Our **Summer Publishing schedule** continued for the first few weeks of January, republishing some of our key articles from 2023. We were pleased to see readers continuing to engage with articles such as:

- **When tackling misinformation and disinformation, Indigenous peoples’ perspectives and representation are vital**, by Professor Bronwyn Fredericks
- **Women in Public Health: advancing gender equity in public health leadership**, by Caterina Giorgi
- **An analysis of consultancy use by the Department of Health and Aged Care**, by Charles Maskell-Knight.

We began our 2024 publishing schedule with a fantastic new weekly column, **The Zap**, by health and aged care policy analyst Charles Maskell-Knight. It provides a timely update of health-related reports, announcements and media releases from Commonwealth government agencies, Health and Aged Care Ministers and other politicians, national health sector organisations, and some international bodies. At Croakey, we are finding it extremely useful, and hope that you are too.

In January, we announced plans for a year-long project, **#Medicare40Years**, which is using the tagline, ‘learning from the past, planning for the future’, to provide a platform for solutions-focused discussions about health reform, with a strong focus on health equity.

As climate disruption was felt across Australia, we continued our coverage of the COP28 meeting and continued to put a strong focus on the health crisis in Gaza.

The weekly Croakey News bulletin is now sent to most federal, state and territory politicians across Australia. Each week during January, we were pleased to see that between 162 and 178 MPs opened Croakey News.

Thank you to all who support our work, including contributors, funders, and our directors and members. As you know, these are challenging times for public interest journalism, and we couldn’t do it without you.

### 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: 137,377 impressions**
Zapping into 2024

**Week ending 18 January:** The Croakey team is back on deck and we have begun the year with a Zap! That’s a new column launched this week, in which Charles Maskell-Knight provides a regular update of health-related reports and announcements. We expect it will become a must-read feature.

This week, we also bring a big-picture overview of key challenges facing our health, from climate disruption to the rise of monopoly and corporate power, and the risks of Artificial Intelligence to global security.

Francis Nona, a Torres Strait Islander scholar, shares some reflections from the recent COP28 climate negotiations in Dubai, and stresses the importance of listening to Indigenous elders in tackling the climate crisis. We also hear from Arthur Wyns on the important gains for health from COP28.

The ongoing crisis in Gaza and other global health concerns are also in focus, with the ICYMI column bringing some aspirations for 2024 from global health leaders. It also shares the 2024 NAIDOC theme: ‘Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud’.

Maskell-Knight has also kicked off a series of articles reviewing the exposure draft of a bill for a new Aged Care Act. It is “astounding”, he says, that the exposure draft does not include high quality care as one of the new Act’s objects. Readers have until 16 February to make comment on the draft bill, and we hope you will find the series helps with this.

This bulletin also includes some of our Summer Publishing Schedule - republications of key articles from 2023.
An article I wrote post @COP28_UAE “In reflecting on my father’s wise words, I feel that for us to make change, we need to hear the voices of our elders at a policy level. Understand the strengths and importance of indigenous knowledges for climate change mitigation and adaptation.”
@CarumbaQUT @QUT @PHIEthouse @LowIntInstitute @HIAngen
croakey.org/amid-new-globe...

Amid new global heat records, we take in some views from Salbai in the Torres... From croakey.org

Great aspirations from @FrancisNonai to amplify the “rights-based approach to #Climate action for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders that is enshrined in Australia’s many international agreements and needs to be delivered upon”.
Melissa Sweet @MelissaSweetDr: Amid new global heat records, we take in some views from Salbai in the Torres Strats to Dubai and COP28 By @FrancisNonai croakey.org/amid-new-globe... #COP28...

The Aged Care RC said new Act should have as an object “provision of high quality care”.
This ignored in exposure draft of new Act - govt is happy to have a system that simply avoids poor quality or unsafe care.
@AnikaWells should explain why.
Hopes and hazards

Week ending 25 January: As Cyclone Kirrily disrupts communities in north Queensland, large parts of Australia are facing heatwave warnings.

Climate and health concerns are escalating, and this week we bring news of developments in sustainable healthcare as well as barriers to climate action.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention, Michel Forst, has raised serious concerns about “regressive new laws” that are undermining the right to peaceful protest in the UK. His message, reported in the ICYMI column, is also relevant for Australian media and politicians.

Meanwhile, we continue our series on hope. When asked to describe his aspirations for 2024, senior emergency medicine specialist Dr Simon Judkins told us that he hopes for “a better, cleaner, kinder” world.

So many of our stories this week remind us of the huge barriers to achieving this, as well as the commitment of many organisations and individuals in working for meaningful change.

We hear from health workers and agencies on the frontlines in the Gaza Strip, where many acts of courage and heroism are occurring in the most desperate of conditions, especially for children.

Regulation of vaping, COVID and health inequalities, NDIS and aged care reform, and the commercial determinants of health are also in focus, with a call for public health experts to engage more actively with regulation of Big Tech.

Don’t miss The Zap, a new column by Charles Maskell-Knight providing a zippy national update on health and aged care policy matters.

Many thousands of Australians are expected to join ceremonies, rallies and other events marking 26 January as Invasion Day, Survival Day and a Day of Mourning.

Our thanks to Tanja Hirvonen, Kelleigh Ryan and Dr Nicole Tujague for their article with timely advice to organisations on how to improve support for the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees.
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.

https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/
Other activities

On Thursday 25 Jan, Croakey's managing editor Alison Barrett virtually attended a VALS invasion day webinar, and live-tweeted, as well as writing this article: Health organisations show solidarity, as experts examine treaty and First Nations justice.

Croakey editor and journalist Marie McInerney tweeted from the Survival Day rally in Naarm/Melbourne on 26 January.
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**

Thanks to the Australian Health Promotion Association for your appreciation for this service. We welcome approaches from organisers of conference and events that may be of interest to our readers in 2024.

**Croakey Professional Services**

Health Consumers Tasmania advertised with us during January. Thank you for investing in public interest journalism.

---

**An outstanding opportunity**

**Health Consumers Tasmania**

**is recruiting for a Chief Executive Officer**

Reporting to the Board, the CEO is responsible for implementing the strategic goals and objectives of Health Consumers Tasmania and managing the overall operations of the business.

The CEO will lead, represent and grow the organisation, working closely with the Tasmanian community, government and the health industry to build a more cooperative, fairer, safer and consumer centred health service in our State.

To submit an application, please apply online at [www.chapmanexecutive.com.au](http://www.chapmanexecutive.com.au) by Monday, 5 February 2024.

---

**Impact Report**

Happy birthday Medicare!

**Week ending 1 February:** In marking Medicare’s 40th anniversary today, we are reminded of the need to plan and act for the future health and wellbeing of people in an increasingly challenging world.

Several articles highlight areas for health policy reform, including a LongRead from Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler.

We will publish more entries in our Medicare birthday wish-list in coming days, as part of our new #Medicare40Years project, whose theme is ‘Learning from the past, planning for the future’.

Many articles this week also highlight the importance of wider policies for health, especially taxation policy. Read more on this in The Zap and ICYMI columns, as well as Charles Maskell-Knight’s timely analysis of a recent OECD report on financing resilient health systems.

Justice matters are also highlighted in numerous stories, including a powerful call to end strip searching in prisons, detention centres and watch houses across all jurisdictions in Australia.

We also cover global media trends, housing policy, and treaty negotiations in Victoria.

As people in Gaza face catastrophic conditions, Dr Sue Wareham reminds us that health professionals and organisations have an important role in advocating for peace and human rights.

Please join us for a special #CroakeyLIVE webinar from 4pm AEDT on Monday 5 February to discuss plans for our year-long project to mark #Medicare40Years. We are looking for funding partners, so please reach out if this might be of interest.
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.
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.

From croakey.org

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