



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 16th January 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)  
| [Vaccines](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)  
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)  
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)  
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)  
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)  
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |  
[First Nations Health](#) | [Interim Australian CDC](#) | [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#)  
| [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#) | [AICIS](#)

## LINKS

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that resignations arising from the NSW psychiatrist pay and staffing dispute have prompted the closure of beds and refusal of intakes in mother and baby mental health units, and doctors have warned that child and adolescent services face similar treatment shortage risks.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that a study led by UniSA has revealed that foetuses conceived by IVF are more likely to be exposed to potentially teratogenic medicines than foetuses conceived naturally, which may explain why babies conceived through assisted reproductive technology have a higher rate of birth defects.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that incidents of violence and aggression are on the rise at Melbourne public hospitals, with over 680 "code black" alerts raised by staff in the last financial year.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports that The Stroke Foundation's Economic Impact of Stroke report, released on Thursday, has shown that of all the states and territories, the highest per population rate of stroke in 2023 was recorded in Tasmania, with 205 per 100,000 stroke patients, compared to the national average of 176 per 100,000.

- **The Age** (page 3) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has said that he is "not inclined" to approve health insurers' requests for premium hikes of up to 6 per cent in their annual negotiations with the federal government, saying that he has written to a number of private health insurers requesting a figure that is "in the best interest of Australian consumers." *Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review](#) , [Daily Telegraph](#) , [West Australian](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- **The Courier Mail** (page 3) reports that a new approach to obesity diagnosis recommended by the Global Commission on Clinical Obesity would place less significance on the body mass index (BMI) measuring system, and give greater consideration to other symptoms of ill health. *Also reported by [The Australian](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).*
- **The Newcastle Herald** (page 6) reports that a longitudinal study conducted by the Cancer Council NSW and the University of Sydney has found that Australians experience a 12 per cent increase in risk of death from alcohol-related cancers for every additional seven drinks consumed per week.
- **The Toowoomba Chronicle** (page 8) reports that the Australasian Academy of Pediatric Dentistry has called for Queensland Health to publish more data regarding wait times for pediatric dental treatment under anesthetic, claiming that current government waitlist data does not distinguish between adult and child cases, and therefore does not provide an accurate picture of the current shortfalls in pediatric dental treatment.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 11) reports that the Japanese encephalitis virus has been detected in mosquitoes in Moira Shire in the north of Victoria, prompting health authorities to warn those living in or travelling within the region to use insect repellent and limit time outdoors. *Also reported by: [The Border Mail](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- **ABC Online** reports that doctors are warning that the impending resignation of over 200 psychiatrists from the NSW public system could create knock-on effects across the state, causing emergency departments to "seize up" as mental health patients wait to be moved to psychiatric wards.
- **ABC Online** reports that the Therapeutic Goods Administration is working to police the sale of illegal nasal tanning sprays containing Melanotan-II, an unapproved drug candidate, while warning Australians that despite social media advertising, the sprays may increase cancer risk, and are not a "harmless alternative" to tanning.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Butler rejects health insurers' second bid to raise prices

Australian Financial Review, General News, 16/01/2025, Ronald Mizen, Page 5

Health Minister Mark Butler has rejected a second round of requests from private health insurers to increase customer premiums, telling some providers they must help more during the cost-of-living crisis.

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

### Butler rejects insurers' call on premiums

Age, General News, 16/01/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 3

Health Minister Mark Butler is sending health insurers' plans to hike premiums for about 15 million Australians back to the drawing board, as the Albanese government fights industry requests for up to 6 per cent price rises ahead of a federal election. Butler said yesterday he was "not inclined" to approve any of the proposed price hikes that had been submitted to the Health Department as part of insurers' annual negotiations with the government over lifting consumer payments for health cover.

*Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).*

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

### Health funds sent back to drawing board on premium increase

West Australian, General News, 16/01/2025, Page 4

Health Minister Mark Butler has rejected suggested private health insurance premium hikes for the second time, calling on some companies to suggest "a more reasonable figure" ahead of the April deadline. The second rejection comes after he rejected the first round of increases of up to 6 per cent, nearly double the 2024 increase of 3.03 per cent.

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

## Pollies sharpen pitch as pseudo-election begins

CQ Today, General News, 15/01/2025, Dominic Giannini & Tess Ikonomou, Page 31

Struggling Australians are being promised more help as Labor pushes to "build Australia's future" while the Liberals pledge to get the country "back on track". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler criticised Mr Dutton for opposing the government's cost of living relief measures in parliament and not offering any policies in a signature campaign speech.

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

## New patients struggle to find bulk-billing GP clinics

CQ Today, General News, 15/01/2025, Alex Mitchell, Page 31

Fewer GP clinics than ever will take new bulk-billed customers and out-of-pocket charges continue to rise, in data labelled concerning but not surprising. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler disputed Cleanbill's figures, which are considerably lower than the government's official bulk-billing rate of 77.2 per cent in November.

Also reported by: [News Of The Area \(Online\)](#).

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

## Bulk-bill slump a bitter pill for unwell patients

Kimberley Echo, General News, 16/01/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 8

Wa has endured the biggest fall in bulk-billed GPs across mainland Australia over the past two years, with just one clinic providing free health care for every 46,000 people in the State. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government's investment to strengthen Medicare had seen bulk billing rise again in every state and territory with 77.2 per cent of GP visits bulk billed in November 2024.

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

## Temporary service changes flagged for local hospitals

Leader - Barossa Valley, General News, 15/01/2025, Mel Jaunay, Page 1

Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network (BHFLHN) has confirmed that Angaston and District Hospital's Emergency Department will be diverted for two 24 hour periods between now and the end of February. [...] "We are working with Mark Butler and the Federal Government to address that, with initiatives such as the Single Employer Model designed to recruit and retain more doctors to regional South Australia."

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

## Mark Butler rejects private health insurers' proposed premium increases

ABC Online, Other, 15/01/2025, Stephanie Dalzell

Health Minister Mark Butler has again ordered private health insurers to go back to the drawing board and come up with a more "reasonable" premium increase, as the government tries to fend off a political headache on the eve of a federal election. The next premium hikes are scheduled to take effect on April 1, and any rise above inflation risks a political problem for the government in the lead-up to an election that will be fought on cost-of-living issues.

Also reported by: [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Urgent care clinics Qld: 568 patients a day

Adelaide Now, Other, 15/01/2025, Rachel Riley

Queensland's free are treating an average of 568 patients per day, with a 15 per cent spike in presentations over the Christmas-new year period. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the

clinics were easing the strain on busy hospital emergency departments every day.

[Read More](#)

## **Half of the psychiatrists in NSWs public service are preparing to resign. Heres why**

MSN Australia, Other, 15/01/2025

The doctors union is warning that the New South Wales health system will go off a cliff next week if the resignation of more than 200 psychiatrists half the cohort come into effect [...] On Monday the federal health minister, Mark Butler urged the state government and the doctors to get back to the negotiating table to avoid devastating consequences for psychiatric patients and their families in New South Wales.

[Read More](#)

## **Mother forced to go private to find psychiatrist for daughter fears consequences of mass exodus from NSW system**

MSN Australia, Other, 14/01/2025

Finding a child and adolescent psychiatrist for Tanya Collins's daughter became so difficult, she was forced to enter the costly private health system. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said that mass resignations would have "devastating consequences" and said both parties needed to come back to the negotiating table."

[Read More](#)

## **Labor rejects health insurance hikes as Private Healthcare Australia claims soaring medical costs necessitate increases**

Sky News Australia, Other, 15/01/2025, James Harrison

Labor has rejected proposed premium increases from private health insurers and ordered them to resubmit "more reasonable" prices, as the Albanese government keeps one eye on cost of living pressures ahead of the next federal election. The next set of premium increases will take effect from April 1 this year and the government has called on insurers to submit applications for Health Minister Mark Butler to review.

[Read More](#)

## **'Ridiculousness': Liberal Senator Anne Ruston rubbishes Labor push to revive 'Medicare' campaign as election looms**

Sky News Australia, Other, 15/01/2025, Laura Grassby

Liberal Senator Anne Ruston has pushed back on attempts by Labor to revive the "Medicare" campaign, claiming "no amount" of spin can mask the Albanese government's poor record in the health sector. Labor ministers in recent weeks have taken aim at Opposition Leader Peter Dutton's record as health minister from 2013 to 2014 as this year's federal election looms. When asked earlier this month if there was any evidence Medicare was under threat from the Coalition, Health Minister Mark Butler claimed the Liberal Party has been opposed to the idea of Medicare since its inception.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 9, Nine News, 15/01/2025, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins**

A popular not for profit meal service has opened a new site in what was the Holden Hill Courthouse. Nonna's Cucina now features an in-house cafe which runs in addition to its food delivery service, designed to help the elderly stay independent in the community for longer. Mark Butler, Aged Care Minister, believes that the institution has a 10% boost of funding that they are delivering for them to deliver tens of thousands of meals to older Australians, particularly, to older Italians in the Adelaide region.

[Play Now](#)

## **Seven Wagga Wagga, Seven National News, 15/01/2025, Kirstie Fitzpatrick**

Health Minister Mark Butler has rejected a second request from private health insurers to increase premiums on the market.

## 2SM, Breakfast, 15/01/2025, Ron Wilson

Compere mentions that half of the psychiatrists in NSW are preparing to resign. He adds that Health Minister Mark Butler has warned about devastating consequences for patients and their families if the strike goes ahead.

[Play Now](#)

## Cruise, 18:00 News, 15/01/2025

The argument over the next increase to health premiums is no closer to being resolved. Health Minister Mark Butler is urging insurers to think again after seeking a rise above inflation for an April start.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### New year, new era for aged care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 15/01/2025, Jodie Wolf

The new year came with good news for aged care workers and providers alike, with the arrival of improved pay, conditions and opportunities through the government's latest investment into the sector. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said in a statement that the government's funding supports around 340,000 aged care residential and home care workers to be paid fairly and valued for the important work they do and that going forward, aged care workers will receive the award wage increases they deserve.

[Read More](#)

### \$4.5 million in funding for Amana Living

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 15/01/2025, Jodie Wolf

Residents at Edward Collick Home in Kalgoorlie will now benefit from quality upgrades at the space, and an enhanced living environment thanks to almost \$4.5 million in funding from the government. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said older Australians deserved access to safe and quality aged care services regardless of where they live.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Geelong aged care homes Homestead Estate, Bupa Barrabool hit by Covid

Herald Sun, Other, 15/01/2025

A resident infected in a Covid outbreak at a Wallington aged care home says she has experienced claustrophobia after allegedly not being able to leave her room, even for fresh air. TLC Homestead Estate Residential Aged Care had recorded 14 active Covid cases as of last week, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC).

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

[Read More](#)

### New hub to support youth

Geelong Independent, Other, 15/01/2025, Loaram Constructions

The health and wellbeing of young people on the Bellarine Peninsula will benefit from a new hub at Ocean Grove's Kingston Estate. [...] Funding for stage one of the project was provided through the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, and the Anthony Costa Foundation, with the land in Kingston Estate Ocean Grove donated by the Corless Family Trust.

Also reported by: [Ocean Grove Voice \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### Dept of Health and Aged Care picks Fay Flevaras as CDIO

WEB IT News Australia, Other, 15/01/2025, Eleanor Dickinson

The Department of Health and Aged Care has elevated Fay Flevaras to the role of full-time chief digital information officer (CDIO). Flevaras has previously spent the last three years as the department's first assistant secretary of digital transformation and delivery.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## VACCINES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Shepp steps up for dementia

Shepparton News, General News, 16/01/2025, Georgia Tacey, Page 3

Dementia Australia is bringing its largest annual fundraising event to Shepparton for the first time. On Sunday, May 4, walkers, runners and joggers will descend on Victoria Park Lake for the Memory Walk and Jog to raise money, awareness and to get active for their brain health.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

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

### New initiative seeks to train Indonesian nurses to work as aged care workers in Australia

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/01/2025, Lauren Broomham

With an estimated 250,000 Indonesian nursing graduates currently unemployed, a new program is seeking to help Australian aged care providers meet their personal care worker shortages by tapping

into the country's oversupply of trained nurses. In May 2023, the Federal Government announced new Aged Care Industry Labour Agreements aimed at streamlining the process for aged care providers to sponsor direct care workers on skilled visas.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Call to redefine obesity with a more nuanced approach

The Australian, General News, 16/01/2025, Penny Timms, Page 7

The way obesity is defined and treated needs a "dramatic" overhaul, according to a Global Commission on Clinical Obesity, which warns there's an over-reliance on the Body Mass Index and it is leading to poor patient outcomes. Writing in the latest edition of the journal The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology, the commission argues for change and has received the backing of at least 75 medical organisation around the world.

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

### Why body mass index could be redundant

Courier Mail, General News, 16/01/2025, Rhiannon Lewin, Page 3

The well-known body mass index (BMI) measuring system could soon be forced to take a back seat, with experts claiming that current approaches in diagnosing obesity are far too reliant on the outdated measurement. The Global Commission on Clinical Obesity is recommending a new approach which focuses on other measures of excess body fat and objective symptoms of ill health as well as the BMI.

*Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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

### 'Tragic reminder': 16yo dies in Xmas alcohol poisoning

Canberra Times, Other, 16/01/2025, Emily Woods

A family Christmas lunch turned deadly when a 16-year-old boy drank himself to death after consuming more than a dozen alcoholic drinks. [...] Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association chief executive Chris Christoforou said the harms associated with alcohol are often forgotten or downplayed, particularly over periods like Christmas.

*Also reported by:* [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), and syndicated across regional outlets.

[Read More](#)

### Expert offers tips to avoid dog attacks after savage attack on four-year-old girl

ABC Online, Other, 15/01/2025, Lauren Smith

A dog behaviour specialist believes a Rottweiler which inflicted serious injuries on a four-year-old girl at a WA beach should not have been allowed to roam free, despite the beach allowing off-lead dogs. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported more than 9,000 injury hospitalisations were caused by dogs between 2021 and 2022.

[Read More](#)

### ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 15/01/2025, Samantha Donovan

A group of global health experts has recommended an overhaul of the way doctors diagnose obesity. Dr Terri-Lynne South, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, says despite not being involved in this work, she supports it.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Zeus to aid of stroke patients

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/01/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 10

Rural patients' chances of surviving a stroke are being dramatically boosted, thanks to an app called Zeus being trialled in South Australia with the SA Telestroke service. The app allows paramedics to swiftly transmit stroke patient data to Royal Adelaide Hospital neurologists and have video consultations, allowing the neurologists to evaluate the case and direct the ambulance to the right facility across 61 regional hospitals plus Alice Springs faster.

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

### Tassie time bomb

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/01/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 1

Tasmania is officially the stroke hotspot of the nation, according to worrying new data that will likely prompt a renewed effort to raise awareness of risk factors associated with the condition. The Stroke Foundation released its Economic Impact of Stroke report on Thursday, showing that Tasmania recorded the highest per population rate of stroke in 2023 when compared with all other states and territories.

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

### Understanding risks of stroke

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 16/01/2025, Page 18

Tasmania holds the troubling distinction of having the highest stroke rate per capita in Australia, with 205 people per 100,000 affected. It is an alarming statistic demands immediate attention.

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

### Drinking risks are real, and women need to know about them

The Australian, Other, 15/01/2025, Steve Robson

Drinking alcohol increases your risk of cancer. It is important to point this out because public awareness of this fact is low.

[Read More](#)

### Adopting a healthier lifestyle could help manage lower back pain

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 15/01/2025

Low back pain is a leading cause of disability worldwide with many treatments, such as medication, often failing to provide lasting relief. Researchers from the University of Sydney's Centre for Rural Health have uncovered a possible solution.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Hostile hospitals

Herald Sun, General News, 16/01/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Shocking hospital data shows that Melbourne healthcare workers are confronted by a violent "armed or serious threat" every 12.8 hours, as public hospitals reveal aggressive incidents are increasing. Metropolitan public hospitals were forced to activate an urgent security response to more than 680 "code blacks" called by staff for an "armed or serious threat" in the last financial year.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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



## Another GP clinic shuts

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/01/2025, Bridget Clarke, Page 9

Another regional Tasmanian general practice is set to close with doctors pointing fingers at both the state and federal governments. Richmond's Bridge Street Surgery will close permanently at the end of February after six years in business, with their three GPs to continue treating patients at clinics across Bellerive and Hobart's CBD.

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

## Love takes aim at 'copycat Cook' over help for sick patients

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 16/01/2025, Adam Poulsen, Page 7

Roger Cook has pledged \$34 million to boost financial support for regional patients travelling for medical treatment, but the WA Nationals have accused the Premier of "copying" their policy in a "desperate attempt" to win votes. The expansion of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme, announced Wednesday, would see a re-elected Labor Government increase the PATS fuel subsidy from 26c/km to 40c/km.

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

## It's like pulling teeth

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/01/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 8

Queensland has a third world dental service as hundreds of children are "barbarically" left floundering on an 18-month waiting list with multiple, oozing abscesses and teeth rotting to the roots, a top pediatric dentist claims. And as the demand and waiting lists for pediatric dental treatment under anaesthetic blow out, a peak dentistry body is calling for Queensland Health to publish transparent data that shows desperate parents how long children will have to wait.

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

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

## 'Impending disaster': Dire warnings as 'mass resignation' of mental health staff in NSW looms

The Australian, Other, 15/01/2025, Nathan Schmidt

The NSW health system is facing an "impending disaster" with more than half the state's mental health workforce set to quit in less than a week, a peak body has warned. The Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation NSW is pumping up pressure on the Minns government, saying more than 200 psychiatrists in the state had submitted their resignations.

[Read More](#)

## Health workers fear 'apocalyptic' outcomes for NSW emergency departments to follow psychiatrist exodus

ABC Online, Other, 15/01/2025, Brianna Parkins

Doctors have warned of "apocalyptic" conditions in NSW's emergency departments if the mass exodus of psychiatrists goes ahead. Over 200 psychiatrists currently working in the public system intend to resign next week amid a long-running dispute with the state government over pay and conditions.

[Read More](#)

## Additional \$400m needed to give 4000 specialists a pay rise, psychiatrists say they have no choice

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/01/2025, Madeleine Bower

The wage demands of NSW psychiatrists preparing to quit would cost the government \$241m, plus \$159m in flow-on pay rises for other specialists, but those working in mental health say there's no other way to fix the broken system. The wage claims by psychiatrists preparing to resign en masse this month amid a bitter wage dispute with the Minns government will cost the NSW budget \$241 million for 480 positions according to new government estimates.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

## NSW's mental health system is on its knees. Here is why psychiatrists like me have resigned

The Guardian, Other, 15/01/2025, Prachi Brahmabhatt

NSW has a critical and chronic shortage of mental health workers and the system can't keep up with community needs. I've been working in New South Wales's public mental health system for 15 years.

[Read More](#)

## Fears of mental health disaster as hundreds of psychiatrists quit

9News, Other, 15/01/2025, Adam Vidler

Hundreds of psychiatrists are leaving the New South Wales public health system in less than a week amid an ongoing pay dispute, sparking fears of serious disruptions in mental health treatment. About 200 psychiatrists have resigned effective before the end of January, with the first to leave their jobs from January 20.

[Read More](#)

## ABC, ABC News, 15/01/2025, Nakari Thorpe

The state's health system is also facing industrial chaos. More than 200 public psychiatrists have ramped up their campaign for better pay.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 15/01/2025, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

An emergency operations centre has been set up as the mental health system braces for a mass exodus of public hospital psychiatrists. The specialist doctors won a 25% pay rise, or 209 will resign next Tuesday.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 15/01/2025, Jonathan Uptin

A new report has been released tonight revealing ambulance ramping has deteriorated significantly over the past five years. The audit office finding fewer patients are being transferred from stretchers within 30 minutes, the number declining sharply since 2019, falling short of the intended target.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 9, Today , 15/01/2025, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Health workers are sounding the alarm over staffing and pay levels in New South Wales, which they claim are at their worst level in 20 years. The AMA is calling for changes to award rates and the way doctors work.

[Play Now](#)

## 2CC, Breakfast, 15/01/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Dr Kerrie Aust, ACT President, Australian Medical Association. Compere mentions that GPs are warning of the dangers of taking Vitamin B6. Aust points out that Vitamin B6 is a really important vitamin that they do need in their diet.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### New mums in mental health crisis

The Australian, General News, 16/01/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Mother and baby mental health units are closing beds and refusing intakes as the NSW doctors dispute begins to hit patients, with perinatal psychiatrists saying they fear a total shutdown of the critically under-resourced services. NSW has only two perinatal mental health units where mothers can be admitted with their babies, with a total of 16 beds, at Westmead in western Sydney and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in inner Sydney.

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

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

## Diabolical crisis may have deadly repercussions

The Australian, General News, 16/01/2025, Steve Robson, Page 7

Suicide is one of the most common causes of death for Australian women after pregnancy. This fact should shock our community.

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

## A new approach to living with ADHD

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/01/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 4

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).

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

## Most jihadists don't change

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/01/2025, Remy Varga & Rebekah Cavanagh, Page 12

Deradicalisation programs have failed to change the behaviour of individuals authorities fear could commit acts of terror in Australia or to produce data on whether the initiatives actually work. An evaluation obtained by the Herald Sun through Freedom of Information found the behaviour of some individuals actually worsened in the programs, triggering the involvement of law enforcement.

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

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

## Open letter to the Premier our men and boys are not all right

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/01/2025, Nick Dametto, Page 14

I am writing in response to your recent answer to Question on Notice No. 1174, asked on 10 December 2024. In my question, I asked: With reference to males being grossly overrepresented in areas of disadvantage, including but not limited to incarceration rates, suicide rates, substance addiction, and homelessness will the Premier consider establishing a dedicated ministerial portfolio for men to help address these significant societal issues, similar to what currently exists for women?

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

## Plan 'a win for one in 40 Australians'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 16/01/2025, Monique Patterson, Page 2

A former Warrnambool man hopes the federal government's National Autism Strategy will help make Australia "a truly neuro-inclusive country". Bryce Pace, who has autism and is an advocate for other people with the disorder, said he was impressed with the strategy.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Our first thought for the responders

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/01/2025, Andrew Jenner, Page 21

Frontline workers are the lifeblood of our state, yet their wellbeing both during and after their service is too often an afterthought. The sacrifices frontline workers make often go unnoticed until tragedy strikes.

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

### Hunter health check shows improvement, but more to do

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/01/2025, Pat Conroy, Page 18

As we begin a new year, I want to acknowledge that 2024 was tough for many people in our community. [...] Locally, the Coalition threatened the future of and slashed funding for our crucial GP Access After Hours service and banned doctors from practising in our area if they had received their training overseas or through a scholarship.

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

### Recruitment begins for MHER jobs

Launceston Examiner, General News, 16/01/2025, Duncan Bailey, Page 3

Recruitment has begun for a northern Mental Health Emergency Response (MHER) team, following successful runs in the south and north-west. The MHER teams are composed of a tri-agency, co-response service that provides support to people in mental health crises in community settings.

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

### Qld budget a 'sea of red'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/01/2025, Madura McCormack , Page 6

A major state budget update will show a sea of red, Treasurer David Janetzki says, while refusing to say if he will borrow to cover project blowouts. [...] His first official budget in mid-2025 will also need to deal with a potential \$2.8bn increase to public sector wages over three years as negotiations for a new pay deal kick off with major frontline unions covering nurses, midwives, police, and teachers.

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

### Queensland hints it could restart physician assistant recruitment

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/01/2025, Rachel Carter

Doctors have warned health officials against hiring more physician assistants to work in public hospitals after a senior bureaucrat hinted it was on the agenda. Queensland's new health director-general Dr David Rosengren, an emergency doctor, told the ABC earlier this month that part of Queensland's workforce strategy was to "examine other providers of healthcare", which could include physician assistants (PAs).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Prescriptions for most popular statins on the rise

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/01/2025

Data shows the number of people using the most popular statins is increasing, while the cost to the

Government for COVID-19 antivirals has fallen. [...] Rosuvastatin and atorvastatin headed the top 10 list of the most prescribed drugs from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS) and Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### GP reprimanded for smacking toddler 'running amok' in surgery

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/01/2025, Vanda Carson

A Queensland GP who smacked a toddler during a medical appointment has been reprimanded for unprofessional conduct and fined \$5000. Robert Arthur D'Hotman De Villiers was found to have assaulted the two-year-old boy by picking him up and smacking him on the bottom during a consultation for his brother on 25 March 2022.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### How years off the beers fixed a failing body

Australian Financial Review, General News, 16/01/2025, Nick Harding, Page 28

Julian Tittershill's wake-up call was not the progressive weight gain, the atrial fibrillation, or the enlarged ventricle.

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

### Miracle girl is all heart

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/01/2025, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 1

Lucy McGregor is about to turn eight years old and dreams of becoming a world-class doctor or scientist when she is older. These dreams can be realised because Lucy, who was diagnosed with a rare form of heart failure called dilated cardiomyopathy at three weeks old, received a heart transplant.

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

### 'It was the best day of my life'

Canberra Times, Sport, 16/01/2025, Caden Helmers, Page 36

Forget the first-round exit, retirement questions or a verbal spat with a retired great. [...] Harrison was one of the youngest people in Australia to be diagnosed with auto-immune disease scleroderma, and his case of disabling pansclerotic morphea is a rare form.

*Also reported by:* [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#)

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

### Special gift for the life of Riley

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/01/2025, Zoe De Koning, Page 6

Five-year-old Riley Swander from Ocean Grove will start primary school on the Bellarine Peninsula this year after receiving a lifesaving organ at the age of one. Riley was diagnosed with a rare life-threatening condition called biliary atresia days after she was born.

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

### Bowled over with fitness initiative

West Australian, General News, 16/01/2025, Page 10

Twelve-year-old Yumna Ali, who was born with cerebral palsy, used to dread sports days so much she would ask to stay home from school. But a personalised eight-week program for children with chronic conditions has given her the confidence to hit her fears for six.

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

## 'Vaccine Fatigue': Could skipping flu shots put your family at risk?

SBS, Other, 15/01/2025, vrishali jain

Vaccine fatigue, a growing hesitancy to get vaccinated stemming from pandemic burnout or misinformation, is contributing to a decline in flu vaccination rates. This drop in herd immunity increases the risk for vulnerable groups, including the elderly, children, and those with weakened immune systems.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 15/01/2025, Yvonne Yong

Concerns have been raised over the safety of beaches at Bremer Bay on WA's south Coast, after a man died trying to save two children from a dangerous rip. It's the latest in a series of drownings with ten deaths in WA since summer began. Royal Life Saving WA are calling on the government to increase funding for swimming lessons and safety education.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## SPORT

### Bike trail boost

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/01/2025, Tom Gillespie, Page 1

Toowoomba's long-awaited mountain biking precinct has taken a big step forward after a \$7.5m funding agreement between three levels of government. The Jubilee Park section of the Escarpment Mountain Bike Trails Project will move ahead soon as one of three projects funded through the \$285.8m SEQ City Deal Liveability Fund.

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

### It's not cricket

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/01/2025, Patrick Woods, Page 1

Townsville appears set to miss out on international cricket once again in 2025 with Cairns, Mackay and Darwin in line to host two matches each when the Aussies take on South Africa in August. To make matters worse, the 'events capital of northern Australia' will continue to miss out on world-class fixtures like these until Riverway Stadium receives the lighting upgrades demanded by locals for more than a decade.

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

### Why tennis is not the only smash-hit success here

Herald Sun, General News, 16/01/2025, Channele Pearson, Page 21

Melbourne is serving up aces with our summer of tennis in full swing. The Australian Open has evolved beyond being a major global sporting event to become a very Melbourne festival that appeals to all generations, budgets and passions.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### IVF bubs at risk

IVF pregnancies are more likely to expose the fetus to potentially dangerous medicines than naturally conceived pregnancies, a study led by UniSA shows. Medicines involved include those used as treatment after assisted reproductive technology to prevent repeat miscarriages or failed implantation.

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

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

## Milk hope on bowel cancer

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/01/2025, Page 5

A glass of milk a day could help keep bowel cancer away, UK research has found. An Oxford University and Cancer Research UK study suggests that increasing daily milk intake by as little as one glass could have a significant impact on lowering the likelihood of developing bowel cancer.

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

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

## More drinks raise cancer risks

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/01/2025, Fraser Barton, Page 6

Australians increase their likelihood of alcohol-related cancer by 12 per cent for every seven additional drinks a week, researchers have found. A study of over 180,000 people and their drinking habits began in 2005 with researchers following up over an 11-year period.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional outlets.

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

## Scientists unlock 700 genes associated with depression

The Australian, Other, 15/01/2025, Natasha Robinson

Researchers say it's now beyond doubt that depression has a biological basis as well as being the result of circumstance, as the world's largest study into the genetics of the condition identifies almost 700 genes associated with risk. An individual's propensity to develop major depression – which affects one in five people throughout their lifetime – will be able to be quantified in future through gene screening, with the scientists finding that individuals who had variations in several genes associated with depression were likelier to be affected by the condition.

[Read More](#)

## Long-acting contraceptives and cancer risk

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/01/2025

A new study has found long-acting contraceptives seem to be as safe as the pill when it comes to cancer risk. [...] Our new study, conducted by the University of Queensland and QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute and published by the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, looked at this question.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### NT rejects hand sanitiser ban after killing

The Australian, General News, 16/01/2025, Liam Mendes, Page 6

The Northern Territory government has rejected calls to introduce stronger regulations on the sale and supply of alcohol-based hand sanitiser, following the alleged murder of an Indigenous mother who had been drinking the substance with her husband just prior to her death. Patrick Jungala Nolan, 49, was charged with the murder of his 51 year-old wife on Tuesday evening, with sources previously telling

The Australian the couple had been drinking hand sanitiser in the lead-up to her death, when she was allegedly struck with a rock early on Monday morning at Alice Springs' Todd River.

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

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

## Learning to advocate for herself was a turning point for Skye's health

ABC Online, Other, 15/01/2025, Skye Cusack

When i was 16, I felt a weird sensation in my knee while walking home from the supermarket. By 21, I could barely walk.

[Read More](#)

## New body to guide cultural safety strategy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/01/2025

State aims to improve the experiences of Indigenous people who interact with the healthcare and regulatory system. Pharmacists and other healthcare professionals invited to join a new Aboriginal Cultural Safety Advisory Group in NSW.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### 'Brain' virus outbreak in mozzies

Herald Sun, General News, 16/01/2025, Josephine Quattrocchi, Page 11

An outbreak of Japanese encephalitis in mosquitoes has raised concern among residents and holidaymakers in Victoria's north. An early-warning mosquito surveillance program found two mosquitoes infected with the virus in Moira Shire around Cobram and Yarrawonga.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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

### Warning as deadly virus is detected in mozzie traps

Border Mail, General News, 16/01/2025, Ted Howes, Page 2

North East residents have been warned Japanese encephalitis has been detected in two mosquito traps in Moira Shire. The Victorian Health Department said the virus being identified in Moira Shire confirmed JEV was circulating in northern Victoria.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News \(Shepparton\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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

### Japanese encephalitis warning in Victoria's north as virus detected in mosquitoes

ABC Online, Other, 15/01/2025, Callum Marshall & Nic Healey

Victoria's health department is urging people in the state's north to remain vigilant against mosquitoes, following recent detections of Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV). JEV is a rare virus that can cause a serious infection of the brain.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### If Australia made more of its medicines, we'd all feel better

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/01/2025, Jennifer Martin, Page 22



For many Australian women struggling with menopause symptoms, finding the hormone therapy patches that provide much-needed relief has been as futile as shopping for a leg of ham on Christmas Eve. [...] They should require manufacturers and importers to be more proactive in telling the Therapeutic Goods Administration about discontinuations and shortages.

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

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

## Illegal tanning nasal spray not a 'harmless alternative' to sunbaking, says TGA

ABC Online, Other, 15/01/2025

Since using black market nasal tanning spray, Harper has had facial flushes, acne, and more freckles. The illegal spray can have serious side effects, according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) — some of the most common ones are what Harper has experienced, but there's also the risk of skin cancer including melanoma.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/01/2025, Emma Rebellato & Amelia Moseley

Experts are warning against a dangerous and illegal beauty product that's taken social media by storm. Nasal tanning sprays are easily accessible, and they're marketed to young people on social media, but the TGA says they can cause serious side effects.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### PSA supports expanded pill testing for summer harm reduction

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 15/01/2025

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) welcomes the expansion of pill testing services this summer, with New South Wales joining Victoria and the ACT in offering drug checking at music festivals and fixed sites. Pill testing aims to reduce harms associated with illicit substance use by providing users with information about the contents of their drugs.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### Tackling toxic work kitchens

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/01/2025, Page 3

A key food safety body is urging workers and employers to avoid food poisoning by taking care of much neglected workplace kitchens. "Every year, there is a one in five chance of you getting food poisoning in Australia and we know that cases of gastro can spread quickly throughout a workplace once people get sick," Food Safety Information Council chief executive Lydia Buchtmann said.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

### How PFAS 'forever chemicals' are removed from contaminated drinking water at treatment plants

"Forever chemicals" are almost impossible to avoid. They can be found in clothes, cosmetics, furnishings, non-stick cookware, food packaging — and, in rare occasions, end up in water from the kitchen tap.

[Read More](#)

### **3M knew firefighting foams containing PFAS were toxic, documents show**

The Guardian, Other, 16/01/2025, Leana Hosea & Rachel Salvidge

The multibillion-dollar chemicals company 3M told customers its firefighting foams were harmless and biodegradable when it knew they contained toxic substances so persistent they are now known as "forever chemicals" and banned in many countries including the UK, newly uncovered documents show. [...] In 1987, the Australian government used 3M's information to justify spreading firefighting foams on to fields as a means of disposal.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

