CROKEY HEALTH MEDIA

Informed, engaged communities for health

December 2023

Impact Report

Informed, engaged communities for health
Impact Report: December 2023

During December, we put a strong focus on climate and health matters, publishing 16 related articles. These included news from the COP28 meeting in Dubai, the launch of the long-awaited National Health and Climate Strategy, devastating flooding in far north Queensland, and the latest developments in sustainable healthcare.

We were delighted to launch this comprehensive report compiling Croakey Conference News Service coverage of the #HEAL2023 Conference – ‘Collective Action for Health, Environment and Climate’.

Meanwhile, health and humanitarian agencies and leaders made repeated calls for ceasefire in Gaza and Israel.

Editorial highlights included:

- Charles Maskell-Knight’s critical questions about the National Health Reform Agreement, and a Senate inquiry into dental services.
- Jennifer Doggett’s investigation of what more could be done to protect aged care residents from COVID.
- Danielle Manton’s report from the Indigenous Allied Health Association conference, reflecting on the “leadership, strength, resilience and courage of our ancestors”.
- Mitchell Ward’s interactive maps showing which communities voted Yes at the Voice referendum.
- Alison Barrett’s compilation of the amazing work of @WePublicHealth guests during 2023.
- Our compilation of quotable quotes from 2023.
- Republication of The Hiking Wrap, by Dr Lesley Russell.

During December, we were pleased to see World Health Organization leaders engaging with our social media content.

Between 83 and 176 MPs across all jurisdictions opened our weekly news bulletin.

Interestingly, there was strong interest from subscribers, including MPs, in our Summer Publishing Schedule. While much of the country shut down for summer break, Croakey readers were continuing to engage with the health news that matters.

Warm thanks to everyone who contributed to our end-of-year funding drive. Your support makes a tangible difference to our sustainability.
During 2023 we had: 199,340 visitors to the website + 22,737 visitors to Croakey stories at Apple News. Total: 222,077 visitors.

During 2022 we had: 229,380 visitors to the website + 33,874 visitors to Croakey stories at Apple News. Total: 263,254 visitors.

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: 270,357 impressions | 2023: 5,964,006 impressions |
Transformational reform?

**Week ending 7 December:** The National Health and Climate Strategy, released this week, could be transformational for policy-making, health and healthcare in many ways. But only if some critical gaps and concerns can be addressed.

It certainly is a more inspiring document than the blurb on health reform released by National Cabinet after their meeting yesterday.

This week, we publish an open letter from Dr Lucy Mitchell urging the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to show leadership in advocating strongly for a ceasefire in Gaza and Israel.

It comes as the United Nations chief warns that global security is at risk from the conflict, and many humanitarian and health organisations sound the alarm.

We bring several Long Reads this week. Don’t miss:

- Charles Maskell-Knight’s critical questions about the National Health Reform Agreement.
- Jennifer Doggett’s investigation of what more could be done to protect aged care residents from COVID.
- Danielle Manton’s report from the Indigenous Allied Health Association conference, reflecting on the “leadership, strength, resilience and courage of our ancestors”.

As always, Dr Lesley Russell and The Health Wrap cover wide-ranging terrain, as does the ICYMI column, which celebrates the first issue of The Lowitja Journal, and also brings suggestions for making global health publishing more equitable.

Read the column to find out which Health Minister said this: “Currently, the danger posed by COVID is indeed being underestimated. Nothing is worse than infecting someone at Christmas who then becomes seriously ill and may not fully recover.”

Mitchell Ward has produced some interactive maps for those wanting to dig deeper into which communities voted Yes at the recent Voice referendum.

As the Attorneys-General disappoint – yet again – in failing to #raisetheage, the National Network of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women & Girls makes a case for abolishing the prison industrial complex.

To stay in touch with health and First Nations news from the ongoing COP meeting, bookmark this link, and follow this Twitter list and the hashtag #HealthyCOP28.

And please join us for a #CroakeyCatchUp online, from 5pm AEDT on Tuesday, 12 December. We have some news to share. Register here.
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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Dr Maria Neira is Director of the WHO’s Public Health and the Environment Department.

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Croakey Conference News Service

We wrapped up our coverage of #HEAL2023.

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"Why aren't you all caring for country?" Professor Kerry Arabena

Lithakarene, an academic Professor Rere Nkem-Enyi was going to be presenting his keynote presentation at this week’s Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) conference.

In his talk, included in the discussion on rural health, calls for a “full from problems such as broadening the health sector, to broadly consider how to address structural and cultural issues.

"Why aren’t you all caring for country?" is a question that has been raised by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and mental health professionals. Professor Arabena asked "Why aren't you all caring for country?"

One of the aims of the conference is to broaden the concepts of social determinants of health to include psychological and emotional as well as social and physical determinants.

Conference participants especially heard that many of these issues are present in the other edges of African cities, in situations where people are emotionally stressed, of social and psychological - and who’s to blame between cities and country.

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Lesley Russell Wolpe @LRussellWolpe · Dec 8

Bringing a cultural lens to pandemic preparedness: Aboriginal Elders share their learnings from COVID-19.

Interesting research project presented at recent #HEAL2023 conference sought to capture some of these experiences using yarning circle workshops.

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‘Time to put women in charge’

Week ending 14 December: Our bulletin this week features two defining images from the COP28 meeting that has just wrapped up in Dubai.

One is a front-page photo of a 12-year-old climate justice activist from India, Licypriya Devi Kangujam, who was removed from the meeting after boldly protesting on stage against fossil fuels.

The other emblematic photo shows a group of the meeting’s power-holders, mostly men and many making their fortunes from fossil fuels. This image prompted a climate scientist to observe, “It really is time to put women in charge”.

Our stories this week certainly underscore that current governance arrangements are not working, whether for addressing climate change or protecting civilians during conflict.

Dr Sue Wareham highlights the importance of ongoing and sustained advocacy for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and for peace-making.

This week’s bulletin has a strong focus on human rights, whether it be those of people with disability, or hepatitis C, or women accessing abortion care.

The ICYMI column takes the ABC to task for axing the current affairs program, The Drum, especially at a time when platforms for First Nations peoples’ voices are more important than ever.

Meanwhile, health policy analyst Charles Maskell-Knight investigates dental health reform, as well as other pressing national health reform matters.

We also report questions and concerns about the National Health and Climate Strategy’s implementation. Don’t miss the final article from #HEAL2023 for the Croakey Conference News Service.

Drowning prevention researcher Dr Amy Peden shared the wide-ranging discussions from the World Conference on Drowning Prevention, via Croakey’s rotated X/Twitter account @WePublicHealth. Contact us if interested in booking a week as a guest tweeter in 2024.

Please support the #CroakeyFundingDrive – we need your help to sustain our work. Encourage your networks to sign up for a free subscription (offer closes at midnight).
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.
Our coverage of the #HEAL2023 conference continued.

We published a Tweetbinder analysis of the impact of the X/Twitter coverage of the National Medicines Symposium. It found 80 contributors sent a total of 523 posts using the hashtag, creating a newsfeed with an estimated economic value of $12,849.80.

Other activities

Dr Summer May Finlay, a contributing editor and member of Croakey Health Media, spoke at an international symposium on science communication.

We hosted an online #CroakeyCatchUp with a focus on hope.
Warmest thanks to everyone who supported our #CroakeyFundingDrive.
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Looking for hope

*Week ending 21 December:* This is our final bulletin for 2023; the Croakey team will be taking a break until 15 January, 2024.

We wrap up our year with some reflections on hope, an overview of the amazing work of @WePublicHealth guests, and a must-read collection of quotable quotes from the past year.

The ICYMI column also brings some global perspectives on 2023.

This week, Alison Barrett investigates health concerns arising from the devastating flooding in Far North Queensland, highlighting a constant theme of our coverage this year – the urgency of climate action for our health.

We also continue our coverage of advocacy for peace and a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, which was described this week as “the most dangerous place in the world to be a child”.

Many articles put a focus on the needs and aspirations of young people, including an important statement from Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia, the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing, mental health, and suicide prevention.

Dr Lesley Russell covers the latest COVID variant in The Health Wrap, and don’t miss Charles Maskell-Knight’s analysis of the private health insurance lobby.

We also report calls for broader action to prevent silicosis, in the wake of the recent announcement of a ban on engineered stone.

Download and share [this free report](https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/) compiling Croakey Conference News Service coverage of the recent #HEAL2023 Conference.

Warm thanks to everyone who has contributed to Croakey this year. We wish our readers a happy, safe and healthy summer break. Follow our [Summer Publishing Schedule](https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/), where we republish a selection of articles from 2023.
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