Impact Report: **January 2023**

During January, we saw the term ‘polycrisis’ cropping up in stories around the world and also at Croakey – a harbinger of what is to come in the era of climate disruption.

We published several stories on the devastating floods in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, investigating the wide-ranging health impacts and the importance of local leadership and knowledge in climate adaptation.

Amid the spread of misinformation about a Constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament, we shared the Public Health Association of Australia’s 2021 statement in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

A peak Aboriginal health organisation is among those urging Australian governments to step up COVID-19 management, reports Alison Barrett. Public health leader Adjunct Professor Tarun Weeramanthri provides a detailed statement on why he supports calls for a re-set of pandemic policy.

Other highlights this month were Charles Maskell-Knight’s provides an in-depth analysis of the Aged Care Star Ratings system that was released at the end of last year and Dr Ruth Armstrong’s engaging story of a road trip in an electric vehicle.

Please join us in using the hashtag #NSWvoteshealth2023 ahead of the NSW election, as we put a focus on health equity and health in all policies – including the importance of housing for health and wellbeing.

Don’t miss the new e-publication, The Hiking Wrap, in which Dr Lesley Russell presents an ode to the joys of walking.

**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: 250,969 impressions**
Week ending 12 January: Welcome to Croakey 2023. We hope you've had some summer break, with time away from the worries of the world, work and screens.

As has too often been the case, the beginning of the year brings news of climate-related disasters, this time the devastating floods affecting communities across the Kimberley in Western Australia.

In our lead story, Alison Barrett speaks with a range of health experts about the impact of the floods and the importance of planning for future climate disruption.

Amid the spread of misinformation about a Constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament, we share the Public Health Association of Australia's 2021 statement in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Charles Maskell-Knight provides an in-depth analysis of the Aged Care Star Ratings system that was released at the end of last year – and concludes that it needs a complete overhaul.

While we await the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce report, researchers at the Grattan Institute have drawn upon the chequered history of health reform to develop six tips to help ensure future reform efforts are effective.

Don’t miss Dr Ruth Armstrong’s engaging story of a road trip in an electric vehicle. As well as sharing amazing views of stunning Country, she offers plenty of practical tips for taking an EV on a long-distance drive, including how to deal with “range anxiety” and “pargers”.

Following so many tragic drownings this summer, we report five evidence-based ways to keep safe in the water.

Join us in using the hashtag #NSWvoteshealth2023 ahead of the NSW election, as we put a focus on health equity and health in all policies – including the importance of housing for health and wellbeing.

Please note that the final stories in this bulletin are from our Summer Reading series – republication of articles from 2022.
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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**Public Health Association Australia @PHAA - 18h**

Thank you @CroakeyNews for sharing the PHAA document on our support for the #UluruStatementFromTheHeart & #VoiceToParliament, signed by our President @tarunw & CEO @terrysewlin croakey.org/public-health...

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**Ruth Armstrong @DrRuthAtLarge - Jan 13**

Six lessons Australia needs to learn from three decades of general practice reform via @CroakeyNews

croakey.org
Six lessons Australia needs to learn from three decades of general pra...
Introduction by Croakey: On 13 December, the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce held its sixth and final meeting, releasing a communiqué that

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**Dr Blair Williams @BaiiWilliams26 - Jan 14**

Ooh my COVID Hegemony article has been included in this week's @CroakeyNews ICYMI:

croakey.org
ICYMI: our "monstrous" indifference to pandemic carnage, animal hea...
What is the age of "COVID hegemony"? It might just have something to do with the Kraken sea monster. Read

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**Australian Pain Soc @AussPainSoc - Jan 10**

"The Royal Commission recommended introduction of a system of star ratings to assist people in choosing a nursing home for them or their relatives. The first ratings were released in mid-December.... it fails far short of being a useful tool." ow.ly/V3I6t0mng9Q

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**Just Judith @LF @brechel - 20h**

This.
From @CroakeyNews

ICYMI: our "monstrous" indifference to pandemic carnage, animal health, latest global health news and a healthy cities summit

By Melissa Sweet, 12 January 2023
What is the age of "COVID hegemony"? It might just have something to do with the Kraken sea monster. Read on to find out more – from COVID to climate and other global health news. Our first ICYMI column for [...] Read more...

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**Lesley Russell Wolpe @LRussellWolpe - Jan 11**

Eons ago, when I was in primary school in rural Tasmania, requirement was to swim 100 yds before going to high school. No swimming pool, so we swam in (cold) Bass Strait.

Learning to swim (confidently) does not solve all problems, but makes a difference.

croakey.org
Five ways to protect yourself in the water this summer
Introduction by Croakey: According to the latest Royal Life Saving Summer Drowning Toll data, 37 people have died due to

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**IMPACT REPORT**

https://www.croakey.org/impact/
In the first few weeks of January, we continued our summer publishing schedule, re-publishing key articles from 2022, including this Croakey Professional Services article sponsored by CATSINaM: ‘A moment of truth: Indigenous nurses and midwives welcome long-awaited apology’.
Week ending 19 January: ‘Polycrisis’ is the word, this week and no doubt into the future as well. It features prominently in two reports released to coincide with the World Economic Forum meeting now underway in Davos, Switzerland.

The WEF’s latest global risks report describes polycrisis as “a cluster of related global risks with compounding effects, such that the overall impact exceeds the sum of each part”.

A new report from Oxfam, ‘Survival of the Richest: How we must tax the super-rich now to fight inequality’, says a polycrisis – including climate breakdown, an energy and cost-of-living crunch, increasing poverty, and the pandemic – has brought huge new wealth to a tiny elite.

The reports may be useful for Croakey readers seeking to engage with national consultations now underway on poverty, development of a Measuring What Matters framework, and media diversity.

A consultation process is also underway for the 2026 National Census. Joe Ball looks at what can be learnt from how other countries have included LGBTIQ+ communities in their data collection.

In our lead stories this week, Jennifer Doggett investigates human rights failures by Australian governments, and also finds that a review of a digital industry code on misinformation fails to address public health concerns. Meanwhile, global health leader Professor Ilona Kickbusch stresses the importance of tackling the digital determinants of health.

Ahead of the Sydney WorldPride festival, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is encouraging eligible participants – especially those from rural areas – to be vaccinated against mpox.

Make sure to follow @WePublicHealth this week, where Alison Barrett is tweeting on #RuralHealthMatters.
Week ending 27 January: Coinciding with Invasion Day, our bulletin this week has a strong focus on the importance of justice for health.

Contributors stress the need for local community leadership and knowledge in various contexts, from disaster preparation and response efforts to rural health.

A number of our stories highlight connections between the Voice to Parliament and better health outcomes.

A peak Aboriginal health organisation is among those urging Australian governments to step up COVID-19 management, reports Alison Barrett. Public health leader Adjunct Professor Tarun Weeramanthri provides a detailed statement on why he supports calls for a re-set of pandemic policy.

Read our latest article in the #WorldInTurmoil series, a collaboration between Croakey and the World Federation of Public Health Associations, in the lead up to the World Congress on Public Health in May, putting a spotlight on the impact of conflict on health systems.

Heatwaves and other climate matters are also in focus, while Jade Bradford reports on lessons from the Kimberley floods. Remy Shergill from the Climate and Health Alliance has some tips for contributing to an Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care consultation on sustainable healthcare.

Our latest ICYMI column also has details of a stack of consultations likely to be of interest to Croakey readers.

Don’t miss the new e-publication, The Hiking Wrap, in which Dr Lesley Russell presents an ode to the joys of walking.

We are delighted to introduce a new member of the Croakey team, David Morgan, who takes on the role of Chief Operating Officer and writes about his “passion for community engagement, justice and equity for all”. He brings more than 35 years of experience in the not-for-profit and community sectors as a senior executive.
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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**Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service** @thevalsmob - Jan 27
Our Invasion Day webinar earlier this week heard from three First Nations panelists who had a powerful discussion on the impacts of colonial systems of power.
Read Croakey's full story below 📹

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**Menzies Centre for Health Governance** @Govern4Health
"those who are facing social and economic challenges are the ones who will suffer the impacts of climate change the most. Many Aboriginal community members impacted by the Kimberley floods were uninsured and are homeless in a region that already struggled with housing shortages."

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**Croakey News** @CroakeyNews - Jan 26
The Indigenous Voice can tackle climate change and empower communities croakey.org/the-indigenous... #publichealth

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**Croakey Services** @CroakeyServices - 3h
This is a fantastic story by @lade_braddy on the Kimberley floods. Thanks to @CroakeyNews donors who helped fund this story.
We must keep following this story and listening to what the communities are saying.
#pjmatters #socialj #auspol

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**Remy Shergill** @remyshergill
If you're into greening our healthcare sector, have I got the thing for you! 🌿

Read this piece I wrote for @CroakeyNews and then take FIVE MINUTES to make a submission to @ACSQHC. @healthy_climate has put together a submission guide — you can just copy and paste if you'd like.

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**Climate and Health Alliance** @healthy_climate - Jan 26
We need you! 🙌 Here is an effective and simple action you can take to help progress #SustainableHealthcare in Australia – and it can take as little as 5 mins.

Send @ACSQHC a submission on their sustainable healthcare module by Jan 31. More info in 📖.
croakey.org/how-readers-ca...
Show this thread

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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.
Members of the Croakey team attended Invasion Day and Survival Day events around Australia. The Chair of Croakey Health Media, Professor Megan Williams (pictured below, left), spoke about the importance of cultural safety on a panel at the Yabun Festival, on Gadigal land in Sydney.

This Twitter thread includes photos from the march and rally in niplana/Hobart, organised by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.
Croakey launched a new e-publication featuring articles and photographs by contributing editor Adjunct Associate Professor Lesley Russell, celebrating the joy of walking and connecting with nature.

Croakey’s managing editor Alison Barrett took the reins of @WePublicHealth to share a road trip with a focus on #RuralHealthMatters.

Thanks to the Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association for featuring Croakey articles in your weekly bulletin – our stories on alcohol policy reform, a Voice to Parliament, general practice reform and COVID control.