Impact Report: **September 2021**

This report gives an overview of Croakey’s publishing during September 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.

1,820,638 impressions

See our latest readership figures here.

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2 September, 2021: In the United States, the Department of Health and Human Services has established a special office to address climate change and health equity. In Australia, when was the last time you heard a Prime Minister or Premier even mention the words, ‘health equity’?

Yet, as our stories this week underscore, we are at a crucial time in the COVID pandemic in Australia for health equity. We face the very real risk that governments will press ahead with policies that exacerbate and entrench existing inequities, in health and education.

Aboriginal communities in western NSW are bearing the brunt of what happens when governments do not prioritise the needs of those most at risk during a public health crisis, as are people in prisons.

At Croakey, we want to contribute to some cut-through messaging on the importance of centring health equity in the pandemic response. Please read our call for help with this.

This week we also preview upcoming events that will be covered by the Croakey Conference News Service: this weekend’s World Congress of Epidemiology and the Youth Health Forum’s National Summit on 15 September.

And we feature the second part of Associate Professor Lesley Russell’s thorough and compelling analysis of the Medical Research Future Fund and whether it is living up to its promises. As part of a series sponsored by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, we explore how a recent drop in antibiotic dispensing in the community provides a glimmer of hope in continuing efforts to protect this precious medical resource.

Finally, as we look with horror at developments in Afghanistan, read about what practical steps we can take to urge and support stronger humanitarian responses from the Federal Government, including our moral obligation to provide safety for many Afghans now at risk of persecution.
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.

Dr Haileyesus Getahun is Director of #AMR Global Coordination @WHO and Tripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR (of @FAO, @OIEAnimalHealth & @WHO)

Inequity in health – we can’t handle the truth… via @CroakeyNews
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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9 September, 2021: This week, delegates to two different conferences - one about palliative care and another on epidemiology - heard some similar messages from keynote presentations. These were about the importance of addressing health inequities and their underlying determinants, including racism and injustice.

Of course these are longstanding concerns, but COVID-19 is bringing their impact to the fore, as we explore in a story about the pandemic experiences of people in prisons. Families told journalist Cate Carrigan of people with disability and health conditions being held in harsh conditions, cut off from communications, including with their children, and with inadequate access to masks and sanitiser.

A number of our stories this week explore media-related issues, from misinformation and disinformation to climate denialism. Don't miss the latest news on climate and health, by Dr Amy Coopes, while The Health Wrap also brings a stack of important and wide-ranging reading.

Stay tuned for more stories from the World Congress of Epidemiology and the 2021 Oceanic Palliative Care Conference. Our lead story this week is a challenging and also uplifting read that encourages health professionals to consider “getting political”.
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World Congress of Epidemiology coverage

Healthy Hospitals @Green_Hospitals · Sep 10

We want to thank @CroakeyNews for highlighting the Climate Impact Checkup, our tool for healthcare institutions to measure their GHG footprint.

Find also information about @healthy_climate's survey for health professionals dealing with #climatechange

Melissa Sweet @MelisaSweetDr

Thanks to @NWMelbPHN for featuring our recent @CroakeyNews article on #climate and health by @coopesdat bit.ly/3zdDyH And we appreciate your support for public interest journalism more generally! #PJmatters #SDOH

As climate crisis hits health services, possibilities for action

In this wide-ranging wrap of the latest news on the climate crisis and health, Dr Amy Coopes reports on a

AustralasianEpi @AustralasianEpi · Sep 3

“The pandemic should have reminded us why we need the insights from the social and behavioural sciences […] Divestment from the social sciences at this precarious moment in time is remarkably short-sighted.”

croakey.org

In a time of COVID and climate change, social sciences are vital, but t...

Introduction by Croakey: Next week is Social Sciences Week is a week-long series of events (follow on Twitter at #SSW2021)

Melissa Sweet @MelisaSweetDr

Taking stock: shortfalls and shortcomings in the aged care workforce census

VHA @vheathealthassoc · Sep 11

via @CroakeyNews Australia’s 2020 coronavirus surges cast a welcome and long-overdue spotlight onto staffing and resourcing of the nation’s #agedcare sector, where cases and deaths were disproportionately concentrated:

Institute for Health Transformation @IHTDeakin · Sep 7

#COVID19 risk is associated with lower sociodemographic profiles, highlighting challenges in our response @CatherineBennett told #WCEp2021 over the w/end. Find out more in @CroakeyNews conference wrap-up croakey.org/at-a-critical... #epidemiology #publichealth

Mary Brushe @marybrushe · Sep 6

What an excellent summary of #WCEp2021 so far by the team @CroakeyNews & pretty exciting to see two of my tweets featured as well!

Mary Brushe @marybrushe · Sep 5

At a critical and high-profile time for epidemiology, what challenges are ahead? croakey.org/at-a-critical... #publichealth

World Congress of Epidemiology coverage

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https://www.croakey.org/impact/
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Other Croakey reports and activities

Melissa Sweet’s tweet featured in an article at The Conversation on 7 September, ‘What is life going to look like once we hit 70% vaccination?’.
16 September, 2021: Our stories this week give voice to a wide range of health advocates and issues, and remind us of the power of voice as a determinant of health. And we are reminded of the harms caused by exclusion and silencing.

We report on developments in pandemic policy and science, in Australia and globally, and cover the latest news on climate and health, and also some critical media policy issues.

If you have questions about Long COVID, Alison’s Barrett’s COVID-19 wrap is here to help.

We also continue our coverage of the 2021 Oceanic Palliative Care Conference, the World Congress of Epidemiology, and the Youth Health Forum National Summit.

Let us hope that the rallying call of our lead article – Build Back Better – has impact. This will depend, of course, on whose voices are privileged by those who wield power.

We are also delighted to report that Croakey Health Media features as a case study in new research from the Public Interest Journalism Initiative, ‘Understanding the role that philanthropy can play in supporting public interest journalism and how to enable it’. Read it [here](https://www.croakey.org/impact/).
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Croakey Conference News Service coverage of Oceanic Palliative Care Conference

Palliative Care Australia @Pall_Care_Aus · Sep 16
#palliativecare has been overwhelmed and overlooked during the pandemic, but the specialty has also gained important insights on the need to focus more on social justice and ensure people are still able to have good and dignified deaths and farewells.

How do we ensure good and dignified deaths in COVID-19 and beyond?
Introduction by Croakey: Palliative care has been both overwhelmed and overlooked during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the specialty has...

Stuart Eickberg @StuartEickberg · Sep 10
Great summary of pediatric palliative care presentations at #21OPCC by @CroakeyNews
Creating a cocoon: plans underway for Australia’s first pediatric pall... Introduction by Croakey: Strong pediatric palliative care was able to “create a cocoon” around Simon Warling’s four-year-old son...

Roxanne MacDonald @roxannemcdonald · Sep 17
Wasn’t at #21OPCC but amazing that so much space was dedicated to paediatrics!
Young people (15–24) and their unique needs are often overlooked in particular - very few specialised services with Aus’s first AYA hospice opening next year in Manly, NSW.

Todd Cameron AZ x2 @TcameronTodd
So good.
Kindness and respect

Marie McInerney @mariemcinerney · 17h
Storytelling as a healing tool that can help normalise loss: a beautiful story from @JasonGendleren’s family reported by @blindadobert21 in the latest @CroakeyNews story from #21OPCC. Plus the Waiting Room Revolution with @HSeowPhD from @AlisonSBarr croakey.org/making-magic-m...

Croakey Conference News Service coverage of World Congress of Epidemiology

Palliative Care CAG @PC_CAG · Sep 14
Thanks @CroakeyNews for this @Twitter wrap up of #21OPCC!
It was a blast interacting with our #palliativecare colleagues through #twitter!

Simon Craig @DrSimonCraig · Sep 13
Call for global solidarity in vaccine supply and social purpose in science
Introduction by Croakey: “Science is sterile if it lacks a social purpose,” according to a leading epidemiologist and public health expert.

Info Research @QH_FSSlibrary · Sep 16
How data detectives, wastewater sleuths, and mystery trackers are aiding Victoria’s COVID battle via @CroakeyNews
How data detectives, wastewater sleuths, and mystery trackers are aiding Victoria’s COVID battle via @CroakeyNews
Introduction by Croakey: Data linkage, wastewater surveillance, mystery tracking and genomics programs have all proved critical in guiding...

https://www.croakey.org/impact/
Croakey Conference News Service coverage of Youth Health Forum National Summit

Optometry Australia @OptometryAus • Sep 15
Happy to be attending the #YHFSummit today and seeing young leaders taking charge and advocating for the future of healthcare!

Youth Health Forum National Summit: change that will make a difference... introduction by Croakey: Young people in Australia have been leading the march for change on urgent issues like climate action.

Crokey’s Dr Amy Coopes featured on ABC TV’s The Drum on 14 September, 2021

Melissa Sweet @MelissaSweetDr
Always good to see @coopesdetat on #TheDrum, talking COVID policy, mental health, youth health cc @CroakeyNews @YouthHealthFor1 #YHFSummit @mariemcinerney
Dr Summer May Finlay @SummerMayFinlay - 1h

@WePublicHealth is a great way to communicate with audiences well beyond those able to attend events.

COVID, for many ppl, has made even attending virtual events difficult due to work & family commitments. Platforms like @WePublicHealth ensure they don’t miss out!

Croakey News @CroakeyNews - 2h

If you are organising a conference or event, please consider applying to guest tweet for @WePublicHealth. This is a collective platform for sharing news about health. @CroakeyNews publishes an article each week from the guest tweeter’s work. More info: buff.ly/3jNXqby

You Retweeted

Dr Sandro Demasio @SandroDemasio

Repeating to @SummerMayFinlay and @WePublicHealth

A fantastic initiative of the @CroakeyNews team!
23 September, 2021: In the wake of violent protests in Melbourne, Linda Doherty investigates how far-right and corporate interests are converging to undermine public health responses to the pandemic. While extremists capture the headlines, many young people are feeling “frustrated, unrepresented and disconnected”, according to our report from the Youth Health Forum National Summit.

Amongst other things, they want action on global health and the social determinants, including education, housing, and employment. We look forward to hearing much more from young people in the run up to the global climate summit, COP26. Meanwhile, what might Australia learn from a new Biden Administration plan to address the risks of extreme heat?

As the World Congress of Epidemiology heard about the importance of strength-based approaches in Indigenous health research, UTS researcher Danielle Manton discusses cultural safety in physiotherapy practice. Associate Professor Lesley Russell continues in-depth investigations of the Medical Research Future Fund, and we also bring more reports from the Oceanic Palliative Care Conference – don’t miss the fascinating podcast produced by Cate Carrigan.

We’ve had a great response to a new column, COVID SNAPS, by Professor Kathy Eagar, Director of the Australian Health Services Research Institute at the University of Wollongong, who writes: “Working in the NSW health system is a health hazard at the moment and Victoria is not much different.”
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Croakey Conference News Service coverage of Youth Health Forum National Summit
Croakey Conference News Service coverage of Oceanic Palliative Care Conference

Croakey Conference News Service coverage of the World Congress of Epidemiology
30 September, 2021: According to Professor Kathy Eagar, many Australians are now in a state of COVID liminality – a waiting room between lockdown and what comes next. Our lead story brings a clear message from the experience of “opening up” in England: health inequalities will worsen without concerted efforts to stop this happening.

People with disability are being left behind in the race to open up, warns El Gibbs. She urges all states and territories to urgently review their plans to open up to ensure that disabled people are fully protected. All levels of government have to work together to get the vaccines to the disability community who were meant to be first in line, or we will end up at the back of the queue, she writes.

Our bulletin this week also puts the spotlight on youth voices for health, food security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, self-determination and primary healthcare, values in public health, solidarity for health workers under attack, communications disorders, global palliative care news and Cuba’s medical diplomacy. Don’t miss the latest edition of The Health Wrap, and some fascinating stories of social media activism by people with Long COVID.

Want to save the planet? Amongst other things, Dr Peter Tait recommends catching a new documentary, Big Deal.
On 29 September, Melissa Sweet joined a Consumers Health Forum of Australia panel discussing social communications for health. [This Twitter thread](https://www.croakey.org/impact/) shares some of the resources discussed.