



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 21st 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](#) |  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (Page 1) reports that as mass resignations take effect in hospitals across NSW the state government has moved to active crisis footing on mental health, asking for expressions of interest from private hospitals to care for public patients.
- The **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (Page 1) reports that the Royal College of Psychiatrists has been accused of contributing to the NSW's mental health crisis by NSW Premier Chris Minns. NSW Health has declined to disclose how many psychiatrists will resign this week.
- The **[Herald Sun](#)** (Page 5) reports that Victorians trailing overseas are being urged to get vaccinated against measles as new cases have been linked to travel in Vietnam. Two weeks ago Victoria's acting chief health officer Dr Evelyn Wong reported a rise in measles infections across southeast Melbourne.
- **[The Australian](#)** (Page 8) reports that the Australian Medical Association has said that the federal government must form a committee dedicated to preventing medicine shortages. "Medicine shortages and other disruptions have a profound effect on the community and inadequate communication can result in additional costs for patients, for whom there is often little transparency or forewarning," AMA president Danielle McMullen said.

- The [Herald Sun](#) (Page 13) reports that from February 1 additional restrictions on the sale of paracetamol will be implemented with packets containing fewer tablets, both in pharmacies and in other places where paracetamol is sold. The Therapeutic Goods Administration is encouraging retailers to restrict sales to a single pack at a time.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Free vaccine rollout to protect newborns

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 20/01/2025, Andrew Brown, Page 8

Pregnant women will have free access to a vaccine to protect their newborns from the leading cause of hospitalisation for babies. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the rollout would ensure babies and their parents were better protected from the virus.

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### Free pregnancy RSV vax

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 20/01/2025, Page 2

The Australian Government has announced that its program to provide eligible pregnant women with free access to the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine Abrysvo will commence 03 Feb. [...] "Almost all infants will get RSV in their first two years," said Health Minister Mark Butler.

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### Drug shortage crisis demands intervention, AMA warns, as patients struggle to secure medicines

The Australian, Other, 20/01/2025, James Dowling

The Albanese government must form a committee dedicated to preventing medicine shortages if it wishes to curtail a string of near-catastrophic droughts on essential treatments, the Australian Medical Association says. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler's tenure in the portfolio has been marred with public delays in access to migraine medication, ADHD drugs, insulin and IV fluid.

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### Ageing population, nursing shortage, rising costs making it hard to source aged care

ABC Online, Other, 20/01/2025, Jodie Hamilton

Australia's ageing boomers, a nursing shortage, and a federal capital works system labelled as a "lottery" are forcing some older residents to separate from their families, some regional aged care providers say. [...] A spokesperson for Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said \$49 million had been allocated nationally to build staff accommodation in rural to very remote communities to help providers attract and retain aged care workers.

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### Should all GP visits be bulk-billed? we asked 5 experts

HelloCare, Other, 20/01/2025, Jakob Neeland

A new report by a GP listing company made headlines this week showing low rates of bulk billing for GP visits across Australia. Bulk billing means the consultation is free for the patient and the GP accepts what Medicare covers (the "benefit" or "rebate") as the full payment.

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### RSV vax rollout kicks off in two weeks

The Medical Republic, Other, 20/01/2025, Holly Payne

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced that the new, Commonwealth-funded RSV vaccine program will begin on 3 February, giving primary care just two weeks to organise. News came that the maternal RSV vaccine would join the National Immunisation Program came in November last year; at that stage, however, it was simply promised "before winter" 2025.

## 'I'm an optimist, but even I am feeling sick about it': resigning psychiatrist speaks out

The Medical Republic, Other, 20/01/2025, Amanda Sheppard

A leading NSW public psychiatrist and clinical researcher with decades of experience in the state system is struggling to remain hopeful that the government will step in to stop the mass resignation of more than 200 public psychiatrists tomorrow. [...] In a press conference in Adelaide yesterday, federal health minister Mark Butler was asked how concerned he was about the public psychiatry crisis in NSW, the disruption the mass resignation would cause, and whether he had been involved in any talks with NSW counterparts about it.

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

## MINISTER WELLS

### Dutton to be PM? If so, it's the 'vibe'

Courier Mail, Editorials, 21/01/2025, Page 22

Will the "vibe shift" that produced the new Trump presidency be the not-so-secret ingredient that delivers Peter Dutton the keys to the Lodge at this year's federal election? [...] The PM has also tried to bolster Labor's chances in Queensland by appointing the Labor Member of Lilley, Anika Wells as Aged Care and Sports Minister making her the Labor's first female Queensland MP in federal cabinet.

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### Underhanded tactics shut Indigenous people out of politics

West Australian, General News, 21/01/2025, Emma Garlett, Page 13

With the promotion of Queensland MP Anika Wells to the senior ministry to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Bill Shorten, Australia now has its highest concentration ever of women in Federal Cabinet. It is great that we are taking leaps and bounds for women.

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### Albo's women on the up and up

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 21/01/2025, Jessica Wang, Page 5

Anthony Albanese's new cabinet has broken records, with women holding nearly half for senior positions in the government. [...] As part of the changes, Sport and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells was promoted to the cabinet.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#).

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### Cabinet gender parity as election looms

Newcastle Herald, General News, 21/01/2025, Dominic Giannini & Andrew Brown, Page 5

Three women have been sworn in as ministers to take over the portfolios of retiring former Labor leader Bill Shorten as federal cabinet reaches gender parity. [...] The promotion of Sports and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells to cabinet to replace Mr Shorten means that of the 22 ministers, 11 are men and 11 are women.

Also reported by: [Blayney Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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### Senior federal Labor MP Anika Wells warns party 'must do better'

The Courier Mail, Other, 20/01/2025, Hayden Johnson

An MP who will today become the first Queensland woman elevated to a Labor federal cabinet has sounded the alarm for her party ahead of the looming election. Anika Wells says the government must

do better selling its achievements and convince Queenslanders not to help elect one of their own, Peter Dutton, as Prime Minister.

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## Ministers to be sworn in for pre-election reshuffle

Yarrowonga Chronicle, Other, 20/01/2025

More women are set to join Anthony Albanese's cabinet, with multiple ministers to be sworn in as part of a pre-election shuffle. [...] Early Childhood Education Minister Anne Aly will also become the junior minister for the NDIS, while Aged Care Minister Anika Wells will be promoted to the cabinet.

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## Government announces new funding for 'green' aluminium production

SBS, Other, 20/01/2025, Sara Tomevska & Haylena Krishnamoorthy

The Federal Labor government has announced \$2 billion dollars for production tax credits to support a new green aluminium sector in Australia. [...] Early Childhood Education Minister Anne Aly becomes junior minister for the NDIS, and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells is to be promoted to cabinet.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, Mornings, 20/01/2025, Melissa Mackay

Multiple ministers have been sworn in as part of a pre-election reshuffle, following the retirement of NDIS and Government Services Minister Bill Shorten. Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth has added the NDIS to her portfolios, while Finance Minister Katy Gallagher becomes government services minister. Early Childhood Education minister Anne Ali has become the junior member for the NDIS while Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has been promoted to the Federal Cabinet.

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## Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 20/01/2025, Cheng Lei

PM Anthony Albanese has officially locked in the cabinet he will take to the upcoming Federal Election. Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth has taken on the NDIS portfolio. Senator Katy Gallagher adds government services to her existing responsibilities as Minister for finance, women and the Public Service. Early Education and Youth minister Anne Ali has become assistant NDIS minister and Anika Wells, who overlooks aged care and sports, has been promoted to the cabinet.

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## Hope 103.2, 08:00 News, 20/01/2025

PM Anthony Albanese has reshuffled his ministry, with Ministers Amanda Rishworth and Katy Gallagher will be sworn into the portfolios of NDIS and government services respectively. Anika Wells will maintain her ministry and sworn in to Federal Cabinet.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, 13:00 News, 20/01/2025

Several Ministers have been sworn in following the retirement of Federal NDIS and Government Services Minister Bill Shorten. Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth has taken NDIS while Finance Minister Katy Gallagher takes on Government Services. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has been promoted to Cabinet.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

New Headspace Service Opens in Ballina to Support Youth Mental

## Health

Northern Rivers Times, General News, 23/01/2025, Robert Heyward, Page 34

Young people in Ballina and surrounding areas now have greater access to mental health support with the opening of a new headspace service. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health, Emma McBride MP, highlighted the importance of providing care close to home: "The Albanese Labor Government is investing in the headspace network to ensure young people in regional Australia, including those affected by floods, have access to vital mental health services."

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Older Australians feeling supported, finds report

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 20/01/2025, Jodie Wolf

An evaluation of the National Aged Care Advocacy Program has found the majority of those surveyed reported better aged care services as a result of the program. [...] These are among findings of the independent evaluation of the National Aged Care Advocacy Program, which was undertaken between August 2023 and June 2024 and released by the Department of Health and Aged Care in a report in December.

[Read More](#)

### No, genetically modified mosquitoes won't be used to vaccinate Australians

Australian Associated Press, Other, 20/01/2025

Genetically modified mosquitoes are not being used in a Bill Gates-backed plot to vaccinate Australians without their consent, despite claims being made on social media. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care confirmed that the mosquitoes would not be used to vaccinate people.

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### The role of overseas workers in Australian aged care

Healthcare Channel, Other, 20/01/2025, Ritchelle Drilon

With an ageing population increasing the need for round-the-clock care, the country's heavy reliance on overseas professionals has become more apparent than ever. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, over 42,000 skilled healthcare professionals have registered to practise in Australia since July 2022.

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### The proactive mindset spearheading allied health's widespread impact

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 20/01/2025, Alex Jacobs

A proactive approach to problem-solving underpins the leadership style of one of the industry's newer

Chief Executive Officers, with Plena Healthcare's Graeme Johnston eyeing more opportunities to support aged care providers with allied health in 2025. [...] This lack of understanding is why Mr Johnston would like to see the Department of Health and Aged Care look at properly defining things such as proactive reablement.

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## Australia celebrates launch of 50th Connected Beginnings site

The Educator Australia, Other, 20/01/2025, Jonalyn Cueto

The Australian Government has launched the 50th Connected Beginnings site in Kununurra, Western Australia, marking a significant milestone in the national effort to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. [...] Connected Beginnings is a community-driven initiative, co-funded by the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Aged Care, and delivered in partnership with SNAICC – National Voice for our Children and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

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[Back to Top](#)

## VACCINES

### Measles call for overseas travel

Herald Sun, General News, 21/01/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 5

Victorians heading overseas are being urged to get vaccinated against the measles after two more cases of the highly infectious illness were reported in Victoria. The new cases have been linked to travel in Vietnam, but the Victorian government alert says people travelling to all parts of Southeast Asia should consider getting the free vaccine before they leave.

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

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### Free vaccine rollout to protect newborns

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 20/01/2025, Andrew Brown, Page 8

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## 2CC, Breakfast, 20/01/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, RACGP President, about the Federal Government's announcement of free RSV vaccination for Australian mothers and babies. Wright says the RSV is a common

infectious virus, and children are particularly susceptible to severe infections.

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## **ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 20/01/2025, Rory McClaren**

Interview with Dr Rod Pearce, Chair of the Immunisation Coalition and Adelaide-based GP, about Australian mothers receiving free RSV vaccinations. Pearce says it would have been nice to know when the vaccination programme begins this 2025. She adds the RSV vaccination should be implemented nationwide for elderly people, for pregnant women, and then the monoclonal antibody for babies.

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[Back to Top](#)

## **AGEING AND AGED CARE**

### **Push for seniors' exercise areas**

Burnie Advocate, General News, 21/01/2025, Sean Ford, Page 3

Older Tasmanians will get an exercise park in each of the state's 29 council areas if a submission to the state government is successful. Tasmania's first such park was opened late last year at Lindisfarne.

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### **Fixing the pensioner poverty trap: increase the pension, says advocacy peak**

Canberra Times, Other, 20/01/2025, Eileen Wood

As cost-of-living pressures continue to leave many elderly pensioners in poverty, a peak seniors' advocacy group is calling for a \$10- a-day increase in the pension for singles (\$15-a-day for couples combined). Chris Grice, chief executive of National Seniors Australia, said, "Pensioners who rent struggle particularly hard, but our own research suggests even pensioners who own their homes feel as though the age pension is inadequate, with the median amount needed to maintain a basic lifestyle estimated at \$10,000 more than the current age pension rate for a single person and \$15,000 more than the current age pension rate for a couple.

*Also reported by:* [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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### **Ageing population, nursing shortage, rising costs making it hard to source aged care**

ABC Online, Other, 20/01/2025, Jodie Hamilton

Australia's ageing boomers, a nursing shortage, and a federal capital works system labelled as a "lottery" are forcing some older residents to separate from their families, some regional aged care providers say. [...] A spokesperson for Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said \$49 million had been allocated nationally to build staff accommodation in rural to very remote communities to help providers attract and retain aged care workers.

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### **Superannuation is complicated. A guaranteed govt income in retirement would be simpler**

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 20/01/2025, Brendan Coates & Joey Moloney

Having compulsory super should help create a comfortable and stress-free retirement. But Australia's super system is too complex for retirees to navigate.

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### **Falls in aged care cost the health budget millions annually**

The Senior, Other, 20/01/2025, Eileen Wood

Despite efforts to combat falls in nursing homes, they continue to be a significant problem, potentially

costing the health system \$325 million annually, according to a new report. Dr Charles Okafor from the University of Queensland's Centre for Health Services Research said a study found fall injuries accounted for 20 per cent of annual expenditure on an aged care resident between 2021-2022.

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## Homes operated by large For Profit providers have higher rates of compliance with Quality Standards

The Weekly Source, Other, 20/01/2025, Caroline Egan

Aged care homes operated by large and For Profit providers have significantly higher rates of compliance with the Aged Care Quality Standards than their smaller Not For Profit counterparts, according to the newly-released Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's (ACQSC) Q1 2024-25 Sector Performance Report.

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[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### 2GB, Afternoons, 20/01/2025, Michael McLaren

Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has revealed hospitalisations from dog injuries in Australia have more than doubled in eight years to 2021.

Similar coverage reported by: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Women under 50 are 82% more likely to get cancer than men

The Courier Mail, Other, 20/01/2025, Sarah Mitchell

Despite rates of cancer dropping in the last few years, women in the US are significantly more likely to be diagnosed than men. [...] The situation is different in Australia, where Cancer Council NSW reports that men die 'at higher rates than women from cancers that can be prevented. This may be because men are more likely to smoke tobacco, drink alcohol and be overweight, and are less likely to seek help from their GP (general practitioner), which can lead to delays in treatment'.

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### National lung cancer screening program guidelines public consultation

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 20/01/2025

The National Lung Cancer Screening Program (program) is an Australian Government initiative being implemented in partnership with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO). The program aims to reduce illness and deaths from lung cancer by encouraging people at high-risk to participate in targeted routine lung cancer screening.

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[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Fly or die

Cairns Post, General News, 21/01/2025, Emma Cam, Page 1

Women are being forced to consider "flying or dying" as they wait up to four months to get a mammogram following the temporary closure of a critical service in Far North Queensland.

Queensland X-Ray "temporarily" closed in November 2024, leaving I-MED Radiology as the only screening facility.

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## Homeless more likely to die young

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 21/01/2025, Page 5

Homeless people are almost twice as likely to die younger than the average Australian, a new study shows. People experiencing homelessness die an average of 22 to 33 years younger than those who are housed, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows.

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## Charters Towers Hospital still waiting for a CT scanner after two years

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/01/2025, Jami Roberts

In 2022 the state government announced they would provide a North Queensland hospital with its first CT scanner. Now two years on and a plan for its arrival is still yet to be developed as patients continue to battle the disadvantages of the regional health care system.

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## NSW hospitals rake in record carparking profits as revenue surges from \$30m to \$51m in one year

The Courier Mail, Other, 20/01/2025, David Barwell

NSW hospitals are gouging record multimillion-dollar profits from patients and their families with parking fees as high as \$35 a day. See the most expensive regions for parking. Public hospitals are raking in record profits from paid carparking fees with new figures revealing a huge surge in the amount of cash sick patients and their families are handing over to park at health facilities.

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

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## Fears for new mums after mass psychiatrist resignation

The Senior, Other, 21/01/2025, Maeve Bannister

New mothers experiencing mental distress may have to be treated in general psychiatric units separated from their babies as a mass resignation of public sector psychiatrists impacts the entire system. About 200 public hospital psychiatrists are poised to resign from NSW Health, while there are already 140 long-term vacancies in the state system.

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## Doctors outraged by abortion ban at Orange hospital take complaint to ICAC

ABC Online, Other, 20/01/2025, Lucy Barbour

Doctors "heartbroken and incensed" by last year's abortion ban at a regional New South Wales hospital say they have taken their concerns to the state's independent corruption watchdog. In November, the ABC revealed that staff at Orange hospital in central west NSW had been directed to stop providing abortions to patients who did not have medical reasons for a termination of pregnancy.

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## Should all GP visits be bulk-billed? we asked 5 experts

HelloCare, Other, 20/01/2025, Jakob Neeland

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[Back to Top](#)

## D-day for mental health services

The Australian, General News, 21/01/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Hospitals across NSW are now stripped of scores of psychiatrists as mass resignations take effect and the state government moves to active crisis footing on mental health and asks for expressions of interest from private hospitals to care for public patients. The NSW Health Ministry is asking private hospitals to detail their spare bed capacity and ability to provide specialist services, including perinatal mental healthcare, care to children and adolescents in psychiatric distress, and those experiencing eating disorders, as part of what the private system sees as a potential fundamental shift in mental healthcare reform.

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

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## Hospitals warned over the use of restraints or seclusion on patients

Age, General News, 21/01/2025, Broede Carmody, Page 13

Hospitals have been put on notice after the state's wellbeing watchdog found concerning trends among recent complaints by Victorians who were restrained or secluded during a mental health crisis. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission says it has uncovered issues with hospital paperwork, including in four instances a failure to demonstrate proper authorisation to undertake restrictive practices as required by law.

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## Last-ditch bid to stop psychiatrists quitting en masse

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 21/01/2025, Page 4

Crisis plans to deal with a mass resignation of psychiatrists will include paying their replacements twice as much and later bringing in cheaper, less-qualified workers. About 200 public-sector psychiatrists in NSW - representing about two-thirds of the workforce - are due to quit from today, pending a last-minute resolution of their increasingly bitter standoff over pay.

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

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## New Headspace Service Opens in Ballina to Support Youth Mental Health

Northern Rivers Times, General News, 23/01/2025, Robert Heyward, Page 34

Young people in Ballina and surrounding areas now have greater access to mental health support with the opening of a new headspace service. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health, Emma McBride MP, highlighted the importance of providing care close to home: "The Albanese Labor Government is investing in the headspace network to ensure young people in regional Australia, including those affected by floods, have access to vital mental health services."

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## Mental health crisis looms as doctors prepare to quit

West Australian, Other, 20/01/2025, Jack Gramenz

Plans to reform the mental-health system in Australia's most populous state could necessitate replacing hundreds of psychiatrists who are threatening to resign. Psychiatrists will be joined by nurses and general practitioners on Monday to call on the NSW government to address an "imminent mental health crisis".

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## Latest DVA stuff up sees thousands of psychiatry referrals incorrectly funded

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 20/01/2025, Connor Pearce

The mental health service designed to support veterans and their families unlawfully funded thousands of psychiatric referrals over six years. The revelation comes as Veterans' Affairs, which oversees Open

Arms, comes under increased scrutiny, with a lack of trust in senior leadership and breaches of procurement laws.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 20/01/2025, Georgia Stynes

Doctors angered by an abortion ban previously imposed at Orange Hospital in regional NSW say they have raised their complaints with NSW's corruption watchdog and the national body investigating Healthcare Complaints Act.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Psychiatry experts slam Minns remedy

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/01/2025, Max Maddison & Nick Newling, Page 1

NSW Premier Chris Minns has accused the Royal College of Psychiatrists of contributing to the state's mental health crisis by restricting the supply of trained professionals as he flags a greater reliance on counsellors and psychologists as being part of the solution to a mass resignation of specialists. But the college, which wrote to the premier after his remarks yesterday, suggested the government was "unfamiliar" with how accreditation in psychiatry works, and said not having enough specialists would have "disastrous" consequences for the public health system.

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

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### Umpire called in to avoid walkout

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 21/01/2025, Jessica Wang, Page 2

The workplace umpire will be called in to resolve an unprecedented pay dispute where about half of NSW's publicsector psychiatrists were set to walk off the job. The 11th-hour referral from the NSW government comes just a day before the mass walkout was set to begin.

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### Why psychiatrists are resigning

Newcastle Herald, General News, 21/01/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Tolu Fajumi is among 11 Hunter psychiatrists who have resigned over a dispute with the Minns government. They are among about 200 of the state's 295 public hospital psychiatrists who plan to leave their jobs by today.

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### Psychiatrists laid it all on the line ... and the NSW government has trashed every ounce of good faith

The Australian, Other, 20/01/2025, Natasha Robinson

The psychiatry dispute in NSW that will see the state stripped of up to half of its permanent workforce of clinicians is a microcosm of a much greater malaise across public health systems nationwide. Public health systems have become a heartless, bureaucratic, mechanistic force that damages doctors and patients.

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## Industrial Relations Commission to intervene before mass NSW public

## hospital psychiatrist walkout

The Australian, Other, 20/01/2025, Jessica Wang

The workplace umpire will be called in to resolve an unprecedented pay dispute where two-thirds of NSW's public sector psychiatrists were set to walk off the job. The 11th hour referral from the NSW Government comes just a day before the mass walkout was set to begin

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

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## NSW Premier Chris Minns stands firm amid mass psychiatrist walkout, declaring \$90k wage increase is not feasible

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/01/2025, Aymon Bertah

NSW Premier Chris Minns has hit out at psychiatrists planning to stage a mass walkout, saying their \$90,000 a year increase was the equivalent of an entire first-year nurses salary. Speaking to ABC's Radio National Breakfast, Mr Minns said the NSW Government had "increased the public health budget" after being questioned about whether he would be offering any further pay deal or funding in a meeting with psychiatrists on Monday.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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## NSW government in 11th-hour bid to postpone mass resignation of psychiatrists

The Guardian, Other, 20/01/2025, Natasha May

The New South Wales government will make an 11th-hour attempt to postpone the mass resignation of the state's psychiatrists by asking the Industrial Relations Commission to urgently intervene. With one in three psychiatrist positions in the state already vacant, psychiatrists have been in negotiations with the government for more than 16 months on how to solve the workforce crisis, arguing higher salaries were needed to attract new doctors and retain those currently working in the public system.

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## NSW psychiatrists double down on resignation threat over pay, as government seeks 'urgent intervention'

ABC Online, Other, 20/01/2025, Joshua Boscaini

NSW public sector psychiatrists have doubled down on their threat to walk off the job on Tuesday unless their pay dispute is resolved. The NSW government has since confirmed they plan on referring the ongoing dispute to the state's Industrial Relations Commission as soon as Monday afternoon.

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## Queensland nurses and midwives call for better wages and working conditions

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 20/01/2025

Tired and burnt-out, Queensland nurses and midwives are increasingly leaving the profession in the face of a growing workforce crisis, it has been revealed, as the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) prepares to commence enterprise bargaining negotiations with Queensland Health later this week.

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## Meet some of Ballarat's newest hospital interns starting their medical careers

Ballarat Courier, Other, 20/01/2025, Michelle Smith

The new faces include several Ballarat locals, many who have studied at the University of Melbourne, Deakin and Notre Dame rural clinical schools in Ballarat, and newcomers to the city from across Victoria and interstate. They are the 35 lucky ones who, out of hundreds of applications for the Grampians Health intern positions, matched and were offered a position.

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**‘I’m an optimist, but even I am feeling sick about it’: resigning psychiatrist speaks out**

The Medical Republic, Other, 20/01/2025, Amanda Sheppeard

A leading NSW public psychiatrist and clinical researcher with decades of experience in the state system is struggling to remain hopeful that the government will step in to stop the mass resignation of more than 200 public psychiatrists tomorrow. [...] In a press conference in Adelaide yesterday, federal health minister Mark Butler was asked how concerned he was about the public psychiatry crisis in NSW, the disruption the mass resignation would cause, and whether he had been involved in any talks with NSW counterparts about it.

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**Channel 9 Darwin, Nine News, 20/01/2025, Paul Murphy**

An open letter forum has been voicing calls for changes to mandatory sentencing assaults on frontline workers. This comes amid concerns for some of the most vulnerable Territorians. Doctors, nurses, teachers and frontline workers are urged to sign a petition. Independent Justine Davis says people have a right to be safe at work. Meantime, AMA NT President Doctor Robert Parker expresses concern that the legislation is not a one size fits all solution.

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[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

**HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH**

## Problematic periods cost Australians billions each year, research finds

ABC Online, Other, 20/01/2025, Rachel Carbonell & Gemma Breen

Periods can be difficult and painful for many but fresh data shows a substantial number of women experience debilitating menstrual symptoms. A new study has found almost four in five Australian women have experienced chronic menstrual symptoms in the last five years, and almost half of those have missed days of work or study.

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[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Beautiful Shawls Project impacts cancer screening numbers in Victoria

National Indigenous Times, Other, 20/01/2025, Dechlan Brennan

An Indigenous-led initiative to improve cancer screening among First Nations women has seen a record increase in testing numbers. The Beautiful Shawl Project, now in its seventh year, is a partnership between the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), dozens of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) across the state, and BreastScreen Victoria.

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[Back to Top](#)

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

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[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### AMA calls for urgent action to resolve medicine supply crisis

The Australian, General News, 21/01/2025, James Dowling, Page 8

The Albanese government must form a committee dedicated to preventing medicine shortages if it wishes to curtail a string of nearcatastrophic droughts on essential treatments, the Australian Medical Association says. The AMA directed its appeal to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, which is responsible for managing medicine supply.

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

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### Painkiller clampdown

Herald Sun, General News, 21/01/2025, Page 13

Further restrictions on the sale of paracetamol in Australia will kick in from the start of next month. Packs of paracetamol will contain fewer tablets, both in pharmacies and in other places that paracetamol is sold, from February 1. The Therapeutic Goods Administration is also encouraging retailers such as supermarkets to restrict sales to a single pack at a time.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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### Cap on headache tablets

West Australian, General News, 21/01/2025, Page 11

Packets of paracetamol will contain fewer tablets in Australia from February 1. The smaller packets will be sold in pharmacies but the Therapeutic Goods Administration is also encouraging retailers such as supermarkets to restrict sales to a single pack at a time.

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### **Qld kids as young as seven suspended and expelled for vaping**

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 20/01/2025, Rose Innes

The equivalent of almost 10 kids a day – including kids as young as seven – are being removed from Queensland schools for being caught using illegal vapes. Children as young as seven were among the 187 Queensland primary school students suspended or expelled for vaping last year.

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[Back to Top](#)

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