



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 30th January 2025

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports 100 leading figures, including 40 doctors and child psychiatrists, have written to Anthony Albanese urging a national inquiry into youth gender medicine and a pause on the prescribing of puberty blockers and gender-affirming hormone therapies.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports the Greens' latest policy proposes injecting \$30 billion of federal funds into public hospitals in a bid to have the federal and state governments provide equal funding to the sector and scrap the 6.5 per cent annual cap on funding growth.
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (online) reports its healthcare summit will explore the trends and challenges reshaping how Australians combat disease and strive for longer, healthier lives, while examining whether the nation can maintain its world-class healthcare status in the face of these evolving demands.
- **[The Australian](#)** (online) reports Opposition leader Peter Dutton has vowed to establish a Royal Commission into child sexual abuse in First Nations communities within 100 days if he is elected prime minister at the federal election.
- **[The Guardian](#)** (online) reports Labor backbenchers are among those advocating to finally include dental care in Medicare, despite Health Minister, Mark Butler, confirming it is not a

government priority.

- **9News** (online) reports a 71-year-old Sydney nurse who was injured on the job is urging the NSW government to amend legislation that stipulates workers aged over 67 are only entitled to 12 months workers' compensation, with 2021 statistics from the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare showing that 15 per cent of people aged 65 and over were still participating in the workforce.
- **The Weekly Source** (online) reports 93 of the 133 recipients of federal government's \$100 million Commonwealth Home Support Program Growth Funding grants are first-time providers, as the government moves to increase the availability of domestic assistance, home maintenance, allied health, and transport services.
- **The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners** (online) is calling to on the NSW government to make Meningococcal B vaccines free for every child aged under two and for teens aged 15–19, pointing out that South Australia's program, which provides access for those aged 15-20, saw a 73 per cent fall in cases among adolescents.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### New pharmacy vape regulations ineffective

Byron Shire Echo, General News, 29/01/2025, Dr Colin Mendelsohn, Page 12

A recent survey of pharmacies across New South Wales highlights the failure of the new regulations intended to make low-nicotine vapes (20mg/mL nicotine) available without a prescription as Schedule 3 medicines. Despite promises from Health Minister Mark Butler, a survey of 47 pharmacies revealed that none had lownicotine vapes available for walk-in customers.

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### Greens \$30bn hospital funding push

The Australian, Other, 29/01/2025, Sarah Ison

More than \$30bn in taxpayer funds would be pumped into public hospitals under a newly unveiled Greens policy that plans to scrap the 6.5 per cent cap in funding growth. [...] In June, Health Minister Mark Butler informed state ministers that the negotiations on hospital funding would be put on pause until the plans for NDIS cost sharing – which will include the creation of a new stream of mainstream supports for less disabled Australians – were finalised.

[Read More](#)

### Labor under growing pressure on dental cover, the 'missing element of Medicare'

The Guardian, Other, 30/01/2025, Dan Jervis-Bardy

Half-a-century after it was left out of Gough Whitlam's original Medibank scheme, dental care remains a hole in Australia's public health insurance system. [...] Labor backbenchers are among the advocates pushing the case despite the health minister, Mark Butler, confirming it is not a government priority.

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### David McGrath is new National Mental Health Commission CEO

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 29/01/2025

McGrath brings experience as a senior executive in NSW Health and a former Chair of the National Mental Health Standing Committee to the role. [...] "I welcome the appointment of David McGrath as he takes up the role of CEO of the National Mental Health Commission, his depth of expertise locally and globally will be a significant asset at a critical time for the Commission," the Australian Government's Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, said.

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### Registration reform for comparable countries' nurses

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 29/01/2025

A record number of nurses from overseas are joining the Australian health workforce, with 16,622 internationally qualified nurses registering to practise here in the past financial year — close to three times more than the 5610 nurses that joined in the final year before COVID (2018/19 [...]) "From March, internationally qualified registered nurses who have practised for at least 1800 hours in these comparable countries will be fast-tracked, cutting the application time by up to 6–12 months, in some cases," the Australian Government's Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said.

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## The kids are not all right

Quadrant Online, Other, 29/01/2025, Christopher Jolliffe

In the national media lately much has been made of the mental health crisis gripping the country, particularly the country's young. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler declared the health system to be overwhelmed.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Golf great Greg Norman to help shape Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympics

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/01/2025, Hayden Johnson

Former golf champion Greg Norman has been hand chosen by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to join the powerful board organising Brisbane's Olympic and Paralympic Games. [...] Sports Minister Anika Wells, who lobbied to secure Norman, said his experience would be valuable.

*Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).*

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## DEPARTMENT

### 93 organisations funded to become CHSP providers for the first time

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/01/2025, Caroline Egan

The Federal Government's \$100 million Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) Growth Funding 2024-25 grants have been allocated to 133 providers, including home care operator Five Good Friends, dementia specialists HammondCare, and ASX-listed operator Regis Aged Care [...] The grants mean approximately 28,000 people will access new or additional CHSP services, a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care told The Weekly Source.

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## Gaslighting and cults: our baffling relationship with tick-borne diseases

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/01/2025, Mariella Attard

Elements in the Department of Health and Aged Care are being "wilfully obstructive" when it comes to the diagnosis of treatment of people with tick-borne diseases, according to evidence given at the Senate inquiry into access to diagnosis and treatment of people with tick-borne diseases today. This is not the first time an inquiry has looked into tick-borne diseases.

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## Telehealth rules for nurse pracs aligned with GPs

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/01/2025, Laura Woodrow

From November, nurse practitioners will be required to establish a clinical relationship with a patient before billing the MBS for a telehealth consult, bringing the requirements in line with those for GPs. The Department of Health and Aged Care has told the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners that from 1 November 2025, MBS rebates for telehealth with a nurse practitioner will only apply if the patient has been seen face to face in the preceding 12 months.

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## Gov launches new grant opportunities for aged care

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 29/01/2025, Alex Jacobs

The Australian Government has launched two significant grant opportunities to enhance the aged care sector's capacity and compliance with new legislative requirements. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has opened applications for the Support at Home and new Aged Care Act Transition Support 2024-25 Grant Opportunity (GO7421).

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## VACCINES

### Devastated mother calls for free meningococcal B vaccine rollout

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/01/2025, Michelle Wisbey

After Stacey Chater's son died suddenly from the disease, she has been advocating for greater vaccine access – a call backed by the RACGP. Brayden Chater, 23, was a 'typical young Aussie bloke' before being diagnosed with meningococcal B.

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### RACGP calls for free MenB vaccines for at-risk groups in NSW

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 29/01/2025

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is urging the New South Wales government to provide free Meningococcal B vaccines for vulnerable groups, warning that financial barriers are preventing families from accessing the life-saving immunisation. MenB is a rare but devastating disease, which can progress quickly and lead to death or disability.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

## The future of health

Australian Financial Review, Other, 29/01/2025

Australia's world-class healthcare system faces unprecedented challenges as an ageing population and rising chronic illness strain resources.

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## New dementia trial shows promising results in older Australians

ABC Online, Other, 29/01/2025

A new trial designed to prevent cognitive decline and dementia has shown promising results in older Australians. Researchers say it may prove to be a game-changer.

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## Dementia overlooked by policy

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/01/2025, Jodie Wolf

Researchers from Alzheimer's Disease International are calling for dementia to be recognised as a non-communicable disease and as one of the leading causes of death worldwide. In research published in Nature Reviews Neurology, lead author and Alzheimer's Disease International chief executive officer Paola Barbarino said they discovered the number of people living with dementia is set to almost triple to 139 million by 2050.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 29/01/2025, James Glenday and Bridget Brennan

A new trial designed to prevent cognitive decline and dementia has shown promising results in older Australians. The largest internet-based trial ever conducted to prevent dementia found personalised lifestyle interventions like physical activity, nutrition and brain training help prevent cognitive decline.

Similar content in: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Is this the end of the famous Australian 'smoko' break?

Australian Financial Review, General News, 30/01/2025, David Marin-Guzman, Page 8

Have we reached the end of the Aussie "smoko" break? That is the argument one prominent retail brand pushed in a major case to relax restrictions on staff taking 10-minute paid breaks.

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### Call for inquiry into gender therapy for kids

The Australian, General News, 30/01/2025, Michael McKenna and Mackenzie Scott, Page 3

More than 100 doctors, academics, lawyers, politicians and so-called "detransitioners" are calling for the Albanese government to launch an immediate inquiry into youth gender medicine and to pause the use of puberty blockers and hormone therapies for children in Australia. In a letter to Anthony Albanese, the group of signatories including more than 40 doctors and child psychiatrists warned that the growing use of gender transition procedures on children was a "potential public health disaster of generational significance" that warranted an independent, public investigation.

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

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### Staff abused after sparking hormone therapy probe

Newcastle Herald, Other, 29/01/2025, Fraser Barton and Savannah Meacham

Staff at a gender clinic have been abused after sparking a landmark decision to block hormone therapies for young trans patients. Queensland's Liberal National government on Wednesday defended its position after becoming the first in Australia to deny minors puberty blockers amid a statewide probe.

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## **'It's disgusting': Injured Sydney nurse attacked on job fights 'ageist' compensation battle**

9News, Other, 29/01/2025, Emily McPherson

For the past year, Sydney nurse Robin Prebble has been unable to work, riddled with pain from back and neck injuries she sustained when she was attacked by a patient during a shift. [...] Research released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2021 showed 15 percent of people aged 65 and over were still participating in the workforce - 19 per cent for men and 11 per cent for women.

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## **Radio National, Life Matters, 29/01/2025, Hilary Harper and Beverley Wang**

Interview with Professor Carly Dober, who has a personal and professional passion for sustainability. Compere mentions that recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released at the end of last year shows almost one in seven Australians are socially isolated.

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## **CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

### **How the risk of cannibal mice helped defeat a huge NSW recycling plant**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/01/2025, Angus Dalton

Concerns that laboratory mice could turn cannibalistic formed part of a massive community-led campaign that has led to the Independent Planning Commission's rejection of a proposed plastic recycling plant next to a crucial medical research facility in the Southern Highlands. [...] Australian BioResources (ABR) breeds and houses 750 different genetically modified mouse colonies, many of which are only produced at their Moss Vale facility. The mice underpin research into cancer, mental illness, heart disease and diabetes.

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### **New AI tool that provides treatment plan for asthma may lead to sufferers being symptom-free**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/01/2025, Robyn Riley

A Victorian-based company is using AI to help "map" and personalise the best treatment for patients with respiratory conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder and chronic sinusitis so they can become free of all symptoms. The biotech company Diag-Nose.io says the world-first technology should not only help reduce medical costs but also improve outcomes for the serious respiratory conditions that affect more than one million Australians.

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### **Health groups demand urgent ban on genetic discrimination in life insurance**

ABC Online, Other, 29/01/2025, Isabel Moussalli

Health groups are calling on the federal government to urgently follow through on a promise to ban life insurers from using genetic testing to refuse cover or raise charges. [...] "We'd like to see it introduced as soon as possible and put in place," the Heart Foundation's chief medical advisor Professor Garry Jennings said.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Greens' \$30bn hospital call

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 30/01/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 7

More than \$30bn in taxpayer funds would be pumped into public hospitals under a newly unveiled Greens policy that plans to scrap the 6.5 per cent cap in funding growth and see the federal and state governments fund the sector 50-50. The announcement follows the release of other major policies in recent months, including the \$46bn plan to add dental to Medicare, which would be funded by "Robin Hood" taxes on big companies to raise more than \$500bn over the next decade.

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### Extra \$227m to bolster ACT health system

Canberra Times, General News, 30/01/2025, Jasper Lindell, Page 1

Nearly \$230 million in extra funding will be spent on Canberra's public health system, as the Health Minister warns a "perfect storm" of increased costs and growing demand has hit the sector. Canberra Health Services will make \$27 million in savings this year, including replacing agency and contract staff with permanent employees.

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### Some risks 'just too high'

Border Mail, General News, 30/01/2025, Layton Holley, Page 1

The proposed battery storage hub at Lake Hume has drawn significant opposition, with 77 of the 78 submissions received during the consultation period voicing concerns about its potential impact. From local farmers to land care organisations, critics highlighted environmental, economic and social impacts.

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### Too hot to handle

Launceston Examiner, General News, 30/01/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 1

With windows screwed shut, no fans and inadequate air conditioning, patients and staff in the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) stroke and medical wards are experiencing extreme heat. Fans haven't been allowed on the ward since the COVID-19 pandemic for fear of spreading infection, and recordings of D-block showed temperatures as high as 38.4 degrees in January.

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### Demand high for urgent care clinics

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/01/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

The popularity of the federal government's urgent care clinics has sparked calls to boost their funding to reduce patient waits and employ more doctors. Patients wait an average of one to two hours at the clinics, but the wait can be less or more depending on demand.

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### RACGP urges election action to make essential healthcare affordable for all Australians

2GB, Other, 29/01/2025, Mike Jeffreys

Interview with Dr. Michael Wright, president of the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP), about the urgent need for federal election commitments to make essential GP care affordable and accessible. Representing over 50,000 members nationwide, the RACGP is calling for bold action to address the rising cost of living and Medicare underfunding, including a decade-long freeze on patient rebates.

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Interview with NSW Minister Ryan Park, about the recent lack of GPs in the state. Compere mentions that GPs themselves are not happy with the recent policy on GP appointments over the last couple of years. Park says he respects the opinions of the GPs on the matter, but he needs to make sure that healthcare is available to people in a safe, effective, and convenient way.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Much-needed one-stop shop for mental health services

Daily Advertiser, General News, 30/01/2025, Finn Coleman, Page 3

When Bre Knobel was battling her mental health struggles, she wished there was a free, walk-in mental health support service available locally. The peer support worker is now part of the Wagga Medicare Mental Health Centre, which officially opened yesterday.

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### Hoofbeats Sanctuary pleads with council for alternative site

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/01/2025, Chloe Grimshaw

A "lifesaving" mental health service for women and girls on the Sunshine Coast is facing a dire situation as they urgently try to crowdfund for a suitable site ahead of a forced relocation. The mental health service, Hoofbeats Sanctuary in Doonan, is the only free program that offers equine therapy in Queensland to help participants overcome trauma.

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

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### Snap protest outside Health Minister's office after shock ban on hormone therapies

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/01/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Tayla Couacaud

Protesters have gathered outside Health Minister Tim Nicholls' Brisbane office after Queensland became the first state in the country to ban hormone therapies for gender diverse children. About 100 people rallied outside Mr Nicholls office in Clayfield to "stand against unprecedented attacks" on healthcare.

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

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### Series of shootings in Townsville sparks urgent mental health push

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 29/01/2025, Natasha Emeck

The head of Queensland's police union is calling for greater investment in mental health support following a series of confronting police shootings in Townsville over recent years. The latest incident saw police shoot a 23-year-old man in the chest in Vincent on Tuesday after he allegedly lunged at officers and an elderly family member with a knife.

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### Emergency department workers in NSW brace for fallout, increased demand in wake of psychiatrist resignations

ABC Online, Other, 29/01/2025, Sam Nichols

As public hospitals across NSW begin to scale back their mental health services amid a wave of psychiatrist resignations, emergency room staff are bracing for the fallout. This week it's expected that about 180 of the staff specialist psychiatrists working in the state's public health system — more than half of the total workforce — will step away from the sector by February 1.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Lutheran to add NPs following successful trial

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/01/2025, Jodie Wolf

Aged care provider Lutheran Services Queensland is growing its team of highly qualified nurse practitioners across its aged care sites following the success of a trial of the model of care. Toowoomba and Laidley were the first two aged care sites to launch the trial in May 2021, with a second nurse practitioner appointed in June of last year.

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### Aged care mobile skills lab drives change to combat workforce shortages

Shepparton News Online, Other, 29/01/2025, Taylah Baker

A new training program is tackling the workforce shortage in Victoria's aged care sector, with the goal of leaving this critical issue in the rearview mirror. Spearheaded by South West TAFE, the Aged Care Mobile Skills Lab is making waves throughout 33 aged care facilities, including those in Greater Shepparton.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### How to find a doctor or pharmacy when you're travelling in Australia

The Senior, Other, 29/01/2025, Anthony Caggiano

Discovering Australia's fantastic cities, towns and regions by caravan or RV are freeing and exhilarating ways to travel But life happens, and trying to get medical help - even just for a script - can feel like an unwanted adventure as you try to find a doctor or pharmacy in your area or along the way. A telehealth service by phone or video call can be a way to get the medical support you need while travelling.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Perth doctor banned after sexually harassing employee

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/01/2025, Rebecca Peppiatt

A year after a Perth doctor was given a suspended prison sentence over the prolonged and repeated

sexual assault and harassment of a married employee, he has lost his license to practice medicine and is ineligible to reapply for five years. Akinyemi Freeman, 74, met his victim through church when she moved to Perth with her husband and four children from Nigeria in 2013.

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## Akinyemi Sola Freeman: Doctor barred for five years over indecent assault convictions

West Australian, Other, 29/01/2025, Oliver Lane

A doctor convicted of sexually harassing a former employee will not be able to apply to practise again for five years. Akinyemi Sola Freeman, 74, was disqualified from applying for registration as a health practitioner until 2030 following the decision by the State Administrative Tribunal on Tuesday.

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## AHPRA appoints new CEO

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/01/2025, Jo-Anne Roberts

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority (AHPRA) has announced Justin Untersteiner as its new chief executive officer. Mr Untersteiner, who was most recently chief operating officer at the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA), will step into the AHPRA CEO seat in April.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Correction

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/01/2025, Page 9

A headline in the print edition of The Daily Telegraph (2/12/24) stated migrants were raising the level of new HIV cases in Australia. In fact, overall HIV notifications in Australia have fallen by 33 per cent in the past decade.

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### New pharmacy vape regulations ineffective

Byron Shire Echo, General News, 29/01/2025, Dr Colin Mendelsohn, Page 12

A recent survey of pharmacies across New South Wales highlights the failure of the new regulations intended to make low-nicotine vapes (20mg/mL nicotine) available without a prescription as Schedule 3 medicines. Despite promises from Health Minister Mark Butler, a survey of 47 pharmacies revealed that none had lownicotine vapes available for walk-in customers.

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## SPORT

### Great White Shark comes in swinging for Games

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/01/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 6

Australian sporting legend and global businessman Greg Norman will join the powerful board organising Brisbane's Olympic and Paralympic Games in a major coup for the city's global reputation. The former world number one golfer-turned sports administrator is Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's latest nominee to the 24-person Brisbane organising committee board.

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## Drug trial hope for breast cancer

Courier Mail, General News, 30/01/2025, Jill Poulsen, Page 3

A world-first clinical trial is offering hope to women diagnosed with an often deadly form of breast cancer, after Queensland researchers uncovered a "promising" new treatment. A new combination therapy targeting a highly aggressive, and treatment-resistant type of breast cancer mostly affecting younger women, has advanced to clinical trials for the first time.

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

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Peter Dutton to establish royal commission into child sexual abuse in Indigenous communities within '100 days' if elected

The Australian, Other, 29/01/2025, Clareese Packer

Opposition leader Peter Dutton has committed to establishing a royal commission into child sexual abuse in Indigenous communities within the "first 100 days" if he was to be elected. Mr Dutton has been calling for the royal commission alongside Liberal spokesperson Jacinta Nampijinpa Price.

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

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Western Australia experiencing surging cases of cryptosporidiosis caused by parasitic stomach bug linked to Bali

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/01/2025

The WA Health Department has confirmed a startling link between rising rates of a parasitic stomach bug and overseas travel, with the majority of new cases in Western Australia traced to Indonesia. The disease has been identified as cryptosporidiosis, which is caused by a tiny parasite that enters the human body and leads to symptoms including nausea, stomach pain, diarrhoea, and loss of appetite.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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### Channel 9, Nine News Late, 29/01/2025, Jane Goldsmith

Reported cases of a highly infectious stomach bug have tripled across Perth. The virus, cryptosporidiosis thrives in public swimming pools and day-care centres. Last year, 800 cases were recorded in WA That's up nearly 300% on the year before.

[Play Now](#)

### Channel 7, Seven News, 29/01/2025, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

There's a nasty stomach bug spreading fast in Perth, and tonight it's prompted a warning from health officials. It's usually transmitted person to person through drinking or swimming in contaminated water or eating infected food.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### New geographic atrophy drug

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/01/2025

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved Apellis Pharmaceuticals' Syfovre (pegcetacoplan) for treatment of adult patients with geographic atrophy (GA) secondary to age-related macular degeneration (AMD), with an intact fovea and when central vision is threatened by GA lesion growth.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Medical marijuana business goes up in smoke

Age, General News, 30/01/2025, Sarah Danckert, Page 8

On the outskirts of Melbourne, where the city's suburban fringe stretches into market gardens and then on to bush, lies what remains of the dreams of one of Australia's richest men. There, on a shady lane in Officer, surrounded by bucolic scenes of leafy gums, weeping willows and the odd Hereford cow, are empty greenhouse sheds that once held a crop of cannabis plants owned by medicinal marijuana group OneLife Labs. [...] Sadly for its investors, OneLife's stock is destined for destruction by the Office of Drug Control if the business enters liquidation and a buyer cannot be found for it.

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

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### What you need to know about the paracetamol regulation changes

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 29/01/2025, Chloe Hava

Come Saturday (1 February 2025), paracetamol in packs containing 50-100 tablets or capsules will shift to Schedule 3 following the final decision on paracetamol access controls made by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in 2023. The aim is to reduce the volume of paracetamol kept in people's homes to prevent harm from intentional overdose. Each year, around 225 Australians are hospitalised with liver injury and 50 Australians die from paracetamol overdose. The highest rates of intentional overdose are among adolescents and young adults – particularly females

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## FOOD STANDARDS

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## AICIS

### 'Insanely embarrassing': Scientists admit mistake on black utensils study

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/01/2025, Claudia Poposki

The authors of study that sparked warnings over a common kitchen item have admitted they made a mistake in their research. People were warned to ditch their black utensils after a study found the common kitchen item contained "toxic additives" — but it may have been too hasty a declaration.

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