Impact Report: September 2022

Future generations should be at the heart of every decision, and we must provide them with an environment and a planet where they can continue to grow, to love and to become whoever they want to be.

These words were spoken by Wiradjuri man Dr Gordon Reid when he stood to deliver his first speech to the 47th Parliament. They feature in one of two articles that we published during September examining the health priorities revealed by the first speeches of recently elected MPs.

Many of our stories this month also put a focus on the commercial determinants of health and the false economy of governments spending billions on subsidising life-destroying fossil fuel industries while failing to ensure that all Australians have a liveable income, secure housing, and access to quality healthcare, disability services and other social support.

We also covered widespread concerns about the demise of NPS MedicineWise, an organisation whose work over the past 24 years has helped to rewrite the once dominant narrative that more medicine is always better.

The Croakey Conference News Service was in full swing during September, covering many conferences and events – read on to find out about the wide range of health topics covered, from nursing leadership to greening healthcare, and lived experiences of addiction.

Dr Amy Coopes contributed one of our best-read stories in September, sharing her story about a life-changing diagnosis of ADHD. Croakey Health Media members also presenting at several workshops and public events this month.

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: 676,983 impressions | This year: 7,843,143 impressions
Week ending 8 September: The false economy of governments spending billions on subsidising life-destroying fossil fuel industries while failing to ensure that all Australians have a liveable income, secure housing, and access to quality healthcare, disability services and other social support is highlighted by many of our stories this week.

The wide-ranging impacts of poverty on people’s health and wellbeing are detailed in an investigation by freelance journalist Felicity Nelson showing that the current JobSeeker payment is not enough to cover food, let alone medical treatment.

On similar themes, we hear how rising costs of living contribute to food insecurity for Australian families. Calls for investment in disease prevention and the structures that cause disease are central to many stories. The harmful impacts of the commercial determinants of health are also highlighted in Marie McInerney’s preview of the Rethink Addiction national convention on 12-14 September. On Twitter follow #RethinkAddiction for more news from the Croakey Conference News Service.

As climate change legislation is discussed in Parliament this week, Cate Carrigan reports from the Better Futures Forum where the importance of respectfully listening to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about climate action matters was stressed.

We also bring updates on global security risks, COVID costs and misinformation in the ICYMI column. As an antidote to the overwhelming climate change news, read Croakey director Claire O’Rourke’s Twitter wrap of her new book ‘Together We Can’.

Colleagues and friends pay tribute to public health leader Professor Charles Kerr.

Don’t miss Dr Amy Coopes sharing her story about a life-changing diagnosis of ADHD. She will be in conversation with Dr Lisa Pryor and Dr Norman Swan at the Antidote Festival this Sunday, 11 September.
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.

Associate Professor Des Graham @desgraham_msa · Sep 7

In my article for @CroakeyNews I share my difficulties & frustrations dealing with the NDIS.

The solutions the NDIS must make to support all people living with MS.

And our confidence in the Government’s upcoming review.

#betterNDISforMS @billshortenmp

croakey.org

Representation, understanding and equity: a call for a better NDIS for...

Introduction by Croakey: A review of Australia’s National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) scheduled for the second half of this year

Amy Coopes @coopesdatat · Sep 8

“Treatment is more than being able to focus, to sit still. It is a homecoming. It invites you back into your body, to feel things you’ve spent a lifetime annexed from”

A bit of a personal read, on being diagnosed with ADHD

croakey.org

On the trajectory to a life-changing diagnosis, one story tells so many...

Amongst her many hats, Dr Amy Coopes is a well known journalist and medical practitioner. Anyone following her on Twitter

Ruth Armstrong @DrRuthAtLarge · Sep 8

“On the trajectory to a life-changing diagnosis, one story tells so many more” Thanks @coopesdatat for sharing this honest, considered and illuminating story @CroakeyNews. Spoiler alert: it’s a must-read!

Dr Tim is fully vaccinated against the Covid @timsenior · Sep 8

beautifully written piece about ADHD, and now I think I’ll be a better doctor.

Healthy Eating Advisory Service @HEAS_Vic · Sep 26

Cost of living increases mean it’s harder for families to afford nutritious foods. The pressure on the family food budget is putting more children at risk of food insecurity, which means children are filling up on unhealthy foods. bit.ly/3qVkp2A

Deakin University - Health @DeakinHealth · Sep 13

“Children are filling up on unhealthy foods, increasing risk of obesity.”

#Deakin’s Dr @kkuzwara, and Dr @Rebecca_L_L, explain how rising food prices are impacting children’s health and wellbeing, calling for greater Government support buff.ly/2APUBCY @Deakin

CRE_EPOCH @CRE_EPOCH · Sep 8

With the rising cost of living, how can we ensure all children get the best start in life? A call for multi-sector actions and policies that value people over profits #ActOnNCDs @TAPPCentre @Emma_Esdale @Rebecca_L_L @kkuzwara @CroakeyNews

Deakin IPAN @DeakinIPAN · Sep 8

Cost of living pressures make it harder for families to afford nutritious food, leading to kids filling up on unhealthy foods which increase their risk for obesity.

IPAN’s @Rebecca_L_L @kkuzwara with @Emma_Esdale explain in @CroakeyNews, @DeakinResearch

Aus Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance @ACDPAlliance

It’s Global Week for Action on #NCDs.

Australia has many action plans & strategies to tackle chronic disease. But they need funding & action.

@DiabetesAus @heartfoundation @KidneyHealth @strokefdn @CancerCouncilOz @ncdfalliance

Lauren Ball @ProfLaurenBall · Sep 15

National plans and strategies for chronic disease prevention deserve action and funding

“Now is the time to take these plans off the shelf and invest in a future that prioritises our health and wellbeing.” croakey.org/national-plans...

@CroakeyNews

croakey.org

National plans and strategies for chronic disease prevention deserve a...

Introduction by Croakey: In this global week for action on non-communicable diseases, the Australian Chronic Disease Prevention...
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.

Croakey Conference News Service

We published an indepth article previewing the Rethink Addiction convention.

The Croakey Conference News Service also published a 40-page report compiling our coverage of the National Rural Health Conference. Download from our publications page.
Other activities

Croakey editor Dr Amy Coopes participated in a panel on journalism and medicine during the Antidote Festival at the Sydney Opera House.
Week ending 15 September: In focus this week are courageous and skilful storytellers who challenge and re-write harmful, dominant narratives.

We share tributes to a much-loved storyteller, the late Uncle Jack Charles – a Boon Wurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Woiwurrung and Yorta Yorta survivor of the Stolen Generations, an Elder, writer, musician, actor and activist.

Meanwhile, the Rethink Addiction conference in Canberra provided a powerful opportunity for story-sharing by people with lived experience of addictions. They showcased courage, strength and commitment – as well as the need to change narratives around addiction, Marie McInerney reports for the Croakey Conference News Service.

We also hear from one of the pandemic’s master storytellers, Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist Ed Yong, who says COVID has exposed a crisis of values, with individualistic framing of a collective problem “as much of a misinformation problem as a lot of the other things that typically fall under the banner”.

As the World Health Organization releases new COVID policy briefs, some contributors suggest that ageism may help explain some of Australia’s COVID policy outcomes.

We also report concerns about the demise of NPS MedicineWise, an organisation whose work over the past 24 years has helped to rewrite the once dominant narrative that more medicine is always better.

Our thanks to guest tweeters at @WePublicHealth for reports from the International Evaluation Conference and the 13th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference. Make sure to download your copy of our report from the recent National Nursing Forum.

We also bring the latest on global health and the climate crisis, and investigate Australia’s slow implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which is important for peoples’ health in many settings.
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.

Heal Our Way: supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have safe conversations around suicide prevention

Below, the story of Uncle George Ellis has been shared as part of the #HealOurWay NSW Aboriginal #SuicidePrevention campaign.

croakey.org/heal-our-way-s...
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.

---

Charles Maskell-Knight @CharlesAndrewMK · Sep 15

"Do Australia’s COVID-19 policies reflect ageism?" - I think the answer is very clear! via @CroakeyNews

croakey.org

Do Australia’s COVID-19 policies reflect ageism?
Introduction by Croakey: More than 3,000 Australians residing in aged care facilities have died with COVID-19, the great majority of them over 80 years old.

---

Leonie M. Short @LeonieMShort · Sep 15

I say yes - Australia’s COVID-19 policies do reflect ageism:

croakey.org

---

Dr. Emily Saumur @esaurman · Sep 15

Thank you @CroakeyNews for the opportunity to share #aes22ADL via @WePublicHealth. Here is a summary of the conference in twitter with editor @AlisonBarrett! #evaluation @AESociety @KHPontifex @BHURH

croakey.org

Building and maintaining connections key to equitable and sustainable...
Introduction by Croakey: The importance of equity and building relationships was a key focus of the International Evaluation...
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.

We published a 40-page report compiling our coverage of the National Nursing Forum. Download from our publications page.

Croakey Conference News Service

Outstanding write up of the national @rethinkadd summit thanks to @CroakeyNews.

Privileging the voices of people with lived experiences of addiction

We love...

...getting feedback like this; that our work is proving useful.

Burdekin Association @BurdekinAssoc - Oct 11
The inaugural #RethinkAddiction convention, titled "it's time to change the conversation" was on and gave a voice to those with lived experience of trauma and addiction.

SEED @DeakinSeed - Sep 16
We need to #RethinkAddiction.

This week CEDAAR's @peter_g_miller, Petra Staiger and Kate Hall attended the National Convention to improve access and resources for people who experience problems with alcohol, other drugs and gambling. Read more:

Dan Lubman @dan_lubman - Sep 15
So proud & in awe of the amazing lived experience voices we heard at the inaugural National #RethinkAddiction convention - huge thanks to @FaineJhon @DavidCampbell73 @mariemcmeney @CroakeyNews for helping to amplify their stories & change the conversation.

Penelope Joy @LopeyPen
I am designing a unit for @victoriauninews Global Masters of Public Health #MPH & big shout out to @CroakeyNews for their weekly newsletter. I have revisited all the newsletters in my inbox & found so many articles partly because of how well designed they are @rocklilydesign
Week ending 22 September: Future generations should be at the heart of every decision, and we must provide them with an environment and a planet where they can continue to grow, to love and to become whoever they want to be.

These words were spoken by Wiradjuri man Dr Gordon Reid when he stood to deliver his first speech to the 47th Parliament. They feature in a report by Cate Carrigan this week examining the health priorities revealed by the first speeches of recently elected MPs.

Our bulletin highlights the work of many people and organisations who are working towards such a vision, including Traditional Owners who have fought long and hard to protect Country from fracking.

Sadly, we also bring stories of systems and services that harm health and wellbeing, with many accounts of racism, discrimination, injustice and human rights violations.

We recommend spending some time with Jasmin Wilson’s insightful story about how legal and health systems fail people with addictions, following her recent presentation to the Rethink Addiction conference.

Also read the challenge from public health leader Adjunct Professor Tarun Weeramanthri to delegates at the Population Health Congress to work for justice and a redistribution of power. He also advocates for greater transparency and accountability around COVID policymaking.

Don’t miss Adjunct Associate Professor Lesley Russell’s latest edition of The Health Wrap as well as her in-depth analysis examining concerns about the Government’s decision to stop funding NPS MedicineWise.

We also bring reports on the overwhelming power of Big Tech and challenges in delivering the benefits of digital mental healthcare.

Check the ICYMI column to find the source of this quote: “Spending $1.93 billion on fossil fuel subsidies in a climate crisis and a budget crisis would have to be the dumbest thing you could do.”
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.
Contributing Editor Dr Tess Ryan and Editor in Chief Dr Melissa Sweet co-presented with Dr Kalinda Griffiths at a First Nations Workshop on Building Knowledge Exchange Skills on 20 September. The workshop was hosted by the Australian Health Promotion Association as a Population Health Congress satellite event.

Dr Melissa Sweet co-presented to workshop on effective storytelling for public health, hosted by the Menzies Institute for Medica Research at the University of Tasmania a on 19 September.
Week ending 29 September: Communities are in focus in our bulletin this week as a recent groundbreaking victory for Torres Strait Islander people highlights the power of community action against climate change.

A United Nations finding that Australia has failed to adequately protect Torres Strait Islander people against the impacts of climate change also opens new pathways for Indigenous communities to defend their rights.

Our preview of the upcoming Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum highlights a growing community of health workers who are passionate about creating healthier, more sustainable health services.

We also report on a new online community for Long COVID patients. Alison Barrett’s preview of health issues in focus for the Victorian election in November highlights the importance of stepping up investment in communities and community health services. Join us in using the hashtag #VicVotesHealth2022.

The first Parliamentary speeches of new MPs bring deep insights into their stories and motivations, as well as highlighting important issues affecting the health and wellbeing of diverse communities.

We also examine the commercial determinants of health and challenges for public health, with accounts of data breaches, interference by Big Tobacco, alarm bells about vaping, and the harmful power of Big Alcohol. We’ve also compiled a massive Twitter wrap from the Population Health Congress.

Don’t miss Joe Ball’s insightful and important discussion about the challenges of collecting effective and inclusive data for LGBTIQ+ communities.

Also read Marie McInerney’s latest report from the Rethink Addiction conference, urging political courage to reform alcohol, gambling and drug laws.

Charles Maskell-Knight and Winthrop Professor Marc Tennant offer an in-depth analysis of policy options to improve equity and access to dental care.

Don’t miss the wealth of resources on sexual and reproductive health shared by sex educator Brenna Bernadino while guest tweeting for @WePublicHealth. She also gives many examples of communities fighting against restrictions on their rights to healthcare.
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.

Prevention Centre @TAPPCentre  ·  Sep 29
Great insights from @CoralGartner @CREtobacco in @CroakeyNews on dealing with Big Tobacco

croakey.org
With a new National Tobacco Strategy under development, let’s block ... introduction by Croakey: A public hearing continued in Aotearoa/New Zealand today on proposed changes to its Smokefree Environments a...

SINZ Oceania @sinz  ·  Sep 29
With a new National Tobacco Strategy under development, let’s block Big Tobacco interference - Croakey Health Media @CoralGartner

ABA @OrtBreastfeeding  ·  Sep 24
This is an appalling tactic that formula companies get away with - and also a shame to see this kind of advertising in a health professional journal. Check out ABA’s WHO Code Taskforce breastfeeding.asn.au/who-code-advo... @MelissaSweetDr @baumfran @SharonFrielOz @CroakeyNews

Melissa Sweet @MelissaSweetDr  ·  Sep 23
FYI #PopCongress2022, I received this email today from a nursing publication. I presume this means it is being widely distributed to nurses. Speaking of the commercial determinants of health, they are embedded within health sector as well! cc @CroakeyNews @baumfran @SharonFrielOz
Show this thread

new name. Same formulation.

S-26 has changed its name to Alula
For more information, please contact our Carinales on 1800 562 229
LEARN MORE NOW

Public Health Association Australia @PHAANews  ·  Sep 26
“Let’s not be naive about how the industry will behave,” says former Health Minister Nicola Roxon in a keynote at #PopCongress2022. Read her full speech in @CroakeyNews: croakey.org/a-former-health... #PublicHealth

croakey.org
A former Health Minister asks, what can we learn from past public hea...
Introduction by Croakey: Former Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon called for urgent action to address the harms caused by vaping

Lauren Ball @ProfLaurenBall  ·  Sep 29
A former Health Minister asks, what can we learn from past public health reform successes & failures? “If we don’t take prevention seriously & reimagine what is needed to maintain good health, we will inevitably spend more in the long run”

VHA @vichealthassoc  ·  Oct 2
Via @CroakeyNews - many Victorian health leaders highlight the importance of increased investment in prevention through addressing poverty, housing insecurity and the wider determinants of health.
Read article:

croakey.org
As Victoria faces an election, increased investment in prevention is ke...
Introduction by Croakey: Australians on low incomes are cutting back on healthy foods, skipping meals and reporting wide-ranging ...

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service @thevalcmob  ·  Sep 30
“VALS works with many people who come into contact with the criminal legal system "because they do not have access to the health services they need”, @NeritaWight said." #SpringSt #VicVotes

Menzies Centre for Health Governance @Govern4Health  ·  Sep 29
A great piece from Nicola Roxon reaffirming the need to address structural and social determinants of health, and not relying on individual behaviour change, to improve health and social outcomes for all

Menzies Centre for Health Governance @Govern4Health  ·  Sep 29
A great piece from Nicola Roxon reaffirming the need to address structural and social determinants of health, and not relying on individual behaviour change, to improve health and social outcomes for all

Menzies Centre for Health Governance @Govern4Health  ·  Sep 29
A great piece from Nicola Roxon reaffirming the need to address structural and social determinants of health, and not relying on individual behaviour change, to improve health and social outcomes for all

Public Health Association Australia @PHAANews  ·  Sep 29
In the lead up to the Victorian election, experts incl. @PhealVic Pres, Dr @annalnnicholson, spoke to @CroakeyNews on how to ensure a healthier future for the state. croakey.org/ae-victoria-fa... #PublicHealth #VicHealth

One-third of chronic diseases are preventable.

Through investing early, we can lock after the future health and wellbeing of Victorians.
For every $1 invested, $14 is saved in the healthcare budget

@CroakeyNews

https://www.croakey.org/impact/
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.

Joe Ball @Joe_c_Ball · Sep 30
I wrote an article about LGBTIQA+ data collection - dry perhaps - but important all the same! Big shout out to data needs.
"Tracking LGBTIQA+ communities through data is, perhaps, one of the most challenging longitudinal data collection cohorts".

croakey.org
Effective and inclusive data collection will enable better health outcomes...
Introduction by Croakey: The barriers and complexities of collecting data about LGBTIQA+ communities are no excuse for inaction...

Craig Thomler @craigthomler · Sep 29
When discussing the #Optus hack, it’s worth reflecting on this recent hack affecting disabled Australians... croakey.org/beyond-optus...
#auspol
#OptusHack

croakey.org
Beyond Optus: sounding the alarm about another critical data hack
Introduction by Croakey: A delay by Optus in informing the Federal Government that people’s Medicare details are part of a

Dr Lilon Bandler @DrLilon · Sep 29
"The bottom line is that our privacy laws are weak and hopelessly out-of-date... In this CTARS case, tens of thousands of NDIS participants appear to have had their personal medical records accessed."

croakey.org
Beyond Optus: sounding the alarm about another critical data hack
Introduction by Croakey: A delay by Optus in informing the Federal Government that people’s Medicare details are part of a

Catia Malaquias @CatiaMalaquias · Sep 29
Little attention has been given to the #NDIS data hack and participants at risk are still to be notified - @GeorgeNewhouse and Duncan Fine of @NJP_Au have been trying to make sure this gets the attention it deserves!
Here’s what’s happened:

croakey.org
Beyond Optus: sounding the alarm about another critical data hack
Introduction by Croakey: A delay by Optus in informing the Federal Government that people’s Medicare details are part of a
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 Sarah Simons previewed the #GreenHealthForum22 discussions for the Croakey Conference News Service.

Climate and Health Alliance @healthy_climate - Sep 30
#GreenHealthForum22 covered by @CroakeyNews.

The knowledge and values of the Awabakal people are being embedded into the development of the John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct in Newcastle, reports @SarahNSimons.

croakey.org
On the pathway to greener healthcare: from the Hunter Valley to Darwin...
Introduction by Croakey: The knowledge and values of the Awabakal people are being embedded into the development of the John

Climate and Health Alliance @healthy_climate - Oct 6

"Their approach to creating a closed-loop hospital #recycling ecosystem is straightforward: “keep it simple”, says Farlow." croakey.org/on-the-pathway...

Drug Policy Australia @DrugPolicyAu - Oct 1

Australian politicians urged to find the political courage to reform alcohol and drug laws via @CroakeyNews

croakey.org
Australian politicians urged to find the political courage to reform alcohol... Introduction by Croakey: Last week, the New South Wales Government released a long-awaited response to the 2020 Inquiry into crystal meth.

Penington Institute @PeningtonNews - Sep 30

This article by @mariemcinney @CroakeyNews reports on the NSW Government’s response to the 2020 inquiry into crystal meth, with insights from #RethinkAddiction Conference participants including @SArunogi and our own Steph Tzvetis.

Rethink Addiction @rethinkadd - Oct 6

State & fed govs urged to take courageous, evidence-based action on alcohol, other drugs and gambling addictions.

@mariemcinney discusses her ten takeaways, highlighting the critical need to address addiction as health issues, rather than criminal.

Our coverage of the Rethink Addiction convention continued.