



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 9th January 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that Australian researchers at The Florey Institute have developed a digital survey that can assist in predicting age of onset for memory decline and early Alzheimer's disease in older adults.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports that a survey conducted by the masthead reveals that 58 per cent of respondents expressed concern about the management of Tasmania's healthcare system, with delays and long waiting lists cited as pressing issues.
- **[The Illawarra Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports that the father of a NSW paramedic killed on duty in 2023 is calling for paramedics to be supplied with body cameras and stab vests, while also pushing for legislation that would require mandatory 12 month minimum sentences for anyone found guilty of assaulting a frontline worker.
- **[The Launceston Examiner](#)** (page 1) reports that there have been more than 23,000 visits to Launceston's Medicare Urgent Care Clinic since its opening in 2023, diverting approximately 30 patients daily away from the emergency room at Launceston General Hospital.
- **[The Newcastle Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that more than 30 aged care providers in the Hunter-Central Coast region have failed to meet national standards, as the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission increases its oversight of home and residential services.

- **The Australian** (page 2) reports that the Queensland government has been warned against abolishing the state's drug diversion program, which uses an evidence-based approach to treat minor drug offenses as a health issue rather than as a criminal matter.
- **The Australian** (page 3) reports that Australian scientists are experimenting with genetic engineering to control mosquitoes responsible for the spread of tropical diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. *Also reported by: The West Australian, ABC Online*
- **The Australian** (page 5) reports that a Sydney surgeon has been found guilty of professional misconduct and received an 18 month ban from practising medicine after soliciting investments from patients for a trust he majority-owned.
- **ABC Online** reports that Australian health experts have said that China's recent spike in cases of human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is not a cause for alarm, with Minister for Health Mark Butler stating that the flu-like virus, which has been around for decades, is "a type of illness we're pretty familiar with [in Australia]." *Also reported by: The Australian*
- **ABC Online** reports that the Therapeutic Goods Administration is considering an application to require supplements containing vitamin B6 to be stored behind the counter at pharmacies, following over a hundred reports of peripheral neuropathy linked to vitamin B6 toxicity.

MINISTER BUTLER

Fewer closures than predicted

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 08/01/2025, Page 1

New figures from the Department of Health and Ageing show that 22 pharmacies across the country closed during the eight months since the Federal Government's 60-day double dispensing policy took effect. [...] Around the same time, Twomey also hit out at Health Minister Mark Butler (pictured) during a heated press conference, claiming the government doesn't care about the impact on pharmacists.

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Challenges ahead for 2025

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 08/01/2025, Page 2

Significant challenges lie ahead for the pharmacy industry, according to Teva Pharmaceuticals Vice President, APAC Cluster Head and General Manager for ANZ, Jim Margaritis (pictured). [...] On a more upbeat note, Margaritis acknowledged the recent announcement made by Health Minister Mark Butler at the Pharmacy Guild Annual Dinner, which introduced a new Master of Pharmacy program granting the title 'Doctor of Pharmacy' (PD 25 Nov 2024).

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HMPV is a cold-like virus that has been around for decades. Here's why people are talking about it

ABC Online, Other, 08/01/2025

Australians may have spotted images of busy hospital waiting rooms in China on their social media feeds in recent days. [...] Australian Health Minister Mark Butler said it was not uncommon for there to be a surge in respiratory illnesses during the Chinese winter and "for that to impact their hospital systems".

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What is HMPV and could we be facing a second pandemic? Experts weigh in

The Australian, Other, 08/01/2025, James Dowling

Reports of rising cases of Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) through China have sparked alarm. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said Australians should not be alarmed.

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'We don't have a Team Australia approach': Vaccine facility rejects plea for help

WA Today, Other, 08/01/2025, Liam Mannix & Paul Sakkal

NSW is scrambling to build a \$250 million mRNA facility to produce vaccines against potentially disastrous animal pandemics after being refused access to Moderna's new taxpayer-funded factory in Melbourne. [...] Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Acting Minister for Economic Growth Danny Pearson spoke at Moderna's new manufacturing facility in Clayton.

Also reported by: [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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A freeze that's good for patients: Minister

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/01/2025, Chris Brooker

Consumers saving over \$1 billion from PBS co-payments freeze, the health minister claims. On 1 January 2025, "for the first time in more than 25 years", the maximum co-payment pay for PBS medicines didn't rise with inflation for all Australians, saving consumers \$1.1 billion from cheaper medicines, the Federal Government has stated.

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2GB, 12:00 News, 08/01/2025

More people resort to hospital emergency departments as makeshift clinics as regular GP access becomes more difficult. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has acknowledged the severity of the issue and says he's been holding regular discussions with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler every 6 to 8 weeks, working to tackle the family doctor shortage and find a sustainable solution.

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2GB, Mornings, 08/01/2025, Mark Levy

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park about the NSW health system and hospital crisis. Park says despite some challenges, recent data shows the state is starting to improve, particularly in category 2 patients. He says he has been discussing with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler frequently about the state's health system, noting that Butler recognised the problem by increasing the Medicare rebate.

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MINISTER WELLS

Aged care in 2025: key changes and what they mean for the sector

HelloCare, Other, 08/01/2025, Jakob Neeland

The beginning of 2025 has ushered in significant changes for Australia's aged care sector, with new measures aimed at improving workforce conditions, enhancing service delivery, and strengthening consumer protections. [...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, hailed the changes as another milestone in recognising the essential work of aged care staff.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

What is the HMPV virus and should we be concerned?

7news.com.au, Other, 08/01/2025, Alessandro Rosini

A respiratory virus known as human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is being monitored by Australian health officials after cases began increasing in northern China recently. [...] On Wednesday, a spokesperson for Department of Health and Aged Care told 7NEWS.com.au the situation was being monitored.

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'Too little, too late': An investigation into medication shortages

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 08/01/2025

How are medication shortages affecting GPs and their patients? [...] ' A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care told newsGP it is 'actively monitoring this situation.

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Regis acquires BodeWell Community Care to double its home care business revenue to \$30M a year

The Weekly Source, Other, 08/01/2025, Ian Horswill

Managing Director and CEO Dr Linda Mellors acknowledged the opportunity the ageing population and the consumer preference to age in place behind its decision to buy the Knowles Group's in-home services business, launched in 2007. [...] The move comes as the Albanese Government holds firm on its 10% care management cap under the new Support at Home program starting from 1 July this year, despite the Department of Health and Aged Care's latest financial snapshot showing operators' care management fees for all Home Care Packages are 17% per Package.

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VACCINES

Vaccine fatigue, hesitancy an issue: Nicholls

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/01/2025

Guild welcomes free flu vaccine announcement for Queenslanders, but issues other than cost are presenting barriers to uptake. Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland's Branch President, Chris Owen, has welcomed the Queensland Government's announcement that flu vaccinations would continue to be free in 2025.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Care less: services fail test

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/01/2025, Gabriel Fowler, Page 1

More than 30 Hunter aged care providers have failed to meet national standards as the industry watchdog ramps up its oversight of home and residential services. Most of those have failed in two or more areas.

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Not all reform working in residents' favour, says Allanson

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/01/2025, Gabriel Fowler, Page 6

The pendulum has swung too far in residential aged care with administrative hurdles making it increasingly difficult to properly care for residents, says aged care stalwart Viv Allanson. Mrs Allanson, chief executive officer of Maroba Aged Care Waratah, says some of the new processes are not working in residents' favour.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Booze still main concern

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/01/2025, Bridget Clarke, Page 6

Despite rise in drug use, alcohol remains biggest issue Increases of cocaine and nonprescribed stimulant use in Tasmania have been recorded in a recent report, but drug education organisations say their main concern is alcohol. The University of New South Wales conducted a survey of 87 regular drug users with a median age of 25 from April to July 2024.

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Boomers are choosing the rock 'n' roll life

The Nightly, General News, 08/01/2025, Page 12

They're the most likely Australian generation to drink at dangerous levels. But why won't the post-war cohort give up their partying and is it a problem?

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Channel 9, Today , 08/01/2025, Alex Cullen & Jayne Azzopardi

Interview with Nick Coatsworth, medical expert, about new research in the US showing a link between fluoride and lower IQ levels in children. Coatsworth says there are good reasons why fluoride is being put in water and it's disappointing that these questions are being raised in this study. He explains that the study looked at 74 different studies that have been done over the years but those original studies were often biased in their results.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Sunscreen and SPF myths to rethink this summer

Age, General News, 09/01/2025, Kayla Olaya, Page 17

Social media myths may be dissuading some Australians from using sunscreen properly this summer, which is not slick, slop or even slap. Only two in five Australians over the age of 15 used a sunscreen with an SPF30 or higher on most given days during November 2023 and February 2024, according to the Cancer Council.

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

The frozen umbilical cord that saved an ex-Brumby's daughter

Border Mail, General News, 09/01/2025, Chris Dutton, Page 14

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. [...] This is the story of a beautiful three-year-old girl who is still smiling even after five cycles of chemotherapy, three rounds of immunotherapy, 24 blood transfusions and spending most of the past 15-months in hospital with tubes into her nose and chest.

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Being active slows cancer

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 09/01/2025, Page 5

People who are physically active in the year before they are diagnosed with cancer are likely to have better outcomes, according to South African research. Using data from 28,000 cancer patients in the Discovery Health Medical Scheme, the researchers say the odds of disease progression were 16 per cent lower for those who had done a low level of physical activity and 27 per cent lower for those with moderate to high levels of activity compared with those who hadn't recorded any physical activity.

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This cancer checklist could save your life

The Courier Mail, Other, 08/01/2025, Mia Erickson

According to recent data, Australia has the highest rates of cancer in the world – a rank we should be nothing but horrified to have. Here's how taking a proactive approach to our health could help lower our cancer rates.

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Tan-line social media trend triggers renewed calls to be Sun Smart

SBS, Other, 08/01/2025, Haylena Krishnamoorthy

It's been 10 years since commercial solariums were banned in Australia. [...] Also a skin cancer researcher and health pathologist, Dr Dettrick says there's a campaign by the government and the Cancer Council to combat this issue.

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PRIMARY CARE

Health service cutbacks hit rural communities

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/01/2025, Catherine Naylor, Page 5

Susan Marshall recalls patients turning up in the back of a ute nursing snake bites or farm injuries when she started working at Wee Waa Hospital in the 1990s. "We could manage a lot of stuff ourselves then," said the registered nurse, who resigned last year.

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'Will I wake up?'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/01/2025, David Killick, Page 1

There is widespread public concern about the way the Tasmanian health system is being managed, the Mercury's Big Issues survey reveals. Fifty-eight per cent of the 3009 Mercury readers who answered the survey question described themselves as being either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the way the state's health system was being run.

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Clinics take pressure off hospitals

Tasmania's five new Urgent Care Clinics have delivered more than 60,000 free visits across the state, according to the federal government. Medicare Urgent Care Clinics are intended to take the pressure off hospital emergency departments by providing quick walk-in access to medical help.

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Construction of centre set to come full circle

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 09/01/2025, Carwyn Monck, Page 5

Construction of a \$3 million therapy centre to support the development of Goldfields children is well under way. Full Circle Therapies' purpose-built centre will host allied health specialists including speech and occupational therapists.

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Clinic treats 23,000

Launceston Examiner, General News, 09/01/2025, Duncan Bailey, Page 1

Since opening in 2023, Medicare Urgent Care Clinics have had more than 60,000 free visits across the state, with more than 23,000 visits in Launceston. Throughout the school holidays, the five Tasmanian clinics have had an influx of younger patients, with one in five individuals under 15.

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Proposal submitted for new hospice

Launceston Examiner, General News, 09/01/2025, Duncan Bailey, Page 5

Following the release of concept designs, a development application for a new hospice in Launceston has been lodged with the City of Launceston. The new \$20 million hospice, funded by the federal government, will be located at the Allambi Building on Howick Street.

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Sydney's EDs face record demand. Here's where patients wait the longest

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/01/2025, Angus Thomson

Staff at Sydney's busiest hospital have said a lack of beds is leaving some patients stuck in emergency for days, four years after taxpayers spent \$900 million on a major redevelopment. Hospital data released in December revealed half of patients at Westmead Hospital spent at least six and a half hours in the emergency department, the longest time spent in emergency anywhere in NSW.

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New urgent care clinics make a difference for millions ... so, why don't we have any?

Daily Liberal, Other, 08/01/2025, Bradley Jurd

Battling a severe shortage of GPs and with emergency department waiting rooms suffering under the weight of demand, western NSW remains as one of the few regions anywhere in the state without a urgent care clinic. The Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs) were a Labor election commitment and began rolling out in mid-2023.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 08/01/2025, Will McDonald

The Government is rolling out a 24-hour pharmacy in the southern suburbs to take pressure off emergency departments. But the Australian Medical Association wants the extra funds to go to swamped hospitals and GPs instead.

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6PR, Mornings, 08/01/2025, Chrissy Morrissey

Interview with Dr Michael Page, president, Australian Medical Association WA, about the WA Government bringing in 150 trainee doctors from India to help ease pressure on the health system.

Page airs his concerns, saying while there's a big doctor shortage in WA, he is concerned about the lack of vision of both Federal and State governments on becoming more self-sufficient and training doctors locally. He says Australian medical schools can train more medical students, and its medical graduates can be given opportunities to train in specialities if speciality training is available for them.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 08/01/2025, Geraldine Mellet

Interview with Dr Michael Page, president, Australian Medical Association WA, about 150 junior doctors from India arriving in Western Australia to work in the public health system. Page says it's not an unusual idea as WA has been reliant on overseas migration of doctors to support the health system for many decades. He says while he welcomes the idea, they haven't seen a real commitment by governments at state and federal levels to become a bit more self-sufficient with medical training.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#).

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ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 08/01/2025, Chris Taylor

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park. Taylor says The Sydney Morning Herald reports a chronic bed shortage at Westmead Hospital, which means the waiting hours in the emergency department are reaching unacceptable levels. Park says more and more patients starting to use our emergency departments as it's difficult for most people to access GPs. He says the NSW Government is investing half a billion into emergency department relief initiatives. He encourages people to use Healthdirect for health concerns that aren't emergency.

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FIVEAA, Afternoons, 08/01/2025, Jonathan Edwards

Interview with SA Health Minister Chris Picton. Picton says there have been 170,000 visits to 24-hour pharmacies since its opening in February and March last year. He says the demand coincides with the fact that pharmacists can do more and more. He says they will embark upon a project over the next couple of years to expand on what pharmacists can do to help with some minor conditions.

Interview continues on: [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

'Lonely death' cases on the rise

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/01/2025, Luke Williams, Page 8

The number of people dying socially isolated that it takes several months to discover their bodies has risen ten-fold in South Australia in the past 20 years, new research shows. Analysis by renowned forensic pathologist, Dr Roger Byard AO, comparing autopsies found an "significant increase" in the number of decomposed bodies of people aged 60 and above presenting to forensic autopsy over the past two decades.

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Echoes of elections past stir fears for our most vulnerable

Canberra Times, General News, 09/01/2025, Rodney Croome, Page 28

The 20th anniversary of John Howard's ban on marriage equality ahead of the 2004 Australian election is a reminder that another LGBTQIA+ culture war is likely to taint the 2025 election. In 2004, John Howard amended the Marriage Act to make it clear marriage could only be between a man and a woman.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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Emma steps up to raise charity cash

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/01/2025, Bridget Clarke, Page 1

She may be a hero to many, but Emma Waldron is eager to reiterate she is "an ordinary person". Having raised over \$500 out of a \$2000 goal, the Hobart local is currently the top fundraiser for this Sunday's Cadbury Marathon.

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Still running on empathy

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 09/01/2025, Page 18

The Cadbury Marathon, one of Australia's most iconic and enduring race events, represents more than just a celebration of athleticism and community spirit. Its partnership with the Royal Hobart Hospital provides a powerful example of how sporting events can provide a direct benefit to medical research funding.

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'I want to talk but no one is listening': What men really say about their mental health

The Australian, Other, 08/01/2025, Magdalena Simonis

When i called for men to talk about their mental health , I wasn't sure what the response would be. But the comments from readers show that many men do want to speak about their emotions, although they feel they are not being heard.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

BCA says no to fee-free TAFE laws

Australian Financial Review, General News, 09/01/2025, Julie Hare, Page 5

One of the strongest backers of the federal government's fee-free TAFE policy has drawn the line at baking the policy into legislation, saying there is not enough evidence the \$1.5 billion investment translates into properly skilled workers.

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Front-line protection law

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 09/01/2025, Nadine Morton, Page 1

Emergency services paramedics could soon be wearing body-worn cameras and have access to stab vests if a push by the father of slain Bulli paramedic Steven Tougher is made law. It's been almost two years since Steven was killed while on duty as he sat in the back of his ambulance on a break outside Campbelltown McDonald's.

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Paul bids farewell to a 'tough gig'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 09/01/2025, Samantha Newsam, Page 1

After 43 years of dedicated service to NSW Ambulance, Tamworth paramedic Paul McRae has treated his last patient. If local "ambo" Paul McRae had his way he would have just quietly snuck away into retirement.

Shellharbour Hospital working to fix CCTV cameras after tyre-slashing incident

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 08/01/2025, Kate-Mcilwain

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District says it is in discussions with the nurse affected by a tyre-slashing incident which happened over Christmas and revealed a security camera bungle at Shellharbour Hospital. NSW Nurses and Midwives Association member Julie Norris spoke out after her car was targeted by a tyre slasher overnight on Christmas Eve while she was parked outside the hospital.

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How popular is the new GP expedited pathway?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 08/01/2025

AHPRA says it is receiving up to 15 applications each week from GPs since the pathway's launch in October, with 80% coming from the UK. The controversial expedited pathway launched for overseas GPs on 21 October 2024.

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Creating an anti-racist dental profession

Bite Magazine, Other, 08/01/2025

Racism is insidious and, frequently, a subconscious form of prejudice. Whenever someone points out that they saw a nice Chinese doctor or that the dentist was Aboriginal but did a really good job, the comment highlights a subconscious belief that one group of people is superior to another.

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'We have a major problem!': Lucy Zelic tears into Minns Government for failing to act on nurses' crisis

2GB, Other, 08/01/2025, Lucy Zelic

Lucy Zelic has criticized Premier Chris Minns for "slapping nursing heroes in the face" with a lack of urgency and for "failing" to address the critical issues in the nursing industry. Her comments follow a gut-wrenching email from an anonymous listener, powerfully highlighting the daily struggles faced by nurses in Australia.

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2GB, Afternoons, 08/01/2025, Lucy Zelic

Interview with O'Bray Smith, president, NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association. Smith discusses their calls for a pay increase, saying they feel let down and disrespected especially after Premier Chris Minns spoke on election night that the people have given him the mandate to honour and pay respect to the healthcare workers. She says eight out of ten nurses have expressed leaving the profession.

Interview continues on: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Conceptive pill Slinda recommended for PBS listing

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 08/01/2025

Patients could soon have cheaper access to another oral contraceptive pill, after it was recommended for listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has backed the listing of drospirenone 4mg tablets (sold as Slinda) under an unrestricted benefit following its meeting in November last year

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Surgeon 'lost his patients' money'

The Australian, General News, 09/01/2025, Robert White, Page 5

Sydney surgeon Tobias Pincock has been found guilty of professional misconduct and barred from practising medicine for 18 months after encouraging two patients to invest over \$500,000 in a trust he majority-owned. The Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) alleged that in 2015 Dr Pincock encouraged one of his patients, known as Patient A, to invest \$335,000 in the Australian Allergy Centre trust while continuing the doctor-patient relationship.

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Anti-COVID-19-vax GP faces new AHPRA complaint after winning Supreme Court battle over his suspension

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/01/2025, Heather Saxena

Dr William Bay, the former GP registrar who won a Supreme Court battle to overturn his suspension following his anti-COVID-19-vax tirade at an AMA conference, is facing a new AHPRA complaint over his conduct. Last month, the Supreme Court of NSW lifted his emergency ban after AHPRA lawyers admitted that he had been denied procedural fairness over five complaints to AHPRA about his public opposition to COVID-19 vaccines.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Sugar tax: sweet for Treasury, fat lot of good for rest of us

The Australian, General News, 09/01/2025, Page 9

It is that time of year. [...] The centre-left independent policy think tank recommended a sugar tax - a tax that is targeted at drinks that are high in sugar.

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Junk food ad bans won't cut obesity. A sugar tax might

West Australian, General News, 09/01/2025, Jeni O'Dowd, Page 13

Leave it to the Australian Greens to think banning bus ads will save Australia's kids from obesity. Here's a reality check: parents buy the junk food, not the kids.

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Sweets surrender of 'weight creep'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/01/2025, Nick Fuller, Page 24

Just because we're ageing doesn't mean we have to fall into the trap of thinking those extra kilos are an inevitability. The new year is a great time to start implementing simple ways to maintain a healthier lifestyle.

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South Australia is banning fast food ads on public transport – will it have the desired effect?

The Guardian, Other, 09/01/2025, Petra Stock

From banning social media to fast food advertising: South Australia will become the first state to prohibit ads for unhealthy food from appearing on public buses, trams and trains. Under the recently announced ban, in effect from 1 July 2025, promotions for products including chocolate, lollies, confectionery, desserts, ice-cream, soft drinks and chips will not be permitted on Adelaide's public transport system.

[Read More](#)

Ashley Reid: Stop the junk food onslaught

West Australian, Other, 08/01/2025, Ashley Reid

Congratulations to the South Australian Government, which has become the first State to announce a policy to restrict unhealthy food advertising on its transit assets. In an ideal world it would have been WA making this announcement first.

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SPORT

'Boss wanted my medical file': WAIS ex-HR staffer

The Australian, General News, 09/01/2025, Jessica Halloran & Stephen Rice, Page 1

A Western Australian Institute of Sport employee who helped Olympic champion Nina Kennedy to report sexual abuse by her coach was ordered to attend a medical evaluation or face losing her job and then told her confidential medical information would be handed directly to the boss she alleged was bullying her. Maryanne Scholz, the former HR manager at WAIS, had insisted that Kennedy's allegations against pole vault coach Alex Parnov revealed by The Australian in December must be reported to police, a move that was resisted by the institute's former board.

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Build it right

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 09/01/2025, Page 36

The impact of an event, or political decision is often not fully understood or appreciated until long after the fact. [...] Robina councillor Dan Doran's argument that the Gold Coast unequivocally needed the 2032 Olympics athletes village in his suburb is a strong one.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Sanofi says 'great science' will lead pharma giants to Australia

The Australian, Business News, 09/01/2025, Chris Herde, Page 15

One of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies will consider any opportunity to expand its operations in Australia, where it has almost 60 clinical studies under way the most in any country outside the US. Paul Hudson, chief executive of French pharmaceutical giant Sanofi, said the company had a \$200m-plus investment in the Translational Science Hub in Brisbane, and was attracted by Australia's world-class science and academic research sectors.

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Early alert hope on Alzheimer's

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/01/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 1

A simple digital health tool developed by Australian researchers could soon help predict the age of

onset for mild cognitive impairment and early Alzheimer's disease in older adults. New research led by The Florey confirms for the first time that the tool that analyses responses to an online survey accurately pinpoints to "within a few years" when memory decline will start.

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Morning coffee plus

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/01/2025, Page 7

People who drink coffee in the morning have a lower risk of dying from heart disease and a lower overall risk of dying compared with all-day coffee drinkers, according to US research. Tulane University researchers used data from 40,000 adults between 1999 and 2018 to reveal morning coffee drinkers were 16 per cent less likely to die of any cause and 31 per cent less likely to die of heart disease than people who did not drink coffee.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Local research could provide for 'personalised' treatment

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 09/01/2025, Bethany Hiatt, Page 6

Groundbreaking WA research has identified blood markers that could help predict how well mesothelioma patients will respond to treatment. The discovery could improve outcomes for patients battling the deadly disease by giving doctors more options to personalise treatment.

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Biocurious: With its pre-budget 'wish list', Ausbiotech prepares to bat for the sector in Canberra

The Australian, Other, 08/01/2025, Tim Boreham

CEO Bek Cassidy says the sector's record at commercialising products is better than portrayed, but it still needs some help. No fewer than 2900 organisations are involved in the sector – double the level of seven years ago.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Island Pharmaceuticals starts phase 2b dengue trial

The Australian, Other, 08/01/2025

Australian antiviral drug development company Island Pharmaceuticals has kicked off the phase 2b clinical trial of lead drug ISLA-101 in dengue fever with the first subjects successfully enrolled. Progression to the phase 2b cohort follows recommendation of the Safety Review Committee (SRC) after it reviewed positive data from the Island Pharmaceuticals (ASX:ILA) phase 2a trial, which demonstrated safety and anti-dengue activity.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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The 12-year gap we should be paying attention to when it comes to ageing

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/01/2025, Lauren Ironmonger

When we consider how we want to age, we often think about it in numerical terms, saying we want to live until 100 or for as long as possible. But a new study, published in JAMA last month, suggests we should be looking at more than the number of birthdays we'd like to be around to celebrate.

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More hospital interns, residents, ED pharmacists needed

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/01/2025

Investment into hospital pharmacist workforce "sorely needed" to address "under-resourcing and

employee burnout," says leading group in pre-budget submission. More funding for hospital pharmacist positions is required to support sustainability in the sector, Advanced Pharmacy Australia's NSW branch committee has written in its 2025-26 pre-budget submission.

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Study finds fluoride in water does not affect brain development

Bite Magazine, Other, 08/01/2025

A University of Queensland study has found no link between exposure to water fluoridation as a young child and negative cognitive development. Professor Loc Do from UQ's School of Dentistry said the IQ scores of 357 people who had participated in the 2012–2014 National Child Oral Health Study were assessed by registered psychologists to see if their exposure to fluoride as a young child impacted their brain development.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

'Toxic' semen may be answer to disease fight

The Australian, General News, 09/01/2025, Page 3

Genetically engineered mosquitoes with "toxic" semen could be a new weapon against tropical disease, Australian scientists said after trialling the novel pest control method. The "toxic male technique" aims to breed mosquitoes that express venomous proteins in their semen to kill off females after mating.

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

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Health experts unfazed by outbreak of virus in China

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/01/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 15

Australians should not be concerned about rising cases of a common virus in China but should remain vigilant against infections, health authorities say, as COVID and other illnesses continue to swirl through the festive period. When Chinese authorities last month reported a surge in children aged 14 and under testing positive for human metapneumovirus (hMPV), social media users began reposting images of crowding emergency departments, and some speculated whether it may be the start of another global outbreak.

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Mozzies loved to death

West Australian, General News, 09/01/2025, Page 21

CSIRO researchers are developing a plan to kill off mosquitoes by genetically modifying their mates. The genetically modified male insects are altered to produce venom proteins from spiders and sea anemones in their semen.

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'Toxic male technique' could reduce female mosquito population by poisoning them during sex

ABC Online, Other, 08/01/2025

Diseases passed to humans through mosquito bites could be reduced thanks to a method which

poisons the female insects during sex. A Macquarie University team genetically modified male fruit flies to produce venomous proteins in their semen while mating.

[Read More](#)

Japanese encephalitis virus detected for first time at Moree in north-west NSW

ABC Online, Other, 08/01/2025, Max Tillman

New South Wales Health authorities are warning the public to take extra care after two potentially fatal mosquito-borne infections were discovered in the state's west. Japanese encephalitis (JEV) has been detected in mosquitoes around Moree in north-west NSW for the first time, with local GPs reporting a surge in vaccine appointments.

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Victorian father struck down by mosquito bite in Australia's first Japanese encephalitis case in three years

7news.com.au, Other, 08/01/2025, Demi Huang

A Victorian father has been in a coma for nearly a month after a mosquito bite, as he battles Australia's first reported case of Japanese encephalitis in three years. Stephen Bond, who had been working in the NSW town of Finley near the Murray River, began experiencing headache and fever symptoms in early December last year, shortly after turning 60.

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

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Measles outbreaks in South-East Asia bringing cases to Australia

ABC Online, Other, 08/01/2025, Erin Handley

A surge in measles in South-East Asia is bringing cases of the highly infectious disease to Australian shores, prompting warnings from health authorities. Vietnam and Thailand are experiencing measles outbreaks, with health professionals concerned about vaccination rates against the disease.

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Australia could be in for another severe flu season. Here's why experts are worried

SBS, Other, 08/01/2025, Cameron Carr, Adriana Wainstok

In some parts of the Northern Hemisphere there has been a "dramatic increase" in influenza cases — and that could be a sign of what's to come in Australia. Experts are warning a severe flu season is likely this year as the Northern Hemisphere braces for a surge in infections.

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'The world is not ready': HMPV virus outbreak illuminates uncomfortable truth about globe's pandemic preparedness

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/01/2025, Alex Blair

A worrying outbreak of human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is reportedly overwhelming hospitals in China, projecting images eerily similar to those witnessed in late 2019 upon the outbreak of Covid-19. Despite concerns raised by footage showing overcrowded waiting rooms and wards, health experts here are stressing that while the situation is being monitored closely, there is no immediate cause for alarm.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 08/01/2025, Emma Rebellato & Stephanie March

Health authorities in NSW are urging people to take extra steps to protect themselves from mosquitoes following two mosquito-borne infections detected in the state's west. A case of Japanese encephalitis

has been recently detected in Moree, while Murray Valley encephalitis has also been detected again in different parts of the state.

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6PR, Mornings, 08/01/2025, Chrissy Morrissey

Interview with Sam Beach, PhD Candidate, Macquarie University, about the toxic male technique, which uses genetically modified male mosquitoes to poison females with their semen. Beach says only female mosquitoes feed on blood and spread disease and males are just pollinators. He says targeting female mosquitoes leads to a rapid reduction in the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 08/01/2025, Sally Sara & Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Sam Beach, PhD Student, Macquarie University, about a new genetic biocontrol method that engineers male insects to produce venom proteins, which could significantly reduce the ability of mosquitoes to spread diseases. Beach says they have been trying to genetically engineer male mosquitoes to produce an insecticidal protein that will be transferred to the female when they mate. He says they are particularly interested in the *Aedes aegypti*, the vector for dengue fever, chikungunya, yellow fever, and other diseases.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Warnings high doses of vitamin B6 over a long period could cause irreversible nerve damage

ABC Online, Other, 08/01/2025, Tom Hartley

An over-the-counter supplement has ruined Dr Mary Buchanan's mobility and sense of freedom. The 76-year-old spent four decades on her feet as an emergency physician.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Opposition grows to drug laws repeal

The Australian, General News, 09/01/2025, Lydia Lynch, Page 2

Queensland's former prison boss has cautioned the Crisafulli government against scrapping the state's drug diversion program, warning it would drain police resources, clog up the courts and criminalise addicts. [...] "The current legislation is backed by experts and prioritises treating a health issue rather than making it a criminal issue," Dr Yim said.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

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Popular beach set for chemicals testing

Burnie Advocate, General News, 09/01/2025, Page 15

Australia is being urged to implement a single oversight body to deal with potential cancer-causing chemicals in water, as a popular swimming spot undergoes testing. Sydney's Tower Beach, on Botany Bay, will be tested for PFAS substances as swimmers and fishers continue to ignore signs instructing them to avoid the water.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional outlets.

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

Why Sydney tunnel workers remain at severe risk from toxic dust

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/01/2025, Deborah Yates

When you next drive through a tunnel in or around Sydney, spare a thought for the tunnellers who have been working in unacceptably dusty conditions, inhaling toxic dust, to save your travel time. The number of cases of silicosis in this workforce has not been made available nor transparently monitored in NSW.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, News Night, 08/01/2025, Rhiannon Elston

Interview A popular beach near Sydney Airport will be retested for cancer causing PFAS chemicals over concerns about exposure to families and fishers. The environment watchdog first discovered the toxic chemicals at Tower Beach in 2018.

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