



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 7th February 2025

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

LINKS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that a number of Melbourne's eastern suburbs have received perfect scores on a new Environmental Quality Health Index developed by researchers at Monash University's School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, which aims to assist policymakers in determining which areas might need additional investment to address environmental issues such as heatwaves.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports that Canberra's Calvary John James Hospital has submitted a development application for a \$500 million refurbishment that will provide two new operating theatres, but reduce bed numbers.
- **[The Daily Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that nurses and midwives in the Wagga region have criticised a NSW government decision to expand a program deploying healthcare workers to fill short-term placements in regional, rural and remote areas, with industry leaders noting that the funding invested in the program could instead be directed towards a pay rise for permanent staff.
- **[The Newcastle Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that a seven year-old child suffering anaphylaxis was treated by a pharmacist at the direction of a Triple Zero officer after a local GP clinic turned her away twice, stating that they were too busy to take on new patients.

- **The Northern Territory News** (page 1) reports that the federal and Northern Territory government have reached an agreement which will commit \$842.6 in funding to the Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment, as part of a commitment to deliver outcomes in line with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. *Also reported by:* [The Australian Financial Review](#)
- **The West Australian** (page 1) reports that recent findings from the Productivity Commission have revealed that Western Australia is falling behind other states in GP numbers and bulk-billing rates, and that fewer than half of all patients in Western Australia's emergency departments are being seen in a timely manner.
- **The Courier Mail** (page 9) reports that Minister for Health Mark Butler has highlighted the rollout of 61 free walk-in Medicare Mental Health Centres across the nation following the release of Productivity Commission figures that demonstrated that there had been a slight drop in the number of Australians accessing Medicare psychology sessions in 2023-24 from the year previous.
- **The Gold Coast Bulletin** (page 12) reports that Queensland's seven "Satellite Hospitals" will be renamed "Satellite Health Centres" in an effort to clear up confusion about the facilities' purpose, a decision which has been met with approval by the Australian Medical Association of Queensland. *Also reported by:* [The Courier Mail](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#), [ABC Online](#)
- **The Australian** (page 15) reports that the Australian Private Hospitals Association is calling on the federal government to provide funding of \$450 million per year to private hospitals until the sector can be stabilised and a sustainable business model developed. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Northern Territory News](#)
- **ABC Online** reports that thousands of junior doctors in New South Wales are considering industrial action in an effort to seek improved rosters, conditions, and pay following the reveal of an HR email that compared junior doctors in Newcastle to "marshmallows." *Also reported by:* [The Newcastle Herald](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Medicare psych sessions down

Courier Mail, General News, 07/02/2025, Clare Armstrong, Page 9

Fewer Australians are accessing Medicare psychology appointments than before Labor halved the number of subsidised sessions for each patient on the promise it would allow more people to get support. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said doubling the number of subsidised sessions without doubling the number of psychologists would create a "bottleneck" in the system.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#)

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

A country practice luring health workers to the bush

Cowra Guardian, General News, 06/02/2025, Steph Gardiner, Page 15

Healthcare workers getting a taste of life in the country are staying in the bush, as medical groups push for rural health to be a federal election priority. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler recently announced a four-year trial in parts of rural Queensland to support up to 60 GP and rural generalist trainees.

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

'Error' harming streaky

Eyre Peninsula Advocate, General News, 06/02/2025, Luca Cetta, Page 1

Streaky Bay District Council is calling for a change to a federal health model it says is an obvious error affecting the town's health care. [...] It said Health Minister Mark Butler failed to offer any commitment to address the concern, but the Health Department has told the Eyre Peninsula Advocate a review may be on the cards.

NT hospitals to see \$51 million injection from \$1.7 billion federal health funding boost

NT Independent, Other, 06/02/2025

The Territory's hospitals will get a one-off cash injection of \$51 million this year as part of the Albanese Labor Government's national funding boost, which the government said was done to strengthen Medicare and support public hospitals. The funding increase, that comes ahead of the federal election, is part of a "new agreement" between the Federal and NT Governments that will see the Commonwealth's funding for public hospitals in the Territory increase by 30 per cent, the Federal Government said, bringing the total funding to \$560 million for the 2025-26 fiscal year, following the \$51 million boost in 2024-25. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said governments have wasted too much time engaging in the "blame game."

[Read More](#)

When ideology prevents trans people from accessing healthcare, we all lose

Crikey, Other, 06/02/2025, Natalie Feliks

A story in The Courier-Mail led to a swift and disproportionate response by the Queensland government. But then again, that shouldn't come as a surprise. [...] A few days later, federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced a review into gender-affirming care for under-18s.

[Read More](#)

Albanese splashes \$1.7 billion in major boost to Medicare

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/02/2025, Max Aldred

Anthony Albanese has announced a \$1.7 billion strategy to strengthen Medicare amid 'pressures' on Australia's health care system. [...] Mr Albanese, flanked by Health Minister Mark Butler, announced the major cash injection during a press conference on Wednesday.

[Read More](#)

Wholesalers secure funding boost

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 8

Community Service Obligation (CSO) wholesalers received a 34% increase in funding from the Commonwealth from 1 January 2025, as part of a new agreement announced in mid-December. [...] Mark Butler, Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, said the \$4.2 billion agreement "ensures medicines distributors will continue to supply the full range of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines to pharmacies across Australia within 24 hours, no matter where that pharmacy might be".

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

'Doctor of Pharmacy' title announced

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 11

Graduates of a new Level 9 Extended Masters of Pharmacy degree will earn the title of Doctor of Pharmacy, the federal government has announced. Speaking at the Pharmacy Guild's Annual Parliamentary Dinner in Canberra, in late November, Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, said: "The Albanese government is delivering on a commitment to pharmacists who can now join other health professionals recognised with the title Doctor when they finish an Extended Masters."

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

Albanese's "cracker" announcement: \$1.7B in additional funding for public hospitals and health services

Aged Care Insite, Other, 06/02/2025, Stefanie Schultz

The Albanese government has unveiled a \$1.7bn funding boost for state-run hospitals amid "pressures" hampering the country's health system. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said it was a "landmark deal between the states, the territories and the Commonwealth."

[Read More](#)

Hospital boost dubbed "bandaid"

Finance/Career, Other, 06/02/2025, Tim Hall

The Albanese Government has announced an additional \$1.7 billion in funding for public hospitals in the 2025–26 financial year. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has dismissed past government approaches as "trench warfare" over funding disputes.

[Read More](#)

National Framework for Genomics in Cancer Control launched

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 07/02/2025

Cancer Australia's National Framework for Genomics in Cancer Control, to guide health professionals, health services, policymakers and researchers in safely and effectively incorporating genomics into cancer care, set out specific goals for the future of genomics-informed cancer care and lay out actions for implementation across the cancer care continuum and the broader health system. [...] "Australia is at the precipice of transforming the potential of genomics into concrete improvements in cancer care, research, policies and service delivery," Australia's Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

Government announces \$1.7B boost for public hospitals

Inside Ageing, Other, 06/02/2025, Amy Clarke

The Australian Government has announced an additional \$1.7 billion in hospital funding for the 2025-26 financial year, marking a significant commitment to strengthening Medicare and addressing mounting pressures on the public healthcare system. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler hailed the deal as a landmark agreement between the states, territories, and the Commonwealth.

[Read More](#)

Join the 15 'Protect Trans Youth' rallies in this weekend's National Day of Action

Q News, Other, 06/02/2025, Dean Arcuri

This Saturday, 15 Protect Trans Youth rallies are taking place nationwide, in a National Day of Action after QLD's trans hormone therapy ban. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler has since announced a National Health and Medical Research Council review into gender-affirming healthcare.

[Read More](#)

Hopes \$1.7B hospital boost flows to general practice

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 06/02/2025

A GP expert has welcomed the one-off payment but says 'we need to endow the system with more funding to just manage the day to day'. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the funding comes at a time when the existing arrangements 'simply aren't fit for purpose'.

[Read More](#)

Stretched hospitals get \$1 billion in 'landmark' deal

Starts at 60, Other, 06/02/2025

Public hospitals and health services will receive \$1.7 billion in extra funding to help save more lives. [...] "The existing arrangements ... simply aren't fit for purpose," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

Albanese pumps \$1.7B into hospitals ahead of election showdown

The Australia Today, Other, 06/02/2025, Julius Sans & Amit Sarwal

This move brings the Commonwealth's total contribution to state-run hospitals to a record \$33.91 billion in 2025-26, marking a 12 per cent increase. [...] Meanwhile, Health Minister Mark Butler took aim at past governments that played "the blame game" instead of fixing the system.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 05/02/2025, Kyle Dowling

Overstretched public hospitals will receive an extra \$1.7 billion in federal funding under a new deal struck with the states. The additional funding lifts the Commonwealth's overall contribution to public hospitals by 12% to almost \$34 billion next year.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, 06/02/2025, Monique Wright

Facing growing pressure and demand, Sydney's hospitals have been stretched to the limit, but they have received a lifeline, as the Federal Government pledges more than \$1b to ease the burden and bolster Medicare. Health Minister Mark Butler says the hospital system is under pressure.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Seven Orange \(Orange\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia (Late), 05/02/2025

Interview The Prime Minister has accused the opposition of political game playing over national security in a heated Question Time. It came after labor announced a new funding package for public hospitals moving to make Medicare central to its election pitch.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 05/02/2025, Ricardo Goncalves

Interview It's a one year deal. But the opposition maintains it's a broken promise because it doesn't land the five year agreement that was foreshadowed and leaves National Disability Insurance Scheme changes on pause.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, The Rita Panahi Show, 05/02/2025, Rita Panahi

News Oh, that's harsh Prue. Gary. [...] In Australia, Health Minister Mark Butler has announced a review of what he calls trans health care, including things like puberty blockers.

[Play Now](#)

WIN Wollongong, WIN News, 06/02/2025, Bruce Roberts

Essential medications cost Aussie families hundreds of dollars a month, but as financial pressure grows, some are weighing up medicine versus rent and food, with calls to lower the cost and save lives and dignity. Health Minister Mark Butler says they have worked hard to reduce the costs of medicinal scripts.

[Play Now](#)

MIX 104.9, 360, 06/02/2025, Katie Woolf

Hospitals, including the Northern Territory. The Federal Government is investing \$1.7 billion to cut wait times in emergency departments and manage ramping. Health Minister Mark Butler says the NT will get the largest increase.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, Mornings, 06/02/2025, Chris Mitchell

There will be a big financial boost to the State and Territories by next week, to help them run public hospitals, as they receive an extra \$1.7b for one year. Health Minister Mark Butler says long-term structure reforms are still on the table.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, AM, 06/02/2025, Sabra Lane

Pre-recorded interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Compere says the Federal government will give a big boost to the states and territories next financial year to help them run public hospitals,

because it says it's run out of time to negotiate a new five-year deal. Butler mentions that the WA Government went into "caretaker mode" yesterday and given that the health deal requires every jurisdiction to be active for this plan, then this poses a problem.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Older Australians - Changing the Narrative

Fleurieu Sun, General News, 06/02/2025, Page 22

In June 2023 the Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells MP said in her National Press Club address 'the Baby Boomers are coming' painting our growing, ageing population as a 'challenge'. The Sydney Morning Herald in September 2024 reiterated this, saying 'The Boomers are coming for aged care'.

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

Aged care changes help you stay at home

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 46

Around 1.4 million Australians will benefit from a new Support at Home program by 2035, as part of the federal government's historic aged care reforms that will allow seniors to retain their independence and remain in their homes for longer. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said the program will help seniors remain independent in their homes and communities for longer while receiving the assistance they need.

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

First Nations Aged Care Commissioner urges "critical reforms" in new report

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/02/2025, Giovanni Torre

Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner Andrea Kelly has urged the federal government to enact a series of critical reforms to improve aged care for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. [...] Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells has extended Ms Kelly's role as Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner until June 2026.

[Read More](#)

102 MPS residential care places allocated at a cost of \$74K per bed

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2025, Caroline Egan

Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells yesterday afternoon released the 2024-25 allocation of Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) places with 56 of 102 residential care places going to 10 existing MPSs across New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia. The remaining 46 places will be allocated to three new MPSs although details about where they will be located have not been released.

[Read More](#)

Govt renews funding for 8,000 aged care nursing student placements

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2025, Caroline Egan

The Australian Government has renewed funding for the Aged Care Nurse Clinical Placements Program (ACNCPP) with an \$18.4 million investment to support 8,000 nursing students achieve clinical placements in the aged care sector. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said, "Our continued support of this program demonstrates the Albanese Government's commitment to attracting nurses to aged care and building a skilled and supported workforce to meet the needs and rights of older people."

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today , 06/02/2025, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Panel discussion with Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells and Paul Sakkal, Federal Politics Reporter, Sydney Morning Herald. Wells points out that the laws that they are introducing today regarding hate speech represent the toughest laws ever against hate crimes in Australia. She believes that the Government has worked with this in a methodical and careful manner.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 06/02/2025, Ricardo Goncalves

The Government has bowed to opposition demands to introduce mandatory minimum sentences for certain terror and hate crimes. Anika Wells, Aged Care Minister, says as an elective representative she will do what she can to listen to her community and act where she can.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Thousands visit urgent care clinic

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 06/02/2025, Page 29

Assistant Health Minister and Member for Dobell, Emma McBride, is delighted that more than 15,000 people have been able to access free medical care at the Lake Haven Medicare Urgent Care Clinic. She said that one in five presenting at the clinic were children aged under 15, demonstrating that Medicare Urgent Care Clinics were a trusted alternative to the ED for local families.

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

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Lidia Thorpe, some cross-benchers oppose mandatory sentencing laws

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/02/2025, Declan Brennan

A decision to introduce federal mandatory sentencing laws has been slammed by Senator Lidia Thorpe as going against the "best evidence" on effective justice systems. [...] The assistant minister for Indigenous health, Ged Kearney, abstained from voting on the amendment to the bill, which was supported by both major parties and independents Allegra Spender, Rebekha Sharkie, Dai Le, and Russell Broadbent.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Helping kids navigate friendships, anxiety and emotions

South Burnett Today, General News, 06/02/2025, Page 22

As families across Australia return to school, excitement may be mixed with anxiety, especially for parents and carers who are concerned about their child's mental health and wellbeing. [...] Delivery of the Triple P Positive Parenting Program to parents and carers of children in Australia is supported by

funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care under the Parenting Education and Support Program.

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

Funding secured for non-8CPA programs

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 9

Funding for a range of pharmacy programs that was set to expire at the end of the current financial year will continue in 2025/26 and beyond, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has said. In an alert issued to members on 20 December 2024, the PSA revealed that "the Department of Health and Aged Care has confirmed funding of programs outside the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) beyond 30 June 2025".

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

HRT shortages to continue

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 11

In an update released on Friday 20 December, the Department of Health and Aged Care reported that shortages of some hormone replacement therapy (HRT) brands are expected to be extended until June and December 2025. "The shortages are due to manufacturing reasons or an increase in demand for alternate brands," the Department said.

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

Auslan has the power to empower

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/02/2025, Anthony Caggiano, Page 45

In-home support support workers who can communicate in Audrey Doonan's language empower her to make decisions about her health and the kind of support she receives at home. [...] Australian Census data from 2021 shows about 16,200 people in the country use Auslan, while the Department of Health and Aged Care said about 3.6 million people have some level of hearing loss.

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

New grant supports specialised dementia care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 06/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Specialist Dementia Care Program Grant Opportunity is now open to providers in the Western New South Wales Primary Health Network that have received an invitation to apply from the Department of Health and Aged Care. The government's SDCP provides care for people exhibiting very severe behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia who are unable to be appropriately cared for in mainstream aged care settings.

[Read More](#)

Mental healthcare needs structural reform, not Band-Aid solutions

Croakey, Other, 06/02/2025, Melissa Sweet

Researchers have cautioned against the use of "Band-Aid solutions" to the current crisis in public psychiatry in NSW, saying it should be used as "a catalyst for long-overdue and major structural reforms" in mental healthcare. [...] The Federal Department of Health and Aged Care's 2024 tender for youth mental health signals growing recognition of system-wide issues and a need for reform.

[Read More](#)

ACCC junks industry code prohibiting infant formula promotion

Inside FMCG, Other, 06/02/2025, Celene Ignacio

The Infant Nutrition Council failed to secure approval for its proposed industry code which would restrict advertising and promotion of infant formula. [...] An earlier Department of Health and Aged Care-commissioned independent review showed that the agreement no longer fits its purpose and suggested that the code be replaced with a stronger regulatory framework in the form of a legislated, prescribed, mandatory code.

[Read More](#)

Most GPs don't like or trust their PHN: RACGP

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/02/2025, Holly Payne

"Unmanaged conflicts of interest" and baffling decision-making have eroded any goodwill that GPs had toward federally funded Primary Health Networks. [...] It did not pull many punches in its submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care's review of PHN business models, alleging that "the bulk of GPs do not have a good experience with their local PHNs" and that "unmanaged conflicts of interest and unclear decision-making have undermined GP trust in the capacity for PHNs to self-manage these issues".

[Read More](#)

Dept mum on funding aged care nurse pay rise from 1 March

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2025, Caroline Egan

A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care has told The Weekly the Federal Government is still considering the pay rise for aged care nurses taking effect starting 1 March 2025, and further information will be provided "in the near future". Less than four weeks out from the planned pay rise, there has been no confirmation from the Government when funding will be provided and even if it will be covered by the Government.

[Read More](#)

Productivity Commission: hope in aged care but plenty of room for improvement

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2025, Caroline Egan

The median time between ACAT approval and entry into residential aged care in 2023-24 was 136 days, according to the Productivity Commission (PC)'s Report on Government Services 2025 on aged care services. [...] The latest data from the Department of Health and Aged Care shows there are still more than 76,000 people waiting on a Home Care Package at their assessed level of need and expected wait times for a Level 4 Home Care Package have blown out to 15 months.

[Read More](#)

Another key driver of aged care reforms promoted within Dept

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2025, Caroline Egan

Fay Flevaras has been promoted to the role of Chief Digital Information Officer (CDIO) after being First Assistant Secretary Digital Transformation & Delivery – Aged Care Reform since 2021. She has been instrumental in driving the extensive technology reforms within the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC), including introducing the Government Provider Management System (GPMS), which is central to aged care reforms placing increased reporting requirements on providers.

[Read More](#)

DoHAC releases second draft of funding rules for new Aged Care Act

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2025, Caroline Egan

The Australian Government department's 148-page 'Consultation Draft' on the aged care Rules for Chapter 4 of the new Aged Care Act were released during the week after a first Draft was published in September last year. [...] Tranche 3 of the Rules are expected to be released in February, according to a Department of Health and Aged Care webinar held last week.

[Read More](#)

DoHAC aged care regulation webinar: "Is anyone else concerned?"

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2025, Caroline Egan

At a Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) webinar on the new regulatory model held on 30 January, a questioner asked, "Is anyone else concerned that we have so many questions still on how the new program will work?" Robert Day, Assistant Secretary Harmonisation and Regulatory Strategy Branch with the DoHAC, having already fielded questions from dozens of questioners, responded with, "There's a degree to which I'm not surprised, to be honest."

[Read More](#)

Aged care shock: Fed Govt cuts COVID-19 supplement by 40% as vaccination rate languishes

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2025, Caroline Egan

In a surprise move, the Aged Care Outbreak Management Support Supplement available to Government-funded aged care homes has been cut from \$2.81 per day per bed, the rate received per bed per day until the end of December 2024, to only \$1.65 per bed per day. "In 2025, the updated COVID-19 Supplement reflects the decrease in the number of cases and outbreaks in aged care homes," the Department of Health and Aged Care's website states.

[Read More](#)

2MCE, 13:00 National Radio News, 06/02/2025

The public would not reap the benefits of an industry code on the marketing on infant formula, that's the ruling of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission which has denied the authorisation for an industry code put forward by the Infant Nutrition Council. The Department of Health and Aged Care commissioned an independent review, which found the current agreement was no longer fit for purpose.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

VACCINES

Vaxxas expansion

Courier Mail, Business News, 07/02/2025, Glen Norris, Page 25

Brisbane-based needle-free vaccine patch company Vaxxas will expand its global capabilities with the appointment of three internationally respected vaccine industry leaders. [...] Based in the US, Europe, and Australia, the advisers enhance Vaxxas' global reach and will provide critical input to the company's product pipeline, including in Covid-19, influenza and Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

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

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Program sees aged care traineeship numbers rise

Border Watch, General News, 07/02/2025, Page 16

An innovative mobile workforce development program led by South West TAFE has spread to 33 aged care facilities across Victoria and introduced more than 110 new trainees to an industry desperate for new staff. The award-winning lab is now being delivered across 24 towns in 10 local government areas with more expansion opportunities on the horizon.

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

Funding boost to help seniors exercise together regularly

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/02/2025, Gabriel Fowler, Page 14

More seniors will be encouraged and supported to join regular exercise sessions to help improve their health and fitness thanks to a state government grant. The ActiveStrongerBetter program has received a \$30,000 grant via NovaCare Community Services in Newcastle to reach more seniors from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

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

Could Australia really have a 'de-rationed' aged care system? The Greens say yes; logic – and fairness – says no

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2025, Lauren Broomham

With the Federal Election due to take place by May, the Greens have unveiled their aged care policies.

We don't think they will fly.

[Read More](#)

Aged care nurses starting careers to be paid 20% more than healthcare counterparts from 1 March 2025

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2025, Caroline Egan

Increases in the minimum wage for Registered Nurses (RNs) and Enrolled Nurses (ENs) working in aged care will be paid over three "broadly speaking" equal tranches from 1 March 2025, 1 October 2025, and 1 August 2026. In December 2024, the Fair Work Commission (FWC) announced wage increases for nurses working in aged care based on their finding the nurses' workload has been historically undervalued due to assumptions based on gender.

[Read More](#)

New calls to push up the pension

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/02/2025, Eileen Wood, Page 3

As cost-of-living pressures continue to leave many elderly pensioners in poverty, a peak seniors' advocacy group is calling for a \$10-a-day increase in the pension for singles (\$15-a-day for couples combined). Chris Grice, chief executive of National Seniors Australia, said, "Our own research suggests even pensioners who own their homes feel as though the age pension is inadequate, with the median amount needed to maintain a basic lifestyle estimated at \$10,000 more than the current age pension rate for a single person."

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

Elderly are on the brink

The Senior - TAS, General News, 01/02/2025, Eileen Wood, Page 4

Joe Mason*, 82, is part of a growing demographic of elderly people either living on the streets or on the brink. "I'm a shop away from homelessness," Joe said, opting to use a pseudonym rather than his real name.

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

Damning new report

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/02/2025, Eileen Wood, Page 4

Dulcie Lavers, 82, was recently widowed. When she needed a light bulb replaced in her dining room and had no one to help her she called an electrician, who came with three offsiders and charged her \$250. Now the age pensioner is letting her house deteriorate around her.

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

Star ratings improve quality of care in aged care homes

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 8

The quality of care delivered in Australia's aged care sites is improving, according to a study. It follows the introduction of a star rating system for such sites after the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety found substandard care and abuse "pervades" the system.

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

What is in-home care, how can it help me live a better life?

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/02/2025, Anthony Caggiano, Page 44

If you notice changes in mum or dad's ability to go about things by themselves, in-home care might be an option, where care is delivered at home to help them stay independent and continue living in their own homes as they age. Transport and social activities Among the help available are community visitor schemes, plus carer services, which can organise for someone to pop in and share a coffee or hobby with your loved one, building a bond with them and giving them something to look forward to on the calendar.

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

Hearing app makes finals in 'health techquity' awards

A gaming-inspired Australian hearing assessment app for aged care is a finalist at the US digital health event ViVe 2025. Developed in Australia in collaboration with the University of Newcastle and Maroba Caring Communities, the Sound Scouts hearing assessment app for ageing Australians has been selected as a finalist at the international digital health awards event ViVe 2025, in Nashville in the United States.

[Read More](#)

Struggling older Australians abandon retirement dreams to make ends meet

The Senior, Other, 06/02/2025, Eileen Wood

Lydia*, a 69-year-old retired admin assistant, went back to work doing nightfill at her local supermarket because she struggled to make ends meet. "I only have a small amount of superannuation because I was a stay-at-home mum for a lot of my married life, and then I was a carer for my husband until he passed away ten years ago," she said.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

New health index may prompt you to move house

Australian Financial Review, General News, 07/02/2025, Joshua Peach, Page 9

Traditional measures of a person's health are often heavily influenced by the surrounding environmental factors, write Joshua Peach, Lucy King and Daniel Reti.

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

Something in the air for Victoria's healthiest places

Age, General News, 07/02/2025, Broede Carmody, Page 1

A string of suburbs along Melbourne's leafy eastern fringe are among the healthiest places to live in Victoria, according to public health researchers. Belgrave, Olinda and Emerald have all been given a perfect score of 100 under a new rating system that combines factors such as air quality, access to green spaces and variances in temperature all of which can affect a person's health.

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

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

Editorial

Border Watch, General News, 07/02/2025, Page 8

Kids are back at school and things have returned to normal after a long break. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, almost 14 per cent of children aged four to eleven experienced a mental disorder.

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

The gender fitness gap, aka why women exercise less than men - and how we can change it

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/02/2025, Amanda Hooton

A committed couch potato digs into the stats on her stasis – and finally finds her fitness groove. [...] Almost half of Australian women aged 18-64 were insufficiently active in 2022 compared to a third of men, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

[Read More](#)

Parkinson's squarely in sights of new UTAS medical resource

The Mercury, Other, 06/02/2025, Duncan Abey

UTAS is helping lead the fight against the world's fastest-growing neurodegenerative disease, by

launching a free online resource to empower the millions of people living with Parkinson's. The University of Tasmania is helping lead the fight against the world's fastest-growing neurodegenerative disease, by launching a free online resource to empower millions of people across the globe living with Parkinson's.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

WA health minister urges public to avoid private rehab facilities

ABC Online, Other, 06/02/2025

Western Australia's health minister has urged the public to avoid private mental health and drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities until the sector is regulated. Amber-Jade Sanderson said those regulations would be introduced during the next four years if her party was returned to power.

[Read More](#)

Walking laps of the shops is a healthy excuse for a chat

The Senior - TAS, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 11

A boost of positive energy and a guaranteed cup of coffee are among the reasons why Ron and Marian Hetherington love their shopping centre walking groups. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare said 30 minutes of "moderate" exercise daily, or at least on most days, was recommended for people aged 65 and over.

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

Early diagnosis urged for younger-onset dementia

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Naomi Moylan, Page 36

More needs to be done to help the forgotten people living with younger-onset dementia, according to occupational therapist Naomi Moylan. When most people think of dementia, they imagine elderly individuals in their seventies or eighties.

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

Dementia with Lewy bodies

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 66

After Alzheimer's disease, dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) is the second most common neurodegenerative dementia in older people, yet up to half of DLB cases are misdiagnosed. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) estimated that in 2023 there were around 411,100 people living with dementia in Australia, including 257,500 women and 153,700 men.

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

Time to restore full continued dispensing

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/02/2025, Adele tahan

Pharmacists unable to practice to current scope due to restrictions on continued dispensing, pharmacy leader says. Red tape requiring emergency measures to be implemented to allow pharmacists to dispense PBS-subsidised medicines when patients are unable to access their regular prescriber should be scrapped, according to Tasmanian pharmacist, Dr Shane Jackson.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, The Project, 06/02/2025, Georgie Tunny, Waleed Aly, Sam Taunton, and Nick Cody

Research from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found social, isolation and loneliness pose major risks to cardiovascular health.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Shock diagnosis 'not the end'

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 07/02/2025, Page 4

When Pam Eade started relying on her husband to finish her sentences she chalked it up to the familiarity that comes with 40 years together. She wasn't worried until a friend pulled her aside to express concern.

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

Dementia to double

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 07/02/2025, Page 14

The prevalence of dementia in Australia is projected to double within the next 30 years without significant intervention. Dementia Australia chief executive Tanya Buchanan said there are an estimated 433,300 Australians living with dementia in 2025.

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

'If I lost my hair, I wouldn't be me': Abbey's battle with breast cancer

Canberra Times, Other, 06/02/2025, Jessica Belzycki

As Abbey Boyce underwent chemotherapy for stage three breast cancer , she wanted to stand in front of a mirror and still recognise the woman looking back. [...] But after eight rounds of chemotherapy, Ms Boyce still had hair on her head, which she attributed to the hospital's cold cap machine.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Sunscreens: more than sunburn preventers

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 26

Skin is fabulous because it helps defend us against the potentially devastating effects of solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation. But, according to the Melanoma Institute Australia, 95% of melanomas are caused by overexposure to UV radiation and melanoma is still the most common cancer in Australians aged 20 to 39 years.

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

Children's asthma: the risk when returning to school

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Leanne Philpott, Page 38

According to the National Asthma Council, the start of the school year is the most common time for children's asthma flare-ups. Around 20-25% of children's hospital admissions for asthma occur in February.

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

New era for screening

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 3

It is estimated that the screening program could reduce mortality rates by 20% and prevent more than 12,000 deaths in its first 10 years. Australia is a world leader on smoking cessation, but lung cancer remains our leading cause of cancer death.

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

Surviving prostate cancer in more ways than one

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Cathy O'Leary, Page 10

Cancer experts are trying to change the narrative on the unwanted side effects from prostate cancer treatment. It was once the inevitable collateral damage from prostate cancer treatment the lifechanging side effects that were considered the price that men had to pay to beat the disease.

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

Lung cancer screening a gamechanger

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Andrea Downey, Page 16

Lung cancer claims thousands of Australian lives every year, but a new targeted screening program could catch deadly cases earlier. [...] Those with symptoms suggestive of lung cancer should not be referred to the screening program, instead their symptoms should continue to be investigated, according to Cancer Australia's guide for lung cancer.

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

The power of selfchecking for BC

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Sanjay Warriar, Page 32

How often should women check their breasts? What is the correct technique?

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

Bladder cancer update

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Steve Mccombie, Page 38

Haematuria is a highly concerning symptom for urological malignancy, with 26% of patients with visible haematuria and 6% of patients with non-visible haematuria having cancer identified most being bladder cancers. The absence of risk factors for bladder cancer should not deter or delay full and prompt investigation 8% of under 45-year-olds, 18% of non-smokers, and 20% of females with visible haematuria have an underlying malignancy.

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

Prostate cancer: early detection and advances in management

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Prof Tee, Page 47

Prostate cancer remains one of the most common malignancies affecting men, particularly those over 50 years of age. While it typically progresses slowly, allowing for prolonged disease management, early detection and timely intervention are key to improving clinical outcomes.

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

Reconstructive surgery in skin cancer treatment

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Dr Shahriar, Page 48

Skin cancer remains one of the most prevalent malignancies in Australia, with effective treatment occasionally requiring a multidisciplinary approach. Among the treatment options, reconstructive surgery plays a pivotal role in restoring both function and appearance after excision of cancerous lesions.

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

The role of pelvic health physiotherapy in prostate cancer

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Malina Kelly, Page 51

Common prostate conditions such as benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) or prostate cancer can cause pelvic symptoms such as voiding dysfunction, nighttime and daytime frequency of urination, urinary urgency and urinary incontinence (UI). Despite the importance of the prostate and the prevalence of prostate symptoms, many men are unaware of the anatomy of their pelvis and do not know how they can improve their pelvic health to conservatively manage pelvic symptoms secondary to prostate changes.

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

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Private hospitals call for bailout

The Australian, Business News, 07/02/2025, Cameron England, Page 15

The federal government should support private hospitals to the tune of at least \$450m a year while a

sustainable business model for the sector is figured out, and introduce a private hospital nursing wage subsidy to avoid a potentially disastrous collapse, the Australian Private Hospitals Association says. The APHA, in its pre-budget submission to the government effectively a pre-election wish list recognises that efforts to figure out how the sector can remain financially viable are under way, but says short-term measures are needed after years of inaction.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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

\$500m upgrade for Calvary precinct

Canberra Times, General News, 07/02/2025, Lanie Tindale & Lucinda Garbutt-Young, Page 1

One of Canberra's biggest private hospitals is undergoing a \$500 million redevelopment which will add two new operating theatres but reduce bed numbers. The Calvary John James Hospital in Deakin is expected to undergo refurbishment in mid-2026.

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

'Satellite hospitals' get a name change

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 07/02/2025, Hayden Johnson & Christopher Burns, Page 12

Satellite Hospitals will be renamed "Satellite Health Centre" under a state government decision aimed at erasing confusion about the facilities. Health Minister Tim Nicholls on Thursday announced the name change at the newly renamed Redlands Satellite Health Centre, which already has been updated on Google Maps.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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

NT lands \$51m to boost hospitals

Northern Territory News, General News, 07/02/2025, Harry Brill, Page 8

An extra \$51m will be pumped into the Northern Territory's hospitals as part of a nationwide funding boost. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced \$1.7bn would be splashed across the country in a bid to "protect" Medicare.

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

WA's dire hospital diagnosis

West Australian, General News, 07/02/2025, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 1

A damning report on WA's hospitals has laid bare the plight of the State's emergency departments. Wait times for urgent cases are the worst in the nation with less than half of all ED patients being seen on time.

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

WA hospitals on life support

West Australian, General News, 07/02/2025, Libby Mettam, Page 41

Our hospitals are on the brink. They need urgent care.

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

Hospital protest put on the backburner

Border Mail, General News, 07/02/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 5

A planned hospital protest outside Victoria's Parliament House may be dropped. The rally is in doubt after Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas invited the mayors of Wodonga and Albury to meet with her to discuss their concerns about patient care and hospital plans.

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

New doctors for Bendigo

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2025, Jonathon Magrath, Page 4

Seven new doctors will start at the Bendigo Primary Care Centre as the organisation increases its medical team. Registrar GPs Miriam Oldfield, Gaurav Sonaria, Katherine Colvin, Amir Khoeilar, Ilze Alexander, Lauren Rogers and Baraa Ruban have chosen to specialise in general practice.

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

Woman admits to attacking paramedic

Border Mail, General News, 07/02/2025, Page 6

A woman who attacked a paramedic and a police officer in the Daysdale region is seeking to have the case treated as a mental health issue. Naomi Clare Lacey, 33, has admitted to assaulting the male paramedic at Daysdale on October 8 last year.

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

Left in the dark

Daily Mercury, General News, 07/02/2025, Page 14

It is simply not good enough that the people of Mackay weren't told for a week that its public hospital was under investigation once more. Despite launching a review into the Mackay Hospital and Health Service on January 24, it was six days later the Crisafulli government decided to let the public know it was happening.

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

Saving Madison

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Seven-year-old Madison O'Connor was twice turned away from a GP clinic while suffering anaphylaxis after eating a chocolate walnut bar. After her mother Sylvia was told the clinic was too busy to see her daughter, they hurried to a nearby chemist where pharmacist Kurt Luttenberger came to the rescue.

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

Paramedics warn not to leave kids in hot cars

Shepparton News, General News, 07/02/2025, Georgia Tacey, Page 9

Ambulance Victoria is reminding the community about the dangers of hot cars. This summer, AV paramedics have responded to over 230 reports of people locked in cars.

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

Suicide threat ignored

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 07/02/2025, Madeline Grace, Page 7

A Sunshine Coast mother says a major hospital turned away her 11-year-old autistic son after he tried to die by suicide, with the boy attempting again only hours after leaving the health facility. The mother, who this publication chose not to name, said that within six hours of returning home, her son tried to die by suicide again.

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

Fluoride feedback sought by MP

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 07/02/2025, Andrew Hedgman, Page 11

Following recent calls from medical professionals for water fluoridation to be managed at the state level rather than by local councils in Queensland, state independent Member for Noosa, Sandy Bolton, has revealed plans to launch a public survey to gather community feedback on the issue. Ms Bolton said that when potential issues arose and sparked public discussion, she often sought community feedback to gauge public sentiment.

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

Hospital a 'beacon of light' for mum who gave birth during Queensland floods

ABC Online, Other, 06/02/2025, Georgia Loney & Michael Clarke

Amid the tragedy and destruction in flood-ravaged North Queensland there has also been joy. Khirralaa

Kathleen Greer is the only baby to have been born in Ingham hospital the town flooded.

[Read More](#)

A gamechanger for pharmacy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Nick O'Donoghue, Page 16

Chemist Warehouse and Sigma Healthcare shareholders are set to vote on a merger that promises to overturn the community pharmacy retail landscape, writes Nick O'Donoghue. Australia's community pharmacy sector is set to experience some potentially seismic changes, with the merger of Chemist Warehouse and Sigma promising to create a uniquely vertically integrated business.

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

VAD: The state of play in WA

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Suzanne Harrison, Page 28

Voluntary Assisted Dying has been legal in WA since 2021. But in light of reviews of the practice, how successful has it been and is there room for improvement?

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

Commission reveals drop in fully bulk-billed patients

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 07/02/2025

The RACGP is calling for greater GP investment, saying there is 'still a way to go to rebuild Medicare' as new figures reveal a significant decline in patients receiving fully bulk-billed GP services. Fewer patients are being fully bulk billed in general practice.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 06/02/2025, Sharyn Ghidella

Queensland Satellite Hospitals will be renamed Satellite Health Centres under an LNP move to remove confusion. The Australian Medical Association has welcomed the renaming.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 06/02/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care Anne Ruston. Compere mentions that Health Minister Mark Butler said that the five-year deal that needs to be negotiated with the States and Territories will be on halt as they've run out of time to do that in line with the election. He states that this is in regard to the NDIS reforms. Ruston points out that the Government tried to do a grand deal with the States and Territories for them to take back responsibility for the foundational support that people who live with disability should reasonably expect in mainstream States and Territories.

[Play Now](#)

6PR, Drive, 06/02/2025, Oliver Peterson

The WA Liberal Party says it will overhaul the state's healthcare system if they win the next election. Libby Mettam has promised to spend more than \$275 million to fund extra beds for aged care, rehabilitation facilities and for patients needing long term support.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Race for hope a dash to save lives

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2025, Chelsea Bunting, Page 7

Business leaders across Geelong and the Surf Coast are lacing up their sneakers for a 135m race to support mental health and suicide prevention. Lifeline's 135 Corporate Dash, named for the 135 people

impacted by every life lost to suicide, encourages local businesses to nominate a representative to sprint or jog 135m down the home straight of the Geelong racecourse.

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

Animals, even robotic ones, providing comfort

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 07/02/2025, Patrick Reid, Page 47

Most of us have heard the saying, "Dogs are a man's best friend," but for many, that bond goes far beyond simple companionship. Increasingly, animals ranging from dogs to horses and even robots are proving to be vital partners in improving the health and wellbeing of individuals, particularly in residential aged care centres. Through the power of pet therapy, animals are helping to elevate moods, alleviate loneliness, and support physical, mental, and emotional health in ways that might surprise you.

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

Why your office could be making you lonelier

Canberra Times, Other, 06/02/2025, Lucinda Garbutt-Young

How far is your favourite coffee shop from your office? [...] In the ACT, 40 per cent of people experience loneliness that impacts their mental health, according to University of Canberra research.

[Read More](#)

ARRTS helps aviator overcome her fears

Air Force News, General News, 06/02/2025, Thomas McCoy, Page 13

A music-loving aviator is back in tune thanks to a specialist arts program targeting mental health. LACW Skye Loder joined Air Force straight from school, and early into her career faced challenges that played on her mind.

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

Kids institute grants

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 8

Eleven researchers at The Kids Research Institute Australia have been awarded funding in the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation's latest round of grants to support healthrelated research. Among the research supported are novel solutions for autism mental healthcare, a vaccine platform to optimise immunisation practice, improvements to the health and wellbeing of young trans kids, and investigations into early genetic diagnosis to improve WA children's life trajectory.

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

New look at social media

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 8

A Curtin University study has challenged the perception that heavy social media use has a significant impact on mental health, finding little to no relationship between the two. Not only does the research indicate the amount of time spent on social media has a negligible effect on mental health indicators such as depression, anxiety and stress the result isn't always negative, either.

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

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

No sense, say nurses

Daily Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2025, Finn Coleman, Page 1

Plans to expand a program to employ healthcare workers in regional and rural areas have perplexed Wagga nurses and midwives. The deployment program sees nurses, midwives, and allied health professionals fill short-term placements for key healthcare roles in regional, rural and remote areas across NSW.

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

'Marshmallows' vow rocky road ahead

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/02/2025, Simon McCarthy, Page 3

It was the office email that made the news, but junior doctors in the Hunter public health district say the cracks in the system were showing long before 'Marshmallow-gate'. Interns, young doctors and emergency staff say they have been overworked, underpaid and pushed to the limit long before they were ever labelled "clinical marshmallows" by a hospital administrator when one of their colleagues asked for a day off after working a string of consecutive night shifts.

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

'Glorifies burnout': Doctor's disgust over leaked hospital email

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/02/2025, Mary Madigan

A leaked email from John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle has exposed a culture that "glorifies burnout", according to a prominent doctor. The email, which criticises a junior doctor for seeking a "lifestyle" balance, has been widely circulated online in recent days.

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

[Read More](#)

'Marshmallow doctors' threaten strike and prepare to rally at John Hunter

Newcastle Herald, Other, 06/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw

Junior doctors say they will consider strike action amid "escalating tensions over their toxic workplace culture and hazardous conditions" at John Hunter Hospital. The doctors are angry and upset that a hospital manager referred to them as "clinical marshmallows".

[Read More](#)

'Marshmallow doctors' rally outside John Hunter, ready to strike for better conditions

Newcastle Herald, Other, 06/02/2025, Simon Mccarthy

It was the office email that made the news, but junior doctors in the Hunter public health district say the cracks in the system were showing long before 'Marshmallow-gate'. Interns, young doctors and emergency staff say they have been overworked, underpaid and pushed to the limit long before they were ever labelled " clinical marshmallows " by a hospital administrator when one of their colleagues asked for a day off after working a string of consecutive night shifts.

[Read More](#)

Junior doctors in NSW threaten strike after being labelled 'marshmallows' in leaked HR email

ABC Online, Other, 06/02/2025, Giselle Wakatama

Thousands of junior doctors across New South Wales are threatening to walk off the job in the wake of a leaked email that compared their Newcastle colleagues to marshmallows. The ABC understands the email from a human resources official was mistakenly sent to a junior doctor at John Hunter Hospital last week in response to a workplace issue.

[Read More](#)

Leaked HR email trashing junior doctor as a 'clinical marshmellow' reveals a dark side of Australian healthcare

An 'unacceptable' email from human resources at a major public hospital comparing junior doctors to 'clinical marshmallows' has enraged healthcare workers. The email was sent by mistake to a junior doctor at John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle, 170km north of Sydney , in response to a simple leave request.

[Read More](#)

AdPha supports partnered pharmacist prescribing model

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 12

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has gone to bat for Partnered Pharmacist Medication Prescribing, arguing for its many benefits to the healthcare system in response to a consultation on proposed legislative changes in Queensland. The current review of Queensland's Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021 includes a proposed amendment to "authorise pharmacists to prescribe medicines collaboratively with a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner under a Partnered Pharmacist Medication Prescribing model".

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

GPs share ideas to boost workforce

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 8

West Australian doctors have come together to share ideas and strategies to address the challenges of the State's GP workforce shortages. More than 60 GPs and key stakeholders came together to share insights and strategies at the WA Primary Health Alliance's recent GP workforce planning and prioritisation summit.

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

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

States warn on forged S8 scripts

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 10

Health authorities in both NSW and Tasmania have warned pharmacists to be on the alert for forged electronic scripts. [...] "The forged electronic prescriptions are being investigated by the Australian Digital Health Agency and the Department of Health and Aged Care," the spokesperson said.

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

Poll: Preparing for paracetamol scheduling changes

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 13

Patient safety concerns are behind the reduction in maximum pack sizes of paracetamol products... are you prepared?

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

Managing meds in FNQ

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/02/2025

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) has put in place a Continued Dispensing Emergency Measure to help people in Far North Queensland affected by the floods continue to access their PBS subsidised medicines. The temporary measure permits the supply of an eligible medicine to a person by an approved pharmacist, where there is an immediate need for the medicine, but the PBS

prescriber is unable to be contacted and/or is unable to provide an electronic PBS prescription or owing prescription.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

How much sleep do you need to stay heart healthy?

The Australian, Other, 06/02/2025, Jason Kovacic

Most of us know that following an unhealthy diet, smoking, drinking too much alcohol and having high blood pressure and/or cholesterol can increase your risk of heart disease. However, there's another little-known risk factor that affects millions of Australians: how well you sleep.

[Read More](#)

Amy Armstrong was a binge drinker but now helps others have fun sober

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/02/2025, Julie Cross

For years Amy Armstrong was a binge drinker who could easily put away a couple of bottles of wine – or more – during a boozy lunch. Often she couldn't remember what she'd done when she had sobered up. Her husband was becoming increasingly annoyed with her behaviour, her friends sometimes had to carry her home, and then there was the time she broke her arm when she fell over after a drinking session.

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

[Read More](#)

'Toxic': Aussie parents outraged as school bans fruit

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/02/2025, Eleanor Katelaris

A mum has sparked a heated discussion after revealing her child's school has changed its dedicated fruit and veggie snack break to "vegetables only", banning students from bringing fruit. Posting to the popular Lunch Box Mums Facebook group, the woman said she had received written notice from the school that said any fruit brought in would be sent back home.

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

[Read More](#)

Pedal power is surging in popularity

The Senior - TAS, General News, 01/02/2025, Anthony Caggiano, Page 5

Diane Eilliffe is part of a growing cohort of over-50s taking up cycling, and loves it so much she uses pedal power to go shopping, get to appointments and go on multi-day trips. She shares her enthusiasm as data from several reports shows an increase in the uptake of cycling among Australians aged over 50.

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

[Back to Top](#)

‘Gutted’ ex-Eagles chief calls for change after death

The Australian, Sport, 07/02/2025, Michael Warner, Page 24

West Coast Eagles premiership chairman Dalton Gooding says the game must do more to protect retired players who slip between the cracks. Gooding said he was gutted by the sudden death of 2006 grand final hero Adam Hunter, whose body was found in a suburban home in Bunbury, two hours south of Perth, on Wednesday.

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

Drugs key to Eagle tragedy

West Australian, Edition Changes, 07/02/2025, Ben McClellan & Mitchell Woodcock, Page 17

Police are yet to determine the cause of Adam Hunter's death but confirmed drugs found at the property where he died will be central to their investigation. WA Police South West District Supt Paul van Noort also revealed one of his officers saw the West Coast premiership player training with his local club hours before he was found dead where he seemed "fine".

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

Surfing at Stromlo: Audacious AIS pitch

Canberra Times, Sport, 07/02/2025, Page 59

Ever find yourself daydreaming about surfing in Manly or Bondi, only for a glance out the window to bring you back to reality in Canberra? Well, this audacious pitch designed to turn the capital into "the envy of the rest of the world" could be about to change that.

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

Diving in for high hopes at Games

Courier Mail, General News, 07/02/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 15

High divers could plunge from the Story Bridge, Kangaroo Point cliffs or a permanent facility under a push to have the spectacular sport included at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games. Best known for the vision of divers soaring from Red Bull structures, high diving is growing as a possible inclusion in the 2032 Games.

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

Kicking goals with girls' soccer surge

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2025, Peter Rolfe, Page 5

A surge in the popularity of soccer has seen participation rates grow more than 10 per cent in Victoria over the past year and twice that amount among female participants. Football Australia figures reveal there were 391,530 Victorian participants at all levels of the world game last year.

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

Women finally get their own amenities

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 07/02/2025, Natalie Croxon, Page 6

Three years, eight months and 17 days after he first called Kiama council about the need for new amenities at Gerringong's Gerry Emery Reserve, John Trevenar was able to open the sporting field's first female change room. Mr Trevenar was inspired to push for appropriate female amenities when he discovered women and girls were forced to change behind trees and cars, due to a lack of change rooms and limited toilets.

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

Gamechanging grants open now

Shepparton News, General News, 07/02/2025, Page 24

The Victorian Government is continuing to encourage and support women and girls to take part in sport. State Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes has announced that applications are open for the 2024-25 Change Our Game Community Activation Grants program.

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

How the tragic death of AFL star Adam Hunter continues the curse that has struck his high-profile teammates like Ben Cousins and Sam Kerr's brother Daniel

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/02/2025, Andrew Prentice

The tragic death of former AFL star Adam Hunter has continued the off-field curse that has rocked the likes of several fellow West Coast Eagles premiership players including Ben Cousins and Daniel Kerr. Hunter, 43, was found unresponsive in a home at Bunbury, south of Perth, on Wednesday and could not be revived.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Post the pandemic, how's your Covid?

The Australian, General News, 07/02/2025, Page 11

I pine for the good old days of man flu, where the slightest symptom, a cough, a sniffle or a general sense of malaise, could be exaggerated from mere discomfort to the onset of a grim death. Last week, I thought those days were back.

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

Scientists beat big pharma in fight against dire poverty

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/02/2025, Liam Mannix, Page 16

Hundreds of thousands of doses of a new drug to treat a major disease are being handed out to patients this week after a small, independent team of Australian scientists won a rare approval upending the normal drug development pathway. The success of their audacious strategy paves the way for charities and not-for-profits to bring drugs to market for diseases that are neglected by big pharmaceutical companies because the people needing the medication are too poor.

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

Covid lessons

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2025, Page 13

School closures reduced the impact of Covid-19 in most countries but had negative effects in some, Monash University-led research encompassing 74 countries has found. In Australia, researchers found school closures probably had a positive impact by reducing SARS-CoV-2 infections, peak hospital occupancy and deaths.

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

Mining to get PhD aid in mental health

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 07/02/2025, Carwyn Monck, Page 5

Research which emphasises the importance of mental health and safety in WA's mining sector is being undertaken by PhD students. PhD students from Edith Cowan University and the University of Western Australia are among the latest to be supported by the State Government's Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety program.

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

How one move could reinvigorate nation's regional health

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/02/2025, Stephen Jane, Page 44

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

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

Asthma breakthrough

An injection that targets specific symptoms could be game-changing for the millions of people living with asthma and COPD the first new treatment in 50 years. Research from the UK, supported by researchers in WA, have found a drug already available, Benralizumab, can be repurposed in emergency settings to reduce the need for further treatment or hospitalisation.

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

Cancer research boost

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 4

Cancer research in WA has been given a \$3 million boost from the Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund to support the work of Cancer Council WA. Cancer Council WA chief executive Ashley Reid said the additional funding would enable the organisation to offer up to \$4.34 million annually and address critical gaps that currently exist for WA cancer researchers.

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

Personalising treatment for youth depression

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 14

Tailoring antidepressant use based on how people metabolise medicines is the goal of new pilot study in WA aimed at improving mental health outcomes for young adults. The GENE-YD pilot trial will involve pharmacogenetic testing (PGx), a personalised medicine approach that examines how a person's genetic makeup affects how they respond to certain medications.

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

Kids' 'inside eyes' putting sight at risk

Medical Forum, General News, 01/02/2025, Andrea Downey, Page 24

It is often thought that too much screen time is damaging children's eyes, but not spending enough time outdoors could be posing a bigger risk. Researchers from the Lions Eye Institute in Perth have been looking at the causes of myopia and found the amount of time people spend outdoors correlates to their likelihood of the condition.

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

Nuts might just help you live longer

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/02/2025, Rowan Cowley, Page 18

Not only are they delicious, but studies show eating a humble nut or three each day can reduce risks of heart disease and dementia. A recently published global study found daily nut consumption lowered LDL cholesterol (bad cholesterol) and overall cholesterol, both contributors to heart disease.

Also reported by: [The Senior - VIC \(Melbourne\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

PM's flying visit to critical NT seat

Australian Financial Review, General News, 07/02/2025, Ronald Mizen, Page 5

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has made a flying visit to the Northern Territory to unveil \$842 million for remote Aboriginal projects amid fears Labor could lose the critical seat of Lingiari.

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

Albo's \$842m pledge

Northern Territory News, General News, 07/02/2025, Gera Kazakov, Page 1

Both the federal and Northern Territory government and a peak NT organisation have come to a six-year multimillion-dollar agreement aimed at improving the lives of Indigenous Territorians. [...] "The Albanese Government is committed to working in genuine partnership with First Nations people in the

Northern Territory to deliver better outcomes in line with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap," she said.

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

Council to lease Kelso hub to Aboriginal health provider

Western Advocate, General News, 06/02/2025, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 3

The Kelso Community Hub is on the precipice of becoming home to the Wahluu Health Aboriginal Corporation Bathurst. Bathurst Regional Council is likely to agree to enter into a lease with Wahluu Health for the site when it holds its next ordinary meeting on February 5, 2025.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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

Albanese government commits \$842.5m to boost plan to Close The Gap

The Australian, Other, 06/02/2025, Aisling Brennan

The Albanese government has pledged \$842.5m over six years in an effort to strengthen service delivery in remote First Nations communities across the Northern Territory. The partnership agreement between the federal government, Northern Territory government and the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory is part of the commitment on improving socio-economic outcomes under the National Agreement on Closing The Gap.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Indigenous health must not be overlooked in \$1.7 billion federal hospital plan

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/02/2025, Joseph Guenzler

The Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council has welcomed the federal government's \$1.7 billion commitment to ease pressure on public hospitals but says more targeted investment in First Nations health is needed. Proud Bailai and Torres Strait Islander man and QAIHC Chairman, Matthew Cooke, noted investment should focus on strengthening the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health organisations (ACCHOs) to collaborate with hospitals and deliver care in community settings, including hospital-in-the-home programs.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Cautious relief after bird flu strain wiped out in Australia

Ballarat Courier, General News, 07/02/2025, Page 6

A deadly bird flu strain has been eradicated from Australian shores, but egg farmers aren't feeling a blanket sense of relief. More than 1.8 million birds were killed in a quest to rid the nation of the disease after Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT experienced outbreaks.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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

First case of MenB for 2025 prompts jab debate

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 07/02/2025, Angela Pownall, Page 3

An adult was recovering in hospital this week after contracting meningococcal WA's first recorded case of the bacterial infection of 2025. WA Health revealed that the person contracted the B strain of the disease which follows three meningococcal cases, including one death, in 2024.

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

Fears for flood-hit region

Cairns Post, General News, 07/02/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 11

As Queensland has already seen its first case of Japanese encephalitis virus since 2022 and the first cases of dengue virus in five years, the state's peak medical body is warning those in flood-hit areas to be aware of the risks of mosquito bites. The Australian Medical Association Queensland highlights the public health risks of the devastating North Queensland floods.

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

Mosquito warnings for residents in flood-affected NQ

The Courier Mail, Other, 06/02/2025, Jackie Sinnerton

North Queensland's floods have already taken a toll and now there are fresh warnings for residents. As Queensland has already seen its first case of Japanese encephalitis virus since 2022 and the first cases of dengue virus in five years, the state's peak medical body is warning those in flood hit areas to be aware of the risks of mosquito bites

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Consumer health minnow Wellnex Life gears up for company-making Eurotrip

The Australian, Other, 06/02/2025, Tim Boreham

Wellnex is in the process of raising up to \$16 million ahead of a secondary London listing. [...] The answer is that Wellnex developed a liquid soft-gel paracetamol, for which it gained Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration approval.

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

[Read More](#)

Eli Lilly clarifies Mounjaro availability

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 13

Mandatory shortage reporting requirements for glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1 RA) medicines is causing confusion about the availability of Mounjaro (tirzepatide), its manufacturer, Eli Lilly says. The company said the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) reporting requirements had "resulted in inaccurate reporting of the actual availability of Mounjaro across its remaining presentations".

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

Sky News Live, Paul Murray Live, 06/02/2025, Paul Murray

Compere mentions that a further \$12.5 billion by getting rid of the National Indigenous Australians Agency. Savings would also be made by applying income means tests to the NDIS getting rid of the Therapeutic Goods Administration and rolling its functions into the Department of Health, as well as pulling out of UN commitments like the World Health organisation or the International Criminal Court.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

