likened mandatory masks to child abuse?

GREG HUNT:

Look, there'll be very different views. We listen to our medical advisers. That's what set Australia apart. I'm standing next to one of Australia's leading medical advisers for precisely that reason.

And so we followed the medical advice. We've always lent in to make sure that we're getting that medical advice at the earliest possible time.

I know there are differing views. There are some widely quoted commentators who may have predicted 400,000 lives lost, and that was clearly incorrect, and yet they're still widely quoted by the press.

There are some widely quoted commentators who said we would run out of ventilators in April, only three weeks after they were making their comments, and that was clearly false. There were approximately 7500 ventilators that were built into the Australian- into the Australian arsenal of protection, and that was never even remotely close.

And that there are some commentators that predicted that there'd be 3000 cases in New South Wales on the 8th of January, and I believe there was one case detected that that day.

So there will be different views from many people. Our advice comes from what I believe are the best medical advisers in the world. That's what's protected Australia and that's what we're going to continue to do. I'll take them now-

JOURNALIST:

Just on that, sorry. Will you look to censure Craig Kelly for championing those unproven coronavirus treatments and likening mask use by children to child abuse?

GREG HUNT:

Look, we follow the advice of the medical advisers. And many people, as I've just said, will put out differing views. Many of those views have been shown to be wrong.

And I would urge everyone to listen carefully to the advice of the Australian medical regulators and Australian Government medical advisers.

They are the ones who, in my view, are the best in the world. The most credible in the world, and have helped deliver the best outcome; or arguably one of the best outcomes in the world.

And how is it that Australia is at a point with six cases of community transmission versus over 600,000 worldwide? Because as a Government, we have focussed on a medically driven, but politically led approach where we listen and then we act.

And I think that's been a real hallmark of what Australia has done.

And I'll just take the take the (dial-in) questions. I think the first one is Jonathan Kearsley.

JOURNALIST:

Thank you, Minister. Just in relation through the last 24 hours or so, we've seen in Victoria issue this traffic light permit system to allow people, Victorians, to essentially get home again. What do you make of that system? And given the failures that took place over the first (inaudible) hours or so with it not working, is there a need for a national sort of approach, a national permit system?

GREG HUNT:

Look, firstly, it's a matter for Victoria. I know that's a system they have developed themselves. That's very much a Victorian approach.

The Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer has laid out a national hotspot definition, and that's the one which we have put on the table. And in relation to, for example, the Northern Beaches area or Greater Brisbane, and that's provided national advice.

Some states and territories have been very clear that they reserve the right not to adopt that national approach. That is their choice and a matter for them to explain.

But we have set out a clear, singular, precise national definition, and we would invite all to feel free to use that. But we respect it if others choose to go a different way.

If I could have Josh Butler please.

JOURNALIST:

Yeah, thank you, Minister. I appreciate it. You kind of touched on already in your introductory remarks, but on the vaccine roll out, the Prime Minister said last week he hopes 4 million people will be vaccinated between mid-to-late February and the end of March.

That'll be about- an average of about 100,000 people per day taking jabs. We might need similar numbers each day for that whole rollout until October perhaps. I know that you said you're ramping up from 80,000 a week to start with, but do we currently have the health infrastructure right now to administer 100,000 vaccines a day for weeks on end?

And a second one, if it's okay, on the far away end of the rollout, you've said you want every Australian who wants a vaccine to get one by October. What is the ballpark of total vaccinations you'd like to see? Is it 10 million Australians, is it 15? Is it 20 million? Even a rough figure.

GREG HUNT:

Sure. So firstly, in terms of vaccination rollout infrastructure, I'm standing next to the leader of that process. So the general practises of Australia for phase 1B going forward. The pharmacies from phase 2 are expected to join.

And we were speaking today with the head of the Pharmacy Guild. And last week, I spoke with the AMA as well. And so they're all pitching in.

And so we actually have a network which produced 17 million vaccinations last year.

And I think that's one of the things which is sometimes not realised. Karen referred to the fact that we are a great vaccination nation, and that's absolutely right. We've gone from eight million flu vaccinations only a few years ago, to 11 to 13 million and then to 17 million.

So we've been able to achieve extraordinary, extraordinary outcomes. And we saw the flu deaths in the last year plummet, absolutely plummet. And I think that's an incredible outcome.

So we can do this because we did it last year and we did it the year before.

But the difference this year is twofold. One, the vaccines can be more complex because they come in vials which have multi doses, and that's, in the case of the Pfizer, a minus 70-degree vaccine. And so that is more complex why we're using the- and that's why we're using the hospital hubs.

In the case of the AstraZeneca vaccine, it's not difficult to administer, but it is a multi dose vial.

And so that adds to the traditional complexity. But we have the existing vaccination network of general practises and subsequently pharmacies. We have the state-based vaccination clinics, the Commonwealth vaccination clinics, the Aboriginal community controlled health organisations and the hospitals, all of which will deliver that.

In terms of the total number, we'd like to see as many Australians as possible be vaccinated. It's free, it's voluntary, but it's universally available. And on the ability of the General Practice Network and the general practitioners of Australia to deliver it, I might ask Karen to have a few words.

KAREN PRICE:

The Australian general practise community, as I said, is ready. And Minister Hunt has already said that we delivered 17 million flu shots last year. So this is well within our capacity.

We've also got an ability to, with government support, fulfil the infrastructure required to do that.

And we've got an enormous surge capacity in general practise. It's not often realised that we are all around the country in remote from remote areas right into the cities, of course.

And GP's are looking for details and we've been already talking about it on the forums and so forth, and various doctors have been putting up models and how to do it.

So we're already thinking well ahead about how are we going to do this for the Australian public.

So the planning is underway as new information comes to light. We make adoptions and we're ready to help.

We know there's going to be a lot of education required, and that's part of our super strength as GPs.

So it's what we do every day. We help with health literacy and help people understand what might be a complex public health situation, we reduce down for that particular person's personal circumstances.

And we go through all of the difficulties and challenges they may have in being able to understand that message. So that is what general practise does. We do it every day.

This is something that we're well within our capacity to do and we can do it safely.

We are aware of making sure we've got safe practises. Our nurses are highly trained to be able to help us and support us in this process.

As I said, we stand ready, willing and able to say good bye to COVID as much as possible in this year and get the nation vaccinated.

GREG HUNT:

There we go. Great. And I'll go to Liam Mannix.

JOURNALIST:

Minister, the government appears to have committed to rolling out AstraZeneca's vaccine, but the clinical trial evidence suggests it's only 62 per cent effective. That's obviously below the threshold needed to achieve the herd immunity.

By rolling this out widely, is the Australian government essentially conceding our vaccine strategy is not going to provide herd immunity?

GREG HUNT:

No, not at all. And respectfully, I've heard that argument put by one of the people who predicted 400,000 deaths in the last year, I think the 28th of February was the prediction.

And secondly, that same person predicted 3000 cases on the 8th of January in New South Wales rather than the one which actually occurred.

So we're listening to the Australian Government medical experts, and they're the ones choosing the vaccines, and they've chosen on the basis that an mRNA vaccine has never, ever been done before for anything. So there's an important role.

Minus 70 means that there are challenges and that there is a very strong history of different types of conventional vaccine being rolled out with high effectiveness.

And it's important to note that the results also show up to 90 per cent effectiveness more generally with final results to come on AstraZeneca, and up to 100 per cent in relation to the severe illness. And so all of those things come together.

The advice again, and I spoke with the Chief Medical Officer only last night, is that this is what the medical expert panel of Australia, the one that has helped keep us safe, has recommended.

And of all the different things on which to follow the advice of the medical experts, the choice of vaccines is probably the most important.

And the one in which I think it's most absolutely fundamental that we follow the advice of the group that every year helps identify the flu, that helps identify the childhood vaccinations that keep us safe.

And only in 2020, we reached record five-year-old vaccination rates, where our families and our communities were coming together with the medical community to vaccinate our young Australians.

And the fact that we rose to record levels in the midst of lockdowns I think is an extraordinary outcome. I think, Chloe.

JOURNALIST:

Hello Minister, there's a lot of debate today over virus elimination versus suppression. How confusing is it that the states have different approaches and who's got it right, New South Wales or most of the other states?

GREG HUNT:

Look, I think Australia as a whole has done incredibly well. And I think the difference here is that we have a zero community transmission goal for Australia, and we achieved that in June, and we achieved that for multiple days in December.

But the risk is not of transmission from one state to another in any material or significant way.

The only way you could eliminate any threat of the virus is if you closed all of the international borders, no export of wheat or wool or iron ore.

No import of critical foods or critical medicines. No families being reunited, loved ones, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, people coming home for weddings, for funerals, people coming home potentially to palliate, people coming home for births.

All of these are the basis upon which we bring people home. And just to put that in context, as I say, six cases in Australia today, 600,000 globally.

And as an example of that, the threat isn't domestic, but it is global. And so the advice I have from the National Incident Centre only today is that we've had 6300 cases of overseas-acquired COVID, which have been identified over the course of the last year, and I think 779 in Western Australia and nine in the last week, for example.

And so you won't be able to have true eradication unless you close international, not state borders.

That's where the point of challenge and risk is and that's why we have very strict and in many cases heart wrenchingly difficult limitations on people coming to Australia. But they've kept us safe.

But that's the fundamental challenge. And we know that the cases that have occurred, whether it's been in South Australia, or we've seen in Victoria, in Queensland or New South Wales, have come from people returning from overseas.

We also know, for example, in Western Australia, there were two recent breaches. One, somebody in Albany who jumped ship, another case of PPE breaches, which led to people being quarantined.

And so that risk is permanent. And it's very important to be honest about that. There will be outbreaks so long as we engage with the rest of the world there will be outbreaks.

But our goal is zero community transmission. That's the unifying national focus. That's what comes from the national cabinet. That's what we've achieved.

But to imagine that that will be a permanent state until the world is broadly vaccinated and Australia is widely vaccinated is not something that anybody can promise.

But we can promise that with borders, testing, and therefore we encourage those states that have low testing rates to lift them, tracing and distancing, we can keep Australia safe from those outbreaks that everybody I think needs to acknowledge are inevitable whilst we maintain the pathway of bringing home loved ones who are separated from their family.

JOURNALIST:

To clarify, though, the Federal Government has always said a suppression would be the way to go. Do you think the states are disrespecting the Federal Government by not being on board with a suppression model?

GREG HUNT:

No, I don't think there's any significant difference here. Our goal is zero community transmission.

Zero community transmission comes from aggressive suppression.

True elimination means that you have to close the international borders. The threat is not domestic borders with six cases; the threat is a global challenge with 600,000 cases, and I think that's widely acknowledged.

And that's why when we say zero community transmission, we're saying, that's our goal, that's what we've achieved, we'll achieve it again.

But nobody can promise that that will be maintained, not because of transmission across state borders, but because of the challenge of interacting with the global community, where we're seeing a global pandemic, the greatest pandemic that the world has faced since the Spanish Flu, the greatest pandemic in 100 years. And that's raging outside our borders. It's just not raging within them.

And then I will take Paul Karp, I think.

JOURNALIST:

Thanks very much, Minister. Craig Kelly stands by his advocacy of hydroxychloroquine and has suggested that anti-parasitic drug ivermectin is more effective than COVID vaccines.

Is that helpful? And why aren't you using your free speech to contradict him?

And secondly, for the general population, you've explained why we're waiting for a full vaccination approval. But why aren't we using an emergency authorisation for frontline workers like border quarantine and healthcare workers in the meantime? Thank you.

GREG HUNT:

Which step would you have us skip, Paul?

JOURNALIST:

Well, I'm asking you the question about if other jurisdictions have judged that it's safe and those frontline workers want to take the vaccine, is there an issue that you see with having emergency approval?

GREG HUNT:

If there's a particular step you would wish Australia to skip, please let me know.

JOURNALIST:

Well, a minute ago you were criticising people who weren't public health authorities for making predictions, so I'm not going to tell you how to do your job, I'm just asking a question, why, if frontline staff want that extra protection, they don't have that option.

GREG HUNT:

Well, as I say, I'm not supporting Australia skipping any steps. And if you are, please feel free to tell us.

But in the absence of that, our medical advisers, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the Chief Medical Officer of Australia, Professor Paul Kelly, the head of the Vaccines Advisory Group, Professor Brendan Murphy, the head of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, Professor Alan Cheng, are clear and absolute, clear and absolute, that a full safety process is a fundamental step forward.

There are other countries that are in extremis where we are seeing in some cases over a thousand deaths a day, in some cases over 3000 deaths a day, where we have over 50,000 cases a day in the UK, where we have over 200,000 cases a day in the United States.

And those are conditions which we hope we never face.

But sometimes people are urging us to follow what those countries with the greatest challenges are doing, rather than to join with those countries that have been the most successful.

Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, the jurisdiction of Taiwan. All of these are following a very similar timeframe, and all have been successful.

I know a couple of them at the moment are having their own challenges with significant outbreaks, but that commitment to safety is important to protect Australians.

It's important for confidence, and confidence is important for uptake, and uptake is ultimately what provides the best protection for Australians.

So we've listened to the medical advisers, and we'll continue to listen to the medical advisers.

And I have said on many occasions, for those who have different views, our advice, our advice comes from the Australian medical advisers.

And there'll be others with different views, but we've kept Australia safe and will continue to keep Australia safe by listening to them. I'll finish with that and say thank you very much.

JOURNALIST:

(Inaudible) on why you aren't contradicting Craig Kelly? Why aren't you using your free speech to put down ideas that say the vaccine isn't necessary?

GREG HUNT:

I do believe the vaccine is necessary. I couldn't be clearer. This press conference is about precisely that.

And let's step back for a minute – and I'm not going to enter into a debate, respectfully – what we have done in a world of 600,000 cases and a country of six cases is work with the best medical advisers and the best medical regulators in the world.

You were just asking us to potentially override our medical regulators, and I respect your right to do that. But I happen to disagree with you, Paul. Slightly quizzical that when you're talking about medical regulators, your previous question was about overriding the medical regulators. But I respect your right to do that.

And I may disagree with people, but my job is to set out our advice. And our advice is that the vaccines that our medical regulators have chosen will keep Australians safe.

But they'll do that on the basis of a full assessment. And that assessment allows us to have confidence.

And that confidence allows us to have take up. And take up allows us to protect as many Australians as possible, not just those that take it, but those that will be protected by those that have taken it.

And there will be many who have different views. But our view is that our medical advisers are strong and clear and the best in the world.

I want to finish by thanking our medical advisers and in particular Karen Price and our general practitioners.

They'll have a huge role to play going forwards in protecting Australians.

But we're in the best hands in the world with some of the best results in the world. And we'll continue to keep Australians safe in 2021. Thank you.

JOURNALIST:

Minister Hunt, what was your reaction to Mr McCormack's comments this morning about- do you think he went too far in comparing likening the Capitol Hill incident to the Black Lives Matter protests in America earlier?

GREG HUNT:

I'm sorry, I haven't heard those, so I won't respond to a summary. I'd rather see the original. All right. Thank you very much, everybody.

ENDS

Authorised by Greg Hunt MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Somerville, Victoria.

s47F | **Assistant Media Adviser**
Office of the Hon. Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health | Federal Member for Flinders
Suite s47F, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600
T. s47F | E. s47E(d) [@health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@health.gov.au)

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22 @isentia.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2020 5:55 AM
To: s47E(d)
Subject: Department of Health Daily Briefing 4 Aug 2020 [SEC=No Protective Marking]

REMINDER : Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

If Andrews is struggling, it's his own fault

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Jennifer Oriel, Page 10

Daniel Andrews has a bad habit of shirking responsibility. The Labor Premier was all front as he introduced a COVID-19 curfew in the green-left heartland of Australia. He shows no remorse for what he and his team of incompetent ministers have done. Instead, he speaks of collective responsibility. There is no public apology for the fresh outbreak of COVID-19 in Victoria.

[Read More](#)

Why banks must keep a lid on dividend payouts

The Australian, Business News, 04/08/2020, Robert Gottliebsen, Page 21

In the past, Australia's two greatest assets in a crisis have been its banking and health systems. And so far in the COVID-19 crisis, apart from the Victorian aged-care disaster, both are still intact and remain national assets. But in health, Queensland is a danger, and Monday's dramatic and extensive shutdown is a threat to the national banking system.

[Read More](#)

Conditions apply to new health support

Border Mail, General News, 04/08/2020, Janet Howie, Page 5

Extra psychology sessions aimed at people affected by present COVID-19 restrictions appear to exclude some NSW cross-border residents at this stage. Health Minister Greg Hunt said the federal government would provide 10 more Medicare subsidised psychological therapy sessions "for people subjected to further restrictions in areas impacted by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic; that will of course apply right across Victoria".

[Read More](#)

A visit from the Deputy PM

Temora Independent, General News, 31/07/2020, Allan Wilson, Page 3

Riverina MP and Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack was in Temora on Monday to visit with council and meet with several community groups and businesses, as well as to announce a funding boost for the Temora Shed 4 Men. Following a meeting with councillors and council staff, Mr McCormack attended the Temora Shed 4 Men where he announced \$6,704 in funding to upgrade the shed's kitchen area.

[Read More](#)

When and why did the strategy change to elimination?

Crikey.com.au, Current Affairs, 03/08/2020, Adam Schwab, Page 1

Did Dan Andrews really want to put Victoria into a brutal stage four lockdown? While he retains the rusted-on support of many on the left (as Donald Trump does from the right), it feels like the premier just signed his own political death warrant. Speaking to media and announcing the changes, Andrews casually noted that had stage three restrictions remained, it would have taken until the end of the year to get cases down to zero.

[Read More](#)

Mental health support services bolstered after Victoria's drastic lockdown measures

7news.com.au, Other, 03/08/2020

On Sunday, lockdown measures were escalated in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria after a spike in COVID cases. Residents in the city and its surrounds will enter Stage Four while country Victorians will move to Stage Three. It's a move that Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt, a Victorian native himself, says will be felt for years to come.

[Read More](#)

'Many people are really in need of support': how young people have been affected by COVID-19

Canberra Times, Other, 03/08/2020, Hayley Elg

Many aspects of the lives of the young people have been affected by COVID-19. How young people, aged 15 to 24, live, learn and work has been impacted, in addition to the flow-on economic and social impacts. And with the effects of the pandemic forecast to be felt for years to come, many young people are worried about their futures.

[Read More](#)

The federal government is investing \$7.3 million into mental health support for Victorians

fortemag.com.au, Other, 03/08/2020, Kate Streader

Victorians will now be eligible for 20 subsidised psychology sessions through Medicare. As Melburnians brace themselves for a six-week stage four lockdown and regional Victoria prepares to enter a stage three lockdown, the Australian government has announced the expansion of its Better Access mental health program to provide an extra ten subsidised psychology sessions under Medicare to Victorians.

[Read More](#)

I had to move my mother twice because of appalling experiences in aged care homes

Guardian Australia, Other, 03/08/2020

From being given incorrect medication despite clear warnings on her drug chart and ending up in hospital to having two full colostomy bags left in her wheelie walker and on the floor of her shower, and from suffering dehydration to not being showered for days on end, as well as being lovingly cared for by a personal care worker, my elderly mother has experienced the full gamut of care in the 10 years she has spent in residential aged care.

[Read More](#)

Here's An Easy Way To Find Out What Is And Isn't 5kms From Your Home

junkee.com, Other, 03/08/2020, Jared Richards

With Melbourne's stage four lockdown announced Sunday afternoon by Victorian premier Daniel Andrews, a new set of rules came into place within a few hours, including a restriction which lets Melburnians travel only within a 5km radius of their house. Luckily, there's a website already built to help you work out where you can and can't go.

[Read More](#)

Wollondilly medical professionals raise concerns over GP shortage

Macarthur Advertiser, Other, 03/08/2020, Kayla Osborne

Wollondilly medical professionals are concerned government red tape will lead to a GP shortage in the region. Some shire suburbs are finding it difficult to attract and retain doctors due to government guidelines, despite the region's growing population. Picton Medical's Dr Anna Pham has expressed concerns that Wollondilly locals do not understand why her practice experiences a high turnover of GPs.

[Read More](#)

Broken aged care system destined to fail this test

medicalrepublic.com.au, Other, 03/08/2020, Michelle Grattan

Scott Morrison wasn't going to be caught out twice. In Hawaii during the bushfires, the prime minister had hesitated before returning (slightly) early. On Tuesday he wasn't on holiday but starting a tour of several days in Queensland, where there's a state election in a few months. He aborted the trip on its first morning, announcing during a visit to a seafood business that he'd return to Canberra because of the COVID crisis in aged care in Victoria.

[Read More](#)

Opinion: It's our duty to save our elderly

Neos Kosmos, Other, 03/08/2020

Placing a parent in aged care is a torturous experience at the best of times. This pandemic should make us reflect on decisions and practices in Aged Care facilities that have cost lives but we must also accept responsibility for our own actions if we want to save more of our parents and grandparents, writes Theo Theophanous

[Read More](#)

News in Brief

PSNews, Other, 03/08/2020

The Department of Social Services has partnered with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) to provide scholarships for up-and-coming content makers with disability. This year's scholarship winners are writer and podcaster, Fiona Murphy from Tamworth, NSW, and actor and storyteller, Angus Thompson (pictured), from Bathurst, NSW.

[Read More](#)

State of disaster, curfews, restricted movement: What do stage four restrictions mean for GPs?

racgp.org.au, Other, 03/08/2020

Victoria has implemented Australia's most stringent rules since the coronavirus pandemic began. Australians plunged into further restrictions will now be eligible for 10 additional Medicare-subsidised psychological therapy sessions. Victoria recorded 429 new coronavirus cases on Monday 3 August, as well as 13 deaths, eight of which are linked to known outbreaks in aged care facilities.

[Read More](#)

Victoria's lockdown tightens as nation battles new COVID cases

SBS.COM.AU, Other, 03/08/2020

As Victoria heads deeper into its coronavirus lockdown, the threat of new cases remains for other states and territories around Australia. Australia is facing the risk of further outbreaks nationally, as most states and territories continue to fight against new COVID-19 infections. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews says the state is currently dealing with 760 active "mystery cases", labelling it the state's biggest challenge.

[Read More](#)

Shoppers resume panic buying as Victoria enters 'state of disaster'

The New Daily, Other, 03/08/2020

Five million Victorians are waking up to the country's toughest coronavirus restrictions yet and they're being told to prepare for more changes. Melbourne fell silent from 8pm when a curfew came into effect on Sunday night, while regional Victorians were preparing their face masks for the first day of a state-wide mandatory mask rule.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

More troops on the way

Herald Sun, General News, 04/08/2020, Tom Minear, Page 11

Hundreds more military personnel are on standby to go into Victoria's coronavirus-ridden aged-care homes, as the families of the latest victims reveal their heartbreak. Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said on Monday 500 Defence Force personnel were ready to step in and many were expected to assist in the state's aged-care homes.

[Read More](#)

Aged care pain exposes delusion of a flexible jobs market

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/08/2020, Peter Boyer, Page 12

A couple of weeks ago, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg let it slip that his effort to keep Australia's battered economy afloat has been inspired two icons of 1980s conservative politics, Ronald Reagan in the White House and Margaret Thatcher at No. 10. For those too young to remember, Reagan and Thatcher profoundly reshaped their national economies.

[Read More](#)

Boost for female athletes on Coast

Burnie Advocate, General News, 04/08/2020, Claudia Williams, Page 4

New female change rooms at the Devonport Strikers Football Club are aimed at increasing women's participation. The new building houses three additional change rooms, while existing facilities have also been upgraded to provide amenities for female athletes. Senator and Youth and Sport Minister Richard Colbeck said the project had been delivered at an opportune time as Australia prepared to host the women's world cup.

[Read More](#)

Inquiry to probe aged care virus response

Canberra Times, Other, 04/08/2020, Paul Osborne

Federal Aged Care Minister Richard Colbeck will give evidence to an inquiry into the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic. There have been 800 cases of COVID-19 in aged care facilities nationally so far, with 136 residents dying. As well, there have been 54 cases recorded at in-home care, including five deaths.

[Read More](#)

Government chose 'futile bureaucratic exercise' over aged care reform, Liberal MP says

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/08/2020, David Crowe

A former Coalition minister has slammed the federal government's handling of aged care and called for major structural change in a submission that exposes years of failure to help older Australians. One of Tony Abbott's own ministers after the 2013 election, Liberal Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, says the government has not had the political fortitude to fix the sector after spurning calls for action when it took power.

[Read More](#)

I had to move my mother twice because of appalling experiences in aged care homes

Guardian Australia, Other, 03/08/2020

From being given incorrect medication despite clear warnings on her drug chart and ending up in hospital to having two full colostomy bags left in her wheelie walker and on the floor of her shower, and from suffering dehydration to not being showered for days on end, as well as being lovingly cared for by a personal care worker, my elderly mother has experienced the full gamut of care in the 10 years she has spent in residential aged care.

[Read More](#)

Union agitates for 'proactive' PPE strategy at aged care crisis talks

2GB, Other, 03/08/2020

The Health Service Union has laid out their demands ahead of a crisis meeting tomorrow with Aged Care Minister Richard Colbeck. HSU Secretary Gerard Hayes told Jim Wilson personal protective equipment needs to be rolled out across Victorian aged care facilities immediately "not as required".

[Read More](#)

The Health Wrap: detailed update on coronavirus vaccine development, aged care and oral health – and an inspirational woman

croakey.org, Other, 03/08/2020, Melissa Sweet

In the latest edition of The Health Wrap, Dr Lesley Russell unpicks some of the complexities around coronavirus vaccine development and uptake, as well as digging into aged care spending questions, and the importance of behavioural research in a public health crisis. And in Dental Health Week, it's timely and shocking to learn that about 72,000 hospitalisations for dental conditions may have been prevented with earlier treatment in 2017-18.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Back On Track

Moree Champion, General News, 04/08/2020, Sophie Harris, Page 1

Thirteen-year-old Kenny (name changed to protect his identity) hasn't been to school in more than a year, but his future is looking brighter after spending the past few months learning some valuable life skills in the Flat Track shed. Kenny is one of 25 at-risk teenage boys who have been a part of Moree's Flat Track program since it began at the start of this year.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

22

Some federal MPs face 14 days on their own

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Richard Ferguson, Page 2

Victorian MPs could travel to Canberra and self-isolate for 14 days as part of Scott Morrison's plan to ensure parliament sits in the second half of this month. The Prime Minister has vowed to press ahead with the August 24 sitting weeks, as extensions to the JobKeeper wage subsidy and flexible workplace rules will need to be passed.

[Read More](#)

If Andrews is struggling, it's his own fault

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Jennifer Oriel, Page 10

Daniel Andrews has a bad habit of shirking responsibility. The Labor Premier was all front as he introduced a COVID-19 curfew in the green-left heartland of Australia. He shows no remorse for what he and his team of incompetent ministers have done. Instead, he speaks of collective responsibility. There is no public apology for the fresh outbreak of COVID-19 in Victoria.

[Read More](#)

Fast-track disabled help

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2020, Steve Rice and Dixie Sulda, Page 1

More resources to help safeguard vulnerable disabled South Australians will be fasttracked by the State Government in response to a report triggered by the tragic death of Ann Marie Smith. But the proposed reboot of a state-run scheme allowing community visitors to enter the homes of people with a disability presents "a significant human rights issue" that needs to be seriously considered.

[Read More](#)

Pandemic leave for disaster-hit workers

Canberra Times, General News, 04/08/2020, Sally Whyte, Page 1

Workers in Victoria who are told to self-isolate due to coronavirus will be eligible for a \$1500 pandemic leave payment, as the state introduces new measures to shut down thousands of businesses in Melbourne. Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the payment after unions and business joined in calls for leave that would stop people turning up at work if they didn't have access to sick leave.

[Read More](#)

Deficit to throw shadow on public service spending

Canberra Times, Public Sector Informant, 04/08/2020, Stephen Bartos, Page 8

The Treasurer's economic statement on July 23 contained expected bad news: rising unemployment, a record deficit, low growth and ongoing uncertainty about prospects for recovery. It could however have been much worse. The forecasts were positively optimistic, based on an assumption that the worst of the pandemic is behind us. At time of writing, this assumption looks doubtful.

[Read More](#)

\$1500 for sick to stay home

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2020, Clare Armstrong, Page 11

Workers in coronavirus disaster zones will get \$1500 of "pandemic leave" if forced to isolate, in a bid to stop people leaving home when sick. Victoria is the only state to qualify for the new lump sum payment announced by Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Monday, but the cash will be available for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic should other regions have serious outbreaks.

[Read More](#)

I'm pleased magnate was sent packing, Premier says

West Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Peter Law, Page 7

Mark McGowan has told Clive Palmer to not bother submitting a request to enter WA after his first botched attempt, saying the billionaire wanted to come to Perth to promote a potentially "dangerous" coronavirus cure. As reported by The West Australian, the pilot of Mr Palmer's private jet submitted three applications for an exemption to WA's border closure, mistakenly listing the businessman as his "husband" in the next of kin section.

[Read More](#)

Using rations rationale

Bunbury Herald, General News, 04/08/2020, Shannon Verhagen, Page 4

A couple of years ago, Gelorup's Margaret Smith came into possession of a piece of Australian history - a rations book from World War II. After putting it in a "safe place" at her home, she recently went looking for the palm-sized Commonwealth Rationing Commission and Commonwealth Department of Health publication and upon finding it, marvelled at what was inside.

[Read More](#)

Calls to mask up

Young Witness, General News, 04/08/2020, Page 1

If you can't social distance, wear a mask. That's the advice from NSW Health as the state enters a critical stage in the fight against coronavirus. It's recommended face coverings be worn by customer-facing staff, worshippers, and people living near known hot spots. NSW Health also encourages the use of masks in indoor settings, such as on public transport or supermarkets

[Read More](#)

Liberal MP defends colleagues taking on medical experts

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 03/08/2020

Government MP Andrew Laming has defended politicians' right to challenge medical advice if the debate is "fact against fact". Dr Laming's comments come in the wake of controversial social media posts from Liberal MP Craig Kelly claiming Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews was "criminally negligent" for restricting hydroxychloroquine, an unproven coronavirus treatment touted by US President Donald Trump.

[Read More](#)

Leading epidemiologist calls for greater 'transparency' over COVID-19 data

3AW, Other, 03/08/2020

One of Australia's most experienced epidemiologists has called for greater transparency from the government about COVID-19 numbers. Professor John Mathews, who used to work for the Commonwealth Health Department and worked on various pandemics, told Neil Mitchell it was hard to know exactly how Australia, and specifically Victoria, was tracking in suppressing the coronavirus.

[Read More](#)

MP supports hydroxychloroquine, strongly discouraged as a COVID treatment by Australian authorities

Adelaide Now, Other, 03/08/2020, Jessica Mcsweeney

A Liberal MP has gone on a social media spree touting a controversial drug as a COVID treatment despite Australian authorities "strongly discouraging" it. Member for Hughes Craig Kelly posted 18 times in two days about hotly debated drug hydroxychloroquine to his Facebook page. In one post the MP said those restricting the use of the drug as a COVID treatment have "the blood of tens of thousands on their hands".

[Read More](#)

Coronavirus: Parliament to resume despite Victorian lockdown

Canberra Times, Other, 03/08/2020, Kate Burgess

MPs from across Australia will still converge on Canberra later this month, despite the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Victoria forcing the state into stage four lockdown. Parliament is set to resume on August 24, after the first two sitting weeks of the month were cancelled due to medical advice that there was an increased risk of transmission of the virus, with growing cases in Victoria and NSW.

[Read More](#)

Top doctor Kerryn Phelps says everyone in New South Wales should be forced to wear face masks as she warns the threat of a Victoria-style second wave is VERY real

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/08/2020, Tita Smith

Dr Kerryn Phelps says everyone in New South Wales should be forced to wear a face mask and warned the state is at risk of a Victorian-style second wave. The former president of the Australian Medical Association told the ABC's Q&A program on Monday night face masks are one of the best weapons in the fight against COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

The reasons behind mask backflip: Why Gladys Berejiklian suddenly changed her tune on a critical virus measure after MONTHS of officials discouraging face coverings

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/08/2020, Daniel Piotrowski

The sudden embrace of face masks to stop COVID-19 has been slammed as coming 'too slowly' after the science finally firmed up in favour of using them. Official health advice wearing masks in Australia has changed radically over recent months from 'don't bother' to not wearing one carrying a \$200 fine in Victoria.

[Read More](#)

Keira MP calls on NSW Govt to detail its plan for COVID-19 outbreaks in aged care

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 03/08/2020

Labor's health spokesman Ryan Park said the families of residents in Victorian aged care homes are being "left in the dark" during COVID-19 outbreaks, and is urging the NSW Government to details its plan if a second wave hits nursing homes here. The Keira MP said there needed to be more clarity around the transfer of aged care residents to hospitals during an outbreak of the virus.

[Read More](#)

Bunnings boss pleads to stay open during Victoria's lockdown

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/08/2020, Alexis Carey

Essential services like supermarkets will be allowed to remain trading in Victoria during the latest lockdown. And now Bunnings boss Mike Schneider claims the hardware chain should also be exempt from the strict lockdown rules. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews is expected to announce which businesses will be allowed to remain open for trading during the COVID-19 stage 4 lockdown later today.

[Read More](#)

New AMA President warns 'healthy people will die' in Victoria

nine.com.au, Other, 03/08/2020

The newly-appointed President of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) told Today healthy people will die during the pandemic, as he warned young people are not immune from coronavirus. Dr Omar Khorshid replaced Tony Bartone as head of the organisation over the weekend after the esteemed doctor ended his two-year term with the AMA.

[Read More](#)

Non-compliance only part of the reason why stage three restrictions failed in Victoria, according to Deputy Chief Medical Officer

nine.com.au, Other, 03/08/2020

Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Nick Coatsworth says non-compliance with earlier measures is only part of the reason Victoria is now being forced to move into tougher stage four restrictions. Dr Coatsworth said some people refused to comply with COVID-19 measures because they felt they didn't have to, while for others it was matter of financial hardship.

[Read More](#)

Illegal Covid drug imports spike

Pharma In Focus, Other, 03/08/2020

Drugs touted to cure Covid - including hydroxychloroquine and Ephedra - are being illegally imported into Australia at record rates with the Australian Border Force releasing a statement today (Monday) warning it is on the lookout. Border Force officers notified a significant spike in detections of hydroxychloroquine, seizing 26,000 tablets between 1 January and 21 June.

[Read More](#)

GPs call for better protection as two of their own battle COVID

racgp.org.au, Other, 03/08/2020

Calls are mounting for health authorities to better protect primary care professionals, with two Victorian GPs now hospitalised with COVID-19. Around one in 10 of all coronavirus cases in Victoria's difficult-to-control outbreak are healthcare workers, according to state government figures. Two GPs are now battling COVID-19 in hospital, one in his 30s who acquired the virus at a respiratory clinic, and another in their 60s.

[Read More](#)

Vic govt has 'done the right thing' to introduce stage four restrictions

Sky News Australia, Other, 03/08/2020

Acting Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly says he is sure the Victorian government has done the right thing in introducing stage four lockdown restrictions in Melbourne. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews on Monday ordered any non-essential workers not to leave their homes from Thursday as all retail, some manufacturing and some admin will be closed from that day.

[Read More](#)

Scott Morrison urges Australians to support Victoria through critical new lockdown measures

The Australian, Other, 03/08/2020, Heath Parkes-Hupton

The Prime Minister Scott Morrison with the CMO Paul Kelly during a press conference in Parliament House, Canberra. Picture: NCA NewsWire /Gary Ramage Prime Minister Scott Morrison has called on Australians to support coronavirus-riddled Victoria through "heartbreaking" new lockdown restrictions, saying the country's future depends getting its outbreak under control.

[Read More](#)

ABC, 7:30, 03/08/2020, Leigh Sales

Pre-recorded interview with Dr Nick Coatsworth, Deputy Chief Medical Officer. Sales says unlike NSW which rapidly tied cases to known clusters, Vic seems to have a problem in doing the same thing. Coatsworth says once Vic's COVID-19 outbreak was embedded within the community, it quickly multiplied and dispersed to several clusters.

ABC News, ABC Evening News, 03/08/2020, Karina Carvalho

Pre-recorded interview with Dr Ruth Vine, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Mental Health. Vine says the stage four restriction in Vic is not surprising. She notes health service providers are working very hard to check on their staff's mental health. She explains the mental health impact of declaring a state of disaster in Vic. Vine notes Brain and Mind Centre released a report that looked in the impact of unemployment and disrupted education.

Channel 10, The Project, 03/08/2020, Peter Helliard, Carrie Bickmore and Waleed Aly

Interview with Dr Nick Coatsworth, Deputy Chief Medical Officer. Coatsworth says the stage four restrictions imposed on Vic will be effective in containing the spread of COVID-19. He notes the same restriction was effective in NZ. He says a six-week stage four lockdown is a reasonable target at the moment. Coatsworth notes they need to know where COVID-19 is and who has it in Vic before they ease the restriction.

Channel 7, Seven News, 03/08/2020, Mark Ferguson

Liberal backbencher Craig Kelly was slammed for suggesting Vic Premier Daniel Andrews could be charged for workplace manslaughter after the death of coronavirus patients. He insists the drug hydroxychloroquine could help with coronavirus, a claim dismissed by medical experts.

Channel 9, A Current Affair, 03/08/2020, Tracy Grimshaw

Interview with Dr Nick Coatsworth, Deputy Chief Medical Officer. Grimshaw asks why didn't Stage Three restriction work. Coatsworth explains that widescale community transmission made the outbreak different from the first wave. He says the restrictions were working to drop the reproduction number of the virus to about one but this just meant that they are getting the same numbers from day to day.

Sky News Live, The Bolt Report, 03/08/2020, Andrew Bolt

Interview with Craig Kelly, Federal Liberal MP. Bolt says Federal MP Craig Kelly asked today why authorities have amended on prescribing hydroxychloroquine to patients. Bolt asks why the drugs are being treated as a poison when Dr Harvey Risch from the Yale School of Public Health told him the show that the drug is a key in fighting early coronavirus infections in high-risk patients.

2SM, 18:00 News, 03/08/2020

The majority of these cases are in Victoria as 13 you deaths are also recorded in the state chief medical officer. Paul Kelly says this means the restrictions in Victoria a crucial we continue to have there for almost 7,000 Active cases. Most of those almost all of those are in our in Melbourne and other parts of Victoria. Mostly in Melbourne and a growing number of unlinked cases.

ABC Radio Perth, 22:00 News, 03/08/2020

Australian Deputy Chief Medical Officer Nick Coatsworth says the effectiveness of Melbourne's Stage Four restrictions will rely on community compliance. It comes as the state records 13 more deaths and 429 new infections on Monday.

Radio National, RN Drive, 03/08/2020, Patricia Karvelas

Pre-recorded interview with Dr Ruth Vine, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Mental Health, Commonwealth Department of Health. Karvelas says the mental health impact of the pandemic and the tougher Victorian lockdown are among the greatest challenges for both the community and the medical profession.

Radio National, RN Drive, 03/08/2020, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Dr Nick Coatsworth, Deputy Chief Medical Officer. Karvelas notes PM Scott Morrison has described Vic's COVID-19 crisis as 'heartbreaking'. She states Victoria recorded 13 deaths and 429 cases today, and many workplaces across the state will be shuttered by the end of the week. Karvelas says health authorities and governments across Australia are stepping up their restrictions in response to Victoria's COVID-19 outbreak.

[Back to Top](#)

s22

PM approves pandemic payments

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/08/2020, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

Victorians who still have a job but have run out of sick leave will be given \$1500 pandemic disaster payments to stay home for two weeks if they are at risk of having contracted coronavirus. The payments will be provided by the federal government to augment a state government scheme already in place and are designed to stop the virus spreading even further.

[Read More](#)

Two things could bring the crackdown unstuck

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/08/2020, Jill Margo, Page 4

Victoria's restrictions will very likely be successful if two spanners are kept out of the works. Experts say case numbers of COVID19 should start to stabilise in a week and start dropping significantly in four to six weeks. This is the route to suppression which could be achieved in months, if people under lockdown conditions do not get frustrated, push the boundaries and perhaps even spill on to the streets in protest.

[Read More](#)

Victoria acted too late: Solomon Lew

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/08/2020, Sue Mitchell and Simon Evans, Page 4

Retailing billionaire Solomon Lew, the chairman of ASX-listed Premier Investments, says the Victorian government's move to shut retailing in Melbourne was the right decision, but it should have acted much sooner to prevent illness, deaths and financial pain. Mr Lew backed the stage-four lockdown but said the government should have been more decisive earlier, and shopping centres should have closed their doors weeks ago.

[Read More](#)

'You will be caught': Andrews ramps up police enforcement

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/08/2020, Hannah Wootton, Page 5

Anyone breaking Melbourne's unprecedented travel and curfew restrictions "will get caught" as the Andrews government ramps up defence force doorknocking, police patrols and penalties under its tough new stage-four restrictions. Under the new rules, Melburnians cannot leave their houses between 8pm and 5am or travel further than 5 kilometres away unless it is for caregiving or work.

[Read More](#)

Employers face risk of COVID-19 liability

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/08/2020, Tom McIlroy, Page 6

Genomic sequencing could be used to prove employer liability in COVID-19 related compensation claims, with workplace experts warning significant payouts could result from lax safety standards. As Victoria endures its first week with curfews and stage four-style lockdown restrictions, Maurice Blackburn principal lawyer Liberty Sanger said tests comparing samples of the virus with other known cases could be used to establish liability.

[Read More](#)

Staff numbers slashed at city's high-rise building projects

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/08/2020, Michael Bleby and Lucas Baird, Page 7

High-rise Melbourne construction sites can only keep functioning with one quarter of their normal employees onsite under sweeping new rules announced yesterday to curb the spread of the pandemic that threatens to sweep across the country's second-largest city. From 11.59pm on Friday any construction project higher than three storeys will have to function with a "practical minimum" of staff but no more than 25 per cent of the total workforce.

[Read More](#)

Mystery cases keep NSW 'precarious'

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/08/2020, David Mann-Guzman, Page 9

NSW is only halfway through its battle to avert a second wave of COVID-19 and it will be another three weeks before residents will know if the virus has been suppressed, Premier Gladys Berejiklian has warned. The state recorded 13 new cases overnight on Monday, but health authorities have been unable to link eight cases discovered in the past week to any known source.

[Read More](#)

Queensland on edge before 'crucial' week

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/08/2020, Mark Ludlow, Page 9

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Chief Medical Officer Jeannette Young say the next seven days will be crucial to stamping out a coronavirus outbreak from three young women who lied about being in Melbourne. Although Queensland recorded no new cases of COVID-19 yesterday, Ms Palaszczuk and her top public health official said the state was not in the clear yet.

[Read More](#)

SA imposes tougher limits on gatherings amid cluster fears

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/08/2020, Simon Evans, Page 9

South Australians will be allowed to have only 10 people at home gatherings from midnight tonight, down from the previous limit of 50, under tougher restrictions announced by Premier Steven Marshall yesterday. The announcement follows the emergence of a new COVID-19 cluster involving a mature-age student who attended a suburban education college.

[Read More](#)

Abe tourism push blasted

Australian Financial Review, International News, 04/08/2020, Leika Kihara and Izumi Nakagawa, Page 12

Japan's multibillion-dollar campaign aimed at reviving domestic tourism is ill-timed and not the best use of taxpayer money, said Yutaka Harada, a former central bank board member and vocal advocate of premier Shinzo Abe's "Abenomics" policies. Mr Harada, who served on the Bank of Japan's board until March, said that the central bank had taken sufficient steps to cushion the pandemic's immediate blow to the economy, and that fiscal policy must now take a lead role in supporting growth.

[Read More](#)

Manila goes back into lockdown on case rise

Australian Financial Review, International News, 04/08/2020, Page 12

President Rodrigo Duterte is reimposing a moderate lockdown in the Philippine capital and outlying provinces after medical groups appealed for the move as coronavirus infections surge alarmingly. Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said yesterday that metropolitan Manila, the capital region of more than 12 million people, and five densely populated provinces would revert to stricter quarantine restrictions for two weeks starting today.

[Read More](#)

Bonds owner rushes in 4 million masks

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 04/08/2020, Simon Evans, Page 15

Underwear and clothing giant Bonds is rushing an extra 4 million face masks into Australia to meet extraordinary demand as tough new restrictions come into place in Victoria and the rest of Australia remains on high alert over the coronavirus. The 105-year-old brand, owned by US giant Hanes after a \$1.1 billion takeover of Pacific Brands in 2016, has shipments totalling 4 million masks ready to come into Australia this month and next by air freight and by ship.

[Read More](#)

Viva's petrol demand smashed in Victoria

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 04/08/2020, Angela Macdonald-Smith, Page 16

Viva Energy has reported a stark lag in the recovery of petrol demand in Victoria compared with the rest of the country, with the crackdown on mobility amid the second wave of COVID-19 posing a threat to already-reduced operations at its Geelong refinery. Sales of petrol in Victoria last month slumped by 25 per cent compared with July last year, due to restrictions in the state.

[Read More](#)

On the 'crazy floor', people were going nuts

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Caroline Overington, Page 1

Poorly trained security guards on a so-called "crazy floor" of the Rydges Hotel in Melbourne's Swanston Street may have let COVID-19 escape into the community, after they became overwhelmed by hysterical guests who were screaming, crying and banging on walls, begging to be let out. This week's independent inquiry into the spread of the virus is expected to hear evidence that guests were begging, pleading and even offering money to security guards for a cigarette, a lighter, Valium or a breath of fresh air.

[Read More](#)

Elderly fears over wealth, not health

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Adam Creighton, Page 1

Elderly Australians are more than three times as concerned about the impact of the recession as they are about their personal health, according to analysis by a top consulting firm that suggests compliance with health measures could drop as people "grow weary" and "emotional strain" mounts. Analysis by McKinsey also found younger Australians were far more worried about their personal health than those aged over 75, who were at much greater risk from the coronavirus.

[Read More](#)

Quids in if you stay in: \$1500 to isolate

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Geoff Chambers and Ewin Hannan, Page 2

Victorians forced to isolate for 14 days will receive a \$1500 COVID-19 disaster payment from the federal government, as unions and business groups increase pressure on Scott Morrison for a national pandemic leave scheme. The Prime Minister said the payments would run in tandem with the Victorian government's \$1500 Worker Support payments, which help temporary visa holders not eligible for commonwealth coronavirus welfare schemes.

[Read More](#)

Abattoir crackdown tipped to trigger meat shortages

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Remy Varga, Page 3

Victoria faces meat shortages after the state government announced the number of workers allowed onsite at abattoirs and meatworks would be reduced by a third. Meat businesses will also have to prepare safety plans addressing the risks of any potential coronavirus outbreak, including staggered shift times. This would see abattoir workers donning medical-grade personal protective equipment and being regularly temperature checked.

[Read More](#)

Tradies take a hammering: site numbers cut by 75pc

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Remy Varga, Page 3

The number of workers allowed on large construction sites in Melbourne will be slashed by 75 per cent, with staff banned from working across multiple sites. For small-scale construction, such as homes, there will be a maximum of five workers allowed onsite, including the supervisor, under industry restrictions introduced as part of the Victorian government's stage-four lockdown.

[Read More](#)

It's last stores standing as most shut up shop

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Tessa Akerman and Eli Greenblat, Page 3

Melbourne's usually bustling Chapel Street had more delivery cyclists than shoppers on Monday afternoon, with most shops on the strip branded with "For Lease" signs or closed by 4.30pm. Two days before new restrictions closing most retail, there was an average of four cars parked a block in a precinct that has been hurting for months.

[Read More](#)

Virus-free towns swept up in lockdown

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Richard Ferguson, Page 4

It might only be a three-hour drive from Melbourne, but the town of Rutherglen, population 2109, is a world away from the coronavirus pandemonium. Indigo, where Rutherglen is located, is one of four Victorian local government areas not to have reported a single COVID-19 case. Not just in the second wave, but all year.

[Read More](#)

Thirteen lives lost an equal high but infections far from peak

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Rachel Baxendale, Page 4

Victoria has equalled its previous record number of 13 coronavirus deaths in 24 hours on the first day of the state's stage-four lockdown. While news of 429 new cases - which would have been a record only a fortnight ago - was welcomed following last week's peak of 723, the 13 new deaths brought the state's toll from the pandemic to 136 - 116 of which have occurred since July 5.

[Read More](#)

Hotels scandal a lawyers' picnic

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Rachel Baxendale, Page 4

Victorian taxpayers face a massive legal bill in addition to the \$3m set aside by the Andrews government for its hotel quarantine inquiry, as seven government departments, Victoria Police and Emergency Management Victoria each hire their own external legal teams. All seven departments and two agencies refused to disclose which law firms they were using to represent them at the inquiry when sent a list of questions by The Australian.

[Read More](#)

Extreme measures required to conquer an extremely vicious enemy

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Greg Sheridan, Page 4

The state of emergency and extreme lockdown in Victoria is the right strategy for this horrible moment in the fight against COVID-19, and consistent with all international evidence. That's not to say every element of the lockdown is necessary - the effort to get the biggest hit on the virus at the lowest cost is always a wicked problem requiring exquisite judgment.

[Read More](#)

Symptoms fail to trigger race to isolate

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Yoni Bashan, Page 5

NSW residents showing COVID-19 symptoms are sometimes waiting more than three days to self-isolate, and health officials have raised concerns that community attitudes should improve to curtail the risk of further transmission. Data released by NSW Health in its latest epidemiological surveillance report found nearly one in 10 people - or 8 per cent were testing themselves more than three days after showing symptoms.

[Read More](#)

Traditional owners blockade Uluru to tourists

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Amos Aikman, Page 5

Coronavirus fears have forced the closure of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park after locals blockaded the entry gate to keep a planeload of visitors arriving from a declared COVID-19 hotspot away from vulnerable communities. The dramatic move followed a breakdown in relations between Aboriginal residents and other stakeholders, including tourism authorities and park management and the airlines.

[Read More](#)

Travel bubble plans put on hold

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Matthew Denholm, Page 5

Tasmania has postponed plans for a travel bubble with South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory because of the worsening COVID-19 situation interstate. Premier Peter Gutwein on Monday afternoon announced that quarantine-free travel arrangement with other lowCOVID jurisdictions, due to start on Friday, was on hold.

[Read More](#)

Calls for change to exempt loophole

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Charlie Peel, Page 5

Annastacia Palaszczuk will call on the other states to scrap a loophole that allowed a consular official to enter the country and travel on a domestic flight while infected with COVID-19. The man, in his 20s, flew into Sydney from overseas on Friday before transferring to a Jetstar flight bound for the Sunshine Coast.

[Read More](#)

Frisky young Europeans put all the gains at risk

The Australian, International News, 04/08/2020, Noemte Bisserbe and Bojan Pancevski, Page 9

Young people are letting loose across Europe, fuelling a surge in coronavirus infections that is imperilling the continent's hardwon gains against the pathogen. Towns along the coasts of France and Spain are grappling with outbreaks after young people piled into beach bars, ignoring social-distancing rules, and caught the virus.

[Read More](#)

Masks at home the next step, US warned

The Australian, International News, 04/08/2020, Page 9

Some Americans may need to wear masks at home to protect their households as the nation enters uncharted territory in its battle against the coronavirus, the White House said. Deborah Birx, the US coronavirus taskforce co-ordinator, warned that steeply rising infections in urban and rural America marked a "new phase" of the pandemic, which is more broadly entrenched than when it took hold in a few large cities in the spring.

[Read More](#)

Protesters spreading coronavirus: Bibi

The Australian, International News, 04/08/2020, David Rose, Page 9

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused large crowds of protesters who gathered outside his official residence of trying to "trample on democracy" and claimed that they could be "incubating" coronavirus. An estimated 10,000 people attended a march in central Jerusalem on Saturday which culminated at the Prime Minister's residence, and resulted in some demonstrators having to be dragged away by riot police or dispersed with water cannon.

[Read More](#)

Honesty on virus progress and strategy will win trust

The Australian, Editorials, 04/08/2020, Page 11

Scott Morrison addressed the nation on the first hit of fiscal stimulus - what now seems a puny \$17.6bn - and the health plan to deal with the pandemic. At the time we urged the Prime Minister to level with the public about the life in shutdown to come, to allow people to prepare physically and mentally for the days, weeks and months ahead.

[Read More](#)

Andrews' industry freeze the weak link in supply chain

The Australian, Business News, 04/08/2020, John Durie, Page 13

Victorian Premier Dan Andrews has left gaping holes in the national supply chain through his targeted industry closure, with confusion over the status of key suppliers like steel fabricators and some parts of the country's only PVC producer, Qenos, in doubt. Andrews has said the list is a work in progress, which is hopefully the case, but the process itself has created confusion and in the process hit confidence.

[Read More](#)

Virus scare halts Qantas freight

The Australian, Business News, 04/08/2020, Robyn Ironside, Page 17

Qantas has been forced to temporarily close its Melbourne freight operations after three workers contracted COVID-19. A contractor working in the security hut at the international freight terminal, and separately two employees at the domestic freight facility, tested positive to the disease. A Qantas spokesman on Monday said that in line with advice from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), operations at the freight facilities had been paused.

[Read More](#)

Party's over

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2020, Andrew Hough, Page 1

South Australians face new coronavirus restrictions from tonight after a new cluster of "really concerning" COVID-19 cases linked with two Adelaide schools was identified. SA Health has found 12 COVID-19 patients in the past fortnight. From midnight tonight, people allowed at home gatherings will be capped at 10, down from a 50, and patrons can only drink alcohol in licensed premises while seated.

[Read More](#)

Courts punish border breaches as cases mount

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2020, Mitch Mott and Dixie Sulda, Page 7

Police have arrested a man for flouting coronavirus restrictions eight times - including crossing the border after being twice refused entry. The arrest on Monday came on the same day that a record six people appeared before the courts accused of illegally crossing the border or breaching quarantine.

[Read More](#)

SA firms set to help Vics

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2020, Giuseppe Tauriello, Page 8

Major South Australian companies and operators are ready to step up to calls for assistance as the Victorian economy slips into a severe round of COVID-19 restrictions. As part of Victoria's stage four restrictions, sweeping industrial and business closures are being implemented across the state, leaving only essential services operating to supply medical needs, food, power and communications.

[Read More](#)

The last thing we need now is to go into strict, draconian, lockdown-style measures again

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2020, Caleb Bond, Page 17

Now the panic has set in that South Australia is on the precipice of a second coronavirus wave. It's despite only a handful of cases. And we seem to be on top of them. The new restrictions - no standing in the pub and gatherings of only 10 people at home - will do little to stop the re-emergence of COVID-19 in our state.

[Read More](#)

Be alert, not alarmed, in virus battle

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 04/08/2020, Page 18

Restrictions on the daily lives of South Australians are tightening again as the ongoing battle to stave off the deadly coronavirus intensifies. Controls on private gatherings and licensed venues have been toughened, as authorities attempt to douse spot fires reaching across the border from Victoria's COVID-19 inferno.

[Read More](#)

State in deep freeze

Age, General News, 04/08/2020, Noel Towell, Page 1

A quarter of a million more Victorians will be stood down or sent home as thousands more shops, offices and factories close their doors this week under tough new stage four COVID-19 restrictions. As the state reported another 13 lives lost to the coronavirus yesterday, with 429 new cases diagnosed, Premier Daniel Andrews pledged that essential shops in metropolitan Melbourne, including supermarkets, bottle shops, pharmacies, petrol stations, banks, post offices and news agencies, would stay open.

[Read More](#)

Federal pandemic aid for Victorians

Age, General News, 04/08/2020, Nick Bonyhady and Rob Harris, Page 3

Victorians who are forced to self-isolate and do not have enough sick leave will be eligible for new pandemic payments from the federal government in renewed efforts to stop the spread of the coronavirus in workplaces. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said yesterday the government would fund \$1500 grants for people in self-isolation that the Andrews government had previously paid for, after the state recorded 429 new cases and 13 deaths.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald

[Read More](#)

Centres brace for stricter childcare rules

Age, General News, 04/08/2020, Adam Carey, Page 4

Childcare providers are braced for plummeting attendance rates in the next six weeks that could send some centres to the wall as most families keep their children home. Parents and childcare providers remain in the dark about which specific categories of Melbourne workers will be permitted to put their children in care during stage four lockdown, less than 48 hours before tough restrictions on attendance are due to take effect.

[Read More](#)

Diners head out for 'last hurrah'

Age, General News, 04/08/2020, Benjamin Preiss, Page 5

Pubs and cafes in regional Victoria have been inundated with drinkers and diners having a "last hurrah" before the doors are shut under stage three restrictions. Some business owners expressed deep frustration at again having to close and stand down staff after shutting during the first round of restrictions.

[Read More](#)

Small businesses bracing for tough time

Age, General News, 04/08/2020, Rachel Eddie, Page 6

Small business owners across Melbourne are rushing to clarify whether they can continue operating under new lockdown rules, less than 48 hours before they come into effect. Supermarkets, bottle shops, petrol stations, pharmacies, post offices, banks and newsagencies will stay open. But all other retailers will be forced to close to the public, and can only trade by delivery and contactless 'click and collect'.

[Read More](#)

What Victoria can learn from Kiwi lockdown

Age, General News, 04/08/2020, Jewel Topsfield, Page 7

You can tell a bit about a collective mood from internet memes. Berlin-based author Konstantin Richter, who was stranded in New Zealand during its drastic sevenweek coronavirus lockdown, wrote in Politico of a joke doing the rounds: "God was spotted in New Zealand. 'What are you doing in Aotearoa, God?' 'Working from home, bro!'" Melbourne lockdown memes are comparatively glum: "COVID and Australia is like the Spice Girls.

[Read More](#)

Harsher lockdown a necessary step

Age, Editorials, 04/08/2020, Page 14

Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg was blunt in his assessment on radio yesterday morning: "We are in a war-like situation, and every Victorian is on the front line." By yesterday afternoon, Premier Daniel Andrews had spelt out the fine detail on further restrictions for Melbourne's workplaces, and what is clear is that this battle will leave many financial casualties.

[Read More](#)

Rewards could work better than punishment

Age, General News, 04/08/2020, Greg Barns, Page 16

The tools of law and order have, are and will continue to play a dominant role in Victoria's COVID crisis. Premier Daniel Andrews says if police want more powers they simply have to ask. On these pages last week prominent former broadcaster Jon Faine mused that perhaps the Victorian government needed to contemplate mandatory detention for extreme cases of those who flout the COVID laws.

[Read More](#)

We beat it before, we can do it again

Age, General News, 04/08/2020, Catherine Bennett, Page 17

Melbourne is now in stage four lockdown. There has been much debate about what constitutes stage four: whether stage three with mandatory masks was really stage four; is it complete shutdown a la New Zealand, or something in between? Proponents for stage four have been arguing for this for weeks.

[Read More](#)

Canberrans urged to have masks ready for any virus fight

Canberra Times, General News, 04/08/2020, Julia Kanapathippillai and Dan Jervis-Bardy, Page 1

The ACT's chief health officer is encouraging Canberrans to maintain a supply of masks, soap and sanitiser in case there is a fresh COVID-19 outbreak in the territory, but has urged people not to start stockpiling. As the coronavirus disaster in Victoria deepens and new cases continue to emerge in NSW, Canberrans have started preparing for the possibility of masks being required here.

[Read More](#)

Parliament to resume despite Vic lockdown

Canberra Times, General News, 04/08/2020, Katie Burgess, Page 2

MPs from across Australia will still converge on Canberra later this month, despite the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Victoria forcing the state into stage four lockdown. Parliament is set to resume on August 24, after the first two sitting weeks of the month were cancelled due to medical advice that there was an increased risk of transmission of the virus, with growing cases in Victoria and NSW.

[Read More](#)

ANU vice-chancellor defends university's role in crisis

Canberra Times, General News, 04/08/2020, Sarah Lansdown, Page 3

Australian National University vice-chancellor Brian Schmidt has hit back at critics of universities and highlighted the institution's role in combating the coronavirus crisis in a speech marking 74 years since the institution was founded. Delivered to a small crowd at Llewellyn Hall yesterday, the Foundation Day address came after the ANU claimed was confident it would achieve its savings goals after the budget blew out by \$220 million.

[Read More](#)

Barr backs call for diplomat restrictions

Canberra Times, General News, 04/08/2020, Sally Whyte, Page 4

Chief Minister Andrew Barr has backed Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's calls for more restrictions on diplomats and consular officials travelling to Australia, after a man reported to be an official from Afghanistan tested positive to coronavirus in Queensland. Under the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations, diplomats can't be detained, meaning consular staff returning to Australia have been exempt from the hotel quarantine rules that have applied to travellers entering the country since March.

[Read More](#)

Review sought after inflected man flew to Queensland

Canberra Times, General News, 04/08/2020, Sally Whyte and Aaron Bunch, Page 4

A man who travelled from NSW to Queensland after getting off an international flight was not a consular official, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The man had been reported to be a consular official from Afghanistan, leading to Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk to call for loopholes in hotel quarantine to be closed.

[Read More](#)

Be prepared for fresh virus outbreak: ACT chief health officer

Canberra Times, General News, 04/08/2020, Julia Kanapathippillai and Dan Jervis-Bardy, Page 5

The ACT's chief health officer is encouraging Canberrans to maintain a supply of masks, soap and sanitiser in case there is a fresh COVID-19 outbreak in the territory, but has urged people not to start stockpiling. Unlike Melbourne where the outbreak is at its worst, mask wearing is not mandatory in Canberra.

[Read More](#)

Queanbeyan residents waiting for mandatory mask use

Canberra Times, General News, 04/08/2020, Kathryn Lewis, Page 5

Monday was the first day of new advice strongly recommending NSW residents wear masks in high-risk situations, but many Queanbeyan residents had not yet decided to take it up. NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian on Sunday urged people to consider masks when physical distancing could not be guaranteed.

[Read More](#)

Trans-Tasman travel bubble 'not till 2021'

Canberra Times, International News, 04/08/2020, Page 17

Jacinda Ardern has given her support to Victorians beginning a tough New Zealand-style lockdown while suggesting it has put off hopes for a trans-Tasman bubble until 2021. The NZ Prime Minister said it would be several months until the return of regular travel between Australia and New Zealand following the spread of COVID-19 in Victoria.

[Read More](#)

Travellers to Singapore to wear tags

Canberra Times, International News, 04/08/2020, Page 18

Singapore will make some incoming travellers wear an electronic monitoring device to ensure that they comply with coronavirus quarantines as the city-state gradually reopens its borders, authorities say. From August 11, the devices will be given to incoming travellers, including citizens and residents, from a select group of countries who will be allowed to isolate at home rather than at a state-appointed facility.

[Read More](#)

Let's learn from Victoria's virus disaster

Canberra Times, Editorials, 04/08/2020, Page 28

It would be a grave mistake for anybody to feel sanctimoniously superior to our Victorian cousins, and to blithely assume the medical and economic catastrophe that is unfolding across the Murray couldn't happen here. The fact is it could happen here, or anywhere else in Australia, very easily.

[Read More](#)

Another border breach

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2020, Michael Wray, Page 1

A man who returned to Queensland and avoided mandatory hotel quarantine by saying he was a consular official was a private security contractor, DFAT said. It's understood the man, believed to be in his 20s, had originally entered hotel quarantine in Sydney after returning from Afghanistan but applied to move into self-isolation in Toowoomba before the two week period was finished.

[Read More](#)

Six days of fear

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2020, Domanii Cameron and Elise Williams, Page 1

Health authorities fear people could be walking around unknowingly infected with COVID-19, warning there are another six days that symptoms could develop following the now infamous Melbourne- Logan cluster. Queensland Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young (pictured) said the next week could make or break the state.

[Read More](#)

Logan school extends shutdown

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2020, Antonia O'Flaherty, Page 6

A Logan private school that has been closed since it emerged that a school cleaner worked while infected with COVID-19 has extended its shutdown period, with all school staff and students required to get tested or retested for the deadly virus. In an emailed update to parents, Parklands Christian College Gary Cully said the Metro South Public Health unit had advised the school's community that all students and staff were required to be tested Monday and Tuesday, regardless of whether they had been tested before.

[Read More](#)

Who are you gonna call? Virus Busters

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2020, Isabella Magee, Page 6

A group of Brisbane bars and nightclubs are being treated with the same COVID killing product used by the London Underground, Hong Kong Airport and even the UK Police, to help protect staff and patrons. Brisbane-based Disinfectant Company Silix has been spraying the city with a hospital-grade antiseptic - Zoono said to protect surfaces for up to a month from the "COVID-surrogate".

[Read More](#)

Nervous customers shy to shop and dine

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2020, Tobias Jurss-Lewis, Page 8

Fears a second wave of coronavirus could hit Queensland has seen restaurants deserted and some supermarket shelves stripped bare in scenes resembling the prelockdown panic that gripped the Sunshine State during the earlier days of the pandemic's spread across Australia. Panic buying of items such as toilet paper and hand sanitiser has begun to re-emerge at several stores and popular cafes were reporting plummeting profits and cancelled bookings across Brisbane at the weekend.

[Read More](#)

No-fly zone another hit for tourism

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2020, Page 9

All Jetstar and Qantas flights from Sydney to the Gold Coast have been suspended in another devastating blow for the tourism industry. The move follows the state government's declaration of Greater Sydney as a COVID hotspot at the weekend. There were 32 flights from Sydney to Coolangatta after the border reopened on July 10. But only three Virgin Australia flights.

[Read More](#)

Forget the fights... get on with business

Courier Mail, Editorials, 04/08/2020, Page 48

The extraordinary changes to the rules and regulations that govern how business operates are just a footnote of Australia's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Ideological dogma and entrenched positions were cast aside in favour of pragmatism as the priority became about keeping people employed and ensuring our economy was hibernated rather than irrevocably damaged.

[Read More](#)

Exception can't be the rule

Courier Mail, Editorials, 04/08/2020, Page 48

Good on Anastacia Palaszczuk for acting. The Premier's promise that she will seek to change the special rules around hotel isolation exemptions for consular officials at the next meeting of National Cabinet is welcome. While no one disputes diplomats do important work, it is simply too risky to allow them unfettered access to our state.

[Read More](#)

Paying the price for our divided society

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2020, Mike O'Connell, Page 49

It was barely a month ago that Senator Pauline Hanson invoked the wrath of Channel Nine and the custodians of political correctness when she committed the gravest of all political sins in saying what she thought. Referring to the COVID-19 related lockdown of public housing apartment blocks during her regular spot on the Today Show, Senator Hanson said "a lot of these people are from non-English speaking backgrounds, probably English is their second language who haven't adhered to the rules of social distancing.

[Read More](#)

Plague payday

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/08/2020, Clare Armstrong, Page 1

Virus sufferers who continue to work while sick will instead be paid \$1500 to stay home, in a last ditch bid to stop those who were flouting isolation from spreading COVID-19 to Victorian workplaces. The new payment adds to the \$289 billion already spent by the federal government on keeping the economy afloat during the pandemic.

[Read More](#)

WHO warns there may never be a 'silver bullet'

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes - 3rd Edition, 04/08/2020, Page 8

The World Health Organisation has declared there might never be a "silver bullet" answer to the coronavirus, despite the rush to discover effective vaccines. "There is no silver bullet at the moment and there might never be," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual press conference in Geneva.

[Read More](#)

Facing a steep masking price

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/08/2020, Angira Bharadwaj, James O'Doherty and Jessica McSweeney, Page 10

Urged by the government to mask up to stop COVID, a day later NSW residents have been asked to stop buying medical grade masks because health workers need them. As a baby became the youngest sufferer yesterday retailers reported surging demand for N95 masks which offer the highest virus protection with consumers forking out hundreds of dollars on purchases, stripping shelves and forcing shops to introduce sales limits.

Also reported by: Herald Sun and Courier Mail

[Read More](#)

Going for broke

Herald Sun, General News, 04/08/2020, Shannon Deery, Page 1

Melbourne is closed for business as crushing restrictions come into force in a final bid to halt COVID-19. As the state recorded another 429 cases and 13 deaths on Monday, Premier Daniel Andrews announced a wide-scale shutdown affecting the retail, manufacturing and construction sectors - and at least 250,000 people will be directly affected.

[Read More](#)

Businesses close but go online to survive restrictions

Herald Sun, General News, 04/08/2020, Ian Royall and Olivia Jenkins, Page 5

Melbourne's shops, cafes and restaurants have declared they are still open for business even if many of their doors are closing under the latest pandemic restrictions. Retailers big and small pleaded with customers to help them survive by shopping online and using delivery or clickand-collect as the state government cracked down on non-essential shopping.

[Read More](#)

Manufacturing blindsided by lockdown and its national knock-on

Herald Sun, General News, 04/08/2020, James Campbell, Page 7

Experts have warned shuttering Victoria's manufacturing industry will have a devastating knock-on effect across the entire Australian economy, as the state is critical to national supply chains. Representatives to a number of industries affected by Monday's announcement said they had been blindsided by decisions, and were confused as to what it meant for them.

[Read More](#)

'One size doesn't fit all': country MPs urge lockdown rethink

Herald Sun, General News, 04/08/2020, Tom Minear and Tamsin Rose, Page 8

Regional Victorian MPs are urging the state government to reconsider blanket stay-at-home restrictions on large parts of the state that have no coronavirus cases. From Thursday, country Victorians will only be allowed to leave home to shop for essentials, provide care, exercise, and for work or study that cannot be done remotely.

[Read More](#)

Death toll's grim peak

Herald Sun, General News, 04/08/2020, Grant McArthur, Page 10

More Victorian covid-19 patients have died in the past 10 days than in the previous six months since the state's first case of coronavirus. The number of COVID-19 patients in hospital has also doubled in the past 10 days but health authorities are confident the recent restrictions and lockdowns will soon reverse the grim peak that added another 429 cases on Monday.

[Read More](#)

Hope from above

Herald Sun, General News, 04/08/2020, Alanah Frost, Page 13

As Victoria enters its strictest lockdown, it is easy to be overwhelmed at what is to come. But there was a glimmer of hope - countries, which were in a similar position that emerged from the other side. Experts agreed there was no reason Australia could not follow suit. Australian National University infectious diseases expert Sanjaya Senanayake said countries such as South Korea and Vietnam had set the standard for containing COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

Stakes are too high for selfish behaviour

Herald Sun, General News, 04/08/2020, Susie O'Brien, Page 21

The incompetence of the Victorian Premier got us into this mess, but we're not going to get out of it unless we all play our part. It's time for every single Victorian to take responsibility for their own actions. People who have the virus must stay home. People who have been tested and are waiting for the results must not go out.

[Read More](#)

See you in Spring

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/08/2020, David Killick, Page 1

Tasmania's borders will remain firmly shut until at least the end of August. Premier Peter Gutwein on Monday reversed plans for a "travel bubble" with South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, which was due to start on Friday. And he called off any consideration of travel anywhere interstate before the end of the month, citing the worsening coronavirus outlook.

[Read More](#)

Breathless but no test

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/08/2020, Kasey Wilkins, Page 1

As a healthy 24-year-old, the last place I expected to be was in hospital struggling to breathe. When my mystery illness first set in, I saw three GPs. First, an after-hours doctor, who decided I was just feeling anxious after hearing my occupation. I asked if it was worth getting COVID-tested - he said no. I saw two GPs at my usual doctors' surgery, both who performed some more extensive tests.

[Read More](#)

Tourism seeking greater clarity

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/08/2020, Blair Richards and Navarone Farrell, Page 5

The peak body for the state's tourism sector has called for clarity from the state government around its coronavirus strategy, following the decision to keep the border closed. Tourism Industry Council Tasmania chief executive Luke Martin said the industry had been looking forward to a slow and steady reintroduction of interstate travel with other COVID-safe states.

[Read More](#)

Uluru closed over COVID-19 fears

Northern Territory News, General News, 04/08/2020, Natasha Emeck, Page 1

Traditional owners set up a blockade at the entrance to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park to stop tourists arriving from Brisbane COVID-19 hot spots. The Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation is calling for the immediate closure of Uluru after 42 passengers arrived on a Jetstar flight from Brisbane at Yulara airport yesterday.

[Read More](#)

Quarantine bills going unpaid

Northern Territory News, General News, 04/08/2020, Madura McCormack , Page 1

About one in 10 people forced into mandatory quarantine in the NT during the first round of lockdown have paid or are paying off their bill. Nearly two months after the rule forcing all arrivals into the NT to spend two weeks in a hotel at their own expense shifted, the NT News can reveal 309 people have so far paid their invoice or begun a payment plan.

[Read More](#)

Lockdown a last resort for NSW

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/08/2020, Alexandra Smith and Kate Aubusson, Page 1

The Berejiklian government will exhaust all options with coronavirus restrictions before it shuts down the economy, with a key minister saying stubborn case numbers could force changes. Victor Dominello, one of the government's senior ministers leading NSW's COVID-19 response, said "shackling the economy" was not an option and the state's biggest threat was complacency.

[Read More](#)

Airport arrivals relieved to land in a safer state

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/08/2020, Laura Chung, Rachel Clun and Lisa Visentin, Page 4

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian says Victoria's new restrictions will slow the number of people crossing the border but she hasn't ruled out tighter regulations between the states. Almost one-third of new cases confirmed in NSW yesterday were people who had returned from Victoria. Five of the 17 new COVID-19 infections reported in NSW were acquired in Victoria.

[Read More](#)

Fears of DNA harvesting in virus tests

Sydney Morning Herald, International News, 04/08/2020, Iain Marlow, Page 15

The Hong Kong government has denied it plans to harvest residents' DNA as part of a China-backed coronavirus-testing blitz, as deep political mistrust further complicates the city's efforts to contain its worst outbreak. Hong Kong has welcomed Chinese government experts who are setting up a temporary laboratory to expand its ability to track a third wave of COVID-19 cases.

Also reported by: *The Age*

[Read More](#)

NSW must stand ready to toughen COVID-19 rules

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 04/08/2020, Page 16

The stage four lockdown in Victoria is increasing pressure on NSW to tighten its own COVID-19 restrictions but it should still be possible for this state to adopt a more carefully calibrated posture that balances jobs and health. Premier Daniel Andrews has undoubtedly made the right decision by imposing the 8pm curfew and other extraordinary measures including the business closures affecting 250,000 workers announced yesterday.

[Read More](#)

Wearing masks must become second nature

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/08/2020, Victor Dominello, Page 18

The question on everyone's lips is how do we defeat COVID-19? The answer is simple. We find a vaccine or we go into lockdown. A cure will take time. Forcing people into lockdown will shut down our economy. Maybe we are asking the wrong question. The real enemy is complacency. The answers are not found in the science of physics or chemistry.

[Read More](#)

'Weak' WA warning

West Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Peter Law, Page 1

Queensland says WA's fight to keep COVID-19 out of the State would be "weakened" if it was forced to replace the hard border with a travel bubble. The Queensland Government gave the warning in a submission in support of the WA Government's defence of its border closure against mining magnate Clive Palmer's court challenge.

[Read More](#)

Good to know Queensland has WA's back

West Australian, Editorials, 04/08/2020, Page 2

It is a statement of the obvious that it is impossible to know how the legal action by billionaire Clive Palmer against WA over its border restrictions will play out. But it is possible to get a gut feel for the factors which are likely to be important as Mr Palmer tries to bring down WA's hard border.

[Read More](#)

Cash boost for Vics in quarantine

West Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Lanai Scarr, Page 4

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has not ruled out extending a \$1500-a-fortnight disaster payment for Victorians who have to stop work to quarantine to cover people in other States should they need it. Mr Morrison yesterday announced the pandemic relief payment for Victorians impacted by COVID-19 as the State's Premier Daniel Andrews shut down all businesses not supplying essential medical needs, food, power and communications.

[Read More](#)

Aussie virus aid to PNG

West Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Page 7

A surge in coronavirus cases in Papua New Guinea has authorities worried that the health system could be overwhelmed. The national total of infections has reached 110, with two deaths. The capital Port Moresby accounts for 102 of the cases after the virus spread from infected health workers at a testing lab in the city's main general hospital.

[Read More](#)

What now in WA virus war?

West Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Lanai Scarr, Page 13

Being the world's most isolated city has its benefits in a time of a global pandemic. Living in Perth means going to the footy in a crowd of more than 26,000 and cheering on the mighty Eagles in a fourth quarter comeback against Geelong. It means going out to a pub on a Friday night with mates or enjoying a picnic in Kings Park with friends and family without having to worry about how many other people are around.

[Read More](#)

Exercise, play back home again

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2020, Harrison Tippet, Page 4

The City of Greater Geelong will close playgrounds, community centres and all swim sports and leisure facilities as it moves to comply with Victoria's Stage 3 stay-at-home restrictions. It has announced a series of required closures in a bid to slow the spread of COVID-19. Under the new rules, the council will close all its swim, sport and leisure centres, sport and recreation stadiums, city-managed playgrounds, skate parks and bike parks, community centres, halls and youth centres.

[Read More](#)

Student and teacher testing shows no community transmission

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 04/08/2020, Phoebe Pin, Page 5

All students and school staff who have participated in the State Government's COVID-19 detection program have tested negative for the virus. More than 4700 children, teachers and staff from across WA's public schools have already undergone their first test for COVID-19, as part of the McGowan Government's DETECT research study scanning the school community for any asymptomatic cases.

[Read More](#)

No travel restrictions yet

Western Advocate, General News, 04/08/2020, Jacinta Carroll, Page 3

Restrictions on visitors from Sydney to the Central West are not part of COVID-19 control measures, at the moment, said Member for Bathurst Paul Toole. While hotspots for the virus in Sydney continue to grow, up until Friday, the Central West had enjoyed several months of no active cases of COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

Victoria's contact-tracing effort buckles under the weight of Covid-19 cases

Guardian Australia, Other, 04/08/2020, Elias Visontay

Victoria's rise in Covid-19 case numbers is occurring so rapidly that contact tracing can no longer be relied upon to unearth all potential clusters in the state, according to epidemiologists who argue health detective work "won't make much difference when you've got thousands of active cases potentially out there".

[Read More](#)

Australia's Covid-19 face mask advice: are reusable or washable masks best, and what are the rules?

Guardian Australia, Other, 03/08/2020, Luke Henriques-Gomes

From midnight Sunday 2 August face masks and coverings is mandatory across Victoria in public places as the state struggles to contain a second-wave outbreak of Covid-19. The move to mandatory masks follows a decision by the national cabinet to update its position on the use of face masks, deciding that people should wear them where there is community transmission and where social distancing is difficult.

[Read More](#)

Victoria and Melbourne coronavirus map: where Covid-19 cases are rising or falling

Guardian Australia, Other, 03/08/2020, Nick Evershed

A Guardian Australia analysis of coronavirus cases in Victoria shows where infections have been increasing, and where Covid-19 cases are on the decline. Using data aggregated daily from the dashboard of the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) here, we calculate the number of new cases a day for every local government area in Victoria.

[Read More](#)

Labor condemns Craig Kelly's suggestion Daniel Andrews could 'face 25 years in jail' for hydroxychloroquine ban

Guardian Australia, Other, 03/08/2020, Paul Karp

Labor has labelled comments by the federal Liberal MP Craig Kelly "offensive" and "irresponsible" after he questioned whether Daniel Andrews could be criminally liable for blocking the use of hydroxychloroquine to treat Covid-19. The use of hydroxychloroquine has been championed by Donald Trump, but the most reputable global studies have found it is ineffective as a treatment, and it can have severe and even deadly side effects if used inappropriately.

[Read More](#)

How wearing a face mask can be triggering for trauma survivors

SBS.COM.AU, Other, 03/08/2020

As face masks become increasingly de rigueur for millions of people living in Victoria and NSW, trauma experts are warning that face coverings can be triggering for some. The Blue Knot Foundation says masks can trigger previous trauma experiences for survivors. The foundation, which is a centre of excellence for complex trauma, has released advice for trauma survivors on ways to help cope with having to wear a mask or interact with people wearing masks.

[Read More](#)

Coronavirus: More than 240 Woolworths distribution workers walk off the job at Laverton

The Australian, Other, 03/08/2020, Ewin Hannan

More than 240 Woolworths workers at a Melbourne distribution centre supplying Dan Murphy's and BWS stores have stopped work after an employee reported positive to COVID-19. The United Workers Union is demanding all of the workers are tested for coronavirus while the Laverton site is shut down for 72 hours for a deep-clean.

[Read More](#)

Liberal MP's 'dangerous' hydroxychloroquine claim asks if Vic premier should be jailed

The New Daily, Other, 03/08/2020

Firebrand backbencher Craig Kelly has been slammed for sharing "dangerous" messages, asking if Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews could "face 25 years in jail" for not promoting hydroxychloroquine, a drug touted by US President Donald Trump as a coronavirus cure. Australian authorities have warned hydroxychloroquine, long-used as a malaria treatment, poses "well-known serious risks" such as eye damage and heart attack if used incorrectly, while numerous global studies have returned mixed results.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

In memory of a hero among GPs

Australian Doctor, General News, 07/08/2020, Geir O'Leary, Page 1

Dr Harry Nespolon's final conversation with Australian Doctor on the Thursday before he died seemed no different to any other since he became college president. He had a fire in his belly about the ECG rebate cuts and, as usual, had no qualms about sharing his views. "It's part of our training," he pointed out. "There is no justification about what they are trying to do to us."

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Ransomware attack hits Regis Healthcare

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 04/08/2020, Yolanda Redrup, Page 15

Health and aged care providers have been warned they are vulnerable to a sharp increase in cyber attacks, after an unidentified offshore adversary published sensitive documents related to an Adelaide-based aged care facility run by Regis Healthcare. Documents with details of individual residents' care and accommodation agreements, employee appraisals and passwords relating to Regis' eastern suburbs Adelaide home in Burnside were posted to a public website and have been seen by The Australian Financial Review.

[Read More](#)

Peter and Areti Arvanitis deified by aged-care millions

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/08/2020, Myriam Robin and Tom Richardson, Page 40

At least Melbourne's doyen of egregious consumption and aged-care home entrepreneur Peter Arvanitis has somewhere fitting to sit out the city's sixweek lockdown. Our sincere thanks to The Age's Michael Bachelard for alerting us to the extraordinary tour Arvanitis, the founder of Estia Health, recently gave Vogue Australia of the new Toorak mansion he shares with wife Areti.

[Read More](#)

Aged-care deaths more than reported

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Stephen Lunn, Page 4

Federal government figures show the number of Victorian nursing home residents who have died from COVID-19 during the second wave is considerably higher than reported just last week, with residential aged-care deaths accounting for 65 per cent of all COVID deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. Official health department data reveals that as of Sunday, there were 105 deaths in Victorian aged care and 136 overall in Australia of the 208 total deaths from all sources.

[Read More](#)

Covid nursing homes on notice

The Australian, Business News, 04/08/2020, Jared Lynch, Page 17

Seven COVID-19-affected nursing homes in Melbourne risk having their federal funding revoked amid a blitz from the Aged Care and Quality Commission over the outbreaks. The federal agency has served five aged care providers with "notices to agree" after identifying elderly residents were at significant risk at the facilities as Victorian authorities struggle to contain the spread of the highly infectious disease.

[Read More](#)

Aged care prices sink as nursing home losses mount during pandemic

The Australian, Business News, 04/08/2020, John Rawling, Page 18

The Covid-19 pandemic has dramatically altered the landscape in aged care. From a financial perspective, there are two key development: The prices charged have been cut by about half and the majority of facilities are now making losses. Many people are delaying entry to aged care until the pandemic is under control, while some families are removing loved ones from aged-care facilities.

[Read More](#)

Our aged must stay connected

Herald Sun, General News, 04/08/2020, Ralph Hampson, Page 21

It is important to remember aged-care facilities aren't hospitals. They provide a home for people who can no longer live independently in the community. On any given day in Australia there are more than 200,000 people living in about 2670 facilities - an average of 75 beds a facility. Residential aged-care services depend on families to provide support to residents and, as I have found in my research, residents want partners, families and friends to visit.

[Read More](#)

Aged care 'talkfest' fails residents: Liberal MP

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/08/2020, David Crowe, Page 1

A former Coalition minister has criticised the federal government's handling of aged care and called for structural reform in a submission that exposes years of failure to help older Australians. One of Tony Abbott's own ministers after the 2013 election, Liberal senator Concetta FierravantiWells, says the government has not had the "political fortitude" to fix the sector after spurning calls for action when it took power.

Also reported by: *The Age*

[Read More](#)

Aged care sanctioned

Forbes Advocate, General News, 04/08/2020, Page 3

Jemalong Residential Village has "paused" new admissions as they address issues raised when the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission conducted an unannounced audit in late June. Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner, Janet Anderson PSM, said the Commission made a decision to sanction the Forbes residential aged care facility following that audit.

[Read More](#)

'Mum will be very scared'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2020, Tamara McDonald, Page 1

Families and workers have shared their frustration at communication from a Highton aged-care facility at the centre of one of Geelong's worst coronavirus outbreaks. A second round of testing at Opal South Valley is set to take place after 18 residents and five staff members tested positive. One distressed son of a resident said there had been a lack of detailed information from the centre.

[Read More](#)

Calls for plan for aged care

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 04/08/2020, Lisa Wachsmuth, Page 4

Labor's health spokesman Ryan Park said the families of residents in Victorian aged care homes are being "left in the dark" during COVID-19 outbreaks, and is urging the NSW Government to detail its plan if a second wave hits nursing homes here. The Keira MP said there needed to be more clarity around the transfer of aged care residents to hospitals during an outbreak of the virus.

[Read More](#)

Prepare for more aged care lockdowns

Temora Independent, General News, 04/08/2020, Page 7

Australia's peak rural medical bodies say now is an ideal time for families to ensure their relatives in rural aged care facilities are well prepared for potential lockdowns in the weeks and months ahead. The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) said while lockdowns may not eventuate, it is better for families to be prepared early.

[Read More](#)

Younger people living in Melbourne aged care homes fear for their safety as coronavirus spreads

ABC Online, Other, 03/08/2020, Elise Kinsella

For the past four months, Debbie Dick has lived through Melbourne's coronavirus pandemic in an aged care home, fearing for her health and unable to hold her husband's hand or give him a hug. The 58-year-old was moved to an aged care home in Altona Meadows, in the city's west, three years ago, because she has a spinal condition that requires a high level of care.

[Read More](#)

The Health Wrap: detailed update on coronavirus vaccine development, aged care and oral health – and an inspirational woman

croakey.org, Other, 03/08/2020, Melissa Sweet

In the latest edition of The Health Wrap, Dr Lesley Russell unpicks some of the complexities around coronavirus vaccine development and uptake, as well as digging into aged care spending questions, and the importance of behavioural research in a public health crisis. And in Dental Health Week, it's timely and shocking to learn that about 72,000 hospitalisations for dental conditions may have been prevented with earlier treatment in 2017-18.

[Read More](#)

Broken aged care system destined to fail this test

medicalrepublic.com.au, Other, 03/08/2020, Michelle Grattan

Scott Morrison wasn't going to be caught out twice. In Hawaii during the bushfires, the prime minister had hesitated before returning (slightly) early. On Tuesday he wasn't on holiday but starting a tour of several days in Queensland, where there's a state election in a few months. He aborted the trip on its first morning, announcing during a visit to a seafood business that he'd return to Canberra because of the COVID crisis in aged care in Victoria.

[Read More](#)

ABC, Q and A, 03/08/2020, Hamish Macdonald

Continuing Panel Discussion with Dr Lucy Morgan, lung specialist, Concord Hospital and Nepean Hospital, Dr Vyom Sharma, GP, Dr Kerry Phelps, former AMA president and politician, and Abbey Fistrovic, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Royal Melbourne Hospital. MacDonald introduces the panel to Spiros Vasilakis from Keilor Park and Christine Goulding in Brighton.

ABC, Q and A, 03/08/2020, Hamish Macdonald

Continuing Panel Discussion with Dr Lucy Morgan, lung specialist, Concord Hospital and Nepean Hospital, Dr Vyom Sharma, GP, Dr Kerry Phelps, former AMA president and politician, Abbey Fistrovic, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Andrew Laming, LNP Bowman MP, and Ged Kearney, Shadow Assistant Minister for Aged Care. David Hart from Leichhardt states many of the coronavirus outbreaks happened because workers cannot afford to self-isolate because they were not included in the government's paid pandemic leave.

ABC Radio Brisbane, Drive, 03/08/2020, Steve Austin

Interview with Craig Gear, Older Persons Advocacy Network. Austin says visits have been cancelled again in aged-care homes seeing what is happening in Victoria which is frightening. Gear states they have aged care advocates in Queensland provided by AVA Australia to have a conversation with the families about their wishes and preferences for their older loved ones in aged care centres.

[Back to Top](#)

s22

'Breach of trust': landmark study delves into sexual misconduct complaints made against Australia's health professions

Guardian Australia, Other, 04/08/2020, Melissa Davey

Medical practitioners, psychologists, chiropractors and osteopaths comprise 22% of registered health practitioners in Australia, yet almost three-quarters of sexual misconduct complaints made to health regulators involved these professions, a world-first study has found. Led by Assoc Prof Marie Bismark, a doctor and lawyer with the University of Melbourne, the study is the first to look at official complaints of sexual misconduct across all health professions.

[Read More](#)

Tribunal: Patients didn't know about GP's care plans

Australian Doctor, General News, 07/08/2020, Heather Saxena, Page 2

A GP has been suspended after billing MBS care plans based on informal conversations with patients outside his consultation room. The 70-year-old claimed he had been treating his practice manager and another of his patients for mental health issues. But neither was aware they were being counselled by the doctor, and investigators found no notes relating to their treatment.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Our insensitive care units

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/08/2020, James O'Leary, Page 3

Patients in Western Sydney hospitals are having to suffer significantly lower standards of care in emergency departments than other areas of the state, a damning government report has found. A Bureau of Health information survey found five hospitals where the overall care result was notably worse than the average - all of them in Sydney's west.

[Read More](#)

Care in west not the best

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 04/08/2020, Page 18

The Daily Telegraph's Fair Go For The West campaign began seven years ago. Since that time, and in part due to our campaign, many negative perceptions about Western Sydney have noticeably changed. Sydney's demographic centre is now seen less as a put-upon poorer relative of the rest of the city and more as a place of abundant opportunity.

[Read More](#)

Time to come clean

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/08/2020, Dental Patrick Tadros, Page 19

From social distancing to unstructured days, the pandemic has led to a deterioration of dental health as people cut costs and tuck into sugary treats at home. Since lockdown, the number of adults with untreated and potentially painful tooth decay has increased from 25 per cent to more than 32 per cent, according to the Australian Dental Association's (ADA) annual Oral Health Tracker.

Also reported by: Herald Sun and Courier Mail

[Read More](#)

Miner wheels out new medical vehicle

Northern Territory News, General News, 04/08/2020, Will Zwar, Page 11

Emergency medical responses to the Nhulunbuy community will be serviced by a brand new support vehicle, as part of a \$1.1m commitment to East Arnhem communities from mining giant Rio Tinto. St John NT CEO Judith Barker welcomed the support and said the \$70,000 vehicle provides increased local capacity for the St John NT team to respond, manage and provide an infield medical command at significant events.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Batter dons bracelet for Lifeline

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/08/2020, Annie McCann, Page 5

Hobart Hurricanes captain Corinne Hall says Tasmanians should get their hands on an elegant new bracelet to support much-needed crisis volunteers. The star cricketer said her teammates and staff members were starting to talk more about mental health during COVID-19. "Lifeline is very important at the moment because everyone's struggling in different ways," Ms Hall said.

[Read More](#)

Anger takes over ahead of lockdown

Ballarat Courier, General News, 04/08/2020, Ben Hopkins, Page 6

A mental health expert has identified anger as a primary response from regional Victorians as Ballarat moves towards a return to stage three COVID-19 restrictions. Monash University professor Jayashri Kulkarni said somewhat unexpectedly, anger has been one of the biggest responses from community members as she explores the mental health impacts of a return to lockdown.

[Read More](#)

Mental health support program making gains

Launceston Examiner, General News, 04/08/2020, Page 8

A pilot program providing clinical and psychosocial rehabilitation support for Tasmanians living with mental illness has been able to help 16 people in the state's South, the government has said. The Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative was based on a similar trial in the NSW, aimed at linking housing with rehabilitation opportunities. Those involved in the program live in public or community housing. The Tasmanian government has provided \$1 million to the program over two years.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Nurse reveals life on front line

West Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Kate Ryan, Page 5

A Perth nurse working in Melbourne has laid bare the heartbreaking reality of working at the centre of Victoria's coronavirus crisis as she urged people in WA to not get complacent. Maya Kaspi began at Royal Melbourne Hospital last year and has been working in the COVID-19 palliative care unit, caring for the most vulnerable people in their final stages of their life.

[Read More](#)

Race to lead RACGP is on

Australian Doctor, General News, 07/08/2020, Kemal Attay, Page 6

Two more GPs are launching bids to become the next RACGP president, with both pledging to improve funding. Melbourne GP Dr Magdalena Simonis and Sydney GP Associate Professor Charlotte Hespe join three other candidates in the race. The RACGP's acting president, Dr Ayman Shenouda; Dr Karen Price, deputy chair of the college's Victorian faculty; and Melbourne GP Dr Chris Irwin have already declared their intention to stand.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Family fighting for justice

Daily Advertiser, General News, 03/08/2020, Catie Mcleod, Page 5

Relatives of a young Wiradjuri woman who died despite presenting multiple times to Tumut Hospital are planning to lodge formal complaints against individuals involved in her care. Lawyers for the family confirmed that healthcare complaints are still likely to be made about individuals, arising from Naomi Williams' death on New Year's Day in 2016.

[Read More](#)

New song aims to keep our mob safe

Moree Champion, General News, 04/08/2020, Page 6

Two Aboriginal recording artists have collaborated with NSW Health to produce a new song encouraging young Indigenous people to keep themselves and their communities safe from COVID-19. The track, One Point 5, has been co-written and performed by Darumbal, Murri and Tongan R&B artist Mi-kaisha and Yuin hip hop artist Nooky, and produced by First Nations media, communication and events agency 33 Creative in partnership with the NSW Health Centre for Aboriginal Health to complement the NSW Government's Keep our Mob Safe campaign.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Change call for rebates

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2020, Tamara McDonald and Jackie Sinnerton, Page 7

Local doctors are urging the federal government to reconsider changes to rebates around common heart tests, which they say could delay the detection of heart problems. The federal government is slashing Medicare Benefits Schedule funding for community doctors to assess electrocardiogram tests. They are able to do the common heart test but will now not be covered by Medicare to give the patient the diagnosis report.

[Read More](#)

ECGs: Cut to the trace

Australian Doctor, General News, 07/08/2020, Paul Smith, Page 1

Last week the accusations of who knew what and when about the sudden changes to Medicare's ECG item numbers were flying like bullets in a shootout. Despite the obvious importance of ECGs in primary care, the Federal Government's decision to reduce the rebate for GPs to interpret and record trace results seemed to fall from the sky.

[Read More](#)

Call for PBS palliative support

Australian Doctor, General News, 07/08/2020, Siobhan Calafiore, Page 6

Palliative-care patients are being forced to pay privately for commonly used pain medications because of PBS restrictions, the RACGP says. The college is repeating calls it made back in 2017 for the PBAC to recommend the listing of six medicines currently used in hospitals for the care of terminally ill patients (see box).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Councils unite in soil fight

Melton & Moorabool Star Weekly, General News, 04/08/2020, Tate Papworth, Page 10

Brimbank and Melton councils are joining forces to prevent the movement of contaminated soil across Brimbank. The soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project could be stored at the Ravenhall tip if it's successful in the tender process. According to the Major Transport Infrastructure Authority, about 1.5 million cubic metres of rock and soil would need to be removed as part of the tunnel project.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Chief scientist calls for national smoke monitoring system

Canberra Times, General News, 04/08/2020, Katie Burgess, Page 15

Australia's chief scientist has called for national smoke plume forecasting, after large parts of the country were choked by hazardous air during the 2019-20 bushfires. Dr Alan Finkel told the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements on Monday there needed to be a national approach to air quality monitoring and smoke plume forecasting.

[Read More](#)

Smart money's on exercise

West Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Page 17

Regular physical exercise can help struggling students gain higher grades at school. Scientists found exercise helped children develop brain skills. Children's "executive function" - where they process information and think about two things at once - was assessed before and after several months of exercise, which included aerobics, ball games and playing tag.

[Read More](#)

Stepping away from sugar

Newcastle Herald, General News, 04/08/2020, Helen Gregory, Page 6

Hunter residents turning to sweet treats to cope with COVID related stress have been urged to think of their dental health and opt for healthier alternatives. Australian Dental Association NSW president Dr Kathleen Matthews said many people turn to comfort food when tired, stressed, anxious or to boost mood or energy levels.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Cosgrove's next mission is a tour of duty on rugby review panel

The Australian, Sport, 04/08/2020, Wayne Smith, Page 22

General Sir Peter Cosgrove might have expected life to quieten down after completing his term as Governor-General of Australia last year, but instead he has been put to work on a review of global governance at World Rugby. It's a rare day when an election promise is made good, especially in the world of sport, but the review was foreshadowed in the manifesto released by Bill Beaumont and Bernard Laporte before they were elected, respectively, president and vice-president of World Rugby.

[Read More](#)

Players to push for salary cap overhaul

The Australian, Sport, 04/08/2020, Joe Barton, Page 22

The A-League salary cap is not only failing in its stated aims but also "directly contributing to a raft of negative unintended consequences", according to the players' union, which will this week step up a campaign to see it reformed. Discussions over the cap will be a key flashpoint when Professional Footballers Australia and clubs pick up discussions over a new collective bargaining agreement.

[Read More](#)

Female stars lash tournament clash

The Australian, Sport, 04/08/2020, Peter Lalor, Page 22

The timing of the longest IPL had already ensured Australia's star male players will be robbed of redball practice leading into the summer, but the decision to run the women's version of the tournament at the same time as the WBBL is causing angst among female players. Australian opener David Warner conceded recently that he, Steve Smith, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood would be unlikely to have any chance of playing red-ball cricket ahead of the first Test if they were involved in the IPL, which runs from September 19 to November 10 in the United Arab Emirates.

[Read More](#)

AFL twists and turns for fixtures

The Australian, Sport, 04/08/2020, Courtney Walsh, Page 22

The scheduling gymnastics the AFL has performed to keep the season alive will continue through August as the coronavirus crisis creates further hurdles. A state of disaster was declared in Victoria on Sunday, dashing any hope of the competition returning to the state and now the window to play AFL games in Tasmania this year has narrowed again.

[Read More](#)

No bubble, but the Bledisloe series still expected to be no trouble

The Australian, Sport, 04/08/2020, Wayne Smith, Page 24

Although New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has dismissed the prospect of a trans-Tasman bubble starting anytime soon, Rugby Australia officials are still pressing ahead with plans that will see the Wallabies and All Blacks play their four scheduled Tests after periods of self-isolation. Ardern said on Monday Australia's coronavirus community transmission levels, heavily influenced by the new outbreak in Victoria, were too high to contemplate opening the borders.

[Read More](#)

Racial slurs stop match

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2020, Daniela Abbracciavento and Gordon Armstrong, Page 1

Southern Football League players have come together to take a stand against racism after spectators abused players on Saturday. Port Noarlunga's Ian Milera said it was "one of the worst days they have endured on a football field" after he and teammate Elijah Satala were subjected to racial taunts from Flagstaff Hill fans.

[Read More](#)

Relief as racing continues

Age, Sport, 04/08/2020, Michael Lynch, Page 27

Victorian racing will continue, for the time being at least, during the stage four lockdown. It's a massive relief for race clubs desperate to keep the sport going, with the spring carnival looming, and jockeys and trainers reliant on its continuation for their livelihood. The first group one race of the Melbourne carnival is just weeks away, and the Melbourne Cup will be run three months from today

[Read More](#)

Warriors hope racism stamped out

Canberra Times, Sport, 04/08/2020, Lucie Bertoldo, Page 44

Basketball ACT has reopened discussions with clubs involved in an ongoing investigation as Winnunga Warriors president Dion Devow called for a stop to on-court abuse to stamp out racism. The Winnunga Warriors, a local Indigenous club, filed a complaint to Basketball ACT after its players in an under-14s competition were subject to racial slurs on Sunday, July 26.

[Read More](#)

Punting on the grand prize

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2020, Jack McKay and Marco Monteverde, Page 1

Brisbane Lions star Charlie Cameron has called for this year's AFL grand final to be held at the Gabba, as the prospects of the decider being hosted at the MCG continue to diminish. Premier Anastacia Palaszcuk on Monday said Queensland would be "happy" to join discussions in the future, but suggested talks about the Sunshine State's chances of hosting it were "premature".

[Read More](#)

NRL does a number on seating over crowd concern

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2020, Jack McKay, Page 8

Crowd numbers at Sunshine Coast Stadium will be slashed by 1000 amid concerns over the number of spectators at a game at the weekend. Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said on Monday that the NRL had told her office it would be reducing crowd sizes at future games at the stadium, following Sunday's clash between the Storm and Knights.

[Read More](#)

Swifts shooter slams Nine over broadcast cut

Daily Telegraph, Sport, 04/08/2020, Jocelyn Airth, Page 62

NSW Swifts goal shooter Helen Housby called out Nine for ditching its Super Netball coverage, failing to return and even give the final score after breaking from the action for Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews' emergency COVID-19 update on Sunday afternoon. The broadcaster cut coverage in the fourth quarter of a tight battle between the Swifts and the GWS Giants, as Premier Andrews announced that Victoria would enter Stage 4 coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

[Read More](#)

Schedule clash with India stuns T20 stars

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 04/08/2020, Jon Pierik, Page 36

Australia's top female players have reacted in disbelief after it emerged India's top Twenty20 competition will be held at the same time as the Women's Big Bash League. The Board of Control for Cricket in India confirmed yesterday the revised dates for the men's and women's premier leagues. The tournaments have been shifted to the United Arab Emirates because of the rising number of coronavirus infections in India.

Also reported by: *The Age*

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

School's backflip on sex-ed

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 04/08/2020, Kylie Lang, Page 1

An elite Brisbane private school has bowed to pressure and dropped a sex-education book that suggests God hates homosexuals, gay people can "successfully" change to heterosexual, and people with ambiguous genitalia are "freaks". Following Courier-Mail coverage that exposed the offensive book used in Year 10 religion classes at Moreton Bay Boys' College and an angry backlash from parents, the school has confirmed the resource will be scrapped.

[Read More](#)

Closing gap for kids

West Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Lanai Scarr, Page 1

Training more Indigenous Australians to work in early childhood education and a literacy program encouraging Aboriginal families to read together are key to stemming generational disadvantage. So says Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt, who has unveiled his plans to help kids succeed, saying: "I don't want to see Aboriginal children left behind."

[Read More](#)

Investing in children will empower Indigenous Australians

West Australian, General News, 04/08/2020, Ken Wyatt, Page 64

Today is National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's day. It is our opportunity to show support for Indigenous children, celebrate their strengths and culture, and to recognise the ongoing knowledge and wisdom of the world's longest living continuous culture. This year's theme, We are the Elders of tomorrow, hear our voice, highlights the importance of listening to young people as a crucial part of their development into influential Elders.

[Read More](#)

Back to basics for youth program

Cairns Post, General News, 04/08/2020, Pete Martinelli, Page 5

Seven youths have so far been referred to a new program to rehabilitate young offenders. The trial On Country Program is being run through the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation. "The corporation is currently working with seven young people who have been referred to the trial On Country Program for Cairns and the Far North," a Department of Youth Justice spokesman said.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

So-called virus aid is deadly gamble

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2020, Ben Harvy, Page 4

The border detection rates of an illegal Chinese medicine, which claims to ease symptoms of COVID-19, has skyrocketed by 3000 per cent. Ephedra is a plant species used in traditional Chinese medicine, but is also a precursor to making ephedrine - the key ingredient used by crooks to cook up methamphetamine.

[Read More](#)

Dr Ageless fined over fake COVID treatment

Age, General News, 04/08/2020, Chris Vedelago, Page 3

"Dr Ageless", the business owned and operated by biochemist and convicted drug trafficker Shane Charter, has been caught peddling a fake "breakthrough" preventative treatment for COVID-19. Charter's "disease prevention, anti-ageing and executive wellness" business, trading under the name Dr Ageless, has been hit with \$63,000 in fines by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for making a series of unlawful advertisements about the medicinal effects and use of peptides.

[Read More](#)

Virus 'cure' imports at record rate

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2020, Page 9

Medications alleged to cure coronavirus are being illegally imported into Australia at record rates. Border Force officers are seeing a significant spike in detections of Ephedra, a herbal medicine, and Hydroxychloroquine, which is used to treat malaria and some auto-immune conditions. As the pandemic unfolds, ABF officers picked up 66kg of Ephedra in April and May, and 26,000 tablets of Hydroxychloroquine from January 1 to June 21.

[Read More](#)

Peak body fuming over e-cigs

Australian Doctor, General News, 07/08/2020, Clare Pain, Page 8

Electronic cigarettes should not be recommended for smoking cessation as there is little evidence to back their safety or efficacy, according to a position statement developed by the peak body for respiratory physicians. Smokers inquiring about using e-cigarettes as a quitting tool should instead be offered TGA-approved medications and behavioural support, says advice from the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22 [redacted]@isentia.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 13 January 2021 5:55 AM
To: s47E(d) [redacted]
Subject: Department of Health Daily Briefing 13 Jan 2021

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

WA isolated in spat over best virus strategy

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/01/2021, Andrew Tillett, Page 1

Labor states Victoria and Queensland have backed NSW's suppression strategy for handling COVID-19 outbreaks, as federal Health Minister Greg Hunt rejected the idea the virus could be eliminated. The moves left West Australian Premier Mark McGowan isolated, after he attacked NSW as being out of step with the rest of the country and for failing to eradicate the coronavirus.

[Read More](#)

McCormack faces heat over a matter of facts on social media

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/01/2021, Andrew Tillett, Page 2

Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack has defended the right of Coalition MPs to peddle misinformation online, saying "facts are sometimes contentious" and that some of what they post on social media is true. Mr McCormack has also dug in following criticism that he equated last week's deadly riot at the US Capitol to anti-racism protests, echoing a slogan embraced by white supremacists that "all lives matter". [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt distanced the government from Mr Kelly's undermining of mask-wearing, saying people should take advice from Australia's health officials.

[Read More](#)

Vaccine 'is not good enough'

The Australian, General News, 13/01/2021, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Doctors are calling for a reevaluation of Australia's vaccine strategy, saying herd immunity cannot be achieved with the lower-efficacy Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine the Morrison government plans to administer to millions of Australians. Medics and infectious disease experts are calling for Australia to invest in more high-efficacy vaccines, rather than relying on AstraZeneca's vaccine. [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt lashed out at Professor MacIntyre, suggesting her past predictions on coronavirus case numbers and deaths had proved wildly inaccurate.

[Read More](#)

GPs 'will be front and centre of inoculation program'

The Australian, General News, 13/01/2021, Olivia Caisley, Page 4

Health Minister Greg Hunt says GPs will help lead the rollout of the coronavirus vaccine as he assured Australians the nation's inoculation program would not be affected by the discovery of more contagious strains. Mr Hunt said GPs had been given the green light to administer the AstraZeneca vaccine and would be offered training from next week.

[Read More](#)

Tough new aged-care laws the first step

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/01/2021, Ian Henschke, Page 17

The Federal Government wants to enact tough new laws protecting whistleblowers and punishing providers who fail to keep aged-care residents safe. They will be forced to notify the regulator of "unexpected deaths" from falls or untreated bedsores. [...] Last month, Mr Morrison reshuffled his Cabinet and made Health Minister Greg Hunt responsible for aged care.

[Read More](#)

GP vaccine news overshadowed by backbencher claims

Canberra Times, General News, 13/01/2021, Sally Whyte, Page 7

Health Minister Greg Hunt has shrugged off claims by government backbencher Craig Kelly that children wearing masks to protect against coronavirus is "child abuse," comparing his claims about unproven treatments for the virus to medical commentators who warned against worst-case scenarios. Overshadowing the government's announcement that next week general practice clinics will be able to register as sites for administration of the COVID-19 vaccine, Mr Hunt was grilled on the statements of Mr Kelly.

[Read More](#)

Labor questions vaccine delivery

Courier Mail, General News, 13/01/2021, Tom Minear, Page 7

Labor is demanding the federal government explain why the rollout of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine will be slower in Australia than in other countries once it is approved. Scott Morrison said last week that Pfizer's "global protocols require approximately two weeks for delivery post approval of the vaccine". [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt said government medical advisers were "clear and absolute that a full safety process" was needed to approve the vaccines, with Australia not facing the extreme circumstances seen overseas.

[Read More](#)

GPs, hospitals to help vaccine push

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/01/2021, Clare Armstrong, Page 6

Australia will use hospitals to distribute the Pfizer vaccine due to low temperature storage requirements, as the government calls on GPs to help roll out other options. Health Minister Greg Hunt said hospitals would be "especially" critical in delivering the 10 million doses of Pfizer/BioNtech vaccine Australia has purchased, as the vials must be kept at minus 70 degrees celsius.

[Read More](#)

How's the humanity in cruelty-free state

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/01/2021, James O'Leary, Page 6

Waving and smiling on their 27th floor balcony, the Styles family is happy to be in NSW, where humanity has prevailed over cheap shots and border cruelty. More than 117,000 people just like Richard Styles, his wife Grainne and their children Clodagh, 2, and Paddy, 6, have come through the state's hotel quarantine system since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. [...] With NSW welcoming more returning travellers each week than any other state or territory, federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said eliminating "any threat" of COVID-19 entering Australia would be to close the borders and halt WA's exports of iron ore.

[Read More](#)

Experts want halt in vaccine rollout

Sydney Morning Herald, Edition Changes, 13/01/2021, Liam Mannix and Aisha Dow, Page 1

Immunologists and some virologists say the federal government should immediately pause the planned rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine because it may not be effective enough to generate herd immunity. Phase three clinical trials of the vaccine, which is the centrepiece of Australia's vaccination strategy, show it is only 62 per cent effective in preventing COVID-19 when given in the recommended dose. [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt yesterday denied the suggestion administering AstraZeneca's vaccine essentially meant the government was giving up on herd immunity.

[Read More](#)

A knock to sceptics would boost confidence

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/01/2021, David Crowe, Page 9

Scott Morrison made a tough but necessary call one month ago to cancel support for an Australian vaccine because he wanted to maximise community confidence in the treatment of COVID-19. Now the Prime Minister has another challenge in shoring up that confidence, only this time the threat comes from within the ranks. [...] Asked yesterday whether he rejected Kelly's claims, Health Minister Greg Hunt ducked the question and would not even mention the MP's name.

[Read More](#)

Anti-vaxxer fines could be on cards

West Australian, General News, 13/01/2021, Josh Zimmerman, Page 5

Health Minister Roger Cook has not ruled out fining West Australians who refuse to be vaccinated against COVID-19. While insisting WA had a "great record in terms of everyone embracing immunisation programs", Mr Cook said the vaccine may be mandatory for particular cohorts. [...] In November last year, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said the COVID-19 vaccine "will not be mandatory and individuals will maintain the option to choose not to vaccinate".

[Read More](#)

Border must go green

Border Mail, General News, 13/01/2021, Ellen Ebsary, Page 1

Tourism businesses are pushing for regional NSW to be immediately turned green under new Victorian travel arrangements. Most of NSW is 'orange' in the Victorian government's new traffic light system, meaning non-border residents who go there and then enter Victoria with a permit must get a COVID-19 test and isolate until they get a negative result. [...] The NSW government will not be adopting Victoria's new traffic light system, and Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said it was "very much a Victorian approach".

[Read More](#)

Local hospitals, GPs involved in vaccine rollout

South Gippsland Sentinel Times, General News, 12/01/2021, Page 3

Our hospitals have been briefed as have the groups representing local GPs. Bass Coast Shire Council has also been advised to stand by as local shires could be called up when Australia starts the process of vaccinating the population. [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt, the former local member here, stressed it was important to have a clear distinction between "cold chain and non-cold chain distribution" so there is no risk of confusion about vaccines or risk to the process".

[Read More](#)

COVID vaccine rollout plan still on track, despite variant cases detected in Australia

7news.com.au, Other, 12/01/2021, Alex Chapman

Two community cases of a contagious strain of coronavirus won't derail plans to begin rolling out a vaccine in coming weeks, Health Minister Greg Hunt says. The extra-virulent variant of the virus was detected last week in a Brisbane hotel quarantine worker and again on Monday in the woman's partner.

[Read More](#)

Senior Government figures refuse to condemn Craig Kelly for spreading unofficial coronavirus information online

ABC Online, Other, 12/01/2021, Stephanie Dalzell

Senior government figures have resisted calls to condemn Liberal MP Craig Kelly for declaring compulsory mask wearing in schools would be "a crime" and a "form of child abuse". The federal backbencher has repeatedly shared misleading information about COVID-19 and on Tuesday used his Facebook account to post a German study examining the impacts of masks on adolescents and children. [...] Both Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack and Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt refused to condemn their colleague for spreading unofficial health information online.

[Read More](#)

Australia's vaccine plan 'won't work': Experts warn Scott Morrison has backed the wrong jab which won't provide herd immunity - leaving nation vulnerable to 'rolling epidemics'

Daily Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Bryant Hevesi

Australia will not achieve herd immunity by relying on the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, experts have warned, leaving the country at risk of rolling coronavirus epidemics that will prevent us from returning to normal life. The government has ordered 53.8 million doses of the vaccine developed with Oxford University, with jabs set to be administered from March. [...] The prime minister said he and Health Minister Greg Hunt will get the vaccine on TV early to improve public confidence.

[Read More](#)

Coronavirus Australia: Aussies urged to listen to the nation's top advisers on vaccines

NEWS.com.au, Other, 12/01/2021, Jade Gailberger

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt has taken a swipe at doomsday predictions from infectious disease experts. As the government prepares to roll out a coronavirus vaccine from February, Mr Hunt is urging people to take advice from the nation's top medical advisers.

[Read More](#)

Liberal MP Craig Kelly claims head lice treatment can cure COVID-19

NEWS.com.au, Other, 12/01/2021, Natalie Brown

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt has awkwardly sidestepped questions regarding a series of unproven COVID-19 claims made by outspoken Liberal MP Craig Kelly on social media today. Mr Kelly has built a significant online following, sharing posts denying climate change, labelling face masks "child abuse" and promoting the drug Hydroxychloroquine of which outgoing US President Donald Trump is also a fan as a cure for coronavirus.

[Read More](#)

GPs 'ready, willing and able' to assist with 'vast' COVID vaccine rollout

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/01/2021, Matt Woodley

General practice clinics will form a major and ongoing part of the national coronavirus vaccine rollout from phase 1b onwards, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt has confirmed. Minister Hunt made the declaration today at a joint press conference with RACGP President Dr Karen Price in Canberra, where it was also revealed that GPs will be administering the AstraZeneca/Oxford University candidate, pending approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

[Read More](#)

AstraZeneca's lower efficacy has been questioned, but what about other considerations?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/01/2021, Anastasia Tsirtsakis

As the US, UK and Europe continue to record thousands of daily new cases of COVID-19, it has been said time again that Australia is in an enviable position. The vaccine roadmap is expected to begin with 10 million doses of Pfizer's mRNA vaccine. [...] However, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt defended the selection of the AstraZeneca candidate and rejected claims that it would prevent Australia from reaching herd immunity and eliminating the virus during a press conference on Tuesday with RACGP President Dr Karen Price.

[Read More](#)

UK faces 'race against time' as new mutant strains dominate globally

The New Daily, Other, 12/01/2021

Some British hospitals are facing an oxygen shortage amid high demand for ICU beds, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has revealed. On Tuesday morning (Australian time), he announced the country had reached a "very perilous moment" in the coronavirus pandemic. [...] Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said the campaign would use social and traditional media to allay concerns about the vaccine and build Australians' confidence.

[Read More](#)

Doctors demand government call out medical misinformation after acting PM says 'facts are contentious'

theguardian.com, Other, 12/01/2021, Melissa Davey Paul Karp and Nino Bucci

The peak body for Australia's doctors has called on government leaders to call out medical misinformation after the acting prime minister said "facts sometimes are contentious" when refusing to rebuke a controversial Coalition MP who has made unproven claims about Covid. The acting PM, Michael McCormack, was on Tuesday accused of embracing Donald Trump-style post-truth politics after he declined to criticise Craig Kelly who said making children wear masks was akin to child abuse. [...] The federal health minister, Greg Hunt, told reporters in Melbourne that although "there'll be very different views we listen to our medical advisers".

[Read More](#)

Tourism leaders fear major damage for industry without united approach

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 13/01/2021

Tourism bosses have warned the worst could be yet to come if national leaders do not end the border wars crippling the industry and tearing families apart. While Queensland's snap three-day lockdown has been praised for keeping the new mutant strain of the coronavirus in check, tourism leaders fear the year will look increasingly bleak for operators if holiday-makers aren't given the confidence to resume travel. [...] Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said he invited the states to follow the Commonwealth's hotspot definition, but respected those that chose to go their own way.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 12/01/2021, Lorna Dunkley

Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack has rejected criticism over his comments, comparing violence by Donald Trump supporters at the US Capitol with last year's Black Lives Matter protest. The Labor Party has rebuked McCormack's comments along with his refusal to condemn his Coalition colleagues for spreading misleading information online, including Craig Kelly.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 12/01/2021, Lorna Dunkley

All GPs are being invited to participate in the Australian Immunisation program next week which will provide training for people to become vaccinators. The first group of Australians will be immunised in mid to late February. Greg Hunt, Federal Minister for Health, says the general practices will commence when the AstraZeneca vaccine commences.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/01/2021, Narelda Jacobs

Human rights groups have criticised Acting PM Michael McCormack's comments comparing Black Lives Matter protests to last week's US Capitol riot. McCormack has refused to apologise. [...] McCormack or Health Minister Greg Hunt do not agree with the statement.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 12/01/2021, Mike Amor

Thousands of GPs will begin their training next week on how to administer COVID-19 vaccines. Meanwhile, pregnant women have raised concerns as there is no advice on whether to get the vaccine. [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt says the matter will be addressed by TGA when they finish their assessment.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 12/01/2021, Mike Amor

Two new research centres will be established and an additional \$18m from the Federal Government will be set aside for research into prevention and treatment of diabetes and heart disease.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 12/01/2021, Georgie Gardner

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has hit back at her WA counterpart, saying Mark McGowan doesn't understand the pandemic and the eradication of the coronavirus is unrealistic. The virus is still present in Sydney's west and the Northern Beaches with not enough people getting tested.

[Play Now](#)

WIN Canberra, WIN News, 12/01/2021, Lincoln Humphries

Hospital hubs will be created for Australia's initial rollout of the Pfizer COVID vaccine next month. Health minister Greg Hunt has confirmed that GP clinics will be used to administer the AstraZeneca vaccine.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, 19:00 News, 12/01/2021

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt is rejecting calls to condemn his Liberal colleague Craig Kelly for spreading misleading information online. Kelly has repeatedly shared unofficial medical advice on social media about the coronavirus.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

■s22

Minister caught out on the detail

The Australian, General News, 13/01/2021, Olivia Caisley, Page 4

Aged Care Services Minister Richard Colbeck has again been caught out using incorrect figures regarding coronavirus deaths in nursing homes. It comes months after he was forced to apologise for his failure to know how many elderly Australian residents had died from COVID-19 while in aged care.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

■s22

Coulton's Catch-Up

Lake News, General News, 13/01/2021, Mark Coulton, Page 5

We are still winning, but we have not yet won the fight against the COVID19 pandemic. Many readers would be aware of a confirmed case of COVID-19 travelling through Nyngan, Broken Hill and Orange at the beginning of January, and once again, I urge everyone to remain vigilant and monitor the latest information at www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

■s22

No welcome home to a state of dysfunction

The Australian, General News, 13/01/2021, Rachel Baxendale, Page 4

Byzantine bureaucratic dysfunction has seen Victorian families wait more for more than 24 hours after Victoria's Chief Health Officer said they could be released from hotel quarantine to receive an "end of detention" notice. Other travellers waited more than a week to be released from quarantine after the Andrews government announced on January 4 it had "instituted a process to proactively review" whether they could safely isolate at home rather than in a hotel. [...] Melbourne couple Ellise and Justin McLoughlan and their children, who shared their story in Monday's Australian, were hopeful their release was imminent when Brett Sutton told a 2pm press conference on Monday that he expected people like them who were detained as a result of having travelled to regional NSW in the past 14 days to be allowed to head home when the area was reclassified as an "amber" zone at 5:59pm.

[Read More](#)

Mutant UK virus strain still poses risk in greater Brisbane

Canberra Times, General News, 13/01/2021, Marty Silk, Page 5

Queensland's chief health officer says the highly infectious UK variant of coronavirus is still a risk in Greater Brisbane. No new COVID-19 cases have been reported since Monday night, when the partner of a quarantine hotel cleaner with the disease was confirmed as a case. Chief health officer Jeannette Young is urging anyone who went to the two sites visited by the man to get tested.

[Read More](#)

COVID-19 vaccinations for remote and vulnerable Indigenous populations a 'massive challenge' of logistics

ABC Online, Other, 12/01/2021, Jesse Thompson

Government health authorities are fine-tuning plans to distribute coronavirus vaccines to remote and vulnerable Indigenous populations across Australia a task an Aboriginal health organisation says is an unprecedented challenge. Indigenous health groups have repeatedly warned of the devastating consequences coronavirus could have if it reached remote communities. [...] Professor Brendan Murphy from the federal Department of Health last week said the AstraZeneca vaccine, which could be approved in February and requires only regular refrigeration, is "likely to be the priority vaccine" for remote settings.

[Read More](#)

How mutant COVID strain infiltrated Australia

Byron Shire News, Other, 12/01/2021, Charis Chang

The discovery of just one coronavirus case in Brisbane was enough to shut down the city last week and force Australia to cut its overseas arrivals by half - but this case was no ordinary infection. It was Australia's first case outside hotel quarantine of a mutant strain of the coronavirus, known as B117, which is highly infectious and has already caused havoc in England, where one in 50 people are thought to have an active case of COVID-19. [...] Australia chief medical officer Professor Paul Kelly said the decision to declare Brisbane a hot spot was to ensure the particular strain did not begin circulating in Australia.

[Read More](#)

Disability care staff and residents among first to receive COVID-19 vaccine

Disability Support Guide, Other, 12/01/2021

The Pfizer vaccine and AstraZeneca vaccine will be delivered to the population over a five-phase priority system that is outlined within the Australian COVID-19 Vaccination Policy released in November 2020. Disability care staff and residents will be included in the high priority Phase 1a of the rollout, along with quarantine and border workers, frontline health care groups, and aged care staff and residents. [...] Chief Medical Officer of Australia, Professor Paul Kelly, adds that while this vaccination step is important within the current Australian pandemic plan, the vaccine is not a 'silver bullet' that will solve the coronavirus problem.

[Read More](#)

NSW returned overseas travellers with new COVID-19 strains could quarantine longer

Huffpost Australia, Other, 12/01/2021, Alicia Vrajlal

Overseas travellers returning to New South Wales could be stuck in hotel quarantine for longer if they test positive to the new strains of coronavirus that have been spreading in the UK and South Africa. Premier Gladys Berejiklian told reporters on Tuesday that the initial 14-day period will be extended for another two weeks when symptoms kick in. [...] Last month Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly said Australia was not considering suspending flights with Britain despite the new strain of COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

New solution needed for economic stop-start

InvestorDaily, Other, 12/01/2021, Lachlan Maddock

While a catastrophic "fiscal cliff" has so far failed to materialise as restrictions ease and businesses reopen their doors, the imminent unwinding of JobKeeper looms as an inflection point for a recovery that could well be kneecapped by stop-start border and health restrictions. "There will be some tough times ahead, but what we do know is that JobKeeper complements and sits alongside a whole lot of other support measures that the government has put in place where money will continue to flow over the coming months and that will continue to support the Australian community in this time of need," Treasurer Josh Frydenberg told media. [...] Chief medical officer Paul Kelly has warned that health and border restrictions will be with us until at least the second half of this year, while potential new mutant strains of the virus – not to mention rampant disinformation – could also pose a challenge to efforts to inoculate Australia's population.

[Read More](#)

Coronavirus vaccination: Pregnant women and breastfeeding mums excluded from Australia's rollout

NEWS.com.au, Other, 12/01/2021, Samantha Maiden

Pregnant women, breastfeeding mums and children will be excluded from Australia's COVID-19 vaccination program until there's better evidence of safe dosages. As the Morrison Government prepares to roll out the vaccine to millions of Australians from next month, expectant mothers and children are not part of the road map. [...] When Australia's health department chief Professor Brendan Murphy outlined the road map for the vaccine last week he said the question of vaccinating children will be decided down the track.

[Read More](#)

How a casual cleaner's unremarkable activities sparked a national health emergency

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 12/01/2021, Lucy Stone

A series of unremarkable activities – a train ride from the suburbs to the city, two visits to the supermarket, a brief stop at the newsagency – triggered a national health emergency with a casual cleaner at its centre. How the cleaner, a woman in her 20s who works at a Brisbane CBD quarantine hotel and lives in the southern suburb of Algester, caught the highly contagious UK variant of COVID-19 remains under investigation. [...] Queensland Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young said she was not entirely surprised that the state's first hotel quarantine breach stemmed from the UK variant, given it was believed to be up to 70 per cent more contagious than the original COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

WHO warns vaccines won't deliver herd immunity in 2021

The Mandarin, Other, 12/01/2021, Matthew Elmas

Governments should not expect to achieve herd immunity from COVID-19 this year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned. Dashing hopes coronavirus vaccines might allow some developed economies to see off the pandemic in 2021, WHO scientists today urged policymakers to remain vigilant and settle in for the long haul. [...] While the Australian government hopes to vaccinate four million people within the next 80 or so days, department of health secretary Brendan Murphy said last week that COVIDSafe measures are here to stay for the time being.

[Read More](#)

Vaccine doubts mean COVID restrictions could remain until 2022

Your Life Choices, Other, 12/01/2021, Will Brodie

Australia is likely to endure COVID-19 restrictions throughout 2021, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison warning that upcoming vaccinations are not a "silver bullet" against the deadly disease. The government hopes to vaccinate four million Australians by April, and all of us by October. [...] Chief medical officer Paul Kelly says health authorities are uncertain about the effectiveness of vaccines and the speed of their roll-out.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

One 18-hour flight, up to seven COVID-19 infections

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/01/2021, Benedict Carey, Page 3

After an 18-hour Emirates flight from Dubai to Auckland in September, New Zealand health authorities discovered evidence of an outbreak that probably occurred during the trip. Using seat maps and genetic analysis, a new study determined that one passenger initiated a chain of infection that spread to four others en route.

[Read More](#)

Do I stay or go? New dilemma for people on vaccine trials

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/01/2021, Jill Margo, Page 3

The rollout of first-generation vaccines for COVID-19 is posing new challenges for many people enrolled in clinical trials of vaccines still in development. The challenge is that they are on placebo-controlled trials and do not know if they have been receiving the vaccine or a dummy.

[Read More](#)

Business leaders slam haphazard control policies

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/01/2021, Natasha Boddy, Finbar O'Mallon and Hannah Wootton, Page 4

Australia's economic recovery is being threatened by the haphazard approach to COVID-19 outbreaks and border controls, with the federal government becoming increasingly powerless as state and territory leaders try to outdo each other with lockdowns, permits and enforced closures. Australian Industry Group chief executive Innes Willox said it was "mind-boggling" states could still not agree on what they were trying to achieve in terms of risk mitigation 10 months after COVID-19 hit Australia.

[Read More](#)

Test numbers are way too low: NSW Health

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/01/2021, Finbar O'Mallon, Page 5

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and the health authorities are pleading for more people to get tested for the coronavirus as mystery cases baffle contact tracers and testing rates drop. The state reported five new locally acquired coronavirus cases yesterday, four of which are mystery cases.

[Read More](#)

China acts swiftly to contain new virus cases

Australian Financial Review, International News, 13/01/2021, JingWang, Andrew Galbraith and Roxanne Liu, Page 9

Authorities in China introduced new COVID-19 curbs in areas surrounding Beijing yesterday, putting 4.9 million residents under lockdown as new infections raised worries about a second wave in a nation that has mostly contained the disease. The number of new cases in mainland China almost halved from a day earlier and remain a small fraction of the level at the height of the outbreak in early 2020.

[Read More](#)

World's biggest vaccination drive

Australian Financial Review, International News, 13/01/2021, Page 12

Indian airlines started delivering batches of COVID-19 vaccines across the country yesterday, getting ready for the launch of a campaign to offer shots to 1.3 billion people in what officials call the world's biggest vaccination drive. Authorities hope to inoculate 300 million high-risk people over the next six to eight months.

[Read More](#)

Contacts of UK variant cleaner to be retested

The Australian, General News, 13/01/2021, Mackenzie Scott, Page 4

Close contacts of the cleaner at the centre of Brisbane's virus woes will be retested as authorities continue to investigate how she became infected at one of the city's quarantine hotels. Queensland Health will be retesting more than 300 close contacts to the woman who contracted the UK strain of COVID-19, regardless of their health status.

[Read More](#)

East-west border row heats up

The Australian, General News, 13/01/2021, Stephen Rice, Page 4

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has hit back at WA Premier Mark McGowan over his claims that her COVID-19 strategy was wrong and at odds with the rest of the country. Ms Berejiklian said she "couldn't care less" about the criticism but suggested Mr McGowan didn't know what he was talking about.

[Read More](#)

Red-light rule traps thousands

The Australian, General News, 13/01/2021, Rachel Baxendale, Page 4

More than 50,000 people were issued with permits to travel to Victoria in the 16 hours after the online portal set up to administer the Andrews government's new "traffic light" system for interstate travel went live, but thousands remain stranded interstate as a result of "red zone" designations for Sydney and Brisbane. The new rules came into effect at 5.59pm on Monday, requiring anyone travelling to Victoria from any state or territory to apply for a permit or face a fine of almost \$5000, but the online portal was not running until 9pm.

[Read More](#)

Border closures sap confidence

The Australian, General News, 13/01/2021, Patrick Commins, Page 5

The return of restrictions and border closures in the wake of new COVID-19 clusters in NSW has sapped consumer confidence into the New Year. The ANZ-Roy Morgan consumer confidence survey conducted over the past weekend showed a very slight decline in the sentiment index to 108.9 points from 109 points recorded in the previous pre-Christmas report.

[Read More](#)

In terms of bad years, Britain has seen worse

The Australian, International News, 13/01/2021, Jacquelin Magnay, Page 6

By any measure, the numbers that illustrate the extent of Britain's coronavirus contagion are huge. Of late, there have been 55,000 new infections a day, and over the past year there have been about 82,000 deaths.

[Read More](#)

Jokowi to launch Chinese jabs

The Australian, International News, 13/01/2021, Amanda Hodge, Page 6

Indonesia will become the first country outside China to roll out emergency use of the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine this week, with President Joko Widodo to receive the first jab on Wednesday the day he is to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Vaccination of 1.3 million Indonesian health and frontline workers will begin immediately after as authorities scramble to control spiralling transmission rates in Southeast Asia's worstaffected country.

[Read More](#)

Leadership transcends borders

The Australian, Editorials, 13/01/2021, Page 8

It's the year 2031 and at last the people have torn down the country's concrete internal borders, with a wide-eyed child declaring "We did it! The United States of Australia", and an old chap gently correcting her: "It's just Australia." This ad flogging the prosaic lamb chop has struck a chord online because it satirises a maddening reality.

[Read More](#)

Death anxiety in godless age of Covid

The Australian, General News, 13/01/2021, John Carroll, Page 9

Australia is now living in a charmed bubble. We concern ourselves with a few new cases of COVID-19 a day, while the US has recently been counting 370,000 daily infections and 4000 daily deaths; and Britain 55,000 infections and 1000 deaths - more than Australia's total count.

[Read More](#)

NSW, Qld border rules may be eased

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/01/2021, Brad Crouch, Page 8

Border restrictions with NSW and Greater Brisbane will be reviewed today. South Australia's Transition Committee yesterday decided to maintain a hard border with NSW, apart from a 100km buffer taking in Broken Hill and Wentworth, and to continue to require arrivals from Greater Brisbane to quarantine for 14 days and undergo repeated COVID-19 tests.

[Read More](#)

Open serves up player restrictions

Age, General News, 13/01/2021, Melissa Cunningham, Page 1

Tennis players and officials arriving in Melbourne for the Australian Open from tomorrow will undergo daily nose, mouth and saliva swabs, travel to training under guard and have alarms in their hotels to ensure they can't leave quarantine. Victorian Emergency Services Minister Lisa Neville yesterday revealed more details of the hotel quarantine program for the 1200-odd players, their entourages, and officials, who she said would be subject to the "strictest rules for tennis anywhere in the world" in hotel quarantine.

[Read More](#)

Stranded Victorians demand answers on border closures

Age, General News, 13/01/2021, Tammy Mills, Michael Fowler and Mary Ward, Page 4

Human rights lawyers have called on the Victorian government to explain why thousands of people stranded for almost a fortnight in NSW's COVID hot spots cannot return and quarantine at home instead of being indefinitely excluded. Victoria was unable yesterday to give a definitive answer as to when the borders between the two states would reopen, and has provided no timetable for when those who are stranded may return home.

[Read More](#)

Licence renewed for security firm in hotels fiasco

Age, General News, 13/01/2021, Cameron Houston, Page 5

A security company involved in Melbourne's deadly hotel quarantine outbreak has had its licence renewed by Victoria Police after being allowed to continue operating on an expired security licence for the past six months. Unified Security Group was granted a three-year extension on December 26 by Victoria Police's Licensing and Regulation Division, after submitting its renewal application a day after its licence expired on June 21 last year.

[Read More](#)

NSW travel opens up

Canberra Times, General News, 13/01/2021, Dan Jervis-Bardy, Daniella White and Julia Kanapathippillai, Page 1

Canberrans will be able to travel freely to regional NSW and parts of Sydney and not need to quarantine on return after chief health officer Kerry Coleman relaxed the ACT's border ban. Restrictions on people from Central Coast and Wollongong were lifted at 3pm on Tuesday, leaving 11 council areas in western Sydney and the northern beaches as coronavirus hotspots.

[Read More](#)

Vaccine a 'light at end of tunnel' as border blues flare

Canberra Times, General News, 13/01/2021, Rebecca Gredley and Matt Coughlan, Page 4

Border closures have sparked fresh tensions between state governments as Australians look for the "light at the end of the tunnel" when the coronavirus vaccine rolls out. Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack supports health measures put in place by state governments to keep people safe but is concerned Victoria's new traffic light permit system is merely more red tape.

[Read More](#)

Permits to enter Vic approved after glitches cause delay

Canberra Times, General News, 13/01/2021, Benita Kolovos, Page 4

More than 31,000 permits to enter Victoria have been approved since the state launched its new "traffic light" system some three hours after border changes came into effect. The permit system wasn't available on the Services Victoria website until about 8.55pm on Monday - despite the changes happening at 6pm.

[Read More](#)

Elimination strategy not borne out by facts: Berejiklian

Canberra Times, General News, 13/01/2021, Angelo Rizzo, Page 5

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian says West Australian counterpart Mark McGowan should reacquaint himself with national cabinet's COVID-19 suppression strategy after accusing her state of being out of step. NSW recorded five locally acquired coronavirus cases in the 24 hours to 8pm on Monday from fewer than 14,700 tests.

[Read More](#)

Herd immunity unlikely in 2021: WHO

Canberra Times, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 14

The World Health Organisation's chief scientist warns that even as numerous countries start ramping up vaccination programs to stop COVID-19, herd immunity is highly unlikely this year. At a media briefing on Monday, Dr Soumya Swaminathan said it was critical countries and their populations maintain strict social distancing and other outbreak control measures for the foreseeable future.

[Read More](#)

Hold the line on the COVID-19 battle

Canberra Times, Editorials, 13/01/2021, Page 16

Despite Australians having a strong record of working with political leaders, health authorities, and the police, to keep the coronavirus at bay, signs are emerging the number of people who put themselves before the rest of the community is on the rise. Recent protests in Sydney against both mask wearing and the imposition of lockdowns in some hot spots, people "escaping" from hotel quarantine in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, and elsewhere, and the like, suggest more could be done to reinforce the social cohesion that has put Australia in a world-leading position.

[Read More](#)

Pick a job, not a film

Courier Mail, General News, 13/01/2021, Finn McHugh and Cormac Pearson, Page 1

Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack has told unemployed Aussies earning "more than they could have dreamt of" on JobSeeker to turn off Netflix and get a job picking fruit to have "a better life". On his second day filling in as PM, Mr McCormack courted controversy in Queensland over his attack on welfare "lounge lizards" and for using the phrase "all lives matter" when comparing the Capitol Hill attack in the US with Black Lives Matter protests.

[Read More](#)

Australian vaccine strategy cops stinging rebuke

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 13/01/2021, Natasha Robinson and Tom Minear, Page 4

Australian doctors have called for a re-evaluation of the country's vaccine strategy, saying herd immunity cannot be achieved with the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine the government plans to administer to millions of Australians. The Australian reports medics and infectious disease experts are calling for Australia to invest in more high-efficacy vaccines, rather than relying on the Oxford jab.

[Read More](#)

'Nothing normal about it, Premier'

Courier Mail, General News, 13/01/2021, Hayden Johnson and Cloe Read, Page 5

Angry business owners have slammed Anastacia Palaszczuk's claim businesses are "back to normal", calling on her to visit regional centres that are "bleeding dry". A fiery Ms Palaszczuk yesterday doubled down on her claim that the majority of Queensland businesses were almost "back to normal" after COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

Loophole twist in isolation

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 13/01/2021, Kirstin Payne, Page 6

The Gold Coast mother stuck in a Melbourne quarantine hotel following an ill-advised trip to Victoria has been released - days before the end of a mandatory 14-day isolation period. Tweed radiology worker and mum Gemma Mai has been in quarantine since flying into the state on January 4.

[Read More](#)

Start your engines ... in eight months

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 13/01/2021, Peter Rolfe, Page 6

The Melbourne Grand Prix will be staged eight months later than scheduled as the coronavirus pandemic puts the brakes on the major event for the second straight year. The Formula One event, featuring Australia's Daniel Ricciardo, will be moved from March to November, with F1 officials confirming the Albert Park race would be shuffled from its coveted position as season opener.

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

[Read More](#)

Infected man was out in public for two days

Courier Mail, General News, 13/01/2021, Domanii Cameron and Janelle Miles, Page 6

South-east Queensland faces a nervous wait after the partner of the hotel cleaner, who contracted the highly contagious UK strain, was infectious in the community before undergoing testing. Health authorities have warned that the two days before the man went into quarantine could be a risk, with genome sequencing yet to reveal whether he also has the COVID-19 variant.

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

[Read More](#)

It's getting harder to mask the urgency

Courier Mail, General News, 13/01/2021, Glen Norris, Page 6

A Brisbane medical supply manufacturer has moved to making masks around the clock as COVID-19 restrictions are tightened in the city. Evolve Group, which produces P2 masks under its Ipkis Medical brand, moved to a 24/7 operation on the weekend after Brisbane was placed in a three-day lockdown.

[Read More](#)

You want a tantrum with that?

Courier Mail, General News, 13/01/2021, Evin Priest, Page 17

A man has been charged after allegedly smashing a McDonald's cash register to the ground when asked to wear a mask by staff. Officers were called to a McDonald's at Kellyville Ridge in Sydney about 8pm on Saturday after reports a customer had become aggressive towards staff.

[Read More](#)

Four-hour queues for COVID test

Daily Telegraph, Regional Changes - Section A, 13/01/2021, Rebecca Lollback, Page 1

The Northern NSW Local Health District has acknowledged that a spike in demand for COVID-19 testing over the weekend caused delays at the Lismore Base Hospital clinic. Patients presenting for testing over the weekend reported four-hour waits.

[Read More](#)

Gorillas in the masks

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 4

At least two gorillas at California's San Diego Zoo have caught the coronavirus, the first known instance of natural transmission to great apes, officials said Monday. Two primates began coughing last week and have since tested positive for COVID-19, while a third is showing symptoms, Governor Gavin Newsom said.

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

[Read More](#)

Low case numbers continue in Sydney

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/01/2021, James O'Leary, Page 6

NSW recorded five new cases of locally acquired COVID-19 in the 24 hours to 8pm on Monday night. Four of those cases have not yet been linked with any known outbreaks.

[Read More](#)

Benefits of workplace masks questioned

Herald Sun, General News, 13/01/2021, Kieran Rooney, Page 5

Epidemiologists have backed a move to ditch masks in the office, as more workers prepare to return to work. Australian National University's Professor Peter Collignon, an expert in infectious diseases, said the benefit of people wearing masks at their desks was small while community transmission continued to be low.

[Read More](#)

Police stations closed

Herald Sun, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 6

Vital police resources drawn away by coronavirus border patrols have forced the temporary closure of at least one 24-hour Hobsons Bay police station. Williamstown Police announced on its Facebook page it would close every night from 11pm to 7am for the foreseeable future.

[Read More](#)

Opposition calls out slower Pfizer rollout

Herald Sun, General News, 13/01/2021, Tom Minear, Page 7

Labor is demanding the federal government explains why the rollout of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine will be slower in Australia than in other countries once it is approved. Scott Morrison said last week Pfizer's "global protocols require approximately two weeks for delivery post approval of the vaccine".

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#)

[Read More](#)

\$243.7m for quarantine

Northern Territory News, General News, 13/01/2021, Madura McCormack, Page 1

The Northern Territory could be the gateway for more than 20,000 stranded Australians under an upsized multimilliondollar deal with the commonwealth government to quarantine international arrivals. The bilateral repatriation deal, originally worth up to \$54.7m to the NT government, has also been quadrupled to \$243.7m with a new expiration date of December 2021.

[Read More](#)

String of Sydney hot spots revoked

Northern Territory News, General News, 13/01/2021, Madura McCormack and Judith Aisthorpe, Page 5

The Northern Territory has revoked the hot spot status of nearly two dozen local government areas in Greater Sydney. Chief Minister Michael Gunner on Tuesday morning announced that on the advice of Chief Health Officer Dr Hugh Heggie, the NT would reduce the number of declared hot spot areas from 30 to nine effective immediately.

[Read More](#)

Weeks before border with Victoria open

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/01/2021, Mary Ward, Page 1

Sydneysiders will be waiting weeks for the Victorian border to reopen if that state adopts the approach of wanting no new COVID19 cases for 14 days or one virus reproduction cycle. Victoria was unable to give a definitive answer yesterday as to when the borders between the two states would reopen.

[Read More](#)

Lamb ad tears down border restrictions for Australia Day

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/01/2021, Stephen Brook, Page 6

The sharpest satirical commentary about state divisions over COVID-19 border closures has hit TV screens in the unlikely form of an advertisement for lamb. The campaign from the Meat and Livestock Association satirises border restrictions caused by the pandemic and is the latest in the trade association's 14-year campaign to boost lamb sales for Australia Day.

[Read More](#)

City locked down after virus surge

Sydney Morning Herald, International News, 13/01/2021, Sophia Yan, Page 16

A year after the new coronavirus first erupted in Wuhan, China has declared wartime mode and has locked down another city of 11 million to combat a resurgence of infections. Authorities in the northwestern city of Shijiazhuang have barred people and vehicles from leaving, in efforts to curb infections after the country reported 103 new cases on Monday, its biggest one-day increase in five months.

[Read More](#)

NSW tests 'way too low'

West Australian, General News, 13/01/2021, Annabel Hennessy, Page 1

Sydney is battling new mystery COVID-19 cases after a huge fall in the number of people getting tested. The State had five new community transmission cases yesterday, with authorities saying testing levels were "way too low".

[Read More](#)

Virus exposure sites at shopping centre

Frankston Times, General News, 12/01/2021, Brodie Cowburn, Page 1

Two stores at Bayside Shopping Centre have been listed as COVID-19 exposure sites. The Department of Health and Human Services has confirmed that a positive COVID-19 case shopped at the centre on 31 December.

[Read More](#)

Dodged a COVID bullet, but gun still loaded

Gundagai Independent, General News, 12/01/2021, Page 1

Gundagai rural doctors have called on all residents to remain vigilant and continue with recommended infection control measures hand washing and sanitisation, and social distancing and isolation when appropriate following the news that a person who had subsequently returned a COVID positive test had visited the area leading up to the Christmas period. "It is vital that all patients with any respiratory symptoms, however mild, get tested as soon as possible.

[Read More](#)

Jabs may be mandatory, says minister

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 13/01/2021, Josh Zimmerman, Page 4

Health Minister Roger Cook has not ruled out fining West Australians who refuse to be vaccinated against COVID-19. While insisting WA had a "great record in terms of everyone embracing immunisation programs", Mr Cook said the vaccine might be mandatory for particular cohorts.

[Read More](#)

Numbers cut on repatriation flights

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 10

Australians stranded overseas have been dealt another blow, with passenger numbers halved on three repatriation flights because of new caps on international arrivals. There are also reports some commercial flights have been abruptly cancelled without explanation.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

Our health system was overrun before COVID

Canberra Times, General News, 13/01/2021, Asher Wolf, Page 19

At the start of the pandemic, Australians were told lockdown was a vital measure to protect the healthcare system. Outpatient specialist clinic appointments were at first deferred, and then moved to telehealth.

[Read More](#)

Boost for breast care

Northern Territory News, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 13

Breast cancer nurses have received a \$3m boost after the federal government made a major contribution to the Jane McGrath Foundation. The foundation was created in honour of Jane McGrath - wife of former cricketer Glenn - who died of the disease in 2008.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Stress can't be masked

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/01/2021, Sophie Elsworth, Page 22

Small businesses have been among the hardest hit during the pandemic and have been forced to rapidly revamp their business models to ensure they survive. There still remains more than 500,000 businesses in Australia relying on JobKeeper payments after being put under additional strain brought on by lockdown measures and tough restrictions.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Justice for Gabbi

Circular Head Chronicle, General News, 06/01/2021, Page 3

The capability of the Tasmanian health system to manage complex psychological disorders has been thrown into disrepute after the Johnson family has come forward about the struggles they have needed under the current system. Now, they are asking for your support to get Gabbi the help she needs.

[Read More](#)

Learn to be mindful

Free Press Corowa, General News, 13/01/2021, Emma Prior, Page 4

Losing someone close to you at a young age can affect how you deal with your adolescence and how you see the world. For Corowa resident and Sebel Yarrawonga staff member Meg Rogers, the death of a friend to suicide in 2018 rocked her to the core, especially after suffering her own demons.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Heroes behind the masks

Wyndham Star Weekly, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 12

Panga Manoharan says that members of his team at Mercy Health have worked many extra hours since the pandemic hit. Mr Manoharan is the health organisation's supply chain manager, and works alongside four other colleagues in procurement and contracts, plus five purchasing officers.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

s22

Respect Elders with quality aged care services: research

Koori Mail, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 37

Researchers have called for more culturally appropriate health and aged care services for older Aboriginal people. A new study has found that the majority of older Aboriginal people are avoiding mainstream health and aged care services, as they feel safer using services that are governed and delivered by Aboriginal communities.

[Read More](#)**New standards to help create culturally safe workforce**

Koori Mail, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 37

New national accreditation standards to boost Indigenous knowledge in psychology education aim to increase the number of Indigenous psychology students and create a more culturally aware and responsive mental health workforce. The standards resulted from a research project led by the University of Western Australia (UWA) and will require that Indigenous knowledge be included in all levels of psychology education and training.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

s22

s22

RT Health puts APRA on notice in union row

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/01/2021, David Marin-Guzman, Page 1

RT Health chairman Alan Bardwell says the prudential regulator should be concerned over a union attempt to overthrow the private health fund's board and may even have to intervene if it prevents a planned merger. Rail, Tram and Bus Union national secretary Mark Diamond is leading a push to kick out all of RT Health's board directors this month, with the exception of union representative Bruce Mackie, who will be given the power to appoint three union directors and three independent directors.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Virus beats superbugs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 9

Bacterial infections resistant to antibiotics, known as superbugs, can be killed using viruses, new research suggests. Superbug infections can spread in hospitals and are difficult and expensive to treat.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Experts tipping flu rise

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/01/2021, Tamara McDonald, Page 3

Health experts are predicting an increase in influenza cases this year, warning flu vaccination will be vital with the ongoing threat of coronavirus outbreaks. There were about 153 flu cases recorded in Greater Geelong in 2020, a huge drop from more than 2250 cases in 2019.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Ban beach butts

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, St George Edition, 13/01/2021, Jim Gainsford, Page 1

The tide may be turning against smokers at Botany Bay beaches. Beach enclosures at Kyeemagh, Brighton, Monterey and Ramsgate could become designated non-smoking zones under a Bayside Council proposal.

[Read More](#)

Waging war on junk food

Midwest Times & Northern Guardian, General News, 13/01/2021, Raquel De Brito, Page 17

It is a battle of David and Goliath proportions but WA's health sector is determined to take on the mega junk-food corporations that are making our community sick. In its most recent strike against the junk-food giants our leading health agencies called on the State Government to ban them from advertising on government property.

[Read More](#)

Online baby first aid course for parents

Myrtleford Times, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 5

Alpine Shire Council has teamed up with Parentmedic Victoria to create an online program that aims to teach parents about infant support. Called the Baby First Aid program, the digital initiative will enable both new and expectant parents to get the best information possible about their child's health and wellbeing.

[Read More](#)

Check your blood pressure

South Gippsland Sentinel Times, General News, 12/01/2021, Page 20

Australians keen to make a healthy start to 2021 are being urged have a blood pressure check. Stroke Foundation Clinical Council Chair Professor Bruce Campbell said having your blood pressure checked was easy, painless and potentially life-saving, but was too often overlooked.

[Read More](#)

Dementia changed our lives

Southern Riverina News, General News, 13/01/2021, Niamh Schofield, Page 7

When June Batty's husband John was diagnosed with dementia, she was fortunate to have previous experience with the disease through her previous job with the the Brotherhood of St Laurence. But that prior knowledge and experience would not make the task any easier for the 82 year-old.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Quarantine bubble 'toughest in world'

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/01/2021, Tom Burton, Page 5

Tennis Australia will spend \$40 million and hire more than 1500 security and infection control officials to police 1200 international tennis players in what is being billed as the toughest tennis quarantine bubble in the world, before next month's Australian Open. Anxious local authorities have warned that every floor of three dedicated quarantine hotels will be monitored and alarms will be put on every exit to stop tennis stars from leaving.

[Read More](#)

India devastated by loss of pace ace Bumrah

The Australian, Sport, 13/01/2021, Robert Craddock and Ben Horne, Page 24

Australian batsman Will Pucovski is in pain but still a chance of playing the Gabba Test against an injury stricken Indian team which could be missing its two best bowlers. Pucovski suffered a shoulder injury while diving in the field on day five of the Sydney Test and will be treated over the next two days before a decision is made on his fitness for the Test.

[Read More](#)

Open stars space out to work out

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/01/2021, Brad Crouch and Shannon Deery, Page 8

Australian Open tennis players will face the strictest hotel quarantine program in the world, the Victorian Government says even having their gym set up in a vast carparking area to ensure social distancing, And South Australian authorities say stars heading to Adelaide are also set for stringent measures. SA's chief public health officer Nicola Spurrier said players would have to undergo repeated coronavirus tests.

[Read More](#)

Mujeeb loss big blow to the Heat

Adelaide Advertiser, Sport, 13/01/2021, Marco Monteverde, Page 67

Brisbane Heat have lost star spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman a game earlier than expected in a blow to their chances of beating the Melbourne Renegades in Canberra on Thursday night. The Heat were banking on having the in-form Mujeeb for one more match before he left for international duties with Afghanistan, which is playing a limited-over series against Ireland in the UAE later this month.

[Read More](#)

'It's part of the game. It should not be' The racism that is hurting local cricket

Age, General News, 13/01/2021, Carolyn Webb, Page 9

It doesn't happen every week, but every now and again, a casual comment from an opposition player reminds Bhavin Nagar they see him as different. "Let's get this curry back in the kitchen," was one less than charming example during a south-eastern suburbs competition game, as he was batting.

[Read More](#)

Manuka snags fourth fixture

Canberra Times, Sport, 13/01/2021, James Buckley, Page 56

Cricket Australia has lobbed yet another fixture at Manuka Oval after further adjustments to the Big Bash schedule, which means the venue will finish the summer having hosted a whopping 10 regular season matches. The Melbourne Renegades and Brisbane Heat will square off in Canberra behind closed doors on Thursday evening, a match that was originally scheduled to be played at Marvel Stadium in Melbourne.

[Read More](#)

Warner slams Sydney abuse

Courier Mail, Sport, 13/01/2021, Ben Horne, Page 86

David Warner has condemned the behaviour of his home SCG crowd, but the search for the cowardly patron who allegedly yelled "brown dog" has struck a major hurdle. Indian fast bowler Mohammed Siraj has been formally interviewed by Cricket Australia and has officially told investigators he was racially vilified, including being called a "brown dog."

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Foal is Slated for big things

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/01/2021, Matthew Benns, Page 16

NRL legend Billy Slater has traded footballs for racehorses in his new career as a thoroughbred breeder and has everything riding on lot 402 in the Magic Millions yearling sales on The Gold Coast today. "He was our only foal this year," Slater said of the brown colt that will go under the hammer at the annual sale of high-quality horseflesh this afternoon.

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

[Read More](#)

Perth to finally start title defence

Daily Telegraph, Sport, 13/01/2021, Marco Monteverde, Page 84

Defending NBL champions the Perth Wildcats will belatedly start their title defence on Sunday week following confirmation of the new season's second round, which will feature six matches across six days. The Wildcats and the New Zealand Breakers, who both aren't taking part in round one, will finally hit the court in a schedule that is rolling and flexible due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and border closures.

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

[Read More](#)

Clubs 'must do more'

Herald Sun, General News, 13/01/2021, Mandy Squires, Page 9

Examples must be made of AFL players who treat women disrespectfully and more training provided by clubs on the dangers of engaging in dirty cyberporn, an expert says. In the wake of allegations Hawthorn forward Jonathon Patton shared lewd images with a number of women, Australian "cyber cop" Susan McLean said sexting was likely rife within the AFL but largely unreported or covered up.

[Read More](#)

League in limbo

Herald Sun, Sport, 13/01/2021, Liz Walsh, Page 80

The AFL will play its first women's practice matches in closed stadiums this weekend as it continues to grapple with COVID-19 restrictions. With the season starting in little more than two weeks, the league has been sweating on state governments to ease border restrictions.

[Read More](#)

Indian cricketer tells CA he was called a 'brown dog'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/01/2021, Chris Barrett, Page 2

Indian fast bowler Mohammed Siraj has told Cricket Australia investigators he heard racist taunts such as "brown dog" on the fourth day of the Sydney Test as another spectator who was seated in the area behind him gave an account of the crowd behaviour. CA began interviewing Indian players after the visiting team pulled off a remarkable draw in the third Test on Monday night.

[Read More](#)

Pace-setting Sixers plan to create a Storm after losing home advantage

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 13/01/2021, Sarah Keogh and Christian Nicolussi, Page 37

The Sydney Sixers are out to follow in the footsteps of the Melbourne Storm by winning the title without playing a home game all summer. Cricket Australia's decision to shift the remaining regular-season BBL games from Sydney means the Sixers will have chalked up more than 12,500km flying between Hobart, the Gold Coast, Perth, Canberra, Adelaide and Melbourne since December 5.

[Read More](#)

Olympic champion calls for quick jab

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 13/01/2021, Phil Lutton, Page 40

Swimming star Cate Campbell believes athletes should be given access to a COVID-19 vaccine if it means the difference between the Tokyo Olympics going ahead or facing a disastrous cancellation. The two-time gold medal winner, who is one of Australia's most-experienced Olympians and sits on the Australian Olympic Committee's Athletes Commission, said athletes shouldn't go to the front of the queue but supported an IOC push to have them vaccinated in the second or third wave.

[Read More](#)

The finals countdown

West Australian, Sport, 13/01/2021, Jordan McArdle, Page 84

Mitch Marsh faces a battle to regain fitness before the Big Bash finals after he sustained another injury in Perth's easy nine-wicket win over the Hobart Hurricanes at Optus Stadium last night. The powerful Scorchers allrounder left the ground with a side strain after bowling three balls and was subbed out for batsman Kurtis Patterson.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Helping youth stay fit

Deniliquin Pastoral Times, General News, 12/01/2021, Page 21

The Evolve Fitness + Wellbeing team is dedicated to encouraging and motivating local youth to have fun, get fit and be healthy. Owner Jenna Kaine said a discounted membership at Evolve Fitness + Wellbeing can help students to reach their fitness and sporting goals and kickstart a healthier lifestyle, both physically and mentally.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Exercise your grey matter

Herald Sun, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 27

Ageing. It should be a process we revere as we transition into the smartest years of our lives based on the culmination of all of the amazing experience and learning we have accrued.

[Read More](#)

Changing perspective, finding the words to talk about death

Redland City Bulletin, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 24

Researchers at Flinders University have found that our reluctance to think, talk or communicate about death is even more pronounced when we deal with others' loss compared to our own. Findings also highlighted that we tend to frame attitudes and emotions in a sad and negative way.

[Read More](#)

It's important to take your medicine properly

Lake News, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 8

Taking your medicines properly is essential if you want to get the most out of them. However, there are increasing numbers of people who fail to complete their course of medicines or who do not take them properly.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Class-action lawyer goes off script in rights fight

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/01/2021, Harriet Alexander, Page 1

Midway through her tirade against unnecessary masks, abusive vaccination programs, corrupt judiciary and lying public servants at an anti-lockdown rally in Melbourne last month, Melbourne lawyer Serene Teffaha seemed almost to run out of breath. "I've given birth to this class action," she said.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

s22

From: s22 @isentia.com>
Sent: Thursday, 14 January 2021 6:00 AM
To: s47E(d)
Subject: Department of Health Daily Briefing 14 Jan 2021

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

Skimpy studies fuel Kelly's disinformation

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/01/2021, Andrew Tillett, Page 8

Backbench Liberal MP Craig Kelly is spruiking medical studies on coronavirus that are not peer reviewed or involve just a few hundred participants, amid a growing backlash against him for using social media to spread disinformation. [...] Mr Turnbull said Scott Morrison, Health Minister Greg Hunt and acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack who this week defended Mr Kelly and declared facts were sometimes contentious - should at the very least say Mr Kelly was wrong and it was reckless and irresponsible to mislead the public on health.

[Read More](#)

Accidentally Kelly St

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Alice Workman, Page 2

"Firstly, he's no relation, I can absolutely guarantee that," Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly emphasised when asked about Liberal MP Craig Kelly. Professor Kelly is also no relation to journo Paul Kelly, muso Paul Kelly or Sydney Swans Paul Kelly. "What (Scott) Morrison and McCormack and (Greg) Hunt and others should be saying, at the very least, is that Craig Kelly is wrong and that it is reckless and irresponsible to be misleading the Australian public."

[Read More](#)

Border wars to rage 'for months'

Age, General News, 14/01/2021, Chip Le Grand, Page 1

Australia faces at least another six months of state border closures to contain COVID-19 outbreaks before the national distribution of vaccines provides enough herd immunity to taper the public health response. [...] While Mr Morrison maintains greater consistency would be welcomed, he has repeatedly acknowledged the authority of states to make their own public health decisions, a point federal Health Minister Greg Hunt echoed on Tuesday when asked about the definition of a national hotspot.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald

[Read More](#)

Dose of reality

Herald Sun, General News, 14/01/2021, Tom Minear and Alanah Frost, Page 1

Australia's top doctor has slapped down medicos criticising our coronavirus vaccination plan and assured Australians the jabs will save lives and prevent severe illness. Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly accused some doctors of stoking "controversy" about the Melbourne-made AstraZeneca jab, declaring it would be "very effective" in stopping the worst symptoms of COVID-19. [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt said the government aimed to complete the vaccination program by October.

[Read More](#)

Nation in search of new deals on vaccine

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/01/2021, David Crowe and Liam Mannix, Page 1

The Morrison government is seeking new deals to vaccinate millions of Australians by the middle of this year as it hits back at concerns it is relying too heavily on the AstraZeneca vaccine when other options could be more effective. The government is in talks with a dozen companies to boost vaccine supply but has been unable to get more doses from Pfizer or any doses from another company, Moderna, which has a promising candidate to counter COVID-19.

Also reported by: The Age

[Read More](#)

MP's COVID-19 posts get medical rebuke

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/01/2021, David Crowe, Page 7

Liberal backbencher Craig Kelly has been slapped down for advocating alternative cures for COVID-19 in a warning from the nation's top medical officer that there is no evidence to show the treatments work. [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt would not refer to Mr Kelly by name when asked about his claims, pointing people to official advice instead.

Also reported by: *The Age*

[Read More](#)

Bulk billing rates reach record high

Murray Pioneer, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 18

More Riverlanders are saving on their GP visits, as bulk billing rates across Australia rise according to new figures from the Department of Health. [...] Minister for Health Greg Hunt said the Government had mandated GP telehealth services be bulk billed for vulnerable patients, while temporarily doubling its bulk billing incentive payments to GPs.

[Read More](#)

What are Australia's COVID-19 vaccines, and when will they be available?

7news.com.au, Other, 13/01/2021, Gus Bruno

Australians will start to be vaccinated against coronavirus in February, following new advice provided to the federal government. [...] "As data and regulatory guidance have been provided we have progressively been able to bring forward our provisional rollout from mid-year to the second quarter to late March and now early March," Health Minister Greg Hunt said on Wednesday.

[Read More](#)

Health minister stands by coronavirus vaccine plan despite concerns about AstraZeneca efficacy

ABC Online, Other, 13/01/2021, Georgia Hitch and Timothy Swanston

The Government says it will continue to listen to its advisory panel of medical experts about Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan despite some leading doctors calling for the strategy to be tweaked, worried the AstraZeneca vaccine may not be effective enough. [...] A spokesperson for Health Minister Greg Hunt said the Government's decisions were "being driven by the combination of scientific advice from medical experts" on the advisory body chaired by former Chief Medical Officer Professor Brendan Murphy.

[Read More](#)

Greg Hunt says GPs can register for the COVID-19 vaccine program next week

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/01/2021, Geir O'Rourke

GP practices can begin registering for Australia's coronavirus vaccination program from next week but they won't be administering the Pfizer vaccine. Australians are expected to receive the first doses of the Pfizer's vaccine from the end of February, subject to its approval by the TGA. Minister for Health Greg Hunt says its delivery will be restricted to hospitals because of the vaccine's limited supply

[Read More](#)

Coalition MPs virus posts spark backlash

Canberra Times, Other, 13/01/2021, Matt Coughlan

The Morrison government is under increasing pressure to stop two of its MPs spreading dangerous coronavirus misinformation. Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack and Health Minister Greg Hunt have refused to publicly condemn Liberal MP Craig Kelly and the Nationals' George Christensen. [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt wouldn't be drawn on Mr Kelly's accusation health officials had engaged in child abuse for encouraging face mask use.

[Read More](#)

Anti-mask conspiracy believers fined

CityHub Sydney, Other, 13/01/2021, Allison Hore

An anti-COVID conspiracy theorist was arrested on Friday for failing to comply with the COVID-19 public health order requiring Sydney-siders to wear a mask in public. This comes as a number of public figures, including an Australian MP, are being slammed online for spreading misinformation about masks and COVID-19. [...] Instead of condemning his colleague, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt urged Australians to follow the advice of medical professionals.

[Read More](#)

'We listen to the REAL experts': Greg Hunt slams doctors who have been consistently wrong throughout the pandemic as they claim Australia's vaccination strategy will not work

Daily Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Charlie Moore

Health Minister Greg Hunt has slammed medics who have repeatedly made incorrect predictions throughout the coronavirus pandemic amid controversial claims Australia's vaccine strategy will not work. The government furiously hit back after a doctor and two university professors said rolling out the AstraZeneca vaccine will not wipe out coronavirus in Australia because it is not effective enough.

[Read More](#)

Victoria records its seventh consecutive day of no Covid cases as fresh calls are made to open the borders

Daily Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Zoe Zaczek

Victoria has gone one week without a locally acquired coronavirus case after the New South Wales outbreak jumped the border. The state reported zero local infections and three in returned travellers in hotel quarantine on Wednesday after 17,908 tests were conducted. [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt is urging governments to use the national hotspot definition to justify interstate travel restrictions.

[Read More](#)

Community pharmacy to administer Covid-19 vaccination

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 13/01/2021

Australia's 5,800 community pharmacies are set to play a vital role in the vaccination of the Australian population against Covid-19. National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia George Tambassis says talks this week with Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt have confirmed the essential contribution of community pharmacies to the Covid vaccination task.

[Read More](#)

Australia's chief medical officer tries to soothe concerns as questions raised about AstraZeneca vaccine

SBS, Other, 13/01/2021, Tom Stayner

Australia's chief medical officer Paul Kelly has defended rollout plans for the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine and sought to ease concerns about its efficacy. His stance comes after questions were raised about whether the vaccine would be effective enough to generate herd immunity. The safety of the vaccine is not in question. Rather, some critics have asked whether it is effective enough to smother the spread of coronavirus.

[Read More](#)

Health experts say government MPs spreading coronavirus misinformation are a 'threat to public health'

SBS, Other, 13/01/2021, Jarni Blakkarly

The spreading of coronavirus misinformation by government MPs is a threat to public health and should be called out by senior officials, health experts say. Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack and Health Minister Greg Hunt on Tuesday refused to criticise Liberal MP Craig Kelly after he posted the results of a study that said forcing children to wear face masks was akin to "child abuse" on Facebook.

[Read More](#)

Malcolm Turnbull calls on Coalition leaders to call out Liberal MP for spreading health misinformation

SBS, Other, 13/01/2021, Maani Truu

Former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has called on the Coalition leaders to publicly call out Liberal MP Craig Kelly for sharing misleading information about COVID-19, as the controversial backbencher denied spreading misinformation. Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack and Health Minister Greg Hunt on Tuesday refused to criticise Mr Kelly after he posted the results of a study that said forcing children to wear face masks was akin to "child abuse" on Facebook, with Mr McCormack stating: "facts are sometimes contentious"

[Read More](#)

Victoria unmoved as Sydney COVID hotspot cools

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/01/2021, Noel Towell and Michael Fowler

The Victorian government says it is not ready to make changes to the coronavirus red zones it had declared around the country, despite the Commonwealth clearing Sydney's northern beaches area of its hotspot status on Wednesday. [...] Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt has since cooled on the definition, reiterating on Wednesday that states and territories declared their own hotspots and red zones to use in enforcing their travel restrictions, while the Victorian state opposition demanded a nationally consistent approach.

[Read More](#)

Coronavirus Australia: Chief medical officer Paul Kelly responds to AstraZeneca vaccine concerns

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Jade Gailberger

Australia's chief medical officer Paul Kelly has defended the decision to roll out the AstraZeneca vaccine in the wake of concerns about its effectiveness. Infectious diseases experts have joined medics in calling for authorities to halt the rollout in favour of coronavirus vaccines with higher efficacy rates to ensure herd immunity. [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt on Tuesday refuted claims the government was conceding its vaccine strategy would not provide herd immunity.

[Read More](#)

Liberal MP doubles down on COVID-19 cure, mask child-abuse posts

The New Daily, Other, 13/01/2021

The Morrison government is facing pressure to crackdown on two of its own for sharing coronavirus misinformation to the public, but there are no signs the MPs will stop spreading unproven theories. [...] On Tuesday, Health Minister Greg Hunt wouldn't be drawn on Mr Kelly's accusation health officials had engaged in child abuse for encouraging face mask use.

[Read More](#)

Australia must vaccinate 100,000 people every day to meet government targets

The New Daily, Other, 13/01/2021, Josh Butler

Health Minister Greg Hunt has rubbished suggestions that AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine may be insufficient to achieve herd immunity in Australia, claiming critics were "clearly incorrect". Mr Hunt has also reassured Australians that hospitals, GPs and health clinics will be able to handle the mammoth task of vaccinating millions of people within months and potentially up to 100,000 per day.

[Read More](#)

Health Minister backs AstraZeneca jab amid concerns about efficiency

The New Daily, Other, 13/01/2021, Georgia Hitch and Timothy Swanston

The government says it will continue to listen to its advisory panel of medical experts about Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout amid calls for Australia to push for greater access to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. [...] A spokesperson for Health Minister Greg Hunt said the government's decisions were "being driven by the combination of scientific advice from medical experts" on the advisory body chaired by former chief medical officer Professor Brendan Murphy.

[Read More](#)

Craig Kelly's Covid claims not backed by evidence, chief medical officer says

theguardian.com, Other, 13/01/2021, Paul Karp

Australia's chief medical officer has rejected unproven claims about Covid-19 treatments by Liberal MP Craig Kelly, as former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull weighs in, calling on the leaders of the government to do more to counter misinformation. [...] The criticism goes further than government leaders, including the acting prime minister, Michael McCormack, and health minister, Greg Hunt, in rejecting Kelly's views, as has been demanded by doctors and now by Turnbull.

[Read More](#)

New Zealand stands by 'travel bubble' plan despite Covid outbreaks in Australia

theguardian.com, Other, 13/01/2021, Elle Hunt

The New Zealand government is standing by its plan to establish a trans-Tasman travel "bubble" by April, despite community transmission of coronavirus in several Australian states. [...] Australia's health minister, Greg Hunt, had earlier indicated that the federal government would accept New Zealand's proposal, describing it as "the first step on a return to international normality".

[Read More](#)

Health Minister Roger Cook speaks to doctors about AstraZeneca vaccine herd immunity fears

West Australian, Other, 13/01/2021, Josh Zimmerman

Health Minister Roger Cook has labelled the Pfizer coronavirus jab "the highest standard" while revealing he had spoken to doctors who had raised fears about the AstraZeneca vaccine failing to provide herd immunity to the community. [...] A spokesperson for Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said the national immunisation strategy relied on scientific advice from an advisory body being chaired by former Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy.

[Read More](#)

Questions raised over efficacy of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

Your Life Choices, Other, 13/01/2021

Questions have been raised over the efficacy of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, with the Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology saying it may not be effective enough to generate herd immunity. [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt said suggestions the AstraZeneca vaccine may be insufficient to achieve herd immunity in Australia were "clearly incorrect".

[Read More](#)

ABC, 7:30, 13/01/2021, Stan Grant

Interview with Dr Norman Swan. Grant plays a clip of last week's 7.30 coverage about the AstraZeneca vaccine. He mentions Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly is confident about the effectiveness of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Swan says the vaccine might even be safer than the Pfizer vaccine which caused allergy in a small number of people who have taken it.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Govt resumes 2020 ACAR

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/01/2021

There are now just 2,000 residential aged care licences up for grabs under the current funding round while 8,000 places remain on hold pending the royal commission's final report. [...] Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services Richard Colbeck, who announced the new details the week before Christmas, said the residential places on offer would accommodate providers that have made significant progress with expansion plans, ensuring care could be provided faster.

[Read More](#)

\$44 million to extend dementia training, education and support

SeniorAu, Other, 13/01/2021

The Australian Government will extend grant agreements for programs providing support, training and education for services and individuals caring for people living with dementia. An extra \$44 million will be provided to Dementia Training Australia and Dementia Support Australia to extend the following national programs from July 2021 to June 2022: Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services, Richard Colbeck, said the programs improved care for people living with dementia.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Coulton shares plans

Barrier Daily Truth, General News, 13/01/2021, Mark Coulton, Page 9

We are still winning, but we have not yet won the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Many readers would be aware of a confirmed case of COVID-19 travelling through Nyngan, Broken Hill and Orange at the beginning of January, and once again, I urge everyone to remain vigilant and monitor the latest information at www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-andupdates Last week, the Prime Minister provided an update to the Australian public on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout strategy.

Also reported by: Lake News

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Rampant UK strain triggers quarantine shake-up call

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/01/2021, Finbar O'Mallon, Page 1

State premiers want another shake-up of Australia's hotel quarantine program as a newly identified cluster of six cases infected with the highly virulent UK coronavirus strain caused the emergency evacuation of an entire Brisbane hotel, sparking fears it may spread from Queensland. A returned traveller and partner with the mutant strain had somehow infected three other people on the same hotel floor, including the cleaner who pushed Brisbane into lockdown over the weekend.

[Read More](#)

Push on to quarantine arrivals outside cities

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/01/2021, Tom Burton, Page 4

Poor air circulation in hotels and their bathrooms means infectious travellers from the northern hemisphere should be quarantined in regional locations, says World Health Organisation adviser and infectious disease expert Marylouise McLaws. Professor McLaws' calls for a relocation of quarantine out of city-based hotels came as Brisbane's Grand Chancellor was evacuated and more than 600 people put into quarantine after sequencing revealed two returning travellers had caught the contagious UK mutation of COVID-19 from a guest on the same floor of the hotel.

[Read More](#)

Not enough Pfizer vaccine available

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/01/2021, Andrew Tillett and Jill Margo, Page 5

The nation's top doctor says it has not been feasible to secure more supplies of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine despite negotiations and rebuffed calls to pause the rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine. With the Morrison government planning to begin rolling out Pfizer's vaccine next month to an eventual 5 million recipients, Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly defended Australia's reliance on AstraZeneca version of the vaccine to immunise the bulk of the population.

[Read More](#)

Confidence is 'key' to rollout, says Kelly

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/01/2021, Page 5

Health officials fear criticism of Australia's reliance on the AstraZeneca vaccine for the coronavirus will undermine public faith in the immunisation program. Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly chastised doctors and scientists over "selective use" of data to allege that the AstraZeneca vaccine would not achieve herd immunity among the Australian population and should be delayed when there were other vaccines that were more effective.

[Read More](#)

Skimpy studies fuel Kelly's disinformation

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/01/2021, Andrew Tillett, Page 8

Backbench Liberal MP Craig Kelly is spruiking medical studies on coronavirus that are not peer reviewed or involve just a few hundred participants, amid a growing backlash against him for using social media to spread disinformation. [...] Mr Turnbull said Scott Morrison, Health Minister Greg Hunt and acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack who this week defended Mr Kelly and declared facts were sometimes contentious - should at the very least say Mr Kelly was wrong and it was reckless and irresponsible to mislead the public on health.

[Read More](#)

New digs for Covid travellers

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Michael McKenna, Page 1

International travellers arriving in Queensland will be sent to remote workers camps under a plan state authorities are considering after an outbreak of the UK strain of COVID-19 in a Brisbane quarantine hotel. Queensland Health, police and managers of the proposed facilities, some set up to accommodate workers during the development of the state's liquefied natural gas industry last decade, are meeting Thursday to discuss logistics of the move, which could be rolled out nationally.

[Read More](#)

Access to Pfizer vaccine 'limited'

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Australia is unable to secure more doses of the highly effective Pfizer vaccine but reliance on the alternative AstraZeneca jab does not mean the nation's vaccine strategy is flawed, health chiefs say. The commonwealth's top health advisers have defended their vaccine strategy, which involves widely administering the AstraZeneca vaccine to protect Australians from coronavirus disease, saying the jabs would be highly effective in preventing illness and would "save lives".

[Read More](#)

Accidentally Kelly St

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Alice Workman, Page 2

"Firstly, he's no relation, I can absolutely guarantee that," Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly emphasised when asked about Liberal MP Craig Kelly. Professor Kelly is also no relation to journo Paul Kelly, muso Paul Kelly or Sydney Swans Paul Kelly. "What (Scott) Morrison and McCormack and (Greg) Hunt and others should be saying, at the very least, is that Craig Kelly is wrong and that it is reckless and irresponsible to be misleading the Australian public."

[Read More](#)

Police probe mystery UK variant spread

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Charlie Peel and Mackenzie Scott, Page 5

Queensland police and health authorities are leading a renewed investigation into how the highly contagious UK variant of COVID-19 was spread from a returned traveller in hotel quarantine to a cleaner, her partner and two other hotel guests. They will probe whether the hotel's air-conditioner or an inadvertent lapse in the use of personal protective equipment led to transmission of the virus.

[Read More](#)

Victoria firm as NSW hotspot cools

Age, General News, 14/01/2021, Noel Towell and Michael Fowler, Page 6

The Victorian government says it is not ready to make changes to the coronavirus red zones it had declared around the country, despite the Commonwealth clearing Sydney's northern beaches area of its hotspot status yesterday. Nearly 75,000 people from around the country had been issued with a permit by Victoria to travel to the state by yesterday but those Victorians stranded in the "red zones" of Brisbane and greater Sydney are still unable to legally come home without an exemption from their home state's government.

[Read More](#)

Victorians at risk after Qld cluster

Age, General News, 14/01/2021, Lydia Lynch, Page 8

The Victorian health department is ordering anyone who completed quarantine at the Hotel Chancellor in Brisbane to urgently test and isolate after a six-person cluster of the extra-infectious UK strain of the virus emerged yesterday. "Anyone currently in Victoria who has completed 14 days of mandatory hotel quarantine in Brisbane at the Grand Chancellor hotel on or after December 30 is asked to isolate and contact the coronavirus hotline immediately," the Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement last night.

[Read More](#)

Kelly defends COVID vaccine strategy

Canberra Times, General News, 14/01/2021, Sally Whyte, Page 7

Chief medical officer Paul Kelly has defended Australia's approach to COVID-19 vaccination, saying the government's approach will allow more Australians to be vaccinated quickly. Professor Kelly threw his support behind the vaccine candidate under development by multinational company AstraZeneca, after media reports that questioned its ability to provide herd immunity.

[Read More](#)

Palaszczuk demands quarantine review

Canberra Times, General News, 14/01/2021, Page 11

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has called for a review of Australia's quarantine system after a cluster of the deadly UK coronavirus strain emerged in a Brisbane hotel. The Grand Chancellor Hotel has been shut for deep cleaning after four people quarantining there, a cleaner and her partner contracted the COVID-19 strain.

[Read More](#)

'Three weeks to squash clusters'

Canberra Times, General News, 14/01/2021, Page 11

NSW will require at least another three weeks to fully extinguish COVID-19 clusters around Greater Sydney, health authorities have warned. The state recorded one new local COVID-19 case in the 24 hours to 8pm on Tuesday - a child who was a close contact of a case linked to the 28-person Berala cluster in western Sydney. Six COVID-19 cases were uncovered in quarantine.

[Read More](#)

Pressure to condemn Liberal MP's virus posts

Canberra Times, General News, 14/01/2021, Matt Coughlan, Page 11

Australia's chief medical officer has urged a conspiracy theory-peddling Liberal MP to decide if promoting unproven coronavirus treatments is appropriate. The Morrison government is under increasing pressure to publicly condemn Coalition backbenchers Craig Kelly and George Christensen for sharing virus misinformation.

[Read More](#)

Risks of poorly timed vaccine criticism

Canberra Times, Editorials, 14/01/2021, Page 24

While some have welcomed the Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology's criticism of the Australian government's decision to deploy the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine as "community debate", the truth is it may have done more harm than good. The society's initial call for the planned rollout of the vaccine to be delayed over its apparent efficacy, reported in Nine newspapers on Wednesday, was not based on breaking news and actually pre-empted more exact results likely to be released before the vaccine is widely deployed here.

[Read More](#)

Safety in numbers

Courier Mail, General News, 14/01/2021, Jessica Marszalek, Page 1

Authorities have taken unprecedented steps to isolate hundreds of people amid fears the highly contagious UK coronavirus strain has spread between quarantined guests and staff at a Brisbane hotel. Contact tracers are scrambling to track down 250 people who had been released from the Grand Chancellor hotel since December 30 to put them into 14 days isolation.

[Read More](#)

COVID supernova

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/01/2021, Clare Armstrong, Page 1

A vaccine which produced more antibodies in human trials than people who recover from severe COVID bouts could be made in Australia. After walking away from the University of Queensland's protein-based vaccine, the government is now in talks to domestically produce the Novavax candidate, which uses similar technology. "I have a very strong feeling that Novavax . will be the long-term option for vaccination for the world," CMO Professor Paul Kelly said.

Also reported by: *Courier Mail*

[Read More](#)

CSL to make Novavax

Herald Sun, General News, 14/01/2021, Page 9

A vaccine tipped as a frontrunner to protect the world from COVID-19 longterm may be produced in Australia, as medical experts vow to use every available option to deliver safe and effective jabs. After walking away from the University of Queensland's protein-based vaccine, the federal government is in talks to produce the Novavax candidate, which uses similar technology, if trials prove it is effective.

[Read More](#)

Jabs not a shot in the dark

Herald Sun, Editorials, 14/01/2021, Page 54

As the scientific world raced to develop vaccines to combat the worst pandemic in a century, a spectrum of varying successful results and challenges arose. Different vaccines have indicated efficacy rates from 60-95 per cent, some have longer manufacturing lead times, storage or distribution challenges and some candidates have fallen by the wayside.

[Read More](#)

NSW residents at risk after mutant strain outbreak at Brisbane hotel

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/01/2021, Mary Ward, Page 1

NSW Health is urgently tracing residents who stayed at a Brisbane hotel that is being evacuated by the Queensland government after six cases of a highly contagious strain of coronavirus were traced to the site. A public health alert has been issued for anyone who has been at the Hotel Grand Chancellor since December 30 with Queensland informing NSW Health that "there were NSW people staying at the hotel who have since returned to NSW".

[Read More](#)

MP's COVID-19 posts get medical rebuke

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/01/2021, David Crowe, Page 7

Liberal backbencher Craig Kelly has been slapped down for advocating alternative cures for COVID-19 in a warning from the nation's top medical officer that there is no evidence to show the treatments work. [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt would not refer to Mr Kelly by name when asked about his claims, pointing people to official advice instead.

Also reported by: *The Age*

[Read More](#)

Border problems show we are a nation divided

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/01/2021, John Hewson, Page 38

One of the most significant policy challenges that has been so easily thrown in the too-hard basket has been the reform of our federation, to make it work better. It is never the right time. COVID-19 offered a chance for a nationally co-ordinated response. Scott Morrison's national cabinet sought to achieve this. However, the response soon fragmented as the states pursued their own policies, with different degrees of urgency.

Also reported by: *The Age*

[Read More](#)

Meatworkers moved to front of vaccine line

Stock & Land, General News, 14/01/2021, Chris McLennan, Page 5

Workers at Australian meatworks will be near the front of the queue when the coronavirus vaccine rollout begins next month. And truck drivers are lobbying to be treated as a priority as well. The first to be offered access to the vaccine under what the federal government is calling Phase 1a includes quarantine and border workers, frontline health workers, aged care and disability staff, as well as residents.

[Read More](#)

Drive-in COVID clinic to remain

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/01/2021, Michael Nolan, Page 5

Darling Downs Health will keep its Toowoomba Showgrounds fever clinic open until at least tomorrow to help halt the spread of COVID-19. The news comes as the Brisbane cluster of the UK strain of COVID-19 expands to six people. Chief health officer Dr Jeannette Young said the six patients had been linked by genomic sequencing. All six cases are linked to the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Brisbane.

[Read More](#)

WA's snap decision to close border to Queensland costs dying mother farewell with daughter

7news.com.au, Other, 13/01/2021, Michael Ramsey

Western Australia's health minister has defended the state's COVID-19 rules after a Queensland woman was denied the chance to see her dying mother in Perth because of restrictions that came into effect while she was mid-air. WA on Friday reintroduced a hard border for all of Queensland after a highly contagious UK coronavirus strain was detected in Greater Brisbane.

[Read More](#)

AstraZeneca COVID vaccine concerns calmed after calls to pause rollout of vaccine

7news.com.au, Other, 13/01/2021, Daniel McCulloch and Elizabeth Daoud

Australia's chief medical officer has rejected calls to pause the rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine, insisting it is completely effective in preventing serious illness and death from coronavirus. Some doctors are concerned about the vaccine's efficacy rate, which ranges from 62 per cent to 90 per cent, depending on how doses are administered.

[Read More](#)

South Australia to open borders to residents of regional NSW

9News, Other, 13/01/2021, Stuart Marsh

South Australia will open its borders to residents of regional NSW as case numbers fall across the country. From 12:01am tomorrow morning (January 14), South Australia's hard border will come down for this living outside of designated COVID-19 "hotspots". Residents from Greater Sydney, Wollongong, Central Coast and the Blue Mountains will be unable to enter South Australia.

[Read More](#)

New COVID-19 case linked to Berala cluster in NSW

9News, Other, 13/01/2021, Oliviana Lathouris

One new locally transmitted case of coronavirus has been recorded in New South Wales overnight. The child is a household contact of a previously reported case, Premier Gladys Berejiklian said. Six cases were recorded in hotel quarantine. There were 20,664 tests across the state overnight. The NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant, said NSW must increase testing levels to above 20,000 over the next 24 hours.

[Read More](#)

Chief Medical Officer says MP Craig Kelly's COVID-19 Facebook posts 'not scientifically based'

9News, Other, 13/01/2021, Stuart Marsh

Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly has refused to pass comment on social media theories shared by Liberal MP Craig Kelly, saying he doesn't wish to give prominence to non-scientific ideas. Speaking during a national coronavirus update today, Professor Kelly reminded Mr Kelly of the influence his political position gives him in the community.

[Read More](#)

'An assault on democracy': Turnbull lashes Trump over Capitol Building riot

9News, Other, 13/01/2021, Jonathan Kearsley

Former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has lashed Donald Trump over the Capitol Building riot, labelling it "an assault on democracy undertaken by the President". Australia's 29th Prime Minister, who had his own run-in with the US President over a 2017 phone-call, said last week's storming of the Capitol was "one of the darkest days in American history". Labelling what transpired that day as "ghastliness" and "horror", Mr Turnbull said it was an "inconceivable spectacle of a President inciting that attack".

[Read More](#)

COVID-19 quarantine 'reset' as 129 people locked in Brisbane's Grand Chancellor to move to other hotels

ABC Online, Other, 13/01/2021, Rachel Riga and Lily Nothing

An urgent incident response is underway in Queensland after genomic testing discovered six previously identified COVID-19 cases were linked and are all the highly contagious UK strain of the virus. Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk confirmed more precautions would be put in place as she announced two new cases of COVID-19 were recorded overnight, both in hotel quarantine.

[Read More](#)

Sydney Luna Park fined for breaching restrictions, NSW records one local coronavirus case

ABC Online, Other, 13/01/2021

Luna Park Sydney will pay a \$5,000 fine after large crowds gathered to watch the New Year's Eve fireworks but has asked NSW Police what specific rules it broke. On Wednesday afternoon, NSW Police said it investigated after receiving mobile phone footage of large crowds gathering at the Milsons Point venue. After reviewing more phone footage, it issued the company secretary a park a penalty infringement notice (PIN).

[Read More](#)

NSW records one new coronavirus case, Gladys Berejiklian issues vaccine warning

ABC Online, Other, 13/01/2021

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has warned people will still need to be COVID-safe after taking the vaccine, as the state recorded one new locally acquired case. The new infection is a child who is a household contact of a known case. Health authorities have also been able to link a couple from Mount Druitt who tested positive on the weekend to the Berala cluster in Western Sydney.

[Read More](#)

Scientists clarify position, say 'AstraZeneca vaccine an important advance' in Australia's fight against COVID-19

ABC Online, Other, 13/01/2021, Sophie Scott, Mary Lloyd and Alison Branley

A group of Australian scientists has clarified it did not call for Australia to pause its rollout of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. Earlier today, some media reports said the Australian and New Zealand Immunology Society (ANSI) supported halting the widespread use of the AstraZeneca vaccine in favour of the Pfizer drug. However, this afternoon the society shot down those reports, saying it did not call for such action.

[Read More](#)

Health minister stands by coronavirus vaccine plan despite concerns about AstraZeneca efficacy

ABC Online, Other, 13/01/2021, Georgia Hitch and Timothy Swanston

The Government says it will continue to listen to its advisory panel of medical experts about Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan despite some leading doctors calling for the strategy to be tweaked, worried the AstraZeneca vaccine may not be effective enough. [...] A spokesperson for Health Minister Greg Hunt said the Government's decisions were "being driven by the combination of scientific advice from medical experts" on the advisory body chaired by former Chief Medical Officer Professor Brendan Murphy.

[Read More](#)

ICYMI: the latest in pharmacy

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 13/01/2021, Chloe Hava

After a long and arduous year, you might have found it necessary to switch off and regroup during the holiday season. However, if you need to catch up on all the happenings in pharmacy post-break, Australian Pharmacist has you covered. Masks mandated in Greater Sydney and Brisbane. Pharmacists, pharmacy staff and patients began wearing masks in Greater Sydney on 2 January.

[Read More](#)

Hotel quarantine guest in Queensland claims staff didn't wear masks when delivering food and laundry - as police scour CCTV footage to find out how cleaner caught UK mutant strain and sent city into lockdown

Daily Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Zoe Zaczek

A hotel quarantine guest staying on the Gold Coast has claimed staff didn't wear face masks when delivering food and laundry - as police investigate how a Brisbane cleaner caught the UK mutant strain of coronavirus. The woman, who did not wish to be identified, said she was concerned by what she saw at the hotel while being confined to her room for 15 days in December 2020.

[Read More](#)

Queensland quarantine hotel is evacuated after SIX guests catch UK covid super-strain - but state records zero new cases sparking confidence Brisbane has dodged disaster from cleaner who caught it

Daily Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Kylie Stevens

Queenslandhealth authorities remain on high alert, despite the state recording another day of zero locally-acquired coronavirus cases. Two new cases were recorded on Wednesday, who were returned travellers in hotel quarantine. As life slowly returns to normal for Brisbane residents following a three day lockdown, health authorities are still gravely concerned about the Hotel Grand Chancellor cluster, which has grown to six cases of the highly-contagious UK virus strain.

[Read More](#)

Australia is set to miss out on two highly effective coronavirus vaccines after companies refused to sell them to us

Daily Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Charlie Moore

Australia is set to miss out on two coronavirus vaccines after companies refused to sell them, Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly said on Wednesday. The government has supply agreements in place for the AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Novavax vaccines and will start rolling out the Pfizer jab next month.

[Read More](#)

'We listen to the REAL experts': Greg Hunt slams doctors who have been consistently wrong throughout the pandemic as they claim Australia's vaccination strategy will not work

Daily Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Charlie Moore

Health Minister Greg Hunt has slammed medics who have repeatedly made incorrect predictions throughout the coronavirus pandemic amid controversial claims Australia's vaccine strategy will not work. The government furiously hit back after a doctor and two university professors said rolling out the AstraZeneca vaccine will not wipe out coronavirus in Australia because it is not effective enough.

[Read More](#)

Australian scientists cast doubt on Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine

Financial Times Online, Other, 13/01/2021, Jamie Smyth

A group of Australian scientists has called on the government to review its Covid-19 immunisation strategy over concerns that the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine was not effective enough to generate herd immunity. Several immunologists and the opposition Labor party said on Wednesday Canberra should seek additional supplies of the BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which trials show have higher efficacy a measure of prevention of infection or severe disease than the Oxford/AstraZeneca jab.

[Read More](#)

SA and rural NSW border opens

Glam Adelaide, Other, 13/01/2021, Neely Karimi

From midnight tonight, travellers from rural NSW entering SA can do so without quarantining, but will be required to get tested on days one, five and 12. The New South Wales border will see restrictions eased with those travelling from rural NSW no longer required to quarantine. From midnight tonight, travellers from rural NSW entering SA can do so without quarantining, but will be required to get tested on days one, five and 12.

[Read More](#)

Hundreds more at risk from COVID-19 cluster at inner-city hotel

InQueensland, Other, 13/01/2021, Sean Parnell

Genomic sequencing has linked six cases of the more contagious UK strain of COVID-19 to Brisbane's Hotel Grand Chancellor, sparking moves to ensure hundreds more Queenslanders go into quarantine. Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young today revealed a previously unknown link between a man who arrived from the UK on December 30, his partner, a cleaner and her partner, and two people who subsequently arrived from Lebanon.

[Read More](#)

Victorian border unlikely to open to NSW before this number is reached

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/01/2021

Sydneysiders hoping to head south in to Victoria are being warned to expect a lengthy wait as parts of NSW continue to battle with a growing number of locally acquired COVID-19 cases. While Victoria has not given a definitive answer as to when the borders between the two states would reopen, it is expected a full 14-day cycle of no community transmission will need to pass before lifting restrictions.

[Read More](#)

Gladys Berejiklian's warning about new mutant coronavirus strains

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/01/2021, Anton Nilsson

NSW Health authorities say we must assume mutant strains of coronavirus will become the more dominant disease going forward. A surge in cases in the UK that began at the end of last year was sparked by the new infectious strain of the virus, called VUI202012/01. It's become notorious for spreading faster than other types of the coronavirus, but there is no evidence it's more deadly.

[Read More](#)

Chief medical officer backs AstraZeneca jab rollout

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/01/2021

Health chiefs have rushed to reassure Australians on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, warning the biggest threat is that the nation is "completely non-immune" to the virus. There is rising concern that alarmist reporting of the effectiveness of the different vaccines could "rock" public confidence in the program. Australia's success in suppressing the virus is one of the big reasons why experts say it's vital the vaccine is rolled out as soon as possible.

[Read More](#)

Experts say AstraZeneca vaccine rollout in Australia shouldn't be paused despite concerns about herd immunity

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/01/2021, Charis Chang

Medical professionals are urging the Morrison Government to pause the planned rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine, but other experts disagree. Doubts are being raised about the ability of the vaccine, developed in co-operation with the University of Oxford, to control the coronavirus after Phase III clinical trial results published in The Lancet this month, showed it is only 62 per cent effective in preventing COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

Virus Experts Call To Halt Australia's #1 Vaccine Choice, Saying There Are More Effective Jabs

Pedestrian TV, Other, 13/01/2021, David Adams

Australia's peak immunology organisation has called for the federal government to halt its planned rollout of the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine, saying it might not be effective enough to eliminate the bastard virus in the community. The Sydney Morning Herald reports The Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology (ASI) point to a recent study, which found the AstraZeneca vaccine to be 62% effective in preventing someone from contracting COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

Coronavirus crisis: WA border rules cost dying mother farewell

Perth Now, Other, 13/01/2021

Western Australia's health minister has defended the state's COVID-19 rules after a Queensland woman was denied the chance to see her dying mother in Perth because of restrictions that came into effect while she was mid-air. On Friday, WA reintroduced a hard border for all of Queensland after a highly contagious UK coronavirus strain was detected in Greater Brisbane.

[Read More](#)

Efficacy rate alone not enough to determine overall value of a vaccine

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 13/01/2021, Anastasia Tsirtsakis

Many have highlighted AstraZeneca's apparent 62% efficacy as a reason for Australia to seek out alternatives but the candidate has a number of other significant advantages. Until Oxford University and AstraZeneca provide the Therapeutic Goods Administration with complete data, the question around herd immunity is difficult to answer.

[Read More](#)

Health leaders urge multicultural groups to heed COVID-19 advice

SBS, Other, 13/01/2021, Claudette Centeno and Peggy Giakoumelos

No new cases of coronavirus have been detected in Brisbane but contact tracers are racing to find people who may have gotten close to people who have the highly infectious United Kingdom variant of the virus. The only new community case reported in the last five days is the partner of a quarantine hotel cleaner who already tested positive.

[Read More](#)

Australia's chief medical officer tries to soothe concerns as questions raised about AstraZeneca vaccine

SBS, Other, 13/01/2021, Tom Stayner

Australia's chief medical officer Paul Kelly has defended rollout plans for the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine and sought to ease concerns about its efficacy. His stance comes after questions were raised about whether the vaccine would be effective enough to generate herd immunity. The safety of the vaccine is not in question. Rather, some critics have asked whether it is effective enough to smother the spread of coronavirus.

[Read More](#)

Health experts say government MPs spreading coronavirus misinformation are a 'threat to public health'

SBS, Other, 13/01/2021, Jarni Blakkarly

The spreading of coronavirus misinformation by government MPs is a threat to public health and should be called out by senior officials, health experts say. Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack and Health Minister Greg Hunt on Tuesday refused to criticise Liberal MP Craig Kelly after he posted the results of a study that said forcing children to wear face masks was akin to "child abuse" on Facebook.

[Read More](#)

Australia's chief medical officer soothes concerns about AstraZeneca vaccine efficacy

SBS, Other, 13/01/2021, Tom Stayner

Australia's chief medical officer Paul Kelly has defended rollout plans for the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine and sought to ease concerns about its efficacy. His stance comes after questions were raised about whether the vaccine would be effective enough to generate herd immunity. The safety of the vaccine is not in question. Rather, some critics have asked whether it is effective enough to smother the spread of coronavirus.

[Read More](#)

UK strain of COVID-19 linked to six in Queensland hotel quarantine

Sky News Australia, Other, 13/01/2021

Queensland's Chief Medical Officer Jeannette Young has announced two new COVID-19 cases in Queensland's hotel quarantine overnight. Ms Young said the state's health would be carrying out genome sequencing for each of the positive cases and thanked the staff involved in the process. "We are clearly leading in that area and we are getting these results back so quickly," she said.

[Read More](#)

CMO rebuts claims AstraZeneca vaccine won't be effective enough

Sky News Australia, Other, 13/01/2021

Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly has defended Australia's prospected use of the AstraZeneca vaccine and trumpeted it as the mainstay of the country's vaccination program amid concerns over its efficacy. His comment comes in response to concerns from Australian doctors the AstraZeneca vaccine won't be effective enough to generate herd immunity after phase three clinical trials show it to be just 62 per cent effective when given in the recommended dose.

[Read More](#)

Australia is essentially 'completely non-immune' to COVID-19: Chief Medical Officer

Sky News Australia, Other, 13/01/2021

Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly says Australia has had "so few" cases of COVID-19 that essentially now the country has been rendered "non-immune" to the virus. Professor Kelly discussed the efficacy rates of the AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines and their potential use in Australia. "We've had so few cases in Australia over the last year, compared with many other countries, that we are essentially completely non-immune.

[Read More](#)

Herd immunity not achievable with AstraZeneca vaccine: Infectious Diseases Expert

Sky News Australia, Other, 13/01/2021

Monash University Associate Professor Michelle Ananda-Rajah says it will not be possible to achieve herd immunity with the Oxford-AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine based on its current data. It comes as scientists call for an immediate pause on the roll out of AstraZeneca's vaccine in Australia over fears in relation to its effectiveness.

[Read More](#)

Chief Medical Officer revokes Northern Beaches hotspot

Sky News Australia, Other, 13/01/2021

Under the Commonwealth definition Sydney's Northern Beaches is no longer declared a COVID-19 hotspot. Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly made the announcement on Wednesday afternoon just days after the region came out of strict lockdowns due to a cluster which emerged before Christmas. "Today I'm revoking that hotspot definition on the basis of the fantastic work that's been done [...]"

[Read More](#)

Short, sharp lockdown likely for WA if coronavirus cluster emerges: CHO

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/01/2021, Heather McNeill

Western Australia would likely enter a sharp and short lockdown if a coronavirus outbreak was detected within the community, the state's Chief Health Officer Andy Robertson has revealed. In a rare media interview with ABC Radio Perth on Tuesday, Dr Robertson said going hard and fast in response to an outbreak had fared well in Queensland and South Australia.

[Read More](#)

Why Brisbane's COVID cluster is of 'national concern'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/01/2021, Lydia Lynch

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has called for an immediate overhaul of Australia's quarantine system as a highly contagious UK virus variant cluster grows inside a Brisbane hotel. Six cases of the mutant strain of COVID-19 have been linked back to one floor of the quarantine hotel in Brisbane's CBD and authorities do not know how it has spread across rooms.

[Read More](#)

Another 14 days' quarantine for guests inside Brisbane's Hotel Grand Chancellor

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/01/2021, Toby Crockford and Matt Dennien

Returned overseas travellers due to be released from quarantine at the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Brisbane on Wednesday remain in their rooms and are expected to be held for another two weeks. A cleaner who worked at the hotel contracted the highly infectious UK COVID-19 strain last week, and police are combing through four days of CCTV footage to pinpoint the moment of transmission.

[Read More](#)

NSW residents stayed at hotel linked to dangerous new COVID-19 strain

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/01/2021, Mary Ward

NSW Health is urgently tracing residents who stayed at a Brisbane hotel that is being evacuated by the Queensland government after six cases of a highly contagious strain of coronavirus were traced back to the site. A public health alert has been issued for anyone who has been at the Hotel Grand Chancellor since December 30 with Queensland informing NSW Health that "there were NSW people staying at the hotel who have since returned to NSW".

[Read More](#)

SA opens up to regional NSW, no quarantine required

The Australian, Other, 13/01/2021, Emily Cosenza

South Australia will allow people from regional NSW to come back into the state without having to quarantine for 14 days. Premier Steven Marshall said the border changes would come into effect as of 12.01am on Thursday. He said the requirement for those people was that they must get tested on day one, five and 12 of their stay in the state.

[Read More](#)

Coronavirus: Doctors condemn 'crackpot ideas'

The Australian, Other, 13/01/2021, Olivia Caisley

Some of the nation's leading doctors have lashed out at Liberal MP Craig Kelly for pedalling "crackpot ideas" on COVID-19, as Communications Minister Paul Fletcher vowed to use new legislation to reduce harmful content online. After Scott Morrison and Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack refused to criticise Mr Kelly, who has promoted links to studies that pushed head lice treatments as a cure for coronavirus and compared mask use to child abuse, Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly rejected the MP's posts.

[Read More](#)

Coronavirus NSW: Sydney's northern beaches no longer a hot spot

The Australian, Other, 13/01/2021, Finn McHugh

The chief medical officer has revoked a COVID-19 classification for Sydney's northern beaches after the region brought a pre-Christmas outbreak under control. The northern beaches were declared a hot spot on December 18, with residents forced into lockdown in the lead-up to Christmas. The number of cases linked to the cluster stands at 151, but chief medical officer Paul Kelly said a recent downturn in transmission had prompted the listing to be removed.

[Read More](#)

Coronavirus Qld: Hotel Grand Chancellor guest lashes out over quarantine 'overreaction'

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Kate Kyriacou and Edward Randell

Returned overseas travellers at the hotel at the centre of Queensland's concerning cluster of the highly infectious UK COVID-19 strain are lashing out at the "vague" way he and other guests were told they'd have to endure another 14 days in quarantine. Paul Atta, who has been quarantining on the 11th floor since his arrival in Australia from Canada, was due to leave the Grand Chancellor on Friday, but the discovery of two more cases in the hotel has got authorities scrambling for answers as they try to determine how it was transmitted.

[Read More](#)

No new local cases of COVID in Queensland as major overhaul announced

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Ellen Ransley

Six cases of the highly infectious UK strain of COVID-19 have now been linked to a Brisbane hotel quarantine facility, prompting authorities to take extraordinary measures to keep any further outbreak under control. While Queensland recorded no new cases of locally acquired COVID-19 on Wednesday, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk confirmed the Hotel Grand Chancellor was now considered a cluster.

[Read More](#)

Queenslanders urged to report quarantine breaches as Grand Chancellor cluster grows

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Janelle Miles

Queenslanders with information about potential hotel quarantine breaches, which may have caused the six-person COVID-19 cluster at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, are being urged to come forward. Health Minister Yvette D'Ath said they should contact Policelink on 13 14 44. A joint police and Queensland Health investigation is underway into how the cluster had occurred at the inner-Brisbane hotel.

[Read More](#)

Coronavirus Qld: New case numbers revealed as search for answers over cleaner's UK strain case continues

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Jack McKay and Janelle Miles

Concerned health authorities are scrambling to test hundreds of people after the Hotel Grand Chancellor cluster grew to six, with two people catching the highly-infectious UK strain mysteriously just by staying on the same floor of the hotel. Returned overseas travellers, who have already completed 14 days in quarantine at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, will be evacuated to other hotels for another 14 days.

[Read More](#)

Child catches virus in NSW as health experts call for Australian vaccine 'to be paused'

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/01/2021, Nathan Vass, Zoe Smith, Maria Bervanakis and David Aidon

Australia's chief medical officer Paul Kelly has defended the decision to roll out the AstraZeneca vaccine in the wake of concerns about its effectiveness. Infectious diseases experts have joined medics in calling for authorities to halt the rollout in favour of coronavirus vaccines with higher efficacy rates to ensure herd immunity. [...] Health Minister Greg Hunt on Tuesday refuted claims the government was conceding its vaccine strategy would not provide herd immunity.

[Read More](#)

Bowen: Government should shop around on vaccines, amid AstraZeneca doubts

The Mandarin, Other, 13/01/2021, Matthew Elmas

Opposition health spokesperson Chris Bowen has criticised the federal government for an over reliance on the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine, after health experts poured cold water over its ability to generate herd immunity. The crux of Australia's COVID-19 vaccination plans, the AstraZeneca vaccine is expected to be approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration next month and will be distributed alongside the Pfizer jab in the first wave of inoculations Down Under.

[Read More](#)

Queensland quarantine hotel shut as cluster grows

The New Daily, Other, 13/01/2021

The Queensland government is shutting down a quarantine hotel after genomic testing discovered six people staying on the same floor have contracted the highly contagious UK strain of coronavirus. Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk says all six cases in the COVID-19 cluster, who are in isolation, were on the seventh floor of Brisbane's Grand Chancellor Hotel at different times during quarantine.

[Read More](#)

Sydney shopper stabbed in altercation over masks

The New Daily, Other, 13/01/2021

A 25-year-old man will face court accused of assaulting a Sydney shopping centre security guard then stabbing a passerby, after the woman he was with was asked to wear a mask. The man was at the shopping centre at north-western Windsor on Tuesday night with a woman and two children when the guard asked the woman to put on a mask.

[Read More](#)

Australia must vaccinate 100,000 people every day to meet government targets

The New Daily, Other, 13/01/2021, Josh Butler

Health Minister Greg Hunt has rubbished suggestions that AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine may be insufficient to achieve herd immunity in Australia, claiming critics were "clearly incorrect". Mr Hunt has also reassured Australians that hospitals, GPs and health clinics will be able to handle the mammoth task of vaccinating millions of people within months and potentially up to 100,000 per day.

[Read More](#)

Health Minister backs AstraZeneca jab amid concerns about efficiency

The New Daily, Other, 13/01/2021, Georgia Hitch and Timothy Swanston

The government says it will continue to listen to its advisory panel of medical experts about Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout amid calls for Australia to push for greater access to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. [...] A spokesperson for Health Minister Greg Hunt said the government's decisions were "being driven by the combination of scientific advice from medical experts" on the advisory body chaired by former chief medical officer Professor Brendan Murphy.

[Read More](#)

Australia unable to get more Pfizer jabs, as officials back AstraZeneca supply

The New Daily, Other, 13/01/2021

The federal government is unable to get more doses of the world-leading Pfizer vaccine, the nation's chief medical officer has admitted, as health officials seek to reassure Australians that the less efficient AstraZeneca vaccine will protect them. However, Australia is also negotiating with "a dozen" other vaccine makers, chief medical officer Professor Paul Kelly said, and there are hopes of inking a deal with another leading candidate such as Moderna.

[Read More](#)

Craig Kelly's Covid claims not backed by evidence, chief medical officer says

theguardian.com, Other, 13/01/2021, Paul Karp

Australia's chief medical officer has rejected unproven claims about Covid-19 treatments by Liberal MP Craig Kelly, as former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull weighs in, calling on the leaders of the government to do more to counter misinformation. [...] The criticism goes further than government leaders, including the acting prime minister, Michael McCormack, and health minister, Greg Hunt, in rejecting Kelly's views, as has been demanded by doctors and now by Turnbull.

[Read More](#)

Hundreds ordered to repeat quarantine as Queensland struggles to contain UK Covid variant

theguardian.com, Other, 13/01/2021, Nino Bucci

People in Brisbane quarantine who were minutes away from being allowed out of their hotel will instead be forced to spend another 14 days cooped up, as health authorities struggle to control an outbreak of the UK variant of Covid-19. Six previously identified cases linked to the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Brisbane have now been genomically linked and found to have the variant despite there being no evidence of contact between several of them.

[Read More](#)

Coronavirus crisis: How rapid antigen testing could be handy tool in COVID-19 fight

West Australian, Other, 13/01/2021, Jenna Clarke

Before a bunch of angry, violent people crashed into the Capitol Building there was a similarly disturbing incident when COVID-19 crept in. It was October last year when we learnt President Donald Trump had tested positive after he attended a Rose Garden ceremony announcing the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the US Supreme Court.

[Read More](#)

Health Minister Roger Cook speaks to doctors about AstraZeneca vaccine herd immunity fears

West Australian, Other, 13/01/2021, Josh Zimmerman

Health Minister Roger Cook has labelled the Pfizer coronavirus jab "the highest standard" while revealing he had spoken to doctors who had raised fears about the AstraZeneca vaccine failing to provide herd immunity to the community. [...] A spokesperson for Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said the national immunisation strategy relied on scientific advice from an advisory body being chaired by former Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy.

[Read More](#)

Aussie chief medical officer "concerned" over efficacy debate on COVID-19 vaccines

Xinhua News Agency, Other, 13/01/2021

Australian Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly said on Wednesday that he was "concerned" that debate around the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines could undermine public confidence. The Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology recently called for the Australian government to pause its planned rollout of AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccines, saying it may not be effective enough to generate herd immunity to the virus.

[Read More](#)

Australia state records 1 virus case as some doctors oppose vaccine rollout

Yahoo! Finance Australia, Other, 13/01/2021

New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, recorded one local coronavirus case on Wednesday as the country's doctors sought to pause the rollout of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, saying it may not be effective in establishing herd immunity. The opposition to the vaccine casts a cloud over Australia's immunisation plans, as the AstraZeneca jab is the centrepiece of the Australian government's immunisation plan, and 53 million doses are already on hand.

[Read More](#)

'Not enough': Experts question Australia's Covid vaccine strategy

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 13/01/2021, Olivia Lambert

Experts are concerned Australia's coronavirus vaccine strategy won't allow the nation to return to life as it was before the pandemic. Four million Australians, including the elderly and health care workers, are expected to be vaccinated against Covid-19 by the end of March, as a super-infectious strain from the UK threatens the globe.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 13/01/2021, Lexy Hamilton-Smith

Returned travellers at the Hotel Grand Chancellor have been evacuated after it was revealed that the six cases of the UK COVID-19 strain all had links to the hotel. The guests will have to spend a further two weeks in other quarantine hotels. The strain was first discovered in a UK traveller and his partner who arrived on 30 December. The cleaner tested positive to the variant a week later followed by her partner.

[Play Now](#)

ABC, 7:30, 13/01/2021, Stan Grant

Interview with Dr Norman Swan. Grant plays a clip of last week's 7.30 coverage about the AstraZeneca vaccine. He mentions Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly is confident about the effectiveness of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Swan says the vaccine might even be safer than the Pfizer vaccine which caused allergy in a small number of people who have taken it.

[Play Now](#)

ABC, ABC News, 13/01/2021, Dan Bouchier

Some medical experts have raised concerns that Australia may be too reliant on the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine that is less effective than others. The COVID vaccine rollout begins in weeks. The vaccine was 90% effective in volunteers who were given a low dose first then a high dose. It was 62% effective to those given with two high doses. The elderly will get the more effective Pfizer vaccine.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 13/01/2021, Hugh Riminton

Quarantine travellers have been told to extend their hotel stay for two more weeks as Queenslanders try to contain a potential outbreak of the UK COVID strain, which is spreading through the Grand Chancellor. The new UK COVID strain entered Qld when a man from the UK arrived on 30 December, infecting his partner and the hotel cleaner who later infected her partner.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 13/01/2021, Hugh Riminton

Gladys Berejiklian, NSW Premier, says they are in the mopping phase of the latest COVID-19 outbreak but a highly contagious mutant strain is still causing havoc in the north. Brisbane has identified six cases of the British variant sending dozens of people back into quarantine. A child has tested positive as part of the Berala cluster. Two cases in Mount Druitt have been linked to the outbreak in Western Sydney.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, The Project, 13/01/2021, Peter van Onselen, Lisa Wilkinson, Rachel Corbett and Claire Hooper

Some experts have raised questions over the Government's long-awaited coronavirus vaccine roll-out. Border, quarantine and frontline workers, aged care residents and other high-risk groups will start receiving the 95% effective Pfizer vaccine in mid to late February. The rest of Australians will start getting the 70% effective AstraZeneca vaccine from March.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 13/01/2021, Hugh Riminton

Prof Paul Kelly, Chief Medical Officer, has rejected the call to pause the rollout of AstraZeneca vaccine. Some experts say it is not effective enough to create herd immunity. The plant in Melbourne is making 50 million doses of the vaccine. Assoc Prof Michelle Ananda-Rajah, infectious diseases expert at Monash University, says herd immunity may not be achieved.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 13/01/2021, Sharyn Ghidella and Max Futcher

It's been reported that 129 guests will spend another two weeks in hotel quarantine as Qld Health tries to contain the UK COVID-19 variant. Genomic testing has found that six cases are connected to the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Brisbane. The cluster has been traced back to 30 December when a man returned from the UK with the variant before infecting his partner.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 13/01/2021, Michael Usher and Angela Cox

Guests at Brisbane's Grand Chancellor Hotel will be moved to stop the spread of a more contagious UK variant of COVID-19, with the Queensland Government set to discuss with other states the hotel quarantine system. In NSW, only one community case of COVID-19 has been recorded overnight from a child of a known patient linked to the Beralda cluster.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 13/01/2021, Michael Usher and Angela Cox

A group of doctors raised concerns about the efficacy of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine, with health chiefs assuring Australians the country's vaccine strategy will be effective. The AstraZeneca vaccine is 62% effective after two full doses while the Moderna and Pfizer shots are up to 95% effective. Australia has locked in 54 million doses of AstraZeneca, 51 million doses of Novavax and 10 million doses of Pfizer.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 13/01/2021, Susannah Carr

COVID has created the greatest divide in Australia but WA is falling in line with other states after making face masks mandatory in all WA airports. IT comes as Australia's hopes of a national vaccine rollout was dealt a blow after a group of doctors questioned the jab's success rate.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 13/01/2021, Kate Collins

Travellers from Regional NSW will be allowed in without having to quarantine as SA eases restrictions. However, those coming in from Greater Sydney, Wollongong, Central Coast, and the Blue Mountains are locked out amid concerns of the UK COVID strain in the Grand Chancellor Hotel. There has been a debate over the AstraZeneca vaccine as clinical trials have found it only 62% effective compared to Pfizer's 95%.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 13/01/2021, Bruce Paige

A mass evacuation is underway in Brisbane, as new testing shows that the UK COVID-19 strain spreading in a quarantined hotel. So far, there have been six confirmed cases with the UK strain. The cluster ground zero is on the seventh floor of the hotel and the patient zero is a UK returnee, who also infected his partner. The strain later spread to a cleaner, then her partner.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 13/01/2021, Georgie Gardner

A military-style operation is underway with concerns a highly infectious strain of the virus might be spreading through a Brisbane quarantine hotel. Hundreds of people are being moved while contact tracing teams are trying to find others who could have been exposed and out in the community now. Details about how the virus was transmitted are still unknown.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 13/01/2021, Georgie Gardner

Former PM Malcolm Turnbull has unleashed on US President Donald Trump, blaming him for the Capitol riots. Turnbull has also called out Australian Coalition MPs, Liberal's Craig Kelly and National's George Christensen, for spreading wrong information. However, Acting PM Michael McCormack is reluctant to condemn Trump or the politicians.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 13/01/2021, Tracy Vo

WA doctors are raising concerns on Australia's COVID vaccine plan, with fears the AstraZeneca jab won't be effective enough to stop the spread of the virus. The WA Government states it will roll out what the Commonwealth delivers, but the jabs won't guarantee an end to border closures. Australia ordered 54 million doses of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine. A clinical trial has revealed the jab has at least 62% efficacy.

[Play Now](#)

WIN Canberra, WIN News, 13/01/2021, Lincoln Humphries

Australia's Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly has defended the decision to knock-in 54 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine amid doubts over its efficacy.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 13/01/2021, Leon Delaney

Interview with Shadow Health Minister Chris Bowen. Delaney says earlier today, it was reported that the Australian and New Zealand Immunology Society called for the rollout of AstraZeneca vaccine to be paused over concerns about its efficacy. He notes the Society has shut down those reports and released a statement, saying the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is a robust and safe vaccine with over 60% efficacy against SARS-CoV-2.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, 18:00 News, 13/01/2021

There has been one new case of coronavirus diagnosed in the NSW community, who is a child who has been in isolation and is linked to the Berala cluster. The cases of two people in Mt Druitt have been genomically linked to the Berala cluster but how they became infected is still unknown.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, 19:00 News, 13/01/2021

Australian Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly says the AstraZeneca vaccine is going to save lives, playing down concerns about the treatment. It comes after Australia ordered millions of the doses of the vaccine despite having the effectiveness of 70%. The government is also under increasing pressure to reign in Liberal MP Craig Kelly for spreading conspiracy theories about vaccines.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, 18:00 News, 13/01/2021

Australian Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly says Liberal backbencher Craig Kelly needs to think about what he posts online after Kelly has been sharing coronavirus conspiracy theories which Kelly says the opinions are not based in fact.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Melbourne, Statewide Drive, 13/01/2021, Jonathan Kendall

Interview with Michelle Ananda-Rajah, infectious diseases expert, Alfred Health. Kendall plays an audio excerpt of Prime Minister Scott Morrison announcing when the COVID-19 vaccine will be available in Australia. Kendall says there are calls for the Government to push harder to secure more effective vaccines. Kendall notes that Australia has secured 54 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, 18:00 News, 13/01/2021

NSW Chief Health Officer Kerry Chant says she thinks it will take up to a month to rid the state of community transmission lingering from the current clusters. It comes after the state recorded only one locally acquired coronavirus case today linked to the Berala cluster.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, 17:00 News, 13/01/2021

Australian Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly has taken a veiled swipe at Federal Government MP Craig Kelly for spreading misinformation about COVID-19, where Kelly has been repeating sharing medical advice that is in contrast with official health messages, saying there is no scientific evidence for Kelly's views.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, PM, 13/01/2021, Linda Mottram

Qld Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk is warning Australians that the COVID-19 crisis is stepping up to the next level as six people in a Brisbane hotel tested positive for the highly-contagious UK strain of the virus. It comes after six people in the Grand Chancellor Hotel tested positive to the UK strain of the virus.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, PM, 13/01/2021, Linda Mottram

Report by Matthew Doran, ABC. The Federal Government is defending its COVID-19 vaccination plan after some experts express concern that one of its favoured jabs might not be as good as the others. Australia's Chief Medical Officer says Australia is still in negotiations for access to a range of vaccines but more can be added in coming months, but he is also urging the public not to jump to conclusions.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Border bans 'mean strikes hit harder'

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/01/2021, David Marin-Guzman, Page 3

Resources employers are demanding greater barriers to industrial action due to concerns that coronavirus restrictions and states' hard borders will exacerbate the impact of strikes on major projects. The Australian Mines and Metals Association called on Industrial Relations Minister Christian Porter to increase the notice for industrial action from a maximum of seven days to "at least" two weeks, in line with quarantine periods, and ensure the tribunal can consider pandemic issues that would make it difficult for employers to respond to a strike.

[Read More](#)

Delaying inoculation program could leave Australia vulnerable

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/01/2021, Jill Margo, Page 5

Whoa! Before confidence in Australia's vaccination program is completely shaken by calls to pause the rollout of the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine, some issues need to be considered. Although the government has pushed back, data cited by the Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology, which made the call, is correct. However, it is also preliminary and could change.

[Read More](#)

Doubt as Indonesia rolls out China's CoronaVac

Australian Financial Review, International News, 14/01/2021, Emma Connors and Natalia Santi, Page 9

Indonesian President Joko Widodo yesterday received a dose of China's SinoVac COVID-19 vaccine, the first of millions of jabs Indonesia hopes will deliver much-needed relief from an out-of-control pandemic. The launch of the vaccine rollout, just a day after India's, means two of the world's biggest inoculation campaigns are officially under way.

[Read More](#)

EU unity tested in German vaccine push

Australian Financial Review, International News, 14/01/2021, Hans van Leeuwen, Page 9

The European Union is struggling to paper over a COVID-19 vaccine brawl after Germany bypassed Brussels to boost its own supplies and other national governments blamed the bloc for failing to properly stock up. It has become a new assault on the ideal of European unity, after national governments last year unilaterally shut borders, hoarded medical supplies and bickered over recovery funds.

[Read More](#)

Bosses want clarity on staff jab rules

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Rosie Lewis, Page 1

Business leaders want national cabinet to urgently advise employers whether they can direct staff to get a COVID-19 vaccine, amid fears there will be increased legal disputes if there are no guidelines. With the first Australians expected to receive vaccinations from mid to late-February, concerns are mounting that employers will face unfair dismissal claims from workers sacked for refusing to get vaccinated.

[Read More](#)

Outspoken medico defied the status quo

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Angelica Snowden, Page 4

The novel coronavirus is just the latest public health "catastrophe" Melbourne-based GP Mukesh Haikerwal has had to face in his medical career of about 30 years. Major outbreaks of other diseases in the mid-1980s and early to mid-2000s revealed clues about how to effectively manage the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

[Read More](#)

WHO in probe of Wuhan virus lab

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Natasha Robinson, Page 4

A World Health Organisation delegation is investigating whether the coronavirus emerged from somewhere other than the seafood market in Wuhan that has been widely considered the source of the original outbreak of COVID-19. A theory that the virus may have escaped from a laboratory is not being ruled out by investigators who are travelling to China as part of a WHO team of experts to try to determine the origin of COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

'We just want to be allowed to go home'

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Rachel Baxendale, Page 5

Victoria's Department of Health and Human Services has processed just a fraction of more than 11,000 border exemption applications, forcing thousands of desperate Victorians to continue to live in limbo far from home - a fortnight after the Andrews government closed the NSW border, and almost a week after Brisbane was declared a coronavirus "red zone". DHHS revealed late on Wednesday that of 11,095 exemption applications submitted since January 1 from people needing to travel to Victoria from NSW and Queensland "red zones", only 1320 had been granted, four rejected, and 1200 closed off as a result of regional NSW being reclassified to an "amber" zone, enabling them to travel.

[Read More](#)

Joko launches bid to turn tide on Covid

The Australian, International News, 14/01/2021, Amanda Hodge, Page 6

As navy divers this week scoured the Java Sea for body parts from the latest aviation accident, and officials began enforcing feeble new COVID-19 restrictions to address a record surge in transmissions, Indonesia's airlines were given the green light to run domestic flights at 100 per cent capacity. The new transport ministry guidelines - which include mandatory mask-wearing and COVID-19 tests for passengers, and no food or drink on short flights - were ushered in without fanfare.

[Read More](#)

Vaccines and staff a legal mess in the workplace

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Peter Strong, Page 9

The rollout of the COVID vaccines is an important process. The sooner the population is vaccinated the sooner we can get the economy back to some sort of normality. However, the vaccine creates serious issues for employers and their employees due to the ethical requirements of society and the legal demands of workplace relations and occupational health and safety regulations.

[Read More](#)

Uber, Lyft push Biden team for role in Covid-19 vaccine rollout

The Australian, Business News, 14/01/2021, Emily Glazer and Sarah Krouse, Page 16

Ride-sharing giants Lyft and Uber are lobbying the incoming Biden administration for a role in the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, offering to help get more Americans inoculated while seeking early access to doses for drivers. Lyft executives met with president-elect Joe Biden's transition team last month, making the case for the incoming administration to allocate federal funds for vaccinerelated transportation, said Megan Callahan, who leads Lyft's healthcare business, a large provider of non-emergency medical transportation.

[Read More](#)

Quarantine 'day pass'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2021, Brad Crouch, Page 1

More than 20 individual COVID quarantine exemptions are being granted daily on average in South Australia this year. High-profile exemptions this year include a bishop and a DJ, while tennis players arriving in Adelaide for major events in January and February will be granted access to Memorial Drive Tennis Club facilities while in quarantine.

[Read More](#)

NSW borders relaxed but Brisbane remains shut out

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2021, Brad Crouch, Page 6

South Australia is today welcoming travellers from most of NSW, while maintaining the "keep out" sign up for residents of high community transmission zones including greater Sydney, Wollongong, the Central Coast and the Blue Mountains. The change - from 12.01am - means NSW arrivals from outside these zones can come to SA but will need to be tested on days one, five and 12.

[Read More](#)

Chaos rules with border changes

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2021, Jessica Ball, Page 6

The return of checkpoints on the South Australia-Victoria border and the introduction of a Victorian permit system has caused confusion for people who live near the border. On Friday, SA Police announced officers had been redeployed to six sites to keep travellers from coronavirus hot spots crossings into the state by travelling via Victoria.

[Read More](#)

Taking the kids to Bluey? No singing aloud allowed

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2021, Miles Kemp, Page 7

Children attending Bluey's Big Play - the Stage Show musical will not be able to sing along, as part of strict COVID safety measures. Tickets to the stage show, at Her Majesty's Theatre, came with a set of behaviour instructions. "Due to COVID-19 restrictions, audience sing-a-longs are not permitted," the ticket conditions read.

[Read More](#)

'No right' to refuse return-to-office call

Age, General News, 14/01/2021, Chloe Booker, Page 1

Lawyers say workers could be sacked if they refuse a request from their employer to return to the office once their workplace is deemed safe and the Victorian government relaxes restrictions. A scheduled return of up to 50 per cent of private sector staff and 25 per cent of public sector employees this week was delayed after the emergence of the Black Rock coronavirus cluster.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald

[Read More](#)

Rights group raises concerns over lockdown

Age, General News, 14/01/2021, Anthony Galloway, Page 8

A leading international human rights group has lashed the Victorian government for subjecting more than 3000 people in public housing towers to a mandatory lockdown and a heavy-handed police response to the state's second wave of coronavirus cases. Human Rights Watch has said in its annual report that while Australia was a vibrant democracy with robust institutions, police efforts to enforce lockdowns raised concerns over freedom of expression and the misuse of police powers.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald

[Read More](#)

Victorians being treated unfairly

Age, Editorials, 14/01/2021, Page 30

In almost all of his many press conferences last year, Premier Daniel Andrews took time to thank Victorians as a community for their patience and strength in abiding by tough pandemic regulations. It was, indeed, a credit to the people of this state that, after months of hard lockdown and limits on movement, Victoria eventually overcame a daily-case blowout of hundreds of locally transmitted COVID-19 infections and whittled it down to zero.

[Read More](#)

China virus spike biggest in months

Canberra Times, International News, 14/01/2021, Page 22

Beijing china has recorded the biggest daily jump in COVID cases in more than five months, despite four cities in lockdown, increased testing and other measures aimed at preventing another wave of infections in the world's second-largest economy. Most of the new patients were reported near the capital Beijing, but a province in northeast China also saw a rise in new cases, official data showed on Wednesday, amid a resurgence that has seen more than 28 million people under home quarantine.

[Read More](#)

Germany isolates until April

Canberra Times, International News, 14/01/2021, Page 23

Chancellor Angela Merkel has told lawmakers in her conservative party she expects a lockdown in Germany to curb the spread of the coronavirus to last until the start of April, top-selling Bild daily cited participants as saying. "If we don't manage to stop this British virus, then we will have 10 times the number of cases by Easter.

[Read More](#)

Our pandemic exit must be education-focused

Canberra Times, General News, 14/01/2021, David Smith, Page 27

Australia has an economy that's not working for all Australians, with limited levers to pull; a school system declining relative to other countries; a higher-education sector underfunded and overreliant on international students; and a STEM sector facing research and development cuts, poor industry planning and large job losses. Through the trials of World War II and the immediate post-war years, prime ministers Curtin and Chifley had a comprehensive vision.

[Read More](#)

Plans for remote mine camp quarantine

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 14/01/2021, Page 6

International travellers returning to Queensland could be sent to quarantine in remote worker camps, under a plan being considered after the transmission of the highly contagious UK strain of COVID-19, which prompted a lockdown of Greater Brisbane. According to The Australian, stakeholders including Queensland Health and police will meet with owners of the proposed accommodation facilities this week to discuss how the rollout could work.

[Read More](#)

Shortage of frontline pandemic workers

Courier Mail, General News, 14/01/2021, Hayden Johnson, Page 6

Highly paid workers at the coalface of Queensland's COVID-19 response are becoming harder to recruit, prompting fears a worsening skills shortage will hamper the state's ability to fight public health emergencies. Environmental health officers grassroots workers on the frontline of the pandemic are increasingly hard to source as school-leavers instead study the more highprofile nursing, teaching or corporate careers.

[Read More](#)

Air-conditioning theory sends a chill through cluster investigators

Courier Mail, General News, 14/01/2021, Janelle Miles, Page 7

Air-conditioning will be probed as a potential cause of a six-person coronavirus cluster, which resulted in the extraordinary evacuation of Brisbane's Hotel Grand Chancellor yesterday. Health experts are at a loss to explain how a hotel cleaner became infected or how a father and his adult daughter, recently returned from Lebanon, contracted the virus at the hotel, rather than while they were overseas.

[Read More](#)

Staff can work at more than one job

Courier Mail, General News, 14/01/2021, Domanii Cameron, Page 7

Hotel quarantine staff are able to work multiple jobs in Queensland, sparking concerns there could be future waves of COVID-19. Queensland Health told The Courier-Mail that hotel staff or contractors might have multiple jobs or work across multiple sites with the same employer. Hotel staff or contractors aren't employed or engaged by Queensland Health.

[Read More](#)

I felt safer in America than Qld quarantine

Courier Mail, General News, 14/01/2021, Sophie Chirgwin and Kate Kyriacou, Page 8

Returning Queenslanders have revealed their heartbreak and frustration at being moments away from reuniting with loved ones after completing mandatory hotel quarantine, only to be told they weren't allowed to leave at the 11th hour. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announced yesterday those who had already completed 14 days in quarantine at Hotel Grand Chancellor would be relocated to other hotels for another fortnight.

[Read More](#)

Fijian officials push for bula bubble

Courier Mail, General News, 14/01/2021, Matthew Killoran, Page 9

Fiji could be one of the first international travel destinations for Australians hanging out for an overseas holiday as the country pushes for a travel bubble. The Pacific island nation is banking on a restart to tourism in 2021 to salvage its economy after it plunged more than 20 per cent last year, Griffith Asia Institute Pacific expert Tess Newton Cain said.

[Read More](#)

Victorian teen stuck in Brisbane

Courier Mail, General News, 14/01/2021, Cloe Read, Page 9

A 15-year-old boy remains stuck in Brisbane and unable to return to his father in Victoria due to COVID border restrictions. Campbell Lawrence arrived on December 16 to visit his mother Carolyn Morey in Narangba for school holidays before the city underwent a sudden lockdown on January 8 after Brisbane reported the nation's first confirmed case of the UK strain of the virus in the community.

Also reported by: Herald Sun

[Read More](#)

Straight talking and explaining required to retain confidence

Courier Mail, Editorials, 14/01/2021, Page 50

If there is one piece of advice that Australia's premiers should heed, it is this: please, take a long breath and think about the impact your attitude is having on the people you lead. The antics we have seen in recent days are unbecoming, at best. West Australian Premier Mark McGowan's commentary about the way New South Wales has been handling the pandemic was inflammatory and unnecessary.

[Read More](#)

New strain empties Brisbane hotel

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/01/2021, Ellen Ransley, Page 11

Six cases of the highly infectious UK strain of COVID-19 have now been linked to a Brisbane hotel quarantine facility, prompting authorities to take extraordinary measures to keep any further outbreak under control. While Queensland recorded no new cases of locally acquired COVID-19 on Wednesday, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk confirmed the Hotel Grand Chancellor was now considered a cluster.

[Read More](#)

CBD return gets closer

Herald Sun, General News, 14/01/2021, Kieran Rooney and Matt Johnston, Page 11

The Andrews government was last night considering last-minute adjustments to its back-to-work plan likely to take effect on Monday - as interstate virus clusters grew. Plans to open up 50 per cent of private office buildings on January 11, and 25 per cent of public servants' offices, were put back a week after concerns about outbreaks that emerged in late December.

[Read More](#)

Spare us kneejerk reactions

Herald Sun, General News, 14/01/2021, Tom Minear, Page 54

There's no playbook for the COVID-19 pandemic. That's what our politicians told us repeatedly last year. It wasn't quite true - the Victorian government had a comprehensive pandemic plan and ignored elements of it - but we were willing to cut them some slack. After all, the coronavirus has caused a once-in-a-century crisis, and there have been few safer places to ride it out than Australia.

[Read More](#)

Brisbane remains out

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/01/2021, Navarone Farrell, Page 4

Premier Peter Gutwein's message to travellers from the Greater Brisbane region is simple: "Don't come". Travel restrictions remain in place for Greater Brisbane, with the area retaining its coronavirus high-risk status. "Don't come to Tasmania . that's what a high-risk classification is," Mr Gutwein said. "They had six cases of the more virulent United Kingdom strain."

[Read More](#)

Two Defence cases

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/01/2021, Philippa Butt, Page 8

Two people from the international Defence cohort quarantining in a Darwin hotel after arriving from overseas have tested positive for COVID-19. The 19-year-old man and 30-year-old woman arrived on Monday, and are now both in the Royal Darwin Hospital. Last week, the NT News reported Defence personnel from "multiple countries around the world" were in quarantine at the Darwin Travelodge on Cavenagh Street.

[Read More](#)

You can skip queues, but it will cost you

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/01/2021, Mary Ward, Page 6

A trip to one of Sydney's drivethrough testing clinics can be a long experience, with some people waiting up to five hours during the city's pre-Christmas testing rush. But, for those willing to pay for the privilege, the privately run Double Bay Doctors offers a drive-through COVID-19 testing service by appointment, allowing people to avoid the queues at the public sites at Bondi Junction, Rose Bay and Bondi Beach.

[Read More](#)

Jervis Bay still open to Sydneysiders

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/01/2021, Natassia Chrysanthos and Georgina Mitchell, Page 7

Accommodation providers and businesses in the South Coast holiday region of Jervis Bay have been swamped by hundreds of cancellations and attempted cancellations to bookings following confusion over Commonwealth coronavirus border restrictions. A Shoalhaven City Council spokeswoman said "hundreds if not thousands" of people had been trying to cancel their bookings this week based on a misunderstanding that all of Jervis Bay was classified as the Jervis Bay Territory and governed by the ACT's Public Health Order, which has banned some Sydneysiders.

[Read More](#)

Luna Park denies breach but will pay \$5000 NYE fine

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/01/2021, Georgina Mitchell, Page 17

The operators of Luna Park in Sydney have agreed to pay a \$5000 fine for a New Year's Eve event in which they hosted a large crowd of people, despite receiving legal advice that they did not breach COVID-19 regulations. NSW Police issued a penalty infringement notice to the amusement park about 2pm yesterday after mobile phone footage showed crowds of people gathered at the venue to watch the New Year fireworks in Sydney Harbour.

[Read More](#)

Chinese vaccine a 50/50 bet: new data

Sydney Morning Herald, International News, 14/01/2021, Eduardo Simoes, Page 34

It's the news Indonesian President Joko Widodo probably didn't want to hear when he lined up to be the first person to receive the Chinese CoronaVac vaccine kicking off a massive immunisation program yesterday. The COVID-19 vaccine developed by China's Sinovac Biotech was just 50.4 per cent effective at preventing symptomatic infections in a Brazilian trial, researchers said yesterday, barely enough for regulatory approval and well below the rate announced last week.

Also reported by: *The Age*

[Read More](#)

We cannot delay vaccine rollout

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/01/2021, Gregory Dore, Page 39

Our initial goal should not be herd immunity - it should be limiting the risk of severe disease. When it comes to COVID-19, the initial public health goal for Australia should not be herd immunity but rather a rapid vaccine rollout that protects front-line workers and limits the risk of major illness, especially as winter approaches.

Also reported by: *The Age*

[Read More](#)

CSL 'fully focused' on COVID deal

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 14/01/2021, Emma Koehn, Page 40

Investors have backed CSL's commitment to producing the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine for the federal government but are urging the \$123 billion biotech to invest in the 'mRNA' genetic technology used in alternative products. ASX-listed CSL signed up to produce 50 million doses of the vaccine developed by British pharma giant AstraZeneca in Australia as part of a \$1.7 billion deal spearheaded by the federal government last year.

Also reported by: *The Age*

[Read More](#)

Wear a mask at the airport or face \$50,000 fine

West Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Josh Zimmerman and Michael Traill, Page 4

Failing to wear a face mask at a WA airport now attracts a fine of up to \$50,000 after new directions enforcing a decision of National Cabinet came into effect. In response to the fast-spreading UK coronavirus variant, State and Territory leaders last week agreed to make mask wearing mandatory when flying and at all domestic airports across the country.

[Read More](#)

Race to trace hotel outbreak in Brisbane

West Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Annabel Hennessy, Page 4

Authorities are scrambling to find out how the highly contagious UK strain of COVID-19 spread through a Brisbane quarantine hotel and infected six people. A massive operation was last night under way to evacuate 129 people who had been quarantined in the Hotel Grand Chancellor after genomic testing revealed six people linked to the hotel have the UK strain of the virus.

[Read More](#)

Concerns raised over which vaccine best

West Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Page 5

Health Minister Roger Cook has labelled the Pfizer coronavirus jab "the highest standard" while revealing he had spoken to doctors who had raised fears about the AstraZeneca vaccine failing to provide herd immunity. Doctors and health professionals - including Australian Medical Association WA president Andrew Miller - have called for a re-evaluation of the national immunisation strategy which relies heavily on the less effective Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

[Read More](#)

McGowan looking for a foe

West Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Peter Law, Page 13

Clive Palmer's decision to stay out of the State election is bad news for Mark McGowan and WA Labor. This might be a surprising view given the damage Palmer did to Bill Shorten's bid to become prime minister in 2019. Palmer's \$60 million advertising blitz didn't result in any seats in Federal Parliament, but contributed to the poor perception of Shorten as a potential PM.

[Read More](#)

WA spared brunt of COVID

West Australian, Business News, 14/01/2021, Meilin Chew, Page 52

Successful containment of COVID-19 cases in WA has resulted in the State being the least impacted by the pandemic, a new report shows. Maintaining low numbers of infection and opening up economic activity had West Australians less likely than the average Australian to have had their job affected, according to research by LinkedIn.

[Read More](#)

Vaccine the way out but we must keep up guard

West Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, John Flint, Page 58

Seriously, we would be stark raving bonkers to put at risk our oasis of wellbeing and prosperity. Living in WA was a blessing long before coronavirus or COVID-19 entered our lexicon. Now, when I'm asked by mates and relatives in England about how life is here, I try my best to not come across like I'm gloating. But there's no escaping it.

[Read More](#)

Virus testing details unclear

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2021, Elspeth Kernebone, Page 3

Victorian health authorities are yet to explain why people returning from NSW received conflicting information, after widespread confusion about whether they were required to have a COVID-19 test on day 11 of their isolation. The Department of Health and Human Services has offered another clarification around testing, saying anyone who had already tested negative COVID-19 was not required to get a day 11 test, after the quarantine deadline was brought forward.

[Read More](#)

Bubble bites again

Border Mail, General News, 14/01/2021, Ellen Ebsary, Page 1

A lavington resident has successfully pleaded his case to the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne after being told he'd have to go to Sydney for treatment because he lived in NSW. Peter Elkins was contacted last Friday by the Alfred, after being referred by Dr Peter Vickers for hyperbaric oxygen therapy and surgery. "They told me that they had discussed it with their team, and they'd decided because I live in NSW they're going to forward my referral to the Royal Prince Alfred," he said.

[Read More](#)

Where you must wear a face mask

Central Western Daily, General News, 14/01/2021, David Fitzsimons, Page 2

Wearing a face mask is now compulsory in the Orange Regional Airport terminal. The COVID-safety rule was introduced this week. It applies to all passengers, visitors and workers in the terminal area. Masks must also be worn by people on domestic commercial flights and during landing and take-off. However, children 12 and under and people with a physical or mental disability that makes wearing a mask unsuitable are exempt.

[Read More](#)

'Confusion' over permits

Eden Imlay Magnet, General News, 14/01/2021, Leah Szanto, Page 5

A new 'traffic light system' aimed at implementing clearer border control measures for all domestic travel into Victoria has gone live. The permit system, announced on Monday, will see anyone from outside the bubble arriving at the Victorian border without a permit, or from the red zone, fined \$5000.

[Read More](#)

Self isolation advice over hotel cluster

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/01/2021, Melissa Mobbs, Page 4

Brisbane travellers will continue to be refused entry to Tasmania as a hotel quarantine cluster in Queensland grows. Providing an update on Wednesday afternoon, Premier Peter Gutwein said there would be no change to restrictions, as Queensland continues to investigate how a cleaner at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Brisbane contracted the UK strain of the coronavirus.

[Read More](#)

Victoria's zero tally remains

Shepparton News, General News, 14/01/2021, Charmayne Allison, Page 6

Victoria has gone an entire week with no new locally acquired cases of coronavirus, as the state's hard borders with Greater Sydney and Brisbane remain firmly in place. Almost 18,000 COVID-19 tests were completed in Victoria on Tuesday, January 12, with zero locally acquired cases recorded, and three new cases found in hotel quarantine. There are currently 35 active cases in Victoria.

[Read More](#)

Vanuatu offers workers

Stock & Land, General News, 14/01/2021, Andrew Miller and Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

A prominent Yarra Valley straw berry grower says Apotential labour shortages have left him deeply concerned about this year, after "just holding on" during the current growing and picking season. Australian Strawberry Distributors general manager Jim Ripepi said he had already lost about 10 per cent of this year's crop because of labour shortages.

[Read More](#)

Lockdown causes chaos

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/01/2021, Peta McEachern, Page 27

When Queensland's Chief Health Officer Jeanette Young imposed isolation guidelines for people who had visited the Greater Brisbane region, it sent a shockwave through plans for a portion of the Western Downs' workforce in the resource sector. The Greater Brisbane region, and anyone who had visited since January 2, went into lockdown at 6pm on Friday, January 8, after a woman who tested positive for a highly contagious strain of coronavirus had been active in the state's capital for days.

[Read More](#)

Follow COVID rules in regions

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/01/2021, Caitlan Charles, Page 8

Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack has urged Australians living in the regions to continue to follow COVID-19 protocols until the whole country is in the clear. Acknowledging that much of regional Australia, including Townsville, had been virtually coronavirusfree since the beginning, Mr McCormack said it was still important to maintain the protocols put in place to protect the community.

[Read More](#)

FIFO staff travel ban extended

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/01/2021, Rae Wilsonn, Page 18

A three-day ban on non-essential FIFO travel from Greater Brisbane into Queensland's mining regions has been extended to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Mining and gas companies immediately and voluntarily put a three-day hold on regional travel from Greater Brisbane during the 72-hour weekend lockdown; unless essential from a safety or operational perspective.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Scabies outbreak at nursing home

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 14/01/2021, Andrew Thomson, Page 6

The state's health department has revealed it sent a local government official to Warrnambool's Lyndoch Living mid last month to check on a scabies outbreak. That happened on December 17, three days after The Standard made inquiries and was issued a statement by Lyndoch. That statement read: "While Lyndoch Living remains COVID-19 free, a group of people have been treated for a common skin disease subsequent to a specialist dermatologist review."

[Read More](#)

Government calls for tenders to train aged care nurse specialists

Inside Ageing, Other, 13/01/2021, Rosanne Barrett

Australia's federal health department has called for proposals to train specialist aged care nurses. Following last year's Budget announcement of \$10.8 million in funding to increase nursing skills in the sector, Health this week [Jan 8] released details of the Aged Care Transition to Practice Program. The program wants to engage registered nurses in their first year of clinical practice and develop their capabilities specific to aged care.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Chemist 'unethical' over opioids

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Kieran Gair, Page 3

A suburban pharmacist has been caught dispensing 1500 hormone tablets and injections to one patient on a single day, on behalf of a doctor who was disciplined last year for prescribing excessive amounts of steroids at the behest of disgraced sports scientist Stephen Dank. Tony Saab, the sole proprietor of Pharma Save Granville in western Sydney, also dispensed 1000 valium tablets to the same patient on the same day, meaning it was "obvious" the patient was abusing or misappropriating the highly addictive pill, according to the Health Care Complaints Commission.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Licensing doctors for assisted dying lessens patient trust

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/01/2021, Helen Lord, Page 26

I have worked in palliative medicine and general practice in Tasmania for more than 30 years. During that time, I have seen many thousands of patients and so have had extensive first-hand experience in caring for patients and their families at the end of life. Tasmania's Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill, currently being considered by the state's Lower House, will raise significant and far-reaching issues for the medical and caring professions, and patients, should it be passed.

[Read More](#)

Business partners behind GP clinic

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/01/2021, Alicia Perera, Page 11

A permanent GP clinic accessible to all will be launched in Katherine after Easter, the NT Primary Health Network (NT PHN) has confirmed. It comes after the town's only GP clinic for non-Indigenous as well as Indigenous residents, Gorge Health, closed its doors on October 28, leaving the majority of residents unable to visit a doctor in town.

[Read More](#)

Gum disease statistics are 'alerting'

Daily Liberal, General News, 14/01/2021, Page 6

Dubbo residents urged to ramp up their oral care regimen following data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) which reveals more than 60 per cent of Australians aged 65 and over are suffering from moderate or severe periodontitis gum disease. Australian Dental Association New South Wales (ADA NSW) President Dr Kathleen Matthews has shifted her focus to Dubbo and surrounds, urging residents to take priority of their dental health in 2021.

[Read More](#)

Hospital face staff shortages

Free Press Corowa, General News, 13/01/2021, Adrienne Hartnett, Page 2

The recent Victorian border closure has caused headaches for Corowa Hospital who are facing staffing challenges within the emergency department. Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) said a number of agency staff with ED skills finished their contracts earlier than anticipated and were not pursuing other contracts as they normally reside in Victoria.

[Read More](#)

A doctor shortage Mayor disappointed with doctor shortage

Lake News, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 1

Several hospitals in regional New South Wales including Lake Cargelligo and Condobolin experienced problems getting doctors over the holiday period in what Lachlan Shire mayor John Medcalf has called a "quite disappointing" situation. The West Wyalong and Tumut health services also had major problems. Further, many of the towns' medical practices were closed until early January.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Mental health facility a success

South Western Times, General News, 14/01/2021, Ailish Delaney, Page 1

Bunbury's Step Up, Step Down residential mental health facility has shown promising results as the end of its first year in operation approaches, with the service provider recording an 83 per cent improvement in clients' psychological wellbeing. The short-term facility aims to fill a hole in the South West's mental health sector by providing a service for those with mental illness but not in need of acute inpatient hospital treatment.

[Read More](#)

Figures show more people seeking help

Area News, General News, 13/01/2021, – Kenji Sato, Page 4

Despite bushfires, a pandemic and widespread unemployment, the rate of suicide fell by five per cent in 2020. The figure, from the NSW government, represents the steepest decline in suicide rates in 10 years. There were 807 lives lost to suicide in the 12 months to November - 46 fewer than the previous year. There was a corresponding rise in people turning to mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic, with calls to Lifeline increasing by 20 per cent.

[Read More](#)

Iris Foundation receives a \$2,000 boost

Coast Community Chronicle, General News, 13/01/2021, Page 31

A \$2,000 boost from Greater Bank's community funding program will help Wyong's Iris Foundation in its work in the field of suicide prevention on the Central Coast. The Foundation won the November round of the program and will use the money to cover essential operational costs, including the upgrade of its digital and IT equipment, after a busy year running its inschools program.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

'Brave' hospital staff treated like 'cash cows'

Daily Telegraph, Regional Changes - Section A, 14/01/2021, Alison Paterson, Page 19

Lismore City Council has been accused of treating staff like "cash cows" after announcing it would resume paid parking for staff and visitors at the hospital. Free parking comes to an end on Monday, January 18. Health Services Union secretary Gerard Hayes said the free parking scheme had been a success since it was introduced last April as a goodwill measure during the pandemic.

[Read More](#)

Paramedic fatigue is 'going unchecked'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/01/2021, Jessica Willard, Page 5

A health union has accused Ambulance Tasmania of ignoring ongoing workplace health and safety concerns around paramedic fatigue and says it's time for an external review to address long-standing issues. Health and Community Services union Tasmania state secretary Tim Jacobson said workers were being pushed to breaking point within an organisation plagued by poor management and failing internal processes.

Also reported by: Burnie Advocate

[Read More](#)

Rounds of applause for new medical interns

Shepparton News, General News, 14/01/2021, Page 1

The Goulburn Valley has welcomed 32 new medical interns who began their 12-month internships at Goulburn Valley Health recently. GV Health medical education officer Jerry Turney said the interns would complete five rotations over their time at the health service after completing their orientation week.

[Read More](#)

Med students join UQ rural clinic program

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/01/2021, Tom Gillespie, Page 28

After a disrupted learning experience last year thanks to the impacts of COVID-19, the new cohort of medical students at the University of Queensland's Rural Clinical School will be hoping for smooth sailing as they reach the end of their degrees. More than 70 third and fourth-year students will be part of the program, which is one of four regionally-based schools across Queensland.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Kimberley win with banned drinkers' trial

Broome Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2021, Carly Laden, Page 1

Calls to implement a banned drinkers' register in the Kimberley to address grog-fuelled antisocial behaviour were finally answered last week when the State Government announced a two-year trial would be launched in 2021. As part of the BDR program, anyone buying takeaway liquor will have to produce photo ID to restrict problem drinkers from being able to buy alcohol.

[Read More](#)

Hospital's flags flying high

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/01/2021, Jessica Willard, Page 17

The Aboriginal flag's addition above the Launceston General Hospital has been acknowledged as an important step in strengthening the hospital's connection with the community it serves. The Australian, Aboriginal and Tasmanian flags have been reinstated at the hospital as part of an initiative of the Tasmania Health Service Northern Aboriginal Action Group (rana rrala payngana rrala).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Chook sparks bite alert

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2021, Brad Crouch, Page 13

The detection of a potentially deadly mosquito-borne disease with no cure in a chicken on the Coorong has prompted a warning for South Australians to protect themselves against bites from the insect. The "sentinel chicken" part of a Meningie-based flock used to detect mosquito-borne viruses - has contracted Murray Valley encephalitis and Kunjin viruses.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

[Back to Top](#)

s22

World-first bub formula

Courier Mail, General News, 14/01/2021, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 17

A gold Coast company has created the world's first plantbased, organic infant formula, which will hit the shelves in May and the plan is to make the vegan drink mainstream. Nutrition Australia said that while the organic formula could pose some risks, if properly produced with the right nutrients for babies' growth it could work for parents who want to move away from dairy or soy products.

[Read More](#)**Diseases take a dive**

Herald Sun, General News, 14/01/2021, Alanah Frost, Page 10

The number of people diagnosed with common illnesses such as chickenpox and the flu dropped dramatically last year, with Victorians taking every precaution against germs during the coronavirus pandemic. The Department of Health and Human Services was made aware of a total of 46,653 cases of notifiable diseases which are mandatory to alert to health authorities - in 2020.

[Read More](#)**Flesh eater on the rise**

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2021, Tamara McDonald, Page 5

The Geelong region has recorded its highest number of cases of a mysterious flesh-eating ulcer in almost a decade. But experts say there is no clear cause for the increase in the number of cases of buruli ulcer, known locally as the Bairnsdale ulcer. Bacteria in the ulcer can eat away skin and fat cells, causing gangrene and tissue loss.

[Read More](#)**Kids with autism need confidence in water**

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 14/01/2021, Emily Toxward, Page 6

A Royal Life Saving Australia study has revealed children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are three times more likely to drown than their peers but another study out of the US suggests the risk is 160 times greater. In its National Drowning Report 2020, the peak water safety body details a study of 667 drowning cases of those aged 0-19 years with a medical history.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

s22

'Third-last' time lucky as F1 horsepower hits Melbourne in spring

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/01/2021, Tom Burton, Page 4

Melbourne sports officials hope the rescheduled Australian Formula One grand prix will follow a recent pattern where the third-last race of the season has decided the championship. The race is normally the first in the calendar but due to the current risk of spreading coronavirus was rescheduled to November 21. The move came after it was agreed that it was impossible for the 1200 drivers and support crew to quarantine for 14 days before the carnival began in March.

[Read More](#)

Reds join high-flyers in Alliance airline deal

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Robyn Ironside, Page 3

Forget the team bus. The Queensland Reds have become Australia's first sporting team with their own jet at their disposal after signing a lucrative sponsorship with Alliance Aviation. The cash and support deal will include charter flights for the Reds to rugby games and festivals within Australia and New Zealand, giving them a huge advantage over their rivals relying on commercial flights.

[Read More](#)

Shooting for \$20m: basketball positioned for broadcast bounce

The Australian, Business News, 14/01/2021, John Stensholt, Page 13

Basketball could emerge with a broadcast deal worth \$20m annually with Larry Kestelman's National Basketball League targeted by Nine Entertainment and its streaming service Stan to add to its collection of sports rights. Having already won rugby union rights in a \$100m deal late last year, Nine and Stan would also add the NBL to tennis as it seeks to build out its fledgling Stan Sports service.

[Read More](#)

Bubble no trouble for eager Pat

The Australian, Sport, 14/01/2021, Sam Landsberger, Page 23

As the rest of the world starts to wilt, a turbocharged Pat Cummins says he is still bursting with energy inside cricket's biosecurity bubble. Australia will carry an unchanged attack through the Border-Gavaskar series. Coach Justin Langer wants his fast bowlers to soldier on in Brisbane in the manner of Rick McCosker, Steve Waugh and Allan Border.

[Read More](#)

Quarantine not on for GP

Age, General News, 14/01/2021, Anthony Colangelo, Page 9

The 2021 Australian Formula One Grand Prix was moved from March to November because it was not possible for more than 1200 international workers and team staff required to stage the event to quarantine for 14 days to meet Commonwealth government requirements. Victorian Sports Minister Martin Pakula and Australian Grand Prix Corporation chief executive Andrew Westacott said yesterday they hoped 14 days' quarantine would no longer be a requirement by November 21 - the rescheduled race date.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald

[Read More](#)

A strange old game: respect via abuse

Age, General News, 14/01/2021, Sharda Ugra, Page 33

In India's long-distance view, there are two or three Australias. There's MasterChef Australia seen more regularly these days on Indian TV screens than cricket. Diverse participants, warm judges, mouth-watering feasts. Then up pops live cricket, MasterChef Australia's alter-ego: eye-grabbing, throat-constricting, high skill action, trite mouthing off between players and, in unsavoury leftovers from SCG 2021, half a dozen yahoos ejected for racist abuse.

[Read More](#)

What players and spectators can expect at an Open like no other

Age, Sport, 14/01/2021, Scott Spits, Page 44

Preparing for the 2021 Australian Open has been a case of divide and conquer in some ways for Tennis Australia and the Victorian government. Central to their aim of delivering the "strictest rules" of hotel quarantine for the 1200-strong cohort of players and officials has been splitting things three ways. Similar thinking is in play for the Melbourne Park precinct, divided into three distinct zones for the tournament itself.

[Read More](#)

Tomic one win away from Australian Open

Canberra Times, Sport, 14/01/2021, Page 43

Bernard Tomic is one match away from enjoying another shot at the Australian Open - but only after admitting he was doomed against a crestfallen Perth teenager. The always-unpredictable Aussie admitted he was resigned to being knocked out of his second-round match in Doha against 19-year-old Tristan Schoolkate, who served a double fault when holding match point.

[Read More](#)

B.C.C.I. complains about Brisbane hotel: report

Canberra Times, Sport, 14/01/2021, Page 46

India's cricket board has reportedly complained to Cricket Australia (CA) about several aspects of the Brisbane bubble that Ajinkya Rahane's team will call home until the Test series ends. The tourists had been reluctant to travel to Queensland's capital for the series decider that begins at the Gabba on Friday, worried about the extent of biosecurity restrictions.

[Read More](#)

Twitchy tourists & Gabba on notice

Daily Telegraph, Sport, 14/01/2021, Robert Craddock, Page 77

Gabba security have been ordered to be "proactive" in protecting an Indian cricket side whose anxiety levels surged again yesterday after being rocked by Queensland's quarantine laws. Indian players were told yesterday there will be no relaxation in Queensland Government restrictions which bans them from getting room service at Brisbane's Sofitel Hotel during their visit for this week's fourth Test.

Also reported by: Herald Sun, Courier Mail, Adelaide Advertiser, Hobart Mercury.

[Read More](#)

Grand Prix delay may deliver quarantine advantage

Herald Sun, General News, 14/01/2021, Kieran Rooney, Page 10

Rescheduling the Australian Grand Prix until November could mean Formula One teams avoid 14 days of hotel quarantine, Major Events Minister Martin Pakula has flagged. The Melbourne leg of the Formula One season was meant to be held from March 18 to 21 but this week it was announced the event will now run from November 18 to 21.

[Read More](#)

Culture review gets new leaders

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 14/01/2021, Anthony Colangelo, Page 50

Three new representatives have been appointed to lead a review into problems with the culture in the Hockeyroos camp after players had concerns about potential conflicts of interests of those initially tasked with the job. Hockey Australia has announced that Bruce Collins QC, AFL commissioner Gabrielle Trainor and former Matildas player and FIFA Council member Moya Dodd will take over the review on behalf of the Australian Sports Commission, from lawyer Richard Redman and Ernst & Young partner Adam Carrel.

Also reported by: *The Age*

[Read More](#)

WA police exemption lets Cats out to play

West Australian, Sport, 14/01/2021, Craig O'Donoghue, Page 67

The Perth Wildcats received an exemption from WA Police to return to training yesterday under strict conditions while they complete their 14 days of quarantine following their arrival back from Brisbane. The players and coaches have been quarantining since Saturday night but the club worked with the WA Police to build a Quarantine Training Plan.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Pick & choose

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2021, Claire Bickers, Page 1

South Australia will fly in about 100 seasonal workers from Vanuatu next week as farmers struggle to find Aussies willing to take on fruit picking jobs. It is the first flight to bring Pacific Island seasonal workers to SA during COVID-19 and there are plans for more flights in February and March. Workers will quarantine in medi-hotels.

[Read More](#)

Lady tradies cut through the tape

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2021, Matt Smith, Page 11

More women are joining the construction industry, with new figures showing 16.5 per cent growth for the sector. Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that in the 12 months to November the number of women employed in the construction sector grew from 8933 to 10,409 - an increase of 1476. The growth means that 13.8 per cent of workers in the industry are now female - the third-highest proportion in the nation.

[Read More](#)

SA job vacancies hit a 10year high

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2021, Claire Bickers, Page 11

The number of jobs available in South Australia skyrocketed to its highest level a decade in November, with about 15,600 up for grabs. The last time SA had more job vacancies was November 2010, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released yesterday. The number of job vacancies in SA was almost 37 per cent higher than at the same time in 2019.

[Read More](#)

Need a job? there's 48,000 vacancies in QLD

Courier Mail, General News, 14/01/2021, Michael Wray, Page 4

There are more job vacancies in Queensland than at any time since 1983, however, the state lags the nation in creating new positions following the easing of COVID restrictions. New Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show Queensland job vacancies reached 47,900 in the November 2020 quarter, a 14 per cent rise over the three months.

[Read More](#)

JobKeeper needed a little longer

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/01/2021, Jessica Irvine, Page 38

With vaccines around the corner, we can be confident the crisis will end - so why not extend a helping hand until then. The Morrison government's historic JobKeeper wage subsidy program has proved a lifeline for the Australian economy throughout COVID. So, as shutdowns and border closures persist into 2021, it's only prudent to ask whether the expiry date of March 28 should be extended again in some modified form for COVID-affected businesses.

Also reported by: The Age

[Read More](#)

Push for Government to fund youth homeless service

Albany Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2021, Shannon Smith, Page 3

Albany Youth Support Association has urged the McGowan Government to commit to funding a new youth homeless service at Norman House in Albany as an election promise. New AYSA CEO Ricky Burges said she believed the Norman House youth homeless centre would fill a critical gap in youth crisis support in the region.

[Read More](#)

School bringing hope to disengaged youth

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/01/2021, Tony Raggatt, Page 5

A social enterprise school promoting entrepreneurship is tackling youth unemployment and crime by helping disengaged young people start their own business. The Australian School of Entrepreneurship partnered with the State Department of Employment, Small Business and Training in Townsville in a program called Creating Your Own Job.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Aussie-led research finds plasma from corona sufferers is harmful

The Australian, General News, 14/01/2021, Jacquelin Magnay, Page 4

Hospitals have stopped using convalescent plasma from coronavirus sufferers to treat seriously ill patients, after groundbreaking research by an Australian-led global consortium of intensive care doctors found the treatment was causing more harm than good. The research, conducted by Remap-cap, showed more than 900 severely ill patients around the world, including a handful of Australian patients, did not improve their condition when given the plasma.

[Read More](#)

Twins same but different

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/01/2021, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 29

Identical twins are thought to have duplicate DNA but research has found most monozygotic twins do not have carbon copy genetics. A study published in the medical journal Nature Genetics has revealed there are more than five genetic differences in twins.

[Read More](#)

Participants sought for tick study

Great Southern Herald, General News, 14/01/2021, Shannon Smith, Page 5

The Troublesome Ticks study at Murdoch University aims to solve mysteries around illnesses related to tick bites, and researchers are urging Great Southern residents to get involved. The four-year project is being conducted with funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council. It is an effort to identify the causes of debilitating symptom complexes attributed to ticks, previously described as being Lyme disease-like.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

s22

s22

From: s22 [redacted]@isentia.com>
Sent: Sunday, 25 April 2021 5:55 AM
To: s47E(d) [redacted]
Subject: Department of Health Daily Briefing 25 Apr 2021

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

Australians defy travel ban via NZ loophole

Sun Herald, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 25/04/2021, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 6

Australians desperate to return to their lives and loved ones overseas are using the New Zealand travel bubble to defy the outward travel ban, despite threats of hefty fines or even jail time. [...] Those who try the New Zealand route to flee overseas will risk large fines or imprisonment, after Health Minister Greg Hunt updated the Biosecurity Act last Sunday so that Australians who travel overseas via New Zealand will be asked to justify their actions on compassionate or urgent medical grounds when they eventually return to Australia.

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

[Read More](#)

Let us choose which job we want

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 25/04/2021, Matthew Abraham, Page 62

No home is complete without a barometer but there's a trick to making the gadget read correctly. [...] But a fortnight ago, federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said our international borders could remain shut even if the entire population was vaccinated.

[Read More](#)

Minister for Health Greg Hunt discusses the vaccine rollout

9News, Other, 23/04/2021

Minister for Health Greg Hunt talks about the vaccine rollout, including the fast-tracking of vaccinations for over-50s.

[Read More](#)

Coronavirus: WA Premier's hotel quarantine swipe at federal government as states shut borders

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 24/04/2021, Sue Dunlevy, Shannon Deery and Dixie Sulda

Return travellers from India infected a Melbourne man and a nurse while in hotel quarantine in Perth. [...] The federal government's decision to stop providing the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to Australians over 50 is a vital step in revitalising Australia's vaccine rollout, Health Minister Greg Hunt said.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

rs22

Olympians expected to get the jab for Tokyo

Sun Herald, General News, 25/04/2021, James Massola and Phil Lutton, Page 6

The federal government is likely to bring forward COVID-19 vaccinations for Olympic and Paralympic athletes, with national cabinet poised to make a decision on Friday. [...] Sports Minister Richard Colbeck said the government's primary concern last week was who should get the vaccine, when, and what vaccine they get, referring to the decision to allocate Pfizer to under 50s only.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

COVID cloud looming

Sunday Herald Sun, Sport, 25/04/2021, Sam Landsberger and Marc McGowan, Page 78

AFL players are again at risk of losing their social freedoms as the coronavirus threat hangs over another season. [...] Victoria's chief health officer, Brett Sutton, declared the Perth and Peel regions were to become red zones from 2.01am on Sunday.

[Read More](#)

Chief's warning before outbreak

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 25/04/2021, Andrew Hough, Page 8

South Australia's coronavirus authorities were told of the need to improve travel quarantine just days before the state's worst COVID-19 outbreak erupted from a city medi-hotel, leaked documents show. [...] Transition Committee minutes, marked "confidential: not for further distribution", show chief public health officer Professor Nicola Spurrier warned the committee on October 27 of mounting overseas risks.

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

[Read More](#)

Young: Let's go fastraZeneca

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 25/04/2021, Danielle O'Neal and Domanii Cameron, Page 8

CHIEF Health Officer Jeannette Young has urged anyone in the vulnerable group to continue with their AstraZeneca jab in the wake of a Queensland man suffering a rare blood clotting reaction after receiving the vaccine last month. It comes as authorities warned there had never been a more important time to follow health directions after an outbreak at a West Australian hotel quarantine plunged Perth and Peel into a three-day lockdown and crowds expected at Anzac Day services today.

[Read More](#)

No community transmission cases in Queensland, as WA travellers head into hotel quarantine

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2021

Queensland has recorded one new case of COVID-19, a seaman who acquired it overseas, as the state asks travellers arriving from parts of Western Australia to hotel quarantine. Article share options Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young said Queensland's latest case is a man who became ill while on a vessel from Japan, with the boat now off Mackay's coast.

[Read More](#)

'Step-up and help': McGowan slams Canberra

Australian Financial Review, Other, 24/04/2021, Julie-Anne Sprague

West Australian premier Mark McGowan has threatened to permanently halve the number of international arrivals into Perth unless the federal government opens up dedicated quarantine facilities and has called for an immediate ban on anyone from Australia [...]

[Read More](#)

Queensland confirms new COVID-19 case

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/04/2021

Queensland has confirmed one new case of COVID-19 overnight from someone aboard a vessel which arrived from Japan and docked off the Queensland coast. The case is being treated as an overseas acquired infection and there is no immediate threat to the community. Queensland's Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young said testing on the ship has been carried out.

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

[Read More](#)

COVID latest: No new cases as WA lockdown takes effect

Herald Sun, Other, 24/04/2021, Danielle O'Neal

The new case was discovered on board a ship from Japan. [...] Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young said today's new case was a seaman who tested positive on board a vessel that had travelled from Japan to the coast off Mackay.

[Read More](#)

AFL warned of complacency as COVID strikes 2021 season

Herald Sun, Other, 24/04/2021, Sam Landsberger

Footy legend Leigh Matthews was stunned on Saturday that the AFL had abolished COVID-19 testing after forking out more than \$6 million on about 65,000 tests to help save the 2020 season. [...]

Victoria's chief health officer, Brett Sutton, has since declared the Perth metropolitan and Peel regions would become red zones from 2.01am on Saturday.

[Read More](#)

Qld vax patient released, border firmed

Hunter Valley News, Other, 24/04/2021, Callum Godde

A Queensland man diagnosed with a rare blood clotting reaction to the AstraZeneca vaccine has been discharged from hospital. [...] Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young said on Saturday the Queensland patient had been treated for two days at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital after receiving a vaccination from a GP in South Brisbane on May 29.

[Read More](#)

Queensland vax patient released from care

Moree Champion, Other, 24/04/2021

A Queensland man diagnosed with a rare blood clotting reaction to the AstraZeneca vaccine has been discharged from hospital. [...] Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young said on Saturday the Queensland patient had been treated for two days at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital after receiving a vaccination from a GP in South Brisbane.

[Read More](#)

No community transmission cases in Queensland, as WA travellers head into hotel quarantine

MSN Australia, Other, 24/04/2021

Queensland has recorded one new case of COVID-19, a seaman who acquired it overseas, as the state asks travellers arriving from parts of Western Australia to hotel quarantine. Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young said Queensland's latest case is a man who became ill while on a vessel from Japan, with the boat now off Mackay's coast.

[Read More](#)

No community transmission cases in Queensland, as WA travellers head to lockdown

MSN Australia, Other, 24/04/2021

Queensland has recorded one new case of COVID-19, a seaman who acquired it overseas, as the state asks travellers arriving from parts of Western Australia to hotel quarantine. Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young said Queensland's latest case is a man who became ill while on a vessel from Japan, with the boat now off Mackay's coast.

[Read More](#)

Pies training cancelled amid AFL COVID hits, Eagles get all clear

MSN Australia, Other, 24/04/2021, Anthony Colangelo

Collingwood's final training session on Saturday before the Anzac Day blockbuster against Essendon at the MCG on Sunday has been cancelled. [...] North Melbourne are awaiting further information about travel arrangements back to Victoria after the match, with Perth declared a red zone by Victorian Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton late Friday after a close contact of a Victorian man who contracted the virus in a quarantine hotel in the city also tested positive to the virus.

[Read More](#)

Collingwood training cancelled amid AFL COVID hits

MSN Australia, Other, 24/04/2021, Anthony Colangelo

Collingwood's final training session, known as a captain's run, before the Anzac Day blockbuster against Essendon at the MCG on Sunday has been cancelled. [...] North Melbourne are awaiting further information about travel arrangements back to Victoria after the match, with Perth declared a red zone by Victorian Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton late Friday after a close contact of a Victorian man who contracted the virus in a quarantine hotel in the city also tested positive to the virus.

[Read More](#)

AFL confirms Anzac Day blockbuster to go ahead as planned

MSN Australia, Other, 24/04/2021, Anthony Colangelo

The AFL has confirmed that the Anzac Day blockbuster will go ahead as planned, despite the fact that Collingwood's final training session on Saturday was cancelled. [...] North Melbourne are awaiting further information about travel arrangements back to Victoria after the match, with Perth declared a red zone by Victorian Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton late Friday after a close contact of a Victorian man who contracted the virus in a quarantine hotel in the city also tested positive to the virus.

[Read More](#)

Queensland vax patient released from care

Oberon Review, Other, 24/04/2021

A Queensland man diagnosed with a rare blood clotting reaction to the AstraZeneca vaccine has been discharged from hospital. [...] Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young said on Saturday the Queensland patient had been treated for two days at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital after receiving a vaccination from a GP in South Brisbane.

[Read More](#)

How the AFL fixture, fans will be affected by Perth's snap COVID lockdown

The Courier Mail, Other, 24/04/2021, Marc McGowan, Jay Clark, Jon Ralph and Sam Landsberger

The Anzac Day blockbuster between Collingwood and Essendon will proceed as planned. [...] Victoria's chief health officer, Brett Sutton, has since declared the Perth metropolitan and Peel regions would become red zones from 2.01am on Saturday.

[Read More](#)

Australian authorities say three new cases of blood clots 'very likely linked' to AstraZeneca vaccine

The Guardian, Other, 24/04/2021, Josh Taylor and Melissa Davey

Australian health authorities say another three cases of rare blood clots including in an 80-year-old Victorian man are very likely linked to the AstraZeneca vaccine. [...] On Saturday the Queensland chief health officer, Dr Jeannette Young, said the recovery of all three individuals was due to the fast reactions of the patients and staff.

[Read More](#)

McGowan defends WA hotel quarantine system

The New Daily, Other, 24/04/2021

West Australian Premier Mark McGowan has defended his state's hotel quarantine system after two new cases traced back to a city hotel have forced the Perth and Peel regions into a three-day lockdown. [...] Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young said Queensland's latest case is a man who became ill while on a vessel from Japan, with the boat now off Mackay's coast.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News (Weekend), 24/04/2021, Ben Gubana

Interview with Dr Jeannette Young, Queensland Chief Health Officer. WA Premier Mark McGowan has lashed out at the Federal Government and wants the Commonwealth to assume greater responsibility. There are also fresh concerns about the vaccine rollout as three more cases of blood clots emerged.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, ABC News - 18:00 (Weekend), 24/04/2021, Mariam Saab

Interview with Mark Butler, Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing. The lockdown in Perth has again raised questions about hotel quarantine. There have been now a handful of cases where people have caught COVID-19 while completing their 14 days stay.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 24/04/2021, Chris Bath

Interview with Dr Jeannette Young, Queensland Chief Health Officer. Different border restrictions are being enforced around the country over fears the outbreak in Perth will spread. All four close contacts of the Melbourne man who contracted coronavirus in hotel quarantine have now returned negative test results.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 24/04/2021, Chris Bath

Interview with Dr Jeannette Young, Queensland Chief Health Officer and Mark Butler, Shadow Minister for Health. An 80yo Vic man is the first person in Australia older than 50yo to suffer rare blood clots the Therapeutic Goods Administration believes are linked to the AstraZeneca vaccine. He is among three new cases but the health advice has not changed and Pfizer is still preferred for people under 50yo.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News (Weekend), 24/04/2021, Michael Usher and Angela Cox

Interview with Mark Butler, Shadow Health Minister. Perth's lockdown is currently being felt in Sydney tonight as incoming travellers being ordered into the same strict isolation conditions. It comes as WA recorded a new COVID case today that's linked to the growing hotel quarantine cluster.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News (Saturday), 24/04/2021, Georgie Gardner

Interview with Mark Butler, Shadow Minister for Health. WA has just recorded a new COVID-19 case and the person infected was at a Perth restaurant. The vaccine rollout has meanwhile faced renewed scrutiny.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News (Saturday) , 24/04/2021, Jonathan Uptin

There are fresh concerns in the fight against COVID after WA initiated another lockdown. It comes as Qld who left Perth after midnight are now required to quarantine amid a new Qld blood clot vaccine case. [...] Yvette Dath, Health Minister, assures that the move to quarantine those who arrived in Qld from Perth during midnight is something that is necessary as they have followed the advice of Dr Jeannette Young, Chief Health Officer's, advice.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia (Saturday), 24/04/2021, Anton Enus

Interview with Dr Jeannette Young, Queensland Chief Health Officer. A 40yo Qld man who was diagnosed with a rare blood clotting disorder after receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine has been discharged from hospital. He was among the three new cases being investigated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration as likely linked to vaccination.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Clot fear shelved as shots resume

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 25/04/2021, Page 6

Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccinations have been given the go-ahead to resume in the US after the program was paused due to worries over blood clotting. Health authorities on April 14 proposed a halt on the vaccine following instances of severe blood clots among a handful of the millions of Americans who had received the vaccine.

[Read More](#)

Alpaca a punch for humans against COVID

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 25/04/2021, Grant McArthur, Page 9

Alpacas may be a secret weapon in the fight against COVID-19, as scientists try to adapt their unique immune system into a nasal spray to protect humans. Having identified how alpacas are able to fight the SARS-CoV-2 virus, a Melbourne collaboration has now been able to harness the properties of their immune system to successfully shield mice from COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

Scoring a dentist is like pulling teeth: LNP

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 25/04/2021, Domanii Cameron, Page 19

Queensland's dental waiting list is continuing to balloon, with more than 153,000 people queued in February. The staggering figure has grown from 110,075 in just five years, prompting calls for better resourcing and a partnership with the private sector.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Island's mental battle

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 25/04/2021, Brooke Grebert-Craig, Page 27

Phillip Island residents have made an impassioned plea for more dedicated mental health services following an alarming rise in suicides in regional Victoria. The closest dedicated treatment is more than 140km away in the Latrobe Valley, while the region's mental health support programs including Headspace and Wellways are in Wonthaggi, more than 25km from the island.

[Read More](#)

Mental health plan rejig

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 25/04/2021, Rebecca DiGirolamo, Page 11

Health Minister Stephen Wade says he's open to reworking the state's one-year-old mental health blueprint. The blueprint, which has been criticised for its lack of detail, will be examined in a workshop this week.

[Read More](#)

Experts warn of mental health service collapse

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 25/04/2021, Sue Bailey, Page 17

Tasmania's mental health services are on the brink of collapse with patient care "deleteriously affected", a group of 16 psychiatrists say. In a letter to the Australian Medical Association, obtained by the Sunday Tasmanian, the group calls for an independent inquiry into Statewide Mental Health Services to investigate all aspects of the organisation.

[Read More](#)

Preventative approach to mental health welcomed, despite party questions

Sunday Examiner, General News, 25/04/2021, Adam Daunt, Page 5

The Greens have attacked the Liberal Party's performance over mental health after they announced a major new policy. Mental Health and Wellbeing Minister Jeremy Rockliff on Saturday announced an additional \$56 million to improve mental health, alcohol and drug services, and boost preventative health measures.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

is22

AMA chief claims criticism of Government is 'constructive'

Sunday Times, General News, 25/04/2021, Sarah Steger, Page 4

Australian Medical Association WA president Andrew Miller has listed the ways he would make hotel quarantine safer, hitting back at WA Premier Mark McGowan's comments that he be "more constructive". Mr McGowan criticised Dr Miller, pictured, at a press conference following comments from the AMA boss that Perth's snap lockdown was "completely avoidable".

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

Birth trauma pains one in three women

Sun Herald, General News, 25/04/2021, Wendy Tuohy, Page 13

Nearly a third of women regret how their birth played out, and one in five felt pressured to have a medical intervention they didn't want. Western Sydney University's Australian Birth Experience Study attracted 4800 stories from women who had babies in Australia in the past five years.

[Read More](#)

Stars of screen

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 25/04/2021, Jane Hansen and Brigid O'Connell, Page 13

Every single one of us is carrying some sort of genetic mutation and now experts are advising all prospective parents to consider genetic screening before starting a family. One in 25 people of caucasian descent carries the gene for cystic fibrosis; those of Mediterranean heritage - and one in 10 of Southeast Asian descent - are more likely to carry thalassaemia, which leads to severe anaemia; while one in 35 are thought to carry the recessive gene that causes spinal muscular atrophy, the biggest genetic killer of infants under two.

Also reported by: [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Fight for palliative care

Border Watch, Supplements, 22/04/2021, Page 13

The Border Watch has been at the forefront in fighting community issues and one which emerged in 2015 was the "Save Our Palliative Care" campaign. It was a campaign led by the newspaper's editorial team which forced the state government to back down and reinstate the palliative care system in Mount Gambier.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

Beneath the milkshake a bizarre, dangerous coyness about consent

Sunday Age, General News, 25/04/2021, Jacqueline Maley, Page 11

Sexual assault and abuse are crimes with devastating consequences, and yet the federal government's much-derided ads for young people couldn't even use the words themselves. It may be time to redeploy the novelty giraffe.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

s22

[Back to Top](#)

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s47F [REDACTED]@isentia.com>
Sent: Thursday, 14 January 2021 6:59 AM
To: s47E(d) [REDACTED]
Cc: s47F [REDACTED]; s47F [REDACTED]; s47F [REDACTED]; s47F [REDACTED]
Subject: Isentia - Insights Daily Report - 14 January
Attachments: Coronavirus Daily Insights - 14 January Morning.pdf

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Please find today's briefing attached.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please let us know.

Kind regards

--
s47F [REDACTED]
Media Researcher

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE



Coronavirus Daily Insights

Department of Health - Morning

14 January 2021

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE



Key Stories

Overnight

- [Australia's harsh COVID-19 response criticised in Human Rights Watch report](#)
- [No new local cases of COVID in Queensland, major overhaul announced after six cases of infectious UK strain linked to hotel](#)
- [Rampant UK strain triggers quarantine shake-up call](#)
- [Experts say it is unlikely air conditioning spread coronavirus at Brisbane's Hotel Grand Chancellor](#)
- [Old hotel closed and hotspot venue list issued amid UK virus variant outbreak](#)
- [Urgent advice for NSW and Victorian residents who stayed at Queensland hotel linked to UK coronavirus variant](#)
- [New hotel cluster forces some Victorian travellers back into isolation](#)
- [Coronavirus NSW: Sydney's northern beaches no longer a hot spot](#)
- [Anti-mask conspiracy believers fined](#)
- [Foreign military arrivals test positive to COVID-19 in Darwin hotel quarantine](#)
- [ANU staff receive spam email falsely claiming positive COVID-19 cases on campus](#)
- [COVID-19 cases double in Chinese province locked down in 'wartime' mode](#)
- [China dismisses suggestions COVID-19 pandemic originated from bats or pangolins](#)
- [Amid political chaos, US sets daily record for COVID-19 deaths](#)

Morning

- [MP's COVID-19 posts get medical rebuke](#)
- [Skimpy studies fuel Kelly's disinformation](#)
- [Border wars to rage 'for months'](#)
- [Victoria firm as NSW hotspot cools](#)
- [Police probe mystery UK variant spread](#)



- [FLYING STILL A ROLL OF THE DICE](#)
- Letter: [Act hard and fast on virus](#)
- [A very different Oz Day](#)
- Letter: [NSW approach has lacked clarity](#)
- [VICTORIAN TEEN STUCK IN BRISBANE](#)

Key Commentators

Overnight

- **Various public health experts (NEG):** [Three public health experts warned misinformation spread by government MPs – such as Craig Kelly – and not called out by ministers, constitutes a threat to Australia’s successful fight against coronavirus and vaccine rollout.](#) Dr Claire Hooker, University of Sydney believed “the Prime Minister and the front bench need to be actively criticising the spread of misinformation”; Australian Medical Association president, Omar Khorshid called on the government to invest in an online advertising campaign to counter misinformation and anti-vaxxer conspiracy theories; and Ron Borland, Melbourne University described the spread of misinformation by MPs as “disturbing”.

s22



Key Stories s22

- [Chief medical officer backs AstraZeneca jab rollout](#)
- [CMO wades into AstraZeneca, Pfizer vaccine debate saying 'choice is not whether one is better than the other'](#)
- [Not enough Pfizer vaccine available](#)
- [Nation in search of new deals on vaccine](#)
- [Greg Hunt says GPs can register for the COVID-19 vaccine program next week](#)
- [CSL to make Novavax](#)
- [CSL 'fully focused' on COVID deal](#)
- ['New storm brewing': Europe extends lockdowns as COVID-19 vaccines not likely to help for months](#)
- [Indonesia takes very different approach to mass vaccination program](#)

Key Stories s22

N/A

Leading Social Media Topics (Overnight)

s22





s22

- In response to mainstream media articles on Liberal MP, Craig Kelly's sharing of alleged "misinformation" about coronavirus, Twitter users worried about his ["irresponsible and just plain WRONG advice"](#), saying "rhetoric" like his is ["damaging the health, welfare and rights of patients, doctors and nurses around the world"](#).

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s47F @isentia.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 April 2021 6:56 AM
To: s47E(d)
Cc: s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F ;
s47F ; s47F
Subject: Isentia - Insights Daily Report - 27 April
Attachments: Coronavirus Daily Insights - 27 April Morning.pdf

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Please find today's briefing attached.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please let us know.

Kind regards

--
s47F
Media Researcher

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE



Coronavirus Daily Insights

Department of Health - Morning

27 April 2021

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE



Key Stories

Overnight

- [Newspoll: Scott Morrison gets top marks for handling pandemic](#)
- [Perth lockdown to end at midnight as no new COVID community cases recorded](#)
- [AMA president Andrew Miller pins State's fate on whether positive people were 'super-spreaders'](#)
- [Perth's post-COVID lockdown rules explained, from mask-wearing to weddings](#)
- [Many West Australians not using SafeWA app and QR codes while out shopping during lockdown](#)
- [Premier Mark McGowan pushes to permanently reduced returned traveller numbers into WA](#)
- Editorial: [Team Australia needs safe quarantine, not more border populism](#)
- [Quarantined Western Australia travellers to be released early from hotels](#)
- [AMA calls for change to ventilation guidelines](#)
- [Qld Health to treat crew aboard COVID ship](#)
- [More than one in 100 international travellers arriving into Qld have the COVID-19 virus](#)
- [National security committee to consider India flights ban](#)
- [South Australia's shock rise in hotel quarantine cases](#)
- [Frustrations rise as Victorian COVID-19 mask-wearing slips on trains and trams](#)
- [Victorian plane passengers wait for COVID tests five days after flying with infected traveller](#)
- [Confidence to be tested by latest lockdown](#)
- [Controversial MP Craig Kelly hits back after being permanently deleted from Facebook](#)
- [We'll help but travel ban likely as India 'gasps for oxygen'](#)
- [Covid-19 situation in India 'beyond heartbreaking': WHO chief](#)
- [Dying in the streets as hospitals overwhelmed](#)

- [US, Britain pledge aid to 'heartbreaking' India as Italy opens up](#)
- [Philippines COVID-19 cases top one million](#)
- [Thailand starts stricter COVID-19 shutdown](#)
- [Fiji's capital Suva goes into COVID-19 lockdown after quarantine facility soldiers spreads infection](#)
- [Hong Kong and Singapore aim to start travel bubble in May](#)

Morning

- Opinion: [COVID-19 outbreak: We must find alternative ways to respond otherwise West Aussies may lose patience](#)
- Opinion: [The WA Government has not got it entirely right when it comes to COVID protocols](#)
- Opinion: [Advice to McGowan from Gladys: 'Pull your weight'](#)
- [WA told to toughen up](#)
- Opinion: [Hotel quarantine needs reality rethink](#)
- Editorial: [It's time to invest in quarantine quality](#)
- [Jail site tipped for quarantine role](#)
- [Victoria pushes to open student, business travel](#)
- Editorial: [Quarantine system needs more support](#)
- Editorial: [Revolving door border farce](#)
- [Justifying virus room delay](#)
- [Masks are 'not enough'](#)
- [Quarantine alternatives months away](#)
- [Cabinet to assess India flights ban](#)
- [Travel ban likely on stricken India](#)
- [Toowoomba facility queried](#)
- ['There will be COVID at the \[Olympic\] Games'](#)

- Opinion: [Flattening the curve became elimination at any cost. We weren't told that would happen](#)
- [Borders likely closed until 2023: Nib CEO](#)
- [Vic crisis boss accused of 'misleading inquiry'](#)

Key Commentators

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

Key Stories s22

- [COVID vaccine rollout delays frustrate vulnerable Australians in priority group](#)
- [Vaccine myth scientists struggle to bust](#)
- [Vaccine hotshots to heat up with Aussie tech](#)
- [US to export up to 60 mn AstraZeneca Covid vaccine doses](#)
- [EU sues AstraZeneca over vaccine delays](#)
- [Africa's slow vaccine drive threatened as supplies from a stricken India are halted](#)

Key Stories s22

N/A

Leading Social Media Topics (Overnight)

- After being permanently banned from Facebook, MP Craig Kelly took to Twitter to claim Facebook's ["censorship of the science and the evidence on Ivermectin and Covid early treatments – is killing people"](#). He also likened his ban to ["facist bookburners of the past"](#). However, other Twitter users were quick to challenge him, saying for example that Facebook was ["simply protecting your uneducable flock from absorbing your dangerous nonsense"](#) or simply [responding with clown emojis](#).