Impact Report: October 2021

This report gives an overview of Croakey's publishing during October 2021 and the range of individuals and organisations commenting on our articles and activities.

Social Media Impressions

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

1,549,226 impressions

See our latest readership figures here.

7 October, 2021: This week we explore the impact of COVID on health systems and workforce, and also investigate the importance of vaccinating children as we open up. “We need to do everything possible to protect every child,” writes one contributor.

Ageism and social isolation are identified as significant public health issues for older people that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

In the midst of a public health crisis, nothing could be less inspiring than the sight of political leaders fighting over public hospital funding. Thankfully, health policy analyst Charles Maskell-Knight is on hand to sift the politics from the facts.

We are delighted to report on a recent online forum, hosted by researchers at the School of Population Health, UNSW Sydney, which produced clear recommendations for improving public health communications with culturally diverse groups. Contact Croakey Professional Services for details about sponsored content opportunities.

From Torres Strait Island communities, we hear some powerful messages about the cultural determinants of health, and the need for action on issues such as housing, infrastructure, climate change, and the COVID vaccine rollout on remote islands.

Other stories investigate the unhealthy power of corporates from Facebook to the alcohol industry.

Our final Croakey Conference News Service report from the recent Oceanic Palliative Care Conference calls for better care for LGBTIQ+ people who still face discrimination and ignorance at the end of life. And our last report from the recent Youth Health Forum Summit has some useful lessons for politicians and health organisations. Just imagine a health system with young people in charge.
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.
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14 October, 2021: What price ‘freedom’? It’s a question on many people’s minds, as New South Wales opens up to ‘live with COVID’ while vaccination rates are still low among many groups and regions. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health experts are among those urging a slower opening until communities are safer.

Despite all the determination to ‘go back to normal’, the pandemic offers the opportunity for huge transformation, including of our health system, as emergency physician Dr Clare Skinner writes.

Our bulletin this week also focuses on global issues, from a new malaria vaccine to deepening COVID-19 vaccine inequity. Ahead of critical global climate meetings, we kick off a #HealthyCOP26 series, in partnership with the Climate and Health Alliance.

Don’t miss our regular columns. In The Health Wrap, Associate Professor Lesley Russell looks at the pandemic’s impact upon oral health, especially for children, reviews the latest evidence on Long COVID and reports on NHS success in slashing carbon emissions.

Researcher Alison Barrett also has an important focus on children in the latest COVID-19 wrap, while Professor Kathy Eagar’s COVID SNAPS questions whether Dominic Perrottet is the Premier for NSW or for Sydney?

At Croakey, we applaud the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to courageous journalists Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov. It is critical recognition at a time when public interest journalism is under threat from so many directions. We were delighted to publish an article by Ressa recently, ‘For the sake of health and democracy, there are growing calls to regulate digital platforms’.

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A Twitter thread on failures in political COVID communications, by Croakey's Editor in Chief Dr Melissa Sweet, had widespread engagement.
Croakey is delighted to be working on our #HousingJusticeAus project with Monash University public health student Sienna Crabbmor and University of Sydney global health Capstone student Dr Esther Schroeder (pictured below).

And don’t forget to stock up on Croakey merch – a range of health-promoting designs on many different goods, from cushions to bags and notepads. Here is CroakeyVOICES podcaster Cate Carrigan sporting the look.
21 October, 2021: Commonwealth, state and territory government planning on COVID is proceeding “with the implicit understanding and acceptance that some people are going to be left behind,” writes Professor Kathy Eagar in her latest column.

One might see this as the continuation of a longstanding pattern. In Anti-Poverty Week, we report on evidence from experts that Federal policies are exacerbating childhood poverty and inflicting harm on families and children.

Meanwhile, toxic climate politics continue, with little evident concern for planetary and human health. On net zero, we publish an open letter to rural and regional MPs with an eight-point strategy for healthier rural economies and communities.

A landmark roundtable meeting, hosted yesterday by the Lowitja Institute with the National Health Leadership Forum and the Climate and Health Alliance, heard of the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and knowledge being at the forefront of national responses to the climate crisis.

We also publish an open letter calling for a dedicated national safety plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Ahead of next week’s National Nursing Forum, Jennifer Doggett reports for the Croakey Conference News Service on the agenda for nurses and nursing in the pandemic and beyond.

And the Federal Government is being urged to publish a report on whether its decision to allow the big tech industry to regulate itself on misinformation and disinformation is working. When the fox is in charge of the henhouse, you know what happens next…
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https://www.croakey.org/impact/
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Croakey Conference News Service

We previewed and live tweeted an #IndigenousClimateJustice21 webinar hosted by the Lowitja Institute, together with the National Health Leadership Forum and Climate and Health Alliance.
The Croakey Conference News Service also previewed the National Nursing Forum

Other activities

Croakey columnist Alison Barrett presented an overview of the COVID wrap to the South Australian public health conference – see her presentation here.
28 October, 2021: Flinders University’s “ill-conceived” plans to cut the prestigious Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity were met with incredulity and outrage by local and international health leaders this week. Social media erupted with support for the Institute’s widely respected director Professor Fran Baum and colleagues after Croakey Health Media reported the cuts.

All eyes will be on Glasgow this weekend and the future health of our planet at COP26. Our lead story looks at an important roadmap to address the health risks of climate change. Also catch up with our Twitter wraps from the landmark #IndigenousClimateJustice21 event and the #DEA21 conference.

Two stories this week highlight the importance of COVID vaccination in caring for community and Elders, and we also report on calls for Local Government Areas in rural and regional areas to open up only as they each reach high vaccination rates.

The Health Wrap is another treasure trove of health news from near and far, and Croakey’s coverage of the Australian College of Nursing’s National Nursing Forum continues.

Primary health reform is also on the agenda with the release of the draft 10-year plan, and a new report looks at why private sector participation in aged care has not improved quality or cost of care.

We hope to see you at our first #AusVotesHealth online event, from 5pm AEDT on 4 November.

The independent Adelaide online newspaper, INDAILY, followed up and cited Croakey’s story on the axing of the Southgate Institute and leading public health academics. The story prompted an outpouring of response on social media from leaders in global health and public health.
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The Croakey Conference News Service covered the Australian College of Nursing’s National Nursing Forum.
Tasmanian MP Cassy O’Connor, leader of the Tasmanian Greens, sharing #HousingJusticeAus tweet.

"From a 'class divide' to 'intergenerational theft', Australia’s real estate frenzy leaves many behind" #HousingJusticeAus @MelissaSweetDr

abc.net.au/news/2021-11-0...