Impact Report: April 2023

This month, our stories put the spotlight on priorities for the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care, the cultural determinants of health, and Global Public Health Week. We launched our coverage of the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT) conference; see the stories here. The Croakey Conference News Service also previewed the National Suicide Prevention Conference.

If you haven’t already, check out the report we launched this month envisioning the future of healthcare. Croakey editor Jennifer Doggett gazed into a health policy crystal ball, providing advice to the policymakers of today around five key themes: health financing; workforce; technology; climate and planetary health; and patient and community involvement in healthcare. The report is published in collaboration with cohealth as part of their Health Equity Champion membership of the Croakey Health Media funding consortium.

During April Croakey journalists and contributors featured in the BMJ, ABC Radio National and The Saturday Paper. Our articles featured in publications by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Australian Health Promotion Association, Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, the Climate and Health Alliance, the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre, the Centre of Research Excellence on Achieving the Tobacco Endgame at the University of Queensland, and others.

We were pleased to see that 239 MPs (or their staffers) opened our weekly news bulletins during April; this is about 30 percent of the MPs who receive the bulletin each week. Researchers at the Australian Parliamentary Library also read our weekly bulletins.


Our warm thanks to everyone who contributed to Croakey 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: 626,568 impressions | This year: 1,675,762 impressions |

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.
Health for all

Week ending 6 April: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised this bulletin mentions deceased people. Yunupingu’s family have given permission for his name and images to be used.

Tributes of love, respect and appreciation have flowed for Yolŋu leader Yunupingu since his passing on 3 April, acknowledging his work and accomplishments over many decades.

“His name is synonymous with some of the nation’s most significant events – the Yirrkala Bark Petitions, the Gove Land Rights case, the Land Rights Act, the Barunga Statement, the Native Title Act and the Voice,” said a statement by the Yothu Yindi Foundation.

Meanwhile, the theme for World Health Day on Friday is ‘Health For All’, with the World Health Organization urging a “renewed drive for health equity”, while also urging governments to address health workforce shortages.

Many of our stories this week highlight growing momentum on at least some public health fronts, including gambling reform and a push for safe indoor air.

Other issues highlighted include suicide prevention and the toll of immigration detention on children.

Charles Maskell-Knight reports on a review of Medicare integrity and compliance, which raises important questions about the Albanese Government’s commitment to health reform.

In The Health Wrap, Adjunct Professor Lesley Russell covers gun trauma in the United States and the ongoing COVID toll.

Don’t miss health professional Tracey Nayler’s bid to hold her super fund to account on their climate commitments.

On Twitter, check out @WePublicHealth, where the World Federation of Public Health Associations is covering Global Public Health Week.
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Local and Independent News Association's inaugural summit

Croakey Health Media joined the Local and Independent News Association (LINA) recently, and is finding it a very useful advocate for public interest journalism and media policy reform. LINA is also providing much-needed support and advice to independent media organisations like CHM as we have often fared poorly under media policy, which tends to be of most benefit to large media organisations, and particularly corporate media. Editor-in-Chief Dr Melissa Sweet was delighted for the opportunity to present on CHM at the Summit.
Out and about

Croakey’s Chief Operating Officer David Morgan is pictured with a longstanding friend of Croakey, public health academic Penelope Smith.
Long COVID, the sting in the tail

**Week ending 13 April: Ahead of the release of a Federal Parliamentary inquiry into long COVID, our bulletin this week has a strong focus on related challenges.**

We highlight the importance of addressing the determinants of health including housing, and work security and safety as part of discussions about long COVID policy.

Many of our stories emphasise the importance of centring lived experience in policy decisions affecting health and wellbeing – whether these are about health policy, digital infrastructure in remote Aboriginal communities, or improving biking infrastructure for women.

Lived experience and the importance of patient-centred care will also be a strong theme at the upcoming Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT) conference, which we preview for the Croakey Conference News Service.

Our #HealthBudget2023 series kicks off, highlighting the sector’s expectations, hopes and ambitions for the upcoming federal budget.

Also launching this week is a two-part series by Jennifer Doggett, who gazes into a health policy crystal ball to envision the sort of health system we will need in 2050. Download her ‘Caring for our Future’ report here.

We also bring lessons from Costa Rica for successful primary healthcare reform as part of the #WorldInTurmoil series, a collaboration between Croakey and the World Federation of Public Health Associations.

On World Health Day, we published an important article by Marie McInerney on preparing public health professionals and associations for new challenges.

And don’t miss Isabelle Oderberg’s powerful insights into how to improve care and support for people who have miscarried, based on personal experience and research for her book, Hard to Bear. Among many others, a little bit of kindness goes a long way.
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Croakey's managing editor Alison Barrett wrote for the BMJ on new data on alcohol-related deaths.

Deaths from alcohol-related injuries in Australia doubled in a decade (2010/11 & 2019/20). In 2019/20, they accounted for 14% of all injury deaths, according to new data by @aihw.

aihw.gov.au/reports/injury...

Cc @FAREAustralia

A doubling of deaths from alcohol-related injuries in Australia in 10 years has prompted calls for stronger government action to prevent harms from alcohol.

Between 2010–11 and 2019–20 age standardised deaths increased from 4.8 to 9.7 per 100,000 people

bmj.com/content/381/bm...

Making news

Croakey editor Jennifer Doggett was interviewed on ABC Radio National about the history of Medicare.

I really enjoyed talking about the history of Medicare on this episode of Reel Vision - especially since the other two people interviewed - Jim Gillespie and @stephenjadacki - were people I've learnt a lot from over the years.

Medicare—is it still fit for purpose? - ABC Radio National

For 40 years Medicare has been the foundation of Australia's primary health care system. But with GPs hard to find, bulk billing rates ...
Health leadership matters

**Week ending 20 April:** Threading through many of our stories this week are calls for decolonisation in public health, harm reduction, media and journalism, universities and research, and suicide prevention.

On a similar theme, it’s been suggested that an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander health professional should be appointed as Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care, following the retirement of Professor Brendan Murphy in July.

A Croakey survey identifies some of the key challenges facing Murphy’s successor, including issues spanning portfolios and sectors.

Whole of government accountability and systemic drivers of suicide will be key topics at the upcoming National Suicide Prevention Conference, which we preview for the Croakey Conference News Service.

As the Victorian Government comes under fire over funding cuts to community health services, Jennifer Doggett profiles the sector’s importance in the ‘Caring for our Future’ series.

“A strengthened and expanded community health sector would have the potential to address many of the health challenges expected in the future,” she writes.

Don’t miss the latest edition of The Health Wrap by Dr Lesley Russell, putting a spotlight on gaps in healthcare for people with a disability, childhood neglect and cholera concerns.

The ICYMI column digs into the massive problem of misinformation and disinformation, including “COVID revisionism”.

And **Croakey Professional Services** has some ideas about how we can help with telling important stories.
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https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/
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Penington Institute @PeningtonNews - Apr 19
"Like it or not, colonisation and its ongoing legacy is a major contributor to the over-representation of Indigenous peoples globally in drug use statistics."

Read the full presentation by Prof. James Ward at the #HR23 conference below. @UQPoche

croakey.org

A powerful call to decolonise harm reduction
Introduction by Croakey: People and organisations working for harm reduction have been urged to decolonise their work and unpick the

Hepatitis Australia @HepAus - Apr 19
We encourage everyone to read Prof. James Ward #HR23 speech about decolonising harm reduction, and to take action. @researchjames #UQPoche

croakey.org

A powerful call to decolonise harm reduction
Introduction by Croakey: People and organisations working for harm reduction have been urged to decolonise their work and unpick the

Lesley Russell Wolpe @RussellWolpe - Apr 19
Latest TWE:
- health needs of people w disability
- childhood neglect & mistreatment
- COVID-19 infections in infants
- US calls end to pandemic
- US calls to address sexual violence
- US calls to stop chloroquine promotion
- update on US abortion battles
- cholera threat grows
- when genetics and choral singing go together

Health Wrap: The Health Wrap: gaps for people with disability, caring for children, ... As Minister Bill Shorten today outlined plans changes to the NDIS (listen to disability policy analyst El Gills for some

croakey.org

Marie McInerney @mariemcinerney - Apr 20
Time for @smith to also investigate and acknowledge its historic connections to slavery (& some harmful industries), following the example set in Britain by the @guardian's Cotton Capital project, says Prof Sally Young

croakey.org

Some media history with important public health implications. Introduction by Croakey: A senior academic has urged The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper to investigate and acknowledge its...

Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA) - Apr 18
Here are 15 suggestions for how to engage with Croakey Health Media – and ensure an ongoing focus on #HealthEquityMatters.

AHPA is proud to be a @CroakeyNews funding consortium member.

croakey.org

If you’ve got an important story to tell, see how C... Croakey Health Media is a not-for-profit public interest journalism organisation with a focus on ...

Alison Verhoeven @AlisonVerhoeven - 17h
I’m proud to be a board director @CroakeyNews - here’s some ways you can be involved in this innovative #health media organisation (spoiler: no #For media style nonsense here).

Marie McInerney @mariemcinerney - 21h
And finally, @CroakeyNews is a not-for-profit public interest journalism organisation with a focus on health equity, the wider determinants of health and health in all policies. There are many ways you can work with & support us. Here are 15! croakey.org/...for media style nonsense here.

Restoring the Fair Go @griff - Apr 18
Some interesting reading from @MelissaSweetDr and @CroakeyNews to inform action towards restoring a 'fair go' for #health and #equity in Australia. This includes action on #homelessness, health systems, and decolonisation.

Melissa Sweet @MelissaSweetDr - Apr 18
Come and check out all the new reading up at @CroakeyNews: croakey.org
- @PrimaryHealthCare
- @PublicHealth
- @GlobalHealth
- @UUnsStatement
- @ASMR2023
- @LongCovid
- @SSD
- @PatientControlICare
- ...and more

Show this thread

https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/
Focus on wellbeing and policy

**Week ending 27 April:** People are having to choose between paying rent or buying enough food and medicine. They are also being forced into homelessness, trapped with abusive partners, and locked out of paid work because they don’t have the money they need to retrain and re-enter the workforce.

All these outcomes – described by the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) in a letter to the Prime Minister this week – are the result of political decisions to keep those who rely on income support payments such as JobSeeker trapped in poverty.

Will the Albanese Government break the cycle? Jennifer Doggett reports a growing momentum for social policy changes that would be better for health and wellbeing, as well as the economy.

When it comes to wellbeing, we’ve a lot to learn from other countries in this regard, including Wales, the first country to appoint a public official as a guardian of the interests of future generations.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples also have much knowledge to share about the interconnections between health, the environment and other prerequisites for a flourishing life. We cover a new publication examining how insights from Indigenous psychology can broaden narrow Western concepts of flourishing, to support social and emotional wellbeing and help to address interconnected challenges such as climate change, economic crises, and loss of global biodiversity.

We also report on calls for the United Nations and member nation states to take full responsibility for decolonisation and anti-racism when addressing climate change and its impacts on Indigenous peoples’ rights, health and wellbeing.

Preventive health is a vital component of wellbeing but often overlooked by governments. Our bulletin marks World Immunisation Week and looks at other preventive health issues.

Advocates for clean air talked to Croakey after the release of an inquiry into Long COVID and repeated COVID infections, and highlighted a need for urgent action to reduce transmission, especially in schools and aged care settings.

Impending Victorian Government cuts to health promotion funding have prompted a call for greater collaboration between professional peak bodies to raise the profile of prevention in public discourse.

We continue our series on the health sector’s priorities for the new Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care.

Follow #ASMIRT2023 for news from the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy conference.
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