



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 4th January 2025

Today's News will not be sent on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, or New Year's Day. Prominent media items captured during this period will be reported in the following day's summary. Access to Isentia's Mediportal will be available during this period and any recurring reports set up in the platform will be delivered as normal.

Please contact writing.support@health.gov.au if you have any questions.

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| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports Sydney locals have raised concerns after discovering Kyeemagh beach has been shut down over potential PFAS contamination from the nearby Sydney Airport for two years, with small and hidden signage meaning many were visiting without knowing the risks.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 4) reports data from the AIHW has shown bulk-billed GP appointment rates have fallen from 80 to 69 per cent in the past two years, despite significant additional funding for GPs from the federal government. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Sunraysia Daily](#).
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 7) leads widespread coverage reporting paracetamol packages on supermarket and pharmacy shelves will reduce from 100 to 50 when new rules come into effect from February to combat suicide rates, with the TGA saying, "each year in Australia around 225 people are hospitalised with liver injury and 50 Australians die from paracetamol overdose, with

rates of intentional overdose highest among adolescents and young adults". *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin](#)

- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 11) reports ambulance ramping in SA rose in the last three months of 2024, reaching 3411 hours in December, with the state government noting this is still 38 per cent less than the 5539 hours recorded in July.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 12) reports the Victorian government has praised the success of its first pill-testing trial over the Beyond the Valley festival, with over 600 samples tested and a number of festival-goers saying they decided to either forgo illicit substances or reduce the dosage after discussions with health professionals on hand. *Also reported by:* [Geelong Advertiser](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Labor ad binge jumps to \$250m

AFR Weekend, General News, 04/01/2025, Michael Read, Page 1

The federal government spent \$251 million on ads last year, fuelling criticism from integrity advocates about vote-buying as the advertising industry predicts a surge in taxpayerfunded campaigns before...

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).

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Labor's risky election play

AFR Weekend, General News, 04/01/2025, John Kehoe & Michael Read, Page 13

It's only a few days in to this federal election year and already Labor and the Coalition are rehearsing their lines.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).

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Bulk-billing rates take a grim turn

Herald Sun, General News, 04/01/2025, Page 4

More and more Australians are having a harder time finding bulk-billed appointments compared to the same time before the last federal election, despite what the government claims is a record level of funding for GPs. Health Minister Mark Butler has lauded Medicare as a success after it was revealed Australia beat a host of other rich countries to take the top spot in a ranking of global health systems in September.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [cityhub.com.au \(Online\)](#), [HealthTimes \(Online\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Busselton Dunsborough Times \(Online\)](#), [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Bunbury Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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National a-gender? To turn a blind eye

Courier Mail, General News, 04/01/2025, Des Houghton, Page 64

Congratulations to transgender activists. You have had a resounding victory over the medical fraternity, elected representatives and educators in Australia. [...] The controversy seems to have flummoxed federal Health Minister Mark Butler, Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and the AMA.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Albo turns to old faithful in bid to win re-election

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/01/2025, James Campbell, Page 21

It says a lot about how little he has to show for his 2 years in office that Albo is going to try to make this year's election all about Medicare. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was out last week giving us a taste of what we can expect.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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The secret to better health and less obesity is a tax

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 03/01/2025, Millie Muroi

If you're like me, chances are that during the silly season you indulged in a bit more of the guilty pleasures than usual. [...] While the government has been helping Australians living with diabetes, including through listing new insulin injections, such as Fiasp, on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, Health Minister Mark Butler has no plans for a sugar tax.

Also reported by: [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Ross Gittins \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, 03/01/2025, Angie Asimus

Labor has cut the cost of cancer drug and attacked Opposition leader Peter Dutton's record on health. Health Minister Mark Butler says this will provide Australian patients affordable access to some of the best cutting-edge treatments available in the planet.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 03/01/2025, Matthew Pantelis

Compere mentions he recalls Health Minister Mark Butler discussing matters in Sky News wherein he mentioned that more bulk billing should be enabled to let people see doctors. He recalls he's seeing a cost of around \$115 whenever he sees a doctor.

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MINISTER WELLS

Labor's risky election play

AFR Weekend, General News, 04/01/2025, John Kehoe & Michael Read, Page 13

It's only a few days in to this federal election year and already Labor and the Coalition are rehearsing their lines.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Pain and prejudice

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/01/2025, Kate Aubusson & Emily Kaine, Page 25

Bronwyn Graham is dwarfed by three colossal sketches of a naked male body from hip to heels. [...] The federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney did not shy away from calling women's experiences in healthcare "medical misogyny" when she announced in 2023 that she would chair a national Women's Health Advisory Council.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

From your councillor

Ararat Advocate, General News, 03/01/2025, Cr Bill Waterston, Page 11

What an incredible three weeks we've had. I do not want to dwell on the past and the terrible bushfires that have impacted our region, but wow what a resilient community we live in. [...] The Play Our Way grants program is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, whom we thank very much for funding this fantastic addition to the sporting facilities here in Ararat Rural City.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Investment and wide-ranging efforts are needed to improve healthcare for First Nations people in prisons

Croakey, Other, 03/01/2025, Melissa Sweet

Croakey is closed for summer holidays and will resume publishing in the week of 13 January 2025. In the meantime, we are re-publishing some of our top articles from 2024. [...] The Federal Department of Health and Aged Care has also engaged the Nous consultancy group – led by Maria Jolly, Nous Principal, and Craig Ritchie, Nous Associate and Chair of Winnunga Nimmityjah — to conduct a national review, due to report in June 2024, of healthcare in custodial settings and barriers to culturally safe healthcare for First Nations people in prison and youth detention.

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VACCINES

Five things we know and still don't know about COVID019, five years after it appeared

9News, Other, 03/01/2025

Five years ago, a cluster of people in Wuhan, China, fell sick with a virus never before seen in the world. The germ didn't have a name, nor did the illness it would cause.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Housing woes and cost of living

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 04/01/2025, Andrew Brown, Page 15

The year 2004 was a high point for many prominent Australians. Ian Thorpe returned from the Athens Olympics with two gold medals and Shannon Noll topped the charts with his cover of What About Me.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Hospitalisations due to alcohol use on rise

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 04/01/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Hospitalisations due to alcohol use in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District have risen by 106 per cent in a decade. Health data shows the district recorded 4410 of these hospitalisations in 2022/23, rising from 2131 in 2012/13.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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From hot flushes to night sweats: How to deal with menopause in a heatwave

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 03/01/2025, Lauren Ironmonger

Extreme heat is uncomfortable for everyone, but particularly for people going through menopause, where symptoms like hot flushes and night sweats are common. Here's how to cope this summer and beyond, according to the experts.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 03/01/2025, Emma Rebellato & Stephanie March

Interview with Kirsten Diprose, Research Fellow, Deakin University. Compere mentions that they are hearing from the Nine newspapers recently discussions about bulk billing failing to benefit most Australians. Diprose says a breakdown of data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare revealed that while children and older Australians were better off under the Government's \$3.5b investment, those aged between 16 and 64 were not really reaping the benefits of bulk billing.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Hidden dangers: 'I was the victim of a silent heart attack'

Weekend Australian, General News, 04/01/2025, Chris Merritt, Page 23

What happened to me was not your typical heart attack. No grasping the chest and falling down. I didn't feel a thing. Even more unusual was the outcome: despite permanent damage to a small section at the top of my ticker, its overall performance is still, somehow, considered normal.

Also reported by: [Weekend Australian \(Australia\)](#).

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Saving Charli

Canberra Times, General News, 04/01/2025, Chris Dutton, Page 1

Pat McCabe doesn't really know who this message is for, but there's a 13-year-old boy somewhere in the United States who he wants to hear it: three-year-old Charli is alive because of you. "I'll never get to meet him, but thank you," McCabe says as his voice cracks a little.

One million cancers 'missed' worldwide during Covid lockdowns, WHO estimates

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/01/2025, Frank Chung

Around one million new cancer diagnoses may have been "missed" during the Covid pandemic as a result of lockdowns and other healthcare disruptions, researchers with the World Health Organisation (WHO) have found. [...] The team from UNSW, the Daffodil Centre and the Cancer Council of NSW concluded that Covid disruptions could lead to an extra 234 bowel cancer cases and 1186 deaths in Australia between 2020 and 2030 due to cancers not being picked up in time or treated accordingly.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Slip, slop, slap to soothe a \$2 billion problem

Medical Forum, Other, 03/01/2025

The country is becoming world-famous for the downside of excessive UV exposure – with one of the highest rates of skin cancer, causing more deaths than the number of road fatalities. [...] The film has the support of peak bodies including the Cancer Council and the Australasian College of Dermatologists.

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6PR, Drive, 03/01/2025, Russell Collett

Interview with Kate Miranda, CEO, Asthma Australia. Compere mentions that a lot of people are suffering from allergies that can be brought on by pollens and also dust and one of the big ones are expected to come this year. Miranda says that one of the most common triggers of asthma for people are bushfire smoke and hazard reduction burns smoke.

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PRIMARY CARE

Sister Margaret's legacy: a crusader for care of kids

Herald Sun, General News, 04/01/2025, Jordan McCarthy, Page 6

The driving force behind the opening of Australia's first children's hospice and the pioneer of pediatric palliative care, Sister Margaret Noone, has died aged 91. Very Special Kids, the organisation Sister Margaret joined at its launch in 1985, announced her death on Friday.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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A Alert at increase in ambo ramping

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/01/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 11

Ambulance ramping hit 3411 hours in December in an ominous trend, continuing the rise from October and November. The state government noted it was "38 per cent better" than July when it hit a record 5539 hours, and is better than the figures for December 2022 and 2023.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Gender stance reviewed

The government will consider expanding Queensland Children's Gender Service, the Health Minister has confirmed, despite the LNP last year voting to ban puberty blockers at its annual national party conference. Prior to his election, Premier David Crisafulli declared Queensland was taking a "vastly different approach" compared to the rest of the world when it came to gender, but he would need to see scientific evidence before considering a ban on puberty blockers.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Rise of the global waiting room

The Nightly, General News, 03/01/2025, Penny Thomas, Page 38

Imagine you're on a beach in Phuket, with a Mai Tai in hand, but your itinerary includes more than just sunsets, swims and street food ... Around one million new cancer diagnoses may have been "missed" during the Covid pandemic as a result of lockdowns and other healthcare disruptions, researchers with the World Health Organisation (WHO) have found.

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Queensland Health Director-General David Rosengren identifies workforce numbers as biggest challenge

ABC Online, Other, 03/01/2025, Janelle Miles & Kate McKenna

Queensland public hospitals may have to rely more on roles such as physician assistants to meet the growing health needs of the community, the state's new health director-general says. In his first sit-down interview since taking on Queensland Health's top job in November, Dr David Rosengren said his biggest challenge would be accessing the workforce needed to provide safe healthcare services across the state amid global shortages of staff.

[Read More](#)

Top nurses handed more power to treat and test patients in South Australia

9News, Other, 03/01/2025

A trial to give nurse practitioners more power to treat and test patients in South Australia is being expanded as the state government looks to manage the issues in the health system. The state government scheme has placed three NPs in the north, south and west of Adelaide, and two more will arrive in Ceduna and Robe over the next couple of months.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 03/01/2025, Edwina Bartholomew & David Woiwod

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

Compere says with the cost of living at an all-time high, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is expected to announce a range of new health policies ahead of the federal election. Wright says they are still waiting on detailed plans but it's clear that patient funding for general practise needs a boost. He adds that if they properly invest in Medicare, they can increase the bulk billing rates.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, News Night, 03/01/2025, Rhiannon Elston

Sister Margaret Noone has died aged 91. She was instrumental in the founding of Very Special Kids, which provides palliative care for children and young people. Sister Margaret was the organisation's first employee and later advocated for the construction of Australia's first children's hospice, named in her honour.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 03/01/2025, Kristie Lloyd

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

Compere says analysis of Medicare data has found working Australians are spending more money on GP visits than a year ago. Wright points out that what this data is showing is that they really do need a boost in general practise funding. He adds that this is reflecting what he's hearing from his practise where patients are mentioning a4re saying they're finding it harder to see a GP.

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3AW, Afternoons, 03/01/2025, Emily Power

Higher fees and fewer fully covered GP appointments appear to be deterring patients from seeing a doctor. Analysis shows those aged between 16 and 64 are paying more out of pocket fees than they were a year ago. The AMA says more government funding is needed.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 03/01/2025, Samantha Donovan

Many Australians are bracing for heatwave over the next couple of days with Melbourne expected to swelter to its hottest weekend in nearly a decade. Associate Professor Michael Clemens, Rural Chair, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, warns that if people don't get a cool afternoon breeze or nocturnal dip during the heatwaves, people's bodies won't be able to go back to normal rhythm, which causes significant health problems.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Free helpline for small biz

Courier Mail, General News, 04/01/2025, Page 22

Small business owners can access free one-on-one mental health coaching and helpline services via an almost \$11m government program. The New Access for Small Business Owners program is delivered by Beyond Blue, giving business owners up to six sessions via phone or video with a trained professional.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\)](#), [Perth](#).

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Third Qld girl dies by suicide

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/01/2025, Nikita McGuire & Andreas Nicola, Page 4

A 12-year-old Townsville girl has tragically taken her own life after relentless bullying online and at school in the third child suicide in Queensland in as many months. Adiel Boyd's grieving family has revealed the torment she faced in the schoolyard and online, calling on the community to rally together to protect vulnerable children.

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Zak was sleeping in a car park at 15. Now he's a tech entrepreneur

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 03/01/2025, Lanie Tindale

Zak Farag said by 15 he was homeless and a school drop-out, sleeping in a Coles car park in Bowral. It was the culmination of a lifetime of undiagnosed attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Pokies are a menace - so why are they in surf clubs?

Northern Territory News, Other, 03/01/2025, Ann Wason Moore

When it comes to a Gold Coast summer, nothing is better than a surf club. Offering champagne views on a beer budget and paired with a literal lifesaving community service, it's the epitome of our Aussie culture.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Is the way we diagnose mental health conditions fit for purpose? Part 2

SBS, Other, 03/01/2025, Peggy Giakoumelos

Over the past 15 years, alternatives to the DSM have emerged. One is the Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology, or HiTOP. HiTOP is a grassroots project bringing together researchers from around the world and doesn't have any pharmaceutical or corporate funding.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Everything Victorians need to know about finance changes in 2025

Northern Territory News, Other, 03/01/2025, Sarah Perillo

Victorians are starting the New Year with a raft of financial changes, affecting superannuation, Medicare, pensions, Centrelink and parental leave. Here's a rundown of what could affect your hip pocket in 2025.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Arne Roed's deadly cargo

Weekend Australian, General News, 04/01/2025, Alan Howe, Page 30

Teenage kitchen hand Arne Vidar Roed returned to Oslo from his second long trip aboard the cargo ship Hoegh Aronde in 1962, filled with stories of adventures in exotic lands, a world away from the uneventful civility of post-war Norway. The Hoegh Aronde stopped at Dakar, the capital of Senegal; the Guinean port of Conakry; the Liberian capital of Monrovia (named after the fifth US president, James Monroe, who helped fund that project); the Ivory Coast; Ghana; Nigeria; and Douala, the largest port in Cameroon.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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SPORT

'A slap in the face': Legends lament the damage done by Raygun in 2024

The Saturday Age, General News, 04/01/2025, Jonathan Abrams, Page 30

Ken Swift has never dribbled a basketball to a beat. Growing up in the Bronx, the northernmost borough of New York, he never darted for touchdowns while music thumped. Back then, in the late 1970s, sports plugged an important desire for sweat and competition.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#).

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Vic sin-binned on rugby

Herald Sun, General News, 04/01/2025, Julian Linden, Mitch Clarke & Daniel Cherny, Page 3

A bid for the MCG to host the 2027 Rugby World Cup final has been derailed by petty state politics, with the match now to be played at Sydney's Olympic Stadium. While a formal announcement won't be made until the end of January, highly placed sources told the Herald Sun that Sydney's 82,000-seat Accor Stadium would be awarded the final and both semi-finals.

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Stadium stinger

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/01/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 1

An independent economist has lashed the state government's proposal to build a multipurpose stadium at Macquarie Point, saying the wrong site has been selected, the costs have been underplayed and the project forecast to hit \$1.1bn is showing the "hallmarks of mismanagement". But the government is holding firm, despite a recommendation by Dr Nicholas Gruen to try to negotiate an extended timeline with the AFL for the project.

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Lambie MP says fears vindicated

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/01/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 9

Tasmanians should be asked where an AFL stadium should be built and a new deal negotiated with the AFL, Jacqui Lambie Network MP Andrew Jenner says. The Lyons MP said the review undertaken at his party's request by economist Dr Nicholas Gruen "vindicated our concerns" about the stadium's cost and location.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Queenslanders helping to make a better world

Courier Mail, General News, 04/01/2025, Isabella Pesch, Page 62

They're the brilliant minds working behind the scenes to help improve lives across the world. Passionate about their research, these Queensland-based scientists and researchers work around the clock to transform their dreams of helping others into a reality.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Loneliness linked to ill health through effect on protein levels, research suggests

The Guardian, Other, 03/01/2025, Nicola Davis

Loneliness has long been associated with ill health but researchers say they have fresh insights into the link between the two. While poor health can result in people becoming isolated and lonely, studies have also suggested loneliness can itself lead to poorer health.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Sustainability advocate is making waves

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/01/2025, Page 53

Raphy Agale is a gentle but powerful force for change, making waves of positive action across her South Australian island community. A proud Torres Strait Islander, the 17-year-old from Kangaroo Island is proving that walking lightly on Country can spark real and lasting impact.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

The \$80 billion-plus buried cost in Dutton's nuclear power plan

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/01/2025, Mike Foley, Page 13

Decommissioning any plants built under the Coalition's nuclear energy plan could cost more than \$80 billion, and taxpayers would have to foot the bill. Opposition Leader Peter Dutton's planned seven nuclear plants, with a likely 14 large-scale reactors, would be publicly owned, which means taxpayers would be liable for clean-up costs from the radioactive sites and any accidents during operation.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Festival drug-test trial hailed a success

Herald Sun, General News, 04/01/2025, Will Keech, Page 12

Victoria's first pill-testing trial at a New Year's music festival outside Geelong was a success, according to the state government after hundreds of samples were tested at the event. The trial ran across the fourday Beyond the Valley festival at Barunah Plains just west of Geelong.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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The uninvited guest taking its toll during Ballarat's summer

Ballarat Courier, General News, 04/01/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 5

Continuing high rates of gastroenteritis across Ballarat, many resulting from Christmas and New Year gatherings, have prompted health authorities to remind anyone who contracts the illness to stay home and remember hygiene rules. The number of reported gastro cases has been on the rise for months, but most cases go unreported with sufferers looking after themselves at home and not requiring medical attention.

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Diseases hit a record high

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/01/2025, Lucy Crock, Page 14

Geelong recorded its worst year on record for several dangerous diseases, including a concerning high number of "crypto" cases and a big uptick in whooping cough. The region recorded 520 cases of whooping cough in 2024, compared with just 38 in the previous two years.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Health matters

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/01/2025, Page 32

Have you ever seen and heard an infant with whooping cough? It's harrowing. A tiny frame wracked by repeated coughing, gasping for air, in tears, red-faced, helpless, unable to speak of its ordeal.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 03/01/2025, Emma Rebellato & Stephanie March

Interview with Sarah Hiley, Drug Checking Director, The Loop Australia. Compere says the team behind Vic's first mobile pill testing service says the programme is off to a successful start in the State. Hiley says they have operated over the four days of the Beyond the Valley Music Festival and they've seen to about 700 patrons coming in to visit them over those four days.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Pain pill overhaul leads to warning

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/01/2025, Amanda Sheppeard, Page 7

Big changes to the way Australians buy paracetamol are coming on February 1, when a new ruling from the Therapeutic Goods Administration takes effect. And an Australian pain expert has warned people against automatically changing to ibuprofen, another readily available pain reliever that has not been included in the changes.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Like calm to wash over you? Breathe

Courier Mail, General News, 04/01/2025, Isabella Pesch, Page 23

A powerful breathwork tool has spiked in popularity as thousands of Queenslanders prepare to start the new year on a health kick. Conscious connected breathwork (CCB) has gained traction for managing anxiety, depression and stress among Australians.

Also reported by: [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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The pressure tactics that turned CSL from ‘minnow’ to powerhouse

Australian Financial Review, Other, 03/01/2025, John Kehoe

American trade negotiators tried to break local biotech CSL's control of the Australian blood plasma market, in a move that chairman Brian McNamee says helped spur the company to transform into a global powerhouse.

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Life is a walk in the park

Medical Forum, Other, 03/01/2025

A Perth GP-turned wellness author says she is not against pharmaceutical medications but it's time to tap into more of nature's medicines. By Cathy O'Leary Perhaps it was her insatiable curiosity from childhood into the 'what and why' of how things work – including the human psyche – that led Dr Jenny Brockis to reinvent herself after suffering burnout as a GP.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

Beach shut amid fears for forever chemicals

Sydney Morning Herald, Wrap, 04/01/2025, Carrie Fellner, Page 1

A beach on Sydney Airport's doorstep has been quietly closed to swimming and fishing due to fears it is contaminated with cancercausing "forever chemicals". However, families with young children continue to splash in the water alongside top racehorses, and this week fishermen were seen casting their lines into Tower Beach, on the Botany Bay foreshore.

Continued [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#).

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Government must look at effects of toxic smoke on Grenfell firefighters, minister says

The Guardian, Other, 03/01/2025, Rajeev Syal

The government “needs to seriously look” at the effects of toxic smoke inhalation on firefighters who served at the Grenfell Tower fire, a minister has said. The comments from Andrew Gwynne, the health minister, came after the Guardian disclosed that more than a quarter of firefighters who battled against the fire eight years ago have long-term health disorders.

Also reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Are PFAS in everything? What you need to know about ‘forever chemicals’

The Guardian, Other, 04/01/2025

PFAS, sometimes called "forever chemicals", are a group of thousands of chemicals that are used for their non-stick and water-resistant properties. They are used in everyday items like non-stick frying pans, waterproof mascaras, stain-resistant clothing and the packaging for takeaway food items.

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