



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 29th January 2025

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

## LINKS

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

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

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the Queensland government has ordered a statewide review of medical gender dysphoria treatments in the wake of revelations 42 patients aged 12 to 18 were treated outside of best practice guidelines, with 17 prescribed puberty blockers or gender-affirming hormones. It comes as European governments, including the UK, France, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, have tightened regulations around prescribing such treatments to children. *Also reported by: The Sydney Morning Herald, The Herald Sun, The Courier Mail, Adelaide Now, NEWS.com.au, SBS.*
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports analysis by Deloitte Access Economics indicates living standards will not return to pre-pandemic levels until 2023, with the cost of the \$49 billion NDIS scheme forecast to increase by 10 per cent annually for the next 10 years and health, childcare and aged care spending expected to grow at 5 per cent a year.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 4) reports the federal government is racing to meet its previous election commitments, including a promise to improve food labelling after meat and dairy industries complained about plant-based protein and dairy products applying misleading or deceptive terms and images.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 4) reports NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has rejected claims by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners that expanding medical treatments

available in pharmacies will create a risk of serious illnesses, as the government prepares to extend the chemist-based treatment of minor skin conditions to include issues such as nausea, minor wound management, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and ear infections.

- **The Canberra Times** (page 4) reports federal Health Minister Mark Butler has appointed David McGrath as the new chief executive of the National Mental Health Commission, after his predecessor stepped aside in 2023 amid reports of a psychologically unsafe workplace within the organisation charged with improving mental health and suicide prevention outcomes.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 7) reports an online program designed to stave off dementia through physical activity, nutrition, brain training and a digital mental health system, significantly improved the cognition of at-risk Australians and delayed the onset of dementia by at least a year, with the study's authors noting 45 per cent of dementia cases are preventable. *Also reported by: The Herald Sun, The Courier Mail, Adelaide Now.*
- **The Australian Financial Review** (online) reports biotech company CSL and Australian researchers are calling on the federal government to reinstate The Research Exchange and Development with Industry initiative, which saw academics placed with medical companies around the world. The original four-year scheme was established by the Morrison government with a \$32 million investment.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### New CEO for mental health commission appointed

Canberra Times, General News, 29/01/2025, Brittney Levinson, Page 4

The National Mental Health Commission has appointed a new chief executive after a lengthy recruitment process. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced David McGrath will lead the National Mental Health Commission from January 29.

*Also reported by: Canberra Times (Online).*

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

### Medical researchers urge Labor to address funding crisis

Australian Financial Review, Other, 28/01/2025, Michael Smith

The Albanese government is facing pressure from researchers and one of the country's top healthcare companies to deal with growing concerns about funding cuts and soaring costs.

[Read More](#)

### Govt. to fast-track foreign nurses into Australian workforce

Nursing Review, Other, 28/01/2025, Stefanie Schultz

The Albanese government has announced a new scheme for the removal of red tape to allow a record number of overseas-trained nurses to enter the Australian workforce faster. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said this measure is a direct response to an independent review of health practitioner regulatory settings (Kruk Review), in collaboration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and all state and territory governments.

[Read More](#)

### Why isn't Ozempic on Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for weight loss? And should it be?

The Guardian, Other, 28/01/2025, Sarah-Basford

Drugs marketed to treat type 2 diabetes such as Ozempic have also been found to be effective in helping users lose weight [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, has said the introduction of GLP-1 RAs was going to be "a really big challenge for authorities to deal with".

[Read More](#)

### Telehealth rules tighten for nurse practitioners

Telehealth appointments are set for a shake-up, with the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) introducing an 'established clinical relationship' requirement for nurse practitioners (NPs) from November. It follows advocacy from the RACGP, which has highlighted risks to continuity of care and a lack of consistency in telehealth rules.

[Read More](#)

## Overseas-trained nurses also getting AHPRA fast track

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/01/2025, Holly Payne

Specialist doctors will no longer be the only health professionals that AHPRA is fast-tracking through registration, with nurses set to join the scheme in April. [...] Announcing the new nursing pathway, Health Minister Mark Butler said the new registration process would ensure that high standards are maintained by requiring that internationally trained nurses meet the same regulatory requirements as Australian trained nurses on applying for registration.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### Record number of women on government boards, new report shows

RiotACT, Other, 28/01/2025, Chris Johnson

There are now more women on Australian Government boards than ever before, according to the latest figures released by the Office for Women. [...] These latest figures are released just days after Labor's Federal Cabinet achieved gender parity for the first time in Australian history, with the elevation of Sport and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells to Cabinet.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### Govt. to fast-track foreign nurses into Australian workforce

Nursing Review, Other, 28/01/2025, Stefanie Schultz

The Albanese government has announced a new scheme for the removal of red tape to allow a record number of overseas-trained nurses to enter the Australian workforce faster. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said this measure is a direct response to an independent review of health practitioner regulatory settings (Kruk Review), in collaboration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and all state and territory governments.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

---

## DEPARTMENT

### Mpox resources for health workers and communities

liverwell.org.au, Other, 28/01/2025, Shaun Knott

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care has published resources that provide information about what mpox is, symptoms, treatment and prevention, vaccine guidance and how we are responding to the virus. The fact sheet provides information on testing and referring patients with suspected mpox (monkeypox), including how to safely and correctly collect and transport specimens.

[Read More](#)

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

WEB OZ Arab Media, Other, 28/01/2025

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.

[Read More](#)

### The current state of Australia's dental system and how it could impact you

Your Life Choices, Other, 28/01/2025, Floralyn Teodoro

Australia's dental care system is at the centre of scrutiny with millions of people unable to access essential services.[...] Meanwhile, the Department of Health and Aged Care has acknowledged the need for improvement and said that it is developing a new national oral health plan for 2025-34 to enhance oral health outcomes and reduce inequalities across the population.

[Read More](#)

### ABC News, Breakfast, 28/01/2025

Interview with Guardian Australia health reporter Natasha May about dental care. May says the Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson told her that work is underway to develop a new National Oral Health Plan for 2025 to 2034 to improve oral health and reduce inequalities.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## VACCINES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

---

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### The right way to holiday with a loved one who needs care

Age, Business News, 29/01/2025, Rachel Lane, Page 27

A respite stay in an aged care home can be a great way for family members who are providing care to have a holiday while their loved one receives the care they need. Respite is very affordable as there are no accommodation payments or means tested fees, you only pay \$64 a day plus any extras (like hairdressing, wine and newspapers).

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

## Program delays onset of dementia

Daily Telegraph, General News, 29/01/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 7

An online lifestyle program to reduce dementia rates has "significantly" improved the cognition of at-risk Australians in a landmark three-year trial. In what could delay the disease's onset by about a year, researchers say the results from the study \_ the world's largest in this space \_ may underestimate the benefits.

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

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

## Plan for state's age-friendly future in place

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/01/2025, Brigid Wilkinson, Page 20

The launch of Tasmania's new Older Tasmanians Action Plan 2025-2029 marks a significant milestone in our state's journey toward becoming truly age friendly. While the plan's arrival has been long anticipated, its importance cannot be overstated particularly as Tasmania faces unprecedented demographic change.

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

## Shifting beyond compliance to capability

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 28/01/2025, Paul Goudie

The recent passage of Aged Care Act Bill marks more than a legislative milestone – it is a pivotal inflection point for Australian aged care, and we are standing at a critical juncture that demands fundamental transformation. The numbers are stark and unforgiving. By 2030, our sector will require 110,000 additional workers. But this isn't simply a recruitment challenge – it's also an opportunity to reimagine what quality care means in the 21st century.

[Read More](#)

## 6PR, Drive, 28/01/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with National Seniors Australia CEO Chris Grice about the aged pension. Grice says the cost-of-living crisis is cutting on a daily basis into the basic staples of life whether you are a pensioner, part-pensioner, veteran, or self-funded retiree. He says a single pensioner is about \$10,000 a year short and in a couple situation it is \$15,000.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Living standards stuck till 2030: Deloitte

Australian Financial Review, General News, 29/01/2025, Michael Read, Page 1

Living standards will not recover to pre-pandemic levels until 2030 despite record federal and state government spending, according to an analysis by Deloitte Access Economics, which further complicates Anthony Albanese's bid for re-election.

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

### Hormone therapy for kids on hold

The Australian, General News, 29/01/2025, Mackenzie Scott, Page 1

An immediate statewide freeze on hormone therapy for new patients under 18 has been ordered in Queensland after it was discovered a 12-year-old in Cairns was allegedly given puberty blockers without parental consent or appropriate medical guidance. The extraordinary action was taken after a whistleblower made a complaint to Queensland Health in May 2024, which triggered an internal investigation into the Cairns Sexual Health Service.

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

## A good start to reining in 'rogue' gender clinics

The Australian, General News, 29/01/2025, Bernard Lane, Page 5

What would a "rogue" clinic look like, if it were following the child-led "gender-affirming" treatment model? It's been reported that the Cairns Sexual Health Service has been running just such a fast-and-loose gender clinic, giving puberty blockers to children as young as 12 without the safeguard of multidisciplinary assessment.

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

## Example set on gender medicine

The Australian, Editorials, 29/01/2025, Page 10

The Queensland government has done the only responsible thing by freezing controversial hormone treatment services for new patients under 18 years of age following shocking revelations about a lack of proper care. The new LNP state government has set an example that others must follow.

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

## Qld bans drugs for trans kids

Courier Mail, General News, 29/01/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

The Queensland government is the first in the country to ban hormone therapies for gender diverse children but the state's doctors have warned against the "dangerous" move. Health Minister Tim Nicholls has announced an immediate pause on puberty blockers and cross sex hormones for new patients following revelations of rogue activities in Cairns, as reported by The Courier-Mail.

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

## Immediate restrictions on hormone therapy for young people in Queensland

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/01/2025, Olivia Ireland and Sean Parnell

Queensland has become the first state to restrict hormone therapy for young people, ordering public health facilities cease offering such interventions to new patients with gender dysphoria. Health Minister Tim Nicholls on Tuesday said the immediate "pause" was justified on safety grounds, due to allegations around the authority for services provided to 17 young people in far north Queensland.

[Read More](#)

## Queensland Government pauses access to puberty blockers amid review of Cairns Sexual Health Service

Adelaide Now, Other, 28/01/2025, Aisling Brennan follow

One Aussie state has put a temporary hold on children accessing puberty blockers after a child considered too young to take them was given access. @AislingBrennan9 3 min read The Queensland government has launched a review into puberty blockers, suspending new subscriptions after explosive allegations surfaced against the Cairns Sexual Health Service.

[Read More](#)

## Young trans patients denied hormone therapy amid probe

Canberra Times, Other, 28/01/2025, Fraser Barton and Savannah Meacham

A landmark decision to block hormone therapies for young trans patients will cause "immeasurable trauma", critics warn. Queensland's Liberal National government has been accused of pandering to prejudice after becoming the first in Australia to deny minors puberty blockers amid a statewide probe.

[Read More](#)

## Queensland Government pauses access to puberty blockers amid review of Cairns Sexual Health Service

NEWS.com.au, Other, 28/01/2025, Aisling Brennan

Queensland has put a temporary hold on children accessing puberty blockers after concerns were raised over a young child accessing the service. Health minister Tim Nicholls confirmed an independent review into puberty blockers will be carried out after a 12-year-old was prescribe a puberty blocker by the Cairns Sexual Health Service in May 2024.

## 'Extreme position': Queensland government blocks hormone treatment for minors

SBS, Other, 28/01/2025

Lgbtiq+ advocacy group Equality Australia said the move would have "catastrophic impacts" on transgender and gender diverse young people. Children with gender dysphoria will be denied puberty blockers as a state government reviews hormone therapies for minors.

[Read More](#)

## Rough cut: Public servants' vasectomy lark raises eyebrows

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/01/2025, Glen Norris

Queensland's long-suffering taxpayers appear to be giving some public servants a nice little holiday under the guise of reproductive leave. Taxpayers are forking out millions of dollars each year for paid sick leave for IVF treatments, vasectomy recovery, breast screening and other reproductive conditions under a policy unveiled by the former Labor government last year.

[Read More](#)

## 2GB, Afternoons, 28/01/2025, Michael McLaren

Interview with Mater Hospital medical oncologist Prof Fran Boyle about a rise in cancer amongst young Australians. McLaren says AIHW has found there are higher rates of colorectal and thyroid cancers amongst people in their 30s, while those in their 40s are being diagnosed with higher rates of thyroid, breast, prostate, colorectal, and kidney cancer. Boyle says younger people who get colorectal cancer often do not recognise the symptoms and are not in a screening program, so they are diagnosed late.

[Play Now](#)

## 2GB, Mornings, 28/01/2025, Mark Levy

Interview with Breast Cancer Network Australia director of policy, advocacy, and support services Vicki Durston about breast cancer. Levy says according to AIHW, almost 90% of cancers diagnosed will occur in people aged 50 and over, but cancer incidence rates for the younger are increasing. Durston says family history, genetic predisposition, and lifestyle factors increase a young woman's risk of getting breast cancer. She says they want to ensure women have that information and are calling on health professionals to provide timely advice to younger women.

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

## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Burning issue

Newcastle Herald, General News, 29/01/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

A social media trend in which young girls deliberately sunburn tan lines into their skin has prompted a stern melanoma warning. "It's crazy," Australian Skin Cancer Foundation CEO Jay Allen said.

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

### The ASX biotechs aiming to catch cancer early

NEWS.com.au, Other, 28/01/2025, Nadine McGrath

Several ASX companies are advancing efforts in early cancer detection and treatment. Among the leading causes of death worldwide, there were almost 20 million new cancer cases and 9.7 million cancer-related deaths globally in 2022.

[Read More](#)

## Think your body shape is changing in menopause? It's not your

## imagination

The Australian, Other, 28/01/2025, Penny Timms

If you've noticed a shift in your body shape around the time of menopause, you're not alone. Those years of transition can trigger multiple physiological changes both inside and out. [...] According to the British Heart Foundation, when oestrogen levels drop, fat can also build up in the arteries and cause them to narrow which can increase a person's risk of developing coronary heart disease, a heart attack, or stroke.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 28/01/2025, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

Asthma sufferers are being warned. Peak season is here and hospital admissions are set to spike.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 28/01/2025, Spence Denny

Interview with Heart Foundation senior nutritionist and dietician Jemma O'Hanlon about salt eating habits. Denny says according to the World Health Organisation, 1.9m deaths are linked annually to high sodium intake. O'Hanlon says we eat more than double the recommended intake of salt, and the maximum recommended intake is about 2,000mg.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 28/01/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Heart Foundation senior nutritionist and dietician Jemma O'Hanlon about healthy snacks. O'Hanlon says overall snacking is an opportunity to get in some healthy foods into our diet. She says snacking nutritious foods, for example, a piece of fruit, will boost our health and well-being and reduce the risk of heart disease.

Continuing interview on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### 'A Band-Aid, not a cure'

Courier Mail, General News, 29/01/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 10

Real-time hospital performance data won't be the "silver bullet" to improve ambulance ramping and improve emergency department waiting times, the Opposition says. The government pledged to publish real-time hospital performance data within 100 days of being sworn in February 9 to improve transparency and ease pressure on emergency departments.

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

### GP alarm on medic chemists rejected

Daily Telegraph, General News, 29/01/2025, James Willis, Page 4

Health Minister Ryan Park has rejected warnings from GPs, promising to continue expanding the medical treatments available at local pharmacists. It comes as new data reveals more than 1500 patients have had a range of skin conditions managed at the chemist for the first time during a NSW six-month trial.

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

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

### Inquest hears doctor tried to escalate RAH emergency response after ramping-related death, but SA Health refused

ABC Online, Other, 28/01/2025, Briana Fiore



A coronial inquest has heard that multiple attempts to escalate an emergency response were made after a ramping-related death in Adelaide, but the request was denied. A former boss of Adelaide's largest public hospital has told an inquest her request to escalate an emergency response due to an overcrowded emergency department (ED) was denied by staff within SA Health.

[Read More](#)

## **2GB, Drive, 28/01/2025, Clinton Maynard**

Panel discussion with NSW Liberal senator Hollie Hughes and Labor MP for Macquarie Susan Templeman about bulk-billing rates. Hughes says bulk-billing rates have fallen. Templeman says Hughes's claim that bulk-billing rates have gone down is not true. She says they were in freefall when they came to government, and they stabilised them and turned it around.

[Play Now](#)

## **ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 28/01/2025, Craig Zonca and Loretta Ryan**

Interview with AMA Qld president Dr Nick Yim about whether cutting red tape will help alleviate a critical shortage of health workers. Yim says it is a first step as Australia is facing a huge health workforce shortage, including nurses and doctors. He says Qld is committed to recruiting 34,000 or so health workers by 2032.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **Test cricketer and Vietnam vet Tony Dell's bid to stop PTSD related suicide**

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 28/01/2025, Rowan Cowley

It wasn't until 40 years after he finished his tour of duty in Vietnam that former test cricketer Tony Dell learned he had post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). For many years, his love of sport and dedication to his career helped to shield him from the worst of the impacts. Unfortunately, many who served do not have elite sports or a high-powered career to keep the demons at bay.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## **CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE**

### **Family of Launceston General Hospital patient shocked by lack of aircon in wards**

ABC Online, Other, 28/01/2025, Jessica-Moran

Patients in some Launceston General Hospital (LGH) wards have had to swelter through the heat with wet face washers and no blankets to try to stay cool due to a lack of air conditioning, a family member says. Sallyann Geale's father has been in the hospital for the last few weeks after having a stroke.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## **HEALTH WORKFORCE**

### **Transformational acquisition announced**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/01/2025, Tim Hewitt

After five years under Guild ownership, the Australasian College of Pharmacy is set for another

takeover The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is planning a "transformational" move to acquire the Guild-owned Australasian College of Pharmacy.

[Read More](#)

## PSA to acquire Australasian College of Pharmacy

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 28/01/2025

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Board has just announced plans to acquire the Australasian College of Pharmacy (the College), further growing PSA's leadership in education and training for pharmacists, pharmacy assistants and technicians.

[Read More](#)

## PSA announces intent to acquire the Australasian College of Pharmacy

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 28/01/2025

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced its intention to acquire the Australasian College of Pharmacy (the College), in a strategic move to strengthen its position as the leading provider of education and training for pharmacists, pharmacy assistants and technicians.

[Read More](#)

## 2CC, Canberra Live, 28/01/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Grattan Institute health program director Peter Breadon about the GP deserts in Canberra. Breadon says there is no other major city that has these GP deserts, areas in the bottom 5% for services, getting 40% less care per person than the national average. He says it has been a problem for a long time. He says the federal government is responsible for primary care, but they are not seeing care getting to all the communities that need it.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Von Hippel-Lindau disease drug Welireg listed on PBS

7news.com.au, Other, 28/01/2025, Hayden Nelson

The treatment for Simon Goodrich's disease has been costing \$12,000 a month, but there has been a huge development. If the best things in life are free, the next best things are the modern medical strokes of genius, giving people a chance to live longer. [...] The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is a triumph in Australia and while it costs the government \$20 billion a year, it allows anyone who needs to access medicines they need to survive for a price they can afford.

[Read More](#)

### Why isn't Ozempic on Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for weight loss? And should it be?

The Guardian, Other, 28/01/2025, Sarah-Basford

Drugs marketed to treat type 2 diabetes such as Ozempic have also been found to be effective in helping users lose weight [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, has said the introduction of GLP-1 RAs was going to be "a really big challenge for authorities to deal with".

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Telehealth rules tighten for nurse practitioners

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/01/2025, Jolyon Attwooll

Telehealth appointments are set for a shake-up, with the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) introducing an 'established clinical relationship' requirement for nurse practitioners (NPs) from November. It follows advocacy from the RACGP, which has highlighted risks to continuity of care and a lack of consistency in telehealth rules.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Doctor suspended for 10 months over inappropriate relationship with elderly patient

ABC Online, Other, 28/01/2025

A general practitioner has been reprimanded and suspended for 10 months for having an intimate relationship with a patient aged in her 80s. South Australian doctor Hemant Kumar Vanmali began an "intimate personal relationship" with the "psychologically vulnerable, elderly and widowed" female patient "almost immediately" after her final appointment. [...] According to the judgment, an anonymous note was left at the practice in the months after the relationship began, "warning" him that the relationship was inappropriate and would be reported to Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Toddlers most impacted by vape poisonings: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/01/2025, Michelle Wisbey

Researchers say educational campaigns "are warranted" after finding toddlers account for 56% of unintentional e-cigarette exposures. More than seven million vaping products have been seized by the Australian Border Force and the TGA in the past year.

[Read More](#)

### ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 28/01/2025, Chris Bath

Interview with University of Sydney's Generation Vape project chief investigator Assoc Prof Becky Freeman about vaping in young Australians. Freeman says 85% of teenagers in their survey have never vaped, which is up from 82% before the law changes that require those under 18 to have a prescription to access vapes and a ban on the importation and sales of disposable vaping products. She says in total they have surveyed upwards of 15,000 young people.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## SPORT

### Athletics' civil war over whistleblower

The Australian, General News, 29/01/2025, Jessica Halloran and Stephen Rice, Page 1

Australia's national athletics governing body has aimed a stinging rebuke at the WA Institute of Sport over its treatment of whistleblower Paul Burgess, urging the institute's leadership to support the Olympic gold medal-winning coach and to be "transparent about its approach". In an extraordinary move, Athletics Australia chair Jane Flemming and its chief executive, Simon Hollingsworth, have called on the under-pressure WAIS leadership of Neale Fong and Matt Fulton to at minimum allow Mr Burgess to coach on the institute's grounds again.

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

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Medical researchers urge Labor to address funding crisis

Australian Financial Review, Other, 28/01/2025, Michael Smith

The Albanese government is facing pressure from researchers and one of the country's top healthcare companies to deal with growing concerns about funding cuts and soaring costs.

[Read More](#)

### Labor urged to address funding crisis in medical research

Australian Financial Review, General News, 29/01/2025, Michael Smith, Page 6

The Albanese government faces pressure from researchers and a top health company to deal with fears over funding cuts and soaring costs, which they warn threaten to undermine the commercialisation of world-class Australian medical research.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Trialling ways to reduce dementia in the Torres Strait

West Australian, Other, 29/01/2025, Keira Jenkins

Dementia rates among Torres Strait Islander people are much higher than among mainland Australians, but researchers are trialling a new program in the hopes of reducing the prevalence of the condition. About 45 per cent of dementia cases among First Nations people are potentially preventable or modifiable, geriatrician and lead of the Healthy Ageing Research Team at James Cook University, Professor Eddy Strivens said.

[Read More](#)

### Labor Government pledges \$30.4 million towards Kimberley health facilities and initiatives, if re-elected

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 28/01/2025

WA Labor has pledged more than \$30 million to Kimberley health facilities and initiatives, including matching the Albanese Government's \$11m commitment for a new Broome health clinic, if re-elected in the state election. Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson announced a series of pledges to the Kimberley on Tuesday, including a \$11 investment in Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Services.

[Read More](#)

### University's award-winning podiatry program strengthens First Nations health and wellbeing

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/01/2025, Rhiannon Clarke

Charles Sturt University is prioritising First Nations health and wellbeing through an award-winning, place-based learning model for podiatry students. Co-designed and co-facilitated in partnership with the Albury-Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service (AWAHS), the initiative enables two cohorts of students to complete their Podiatry for Chronic Disease Management subject in a clinical setting.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

## Border residents urged to cover up after mosquito-borne disease detection

The Border Mail, Other, 28/01/2025, Madilyn McKinley

Border residents are being urged to take precautions after a mosquito-borne disease has been detected in the region. Ross River virus was found in mosquito samples collected in Albury on January 20, as part of a NSW surveillance program that runs from November to April each year.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### High-profile Sunshine Coast TikTok mum faces court charged with drugging her own baby

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/01/2025, Patrick Billings

A high-profile Queensland TikTok influencer mum charged with drugging her own baby to gain clicks and money from online content allegedly manufactured symptoms in the infant that required her to undergo two surgeries, a court has heard. A baby girl underwent two surgeries after doctors were spurred on by symptoms which police now allege were manufactured by her TikTok influencer mother administering non-prescribed drugs, a court has heard.

*Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).*

[Read More](#)

### Medical professionals fear cases of B6 toxicity are under-reported

ABC Online, Other, 28/01/2025, Tom-Hartley

A health practitioner, a businessman, an award-winning musician, a retiree, and a pregnant woman are among the growing list of Australians who have been poisoned by the synthetic form of vitamin B6. There are at least 121 confirmed cases in which it has caused life-changing issues for those who have taken it regularly, Australia's medicines regulator has said. [...] Associate Professor Joanna Harnett, a complementary medicines researcher and an adviser to Australia's medicines regulator the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), told 7.30 that B6 is added to medicines to help metabolise other minerals, including magnesium and zinc.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 9, A Current Affair, 28/01/2025, Allison Langdon

There is a serious shortage of hormone replacement therapy patches. The Therapeutic Goods Administration issued a warning that all four patch brands in Australia will remain in short supply, some for another 12 months, due to manufacturing issues and unexpected increased demand. Its advice to doctors is to consider these shortages when initiating new patients.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### ALP racing clock to fulfil its agriculture promises ahead of election deadline

The Albanese government is racing the clock to meet previous election commitments, with internal documents showing only a third of pledges had been fulfilled, with policies on food labelling and animal welfare facing challenges in order to be completed before voters go to the polls. Of the 22 relevant pledges made by Labor ahead of the 2022 election, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry considered seven to be completed by November last year, government briefing notes reveal.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

### NSW EPA test PFAS contamination at Botany Bay after residents raise alarm about deadly hazard

The Australian, Other, 28/01/2025, Emma Kirk

Water at Botany Bay in Sydney's south has been tested for PFAS contamination after residents raised concerns that beachgoers were not being warned about a potential deadly hazard. "No swimming, fishing" signs erected at Botany Bay's Tower (Commonwealth) Beach were hard to spot and failed to alert swimmers why the beach next to Sydney Airport had been closed.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.  
See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

