Impact Report: June 2023

Croakey Health Media was proud to launch a new initiative this month, offering **tailored packages** to support researchers and research organisations. These packages offer services under two categories – independent public interest journalism and Croakey Professional Services – and can assist with:

- Research dissemination and impact
- Skills development
- Developing collaborations and partnerships
- Demonstrating leadership
- Creating change.

Download the ‘Increasing your research impact’ publication.

Another highlight during June was the Lowitja Institute’s 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference – a Croakey Conference News Service team tweeted and reported on the discussions.

This month our articles were cited or cross-published by the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP), Pearls and Irritations, the Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association (AHHA) and other organisations.

We were pleased to see that 227 MPs across federal, state and territory jurisdictions (or their staffers) opened the weekly Croakey News bulletin this month; this accounts to about 28 percent of the politicians who receive the bulletin each week.

We thank everyone who supported the Croakey Funding Drive this month and everyone who contributed to Croakey including through sharing our articles.


**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:** 769,253 impressions  |  **This year:** 3,015,636 impressions
Integrity matters

Week ending 8 June: With repeated failures to address the COVID and climate crises and reports of pork barrelling rife in grants programs, the community’s trust in the integrity of governments is being challenged on a number of fronts.

COVID-19 is now the third leading cause of death in Australia but we are not getting a sense of urgency from political leaders about this ongoing crisis. Our bulletin this week highlights the failure of health and aged care services to prevent transmission of COVID.

A scathing report on the administration of the Community Health and Hospitals Program found a lack of integrity at all stages of the grants process, leading health policy experts to call for radical changes to Ministerial powers over grants programs.

One area in which integrity has often been lacking is aged care; Charles Maskell-Knight poses some important questions for Aged Care Minister, Anika Wells, on the Government’s plans to respond to the findings of the Royal Commission.

As we review plans for a long overdue National Health and Climate Strategy, we question the integrity of such a document not even mentioning fossil fuels.

Integrity will also be needed for the Government to resist the influence of powerful professional groups and make the structural changes needed to reform the Better Access mental health program.

Susan Brown explores the ethics of wealthy countries recruiting health workers from lower income countries, and also applies a gender lens to global health worker shortages.

We also showcase examples of communities taking action for their health and wellbeing, including the Treaty Day Out Naarm on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country to celebrate the final day of voting in the Victorian Treaty elections. Check out Alison Barrett’s amazing photos from the event.

We also cover the Government’s First Nations Justice package to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities design and develop early stage justice reinvestment strategies with community-led, place-based approaches.

Strong community action like this can change lives but to really shift the dial on systemic disadvantage and injustice, structural shifts are also needed.

All of which makes current opportunities to have a say in government policy directions even more important. Our bulletin links to consultations on governance of artificial intelligence, the Medicare Research Future Fund, justice matters, and the National Health and Climate Strategy.
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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Active on Twitter

Members of the Croakey team helped amplify the news from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists Congress.
Health leadership in all sectors

Week ending 15 June: The Federal Department of Health and Aged Care will soon have a new leader, Blair Comley. Perhaps it’s an advantage that he does not have an extensive background in healthcare or health policy.

As so many of our stories this week illustrate, expertise in policy areas outside health can be extremely important when it comes to efforts to improve health and wellbeing of populations and communities.

Whether its action on climate change, environmental protection, addressing toxicity online, or transforming economic paradigms, we need health leadership across all sectors.

Our bulletin this week also look at areas where healthcare can do better. We highlight a new report calling for a restorative justice process to address harms caused by mental health services.

And Jennifer Doggett continues her investigation of whether enough is being done to prevent COVID-19 transmission in health and aged care services.

We also report on lessons from the United States, Canada, Germany and Switzerland on public health policies for preventing opioid misuse, as well as barriers for patients in accessing information about voluntary assisted dying.

Consumer advocate, Harry Iles-Mann provides advice for health organisations on how to maximise the opportunities to learn from the skills and expertise of consumers.

Dr Lesley Russell raises a raft of questions for the review of the Medical Research Future Fund and Medical Research Endowment Account, which may also be helpful for readers who plan to make submissions.

This week, we begin our coverage of the Lowitja Institute’s 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference. Don’t miss Amba-Rose Atkinson’s preview article, and make sure to follow #Lowitja2023 on Twitter over coming days.

We also celebrate the 50th birthday of Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, one of the most experienced primary healthcare services in the country, with much to teach wider health systems.
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Simon Kittler @SimonKittler · Jun 15
Stepped to be part of this article with @bullyresearch in @CroakeyNews on the #NotBeforeTime report, released on Tuesday this week.

croakey.org
To address traumas caused by mental health systems, a call for restor...
Introduction by Croakey: The Victorian Government should conduct a restorative justice process to address the harms caused by mental ...

SHINE for Kids @SHINEforkids · Jun 22
Our CEO in @CroakeyNews on the distressing findings from our National Survey. Families caught in the justice system are struggling in almost every regard and feel isolated and in despair.

Report by @FlynnCatherineA w Susan Dennison @LoranaBertels
croakey.org
Systems must do much better at caring for children in greatest need
Introduction by Croakey: Two new publications have identified an urgent need to improve care and support services for children who

VHA @vicheshealthsoc · Jun 17
Via @CroakeyNews - consumer advocate Harry Iles-Mann shares his journey as a consumer advocate, and provides some valuable guidance for organisations seeking to engage with consumers. Read article:

croakey.org
Advice for organisations on engaging with consumers
Introduction by Croakey: Consumers play a crucial role in driving health system reforms but the lack of adequate remuneration available

End of Life Choice @EOLcooffice · Jun 15
All Australian states have passed legislation enabling voluntary assisted dying (VAD) in certain circumstances. However, there are differences in the laws and associated regulations between jurisdictions.

croakey.org
When psychologists are unable to discuss voluntary assisted dying, p...
Introduction by Croakey: All Australian states have passed legislation enabling voluntary assisted dying (VAD) in certain circumstances ...

Penington Institute @PeningtonNews · Jun 14
"Australia is currently confronting an alarming public health crisis – opioid addiction. Opioid prescribing has steadily increased over the past three decades, leading to a surge in overdoses and death."

Full story at @CroakeyNews
croakey.org/to-tackle-aust...
#opioids #overdose

Australian Pale Soc @AusPaleSoc · Jun 15
"We tell people about relevant matters pertaining to their healthcare ..., which encompass health and other end-of-life care matters such as palliative care and resuscitation, but we are forbidden from bringing up VAD."

#VAD

Go Gentle Australia @gogentle.aus · Jun 15
Access to voluntary assisted dying shouldn't only be for the well-informed and those who ask the right questions.

#assisteddying #VAD #endoflife #auspol
The Croakey Conference News Service team were busy writing, tweeting, snapping and presenting at the Lowitja Institute’s 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference from June 14-16.

Croakey Health Media director Professor Bronwyn Fredericks also contributed to #Lowitja2023 discussions and dissemination.
The urgency for change

Week ending 22 June: After the Senate vote, Alyawarre woman Pat Anderson AO said: “It has taken us a long time to get to this position, much longer than the 12 years this is. In fact, we have been calling for recognition, respect, acknowledgement since the first boats came here.”

Change to entrenched systems rarely comes quickly or easily, especially if it challenges power and privilege.

Yet many of our stories this week highlight the urgency for change.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warns that current policies are taking the world to a catastrophic 2.8 degree rise by the end of the century, and “yet the collective response remains pitiful”.

Alison Barrett reports on calls for Australia to lift its game on the sustainable development goals. Confronting the cashed-up power of the fossil fuels industry, health professionals are also urging the Prime Minister to intervene and stop harmful developments in the Northern Territory.


Read the latest on COVID-19 in The Health Wrap by Dr Lesley Russell, as well as the ICYMI column. There is a strong push to improve COVID messaging and prevention, including in workplaces.

As we’ve recently been reminded, media futures are precarious. If you would like to help support our future, please join us for a #CroakeyFundingDrive on Monday. Follow the hashtag to find out about some Croakey give-aways and news.

If contributing to the National Health and Climate Strategy, please join us in using #HealthyClimateStrategyOz to share related news on Twitter.

Also follow @WePublicHealth this week for retweets from the Communicable Disease and Immunisation Conference, and the Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium.

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[Image 43x339 to 285x451]

[Image 43x296 to 286x331]

[Image 43x87 to 263x288]

[Image 305x268 to 513x450]

[Image 305x89 to 514x261]
Having impact

The NSW Premier favourited one of our tweets, highlighting the harmful impacts of the digital platforms such as Meta.
On 19 June, Croakey's Editor-in-Chief Dr Melissa Sweet was MC at a **UNSW Health Systems Research Theme** webinar featuring a panel discussion and keynote presentation by Professor Stephen Duckett. See [this Twitter thread](https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/).
Be the change

**Week ending 29 June:** This week, we investigate the influence of powerful corporations on health and wellbeing, with strong calls for governments and policy makers to be accountable and transparent in decision making.

The bulletin highlights many opportunities for the health sector, civil society and Croakey readers to be active contributors to social, political and policy change.

You could, for example, contribute to consultations for the National Health and Climate Strategy, and also provide feedback on planned news laws to tackle online misinformation and disinformation.

The importance of persistence and collaboration in pushing for reforms that benefit public health and democracy are highlighted in a story by the Australian Democracy Network’s Saffron Zomer.

Contributors exemplify the merits of activism for health: Professor Fran Baum and Dr Julia Anaf step up in raising questions about KPMG’s role in climate health policy, while Dr Sue Wareham issues a climate challenge to the Defence Department and the military industrial complex.

Also in the spotlight is inequitable access to dental care; Jason Staines reports on the interim findings from a related Senate select committee inquiry.

Ahead of NAIDOC Week, the ICYMI column reports on health leaders and organisations supporting a yes vote at the referendum for The Voice.

Meanwhile, the South Australian Council of Social Services delivers its verdict on the recent state budget: some welcome measures, but much more is needed to help those in greatest need.

This week, we held a #CroakeyFundingDrive and snap Twitter festival asking for support to help sustain our work. The environment for public interest journalism is precarious. If you can afford to make an EOFY donation, it will make a difference.

(As we report this week, the United Nations recommends supporting independent media as one of the strategies for addressing the global scourge of misinformation.)

To say thanks, subscriptions to the weekly Croakey News bulletin are free this week, instead of the usual $80 charge for an annual subscription. This offer expires at midnight on Sunday, 2 July.

Don’t miss our new publication showcasing how Croakey can help researchers and research organisations increase impact – and contribute to change.

Make sure to follow @WePublicHealth, where Caterina Giorgi is reporting on a new network of women who are working to advance gender equity in public health leadership.
Huge article today asking public health professionals to think harder about use of corporations in our public health planning who also support and benefit from mining etc. @CroakeyNews by @baumfran Julia Anaf cc @im4empower @HEALenviron

Restoring the Fair Go @rtfg_Australia - 27h
@CroakeyNews latest “pandemic lessons: prioritize public good over private profits” incl contributions from @StrettonInst & @baumfran on how the commercial determinants of health contributed to the origins & spread of COVID19 @UniofAdelaide

Croakey News @CroakeyNews - Jun 29
“Public health leaders urge for policy makers & governments to consider the role of commercial interests & entities in influencing pop health” @AlisonSBrett
HT @drtobyfreeman @baumfran @martinmckee @LacyNichols @profjumne & Prof Nicholas Freudenberg

Show this thread

Public Health Association Australia @PHAA - Jul 6
“Powerful industries that use their money, power and influence to protect business models that harm our health and destroy our planet have held sway over our democracy for too long,” writes Saffron Zomer of @OurDemocracyAU. Read in @CroakeyNews

croakey.org
Fairer elections make for healthier Australians
Introduction by Croakey: Civil society and public health advocate groups are urging the Federal Government and Opposition to support ...

Australian Research Centre for Health Equity
@Govern4Health

Spot on @LacyNichols “for some goods and services that are essential, a market-driven approach can mean that equity and access are subservient to profits.”

Quotable

“Around 40,000 Australian children will go to bed tonight knowing that their mum, dad or carer is spending the night in prison. This number of children could fill a stadium and yet we as a society treat them like they barely exist.”

Julie Hourigan, CEO of SHINE for Kids

Source

https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/
Having impact

The Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association shared a number of our articles.

Climate and health

According to a new report by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN), Australia is falling behind in efforts to reduce inequalities and poverty, as well as efforts to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems. At the halfway mark of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the report also indicates that the Australian Government has demonstrated a low level of commitment and effort on the sustainable development goals.

Read more:
- Sustainable development goals at risk, and Australia is one of the outliers
- Sustainable Development Report, 2020
- Health professionals urged to join fight against harmful developments in the Northern Territory

https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/
The Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association profiled our coverage of the Lowitja Institute’s 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing conference.
Calling for support

**Lesley Russell Wolpe @LRussellWolpe - Jun 29**

Replying to @LRussellWolpe

Good morning from the Gadigal lands of the Eora Nation. Today is #CroakeyFundingDrive – we are hoping to grow awareness & support for @CroakeyNews. As a policy wonk, politics tragic, public health academic – it’s essential reading for me.

croakey.org

Join us today for a snap Twitter festival, and please support our work.

Dear Croakey readers, As the EOFY approaches, it’s time to be making plans for 2023-24. We are asking for your support.

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**Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT @AMSANTA - 58m**

@AMSANTA supports today’s Twitter festival launching the #CroakeyFundingDrive

They are reaching out for your support (and donations, if you can afford), and also offering complimentary subs to the weekly @CroakeyNews bulletin.

Melissa Sweet @MelissaSweetDr - 2h

Hello, and welcome to a snap Twitter festival launching the #CroakeyFundingDrive croakey.org/join-us-today...

This week we are reaching out for your support (and donations, if you can afford), and also offering complimentary subs to the weekly @CroakeyNews bulletin.

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**Rev Dr Stephanie Dowrick @stephandedowric - Jun 29**

We are asking for your support. Here are 15 ways to help sustain healthy journalism – Croakey Health Media

croakey.org

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