CROAKEY HEALTH MEDIA

Informed, engaged communities for health

IMPACT REPORT

March 2024

Informed, engaged communities for health
During March, Croakey contributors put the spotlight on wide-ranging issues affecting our collective health, from ongoing manifestations of the inverse care law to the AUKUS military alliance.

“AUKUS threatens health at several levels, and health voices should be saying so loudly and clearly,” wrote Dr Sue Wareham OAM, President of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia).

Many of our articles profiled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership for health, including from the Close the Gap Campaign Report 2024, and the Third World Indigenous Cancer Conference, held in Naarm/Melbourne.

Managing Editor Alison Barrett attended the state funeral of a remarkable leader, Yankunytjatjara woman Dr Lowitja O’Donoghue AC CBE DSG.

We continued to report on the health and humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and other critical global health concerns, from the climate crisis to long COVID and the commercial determinants of health.

The state election in lutruwita/Tasmania also was covered extensively this month.

In line with our coverage of health in all policies, we are pleased to see a wide spectrum of politicians engaging with our work. During March, between 160 and 188 MPs/their offices opened the weekly Croakey News bulletin.

On the next page you can see our most-read articles for the first three months of 2024. It is notable that one of these articles was published in 2019, suggesting that it is still being widely read and shared, perhaps as part of educational activities.
Publishing activities

173 articles were published during the first quarter of 2024. The top 10 most read articles or pages (excluding the Croakey.org homepage) for the first quarter of 2024 are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article/page</th>
<th>Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I lost my journalism job due to a bipolar episode – workplaces need to do better (2024)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.croakey.org/i-lost-my-journalism-job-due-to-a-bipolar-episode-workplaces-need-to-do-better/">https://www.croakey.org/i-lost-my-journalism-job-due-to-a-bipolar-episode-workplaces-need-to-do-better/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>New drug laws are a step in the right direction for NSW, but upcoming Drug Summit should progress these recommendations (2024)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.croakey.org/new-drug-laws-are-a-step-in-the-right-direction-for-nsw-but-upcoming-drug-summit-should-progress-these-recommendations/">https://www.croakey.org/new-drug-laws-are-a-step-in-the-right-direction-for-nsw-but-upcoming-drug-summit-should-progress-these-recommendations/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Addressing the paradox of the youth mental health crisis through a focus on prevention (2024)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.croakey.org/addressing-the-paradox-of-the-youth-mental-health-crisis-through-a-focus-on-prevention/">https://www.croakey.org/addressing-the-paradox-of-the-youth-mental-health-crisis-through-a-focus-on-prevention/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do more, do better: experts respond to the Australian Government’s plans on long COVID (2024)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.croakey.org/do-more-do-better-experts-respond-to-the-australian-governments-plans-on-long-covid/">https://www.croakey.org/do-more-do-better-experts-respond-to-the-australian-governments-plans-on-long-covid/</a></td>
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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: 358,821 impressions  |  This year: 787,374 impressions
Taking a deep dive into the inverse care law

Week ending 8 March: Back in July 2018, we reported the death of Dr Julian Tudor Hart, at age 91. A Welsh GP, he was described as “a visionary leader who combined advocacy for equitable primary care and social justice, trenchant critiques of market influences in healthcare and innovative research showing how whole population approaches to improving health could transform primary care”.

Tudor Hart is most famous for coining the inverse care law, to describe inequities in access to healthcare, and this week University of Tasmania academics argue that his legacy raises many critical questions and challenges for contemporary policy makers and health reformers.

Indeed, the inverse care law threads through our bulletin this week, with articles highlighting its ongoing relevance, as well as the factors that entrench it and strategies for addressing it.

On one side of the ledger stand politicians who talk tough on youth crime, who fail to address poverty and housing insecurity, and who fail the most marginalised, including those in prisons.

We also highlight useful strategies for addressing the inverse care law, including the work of anti-racism, community participation in setting research priorities, Aboriginal-led solutions, and determined efforts to address the social and cultural determinants of health and promote health in all policies.

As the 23 March election approaches in lutruwita/Tasmania, we continue to bring you updates on #TasVotesHealth2024.

As children starve to death in Gaza in the most horrific of conditions and many of Australia’s health and medical organisations remain complicit in their silence, we also are reminded of the importance of courageous advocacy.

International Women’s Day is an opportunity to celebrate the glorious diversity of women and their work for justice for First Nations peoples, for climate and environmental justice, for healthier and more equitable public policy, for more equitable healthcare, and for care of Country.

We join with many others in paying respect to Yankunytjatjara woman Dr Lowitja O’Donoghue AC CBE DSG, who died at age 91 earlier this year, after a lifetime of service and fighting for justice. You can link into today’s State funeral from our ICYMI column, and Alison Barrett will report more from the service in coming days.

We apologise that our bulletin is running late this week, due to some significant technical issues, AKA an attack of the bots. Thank you for your patience, and support.
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.
Warm thanks to Patrick Lenton from The LGBTQIA+ Media Project for cross-publishing Joe Ball's article, *Navigating tragedy and accountability in the wake of Jesse Baird and Luke Davis's deaths*.

Other activities

On 8 March, Croakey's managing editor Alison Barrett attended the State Funeral for Dr Lowitja O'Donohue AC CBE DSG at St Peter's Cathedral, Kaurna Country.

On 1 March, she attended an Australian Health Promotion Association South Australia Branch meeting on Kaurna Country.

Thanks @AHPA_AU SA Branch for this morning's annual breakfast meeting - was great to hear plans for 2024, as well as talks by Carmel Williams & Andrew Wiley

#HealthPromotion #SDOH
Trauma matters

Week ending 14 March: The first stage of the National Climate Risk Assessment has been released, and it makes sobering reading for those who work for the health and wellbeing of communities.

Importantly, health and equity are highlighted as central concerns throughout the document; Croakey readers are encouraged to engage with related consultations.

Women’s health is in the spotlight following the Women’s Health Summit, convened by Assistant Minister Ged Kearney on Ngunnawal country today. The ICYMI and Zap columns bring a timely focus to related issues.

This week’s bulletin has a strong focus on the ongoing impacts of racism, trauma and injustice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, whether it be in sports, prison health or policies targeting young people.

Don’t miss the resources and stories shared by Professor Megan Williams during a recent visit to Tkaronto, Canada, with a focus on justice, prison health and hepatitis C.

The importance of government leadership and policies for improving population-wide health and wellbeing are also highlighted in stories about air pollution, housing, education and fuel efficiency standards.

Thank you to Suicide Prevention Australia for advertising the National Suicide Prevention Conference with us. When you advertise with Croakey, you are also investing in independent media and public interest journalism.

Bookmark #WICC2024 and follow our coverage of the World Indigenous Cancer Conference in Naarm/Melbourne next week.
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.

Quotable

“Trauma is like a cluster bomb. Everyone around you gets hurt.”

Dean Yates

Source

https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/
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.
First Nations leadership

Week ending 21 March: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and excellence are in the spotlight this week.

We bring stories from the World Indigenous Cancer Conference in Naarm/Melbourne, the launch of the Close the Gap Campaign Report 2024, and the launch of Wiyi Yani U Thangani (women’s voices) Institute.

As Co-Chair of the Close the Gap Campaign, Karl Briscoe, says: “When we talk about progressing Voice, Treaty, Truth, we build a broader understanding of how history, activism, leadership and compassion are inextricably linked and necessary to building socioeconomic and political equity.”

We also share moving tributes from the state funeral of a remarkable leader, Yankunytjatjara woman Dr Lowitja O’Donoghue AC CBE DSG.

Amid famine in Gaza, the World Health Organization reiterates calls for Israel enable the passage of humanitarian aid. Alison Barnett speaks with a medical organisation in Australia that is organising missions to help children in Gaza who have had limbs amputated.

Meanwhile, Dr Sue Wareham urges health professions to speak up on the health threats of AUKUS.

This week’s bulletin also highlights some media failures as well as successes.

As Tasmanians head to the polls this weekend, Dr Clare Smith calls for voters to put climate action first.

New vaping legislation is in the spotlight in the latest ICYMI column, and don’t miss #TheZap, a weekly column by health policy analyst Charles Maskell-Knight.

Bookmark this link for more stories from Croakey Conference News Service coverage of the World Indigenous Cancer Conference.

Please register to join us on Monday 8 April for the next #CroakeyLive in our #Medicare40Years series – with a focus on oral healthcare.

We recently sent out our impact reports for January and February; if you do not already receive these monthly reports and would like to, please be in touch.

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https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/
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**Medical Association for Prevention of War**

Thanks to Croakey News Media for publishing our latest on @AUKUS and health. The threats posed by AUKUS to health are multiple and strong, at local, national, regional and global levels. A serious examination of those threats should form an important part of preventive healthcare.

Read the full article: [https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/](https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/)

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**Australian Pain Soc** @AusPainSoc

#AgedCareTaskforce commentary:

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**Dr Blair Williams** @BlairWilliams26 · 28m

Nice to see my chapter in @CroakeyNews! ICYMI this week 😊

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**Melissa Sweet** @MelissaSweetDr · 48m

Thanks to all contributors to latest #ICYMI croakey.org/icy-m-why-the-

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**Rebecca Zosel** @rossel

A fantastic new weekly column by @CharlesAndrewMK providing an overview of health-related reports, announcements & media releases from Commonwealth government agencies, Health and Aged Care Ministers and other politicians, and national health organisations 😊

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**Charles Maskell-Knight** @CharlesAndrewMK · Mar 18

The latest edition of The Zap via @CroakeyNews croakey.org/the-zap-grown...
This week, we had a team attending the World Indigenous Cancer Conference in Naarm/Melbourne. From L: Danielle Manton, Dr Ruth Armstrong and Marie McInerney.

Pre-welcome welcome to Naarm from the wonderful Tony Garvey #WICC2024
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.

Ruth Armstrong
@DrRuthAtLarge

Serious #CroakeyGo vibes this morning as we head off for a cultural walk in Fitzroy Gardens with conference Elder Aunty Pam #WICC2024

7:40 AM · Mar 19, 2024 · 47 Views

A/Prof Kalinda Griffiths - PhD (Epi), MPH, BBMSc
@Klick22

People are arriving this week from all across the globe to attend the World Indigenous Cancer Conference 2024 from the 18-20th of March.

@VCCCAliance
@pocheSA_NT

#WICC2024

7:40 AM · Mar 14, 2024 · 136 Views
Voices of experience

**Week ending 28 March:** This week our bulletin brings insights from a range of people with deep experience in the arts and science of politics and policy, offering many thoughtful reads for your Easter break.

In the wake of the Tasmanian election, we have a **two-part series** featuring public health leader Professor Michael Moore, former independent MP Tony Windsor and others on the implications of minority government for health advocacy and democracy.

We also highlight the work and reflections of a number of women who have played senior public roles, including outgoing Victorian Ombudsman Deborah Glass, **who warns** of risks to public sector independence and ‘tough on crime’ politics.

We publish an **address** by former Labor Human Services Minister Jan McLucas to James Cook University graduates, urging them to “trust the science” in engaging in public debate.

Also featured is a **farewell speech** from retiring Greens Senator Janet Rice, who reflects on setbacks, loss and disappointment as well as achievements, particularly in LGBTQI+ rights and native forest logging.

Writing from Western Australia, where homes were destroyed by bushfire this week, Perth GP Dr George Crisp **urges medical colleagues** to push harder for phase out of fossil fuels. Meanwhile, the sixth annual stocktake of climate change and health developments underscores the glaring inadequacy of mitigation and adaptation efforts in Australia, especially in the health sector.

In her **latest story** from the World Indigenous Cancer Conference, Danielle Manton traces the conference themes – Process, Progress and Power – through presentations by global leaders in Indigenous cancer care.

We thank journalist Jarni Blakkarly for sharing his **powerful story of bipolar**, ahead of World Bipolar Day, highlighting discrimination experienced at work by people with mental health issues.

Also on mental health, leading academics Associate Professor Sebastian Rosenberg and Professor Alan Rosen look at ways that mental health commissions **could do more** to operate as “genuine agents for lasting, positive mental health reform”.

There’s much more to read, including how we can **learn from tobacco control** to address escalating vaping rates.

As always, don’t miss The **Health Wrap** from Dr Lesley Russell and The **Zap** from Charles Maskell-Knight. The **ICYMI column** spotlights pandemic prevention.

Please register to join a #CroakeyLIVE webinar, Tackling Oral Healthcare Inequities, on 8 April, part of our **#Medicare40Years** project.
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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Tonight on Spin Cycle we are joined by @JamiBlakkarly to discuss how newsrooms deal with the mental health needs of staff. Jami details his own experience while working at @SBSNews in this incredible and must read piece. With @rachelwithers 7pm @3RRRFM

From croakey.org
5:05 PM - Mar 28, 2024 - 808 Views

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Australia Institute
@TheAustraliaInstitute

"We are really let down with our political analysis in Australia because we are presented with this binary of 'stable majority government' or 'unstable minority government'"

Richard Denniss @RONS_TAI in @CroakeyNews

#auspol #TasmaniaVotes

From croakey.org
3:27 PM - Mar 28, 2024 - 2,139 Views

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Mental health commissions could achieve so much more, and here are some ways forward – Croakey Health Media

Mental health commissions could achieve so much more, and here are some ways fore...

From croakey.org
8:33 AM - Mar 28, 2024 - 856 Views

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Lesley Russell Wolpe reposted
Charles Maskell-Knight @CharlesAndrewMK

Another excellent wide-ranging column from @LRussellWolpe via @CroakeyNews

Lesley Russell Wolpe @LRussellWolpe - 11h
Latest THW takes deep dive into:
- women’s health, wellbeing, equity in Australia, US & globally
- 8th CPA Heads of Agreement signed but what’s next?
- anti-vaxers and US politics (RFK Jr as election spoiler)
- some good news stories (thank goodness!) croakey.org/the-health-wra...

5:05 AM - Mar 26, 2024 - 255 Views

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National Rural Health Alliance
@NRHAAlliance

NRHA Chief Executive @SusiTegen speaks on rural healthcare access in this week’s Croakey. ‘Informed, engaged communities for health’ The Zap. croakey.org/the-zap-dont-m...

Croakey News @CroakeyNews - Apr 1
Looking for some Easter Monday/long weekend reading? @CroakeyNews has got you covered. Here’s a on our latest articles:

Show this thread

From croakey.org
11 GIF ALT

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Alison Verhoeven
@AlisonVerhoeven

Too many Australians miss out on oral healthcare because of cost. Join me and @CroakeyNews colleagues on 8 April when we discuss opportunities and barriers to tackling oral healthcare inequities. #Medicare #Medicare4years

From eventbrite.com.au
11:07 AM - Mar 22, 2024 - 338 Views

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IMPACT REPORT

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

A short history of the oral healthcare workforce – and please join our upcoming webinar
@CroakeyNews
#OralHealth Sponsored by
@PHAA.OralHealth
@DHE_DeeDee
@latrobe Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research

Croakey Conference News Service

Did you go to #WICC2024? Or been following along? This, from @DaniManton @CroakeyNews is about putting the love in to cancer care.
“What is at the heart of our work to improve cancer outcomes? First Nations Peoples share stories & motivations”

Close the Gap on #Cancer #wicc2024 @CancerAustralia @NACCHOAustralia

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https://www.croakey.org/impact-and-readership/
Speaking truth to power

**Week ending 4 April:** More than 2,000 people and organisations made submissions to the Commonwealth Government’s COVID-19 Response Inquiry. Our bulletin leads with an overview of recommendations from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector.

The importance of ‘Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands’ is also highlighted in Danielle Manton’s final report from the World Indigenous Cancer Conference for the Croakey Conference News Service.

“Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands is key to improving outcomes for Indigenous Peoples but there is much more work to be done,” writes Manton.

Meanwhile, governments continue to undermine self-determination.

New pharmacy ownership laws in Queensland put the interests of community pharmacy owners above the needs and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, writes Associate Professor Sophia Couzos, from the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council.

**The Zap** this week examines inaction on mental health policy, recommendations to improve access to primary care across rural and remote Australia, and the Scope of Practice Review.

Charles Maskell-Knight also reports on a recent Commonwealth Fund report, ‘Finger on the pulse: the state of primary care in the US and nine other countries’.

The ICYMI column brings the latest news on H5N1, a must-read investigation of how the United States Government undermines children’s health through its support for baby formula companies, and a warm welcome for the new Governor-General.

Professor Martin McKee urges the public health community to do a better job at communicating about the upstream determinants of health and at speaking truth to power.

Amid widespread focus this week on the deaths of seven World Central Kitchen workers, including Australian Zomi Frankcom, and the destruction of the Al-Shifa Hospital, we cover a new report detailing the destruction of Gaza.

This is an important moment for media policy; we encourage readers to consider statements issued this week by Croakey Health Media and the Local and Independent News Association.

Please register to join a #CroakeyLIVE webinar, Tackling Oral Healthcare Inequities, on 8 April, part of our #Medicare40Years project.
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.
A recurrent theme at the 3rd World Indigenous Cancer Conference was the importance of Indigenous ways of being and doing, Indigenous leadership and Indigenous knowledges being central to every aspect of the cancer continuum. Read more from @CroakeyNews

"As land-use change becomes more intense and extensive, the risk of zoonotic spillovers, and subsequent epidemics and pandemics, will increase. Designing land management and conservation strategies to explicitly limit spillover is central to meeting the challenge of pandemic prevention at a global scale."

Article in Nature Communications

Source