CROAKEY HEALTH MEDIA

Informed, engaged communities for health

IMPACT REPORT

October 2022

Informed, engaged communities for health
Impact Report: **October 2022**

This month we covered the health implications of the Federal Budget in depth, and curated a wider discussion using the hashtag #WellbeingBudget2022.

We also canvassed health priorities for the Victorian election, beyond the ‘big shiny hospital announcements’ preferred by so many politicians.

The #SpeakingOurMinds series, conceived and shepherded by mental health and human rights advocate Simon Katterl, demonstrated the importance of inclusion, understanding, recognition and rights of lived experience in effecting change to our mental health system.

We covered a range of conferences, including the Rethink Addiction conference, the Population Health Congress, the Best Start to Life meeting showcasing Birthing on Country initiatives, the NACCHO Members conference, and the International Congress on Obesity.

As this report shows, our work is being widely shared by leaders in the health and social sectors. Thank you.

**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](https://www.croakey.org/impact/).

| This month: 580,834 impressions | This year: 8,423,977 impressions |
**Week ending 6 October:** Powerful voices for change are featured in many stories in our bulletin this week.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people highlight the importance of connection with culture and community in recovery from addiction in Marie McInerney’s final story from last month’s Rethink Addiction conference.

In this week’s ICYMI column, we also report on disability advocates’ strong calls for government action to protect the people most impacted by National Cabinet’s decision to remove mandatory COVID-19 isolation. Charles Maskell-Knight also reports on other important discussions from the National Cabinet that received far less attention.

Adjunct Associate Professor Lesley Russell discusses the impact of climate change on food security and productivity in her latest edition of The Health Wrap, in addition to new research on science communications and COVID-19 ‘superdodgers’.

Cate Carrigan reports on the trauma-informed healthcare and support services required for Syrian refugees being repatriated to Australia.

From the Population Health Congress, we bring you a story about the impacts of climate change and urbanisation, and a call for more government action on global COVID-19 vaccine equity.

Don’t miss the wide-ranging discussions about health matters from a team at the Grattan Institute while guest tweeting for @WePublicHealth.

Also read Dr Elizabeth Haworth’s recommendations for an effective national centre for disease control, emphasising the importance of independence from governments and wide-ranging expertise to tackle climate change, COVID-19 and future pandemics.

Stay tuned for #SpeakingOurMinds, a special series of articles to coincide with Mental Health Week (8-15 October) to privilege the voices of lived experiences, conceived and organised by mental health and human rights advocate Simon Katterl.
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 pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the country where we live, work and travel upon, and to Elders, past, present and future.

In the news

The Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association featured a number of Croakey articles in their bulletin this week.

COVID
Last week’s decision to remove mandatory COVID isolation times has been welcomed by some, but many health experts have raised concerns about the overall impacts this will have on the health of Australians, particularly our more vulnerable populations, and our workforce as a whole.

Read more:
- If you think scrapping COVID isolation periods will get us back to work and past the pandemic, think again
- Health reform falls under the radar as COVID-19 rules change

Climate and health
After calls for an Australian Centre for Disease Control from health bodies, including the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) and the (Australian Medical Association (AMA), the Federal Government has announced that it will establish one and is consulting on it. While there are many reasons for a national Centre for Disease Control, with arguments for and against, management of COVID-19 and reducing the health threats from climate change are the most pressing.

Read more:
- Centre for Disease Control seen as key for tackling COVID and climate change
- #HealthMatters: on foods, heat, air quality and support for public health

Quotable quote

“Students deserve to know at least 65,000 years of our history, not a mere 250 years.”

Professor Marcia Langton, addressing the World Indigenous Peoples’ Conference on Education

Source
Week ending 13 October: This Mental Health Week, Croakey is showcasing the voices of the real experts – people with lived experience as carers or consumers (or both) in our ailing mental health system.

The #SpeakingOurMinds series, conceived and shepherded by mental health and human rights advocate Simon Katterl, highlights the importance of inclusion, understanding, recognition and rights of lived experience in effecting change to our mental health system.

The series features six authors who valiantly share their experiences navigating a system that is becoming increasingly fragmented and contested. These are insightful, challenging and vital perspectives with which we hope you will deeply engage. Please share and continue to follow in the coming days.

Our bulletin also puts a health spotlight on the Victorian State election, beyond the ‘big shiny hospital announcements’ preferred by so many politicians.

Public health physician Dr Laksmi Govindaasamy identifies six election priorities, and we also report calls for urgent water fluoridation in regional towns. Join us in using the hashtag #VicVotesHealth2022.

Critical workforce matters are on the agenda: Dr Simon Judkins investigates the concerns of rural and regional services, while we also report on last week’s GP summit as well as new research bringing back memories of the Relative Value Study. Remember that?! We also hear from researchers about the need to improve the cultural safety of health services, as well as about other research on a GP-paediatrician integrated model of care that aims to reduce inequities in healthcare.

Alison Barrett speaks with Federal MP Dr Mike Freelander about his hopes for the Parliamentary inquiry into Long COVID, as the World Health Organization urges governments to be much more proactive in preventing, treating and researching this condition.

Don’t miss our lead story in which Cate Carrigan raises some important questions for health and medical leaders on where they really stand on health equity, as the Albanese Government comes under increasing pressure to ditch the stage three tax cuts that will benefit the wealthy.
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.
Week ending 20 October: As floodwaters continue to threaten lives and homes, and Labor puts the finishing touches on its first Federal Budget since 2013, this week we explore the links between decisions made in the corridors of power and health inequities.

Jennifer Doggett takes a deep dive into the evidence on the implications of economic policy for health outcomes, and makes a case for more leadership from the health sector on the economic drivers of health inequalities.

Charles Maskell-Knight explains why he is not expecting any real surprises in the health announcements come Budget night on 25 October. We will be sharing related news at the hashtag, #WellbeingBudget2022.

As we publish the final three articles in the #SpeakingOurMinds series, Simon Katterl reminds us that public conversations are shaped as much by the people whose perspectives are missing as by those who get to speak.


In The Health Wrap, Adjunct Associate Professor Lesley Russell makes some predictions about where the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce is heading, and reviews the political determinants of COVID.

We also hear from authors writing on COVID and the climate crisis who argue powerfully for an end to policies and structures that exclude and disadvantage people with disability.

We bring a stack of news from various conferences, including the Best Start to Life meeting showcasing Birthing on Country initiatives, the NACCHO Members conference, and the International Congress on Obesity.

As always, the ICYM column includes details of new books and upcoming events likely to be of interest to our readers.

Stay tuned for our forthcoming analysis of the widely reported concerns about Medicare fraud and wastage, and comprehensive Budget coverage next week.
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.
Week ending 27 October: For many, the Albanese Government’s first budget was not a surprise, delivering “responsibly” on election promises.

We cover the budget’s implications for the determinants of health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s health, aged care, mental health, and women, and have also compiled a comprehensive wrap of responses from dozens of organisations.

Significantly, budget week also brought grim news on climate trajectories in the latest annual report of The Lancet Countdown series.

“Countries and companies continue to make choices that threaten the health and survival of people in every part of the world,” warn the report’s authors. They urge countries to take a health-centred response to climate and other crises, and to stop supporting fossil fuels industries.

Our lead story highlights an opportunity for Croakey readers to contribute to the development of a wellbeing framework for next year’s budget.

A number of stories this week highlight the urgent need to address racism and violence, especially against First Nations women. Meanwhile, Australia’s record on human rights has been tarnished on the world stage.

Gambling, rural health, the power of digital platforms and the Victorian election are also in the spotlight this week.

For an uplifting read, Cate Carrigan profiles the 2022 Sidney Sax medal recipient – geriatrician Professor Susan Kurrle, who has been recognised for her outstanding contributions to our healthcare system, particularly for older Australians.
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.