



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 24th January 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The Herald Sun** (page 9) reports a Monash University study of 1.8 million pregnant mothers found gestational diabetes has increased by 70 per cent nationally in the past six years, which the researchers attribute to more obese mums, older mums and changing migration patterns.

**The Northern Territory News** (page 5) reports the NT government has expanded its free meningococcal B vaccination scheme to all children aged from six weeks to two years and to teens aged 14-19.

**The Sydney Morning Herald** (online) reports doctors are warning the fractured psychiatric system poses an unacceptable risk to public safety as their patients face the prospect of being placed in the criminal justice system rather than hospitalised after experiencing a mental health crisis.

**The Daily Telegraph** (online) reports the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency cancelled the licences of 24 health professionals in Victoria last year, with many of them committing sexual offences or abusing drugs.

**The ABC Online** reports the Albanese government has yet to respond to 63 senate inquiries, including one on women's reproductive health, which Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney claimed they were waiting on the report before making decisions, but have yet to respond more than a year after receiving it.

**Channel 9** reports a national study has found 80 per cent of girls say they have been approached by online groomers before the age of 15, while 7.6 per cent of boys report they had been targeted before the age of 18.

**The Medical Republic** (online) reports NSW Health is offering locum contracts to the 43 psychiatrists who have already resigned from the public health system and is also in discussions with the federal Department of Health and Aged Care on a redesign of the mental health system to provide more holistic care.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### The government's homework on senate inquiries is overdue, and it's having an impact on you

ABC Online, Other, 23/01/2025, Claudia Long

Homework sucks, just ask the federal government. Right now they're late to respond to 63 separate senate inquiries on everything from women's health to how much access lobbyists have to Parliament House. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney repeatedly said they were waiting on this report before making big decisions on these issues.

[Read More](#)

### Mental services need major repair, not short-term fix

Canberra Times, Other, 23/01/2025, Emily Verdouw and Alex Mitchell

A significant lift in funding and long-term reform will be needed to avoid future worker shortages and provide critical mental health services, the incoming head of the sector's peak body says. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler did not respond to a request for comment.

[Read More](#)

### Should we aim to bulk bill everyone for GP visits?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/01/2025, Ruth McHugh-Dillon

A new report by a GP listing company made headlines this week showing low rates of bulk billing for GP visits across Australia. [...] No – as federal Health Minister Mark Butler was quick to point out after the report's release, the company asked 6,925 GP clinics only whether they had standard, weekday consultations available to be bulk-billed for adults with no concessions.

[Read More](#)

### ABC Great Southern, Mornings, 23/01/2025, Peter Barr

A bidding war is brewing in Australia's regional and remote towns as the country wrestles with a worsening doctor shortage. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says there are more GPs in training than ever.

Similar content in: [2DU \(Dubbo\)](#), [ABC Ballarat \(Ballarat\)](#).

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Dedicated aged care role in Cabinet

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/01/2025, Megan Haggan

Pharmacists welcome the appointment of aged care minister to Cabinet. Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells has issued a statement saying it is a "privilege" to be asked to serve in the Albanese government's Cabinet.

[Read More](#)

### Three major shifts spark momentum in aged care sector

Healthcare Channel, Other, 23/01/2025, Ritchelle Drilon

A series of significant developments in Australia's aged care sector have been welcomed recently,

emphasising leadership changes and future reforms that aim to improve the lives of older people. Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) applauds the promotion of Anika Wells MP, Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Sport, to Cabinet.

[Read More](#)

## Is aged care 'fixed'? The PM says yes – the numbers say no

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/01/2025, Lauren Broomham

New year, same old problem: where will the country find the capital to incentivise development of new beds – before the next wave of Baby Boomers hits? [...] In announcing the promotion of Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells to Cabinet, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has been trumpeting the Government's work in 'fixing' the aged care sector.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Southern Queensland, Breakfast, 23/01/2025, David Iliffe

The Federal Government and Tennis Australia have announced this week a boost in funding to help more women and girls get into the game of tennis. Nearly \$1 million has been pledged, with Sports Minister Anika Wells saying there's been a drop off in female players when they reach their teens.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Free mental health support centre at Tuggerah

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 23/01/2025, Page 29

A new centre providing free, walk-in mental health support and advice opened in Tuggerah on Monday, January 20. Tuggerah Medicare Mental Health Centre (MMHC), staffed by trained mental health professionals, was officially opened by Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and Federal Member for Dobell, Emma McBride.

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### ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 23/01/2025, Craig Zonca and Loretta Ryan

Interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride, about the recent opening of new walk-in Medicare mental health centres in Gladstone and Rockhampton. McBride discusses a patient named Ken who discussed the difference that the centre has done for him and be able to see his doctor more easily.

Similar content in: [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### The government's homework on senate inquiries is overdue, and it's having an impact on you

ABC Online, Other, 23/01/2025, Claudia Long

Homework sucks, just ask the federal government. Right now they're late to respond to 63 separate senate inquiries on everything from women's health to how much access lobbyists have to Parliament House. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney repeatedly said they were waiting on this report before making big decisions on these issues.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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## DEPARTMENT

### Swimming keeps Portland's Joy Davis in good health at 96

ABC Online, Other, 23/01/2025, Emily Bissland

On a sunny day in Victoria's far west, 96-year-old Joy Davis stands on the edge of Portland's public pool ready for her daily swim. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has reported that half of adults and two thirds of children don't meet the national physical activity guidelines.

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### Helping kids navigate friendships, bullying, and social challenges

Boorowa News, Other, 23/01/2025

As families across Australia return to school, excitement may be mixed with anxiety, especially for parents and carers who are concerned about their child's mental health and wellbeing. [...] Delivery of the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program to parents and carers of children in Australia is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care under the Parenting Education and Support Program.

[Read More](#)

### NSW will give 25% pay rise to psychiatrists if IRC orders it, as 43 quit

The Medical Republic, Other, 23/01/2025, Laura Woodrow

NSW Health is offering locum contracts to any staff specialist psychiatrists choosing to resign during the ongoing industrial disputes – 43 and counting. [...] NSW Health has been in discussion with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care on a system redesign as this situation "is not something that is unique to NSW", added Ms Jackson.

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## VACCINES

### Lifesaving vaccine now free for more NT kids

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/01/2025, Fia Walsh, Page 5

The parents of a little girl who died from a preventable disease have welcomed its vaccine being made free for more Territorian kids. "We never had this opportunity," they said. Hundreds have taken advantage of the CLP's free meningococcal B vaccination program, which provides protection for infants aged six weeks to two years, and teens aged 14 to 19 years.

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

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Homes recognised for meaningful dementia support

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/01/2025, Jodie Wolf

Melbourne aged care homes have been recognised for quality and safety across their dementia support program. Calvary's 2024 Star award for quality and safety has been awarded to Calvary's aged care homes across Melbourne's Mornington and Bayside area for their Montessori-based dementia support program.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Diabetes mum risk

Herald Sun, General News, 24/01/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 9

Rates of gestational diabetes are soaring among pregnant women across Australia, with Victorian mums recording some of the country's biggest increases. In a new study of 1.8 million pregnancies, Monash University researchers found an almost 70 per cent increase in gestational diabetes over six years nationally.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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### Study shows risk of online harm to kids

Canberra Times, General News, 24/01/2025, Page 10

Parents are being urged to ensure their children recognise online dangers as research shows alarming rates of sexual solicitation on social media platforms. More than one in four girls experienced being sexually propositioned online by an adult before they turned 18, often as young as age 11, according to research by the eSafety Commissioner and Queensland University of Technology.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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### Death prompts push for change

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 24/01/2025, Page 7

Heart attacks can present differently in women so it's important health practitioners and patients learn the signs before it's too late, experts say. Sheila Marion Quairney, 68, presented to Melbourne's St Vincent's Hospital on the evening of April 2, 2023, with symptoms of nausea, vomiting and pain in her upper abdomen.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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### Noosa Council votes to keep fluoride in region's water supply

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 23/01/2025, Chloe Grimshaw

The Noosa Council has shut down calls for fluoride to be removed from the region's drinking water, after anti-fluoride petitioners met with councillors last month. At the council's ordinary meeting on Thursday morning, mayor Frank Wilkie stated the high costs of de-fluoridation and the strong scientific evidence proving the benefits of fluoridated drinking water had affected the council's decision.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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### "It's literally killing people": Thorpe attacks government inaction on forever chemicals in waterways

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/01/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Indigenous Senator Lidia Thorpe says Australia can look to the United States on how they managed levels of "forever chemicals" in water, calling on the federal government to act. Speaking on ABC RN on Thursday morning, the Gunnai, Gunditjmarra and Djab Wurrung woman said the level of

Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) - known as "forever chemicals" - in drinking water in Australia was up to 400 times of level allowed in the US.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 23/01/2025, Michael Thomson

A groundbreaking national study has revealed 25% of Australian girls are targeted by online groomers before the age of 12, a figure that escalates to 80% by the time they turn 15. The research, also highlighting over 10% of girls, have suffered the trauma of non-consensual sharing of intimate images.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 23/01/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfert

Children as young as ten will learn about the dangers of e-cigarettes in classrooms this year. The government backed lessons will be taught to students in grades five and six, aiming to prevent them from vaping before they reach high school.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Innovative, determined: we work it out together

Daily Telegraph, Wrap, 24/01/2025, Georgina Long, Page 91

[...] The focus on melanoma research is a demonstration of this. In a country where the sun shapes our outdoor lifestyle, leadership in skin cancer treatment is more than medical advancement it shows how we can take what is a uniquely Australian dilemma and use our experience to inform cancer research globally, transforming local challenges into global solutions.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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### Politicians must help cure our ailing Medicare system

The Australian, Other, 23/01/2025, Michael Wright

Hearing that Australians can't find a GP, or that they can't get a consult, particularly, a bulk-billed one, is distressing to me. [...] But today chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, and mental health have grown enormously – over half of Australians over 45 are living with two or more chronic conditions. But Medicare funding isn't equipped to deal with what these patients need.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Mental health patients 'at risk'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/01/2025, Elizabeth Pike, Page 17

Psychiatrists warn patients suffering from schizophrenia, psychosis and suicidal ideation will walk out of emergency rooms and back onto the streets if the Minns government goes ahead with plans to have other medical staff take over their duties. It comes after the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists alleged a patient who was found to have made a serious attempt on their life presented to a NSW hospital recently but absconded on Wednesday.

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### Frontline medication shortage

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/01/2025, Page 11

Paramedics have been alerted to a shortage of frontline pain relief medication affecting the SA

Ambulance Service, including depleted stocks of the "green whistle". But SAAS says supplies are already being restocked and extra priority orders are due to arrive within days.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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## Judges, doctors warn of 'unacceptable risk' to public safety

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/01/2025, Kate Aubusson and Angus Thomson

Doctors deeply concerned for the welfare of their severely mentally ill patients who have committed violent acts have issued a dire warning that the disintegration of the psychiatric workforce poses an unacceptable risk to public safety. Sydney courts are also braced for the impact of a severe psychiatrist shortage on the criminal justice system as the dispute between the NSW government and more than 200 resigning psychiatrists is set to drag on for months.

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## NSW Mental Health Minister Rose Jackson warns more psychiatrists could quit troubled health system

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/01/2025, Duncan Evans

A total of 43 psychiatrists have followed through on threats to walk away from NSW's buckling public mental health system and the government has acknowledged more will likely quit over the coming days. Up to 200 government psychiatrists had said they would quit the system in a wages dispute.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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## Peter Malinauskas's puzzling shot at Ashton Hurn suggests ramping's got Labor rattled | David Penberthy

Adelaide Now, Other, 23/01/2025, David Penberthy

Sky News host Caleb Bond reveals the South Australian government campaigned to fix its ambulance ramping crisis but has failed to do so since Premier Malinauskas came into office. How do you manage a promise which was so grandiose that it guaranteed you election victory but which remains so unfulfilled that it could hurt you at the next poll?

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## Australian Medical Association president, Dr Nick Yim, calls for immediate fix to diagnostic breast cancer delays

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/01/2025, Emma Cam

The president of Australia's largest medical union has called for an urgent solution to the four-month delay women are facing for diagnostic mammograms in Far North Queensland. Private radiology provider Queensland X-Ray "temporarily" closed its doors in November 2024, leaving I-MED Radiology on Sheridan Street as the only screening facility serving Cairns to the Cape.

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

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## RACGP fronts Parliament to spruik payroll tax abolishment

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/01/2025, Manisha Fernando

The RACGP has spoken with politicians face-to-face to explain the benefits of scrapping payroll tax, outlining exactly what will happen if all states and territories forge ahead with the change. On Thursday, RACGP Queensland Chair Dr Cath Hester joined Australian Medical Association Queensland President Dr Nick Yim in fronting a State Government Parliamentary Inquiry into payroll tax.

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## Medicare and workforce boost top RACGP election asks

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/01/2025, Jolyon Attwooll

The RACGP is calling for politicians of every hue to pledge more support for millions of patients

currently struggling to afford healthcare, saying it must be a 'priority for voters'. Ahead of the federal election, which is due to be held within the next four months, RACGP President Dr Michael Wright said affordable care is a 'critical' issue for many Australians.

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## 'System in terminal decline': Professor Pat McGorry says public will suffer the most from mass psychiatrist walkout

Sky News Australia, Other, 23/01/2025, Sumaiya Chowdhure

New South Wales' largest mental health care facility has shut its wards following the decision of hundreds of psychiatrists to walk out on their jobs. Cumberland psychiatric hospital has closed its acute and rehabilitation wards to thousands of patients, marking the beginning of an "almost terminal decline" for the system, according to professor and psychiatrist Pat McGorry.

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## More than 60 NSW mental health beds close as leaked memos reveal hospitals' plan for mass psychiatrist resignations

The Guardian, Other, 24/01/2025, Natasha May

More than 60 mental health beds in public hospitals are temporarily closing in New South Wales as some hospitals are being given directives to limit psychiatric assessments because of mass resignations. A senior psychiatrist told Guardian Australia that the emergency plans to manage psychiatric patients will mean decisions on discharge or the need for further care will be delayed, causing bed blockages across the health system. The doctor spoke on condition of anonymity.

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## Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 23/01/2025, Tom Connell/Ashleigh Gillon

Doctors and health workers will take on extra roles to fill the gap left by a mass resignation of psychiatrists. Thousands will replace the mental health specialists in prescribing medications and diagnosing conditions and developing treatment plans.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 23/01/2025, Tracey Strong

Interview with Dr Danielle McMullen, AMA President. Compere says the Australian Medical Association says a better system is needed to keep doctors in the community informed about ongoing drug shortages. She states that the Therapeutic Goods Administration says 36 of those medicines are actually considered critical. McMullen says there has been a range of drugs that come in and out of shortage every day.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Quick-fix not answer for ailing system

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/01/2025, Alex Mitchell and Emily Verdouw, Page 6

A significant lift in funding and long-term reform will be needed to avoid future worker shortages and provide critical mental health services, the incoming head of the sector's peak body says. As a pay dispute drives almost two-thirds of NSW's public hospital psychiatrists towards resignation, the crisis in Australia's largest health system has fuelled calls for greater national action.

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## Australians are getting a 'raw deal' from government on mental health

The Australian, Other, 23/01/2025

Orygen executive director Professor Pat McGorry has called for Australians to "wake up" to the



government's neglect of mental health. Mr McGorry said the Australian public is getting a "raw deal" from governments on mental health.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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## **SAPOL sent fraud investigator to veteran policeman's home following injury claim, wife Angela Edwards says**

Adelaide Now, Other, 23/01/2025, Darren Chaitman

SA Police sent a fraud investigator to the home of a veteran police officer after he reported PTSD symptoms to the force, beginning a "ridiculous" process that has worsened his injury, his wife claims. Angela Edwards said she had watched her husband, a Senior Constable First Class in the Hills Fleurieu area who has been diagnosed with PTSD, suffer through a "broken" injury insurance claims process.

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## **Queensland Health Minister fails to commit to protecting health workers from convicted criminals inside mental health units**

Northern Territory News, Other, 23/01/2025, Samuel Davis

Vulnerable nurses still face the threat of violent attacks from prisoners being treated within mental health units, with a key minister failing to action a pre-election promise from the LNP. In September, Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie said a Coalition state government would amend the Mental Health Act, if elected, allowing correctional service officers to guard dangerous prisoners inside Queensland's mental health units and psychiatric wards.

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## **CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE**

No relevant coverage

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## **HEALTH WORKFORCE**

### **Can't keep losing staff**

Courier Mail, General News, 24/01/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 22

Rural Queensland is losing healthcare workers at a frightening rate \_ 5 per cent higher than in metro areas \_ sparking a warning from the peak medical body that a 30 per cent increasing in hiring needs to happen by 2032. "The health sector is currently experiencing the highest turnover since the peak of Covid in 2020, with rural and remote regions suffering the most at a turnover rate of 9.5 per cent, 5 per cent higher than in metropolitan areas," Australian Medical Association Queensland president Nick Yim told The Courier Mail.

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### **Rescues fly high**

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 24/01/2025, Page 13

Soaring demand in North Queensland contributed to LifeFlight air ambulance jet crews in Townsville flying a record number of patients in 2024. LifeFlight said patient numbers for the Challenger 604 jets, which are located at LifeFlight's Brisbane, Townsville and Singapore bases, climbed to 1099 people helped.

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## **'Terminal decline': NSW psychiatrist system faces mass exodus threat**

Orygen executive director Professor Pat McGorry says the NSW psychiatrist system is almost in "terminal decline". Psychiatrists are considering leaving the New South Wales public hospital system as a result of long shifts, growing patient demand and poor pay.

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

[Read More](#)

## Doctors, health workers prepared to take on extra roles to reduce dependence on NSW psychiatrists

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/01/2025, Elizabeth Pike

Doctors and health workers say they are prepared to take on extra roles to reduce the dependence on psychiatrists, under the Minns government's plans to reform the mental health system. The Daily Telegraph can reveal thousands of healthcare professionals will replace psychiatrists in prescribing medications, diagnosing conditions and developing treatment plans, as psychiatrists threaten to resign from the state's hospitals in pursuit of higher wages.

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

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## Queensland health minister, Tim Nicholls, unaware of critical cancer diagnostic closure in Cairns

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/01/2025, Emma Cam

The state's health minister said he was not aware why Queensland X-Ray closed in Cairns last year, ballooning mammogram wait times to four months. Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday in Cairns, Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls incorrectly said "full services" were available at Cairns Hospital.

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## 'Declaration of war': NSW government's plan for mental health system slammed amid psychiatrist resignations

9News, Other, 23/01/2025, Mikala Theocharous

The Minns government's plans to plug gaps in the mental health system with existing health workers have been called "ludicrous" and a "declaration of war" by nurses and psychiatrists, as 100 mental health doctors walk off the job in a bid for higher pay and better conditions.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Top doctors tip into AI medtech capital raising

Australian Financial Review, Other, 23/01/2025, Sarah Thompson, Kanika Sood and Emma Rapaport

An Aussie start-up that's using artificial intelligence to automate medical reports for specialist doctors has closed off a \$2 million funding round with backing from the medical community.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Guilty surgeon resigns

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 24/01/2025, Chelsea Bunting, Page 6

A Geelong surgeon resigned from his job just days before his criminal trial was due to begin, it can be revealed. [...] Zhang is still a registered medical practitioner on the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) register.

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

### 24 Victorian doctors, nurses and medical practitioners named on health watchdog's list in 2024

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/01/2025, Himangi Singh

More than 20 Victorian doctors, nurses and health workers had their registrations cancelled by medical authorities last year. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) ensures only health practitioners with the skills and qualifications provide competent and ethical care are registered to practise.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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## SPORT

### Football claims a stadium

Courier Mail, General News, 24/01/2025, Page 19

Football Australia wants a purpose-built stadium in Queensland to help cater to the sport at the 2032 Brisbane Olympics and give A-League club Brisbane Roar a new home ground. As part of proposal submitted by FA and Football Queensland to the government's 100-day infrastructure review for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games, a "tier 2" 17,000-20,000 seat venue with the potential for 13,000 temporary seats during the Games has been put forward.

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### Former premier slams LNP over Olympic stadium fight

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/01/2025, Marissa Calligeros, Page 18

Former Queensland premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has torched her former deputy and successor Steven Miles, as well as the current LNP government, over preparations for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics. Speaking in her strongest terms since election night last year, the former premier said she was shocked, annoyed and "quite sad" that the Games preparations had become a "huge fight over stadiums" and a "political football".

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### Stacia: "We had a plan for Olympics"

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/01/2025, Molly Snaylam, Page 12

Former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has cut loose live on air over the handling of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games by her successors. In an interview on Channel 9's Today Show, the former premier said the time for fighting was over - with just seven and a half years until the opening ceremony.

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## Aquatics, soccer call for new 2032 Brisbane Olympic venues

Shepparton News, General News, 24/01/2025, Page 44

Some of Australian sport's heavy hitters have come out swinging with wish-lists for new centrepiece stadiums at Brisbane's 2032 Olympics. Swimming Australia, backed by the sport's global governing body and the Australian Olympic Committee, wants a national aquatics centre built at Brisbane's Victoria Park.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 23/01/2025, Melissa Downes

The Australian Olympic Committee is backing a bold new proposal by Swimming Australia and other aquatic sports to build a multi-million-dollar complex for Brisbane 2032, but as the ideas come flooding in, former Qld Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has ripped into the ever-changing plans.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Women aged 40 to 55 at 'significantly higher' risk of long COVID than men, new research finds

ABC Online, Other, 23/01/2025, by Zena Chamas

Women aged 40-55 worldwide are at the highest risk of developing long COVID, according to research published in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA). The peer-reviewed study, led by the University of Texas Health Science Center, observed 12,276 people and found females had a "significantly higher" risk of long-term COVID-19 than males.

[Read More](#)

### Bodies are not machines. Researchers find a possible fix for back pain

The Senior, Other, 23/01/2025, Eileen Wood

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

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### NT law changes will "undermine basic protections" for Aboriginal children

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/01/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Proposed law changes in the Northern Territory will undermine basic protections for First Nations children to be able to grow up with their culture and community, the First Nations children's commissioner has said. The "discriminatory" draft legislative changes, which have been criticised by the NT's child commissioner as not being based on evidence and being pushed through without proper consultation, will make it easier to remove Aboriginal children from their communities by giving the courts and the Department of Children and Families the power to override national guidelines as part of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

## **Urgent measles alert issued after positive measles case detected in western Sydney, Gold Coast in Qld**

The Australian, Other, 23/01/2025, Alexandra Feiam

Health officials have issued a measles alert for two major Aussie cities after the highly infectious and deadly disease was detected from travellers in Sydney and the Gold Coast. The NSW government issued the alert after a person travelled from Vietnam to Greater Western Sydney and contracted the highly-infectious disease.

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## **NSW Health issues measles warning after infectious person visits Berala**

Northern Territory News, Other, 23/01/2025, Joanne Vella

NSW Health is advising people to be alert for signs and symptoms of measles after being notified of a confirmed case who was infectious while in Berala. The individual had recently returned from Vietnam, which is experiencing a large measles outbreak, but was not infectious while on their flight.

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## **New measles alerts hit Western Sydney and Gold Coast on same day as confirmed cases return from major outbreak area**

7news.com.au, Other, 23/01/2025, Demi Huang

Two measles alerts have been issued for Western Sydney and the Gold Coast on Thursday after confirmed cases in individuals who had recently returned from overseas. The alert for Western Sydney came after an infected individual returned from Vietnam, a region currently experiencing a widespread outbreak of the potentially disease.

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## **Measles alerts issued for western Sydney and Gold Coast**

9News, Other, 23/01/2025, Josh Hohne

Health officials in NSW and Queensland have issued measles warnings after a case of the infectious disease was detected in Western Sydney and at Gold Coast Airport. NSW Health said a person had arrived in Sydney on a flight from Vietnam, which is currently experiencing a measles outbreak.

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## **THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION**

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## **OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL**

### **Lawyer calls on Tasmanian government to change 'illogical' medicinal cannabis driving laws**

The Mercury, Other, 23/01/2025, Duncan Abey

A high-profile Tasmanian defence counsel has called on the government to provide clarity on the state's medicinal cannabis laws, after a 60-year-old woman was on Wednesday convicted of drug-driving despite holding a legitimate prescription.

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

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## AICIS

### **Radio National, Breakfast, 23/01/2025, Sally Sara**

A Federal inquiry into PFAS has heard that an indigenous community in NSW is being devastated by what's known as forever chemicals. Independent Senator Lidia Thorpe says they've spent a number of days with the Wreck Bay community and the Aboriginal community, and most members of the community have some illness related to PFAS.

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