



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 1st March 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports Queensland Health is investigating how the biopsy results of two women were mixed up by the government-run Pathology Queensland, leading to an unnecessary mastectomy and delayed cancer diagnosis.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports veterans advocacy group Salute for Service has criticised what they say is a failure by the My Aged Care program to adequately house and care for war veterans, many whom need additional considerations for their PTSD and unwillingness to engage with agencies. A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said that My Aged Care assessors are trained to support these veterans and that "The government values our veterans and is committed to ensuring they can access the supports they need".
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports a draft report from the 100-day review into Brisbane's Olympic infrastructure has recommended a new stadium be built at Victoria Park, adding pressure to the Queensland government after Premier David Crisafulli said no new stadiums would be built and that the budget will not exceed \$7 billion.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 3) reports a woman's apparent success in treating her bipolar with a faecal microbial transplant has led to calls for clinical trials into the links between gut microbial transplants and the alleviation of bipolar symptoms.

- **The West Australian** (page 3) reports wait-times for free mammograms in Western Australia have increased to 38 days on average for those not experiencing symptoms, with further waits for additional scans following inconclusive results, according to data obtained by The West Australian.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 6) reports oral contraceptives Yaz and Yasmin will be made available on the PBS, with Health Minister Mark Butler saying, "With no new contraceptive pill or menopausal hormone therapy added to the PBS in decades, it was clear the PBS wasn't working for women. That's why I asked our medicines experts to find a way to right that wrong". *Also reported by: Daily Telegraph, Courier Mail, Herald Sun, Geelong Advertiser, Townsville Bulletin, Weekend Post*
- **ABC Online** reports almost 66 per cent of sporting teams in Queensland are sponsored by gambling companies, according to analysis by the ABC, that found a lack of any national guidelines regarding gambling sponsorship and advertising led to the disparity between the number of teams in each state associated with gambling companies.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 7) reports the AMA's Public Hospital Report Card has revealed South Australian emergency departments are failing to see 62 per cent of urgent presentations within the recommended timeframe, with AMA state president Dr John Williams saying "We recognise government's efforts to increase capacity in the public hospital system, but the dial doesn't seem to be shifting – at least, not far enough".
- **The Courier Mail** (page 9) reports Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls has declined to confirm on when a report into the \$9.7 billion Hospital Capacity Program will be released to the public after its expected delivery to cabinet in March, saying "The report will be released after the government's had an opportunity to consider it".

MINISTER BUTLER

Bumbling Albanese hit hard by live fire from all sides

AFR Weekend, General News, 01/03/2025, Jennifer Hewett, Page 1

Aircraft are clearly far more agile than Anthony Albanese in changing course to avoid the risk of being hit by China's live-fire drills in the Tasman Sea.

Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online).

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'About time': Pill now cheaper

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 6

The first new oral contraceptive pills to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in more than 30 years will be available from Saturday from as little as \$30.80 a year, compared to about \$380 without the subsidy. [...] It follows Health Minister Mark Butler asking the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee to consider how to extend PBS benefits to the newer Nicola Ciuffini generation of oral contraceptives.

Also reported by: Cairns Post (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), Weekly Times Now (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), Gold Coast Bulletin (Online), Townsville Bulletin (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Herald Sun (Online), Geelong Advertiser (Online), Daily Telegraph (Sydney), Herald Sun (Melbourne), Courier Mail (Brisbane), Geelong Advertiser (Geelong), Townsville Bulletin (Townsville).

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Mental health money bungle

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/03/2025, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 36

Funding for more than a dozen mental health charities has been restored at the 11th hour as the Albanese government scrambles to reverse \$300m in funding cuts before an election. [...] The revelations prompted a backflip from Prime Minister Anthony Albanese who said the cuts were a "mistake" by the department.

Also reported by: Cairns Post (Online), The Mercury (Online), Weekly Times Now (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Geelong Advertiser (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), Gold Coast Bulletin (Online), The

\$8.5 billion Medicare boost to expand bulk billing and GP access

Bellarine Times, General News, 28/02/2025, Angus Smith, Page 38

The federal government has pledged \$8.5 billion to strengthen Medicare, promising more bulk-billed GP visits, increased doctor and nurse training, and reduced out-of-pocket costs for patients. [...]

Caption Text: Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (right) and Health Minister Mark Butler launched a '40 years of Medicare' pop-up display at Australian Parliament House in 2024.

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Push for Surf Coast urgent care clinic gains momentum

Surf Coast Times, General News, 28/02/2025, Angus Smith, Page 21

A petition calling for a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic on the Surf Coast has gained strong community support, with Corangamite federal member Libby Coker leading the campaign. [...] The petition will be submitted to federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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'Going to hurt': Kochie's grim warning as millions cop price hike

The Australian, Other, 28/02/2025, Alexandra Feiam

Money expert David Koch has issued a warning to millions of Aussies facing a price hike on their private health insurance. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed the 3.73 per cent increase on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! Finance Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Kimberley Echo \(Online\)](#), [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Busselton Dunsborough Times \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [Great Southern Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Action urged on new cancer treatment facility, as medical radiation professionals gather for conference

Croakey, Other, 28/02/2025, Alison Barrett

Ongoing uncertainty about the future of the Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy and Research in Adelaide has been highlighted ahead of the trans-Tasman conference hosted next month by the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT) and the New Zealand Institute of Medical Radiation Technology (NZIMRT). [...] However, ASMIRT has welcomed comments by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler this week, in which he outlined state and federal efforts to resolve the issue and said he wants the therapy available for cancer care in Australia "as quickly as possible".

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Australians brace for major health insurance premium increase

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 28/02/2025, Camille Joyce Lisay

Private health insurance premiums will increase by an average of 3.73% on April 1, health minister Mark Butler announced. Marking the biggest premium hike in seven years, this change will affect around 15 million Australians currently holding private health insurance policies.

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Digital mental health support for people with complex needs

Medical Forum, Other, 28/02/2025

SANE Australia has been awarded \$27.3m over three years through the Federal Government's Digital Mental Health Program for the national roll out of a first-of-its-kind digital psychosocial recovery program. [...] According to the latest Department of Health data, 15% of people aged 16 and over in WA have been diagnosed with anxiety, while 12% have a diagnosis of depression and 16% experience stress-related conditions.

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Bipartisan support for billions of funding for Medicare

Mountain Views.Mail, Other, 28/02/2025

Each of the two major political parties has backed a major boost to Medicare following the upcoming federal election, with Labor pledging \$8.5 billion in Medicare funding over four years and the Coalition vowing to match it 'dollar for dollar'. [...] "Australia's doctors voted Peter Dutton the worst Health Minister in Medicare history for a reason, Peter Dutton tried to end bulk billing with a GP tax and then started a six-year freeze to Medicare rebates that froze GP incomes and stripped billions out of Medicare," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Nib to Increase Premiums

Riskinfo, Other, 28/02/2025

Nib's health insurance premiums will rise by an average of 5.79%, effective 1 April 2025, following approval by the federal Minister for Health, Mark Butler. The firm's MD and CEO, Ed Close, says the increase reflects higher healthcare costs, and increased use of services.

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David Koch issues warning over health insurance premium bumps after Labor approved hike above rate of inflation

Sky News Australia, Other, 28/02/2025, James Harrison

Millions of Aussies will be "hurt" by a health insurance premium hike adding to the mounting cost of living pressures continuing to plague households. [...] The insurer needs to submit their increase to the Department of Health for assessment alongside the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and the Health Minister to get the tick of approval.

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How the new bulk-billing offer is okay, bad and ugly

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/02/2025, Jeremy Knibbs

There isn't a GP expert, non-expert or analyst in town that comes to the conclusion that the Department of Health and Aged Care modelling on this week's proposed \$8.5 billion bulk-billing changes will lead to nine in 10 patients being bulk billed by 2030. [...] On Thursday, responding to widespread scepticism of the unseen DoHAC modelling by GP groups, federal health minister Mark Butler doubled down saying the modelling clearly indicates that the number of universal bulk-billing practices in Australia would triple to 4800 under the new measures.

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ABC News, ABC News , 28/02/2025

Australians are expected to pay more for private health coverage after insurance companies unveiled the highest annual rise in premiums in seven years. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he's determined to squeeze out the insurers in providing the best outcome for patients.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , 11:00 News, 28/02/2025

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says health insurers and private health hospital sectors need to take the lead in discussing the future of private healthcare in Darwin. Darwin's only private maternity ward is due to close in early June, and operator Healthscope is citing declining birth rates as the reason.

[Play Now](#)

hit102.5 Mt Isa, 12:00 Local News, 28/02/2025

A 3.7% increase in private health insurance premiums is currently on the way for outback Queenslanders, which is considered the largest hike since 2018. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says they've seen bigger rises in the Coalition.

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 28/02/2025, Rory McClaren

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Compere mentions that Butler has made some huge announcements in regards to boosting Medicare funding and more announcement in regards to private health insurance premiums this week. Butler says the Australian Medical Association has told them that the decision that Peter Dutton made as Health Minister to freeze Medicare funding for six years essentially ripped \$8.5b out of the Medicare system.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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MINISTER WELLS

Shark at home spruiking city to world

Courier Mail, General News, 01/03/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 4

Champion Queensland golfer Greg Norman says his experience "spending money to create success" will help make Brisbane the "north star" of all future Olympics. On Friday, the former world No. [...]

Caption: Greg Norman (right) in Brisbane on Friday with Sport Minister Anika Wells and cricketer Usman Khawaj.

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

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New aged care opening

Western Downs Today, General News, 28/02/2025, Jeremy Cook, Page 4

Chinchilla's rebuilt Illoura Village became the first new aged care home to open in the Western Downs in 16 years. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said Australians living in regional and rural areas should not have to leave their communities to access the care they needed.

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When it comes to professional sport and gambling sponsors, one Australian state tops the scorecard

ABC Online, Other, 28/02/2025, Jessica Stewart

Almost two-thirds of all major sporting teams in one Australian state are receiving money from gambling companies, an ABC analysis has found, revealing a concerning and "toxic" reliance on gambling sponsorship and advertising. [...] Federal Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth and Sport Minister Anika Wells were both contacted for comment.

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Kate Ritchie's secret feud with former radio co-host Marty Sheargold revealed - and the shock thing he did to her while they worked together

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/02/2025, Kinta Walsh-Cotton

Kate Ritchie's secret feud with Marty Sheargold has been revealed after the disgraced radio host was axed by Triple M over sexist remarks he made about the Matildas this week. [...] Sheargold was also slammed by Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells, Matildas midfielder Clare Wheeler and the players' union, Professional Footballers Australia.

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Sam Newman exposes major problem with Marty Sheargold's sacking over his Matildas outburst

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/02/2025, Paul Shapiro & Steven Jackson

Outspoken AFL legend Sam Newman has backed Marty Sheargold's right to an opinion after the ex-

radio host was sacked for comments about the Matildas which were branded 'sexist and disgusting'. [...] Sheargold was also slammed by Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells, Matildas midfielder Clare Wheeler and the players' union, Professional Footballers Australia.

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Boost for aged care services in regional, rural and remote

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation, Other, 28/02/2025

A further \$300 million in infrastructure grants has been announced by the federal government to support residential aged care services in regional, rural and remote locations. [...] Older people should be able to access the care they need, regardless of where they live or what services they need," said Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells.

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Are your systems ready for Support at Home? 60% of providers say no

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/02/2025, Lauren Broomham

Support at Home will see the sector shift to an activity-based funding model, where payment is tied to services delivered, not fixed management fees. [...] The Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, has announced this week that the Government will phase in its digital changes through to 2026 But key changes such as the new service list, services categories and registration and funding and payment changes are still expected to go live on 1 July.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 28/02/2025, Tom Connell

Australia's golfing legend Greg Norman is looking to highlight Brisbane in golf at the upcoming 2032 Olympics, as he joins the organizing board. It comes as Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells insists Norman will add star power to the committee.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

New endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic announced for Blue Mountains-Nepean

Blue Mountains Gazette, Other, 28/02/2025

The federal government will open a specialised endometriosis and pelvic pain GP clinic in the Nepean Blue Mountains region. [...] The announcement comes on the one year anniversary of a women's health forum in Katoomba with Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney, hosted by Ms Templeman and BMWHRC.

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Energy savers for Aussie healthcare

EcoGeneration, Other, 28/02/2025, Zihan Fred

Australian healthcare providers will have access to lower-cost loans for energy savers including rooftop solar, electric vehicles, and electric vehicle (EV) chargers under a new \$20 million investment. [...] "Australia's healthcare providers deliver life-saving services across our communities, but they also need energy-saving technologies to help our health system meet the challenges of climate change," Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said.

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Recognition of veterinarians in new health classification system, unlocks access to energy saving program

Australian Veterinary Association (AVA), Other, 28/02/2025

Veterinarians are set to benefit from a new Australian Government initiative, aimed at reducing energy bills, with low interest loans available to fund energy efficient upgrades to their practices. [...] In announcing the new program, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney said "Australia's healthcare providers deliver life-saving services across our communities, but they also need energy-saving technologies to help our health system meet the challenges of climate change".

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Bringing energy bills down for good for Australian GPs, dentists and vets

PV Magazine (Australia), Other, 28/02/2025

The Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) is working with specialist healthcare lender Credabl, with a new \$20 million investment to boost the uptake of energy efficient fixtures and fitouts. [...] Quotes attributable to Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney: "Australia's healthcare providers deliver life-saving services across our communities, but they also need energy-saving technologies to help our health system meet the challenges of climate change.

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Triple M Albany, 07:00 News, 28/02/2025

A total of 5000 registered organ donors volunteered last year with new figures showing that 1328 Australians received a life-changing organ or tissue donation. Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Ged Kearney says it's important to have a conversation with their loved ones about donating.

Also reported by: [Triple M Karratha \(Karratha\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

New headspace for young people in Hamilton

Mirage News, Other, 28/02/2025

Young people in Western Victoria now have greater access to free mental health care and support, following the opening of a new youth mental health service in Hamilton today by Assistant Minister Kate Thwaites. headspace Hamilton, located at 48 Thompson Street, will assist the growing number of young people aged 12 to 25 years who experience or are at risk of mild to moderate mental ill-health.

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DEPARTMENT

War vets in squalor

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2025, Luke Williams, Page 1

A veterans advocacy group has slammed a federal government agency for neglecting elderly Vietnam War veterans with PTSD who are living among animal faeces and rubbish across Adelaide. [...] A Department of Health and Aged Care spokesman said My Aged Care contact centre staff and aged-care needs assessors were trained to support older veterans.

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Neglect of our war veterans a national shame

It should go without saying that no one puts their life on the line while serving our country deserves to be forgotten by the government they once served. [...] All were clients of a program funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care called My Aged Care.

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Mental health money bungle

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/03/2025, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 36

Funding for more than a dozen mental health charities has been restored at the 11th hour as the Albanese government scrambles to reverse \$300m in funding cuts before an election. [...] The revelations prompted a backflip from Prime Minister Anthony Albanese who said the cuts were a "mistake" by the department.

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WA-first mental health kids hub launched in Midland

Echo, General News, 28/02/2025, Page 11

Parkerville Children and Youth Care has officially launched The Kids Hub, WA's first dedicated mental health and wellbeing service for babies and children aged 0-12 in the City of Swan. [...] Supported by the federal government's Department of Health and Aged Care and the state government's Mental Health Commission, the hub provides early intervention through personalised assessments, therapy, and support all in a child-focused, inclusive, safe, and nurturing environment.

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Millions of dollars wasted on health support

Central Western Daily, General News, 01/03/2025, Grace Dudley, Page 12

A regional government agency spent millions in taxpayers dollars to form a health charity which lasted only six months, provided no services and operated without federal approval. [...] Five months after the foundation was established, on February 7, 2024, the Department of Health and Aged Care sent an email to the health network board ordering it to immediately shut the foundation down.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#).

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Senior services explored at Memorial Hall

Coffs Coast News of the Area, General News, 28/02/2025, Page 15

A seniors Services Expo and facility tour will be held at the Bellingen Memorial Hall on Thursday, 6 March. [...] Representatives from Harbour at Home, Community Transport, CareXCell, Home Instead, Carers NSW, EACH Carefinder Program, the Department of Health and Aged Care, Services Australia, Mission Australia, Lifetime Connect, Dementia Australia, Service NSW, SES, Mid North Coast Legal, Rural Assistance Authority, and more will be available to provide expert advice and resources.

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Federal government agency accused of neglecting South Australian war veterans

Northern Territory News, Other, 28/02/2025, Luke Williams

A national advocacy group has highlighted the shocking conditions SA Vietnam veterans with PTSD are living in, blaming a federal government agency for missing red flags. [...] Salute for Service chief executive Marc Diplock claims the My Aged Care program, which is funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care to provide in-home and external intensive support to older veterans, were missing red flags and organising Telehealth appointments rather than home visits.

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

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'Going to hurt': Kochie's grim warning as millions cop price hike

NEWS.com.au, Other, 28/02/2025, Tsn Flex & Alexandra Feiam

Money expert David Koch has issued a warning to millions of Aussies facing a price hike on their private health insurance. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed the 3.73 per cent increase on Wednesday. "All health insurers must submit their premium increase proposal to the Department of Health for assessment."

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Health department appoints consultant to support HTA Review implementation group

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 28/02/2025

The Department of Health and Aged Care has appointed a consulting firm to support the work of the Health Technology Assessment Review Implementation Advisory Group.

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Place-based and collaborative: the Black Dog Institute Capacity Building Program is localising suicide prevention

Black Dog Institute, Other, 28/02/2025

Since 2022, Black Dog Institute's Suicide Prevention Capacity Building Program has been supporting communities to deliver localised suicide prevention activity in every state and territory across Australia. [...] The Capacity Building Program is currently funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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New online allergy platform provides clinical support

Medical Forum, Other, 28/02/2025

The Allergy Assist platform gives healthcare professionals access to an education and advice hub, which has online learning modules, diagnostic support, and links to Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy resources. [...] The National Allergy Council and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) collaborated on the pilot platform, which has been funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care, in response to a parliamentary inquiry into allergies and anaphylaxis.

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Digital mental health support for people with complex needs

Medical Forum, Other, 28/02/2025

SANE Australia has been awarded \$27.3m over three years through the Federal Government's Digital Mental Health Program for the national roll out of a first-of-its-kind digital psychosocial recovery program. [...] According to the latest Department of Health data, 15% of people aged 16 and over in WA have been diagnosed with anxiety, while 12% have a diagnosis of depression and 16% experience stress-related conditions.

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More free GP visits in Blair with more bulk billing

Shayne Neumann, Other, 28/02/2025

More Australians in Blair will get free visits to the GP if the Albanese Labor Government is re-elected, with an additional 117,700 bulk billed visits and a boost to the number of fully bulk billing GP practices to around 35 in the local area – around four times the current nine practices. [...] According to modelling by the Department of Health and Aged Care, the 4,800 practices will receive an average of \$344,000 in additional Medicare payments a year.

David Koch issues warning over health insurance premium bumps after Labor approved hike above rate of inflation

Sky News Australia, Other, 28/02/2025, James Harrison

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Fixing patient disconnection from the outside in

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/02/2025, Jeremy Knibbs

On 17-18 June this year in Canberra Health Services Daily, the Medical Republic and Wild Health are bringing together health industry leaders to have a pragmatic look at what we can do now to meaningfully reduce health system fragmentation, with a view to improving efficiency and patient outcomes in the near term, not in 10 years' time. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care and the Australian Digital Health Agency are full tilt at the moment on the concept of "sharing by default".

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VACCINES

Increased mortality and serious health issues for those hospitalised with COVID, study reveals

ABC Online, Other, 28/02/2025

New international research has highlighted the increased risks COVID patients who have been hospitalised face, with health impacts often lasting years after infection. The research from France's Université Paris Cité, published in medical journal Infectious Diseases, studied more than 380,000 people, more than 60,000 of whom were hospitalised due to COVID-19 in 2020.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Premier intervenes in SA Water dispute over Wheatfields Residential Care home at Freeling

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/02/2025, Darren Chaitman

Peter Malinauskus has intervened in a technical dispute between SA Water and an engineering firm, which has stalled a \$25m aged-care upgrade and left seniors at risk of being rehomed. Wheatfields Residential Care in Freeling, north of Adelaide, was due in April to move residents into a new 32-bed building, but the plan stalled after SA Water said it could not connect the fire sprinklers to mains water

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#),

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List: Aged care homes, services found non-compliant by watchdog

Cairns Post, Other, 28/02/2025, Tamara McDonald

A Melbourne facility that failed to meet all but one aged care standards was among the services found non-compliant with national benchmarks by the industry watchdog in January. Sixteen residential and home aged care services around Australia were deemed non-compliant with national standards in the first month of 2025, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission data shows.

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

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Thinking of using your super to pay off your mortgage in retirement? Experts warn Australian seniors it could have dire consequences Published: 01:33 GMT, 28 February 2025 | Updated: 01:33 GMT, 28 February 2025

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/02/2025, Stephen Johnson

Retirement is meant to be about enjoying long, carefree days by the beach and taking overseas holidays once every few years. Because, unlike younger people, older Australians typically have lots of savings - and spare time.

[Read More](#)

Provider feedback on liquidity ratios “robust”: Aged Care Quality Commissioner Liz Hefren-Webb

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/02/2025, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) has told Senate Estimates that it has already received feedback from a broad range of aged care providers about the proposed minimum liquidity requirements, which are open to consultation until 7 March. As we have reported, the Liquidity Standard under the new Financial and Prudential Standards will require residential care operators to hold onto 35% of cash expenses for the previous quarter plus 10% of refundable deposit liabilities as of the end of the previous quarter for providers with refundable deposits.

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HammondCare's chronic pain telehealth service a lifeline for outback patients

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/02/2025, Lauren Broomham

For close to a decade, the Greenwich and Far West Telehealth Chronic Pain Service, operated by HammondCare, has ensured that thousands of people living with chronic pain in the NSW Far West are receiving early intervention to stay out of hospital – with shorter wait times for specialists than many metropolitan areas. Led by rehabilitation and pain specialist Dr Amanda Johns, the service opened in 2016 with seed funding from NSW Health.

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Andrew Thorburn: the man on a mission

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/02/2025, Lauren Broomham

With few operators wanting to tackle the complex end of aged care, the HammondCare CEO is seeking to scale its services in both the residential aged care and home care space to meet the growing demand for dementia and palliative care services. The forecasts suggest the aged care sector is on track to be swamped by ageing customers without the products or services to satisfy them within 36 months.

[Read More](#)

1,600 RAC customers stranded in hospital – who will care for them?

Australia lost \$877 million on older patients stuck in hospital in 2022-23. With few new beds and Home Care Packages available and the ageing population increasing, those numbers will only rise. Higher levels of dementia care and palliative care and Hospital in the Home must be the solution.

[Read More](#)

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POPULATION HEALTH

Councillors maintain debate over fluoride

Daily Liberal, General News, 01/03/2025, Ciara Bastow, Page 16

For 30 minutes Dubbo councillors spent their time talking about whether or not fluoride was good or bad for dental health at the recent council meeting. Residents of Dubbo have not had fluoride in their water since January 2019 when the city's fluoridation equipment failed and remained offline until it was brought to the attention of the new Chief Executive Officer in April 2022.

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

Education, careers suffer under DV

Launceston Examiner, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 28

Domestic violence must be recognised as a workplace and university issue, with victim-survivors experiencing a lifetime drop in earnings, employment and education. [...] Some one in six women and one in 18 men have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a current or former partner by the age of 15, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare based on 2021-22 data.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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

Elderly can benefit from \$400 exercise vouchers, says former Olympian

Ballarat Courier, Other, 28/02/2025, Desiree Savage

Ahead of the impending federal election, ex-competitive swimmer Duncan Armstrong, 57, is campaigning for a \$400 "Healthy Living Voucher" to be handed out to one million of the nation's most vulnerable to see an exercise scientist, in a bid to save money on healthcare costs overall. [...] Living with chronic conditions can have a substantial impact on an individual's health and requires considerable investment in Australia's health system, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Blood test shows promise for birth risk early detection

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/02/2025

A new rapid sensor test can detect pregnancy complications such as gestational diabetes and preeclampsia, as early as 11 weeks. The test could help reduce neonatal hospital admissions and save the healthcare system millions of dollars each year.

[Read More](#)

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Breast scan delays risks lives

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 01/03/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 3

WA women are being forced to wait months for potentially life-saving, cost-free breast screening. And those unwilling to wait face paying hundreds of dollars in the private system for potentially early

detection of the No.1 cancer killer in women.

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

Awareness crucial in Sue's battle against ovarian cancer

Daily Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2025, Finn Coleman, Page 2

When people hear they have cancer, it can be a daunting and scary diagnosis. For Sue Smith, 72, hearing she had ovarian cancer in January 2024 was confronting, but she was up for the fight.

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

MP looking forward to work after melanoma surgery

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 01/03/2025, Fiona Ferguson, Page 6

Parkes MP Mark Coulton has shared a graphic image of the aftermath of his melanoma surgery as a warning to others about the importance of sun safety. The veteran politician says he's looking forward to getting back to work following extensive surgery to remove a melanoma and a number of lymph nodes.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

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

Home medicines reviews and COPD

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/03/2025, Siya Etzebeth

Home medicines reviews (HMRs) can provide clinically and statistically significant improvements in health-related quality of life, health status, smoking abstinence and adherence to treatment for people living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), as well as reduce anxiety and depression.

[Read More](#)

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PRIMARY CARE

Crackdown on IVF cash sparks dash to get the baby ball rolling

Weekend Australian, General News, 01/03/2025, Bianca Farmakis, Page 3

The rollback of an Australia-first IVF rebate scheme has left hundreds of hopeful NSW parents scrambling before access to the payment is lost. The Coalition initiative, introduced in January 2023, offered a \$2000 payment for out-of-pocket costs relating to IVF treatments and has been accessed by 16,900 families.

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Greens go old school in renewed push

The Saturday Age, General News, 01/03/2025, Bianca Hall, Page 8

The federal Greens are campaigning on core principles, with a key demand of minority government in the event of a hung parliament at the next election being a nationwide ban on native forest logging. Former leader Bob Brown, who lent the minor party's support to Labor leader Julia Gillard's minority government in 2010, launched the policy yesterday with lower-house candidates Samantha Ratnam and Sonya Semmens.

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

Cancer bungle

Courier Mail, General News, 01/03/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

An investigation has been launched into the government-run Pathology Queensland after the biopsy results of two patients were mixed up in a shocking lab bungle that has shattered the lives of two Queensland women. One woman was wrongly diagnosed with breast cancer and had unnecessary surgery.

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

Waits for 'urgent' emergency cases far worse in SA

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 7

Wait times for patients seeking "urgent" help at public hospital emergency departments are blowing out, despite the state government's heavily publicised Building a Bigger Health System plan. EDs are performing at their worst levels in recent history, according to the Australian Medical Association's Public Hospital Report Card, released on Friday.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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

Nicholls cagey on hospital report

Courier Mail, General News, 01/03/2025, Chris Burns, Page 9

The fate of a multibillion-dollar hospital building program hinges on a major report, but Health Minister Tim Nicholls won't reveal when it will be released to Queenslanders. Mr Nicholls is expecting to receive a "very lengthy" final report compiled by NSW infrastructure specialist Sam Sangster in two weeks, which examines the \$9.7bn hospital build program and cost blowouts alongside shortages within the construction workforce.

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

Police probe baby Joe's death

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/03/2025, James O'Doherty, Page 11

NSW Police are investigating the tragic death of two-year-old Joe Massa, who suffered a heart attack last year after his distraught mum sought care at Northern Beaches Hospital. The investigation is the first step in a potential coronial inquest into the death, which parents Elouise and Danny Massa have been calling for.

Also reported by: [Znews.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

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

Emergency response fail

Herald Sun, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 70

Just 55 per cent of emergency department presentations across Australia were completed within the benchmark target of four hours in 2023/24, marking the eighth consecutive annual fall in performance for this metric. The Australian Medical Association's public hospital report card also shows that a third of ED patients triaged as "emergency" (category 2) were not seen within the recommended 10-minute timeframe, up from a quarter five years earlier.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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

We have to be able to trust our labs

Courier Mail, Editorials, 01/03/2025, Page 77

The women at the centre of the shocking cancer biopsy mix-up at Pathology Queensland have had their lives changed forever. One woman, initially told she had the all-clear from breast cancer, is now awaiting surgery to rid her body of the malignant tumour that has been there for months but went undiagnosed, delaying potentially lifesaving treatment.

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

Who exactly's driving this thing?

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 01/03/2025, Hannah Cross & Claire Sadler, Page 8

Roger Cook has tried to pass the buck to Canberra after the dismal state of WA's public hospitals was laid bare in a damning report. The Australian Medical Association's Public Hospital Report Card, released on Friday, exposed a public health system woefully underdelivering on planned surgery waits and emergency care.

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

End of life blow

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2025, Luke Griffiths, Page 1

The pleas of a Geelong organisation that provides end-of-life care have fallen on deaf ears as a federal department digs its heels in on its decision to withdraw almost \$1m of funding. Anam Cara House was to deliver eight additional palliative-care bedrooms, each with an ensuite, at its Highton base with the money it was granted in October 2021 via the federal government's Building Better Regions Fund.

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

A chance to demand what we deserve

Border Mail, General News, 01/03/2025, Michael Gobel, Page 68

The issue of the Albury hospital redevelopment continues, two-and-a-half years since it began, and our community's cries for adequate health infrastructure and services remain unanswered. Our community has been ignored and portrayed as ungrateful for rejecting a plan that will run short not just of future healthcare needs, but also our current needs.

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Health cover price hike has higher cost

Newcastle Herald, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 52

On Friday morning, shortly before 8am, some patients at the John Hunter Hospital's emergency department were being warned the wait could be up to ten hours. By any measure, the public health system is under enormous strain.

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

NSW Government reveals land has not been purchased for Rouse Hill Hospital

Northern Territory News, Other, 28/02/2025, Elizabeth Pike & James O'Doherty

A long-promised hospital in northwestern Sydney is at risk of not being built because the Minns government revealed it still has no idea how much it will cost to buy the land. The government has budgeted \$700m to build Rouse Hill Hospital, including funds to purchase the site, however, a dispute over the land price could cause further cuts to the "full service" facility.

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

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Claims of healthcare crisis as state election nears

Ballarat Courier, Other, 28/02/2025, Aaron Bunch

With eight days until the Western Australian election, the peak body for doctors has sounded the alarm saying the health system in the nation's wealthiest state is in crisis. The Australian Medical Association has called on the major parties to show some ambition ahead of the state poll on March 8 and commit to building capacity in the health system.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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Falsehoods must be debunked: march a chance to demand what we deserve

The Border Mail, Other, 28/02/2025, Michael Gobel

The issue of the Albury hospital redevelopment continues, two-and-a-half years since it began, and our community's cries for adequate health infrastructure and services remain unanswered. Our community has been ignored and portrayed as ungrateful for rejecting a plan that will run short not just of future healthcare needs, but also our current needs.

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Private maternity care proposal 'puts GPs and patients at risk'

Medical Forum, Other, 28/02/2025

Private Healthcare Australia made the suggestions amid what it said are concerns many Australians are turning away from private hospital maternity services due to high out-of-pocket costs, which can be as high as \$6,500 in some cities. It said health funds want to be able to fund more choices, including GP-led and midwife-led care in the private hospital system.

[Read More](#)

Billions in bulk billing funding won't make general practice cheaper

Medical Forum, Other, 28/02/2025

Both Federal Labor and Liberals have made large funding promises to strengthen Medicare and boost bulk billing if elected at the Federal Election. Labor has promised \$8.5b Medicare funding if it is re-elected, which it claims would deliver an addition 18 million bulk billed GP appointments each year.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 28/02/2025, Manny Tsigas

The release of the AMA's Public Hospital Report card, which has again ranked WA the worst for seeing category three emergency patients on time. Premier Roger Cook says Western Australia is particularly challenged at the moment, with the lowest rates of bulk billing, so he is not surprised that emergency departments are struggling.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 28/02/2025, Hugh Riminton

According to the latest survey from the Australian Medical Association, Australia's hospitals are performing worse. The AMA says funding has been cut in real terms despite new investments in infrastructure. Dr Danielle McMullen, President, AMA, says NSW is among the best performers in the country, but they are feeling the strain as well.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 28/02/2025, Tom Connell

Interview with Dr Ramya Raman, Vice President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, about the Government's recent \$8.5b Medicare boost. Raman mentions the \$8.5b Medicare investment that the Government recently announced, which is also something that they welcome particularly on the side of workforce and training. She states that they need help in the workforce side and training to enhance the primary care within Australia.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Bullying is pushing us to breaking point, say SES volunteers

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2025, Ben Silvester, Page 4

Victorian State Emergency Service volunteers say they are being pushed to the brink of suicide and homelessness because of what they call a culture of "bullying", "gaslighting" and belittling within parts of the organisation. More than a dozen volunteers came forward after ACM, publisher of this masthead,

revealed serious internal concerns about mental health support and blacklisting of members within the organisation.

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

Ex-AFL player takes on key role with Coutas

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/03/2025, Ben Cameron, Page 57

All local footy clubs should consider mental health first aid officers as a high priority for their playing lists, a former AFL player says, who will take on a larger role with Queenscliff this season. Former Fitzroy and Melbourne player Marcus Seecamp has been announced as the coordinator of Queenscliff Football Club's wellbeing committee which was established in 2019 following the death of Lucas Niven.

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It's flexible and it's here to stay. More Victorian kids than ever before are going to school virtually

Northern Territory News, Other, 28/02/2025, Rebecca Borg

The number of Victorian students enrolled in virtual schools has ballooned to record highs, with online learning during Covid lockdowns, school refusal and student mental health among the factors driving up rates. The state's biggest online learning provider Virtual School Victoria (VSV) has recorded a 63 per cent increase in enrolments since 2019, with 5942 students studying its program last year, according to Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority data.

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

[Read More](#)

Autism and ADHD tests cost Vee's family thousands. A \$181m plan would make them free

SBS, Other, 28/02/2025, Madeleine Wedesweiler

Vee Wilson says getting autism diagnoses for themselves and their two children was "game-changing" — but lengthy waits for assessments and exorbitant costs meant their family's wellbeing took a hit. Wilson's son is now 21. His Western Australia-based parents first started to question whether he might be autistic when he was five, but it would take until he was 13 to get a formal diagnosis.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Student to help out in Sweden

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 01/03/2025, Denika Anderson, Page 18

A la Trobe University nursing and midwifery student will be travelling to Sweden next week to take part in an international placement program. Pyper Dalla Santa will be undertaking a major birth suite placement which will allow her to complete the rest of the births her degree requires.

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

Med students, staff threaten to leave

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 01/03/2025, Jessica Howard, Page 2

Medical students and teachers at the Warrnambool Rural Clinical School are rallying around two much-loved directors who could be replaced by metropolitan counterparts as early as this month. The Standard this week revealed Deakin University was consulting about the proposal, which would re-

brand the school as 'Deakin Clinical Placements' and see muchloved Warrnambool directors, Associate Professor Dr Barry Morphet and Deputy Director Dr Brendan Condon, replaced by Geelong-based staff Kate Stotskaia, a GP and senior clinical lecturer at the school, said it would be an "absolute tragedy" if the proposal went ahead.

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Australian Clinical Labs Geelong staff shortage to result in patient delays: ex-employee

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 28/02/2025, Eddie Russell

Medical treatments will be delayed and patients will spend longer in hospital if a laboratory company doesn't hire more staff, a former employee has said. Medical scientist Kerry Neeson, who quit her job at Australian Clinical Labs (ACL) in October 2024, said the company had manufactured a critical staff shortage by refusing to replace outgoing full-time employees.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Praise for PBS pill change

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/03/2025, bridget clarke, Page 24

Tasmanian doctors hope the listing of an oral contraceptive under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) leads to greater investment into women's reproductive healthcare. Australian women will now be able to access an oral contraceptive under the PBS for the first time in more than three decades after subsidies for the Yaz and Yasmin combined pills came into effect on Saturday.

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Relief for 'hefty cost' of birth control

Launceston Examiner, General News, 01/03/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 5

Maddy McNear began taking the contraceptive pill at a young age to help regulate periods and manage acne, but the specific brand became too expensive for her to continue buying it. While she loved the benefits of Yaz, a birth control pill, the cost became a "significant burden" and she had to make the switch to a more affordable brand, though it was less compatible with her body.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Canberra GPs say Albanese and Dutton's Medicare pledge won't get them to bulk-bill

Canberra Times, Other, 28/02/2025, Dana Daniel

Canberra doctors say they are unlikely to bulk-bill all or most patients under the \$8.5 million pre-election pledge that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has declared will mean Australians "only need a Medicare card, not a credit card" to visit the GP. The Albanese government claims its \$8.5 billion plan, which the Coalition has matched, will make nine in 10 GP visits free nationally by 2030, with an extra 210,000 consultations a year to be bulk-billed in the ACT and 25 GP practices forecast to be better off if they bulk-bill all patients.

[Read More](#)

New AI scribe could save GPs five minutes per consult

Medical Forum, Other, 28/02/2025

Telstra Health's Smart Scribe aims to improve productivity and patient care by reducing the administrative burden faced by GPs. Telstra Health claims the time saved on administration could save GPs thousands of dollars annually.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor who took photos of patients to walk free soon

Central Western Daily, General News, 01/03/2025, Tanya Marschke & Allison Hore, Page 4

A former doctor will soon walk free from prison after being sentenced for taking intimate photos of patients, including two teenagers, for his own pleasure. Nicholas Chu, 28, started taking the photos, which he saved along with their personal details from patient files, just weeks after starting his first job as a junior doctor in the emergency department of Orange Hospital.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Premier's Olympic stadium scramble

Weekend Australian, General News, 01/03/2025, Michael Mckenna & Sarah Elks, Page 1

A new stadium at Brisbane's Victoria Park has been recommended by a draft secret report reviewing plans for the city's 2032 Olympics, sparking fury in the top ranks of the new Queensland government after David Crisafulli repeatedly promised voters there would be no new stadium. The LNP Premier and his top ministers are scrambling to work out how to respond to the 100day review of Olympic infrastructure, which is also understood to recommend shifting the \$2.5bn Brisbane Arena swimming venue from the Roma Street parklands across the river to a state-owned site adjacent to the Gabba.

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

Doctors empowered to stop play for head injury tests under new AFL safety rules

Weekend Australian, Sport, 01/03/2025, Jon Ralph, Page 37

The AFL will allow doctors to stop play to take players off the field for head injury assessments this year in a seismic change to the league's concussion protocols. The Australian can reveal the league will implement a new "HIA removal process", which acts in a similar manner to the blood rule.

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

Women's game holds key to NRL unlocking US market

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 01/03/2025, Billie Eder, Page 1

On July 1, 1995, the Jillaroos played their first Test match. With jerseys two sizes too big, and shorts that didn't fit, Australia's first national women's rugby league team stepped onto Lidcombe Oval to play New Zealand in what would become a huge moment for the game.

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

Shoot for the bonus

Courier Mail, General News, 01/03/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 4

Brisbane 2032 organisers face losing tens of millions in ticket revenue if swimming is not held at Suncorp Stadium and basketball is banished to a small Games venue. The \$5bn cost of running Brisbane's 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be partly offset by ticket sales, which organisers hope will generate \$1.29bn.

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

Who will come out with Olympic crown

Courier Mail, General News, 01/03/2025, Julian Linden, Page 40

Barring the sudden appearance of white smoke billowing from the chimneys at the Australian Olympic Committee's (AOC) Sydney's harbourside headquarters, the pending appointment of one of the most hallowed jobs in Australian sport remains shrouded in secrecy. More than three months after Matt Carroll announced he was stepping down as the AOC's chief executive officer, his successor is still yet to be chosen.

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It's showtime in Vegas

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/03/2025, Brent Read, Page 1

Rugby league took flight in Las Vegas 12 months ago – this year it has returned bigger and better than ever. Louder, prouder and ready to conquer America. The NRL fan fest in Fremont St in downtown Las Vegas on Friday was a seething mass of rugby league humanity.

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

Fire up arena now

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Nikita Mcguire, Page 1

With another grand final locked in for the Townsville Fire, fears are building that if the proposed \$360m entertainment arena is not approved, the city risks losing one its premier sporting teams and the chance to host Olympic events in 2032. Townsville City councillor and former Olympian Suzy Batkovic said the finals fever showed the importance of building the proposed Townsville Arena that would serve as the new home for the team.

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

Tate bid for NRL 'Magic' round

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Greg Stolz, Page 7

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate has unveiled audacious plans to snatch the prized NRL Magic Round from Brisbane. Cr Tate revealed the bold bid from Las Vegas where he is at the blockbuster NRL season opener as a guest of Australian Rugby League Commission chairman Peter V'Landys.

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

Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 28/02/2025, Holly Stearnes

Australia's Olympic gold medallists Duncan Armstrong and Meg Harris are calling for a bigger stadium than Brisbane Arena to be used for swimming events in 2032. The pair of Olympians support an idea to put a temporary pool into Suncorp Stadium where 52,000 spectators would be able to watch on.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

'Home' remedy a bipolar miracle

Weekend Australian, General News, 01/03/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

Leading doctors are calling for a clinical trial into whether gut microbe transplants could substantially alleviate or even cure bipolar disorder, as hopes rise that the novel therapy may in future be used to help Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's and other neurological disorders. The experience of a NSW woman who was cured of her intractable bipolar disorder and crippling depression via a faecal

microbial transplant has triggered hope that sufferers of mental illness could also be helped by similar methods.

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

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

AI has eye on kidney disease

Central Western Daily, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 10

Artificial intelligence (ai) can predict whether someone with type 2 diabetes will soon develop kidney disease based on changes in their eye scans, according to a study. People with diabetes should be offered eye checks every one to two years where images are taken to the eye to check for any damage to blood vessels or a condition called diabetic retinopathy.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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

ACT UTI and OCP trial goes permanent

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 28/02/2025

Pharmacist treatment of urinary tract infections (UTIs) and re-supply of the oral contraceptive pill (OCP) will continue in the ACT, after its government announced that the services are now becoming a permanent part of Canberra's health network. During the trial, there were more than 780 consultations for Canberra women aged 18-64 presenting with symptoms of uncomplicated UTIs, and 176 consultations for women seeking re-supply of OCPs.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Murrup and Orange Sky team up to bring free mobile laundry to Wurrumiyanga

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/02/2025, Giovanni Torre

Orange Sky, a not-for-profit organisation supporting people in need with free mobile laundry facilities, has launched a service in Wurrumiyanga - which will be the organisation's eighth service in the Northern Territory. In partnership with Murrup, Orange Sky is bringing one of their bright orange solar-powered remote laundry vehicles, fitted with three washing machines and three dryers, to the Wurrumiyanga community.

[Read More](#)

National grants to support diabetes and infectious disease research in the Northern Territory

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/02/2025, Giovanni Torre

Researchers from Menzies School of Health Research were awarded prestigious National Health and Medical Research Council Investigator Grants in this week's funding round announcement. Dr Matthew Hare and Dr Ella Meumann were awarded grants in recognition of their research portfolios which address the impact of diabetes and infectious disease surveillance in the Northern Territory.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

WA Health warns of Ross River virus

WA Health is urging the public to guard against mosquito bites after Ross River virus was detected near the Swan River. Environmental health acting director Dr Peter Gray said the virus had been detected at a trapping site at Pelican Point in Crawley as part of the City of Perth's co-ordinated mosquito surveillance program.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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

Disease claims another

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Kyle Rode, Page 5

A new melioidosis death has been recorded in Townsville overnight, bringing the current North Queensland tally to six deaths since the start of the wet season and four deaths following severe flooding. The Townsville Public Health Unit is urging North Queenslanders to take precautions when outdoors, as the region faces it's worst death toll from the disease in recent memory.

Also reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Measles spreading locally as cases spark exposure alert

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 24

Measles is spreading locally within Australia after two people caught the highly contagious viral infection without travelling overseas. Two people likely acquired measles in metropolitan Melbourne, as they had no history of overseas travel or known contact with other cases.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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Flood waters stirring up deadly bacteria

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Catherine Duffy, Page 24

One in five people who contract the rare melioidosis tropical disease are dying, with more than three times the number of cases reported this year compared to last. And authorities are still unsure what is causing it beyond recent flooding.

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Concern over sniffer dogs near first pill testing site

West Australian, Other, 01/03/2025, Luke Costin

Police will keep a highly visible presence including sniffer dogs around the site of a long-awaited pill testing pilot but say safety is the top priority. The two-day Yours and Owls music festival in Wollongong - headlined by US rapper Denzel Curry and UK band The Kooks - will host a drug checking site over the weekend, offering the harm reduction measure to thousands of festival-goers in NSW for the first time.

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

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'Highly infectious' deadly disease spreads in Australia

The New Daily, Other, 28/02/2025

Measles is spreading locally within Australia after two people caught the highly contagious viral infection without travelling overseas. Health authorities believe the pair likely acquired the potentially deadly disease somewhere in metropolitan Melbourne, as they had no history of overseas travel or known contact with other cases.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 28/02/2025, James Glenday & Bridget Brennan

Victorian health authorities have concerns over a measles outbreak as they have listed more than a dozen exposure sites. It comes as the health department urges anyone with symptoms like a fever, a cough or rash to seek medical care.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#).

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2GB, Afternoons, 28/02/2025, Michael McLaren

Pill testing measures will be put to the test this weekend with the service being provided to the Yours & Ours Festival in Illawarra.

Also reported by: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 28/02/2025, Saskia Mabin

More than a dozen exposure sites have been listed in Victoria with the State Government trying to minimise community transmissions of the measles outbreak. It comes as two new cases of the disease have been reported in Melbourne's West.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Changing direction

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/02/2025, Chris Brooker

The Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) medicines scheduling committee has overturned previous interim decisions on scheduling products containing Green tea extract and Wild Cherry Bark. The TGA delegate has decided to "set aside" an interim decision to not amend the Poisons Standard.

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Do vitamins expire? Nutritionists weigh in

Prevention, Other, 28/02/2025, Emily Shiffer

When you buy a bottle of vitamins, you'll likely notice a best-before date stamped on the packaging. [...] In Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) regulates vitamins and supplements to ensure they meet safety and quality standards.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

ACT's illicit drugs market has changed in past year and not in a good way

Canberra Times, Other, 28/02/2025, Bageshri Savyasachi

An 18-year-old Canberran was the youngest to die of a suspected opioid overdose last year after consuming what he believed to be cocaine - one of the most commonly checked illicit drugs in the ACT. The coroner's office said Alex Maher's death was under active investigation.

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Victoria's Parliament drops automatic licence bans for cannabis using

drivers

SBS, Other, 28/02/2025

Drivers who use medicinal cannabis in Victoria will no longer be subject to automatic licence bans under a new law coming into effect in the state. From the 1st of March, such motorists will have the opportunity to argue in court that they weren't impaired while driving.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Meat your maker: the environmentally and cost-friendly new food culture

Weekend Australian, General News, 01/03/2025, Matthew Denholm, Page 5

Australians will be eating laboratory-grown meat within months, as local manufacturers report huge demand, both from highend restaurants and supermarkets, and regulators declare the first product safe. Food Standards Australia and New Zealand is in the final stages of approving the first cell-cultured meat produced in Australia, but has already found the product quail meat is safe.

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Threat to festival over gastro

The Saturday Age, General News, 01/03/2025, Hannah Kennelly, Page 26

A popular Victorian bush music festival scheduled for Labor Day weekend is under threat after a local council voiced health and safety concerns following a gastro outbreak last year. Buloke Shire Council officers recommended the planning permit for the 2025 Esoteric Psychedelic Circus Festival in Donald be refused after organisers failed to provide the required information.

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Meat the hi-tech, cost-friendly new food culture

The Australian, Other, 28/02/2025, Matthew Denholm

Australians will be eating laboratory-grown meat within months, as local manufacturers report huge demand, both from high-end restaurants and supermarkets, and regulators declare the first product safe. Food Standards Australia and New Zealand is in the final stages of approving the first cell-cultured meat produced in Australia, but has already found the product – quail meat – is safe.

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How a popular bush doof festival became a gastro nightmare — and now faces the axe

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/02/2025, Hannah Kennelly

The immediate future of a popular regional Victorian music festival is on a knife's edge, as a local council considers cancelling the event four days before gates open. Buloke Shire Council officers recommended refusing a planning permit for the 2025 Esoteric Psychedelic Circus Festival in Donald, saying festival organisers failed to provide health and safety plans.

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AICIS

Free tests could become 'forever chemicals' case study

Broken Hill Times, General News, 28/02/2025, Luke costin, Page 27

People potentially exposed to high levels of toxic "forever chemicals" are demanding widespread free testing to shed light on their decades-long impact. Pressure for community-wide blood testing has been

building since high levels of PFAS chemicals were discovered in 2024 in the upper Blue Mountains drinking water catchment, supplying more than 30,000 people.

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