**NSW set to reopen schools next week**

Alexandra Smith, Anna Patty

Health and education officials are finalising a plan to ensure all NSW students will return from holidays next week, with strict measures around drop-off and pick-up, and no school events or sport.

Home learning is not under consideration for next week, though the state government will consider tailoring restrictions in schools dependent on case numbers in particular areas.

NSW recorded 16 new cases of community transmission yesterday, 13 of whom were in isolation during their infectious period. Three were residents of an aged care home in Sydney’s north-west. The SummitCare facility at Baulkham Hills went into lockdown as the infected residents were transferred to Westmead Hospital as a precautionary measure.

All three residents were fully vaccinated and were not showing any symptoms.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian said case numbers were going “the right way” but stressed that complying with restrictions over the next few days was crucial to the lockdown lifting on Friday.

“We’ve seen in the last few days how easy it is for people to unintentionally do the wrong thing, or intentionally do the wrong thing, and that can result in more cases, which is something we don’t want to see,” Ms Berejiklian said.

Public schools across NSW are due to return from holidays next Tuesday, three days after the greater Sydney lockdown is set to finish.

Continued Page 4

**Innovative study traced families for decades**

Cian McCue with his mother Camille Damase. Photo: Rhett Wyman

**Lockdown**

**Falling tobacco, alcohol use will force taxpayers to fill budget hole**

EXCLUSIVE

Shane Wright

Senior economics correspondent

Tumbling rates of smoking, a drop in alcohol consumption and the rise of electric vehicles will punch a hole in the federal budget worth tens of billions of dollars, forcing taxpayers to take up the slack.

There are already signs the sharp increase in cigarette excise over recent years, aimed at encouraging people to give up tobacco use, is hitting the budget with revenue falling more than $2 billion short of expectations in a single year. It follows years of large increases in excise, by both sides of politics, cigarette plain packaging and a change in the timing of excise collection that delivered a one-off $5.2 billion increase in excise in the 2019-20 financial year.

These increases had made tobacco excise the fourth largest individual tax collected by the federal government at an estimated $65 billion last financial year.

The Commonwealth collects more in tax on cigarettes than on superannuation ($11.7 billion), Continued Page 9

**Former Mosman tycoon targeted in Crown inquiry**

EXCLUSIVE

Nick McKenzie

A former Mosman property entrepreneur is at the heart of an inquiry by gaming giant Crown Resorts over claims it laundered millions of dollars through Crown’s Melbourne casino.

Liquidators investigating the collapse of Michael Gu’s $600 million iProperty property group found at least $8 million of clients’ funds were moved to Crown Casino via company accounts. Mr Gu then either withdrew the money or used it for gambling, Crown’s decision to call an inquiry into the allegations came within hours of the Herald sending questions to the casino operator about the suspicious transactions.

Sources familiar with the transactions said they had the hallmarks of money laundering, which involves criminality to conceal the origin of money earned via criminality or stolen. Passing funds through a casino can make it appear as if they are the product of gambling, concealing their origin.

Full story NEWS PAGE 3
Making a difference: Seven Up Aussie-style

Julie Power

Long before Cian McCue had any say in it, his mother Camille Damaso enrolled the healthy newborn in Australia’s own Seven Up program. Aidan Hill, 34, was also enrolled. He was born four weeks early. Lennair Hill, 34 and now Aidan’s wife, is also in the program. She was born eight weeks premature, at a very low birth weight, with a heart condition.

Ms Hill’s mother Donna Sinclair said the birth was “as traumatic as you can imagine” and she was giving birth to a dead baby”.

The Life Course study was started in 1987 by the late pediatrician Dr Susan Sayers from the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin. She described it as “Australia’s own 7 Up.” It started with an Aboriginal birth cohort of 596 babies including Aidan and Clan, and later added 196 non-Indigenous participants, including Lennair.

Dr Sayers wrote that it would follow “the progress of tiny babies into adults, into sickness and health, for the rest of their lives.”

The study is loosely modelled on the 7-up documentary series in England that followed the lives of 14 children born in 1964.

When Mr McCue was young, the seven-year check-ups on his physical and emotional wellbeing were a part of his life. They weren’t so welcome when he was 17. “As I got into my teenage years, it was like these guys are trying to humbug me,” Mr McCue, 33, a father and a video maker, said now realised it was about more than health checks.

“It is about trying to close the gap, and raise that life expectancy of Aboriginal people,” he said.

NATiOCO week started yesterday to celebrate the history, culture and achievement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The theme this year, Healing Country, calls for strong solutions to address injustices, such as the increased rates of chronic disease among Indigenous Australians.

The study is being used by researchers to find clues to why some children born small continue to be smaller at each check-in: 33 per cent were underweight at 11 and 18 years, with fewer underweight when they turned 25. The tests have also assessed emotional and mental wellbeing.

Dr Davison said she had been concerned by the rates of psychological distress among the 18-year-olds. Around then, deaths in the group from suicide also rose.

While research and other programs have been able to help, deaths in the group from suicide also rose.

Dr Davison said she had been concerned by the rates of psychological distress among the 18-year-olds. Around then, deaths in the group from suicide also rose.

A review by the Menzies School attributed the success of its decision to employ local Aboriginal mothers to consult the community and counsel other parents.

Interrupted by COVID-19, and again in the past, it is under way across the NT. While participants were “all pretty healthy at 18 and 25,” Dr Davison said researchers were starting to see signs of weight gain, a big risk factor for chronic disease. Most at risk are those babies who were born early or small.

The previous waves found Aboriginal participants living in urban areas were more likely to be overweight while those in remote communities tended to be underweight.

The non-Indigenous cohort tended to sit in the middle, she said.

Women challenge jobs stereotypes

Shane Wright
Senior economics correspondent

The coronavirus pandemic could accelerate the shift of women into more male-dominated and better paying jobs in Australia, extending a decade-long slow breakdown of gender stereotypes in workplaces.

As analysts suggest some strength in the national jobs market is due to people needing extra income to put into their payroll units, research to be released today shows even before COVID-19 there was a shift of men and women into occupations traditionally held by the other sex.

The strength of the jobs market in the pandemic recession has surprised policy makers including the federal Treasury and the Reserve Bank. The number of people in work is above pre-virus level with the unemployment rate at 5.1 per cent.

During COVID there was a big hit to industries dominated by women, but they have recovered faster than male-dominated ones. By mid-June, the number of women on the nation’s payroll registers was 1.8 per cent higher than its pre-COVID level but the number of men was 0.2 per cent down.

Analysis from online employment agency Indeed shows even before COVID, women were doing better across workplaces than men.

Indeed’s chief economist Callam Pickering said this was partly due to the strong growth of women moving into traditionally male-dominated sectors.

In the decade leading up to COVID, the number of women employed as software and applications programmers was growing by 7.4 per cent a year, faster than the number of men. Across civil engineering, women were growing at 6.1 per cent annually, quicker than men. The fastest growth was as bakers and pastry cooks (12.5 per cent a year), construction managers (12.8 per cent) and engineering managers (14.2 per cent). In each case, women outpaced men.

Mr Pickering said since COVID, female employment had continued to outpace male employment in male-dominated occupations.

“We often make big career decisions at teenagers or young adults. If the pre-pandemic decade is any guide, young people – especially men – might benefit from thinking outside the square and pursue a career path that runs counter to gender stereotypes,” he said.

Separate research from JPMorgan economists Ben Jarman and Tom Kennedy shows there has been a “remarkable” acceleration in the number of women either in work or looking for it.

They said it was still unclear why female participation had increased so much, but one factor may be the housing market.

“The exact catalysts behind the most recent shift is unknown, though it likely relates to some combination of more flexible work arrangements, increasing opportunity for women to have a family, and the shift to remote working,” they said.

Mr Jarman and Mr Kennedy also downsized claims of major job shock.

While job numbers have recovered, ANZ senior economist Catherine Holtzmann said she had not been in all sectors.

Employment in the best paid and second best paid occupations was back above its pre-virus level, it was still short of that for middle and second-lowest earning jobs.

“While some people may have transitioned from lower-paying to higher-paying occupations, it is clear that those with the skills and experience to work in higher-paying jobs have had relatively better employment outcomes since the pandemic, which is a concern for inequality,” she said.
Pet custody laws latest NY divorce battleground
Josie Ensor

New York: It is an all-too-familiar scene that plays out in divorcer courts: a row over who gets custody of the children.

But in New York state is poised to pass a bill allowing judges to rule on the custody of pets in a break-up, weighing the “best interests” of the animal.

The new law would recognise what is known as a “petnup” — an add-on to the traditional prenuptial agreement many couples enter into before marriage.

“Pet custody and ownership cases have always been hotly contested,” New York divorce lawyer Adam Citron said. “A judge will now apply a best-interest standard, which is what is in the best interest of the pet and the parties.”

“This will treat pets more like how a court looks at children when determining custody,” he said. “Values that solidify that the pet will no longer be a possession are important.”

The decision may have been helped on by a number of high-profile celebrity disputes, including the one between divorced actors Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux over their four dogs.

Pet ownership in the US has climbed constantly over the years, with 68 per cent of Americans having a dog, cat or other animal at home. However, about 40-50 per cent of marriages in the US now end in divorce; a quarter feature legal battles over pets.

If the pet was acquired before the marriage, it is considered the separate property of the person who acquired it, regardless of whether the other party is the primary caregiver or is more strongly bonded to the animal.

Experts say the issue is particularly thorny for growing number of younger people who are choosing pets, before or instead of, children.

“Many have many animals but are just having animals,” said relationship expert Lori Zaslows. “Those things need to be established before getting married like anything else. I mean, an animal has a heartbeat.”

In the past four years, a number of US states have adopted legislation enshrining pets’ rights. Illinois and Alaska have passed laws that allow judges to consider the pet’s wellbeing over the wishes of the couple in a awarding custody.

In some cases they have ruled that pet parents are entitled to visitation rights.

Andrew Chicago said: “We have a German shepherd and I was the one that trained her and was worried my ex wouldn’t be able to control her. Luckily the judge understood the need and took into consideration what was best for her. ‘I was awarded custody. My ex didn’t fight it, but it was hard for him.”

Kerri McCue, an animal behaviourist, said going between two homes could be far more stressful for a dog than living full-time with one owner and can lead to behavioural problems.

The Telegraph, London

**INDIGENOUS RESEARCH**

Seven Up study tracks kids from teens to adulthood

A life project is helping to close the gap, writes Julie Power.

Long before Cian McCue had any say in it, his mother Camille Damasio enrolled the healthy newborn in Australia’s own Seven Up-style program.

Aidan Hill, 34, was also enrolled. He was born four weeks early. Lennair Hill, 34, and now Aidan McCue, 34, are in the program. She was eight weeks premature, at a very low birth weight, with a heart condition.

Ms Hill’s mother Donna Sinclair said the birth was “as traumatising as you can imagine. I thought I was giving birth to a dead baby.”

The Cross Course study was started in 1987 by the late paediatrician Dr Susan Sayers from the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin. She described it as “Australia’s own 7 Up”. It started with an Aboriginal birth cohort of 868 babies including Aidan and Cian, and later added 196 non-Indigenous participants, including Ms Hill.

Dr Sayers wrote it would follow “the progress of tiny babies into adulthood, into before marriage.”

The study is loosely modelled on the 7 Up documentary series in England that followed the lives of 14 children from 1964. When the study was young, the seven-year check-ups on his physical and emotional wellbeing were a part of life; not so welcome as a teenager. At age 14, when I turned 14, it was like these kids are trying to humbug me.”

Mr McCue said: “I am a video maker, said he now realised the project was about more than health checks. “It is about trying to close the gap, and raise the life expectancy of Aboriginal people,” he said.

NAIDOC week started yesterday to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The theme this year, Heal Country, calls for stronger measures to address injustices, such as the increased rates of chronic disease among Indigenous Australians.

The study is looking for clues to who will get chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, the No. 1 killer of Indigenous people.

Participants have their weight and height recorded, blood pressure checked and, and urine samples tested. Early assessments of waist, arms, legs, and fat distribution, are measured. They undergo scans of brains, kidneys, hyroid and the carotid artery.

Dr Sayers was interested in whether low birth weight predicted future health status. She recruited the Indigenous cohort born at the Royal Darwin Hospital from 1987 to 1990.

The Top End cohort, 196 non-Indigenous children of the same age, was added later.

Mr McCue was born on time and on weight. He was healthier than others in the Aboriginal cohort: 11 per cent were underweight, but fewer were overweight when they turned 25.

The tests have also assessed emotional and mental wellbeing.

Ms Hill said she had been concerned by the rates of psychological distress among the 18-year-olds. Around them, deaths in the group from suicide also rose. Since then, researchers have been measuring levels of cortisol, a stress hormone.

She said the results of its four waves, as new borns, then as 11-year-olds, 16 and 25, have brought improvements that have contributed to closing the gap in lifespan, and physical and mental health. And they illustrated the need for different programs and policies for people living in remote communities.

When the Indigenous children were 11, blood tests showed anemia, from lack of iron, was higher in remote communities.

Children low in iron are likely to get sick and to not develop at the same rate as other children.

In Barunga, about an hour from Katherine, health workers found 45 out of the 50 children under five in 1998 suffered from severe anemia.

That resulted in 200 visits a

No goal for spaces in Coalition car park scheme

From Page 1

television yesterday, “The Australian people had their chance and voted the Morrison government back in the next election and we are determined to get on with local infrastructure, as we are nation-building infrastructure.

“We are going to continue to deliver infrastructure projects for the nation because they lift our national productivity, they help Australians in terms of whether it be their access to public transport, the time it takes them to get from one end to another.

But of the 47 projects promised in 2019, two have been built, while several have been abandoned.

The Auditor-General also found that while the government promised the car parks would take “tens of thousands” of cars off roads, it actually did not know if the program would work.

It reported 22 completed proposals to government ministers failed to outline how many extra car spaces would be provided. By March this year, the Infrastructure Department estimated that of the 47 projects, 23 would provide an extra 7696 spaces, of which 1700 depended on extra funding. For another 19 sites there was still no estimate of the extra spaces, while five sites would not provide any added spaces.

Senator Simon Birmingham said the Coalition’s electoral success justified the scheme.

“It was common for the department to not analyse information such as the number of car park spaces expected to be provided,” the Auditor-General found.

Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese described the program as a disgrace, saying the proper process of government had been corrupted.

“This pork and ride scheme included commuter car parks where there’s no train station near where the car park is,” he said.

“This was a corruption of proper process. The government made decision to provide taxpayers’ money on the basis of submissions from political candidates who weren’t elected members of Parliament, as well as members of the Coalition.”

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD     MONDAY, JULY 5, 2021

1161841- A008

Lennair and Aidan Hill were enrolled as babies born early: they are watchful of their children’s diet; many were underweight; (right) Cian McCue and his mother Camille Damaso. Man photo: Rhett Wyman