

# The Sydney Morning Herald

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INDEPENDENT. ALWAYS.

In the deep south, they can't give vaccines away

MATTHEW KNOTT WORLD PAGE 18

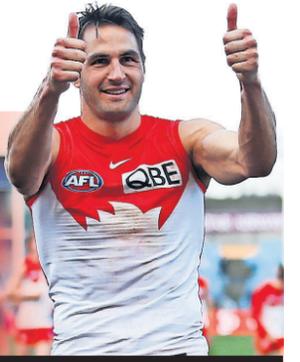


THE GUIDE  
BREAKING  
NEW GROUND

INSIDE TODAY

Swans  
demolish  
Eagles

SPORT



## LOCKDOWN

# 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 com-

## Women hired in 'male' roles as jobs return

The coronavirus pandemic could accelerate the shift of women into more male-dominated and better paying jobs in Australia.

NEWS PAGE 5

## Health Minister Greg Hunt has failed and must go

KEVIN RUDD COMMENT PAGE 22

## Dragons stars 'let the entire NRL down'

SPORT

plying 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 Damaso. Photo: Rhett Wyman

Cian McCue has spent his whole life helping improve the lives of Indigenous people. NEWS PAGE 8

## No parking: Space is sparse in Coalition's scheme

Shane Wright

Finance Minister Simon Birmingham has defended the federal government's under-fire \$660 million commuter car park scheme as a necessary boost to productivity despite projects being approved without any promise they would actually deliver extra park spaces.

As Labor ramped up attacks on the scheme, labelling it corruption of the political process, Senator Birmingham said the program was justified because the Coalition had won the 2019 election.

The government is facing a Senate inquiry into the program after a scathing Auditor-General's report found it was opaque and failed to award funds based on merit.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison and then-urban infrastructure minister Alan Tudge used the program to promise 47 car parks and upgrades near railway stations. The car parks overwhelmingly favoured Coalition-held seats, especially across suburban Melbourne.

Senator Birmingham said MPs were entitled to advocate on behalf of their electorates and in the case of the car park program that is what they had done.

"That's what electorates expect, that's what they vote on and governments are expected to listen and work to some of those advocacy points where need is genuine and where it is well argued and that is precisely what governments will continue to do so," he told ABC Continued Page 8

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

EXCLUSIVE

Shane Wright

Senior economics correspondent

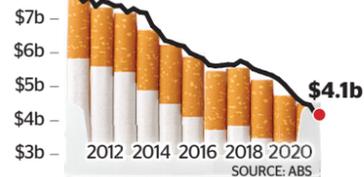
Tumbling rates of smoking, a drop in alcohol consumption and the rise of electric vehicles will punch a hole in the federal budget worth tens of billions of dollars and force taxpayers to take up the slack.

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

## Cigarette consumption

\$b - quarterly

\$7.8b



with revenue falling more than \$2 billion short of expectations in a single year.

It follows years of large in-

creases in excise, by both sides of politics, cigarette plain packaging and a change in the timing of excise collection that delivered a one-off \$3.2 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 \$15 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 he laundered millions of dollars through Crown's Melbourne casino.

Liquidators investigating the collapse of Michael Gu's \$600 million iProsperity 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 a person trying 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 get. I thought I 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 686 babies including Aidan and Cian, 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 from 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 he 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.

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



Cian McCue (left) was signed up as a baby by his mother Camille Damaso; participants Aidan and Lennair Hill (above). Main photo: Rhett Wyman

diabetes and heart disease, the No.1 killer of Indigenous people.

Participants have their weight and height recorded, blood pressure checked, and blood and urine samples tested. The circumference of waists, arms and legs, and fat distribution, is measured. They undergo ultrasounds of kidneys, thyroid and the carotid artery.

Dr Sayers was particularly 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, a group of 196 non-Indigenous children the same age, was added later.

When Cian was enrolled, he was born on time and on weight. He was healthier than others in the Aboriginal cohort: 13 per cent weighed less than 2.5 kilograms, a similar rate to African countries, Angola and Kenya.

Eight per cent were born early or

pre-term. One-third of mothers were younger than 20, about half smoked through pregnancy, and many had limited prenatal care.

Dr Belinda Davison, the project leader of the study, said they had found children living in remote communities were born smaller and

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. Since then, researchers have been measuring levels of cortisol – a stress hormone. She said the results of its four waves – as newborns, then as 11-year-olds, 18 and 25 – have resulted in 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, for example, blood tests showed anaemia – from lack of iron – was much higher in remote communities. Children low in iron are likely to get sick and not develop at the same rate as other children.

*'It is about trying to close the gap, and raise that life expectancy of Aboriginal people.'*

Cian McCue, participant

tended to be thinner than their peers in Darwin and regional centres. Those children born small continued to be smaller at each check in: 33 per cent were underweight at 11 and 18 years, with fewer underweight when

# 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 get into the property market, 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.

*'Young people ... might benefit from thinking outside the square.'*

Callam Pickering, Indeed's chief economist

Male employment was quicker than female employment in a string of traditionally female-dominated sectors including aged and disability care, general cafe staff and as education aides.

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

"We often make big career decisions as 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 com-

ination of more flexible work arrangements, increasing opportunities and the rising hurdle to home ownership," they said.

Mr Jarman and Mr Kennedy also downplayed claims of major job shortages.

While job numbers have recovered, ANZ senior economist Catherine Birch said it 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 divorce courts: a row over who gets custody of the children.

Now New York state is poised to pass a bill allowing judges to rule on the custody of pets in a breakup, considering 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. The law solidifies that the pet will no longer simply be treated like an innate object such as dinner china."

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 consistently 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 the growing number of younger people who are choosing pets before, or instead of, children. "So many Millennials are just having animals," said relationship expert Lori Zaslou. "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 awarding custody.

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

Amy from 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 breed and took into consideration what was best for her. "I was awarded custody. My ex didn't fight it, but it was sad for him."

Karis Nafte, 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 bubs to teens and into adulthood

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

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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 eight weeks premature, at a very low birth weight, with a heart condition.

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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.

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measures to address injustices, such as the increased rates of chronic disease among Indigenous Australians.

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The circumference of waists, arms and leg, and fat distribution, is measured. They undergo ultrasounds of kidneys, thyroid and the carotid artery.



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. Main photo: Rhett Wyman

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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 anaemia.

That resulted in 200 visits a

*'They didn't know whether she would make it.'*

Donna Sinclair, mother of Lennair Hill

## 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 home."

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



Senator Simon Birmingham said the Coalition's electoral success justified the scheme. Photo: Alex Ellinghausen

of thousands" of cars off roads, it actually did not know if the program would work.

It reported 22 completed proposals put to government ministers failed to outline how many extra car spaces would be provided.

By March this year, the Infra-

structure 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.

"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."