Impact Report: **November 2023**

During November, our coverage highlighted wide-ranging failures of governance systems – globally, nationally and locally – to protect the health and safety of people.

Whether we look to the horrific assaults on children, civilians and health facilities in Gaza or to the fossil fuel industry’s threats to the health and safety of millions of people around the world and indeed the future of humanity, it is clear that we cannot continue as we are.

The importance of promoting peace and justice as foundational determinants of health was a recurring theme.

Our contributors also put a strong focus on the rights and wellbeing of children and young people, now and into the future.

The **Croakey Conference News Service** was busy during November, covering the **HEAL Network conference** and its focus on ‘collective action for health, environment and climate’, as well as the **National Medicines Symposium**.

We launched a curated news feed on X/Twitter using the hashtag, #HealthyCOP28, to provide a collective platform for sharing health-related and First Nations news from the global climate negotiations at COP28.

We continued to bring health equity matters to the attention of policymakers; during November, between 82 and 120 MPs across all jurisdictions opened the weekly Croakey News bulletin each week.

Our articles were republished and shared by many organisations and publishers during November, including the Australian Hospitals & Healthcare Association, Vets for Climate Action, and John Menadue’s site, Pearls & Irritations.

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**1 Jan – 30 November, 2023**: 180,314 visitors to the website + 20,696 visitors to Croakey stories at Apple News. Total: 201,010 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](https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/).

This month: **425,376 impressions**  |  This year: **5,693,649 impressions**
End this tragedy

**Week ending 9 November: “We are running out of words.”**

This was a tweet from World Health Organization Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on 3 November, referring to the “indescribable” situation on the ground in Gaza.

Five days later, he tweeted: “It has been a month of intense bombardment in Gaza. 10,000 people have died. Over 4,000 of them were children. How long will this human catastrophe last?

“We urge all parties to agree to a humanitarian ceasefire and work toward lasting peace. We again call for the immediate release of the hostages. History will judge us all by what we do to end this tragedy.”

More than 3,000 health professionals from Australia and other countries are echoing the call by many agencies and countries for ceasefire, urging “respect of and accountability to international humanitarian law”.

The need for strong systems, accountability and transparency is explored in other stories in this week’s bulletin, including a landmark decision by medical regulators to ban an ACT doctor for discriminatory and offensive behaviour towards Indigenous ophthalmologist Dr Kris Rallah-Baker.

As Marie McInerney reports, it’s the result of reforms that require tribunals and other health regulatory decision makers to consider racist and culturally unsafe practices when determining professional misconduct.

The Alliance for Gambling Reform is urging greater accountability and transparency to allow us to know more easily how much our superannuation giants are betting on gambling operators for their profits.

And we hope Croakey readers will have many insights to deliver to the National COVID-19 Inquiry, which is now open to submissions (but no more than three pages!), as we report ongoing concerns about gaps in long COVID care.

Across a number of articles, we see the power of advocacy in action, with the ACT raising the age of criminal responsibility and public drunkenness finally decriminalised in Victoria after powerful campaigning by Yorta Yorta woman Tanya Day’s family. And we look back at the pioneering community health agenda of the Whitlam Government.

Yet roads to change are long and hard, as leading Yes23 campaigners know too well. They met this week at their first public gatherings with supporters in the wake of the devastating Voice referendum, sharing grief, anger and hope, as well as ongoing commitment to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Stay tuned for Alison Barrett’s report from the National Medicines Symposium for the Croakey Conference News Service, and check out the tweets at #NMS23.
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.

Croakey Conference News Service

Did you miss #NMS23 last week? In this latest article by @CroakeyNews, learn about some of the critical discussions held at the Symposium on the quality use of medicines and sustainability.

Read it now:

Quotable

“As global health professionals, we have witnessed the continual refusal and/or failure to act by those in positions of power and trust: on the climate and environmental crisis, on sustainable development, on socioeconomic inequity, on harmful commercial interests, and on conflict...it is increasingly clear that we cannot leave it to others to act without speaking up. Silence is itself part of the problem.”

Open letter from health professionals calling for ceasefire in Gaza and peace in the region

https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/
Broken systems

Week ending 16 November: As the year’s end draws closer, it is increasingly clear that our governance systems – globally, nationally and locally – are broken, and incapable of protecting the health and safety of people.

Whether we look to the horrific assaults on children, civilians and health facilities in Gaza or to the fossil fuel industry’s threats to the health and safety of millions of people around the world and indeed the future of humanity, it is clear that we cannot continue as we are.

We hear this week from a range of doctors and other health professionals advocating for peace and justice.

As we digest the grim findings from the latest Lancet Countdown on health and climate change, it is uplifting to hear from some of those working for transformative change for the health and wellbeing of Country and communities.

Make sure to follow #HEAL2023 for news from the HEAL Network conference, with a focus on collective action for health, environment and climate. Also bookmark this link for Croakey Conference News Service coverage of the discussions, with more stories to come.

Positive steps are being taken to reduce the carbon footprint of the Australian health system, but many challenges and questions remain, according to Alison Barrett’s final report from the recent National Medicines Symposium. On related matters, read about the benefits of integrating pharmacists into Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations.

The ICYMI column encourages Croakey readers to make a submission to the United Nations development of a Code of Conduct for information integrity on digital platforms. The deadline is 1 December.

The bulletin this week also explores women’s health, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, ADHD, and private health insurance policy. It brings some historical context to contemporary Medicare reforms.

We join with many others in congratulating Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed, CEO of the Lowitja Institute, who was announced this week as 2024 Australian of the Year for Victoria in recognition of her longstanding work in dismantling racism and promoting cultural safety.
The Greek affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War cross-published our article: As Gaza hospitals become “scenes of death, devastation, and despair”, global community urged to act for peace.
A Croakey team live-tweeted and reported from the HEAL Network’s annual conference, #HEAL2023.
For every child, every right

Week ending 23 November: World Children’s Day, which was observed on Monday, 20 November, is billed as a day for celebrating the rights of children.

“From climate change, education and mental health, to ending racism and discrimination, children and young people are raising their voices on the issues that matter to their generation and calling for adults to create a better future,” says a related United Nations resource.

“This World Children’s Day, it’s more important than ever that the world listens to their ideas and demands.”

Meanwhile, we think of the 31 critically ill babies evacuated from northern Gaza while “clinging to life” and without their family members, as well as the thousands of children who have been killed in recent weeks.

Health and medical organisations are being urged to raise their voices in support of calls for an enduring ceasefire, according to a report by Alison Barrett.

This week, we also think of the babies and children who are at increased risk from climate catastrophe and yet are neglected in climate responses.

We preview health discussions at the forthcoming global Conference of the Parties (COP28) negotiations on climate change, kicking off in Dubai from 30 November. Join us in sharing related news at #HealthyCOP28.

The ICYMI column also brings news on children’s rights, from the #RaiseTheAge campaign to young peoples’ calls for action on toxic marketing.

The Croakey Conference News Service has been busy. Don’t miss our latest reports from #HEAL2023, shining a spotlight on First Nations’ justice, knowledges and leadership in co-design, with more stories to come.

We also bring the final report from the National Medicines Symposium.

This week’s bulletin also includes stories on mental healthcare reform, misinformation, and COVID.

Charles Maskell-Knight provides a detailed overview of Australia’s health status, and don’t miss The Health Wrap, which digs into research misconduct, amongst other topics.

Croakey readers have until 15 December to make a submission to Australia’s COVID-19 Response Inquiry. Please feel free to send us your submissions as well.

On 23 November, Editor-in-Chief Dr Melissa Sweet live-tweeted the Oceania launch of The Lancet Countdown report.
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.

**AWPR @WarPowersReform - Nov 23**
Amid ongoing health catastrophe in Gaza, why the silence?

Many health and medical organisations in Australia have remained silent in the face of a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

#auspol @ CroakeyNews
croakey.org/amid-ongoing-h...

**Lesley Russell Wolpe @LRussellWolpe - Nov 22**
Latest THW
Lots of COVID-19 news - shocking revelations from UK inquiry; impact on life expectancy; survey reveals Australians’ experience of COVID-19
Climate change concerns mount ahead of #HealthyCOP26
Addressing research misconduct
Some good news stories

croakey.org

**Stephen Parnis @SParnis - Nov 23**
i leave #ACEM23 grateful to reconnect with many colleagues. I reflect on our work under duress. The relegation of the most important topic to the sidelines is a matter of regret. Respectful, ethical practice can be subject to threat, subtle or overt.

croakey.org

**Sebastian Rosenberg @RosenbergSeb - 8m**
Obsessive Hope Disorder again? Maybe not. I think Fed Govt would find some willing state/ter partners in this endeavour. Some thoughts on the chance for helpful national health funding reform, here: croakey.org/heres-a-critic... @stephenjduckett @ian_hickie @NMHC @Mark_Butler_MP

croakey.org

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"Children live in a world that is increasingly hostile to their rights."

UNICEF Executive Director
Catherine Russell

Source

https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/
We continue our coverage of #HEAL2023.

**Climate and Health**

The final session of last week’s 2023 HEAL conference drew on the experiences and wisdom of First Nations Peoples around the world to explore the theme of First Nations rights-based approach to climate justice. In a place for Croakey Health Media, Danielle Martin, a Barnggarg women, grown up on Dharug Country, and a Senior Lecturer in Indigenous Teaching and Learning at the University of Technology Sydney, said that the strength, resilience, leadership, and expertise of the speakers in the final session of the HEAL 2023 conference was overwhelming and inspiring.

Read more:
- First Nations rights-based approaches to climate justice will make the world a better place.
Our coverage of the National Medicines Symposium continued to be shared.

The recent National Medicines Symposium hosted by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC), focused on what it will take to reduce waste in healthcare. This includes addressing key issues in quality use of medicines, and how manage the potential environmental damage medications can cause while also maintaining good health as a core focus.

This topic is also covered in the latest issue of The Health Advocate, with an article ‘The Future of medicines: good for people, good for planet’.

Read more:
- The Future of medicines: good for people, good for planet
- For planetary health, how does our use of medicines need to change?
- National Medicines Symposium

A Tweetbinder analysis of the #NMS23 hashtag found 80 contributors sent a total of 523 posts using the hashtag, creating a newsfeed with an estimated economic value of 12,849.80.

Below are some of the findings, and you can read the full report here.

How the homepage was looking on 23 November…

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.
Do not look away

Week ending 30 November: As we profile health sector expectations for the COP28 meeting that begins today, our bulletin this week has a strong focus on the environmental determinants of health.

We report on One Health perspectives, the impending launch of the National Health and Climate Strategy, and also bring more news from the HEAL Network’s recent conference – bookmark this link to track our ongoing coverage.

The change of government in Aotearoa/New Zealand is looking disastrous for health and equity; don’t miss two related stories, including calls for the global public health community to mobilise.

As health leaders urge a permanent ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, United Nations leader António Guterres warns that the people of Gaza are “in the midst of an epic humanitarian catastrophe”.

“We must not look away,” he says.

Meanwhile, the ICYMI column reports calls for a national process of truth telling in order to pursue implementation of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We also bring a strong focus on the health and wellbeing of children and young people, from efforts to curb vaping, to an initiative aiming to increase the accountability of governments and policymakers: the Future Healthy Countdown 2030. Decades of an economy focused on growth at all costs, rather than sustainable and equitable growth, has threatened the health and wellbeing of children and young people and future generations, according to health experts involved.

Charles Maskell-Knight digs into an analysis of Australian health expenditure on COVID-19. Contributors also make suggestions for the forthcoming national mental health lived experience consumer peak body and for shifting the narrative on female sports participation.

Our condolences to family, friends and colleagues of Professor Dennis Pashen; we share in your shock and sorrow at his sudden passing.

This week, we sent out our impact reports for September and October. If you would like to receive these regular updates, please let us know.
Our ‘From the Archives’ section linked to an article from the Aotearoa/NZ election campaign.

### From the archives: October 2023

#### Health fares poorly in Aotearoa/New Zealand election campaign

**Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

**Author:** Alison Barrett

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COVID

COVID's impact on health expenditure in Australia has been lower than in many other comparable countries, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). In a piece for Croakey Health Media, health policy analyst Charles Marshel-Knight says that this reflects a combination of ‘good luck and good management early’ in the pandemic that enabled Australia to avoid the massive hospital case loads seen elsewhere in the world.

Read more:
- Health system spending on the response to COVID: new report
- Health system spending on the response to COVID-19 in Australia 2019-20 to 2021-22
- COVID wary: what’s the latest on antenatal drugs, and who is eligible in Australia?
- Could antivirals reduce your risk of long COVID? Where the research is up to on prevention and treatment?

Students and Young Professionals in Public Health @PHAA_SYPS: Nov 24

How do we keep women participating in sport? One of our Student Think Tank 2023 entrants, Emma Blair, thinks she knows the answer.

Great to see public health students tackling such big issues and working with @CroakeyNews to share their ideas!

croakey.org/beyond-winning...

croakeynws Vale to an outstanding advocate for rural and remote communities: Professor Dennis Pashen


2w

markwenitong Dennis was one of the best and also supported FN health and esp FN junior docs. He was a mentor and friend and always has time for us mob. Always down to earth. Never a big shot. So missed already. Much love as you travel on my friend.

2w Reply

Simon Katter @SimonKatter: Nov 23

We’re at a crossroads in national mental health reform.

How the consumer (and carer) peaks are established has implications for our future mental health and wellbeing.

I’m worried about the current design process, but present solutions in @CroakeyNews

Simon Katter @SimonKatter: 4m

I always appreciate @CroakeyNews elevating the issues we raise 😊

Melissa Sweet @MelissaSweetDr: 5m

Walking forward or in circles? Lessons for the design of the National Consumer Peak body

By @SimonKatter

croakey.org/walking-forward...

tim heffernan @timheff: Nov 24

Almost 12 years ago, the 2011-12 Budget announced the establishment of the new National Mental Health Commission and a new National Mental Health Consumer Peak Organisation. It’s about time! Thanks Simon @NMHC @NSWMHC

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Croakey Conference News Service

We continued our coverage of #HEAL2023. We were delighted to see some of our stories presented to the conference as well.

We were also chuffed to see Croakey mentioned in one of the presentations, by Professor Lucie Rychetnik, Co-Director of The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre.
On 30 November, Croakey Health Media directors held their final board meeting for the year.