Impact Report: March 2022

This report gives an overview of Croakey’s publishing during March 2022 and insights into who is engaging with our work. Key topics included the Ukraine crisis, Federal Budget, South Australian election, floods, climate change and the Close the Gap report.

Social Media Impressions

We record our social media analytics using Buffer. The figures below are for total impressions across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. See our latest readership figures here.

This month: 855,590 impressions | This year: 2,813,319 impressions

4 March, 2022: In Europe, a humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding with global ramifications.

Meanwhile, the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) brings further evidence of our shared existential threat.

The impacts of climate change are being experienced by millions of people across Queensland and New South Wales where floods are claiming lives and livelihoods.

In times like these, leadership really matters, for the health of nations, communities and peoples.

Examples of leadership thread through our stories this week, from the community leadership provided by the Koori Mail newspaper amidst flooding devastation, to the courageous leadership of Ukraine’s citizens and social media savvy Prime Minister. The IPCC report acknowledges the leadership of Indigenous Peoples in adaptation over millennia.

We pay tribute to a leader of general practice and evidence-based healthcare, Professor Chris Del Mar, and lament his passing.

On COVID, we put a focus on the Pacific Islands, and lessons from HIV/AIDS. In The Health Wrap, Associate Professor Lesley Russell investigates the latest on long COVID.

We are honoured that Croakey Professional Services is supporting a campaign celebrating the 25-year anniversary of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM), whose members have a long history of leadership in collective and individual activism. Check out the campaign portal.

[The Croakey bulletin ran a day late this week due to a telecommunications outage in lutruwita/Tasmania.].
We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the country where we live, work and travel upon, and to Elders, past, present and future.

The article above was also cross-posted by the Doctors for the Environment Australia.
This week, we launched a campaign portal supporting the 25-year anniversary celebrations of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM). Members of the Croakey team also attended the CATSINaM webinar launching the campaign.

Read more here and follow the news at #CATSINAM25Years.

Other activities

On 1 March, Melissa Sweet attended a Climate and Health Alliance webinar on the new IPCC report.
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https://www.croakey.org/impact/
10 March, 2022: “Peace is a prerequisite for health.” In just six words, this tweet from American public health physician Dr Tom Frieden reminds us of the fragility of the world’s health.

At a time of global anxiety about the potential for nuclear war, we report this week on calls to abolish nuclear weapons, as more than two million people flee Ukraine in a fortnight and hospitals come under fire.

Safety is also a prerequisite for health. For many Australian communities facing the aftermath of destructive floods, beyond the immediate dangers lie wide-ranging and long-lasting health impacts, as Dr Amy Coopes reports. Not least, the escalating climate crisis.

Meanwhile, the emerging situation with the Japanese encephalitis virus has been declared a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance.

We continue our series profiling key health issues in the run up to the Federal budget and election, with the latest contributions from the Change the Record coalition, Mitchell Institute at Victoria University and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

This week, we also bring stories of powerful activism. As the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) celebrates a 25-year history of collective and individual activism, we pay tribute to Dr Sally Goold, one of the organisation’s founders and Elders.

Don’t miss the powerful article by 19-year-old climate activist Varsha Yajman, who is the coordinator of a new network for South Asian climate advocacy. On related themes, academics have urged governments to ensure Indigenous Peoples are included as lead authors for future reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

With support from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, we bring news of a new clinical standard on cataract care, in a story that reminds of another prerequisite for health: equitable access to quality healthcare.

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**AWPR @WarPowersRefon • Mar 10**

Russian President Putin's threat to use nuclear weapons has not only escalated the crisis for the people of Ukraine, but added a new dimension – with implications for us all.

croakey.org

As millions flee Ukraine, the focus must be on abolishing nuclear weapons. The crisis in Europe is a reminder that the abolition of nuclear weapons remains one of the greatest challenges of our time.

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**National Shelter @NationalShelter • Mar 10**

croakey.org/floods-response first order of business must be in getting shelter for all those who need it - we did it in the pandemic so we can do it again.

croakey.org

Floods response and climate policy: what a disaster.

Introduction by Croakey: Amid debris and devastation, communities across eastern Australia are grieving their losses this week in the wake of the floods.

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**Homelessness Australia @HomelessnessAus • Mar 10**

“The weight of climate change and natural disasters is really showing up the fragility of our social bonds. It used to be that all of us were only 3 or 4 events away from homelessness, but for a significant chunk of us it’s now just one,” via @CroakeyNews

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**Peter C McInnes @PeterCMcInnes1 • Mar 11**

The AMA, PHAA & CAHA issued calls this week for action on climate and health, noting the flooding as further proof that the climate crisis is already engulfing our way of life. PHAA President said comprehensive strategy on climate, health & wellbeing needed.

croakey.org

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**Centre of Best Practice ❤️ 😊 Prevention ☁️ ☀️ @cbp • Mar 9**

Indigenous knowledge is needed in this important issue: IPCC reports still exclude Indigenous voices. Come join us at our sacred fires to find answers to climate change via @CroakeyNews

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**IPCC reports still exclude Indigenous voices. Come join us at our sacred fires to find answers to climate change by @CroakeyNews**

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**IMPACT REPORT**

https://www.croakey.org/impact/
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The South Australian Council of Social Service e-bulletin featured our story on the SA election.
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**Andrew Mclachlan @AndMacUSyd · 2h**
Proud of our students (supported by our staff) from across @syd_health who stepped up - forging their careers on the front-lines of the public health response to the COVID pandemic @RobynWard13
#SydneyPharmacySchool

Croakey News @CroakeyNews · 1h
Forged on the frontlines: reflecting on a unique cohort graduating into health croakey.org/forged-on-the-...
#publichealth

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**Mitchell Institute @Mitch_Inst · Mar 11**
As the Federal Budget approaches, @CroakeyNews outlines the priority areas for health funding, including delivering the recommendations of the Baby Equality Well roadmap on mental health.
#BEW
@victoriauninews

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**MAPW Australia @MAPW_Australia · 1h**
Thanks @CroakeyNews @MelissaSweetDr + team for the best and broadest coverage of health and ALL its determinants 🌈

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**VHA @Vichihealthassoc · Mar 12**
From @CroakeyNews: In the run up to the Federal budget on 29 March and an election by 21 May, this article continues a Croakey series asking: what health issues should be elevated in national debate? Read the article:

croakey.org
Building a collective wishlist for health reform – see the latest entries
In the run up to the Federal budget on 29 March and an election by 21 May, this article continues

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**Heiko Spallek @heikospallek · Mar 8**
Forged on the frontlines: reflecting on a unique cohort graduating into health by Robyn Ward on Croakey
bit.ly/3CrfaqW
#education #healthcare #publichealth #university #training #health #covid #medicine #sydney

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**Mark Scott @mscott · Mar 12**
For our medical and health students during the pandemic, and those who teach them - there has been no time to stand on ceremony. @RobynWard13
- @Sydney_Ur Executive Dean, reflects on what happened.

croakey.org
Forged on the frontlines: reflecting on a unique cohort graduating into...
Introduction by Croakey: Few aspiring health care workers could have foreseen, when they embarked on their training just a few
Croakey Professional Services

Croakey Professional Services is supporting a Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives campaign celebrating its 25th anniversary – #CATSINAM25Years.

As part of an ongoing series of sponsored content supported by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Dr Amy Coopes reported on efforts to improve equitable access to cataract surgery.

Other activities

Dr Summer May Finlay, a contributing editor at Croakey, spoke at an International Women's Day function.
17 March, 2022: Over the past two years, at least six million people have died from COVID around the world. In the past three weeks, at least three million people have fled Ukraine and several million more are internally displaced.

Already Russia’s war on Ukraine is having wider impacts on global health, increasing the numbers of starving people in war-torn Yemen, where it is expected 19 million people will require food assistance by the second half of this year.

It’s hard to grasp the magnitude of these numbers, the scale of trauma and loss involved. And harder still to contemplate what might be to follow, given the threat of nuclear and chemical weapons.

Meanwhile, in Australia it’s also difficult to fathom why any government would fight for such a Pyrrhic victory as that claimed by Sussan Ley this week: the Environment Minister who, in the midst of catastrophic flooding, wants no duty of care to protect children and the environment from the harmful impacts of climate change.

As an antidote, don’t miss Jade Bradford’s report on Indigenous perspectives of the determinants of planetary health. Amongst so much gloom and doom, this story brings hope of restorative relationships. It also underscores the importance of relationships between Elders and children in developing children’s ecological roles as carers for Mother Earth.

Our bulletin this week also puts a focus on key health reform issues, from obesity to the Indigenous health workforce, air pollution, out-of-pocket costs, primary healthcare, cervical cancer screening, and access to healthcare in rural, regional and remote Australia.

Ahead of the South Australian election this Saturday, we’ve covered some important health issues that often don’t make the mainstream headlines.

Amidst so much sorrow over the police shooting of 19-year-old Kumanjayi Walker and racism in healthcare, police and justice systems, we report calls by senior Warlpiri man Ned Jampijinpa Hargraves for a ceasefire. “The police must put down their weapons,” he said.
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**Australian Health Services Research Institute @AHSRI_UOW · 2h**
Two years later, and we're not out of the woods yet. @AHSRI_UOW director @k_eagir and @CroakeyNews editor @AlisonSBarrett provide two separate assessments.

croakey.org

Two years later, and we’re not out of the woods yet
Introduction by Croakey: Just over two years ago — on 11 March, 2020 — the World Health Organization declared that

**South Australian Council of Social Service @SACOSS · Mar 16**
Lots to read & absorb in this really informative @CroakeyNews item on the SA election from @AlisonSBarrett as #SAvotes this Sat. #PublicHealth & more on our #CoverTheBasics calls. Great insights.

croakey.org

On the road to the South Australian election, politicians need to think ... South Australians go to the polls this Saturday. Whichever party is elected, they must broaden their health agenda to address

**PHAA SA @phaa_sa · Mar 16**
Check out @CroakeyNews article on the Consortium’s scorecard launch as well! Thank you to the whole team at Croakey - especially @AlisonSBarrett & @MelissaSweetDr - for helping South Australians #ThinkPublicHealth this election. #SAVotes #SAParli

croakey.org

In this South Australian election scorecard, which parties score best for ... Introduction by Croakey: In the lead-up to the South Australian election on 19 March, SA-Beast and The Greens have committed

**Obesity Coalition @OPCAustralia · Mar 16**
ICYMI: The National Obesity Strategy is out and it’s time for urgent targeted action, prioritising:
✔ addressing unhealthy food advertising to kids
✔ introducing a health levy on sugary drinks
✔ improved added sugar labelling.

croakey.org

National Obesity Strategy welcomed, but systemic focus, action requi... Equity, tackling stigma and discrimination, and addressing the wider determinants of health and sustainability have been placed at the ...
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@WePublicHealth

During the week of Close the Gap Day, the Lowitja Institute guest tweeted for @WePublicHealth.
Other activities

Dr Tess Ryan, a contributing editor and member of Croakey Health Media, delivered a keynote address on ‘The power and the passion of Indigenous health’ to the Australasian College of Health Service Management conference, ‘The Health of the Nation’. She spoke about the importance of trust between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and health clinicians, and described how effective collaborations are so vital in delivering effective care. She said that communities of practice must consider relationships and ‘the whole person’ in approaching service delivery.
24 March, 2022: Shortly after his election, the new South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas tweeted that his policies “aren’t just for the next four years; they’re for the next generation”, and that health remains his “number one priority”. He also pledged that his Government’s first step would be to implement a State-based version of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

This week, our contributors dish up some health advice for Malinauskas that is also timely given we are just days out from a federal budget that may set a focus for the upcoming federal election campaign.

We also bring expert advice from a former senior federal public servant, Charles Maskell-Knight, on how to read budget papers and avoid falling for the political spin.

Our bulletin this week also reports on burnout in the health workforce, innovation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ health and wellbeing, global negotiations in COVID vaccine rights, the problems with for-profit aged care, and the terrible price that children pay for wars, in Ukraine and elsewhere.

And Cate Carrigan spoke with health and community leaders in northern New South Wales about the wide-ranging health impacts of the recent catastrophic floods. Long-term support and innovative, community-driven solutions are needed. So many of our stories this week highlight the importance of housing for health and wellbeing.
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"Multiple Australian studies have found burnout rates of more than 50 percent among healthcare workers," said Prof @stephenjducket & Edward Meehan in @CroakeyNews. #PublicHealth #AFTINET @AFTINET · Mar 24

@DrDebGleeson from the @PHAA is spot on in this @croakey article: if @DanTehanWannon is to fulfill his commitment to support the #TRIPSwaiver, then he must support improvements which will strengthen the waiver on #COVID19 monopolies.

Matthew Rimmer @DrRimmer · Mar 24
The compromise proposal for a #TRIPSwaiver is compromised. croakey.org/global-negot... #COVID19 #access2meds

Global negotiations on COVID vaccine rights must not sacrifice health ...
The Australian Government must intervene in global negotiations to ensure that global health is not compromised by efforts to water

Supporting pregnant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to quit smoking: stories from iSISTAQUIT via @CroakeyNews

Political Determinants of Health Collect... @Collective_HL... · Mar 24
"Global negotiations on COVID vaccine rights must not sacrifice health equity"

As pandemic takes toll on public health workforce, a call for action on ...
Introduction by Croakey: In the United States, the politicisation of the COVID-19 response, backlash from communities, and under-recruitment...

Global negotiations on COVID vaccine rights must not sacrifice health ...
The Australian Government must intervene in global negotiations to ensure that global health is not compromised by efforts to water

Health Justice Australia @HealthJusticeAu · 34m
Last month we hosted the @WePUBLIChealth account for a week, talking all things health, justice and wellbeing in the lead up to the #FederalBudget2022. ICYMI @CroakeyNews have summarised our tweets in this article!

Three key proposals to improve health, justice and wellbeing for those ...
Introduction by Croakey: A "quiet revolution" is taking place across Australia that involves community lawyers moving out of their offices

https://www.croakey.org/impact/
The 25-week campaign celebrating 25 years of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) continues. See the campaign portal, which is hosted by Croakey Professional Services.
31 March, 2022: On the morning after the Federal Budget was handed down, page one of Brisbane’s Courier Mail newspaper was headlined: ‘Vote 1: Dosh Frydenberg’.

Many Croakey contributors have quite a different take, however, as the quotes below indicate.

Cheryl Axleby, Co-Chair, Change the Record: “If a Budget is a reflection of a government’s priorities, then this Government is sending a clear message that it does not care about First Nations peoples.”

NACCHO CEO Pat Turner: “This Budget is an opportunity lost.”

PWDA President Samantha Connor: “This budget is a lean, mean budget for people with disability, their families and carers.”

Australian Council of Social Service CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie: “This budget is full of temporary fixes, when we need permanent solutions. Much of the assistance goes to people who don’t need it, and too little goes to people who need support.”

Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association Acting CEO Kylie Woolcock: “Critical investment in driving innovation is lacking in primary and community care. Without it, problems of affordability for individuals and the system will continue to grow.”

Professor Stephen Duckett: “…while plenty of taxpayers’ money was allocated this year to give an ailing government the greatest possible advantage in the upcoming election, health fared poorly.”

Health policy analyst Charles Maskell-Knight: “This budget does very little to address the strategic policy problems affecting the health sector.”

Associate Professor Lesley Russell: “… this Budget is a lost opportunity …”

PHAA CEO Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin: “…the Budget is an F minus.”

The Australian Aged Care Collaboration: “There is nothing in this budget to improve aged care wages. It will leave our dedicated workers on the edge of poverty and many older Australians without the services they need.”

Meanwhile, don’t miss Cate Carrigan’s lead story featuring voices from the climate change front-lines in NSW, and also her preview for the Croakey Conference News Service of the Equally Well 2022 Symposium. Follow the news on Twitter: #EquallyWellAu22
The Federal Budget is traditionally one of the busiest weeks of the year for the Croakey team. This link bookmarks all our coverage for the 2022-2023 Budget.

Jennifer Doggett @JenniferDoggett · 16h
Basically everyone should read all of Croakey’s excellent coverage of the Budget with wraps of responses from interest groups and detailed commentary from people with expert knowledge of the sector and budget processes. #healthbudget2022

Penelope Joy @LopeyPen · 14m
Yet another reason why we would just be lost without Croakey #Budget2022 #HealthBudget2022

Croakey News @CroakeyNews · 15m
A rolling post wrapping reaction to the Federal Budget croakey.org/a-rolling-post... #publichealth

Mark Burdack @BurdackMark · Mar 30
The Country Women’s Association has described the Budget as “totally inadequate” saying they have been “left disappointed and frustrated” and elderly rural residents “have been let down once again.” Now that spells trouble. croakey.org/part-two-of-w... @CroakeyNews @RACGPPresident

Jon Wardle @wardlejon · Mar 31
The Budget was a very clear indication that the Government has no interest in either acknowledging or preparing for the realities of #climatechange. It’s a real kick in the guts for Lismore residents recently traumatised from living through those realities

Research Australia @ResAustralia · Apr 4
Research Australia’s Budget analysis features in Croakey’s Budget wrap up.

Health Justice Australia @HealthJusticeAU · Mar 30
The @CroakeyNews team is continuing to update this helpful compilation of organisations’ responses to the #FederalBudget.
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On Twitter, the World Health Organization’s Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus interacted with @MelissaSweetDr.

On Twitter, the World Health Organization’s Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus interacted with @MelissaSweetDr.

Podcaster Wil Anderson (478,000 followers) also RT-ed.

When the water goes down the problems are only starting, I feel for everyone who needs to try and rebuild for the second time in a month

NSW floods: destructive weather moves south as water begins to recede in Lismore - Guardian Australia apple.news/ACEbhQzJT/Aphb...
Cate Carrigan previewed the Equally Well 2022 Symposium, which she will cover for the Croakey Conference News Service.

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In the news

On 1 April, the Australian Healthcare and Hospital’s Association weekly newsletter featured Croakey’s Budget coverage prominently, including articles compiling reaction, on climate and health and mental health.

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Top stories

2022 Federal Budget Announced

The 2022-23 Commonwealth Budget was announced on Tuesday, March 29. Expenditure on health and aged care in this year’s budget is $143 billion, an increase of $11.1 billion compared with the 2021-22 budget. Full budget papers for health and aged care can be found on the Australian Government Department of Health website.

Read more:
- Budget 2022-23
- A rolling post wrapping reaction to the Federal Budget
- Part two of wrapping reaction to the Federal Budget, with some ‘thumbs down’
- Part three of wrapping reaction to Federal Budget; it falls so many health tests
- Health budget 2022 spends a little on favoured interest groups but misses a chance for real reform

Climate and health

As the 2022-23 Budget was handed down on Tuesday, those in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales were again evacuating their homes due to rising floodwaters. Many are saying this budget does not do enough in the face of climate change, housing and health services. According to residents in the Northern Rivers region, the federal government is putting the responsibility on future generations to deal with the cost of pollution and has missed opportunities to move to clean energy.

Read more:
- Federal Budget under fire from those at the front-lines of climate change
- Budget papers allow Morrison government to reduce annual climate spending over next four years

Mental health

According to Mind Australia, a community-managed specialist mental health service provider, the 2022-23 Budget should have invested in systemic reform to improve mental health services. Mind Australia has said ‘by ignoring system reform in favour of funding separate initiatives, we’ll continue to see gaps in the system, stress on the sector and a piecemeal approach to addressing the mental health needs of Australians’.

Read more:
On the Federal Budget and mental health: the path forward is there but it hasn’t been taken

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https://www.croakey.org/impact/
This @CroakeyVoices tweet featured in an article at The Conversation (29 March), ‘Indigenous peoples across the globe are uniquely equipped to deal with the climate crisis - so why are we being left out of these conversations?’

Presentation

On 31 March, Dr Melissa Sweet presented to the University of Queensland Poche Centre about Croakey Health Media, public interest journalism and health.

Out and about

Croakey Health Media members Associate Professor Lesley Russell and Dr Ruth Armstrong….