



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 5th February 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 3) reports a pharmacist who assaulted his son's bully has been found not guilty of professional misconduct, with the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal finding his actions constituted personal rather than professional misconduct and deeming it did not make him ineligible to be a fit and proper person to hold registration in the profession.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 3) reports a World Health Organisation review of more than 5000 studies has found no link between mobile phones and cancer, with a WHO spokesman saying the review assessed leukaemia, lymphoma, thyroid and oral cavity cancers.
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 6) reports there are calls for more emphasis in universities for online learning for healthcare courses that will enable regional and remote students to study and work in their local areas, as data from the Australian Institute for Health and Wellbeing showed there were shortages in 82 per cent of healthcare occupations in 2023.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 13) reports the World Health Organisation has granted an Australian-developed drug the generic name emestedastat, recognising the once-a-day pill as a first-in-class breakthrough in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease by using enzyme inhibitors to target cortisol synthesis in the brain. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#).

- [The Australian](#) (online) reports the Therapeutic Goods Administration has warned supplies of the opioid overdose treatment drug Naloxone will be scarce until early in 2026, with the TGA citing an unexpected surge in demand after casual drug users in Victoria and NSW stocked up on the drug when state governments warned of opioid-laced cocaine, MDMA and methamphetamine being sold,
- [9News](#) reports health experts are calling on the federal government to reinforce the need for mandatory pregnancy warnings on alcohol after a study found more than a third of packaged drinks in bottle shops did not carry the label, despite it being mandated in 2020 and businesses being told to ensure the labels were incorporated into the packaging by February 1 last year.

MINISTER BUTLER

Naloxone shortage goes national in wave of opioid overdose

The Australian, Other, 04/02/2025, James Dowling

Public trust in a federal access program for the overdose drug Naloxone has been shaken after more than a year of shortages were announced, potentially placing lives at risk. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was contacted for comment.

[Read More](#)

Beauty industry flooded with unregistered practitioners and illegal chemicals

Weekly Times Now, Other, 04/02/2025, Eliza Barr , Elizabeth Pike and Briana Domjen

A cosmetic injector who specialises in fixing dodgy Botox jobs has revealed the price that should raise red flags about whether you are getting a safe, legal product injected. [...] On Friday, Health Minister Mark Butler said authorities were "alive to the unregulated market that operates in these areas and making sure that Australians are kept safe".

[Read More](#)

Health insurers ramping up promotions to lure new customers amid heightened competition

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 04/02/2025, Cheyanne Enciso

WA's HBF and Medibank are among the health insurers dangling big promotions in a bid to acquire new customers amid heightened competition. [...] Last month, Health Minister Mark Butler again ordered private health insurers to go back to the drawing board and come up with a more "reasonable" premium increase ahead of the April deadline.

[Read More](#)

Vaccine for virus behind biggest cause of baby hospitalisations now free during pregnancy

7news.com.au, Other, 04/02/2025, Hayley Taylor

A vaccine designed to help protect babies from the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is now free during pregnancy. RSV is the top reason children younger than age five are admitted to hospital in Australia.

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Lung cancer medication gets PBS listing

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 04/02/2025

For the first time, the Australian Government is listing Retevmo (selpercatinib) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) — to treat advanced or metastatic rearranged during transfection (RET) fusion-positive non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). With around 130 Australian patients expected to benefit from this listing each year. NSCLC accounts for about 85 per cent of all diagnosed lung cancers, making it the most common type of lung cancer.

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MINISTER WELLS

Gerontological nursing program goes national

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

An initiative supporting gerontological nursing students has received over \$6 million to expand the nation-leading Clinical Placements with Older People program and bring in a new phase of the program, known as CPOP#2. [...] Ms Anika Wells, Minister for Aged Care and Sport said the government's \$18.4 million investment into aged care clinical nursing placements will allow an additional 8000 nursing students the opportunity to experience providing quality care to older people.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

If Andrew had waited for his Medicare-subsidised eye examination, he could have gone blind

The Australian, Other, 04/02/2025, Penny Timms

When Andrew Pearce chose to make a 1400km round trip to get an eye examination 18 months ago, he had no idea just how important that decision would be. [...] A spokesman for the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care said the government was committed to ensuring that Australians have access to high-quality, evidenced-based, accessible MBS health services and acknowledged Optometry Australia's call for increased testing.

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Medicare referrals process is costing patients extra, health experts warn

ABC Online, Other, 04/02/2025, Alison Branley

When skin cancer patient Dagmara was diagnosed with melanoma five years ago her focus was on checking her skin for new moles — she never considered she'd also have to monitor her medical bills. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said under Medicare an initial attendance should only be rebated once in a "single course of treatment".

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How AI innovation is impacting professional services across Australia

Harper's Bazaar Australia, Other, 04/02/2025

Since the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI), the technology has seen rapid implementation across numerous areas of Australia's professional services sector. [...] According to Australia's Department of Health and Aged Care, the government is "investing almost \$ 30 million in research into new ways to use artificial intelligence (AI) to improve access to health services and ensure [its] health system remains world class."

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Bite Magazine

Bite Magazine, Other, 04/02/2025

Work is underway for the next National Oral Health Plan 2025-2034. The Federal Department of Health and Aged Care is collaborating with HealthConsult to consult representatives from different organisations to give input in the next NOHP.

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Experienced carers seen as key to compliance, better care

Healthcare Channel, Other, 04/02/2025, Ritchelle Drilon

Australia's aged care providers are being urged to expand the skills of their experienced carers in response to new requirements introduced by the Aged Care Bill. [...] Between April and June 2024, the Department of Health and Aged Care reported that 9,000 staff left the field, leaving providers struggling to onboard new recruits quickly.

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Quality indicator expansion hits a roadblock, rollout delayed

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 04/02/2025, Alex Jacobs

The Department of Health and Aged Care has released its final report on the new staffing quality indicators with five deemed not ready for immediate implementation. The implementation date of the new staffing quality indicators in the National Aged Care Mandatory Quality Indicator Program (QI Program) has now been pushed back from April 1 to July 2025

[Read More](#)

How the Medicare referrals system may be secretly draining your wallet

Your Life Choices, Other, 04/02/2025, Floralyn Teodoro

Navigating the healthcare system can be a daunting task, especially when it comes to understanding the intricacies of Medicare and the associated costs of treatment. [...] Meanwhile, the Department of Health and Aged Care has stated that an initial attendance should only be rebated once in a 'single course of treatment.

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VACCINES

Vaccine for virus behind biggest cause of baby hospitalisations now free during pregnancy

7news.com.au, Other, 04/02/2025, Hayley Taylor

A vaccine designed to help protect babies from the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is now free during pregnancy. RSV is the top reason children younger than age five are admitted to hospital in Australia.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Ozempic may help ward off dementia

Australian Financial Review, General News, 05/02/2025, Dana G Smith and Dani Blum, Page 29

More than a decade ago, a smattering of studies suggested that early cousins of drugs such as Ozempic and Mounjaro could prevent, or even reverse, signs of Alzheimer's disease in mice.

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Holy grail Aus pill a brain changer

Herald Sun, General News, 05/02/2025, Zoe Smith, Page 13

A once-a-day pill that could be the "holy grail" in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease is a step closer to becoming a reality after a huge win for the Australian firm behind the potential wonder drug. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has granted Actinogen Medical the nonproprietary name, or generic name, "emestedastat" for its new drug Xanamem.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Wait times to access care up, shows report

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

A new report from the Productivity Commission shows year-on-year increases in the time taken across several stages that older people go through when accessing aged care services. This includes the number of days from referral for an aged care assessment to when the Aged Care Assessment Team approves a services, the time between ACAT approval and both the assignment of a home care package and service commencement, and the number of days until someone enters residential aged care.

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Aged care provider cleared of wrongdoing after fatal resident assault

HelloCare, Other, 04/02/2025, Jakob Neeland

An inquest has cleared aged care provider Bolton Clarke of any wrongdoing following the tragic death of 89-year-old Robert Driver, who was fatally injured by another resident in an unprovoked attack at a Lake Macquarie facility. Mr Driver, a former lieutenant in the Royal Australian Air Force, was a resident of the Long Tan Unit at Macquarie View Retirement Village in Bolton Point when he was attacked by another resident with dementia on August 20, 2020.

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NDIS drives greater community services spend, report says

The Mandarin, Other, 04/02/2025, Tom Ravlic

The National Disability Insurance Scheme has been a significant driver of the 65% increase in spending on community services over the past five years, the Report on Government Services released last week by the Productivity Commission says. [...] The most significant component of community services expenditure was on the NDIS and specialist disability support services (\$46.7 billion), followed by aged care (\$36.4 billion), child protection services (\$10.2 billion) and youth justice services (\$1.5 billion).

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POPULATION HEALTH

Eyes key to early diagnosis

Herald Sun, General News, 05/02/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 11

They may be the window to the soul, but researchers have found the eyes also give an insight into the brain that could help manage diseases such as dementia, multiple sclerosis and diabetes. An

international team led by the WEHI in Victoria say it is the retina, a complex layer of tissues that sits behind the lens of the eye, that holds the key.

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Cash for kinders to boost access

Herald Sun, General News, 05/02/2025, Rebecca Borg, Page 14

More Victorian kindergartens will be equipped with mobility tools, adjustable furniture and sensory equipment, thanks to a cash boost that will make early learning centres more accessible for children with a disability. [...] About 5.4 per cent of Victorian children enrolled in early learning programs have a disability, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, with disability advocates long calling for childcare, kinder and school services to be more accessible for these children.

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'Alarming': A third of alcoholic drinks found to lack mandatory warning on label

9News, Other, 05/02/2025, Adam Vidler

Public health experts are calling on the government to crack down on the alcohol industry as new research shows many alcoholic products did not bear mandatory warning labels, months after the grace period expired. The George Institute for Global Health, in a study published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, found that only 63 per cent of alcoholic beverages sold in stores displayed the pregnancy warning label that was made mandatory in 2020.

[Read More](#)

Australians drinking, smoking less, spending more, new data shows

9News, Other, 04/02/2025, Nick Pearson

Australians are spending more on nearly everything except for drinking and smoking, new data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has shown. The monthly household spending indicator from the ABS showed Australians spent substantially more over December than they did the previous year.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Mobile phone use not cause of cancer

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/02/2025, Page 3

A World Health Organisation commissioned review has found no association between mobile phones and cancer. The review considered more than 5000 studies on the association between mobile phones, mobile phone towers and occupational exposure to various cancers.

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Rise in lung cancer in never smokers

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/02/2025, Page 3

Even though smoking rates are dropping in many countries worldwide, the proportion of lung cancer in people who have never smoked is increasing. The most common subtype the International Agency for Research on Cancer team in France found among "never smokers" was adenocarcinoma.

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Cut the booze, cut the disease risk

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

More than 7500 people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in Hunter New England this year. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park highlighted the issue on World Cancer Day yesterday, saying "one in three cancer deaths can be prevented through healthy living".

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Hope for future of children battling aggressive brain tumours

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/02/2025, Jackie Sinnerton

Children struck down with brain cancer have been given new hope with Queensland scientists hailing a breakthrough in the treatment of childhood cancer as potentially transformative. Children struck down with brain cancer have been given new hope with Queensland scientists hailing a breakthrough in the treatment of childhood cancer as potentially transformative.

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

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The new treatments changing life after prostate cancer

Medical Forum, Other, 04/02/2025

Incontinence and erectile dysfunction (ED) have often been the unwanted legacy of radical surgery and radiation treatment, associated with poor rates of recovery. For some men, their quality of life has suffered so much it has made them question their decision to go ahead with aggressive treatment and left them mentally scarred with severe depression and damaged relationships.

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GP's research shedding light on end-of-life care

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/02/2025, Anna Cornish

A GP-led study revealed 88% of cancer patients visited their GP in the last six months of life. Led by Dr Matthew Grant, the research has, for the first time, linked primary care, hospital, and mortality data to examine how GPs support patients in their final months.

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Should alcohol sold in Australia carry cancer warnings?

The Guardian, Other, 04/02/2025, Louise Mewton and Rachel Visontay

Alcohol causes huge harm in Australia, responsible for 5,800 new cancer cases a year. Yet many of us remain in the dark about its health risks. In January the United States' Office of the Surgeon General, the country's leading public health agency, recommended that warnings about alcohol's cancer risks should be displayed on drink packaging.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 04/02/2025, Matt Shirvington and Natalie Barr

Interview with Australian singer John Farnham's son, James Farnham, about Cancer Research Giving Day. Farnham says his father is doing great. He says today is Cancer Research Giving Day, and all donations will be doubled tonight until midnight.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 04/02/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

James Farnham, Australian singer John Farnham's son, says his father is doing well as he recovers from cancer. Today, James met Imogen Mulgrew, who was diagnosed with leukaemia when she was 10. Their family benefits from Cancer Council, which is raising money this World Cancer Day for research and doubling donations to its \$500,000 target.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 04/02/2025, Candice Wyatt

Australian singer John Farnham's son says his father is recovering well from cancer treatment. Farnham joined others with cancer to mark Cancer Research Giving Day. One in two Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 04/02/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Cancer Council Australia CEO Mark Nevin about today being the 25th anniversary of World Cancer Day. Nevin says today they are celebrating some of Australia's achievements in cancer control and prevention over the last 25 years. He says some of the country's measures have saved more than 100,000 lives.

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2GB, Mornings, 04/02/2025, Mark Levy

Interview with Cancer Council Australia Public Health Committee chair Anita Dessaix about the 25th anniversary of World Cancer Day. Dessaix says today is a terrific opportunity to be raising awareness of what more can be done, as well as the good news, as Australia is making significant advancements when it comes to cancer treatment, support, and care.

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4BC, Afternoons, 04/02/2025, Sofie Formica

Interview with Lung Foundation of Australia CEO Mark Brooke about the National Lung Cancer Screening Program launching in July. Brooke says 50- to 70-year-old Australians who are current smokers or have previously smoked and meet the eligibility criteria will be offered a free low-dose CT scan, which can save their life if they have early stage cancer.

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4BC, Afternoons, 04/02/2025, Sofie Formica

Interview with QUT teaching and research associate professor Sally Stephenson about new anti-cancer molecules. Stephenson says they make small molecules that kill cancer cells. She says they hope these are going to be new anti-cancer drugs.

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4BC, Breakfast , 04/02/2025, Peter Fegan

One in two Queenslanders will be diagnosed with some form of cancer by the age of 85. Cancer Council Queensland head of prevention and early detection Sharyn Chin Fat says prevention is key.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 04/02/2025, Joel Rheinberger

Interview with QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute cancer epidemiology professor David Whiteman about sun exposure. Whiteman says the damage of sun exposure accumulates over one's lifetime. He says most people's skin cancers are caused by the daily exposures to the sun, so by the time they reach their 50s, 60s, or 70s, they will have lots of unrepaired DNA damage in their skin cells.

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

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 04/02/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with SAHMRI's Dr Courtney Cross about a trial on a daily supplement for breast cancer. Cross says they will be monitoring 30 participants for a range of side effects, including diarrhea, pain, fatigue, depression, and anxiety, with a focus on brain fog, as people with breast cancer often experience significant levels of brain fog.

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PRIMARY CARE

Bulk-billing clinics pocket \$2m tax rebate as NSW battles to keep hospitals running

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/02/2025, Nathan Schmidt

Bulk-billing GPs have walked away with more than \$2m in payroll tax rebates in just three months as part of one state government's initiative to reduce the strain on emergency services. The NSW government established an ongoing payroll tax rebate for clinics employing contractor GPs which meet bulk-billing thresholds in last year's state budget.

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

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 04/02/2025, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with Australasian College for Emergency Medicine SA deputy facility chair Dr Michael Edmonds about the current state of EDs in SA. Edmonds says they see a lot of waiting time and ramping, and the departments are all very full.

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

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Calls for 'urgent action' to reduce strain on youth mental health services

NEWS.com.au, Other, 04/02/2025

Orygen executive director Professor Pat McGorry has warned "urgent action" is necessary to alleviate the strain placed upon youth mental health services. Mr McGorry's insights come after psychiatrists considered leaving the New South Wales public hospital system because of long shifts, growing patient demand and poor pay.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses could perform women's health checks to prevent ED visits, says APNA

Nursing Review, Other, 04/02/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Following the release of new hospital data, the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) has called upon the federal government to remove the policy barriers preventing some nurses from delivering preventative healthcare for women. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's report, lists 'diseases of the genitourinary system' (such as urinary tract infections) as the third most common reason for women aged 15 to 44 to present to an emergency department.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Route to resolve health talent crisis

Australian Financial Review, Features, 05/02/2025, Alexandra Cain, Page 6

More emphasis within universities on online learning means students studying a range of healthcare courses can now more easily live, learn and work in rural and regional locations, rather than have to move to the city to study.

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Health worker housing boost for region

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 05/02/2025, Lydia Roberts, Page 5

Up to \$6 million could be spent on building and renovating homes to attract medical staff to the Northern Tablelands. Health Minister Ryan Park said Armidale had been chosen as one of 20 regional centres to benefit under the key health worker accommodation program.

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\$5.1m for health worker housing

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 05/02/2025, John Conroy, Page 4

Wentworth, Buronga and Dareton are among five locations named to host a portion of 120 new dwellings for health workers in Far West NSW. The New South Wales Government has committed \$5.1 million for the homes with the policy aiming to help attract, recruit and retain more healthcare workers to regional areas under the Key Health Worker Accommodation program.

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Gerontological nursing program goes national

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

An initiative supporting gerontological nursing students has received over \$6 million to expand the nation-leading Clinical Placements with Older People program and bring in a new phase of the program, known as CPOP#2. [...] Ms Anika Wells, Minister for Aged Care and Sport said the government's \$18.4 million investment into aged care clinical nursing placements will allow an additional 8000 nursing students the opportunity to experience providing quality care to older people.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Lung cancer medication gets PBS listing

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 04/02/2025

For the first time, the Australian Government is listing Retevmo (selpercatinib) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) — to treat advanced or metastatic rearranged during transfection (RET) fusion-positive non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). With around 130 Australian patients expected to benefit from this listing each year. NSCLC accounts for about 85 per cent of all diagnosed lung cancers, making it the most common type of lung cancer.

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AdPha pushes for expanded pharmacist role and medicine access

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 04/02/2025

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) is calling on important reforms to improve patient access to medicines and expand pharmacists' role in primary care. [...] The proposed expansion would integrate pharmacist prescribing into aged care and general practice settings, while also allowing pharmacists to prescribe medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) within collaborative care models.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Father assaulted 10-year-old son's bully

Canberra Times, General News, 05/02/2025, Hannah Neale, Page 3

A pharmacist did not engage in professional misconduct when he assaulted the bully of his 10-year-old son, pushing the boy and threatening to "f--- you up". The man, aged in his 50s, assaulted the boy, who was known to have put dirt in his son's lunchbox and put his hat in a toilet.

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Former Flinders Medical Centre nurse Manishkumar Patel loses bid to return to work after domestic violence offence

Adelaide Now, Other, 04/02/2025, Lucy Rutherford

A former nurse who bashed his wife in front of a child would damage the reputation of the profession if allowed to return to work, a court heard. Manishkumar Patel failed in his bid to the South Australian Employment Tribunal to have his employment reinstated after he broke the trust and confidence placed in him.

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Sameer Tataavarty Bharatam: cardiologist back on the roads after sentencing for driving with cocaine in his system

Northern Territory News, Other, 04/02/2025, Emily Walker

A cardiologist who has been charged with driving while cocaine was still in his system will be allowed back behind the wheel. [...] The court heard Dr Tataavarty, whose medical licence is currently suspended by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), is working as the director of his mobile cardiology clinic where he contracts other cardiologists.

[Read More](#)

Sydney traditional Chinese medicine practitioner found guilty of professional misconduct after tourist dies

The Guardian, Other, 04/02/2025, Natasha May

A Sydney-based practitioner of traditional Chinese medicine has been found guilty of professional misconduct after a diabetic woman died after his advice to cease all "western medicine". Yun Sen Luo was found guilty on 30 January of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct after being prosecuted by the Health Care Complaints Commission before the New South Wales civil and administrative tribunal.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Regional health could be reinvigorated with one innovation

Ballarat Courier, Other, 04/02/2025

We all know that Australians living outside of major metropolitan cities have poorer physical and mental health. [...] One way of addressing this divide is to provide access to clinical trials in remote and regional Australia.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Sound advice for young ears

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 05/02/2025, Denika Anderson, Page 9

Mallee District Aboriginal Services is hosting two-day hearing clinics for ages children aged zero to six every month from February to November. The Hearing Assessment Program for Early Ears, or HAPEE, is run by Hearing Australia with funding from the Federal Government and aims to increase access to audiology assessment services for Indigenous children.

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In light of new data, experts ask how can Indigenous child removal rates be getting worse?

National Indigenous Times, Other, 04/02/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Almost 24,000 Indigenous children were placed in care at least once in the last financial year, new data has revealed. The latest figures from the Productivity Commission shows 23,956 First Nations children were in at least one out-of-home care (OOHC) placement in 2023-24—over 43 per cent of all children Australia-wide.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

No relevant coverage

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Naloxone shortage goes national in wave of opioid overdose

The Australian, Other, 04/02/2025, James Dowling

Public trust in a federal access program for the overdose drug Naloxone has been shaken after more than a year of shortages were announced, potentially placing lives at risk. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was contacted for comment.

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Wellnex Secures TGA approval for Liquid Paracetamol plus Caffeine Soft Gel as it targets growth opportunities

The Australian, Other, 04/02/2025

Wellnex Life has achieved a key milestone with a new market authorisation by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration for a liquid paracetamol plus caffeine soft gel. Health and wellness company Wellnex Life (ASX:WNX) said the new approval followed successful submission of a pharmaceutical dossier with the TGA for the product.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Afternoons, 04/02/2025, Michael McLaren

Interview with National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre clinical pharmacist and Scientia associate professor Natasa Gisev about paracetamol. McLaren says the TGA has found paracetamol is the most commonly used medicine in the overdose of young Australians. Gisev says the TGA is trying to evaluate the options to reduce some of the harms, and the changes of pack sizes from 20 to 16 tablets brings Australia in line with lots of other countries.

Continuing interview on: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Health Check: Good golly Miss Molly! Emyria says Ecstasy works for PTSD, months after treatment

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/02/2025, Tim Boreham

Shares in psychedelic drug developer Emyria (ASX:EMD) today leaped 14%, after the company said its MDMA-based therapy continued to reduce the symptoms of the hard-to-treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) three months after treatment. MDMA is more commonly known as Molly, or Ecstasy.

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Toxic discovery was 'gut-wrenching'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/02/2025, Matthew Kelly, Page 6

The "systemic organisational failure" of state and government agencies to effectively manage "forever chemical" pollution had resulted in a crisis of trust in affected communities, a parliamentary inquiry has heard. The inquiry, which is examining testing and monitoring practices for per- and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals, also known as PFAS, held a hearing in Newcastle yesterday.

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