



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 27th 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

- **The Australian (page 1)** reports that the AHPRA will expedite the registrations of international qualified nurses with over 1800 practising hours from Britain, Ireland, the US, Singapore, Spain and parts of Canada, with the reforms expected to reduce the wait times for reregistration to one to six months. Health Minister Mark Butler welcomed the changes saying it would help alleviate workforce shortages, while Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said that streamlining the application process will ensure that "Australians can get the best quality care, [the] soonest." *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Courier Mail](#)*
- The **Courier Mail (page 1)** reports that Former LNP member for Nudgee Jason Woodforth has said that he remains proud of returning the decision to add fluoride to water supplies back to local councils, despite declining dental health of councils that have removed fluoride.
- The **West Australian (page 1)** reports that a murder between residents occurred at the Bethanie Waters aged care facility in Port Kennedy.
- **ABC (online)** reports that seven mental health wards will close around NSW as up to 200 public psychiatrists resign, with 71 beds closing temporarily at the Westmead Hospital and Cumberland Hospital.

MINISTER BUTLER

Overseas nurses to be rushed in

The Australian, General News, 27/01/2025, James Dowling, Page 1

[...] "As a former nurse, I know all too well that Australia's healthcare system is powered by the sweat, hearts and expertise of nurses," Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said.

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

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

Overseas nurses' arrival fast-tracked

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 27/01/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 7

[...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said nurses trained overseas were applying to work here in record numbers but many were waiting up to 12 months to be approved to treat Australian patients.

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

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

Bid to recruit foreign nurses

Courier Mail, General News, 27/01/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Nurses on fast track Move to boost numbers Nurses from several countries will have their qualifications recognised by Australia far quicker under a new fast-track registration system. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the changes would benefit local patients.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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

Spinal surgery, aged care, long COVID: Australia's most expensive hospital stays revealed

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/01/2025, Angus Thomson

[...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced \$14.5 million in funding for long COVID research in June which he said would "generate knowledge to support new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for people with long COVID".

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Tournament must raise bar every year to survive

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 27/01/2025, Marc McGowan, Page 38

Long-serving Australian Open boss Craig Tiley says Melbourne Park needs to continue to evolve to keep pace with other grand slams that have invested billions of dollars in their own precincts.

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

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Overseas nurses to be rushed in

The Australian, General News, 27/01/2025, James Dowling, Page 1

[...] "As a former nurse, I know all too well that Australia's healthcare system is powered by the sweat, hearts and expertise of nurses," Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

VACCINES

WHO failed on pandemic, as new CIA finding shows

The Australian, Editorials, 27/01/2025, Page 10

The CIA's long-overdue conclusion that the Covid-19 pandemic that brought the world to its knees "most likely" emanated from a lab leak in Wuhan amplifies the significance of Donald Trump's decision, in one of his first acts last week, to again pull the US out of the World Health Organisation.

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

CIA finally makes the only logical call with Covid lab assessment

The Australian, Other, 26/01/2025, Sharri Markson

Five years after a new coronavirus swept the world, the CIA's assessment that it's of likely laboratory origin comes as no surprise to anyone who has closely followed this topic.

[Read More](#)

Who pays for COVID's victims? Ultimately, we all do

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/01/2025

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.

[Read More](#)

CIA says Covid 'more likely' to have leaked from lab

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/01/2025

The Central Intelligence Agency has shifted its official stance on the origin of Covid-19, saying Saturday that the virus was "more likely" leaked from a Chinese lab than transmitted by animals.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Nursing home murder shock

West Australian, General News, 27/01/2025, Caitlyn Rintoul and Oliver Lane, Page 1

A 75-year-old woman was being held in police custody last night after allegedly killing her 88-year-old roommate at a southern suburbs aged-care facility.

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

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Sydney's cleanest and dirtiest places to swim revealed

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 27/01/2025, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 1

Run-off from construction sites, dog poo on the streets, and sewage overflow is impacting water quality in Sydney Harbour, undermining a push to expand natural swimming sites throughout the city.

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

Fluoride opponent is proud

Courier Mail, General News, 27/01/2025, Jill Poulsen and Mikaela Mulveney, Page 1

A key figure in influencing the Newman government to ditch fluoride mandates in 2012 was a one-term wonder who is "anti-chemical", spruiks natural bodybuilding and says he's proud of his legacy despite declining dental health across Queensland.

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

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

More heart help at hand in SA

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 27/01/2025, Page 37

South Australians now have access to life-saving cardiac emergency equipment in more locations across the state.

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

One in ten road crash drivers on ice, study shows

Canberra Times, Other, 26/01/2025, Katelyn Catanzariti

About one in ten drivers hurt or killed in road crashes have the drug ice in their system, a decade-long study has found.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

'Comedy of errors': NDIS reform leaves disabled Australians fearing what comes next

The Guardian, Other, 27/01/2025, Stephanie Convery

New legislation for the National Disability Insurance Scheme started coming into effect in October, with new lists of what can and can't be funded, changes to early intervention requirements and more already altering the way some 646,000 people receive support from the \$35bn program.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

How a family discussion convinced Daniher to accept nation's top gong

Age, General News, 27/01/2025, Peter Ryan, Page 5

Australian of the Year Neale Daniher's daughter Bec describes her father's decision to take his fight against motor neurone disease public as "very gutsy".

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

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

'We had zero idea'

West Australian, General News, 27/01/2025, Craig O'Donoghue, Page 3

[...] Daniher's incredible work to campaign and raise both awareness and money for research on motor-neurone disease has made him a much-loved figure throughout Australia.

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

Hearing loss biobank sounds like a winner

West Australian, General News, 27/01/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 9

An Australian-first biobank to store genetic tissue is being set up in WA in a bid to help advance treatments and cures for hearing loss.

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

Neale Daniher's son, Ben, speaks after father awarded Australian of the Year

The Australian, Other, 26/01/2025, Mohammad Alfares

The inspirational Daniher family will continue their fight against "the beast", motor neurone disease, after former AFL player and coach Neale Daniher AO was named 2025 Australian of the Year for his work in advocating for a cure.

[Read More](#)

What's behind the rise in early onset cancer (and what we can do about it)

The Australian, Other, 26/01/2025, Stephen Lunn

[...] As Breast Cancer Network Australia director of policy, advocacy and support services Vicky Durston says, with new Victorian Cancer Council data showing over one-fifth of breast cancer cases in that state are among women 25-49, a number indicative of a national trend, medicos and the primary care sector need to stop telling women they are too young to have breast cancer.

[Read More](#)

What is 'The Beast'? Understanding motor neurone disease

The Australian, Other, 26/01/2025, Steve Robson

Our newest Australian of the Year, Neale Daniher, was diagnosed with motorneurone disease – MND – in 2013 and his condition was made public the following year.

[Read More](#)

Cancer fears grow as Cairns suffers long delays in breast imaging services

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/01/2025, Emma Cam

Imagine waking up tomorrow and discovering a hard lump in your breast. You immediately fear the worst — cancer.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Salute to chief's incredible career in health

Daily Advertiser, General News, 27/01/2025, Finn Coleman, Page 4

When Jill Ludford began her career as a nurse and midwife, she was determined to provide the best possible care for her patients.

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

Councillor takes aim

Launceston Examiner, General News, 27/01/2025, Joe Colbrook, Page 1

A 19th Century building is set to be bulldozed to make way for a new mental health facility.

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

More than 70 Sydney hospital beds to shut as psychiatrists resign

ABC Online, Other, 26/01/2025, Alexander Lewis

Public hospitals are preparing to shut seven mental health wards across New South Wales after more than 200 public psychiatrists resigned over a lack of pay.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

How Rachel Stewart is helping to break the stigma of suicide

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 27/01/2025, Brodie Everist, Page 1

Rachel Stewart says it's still hard to talk about mental health.

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

My ADHD diagnosis was 'equivocal' and sent me down a rabbit hole

ABC Online, Other, 26/01/2025, Gary Nunn

With more Australians than ever being diagnosed with ADHD, how do the treatments on offer stack up?

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Staffing situation at the North West Regional's operating theatre results in Commission directing arbitration

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/01/2025, Simon Mcguire

The state's Industrial Commission has been forced to step in to resolve a dispute between the ANMF and the Department of Health over staffing numbers at a Tasmanian hospital.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail](#)

([Online](#)), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

[Read More](#)

GPs recognised with Australia Day Honours

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 26/01/2025

From rural healthcare, to education, and services to the community, GPs from across the country have been thanked for their contributions.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Students and carers to see increased support payments

West Australian, Business News, 27/01/2025, Nick Bruining, Page 37

[...] The annual capped cost of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines increased on January 1.

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

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Give our students sporting chance

Courier Mail, General News, 27/01/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 16

Parents are being urged to enrol their kids in sport this year as the state government attempts to future-proof Queensland's next generation of Olympians.

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

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Strong gains tipped for drug developers

It's shaping up as a big year for late-stage Australian-listed drug developers, with analysts tipping potentially hefty share price rises for companies including Telix Pharmaceuticals, Clarity Pharmaceuticals and earlier-stage PYC Therapeutics.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Practical reconciliation 'a failure'

The Australian, General News, 27/01/2025, Paige Taylor, Page 5

Australia's decades-long focus on practical reconciliation fails because it leaves bureaucrats in control and communities without a say, according to senior voice architect and newly appointed Companion of the Order of Australia Megan Davis.

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

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

Accolades for women whose work builds a better nation

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 27/01/2025, Page 12

Young Australian of the Year Indigenous scientist Katrina Wruck has been named Young Australian of the Year.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

'Misleading claims

Burnie Advocate, General News, 27/01/2025, Sean Ford, Page 1

[...] "The TGA also confirms that all COVID-19 vaccines approved in Australia have been rigorously assessed and meet high standards for safety, quality and efficacy," Dr McKeown said.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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

'Tragic' reason behind Aussie sisters' brand Outside Beauty & Skincare

NEWS.com.au, Other, 26/01/2025, Philippa Tonkin

The Aussie actor and her sister have revealed the personal tragedy that sparked their booming business.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Private clinics slammed for claiming 'medical cannabis' can be used for ADHD and the menopause

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/01/2025, Luke Chafer

Private clinics are offering 'medical cannabis' to mentally unwell patients – despite there being 'no good evidence' the drug can help, experts have warned.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

