



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 26th 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 full print articles in this report](#)

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **ABC Online** reports there are calls for greater regulation and clear national oversight of the massage industry from victims of abusive practitioners as they say a lack of oversight means banned massage therapists can work in separate jurisdictions and state industry bodies are in charge of industry guidelines such as police check requirements. A review into the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme is looking into expanding the scheme to include other health professionals, with Mark Butler saying in September that "All patients should feel safe when dealing with health professionals".
- **The Sunday Mail Adelaide** (page 4) reports physically fit people with cancer are 31 – 26 per cent less likely to die from any cause, according to researchers from Edith Cowan University and the University of Queensland.
- **The Sunday Telegraph** (page 5) reports three women have been hospitalised with suspected botulism after receiving anti-wrinkle injections from a home cosmetic clinic in Western Sydney, with NSW Health issuing a public alert on Friday and launching a probe in conjunction with NSW Police and the Health Care Complaints Commission. *Also reported by:* [The Guardian](#), [NEWS.com.au](#), [7news](#)
- **The Sun Herald** (page 6) reports lengthy hospital stays caused by post-Covid symptoms is placing strain on the health system and driving up costs, according to researchers and private

health insurers who say more data on long-Covid is needed to reveal the costs and requirements for patients needing long hospital stays and ongoing treatment.

- **[ABC Online](#)** reports locals in Jurien Bay in Western Australia have called on the RACGP to reinstate accreditation for the town's only female doctor under the Fellowship Support Program after her accreditation was removed, forcing her to relocate and leaving the surrounding area with two GPs, which locals say will cause delays and remove the option of seeing a female doctor for women.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports cases of mosquito-borne disease in Queensland have reached their highest point in four years, according to Queensland Health, with the CSIRO saying climate change is exacerbating the issue with an increase in severe weather events and hotter weather.

MINISTER BUTLER

Health system still struggles under weight of long COVID

Sun Herald, General News, 26/01/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 6

Private health insurers are increasingly concerned about long and intensive hospital stays for patients suffering severe post-COVID symptoms including pneumonia, delirium and muscle wastage, as researchers warn the disease continues to place strain on Australia's health system. [...] In June, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced \$14.5 million in funding for long COVID research, which he said would "generate knowledge to support new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for people with long COVID".

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

Is this self-regulated industry a breeding ground for predators?

ABC Online, Other, 25/01/2025, Laura Tingle

There's a push for stricter regulation of the massage industry, after a practitioner was able to keep indecently assaulting his clients after being reported to police and an industry body. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said in September 2023, health ministers commissioned an independent review of the regulatory complexity of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme).

[Read More](#)

The week in review

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 25/01/2025, Ajp Staff

Medicines shortages, the rollout of the RSV maternal vaccination program and the implications of the Chemist Warehouse/Sigma merger on franchisees' bank balances captured the headlines this week. Mark Butler the Minister for Health and Aged Care started the week by highlighting the benefits of the introduction of the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination on the...

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News (Saturday), 25/01/2025, Danny Tran

There are calls for stricter regulations of the massage industry, after one massage therapist was able to keep working despite indecently assaulting clients. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says an independent review will consider the process of regulating massage therapy and other professions.

Also reported by: [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

No relevant coverage

[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

Why 'midlife collision' of careers, kids and parents hits women hard

Sun Herald, General News, 26/01/2025, Wendy Tuohy, Page 16

Yola Armstrong describes the intense demands on many women in midlife as "a different type of hectic". [...] The Senate's menopause inquiry urged the Department of Health and Aged Care to establish "a comprehensive evidence base".

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

[Back to Top](#)

VACCINES

Price of COVID is higher health insurance costs

Sun Herald, Editorials, 26/01/2025, Page 34

Two hundred and seventeen days. That is how long a man in his early 80s spent in an Australian private hospital with severe COVID-19. For many of us, COVID-19 the virus which shut down our schools and workplaces is a concern of the past.

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

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Young vaper Alex tested nicotine levels in his body — the results shocked

The Australian, Other, 25/01/2025, Natasha Robinson

Alex Mobberley is sucking on a plastic stick with a small sponge at one end that is absorbing his saliva. The device, similar to a Covid rapid antigen test, is the only one of its kind in Australia and is designed to test nicotine levels in the bodies of those who vape.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Research led to medical advances

Sunday Times, Edition Changes, 26/01/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 10

Few researchers in the world can claim they wrote the book on their specialty, but Professor Graeme Hankey is one of them. The third edition of Hankey's Clinical Neurology is described as a "highly regarded textbook" for all clinicians, but it's just one of more than 1000 research papers the prolific author and stroke expert has published in his time.

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

The Perth family fighting to save their baby boy from a rare and aggressive brain cancer

West Australian, Other, 25/01/2025, Rhianna Mitchell

Beautiful, bright-eyed Cruz Kelly has been fighting since before he was born. The four-month-old has endured a heartbreaking start to life and he and his parents, Subiaco couple Shannon O'Mahony and Dave Kelly, face a terrifying and uncertain future as Cruz battles a rare and aggressive brain cancer.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Jurien Bay health services stretched with just two doctors for town of 2,000

ABC Online, Other, 25/01/2025, Chloe Henville

Locals in a Wheatbelt town are frustrated after an issue with remote supervision forced their only female doctor to relocate. Only two male GPs have been left to service Jurien Bay and surrounding areas, 220 kilometres north of Perth, amid an ongoing regional doctor shortage

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Work to stamp out stigma on eating disorder

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 26/01/2025, Eleanor de Jong, Page 6

Joanne Cook was 40 when she realised her dieting had taken a dangerous turn. What began as a commitment to getting healthier spiralled into an eating disorder, leaving her battling a condition she'd never expected to face.

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

The growing epidemic Albanese isn't paying attention to

Canberra Times, Other, 25/01/2025, Melanie Wilde

Nearly half of all Canberrans will experience a mental health condition in their lifetime, and one in four Australians are lonely. It's more likely that someone will die today from social isolation than smoking.

[Read More](#)

Groundbreaking new Indigenous psychology text from UWA

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/01/2025, Rhiannon Clarke

A groundbreaking new psychology textbook centres Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in undergraduate education. The fourth edition of "Psychology: from Inquiry to Understanding" comes from a collaboration between UWA's Australian Indigenous Psychology Education Project and Pearson Australia.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association instruct members to turn down psychiatrist duties

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/01/2025, Elizabeth Pike

More than 80,000 NSW health workers have been told not to take on the work of psychiatrists, despite the Minns government's pleas to help plug the gap. After 10 per cent of the public psychiatry workforce resigned this week, the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) circulated an email to members instructing them to only work within their scope of practice, and to consult the union before taking on extra duties "as this may be an unlawful instruction".

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Wrinkle jabs put three in hospital

Sunday Telegraph, Edition Changes, 26/01/2025, Elizabeth Pike, Page 5

Two women are in hospital and a third is in intensive care after a suspected botulism outbreak linked to a Western Sydney home clinic offering anti-wrinkle injections. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) said consumers should look out for "red flags" when they consider services, such as the costs being well below average or advertised on private social media groups.

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

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Fitness beats cancer

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 26/01/2025, Page 4

Muscular strength and good physical fitness are linked to a significantly lower risk of death from any cause in people with cancer. Edith Cowan University and the University of Queensland researchers found that, compared with those with poor muscle strength and low cardio fitness, those at the other end of the spectrum were 31-46 per cent less likely to die from any cause.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#).

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

ADHD reduces lifespan

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 26/01/2025, Page 19

Adults with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder tend to die nearly a decade younger than those without the condition, research shows. A study by University College London compared the life expectancy of 30,000 people with ADHD to 300,000 without it, matched for age and sex.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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

Experts issue warning over the shockingly low amount of screen time per day that can negatively impact your child's development

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/01/2025, Rebecca Whittaker

Just 90 minutes of screen time a day is enough to affect childrens' reading and writing ability — and even increase the risk of behavioural problems, a study has revealed. Researchers at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand tracked more than 6,000 two to eight year-olds to investigate the consequences of looking at screens for more than an hour daily.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Giving back to remote communities

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 26/01/2025, Megan Doherty, Page 4

A 30-year-old neurodivergent scientist from Queensland has been named the 2025 Young Australian of the Year. Dr Katrina Wruck started the profit-for-purpose business Nguki Kula Green Labs to create

"sustainable solutions for a healthier planet".

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Mosquito-borne viruses triple in Queensland as La Niña provides ideal breeding conditions

ABC Online, Other, 25/01/2025, Peter Sanders

Mosquito-borne virus cases almost tripled across Queensland in 2024 amid surges in cases of Ross River virus and potentially deadly dengue fever. Queensland Health recorded 3,225 cases, including one of Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) – the first since 2022 – in the Wide Bay region.

[Read More](#)

'Haven't seen anything like it': Experts' horrific 'superbug' warning Superbugs, how scared should we be? Forget The Last of Us Fungal Fear, ... Superbugs are Here

Adelaide Now, Other, 25/01/2025, Jamie Seidel

Bombs, bullets and shrapnel are taking a terrible toll on the battlefields of Ukraine and Gaza. But an old opportunistic enemy is exploiting the carnage. Microbes. The battlefields have become a breeding ground for new, deadly, drug-resistant bacteria. It's only to be expected.

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

[Read More](#)

2GB, Weekends, 25/01/2025, Luke Grant

A measles alert has been issued for Sydney Airport after a traveller flew in on an international flight and boarded a domestic flight last week. NSW Health has been notified of an infected person flew into Sydney from Honolulu on Jetstar flight JQ four just before 4pm on 17 January 2025.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

