



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 12th February 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun](#) (Page 1) reports that a parliamentary inquiry has heard that several lives have been lost with more being put at risk as the result of a toxic culture of harassment, poor management, burnout and a resourcing crisis in Ambulance Victoria.
- [The Australian](#) (Page 5) reports that figures provided by the Department of Health and Aged Care have revealed that more than 1000 people are waiting on home care packages in some electorates.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (Page 5) reports that stricter alcohol delivery regulations has been called for by a coroner following the death of a woman who ordered 319 bottles of wine, spirits and cider to her home in the months before her death.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (Page 6) reports that a survey commissioned by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency of more than 25,000 mostly allied health workers has found more than five per cent intend on leaving and seven per cent are "unsure" of their futures due to burnout, feeling undervalued and other grievances.
- The [Australian Financial Review](#) (Page 7) reports that health funds are reimbursing up to 30 per cent less for identical medical procedures than their rivals an analysis by the Australian Medical Association of the rebates private health insurers give their members found.

- The [Herald Sun](#) (Page 16) reports that research trials by major Victorian universities have led the way for medicinal cannabis as a form of treatment for children aged five and above for ADHD and anxiety.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (Page 20) reports that the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has called on the government to extend bulk-billing incentives to enable free GP appointments for under-35s. RACGP president Michael Wright said, "We know young people are doing it especially tough and are more likely to have delayed care due to costs".

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Gap in health refunds 'shows need for reform'

Australian Financial Review, General News, 12/02/2025, Michael Smith, Page 7

Doctors say some private health funds are reimbursing up to 30 per cent less for identical medical procedures than their rivals, as they push for reform of the insurance sector ahead of an expected increase in annual premiums for 14 million Aust...

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### Burnt out, unappreciated, up to 12% of healthcare workers want out

Herald Sun, General News, 12/02/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 6

More than one in 10 healthcare workers are contemplating quitting, the national regulator has revealed, citing burnout, a feeling of being undervalued and other grievances. A survey of more than 25,000 mostly allied health workers has found more than 5 per cent planning to leave, while almost 7 per cent are "unsure" of their futures.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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### PM should cut waste to expand bulk billing for all: GP

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

The Albanese government should cut waste in the system to slash out-of-pocket costs to see a GP, Dr Fiona Van Leeuwen says. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said "Peter Dutton tried to end bulk billing with a GP tax".

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### Yorke town residents lacking health care

Yorke Peninsula Country Times - Kadina, General News, 11/02/2025, Joanna Tucker, Page 8

Yorke town local Liz Curnow is among many concerned about healthcare capacity on southern Yorke Peninsula. [...] "We are working with the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and the Federal Government to address that with initiatives such as the Single Employer Model, which is designed to recruit and retain more doctors to regional South Australia," they said.

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### Inflammatory bowel disease cases rise due to ultra-processed foods

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/02/2025, Tayla Couacaud

Queensland has the third highest prevalence of a debilitating bowel disease that impacts 180,000 Australians, costing sufferers thousands of dollars in medical expenses. The State of the Nation report into Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) has revealed ultra-processed food is contributing to a significant rise in the disease which was released on Tuesday by federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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### 'Unfortunate trend': Regional Aussies hit hardest by bulk-billing crisis

Canberra Times, Other, 11/02/2025, Carla Mascarenhas

Regional Australians are paying almost seven per cent more than their city counterparts in out-of-pocket expenses when they visit the doctor. [...] The findings have been rejected by federal health

minister Mark Butler as "unreliable" describing the methodology as a "headline-grabbing phone poll by a private company".

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## 'Years too late': Hunter mayor slams MP's petition for urgent healthcare clinic

Newcastle Herald, Other, 11/02/2025, Blair Wise

A petition calling for an urgent care clinic to service Maitland and Port Stephens and ease the burden on local hospitals has drawn criticism from a Hunter mayor. [...] Last year, Ms Swanson toured the region with Health Minister Mark Butler where she emphasised the need for a clinic.

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## 'Perfect storm': dental hospitalisations rise amid cost of living nightmare

Port Stephens Examiner, Other, 11/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw

More than 15,600 people are on a public waiting list for dental treatment in Hunter New England, a 22 per rise in five years. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said in December "I know in my own party, people are ambitious for dental to be covered by Medicare".

[Read More](#)

## Mount Gambier Medicare Urgent Care Clinic operator enters liquidation amid GP shortage

ABC Online, Other, 11/02/2025, Eugene Boisvert, Conor Burke, & Sam Bradbrook

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) says a shortage of doctors is hampering the federal government's urgent care clinic service after the operator of a site in regional South Australia entered liquidation. [...] The ABC's request for comment to Health Minister Mark Butler was forwarded to the federal Department of Health and Aged Care.

[Read More](#)

## Doctors pitch plan to lift bulk-billing rate to 85 per cent

ABC Online, Other, 11/02/2025, Stephanie Dalzell & Shalailah Medhora

Australians under 34 would have greater access to free GP visits, bulk-billing rates would be lifted and out-of-pocket costs slashed under a bold plan championed by the nation's doctors, as the major parties finalise their election pitches before voters head to the polls.

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## GPs are pushing for these Australians to get bulk billed visits

SBS, Other, 11/02/2025, Emma Brancatisano

The Royal Australian College of GPs has unveiled its plan to ensure affordable access to GPs ahead of the next federal election, including expanding bulk billing incentives to under-35's. [...] Speaking to reporters in Canberra on Tuesday, Health Minister Mark Butler reiterated Labor's "record investment to strengthen Medicare".

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## Government not in a position to list cannabis on PBS: Butler

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/02/2025

Health minister acknowledges cost barriers for patients seeking medicinal cannabis, but says the government has no control over prices suppliers charge. Patients prescribed medicinal cannabis are being urged to seek access to "compassionate access" schemes to manage the cost of their treatment.

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## Albanese's big health pledges: \$1.7bn for public hospitals, \$573m for women's health

Nursing Review, Other, 11/02/2025, 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."

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## Bulk billing rates on a rocky path upwards

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/02/2025, Holly Payne

Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler took to the airwaves and TV screens this morning to spruik the latest Medicare bulk billing data, which he claims to show a halt in the slide of bulk billing services. On a closer look, the situation is more nuanced.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, News Breakfast, 11/02/2025, James Glenday & Emma Rebellato

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, addressing the Queensland Government's decision to review gender care for transgender people below 18. Butler says there is no need for a parliamentary inquiry into the medical treatment of transgender children, claiming politicisation is occurring. On Monday night, the Senate voted down a push by the One Nation for the inquiry, supported by most Coalition senators. The Federal Government has ordered a review by the National Medical Health and Research Council into the issue.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Thousands still waiting on home care packages

The Australian, Other, 11/02/2025, Sarah Ison

More than 1000 people are waiting on home care packages in some electorates, new figures reveal, as Labor bids to rein in wait times for packages that have blown out to as much as 15 months. [...] But Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, who was recently promoted to cabinet, said the government would deliver more than 100,000 packages in 2024-25 and 2025-26, which represented "the most delivered in any two-year period".

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### Over 100 new aged care places approved for rural Australia

Healthcare Channel, Other, 11/02/2025, Ritchelle Drilon

The Albanese Government has unveiled an expansion of its Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) program to support aged care in rural and remote communities across Australia. [...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, welcomed the expansion, saying: "We know older people in rural and remote Australia want to stay in their local communities and this is another way the Albanese Government is helping people remain close to family and friends."

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

## Australia stands out in women's health

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 12/02/2025, Danielle Mazza, Page 11

In early February, the federal government announced more than half a billion dollars in funding for women's health, including over \$400 million in providing better and cheaper access to contraception and menopausal hormone therapy. [...] The Australian measures announced, led by Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney, include the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of two of Australia's most commonly prescribed contraceptive pills, Yaz and Yasmin, reducing the cost from \$380 a year to \$30.80 a year for those with a concession card.

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## Gender bias in healthcare guidelines is failing women

West Australian, Other, 11/02/2025, Maeve Bannister

Australian women are being let down by a lack of consideration for gender and sex in healthcare guidelines, leading to entrenched gender inequities at the highest levels of the health system. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said gender discrimination needed to be tackled at every level of the health system.

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## Urgent action needed to tackle 'silent health crisis' of rising temperatures

Australian Medical Association, Other, 11/02/2025

Australia's leading minds on environmental health are coming together at the Australian Medical Association (AMA) in Canberra today to discuss the impacts of climate change and rising temperatures on human health. With 2024 the hottest year on record, and the first calendar year in which the average global temperature was more than 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial times, the AMA is advocating for collaborative action on climate change and the development of a national heat and health plan, with the independent Centre for Disease Control playing an integral role.

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## Seven Orange, Seven Local News, 10/02/2025, Reuben Spargo

A new multi-million dollar investment into women's health care has been labelled a game changer for regional patients. Vital treatments for menopause and reproductive health will now be listed on the PBS.

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## i98 FM, 07:00 News, 11/02/2025

11 new endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics will be rolled out across the country if labor is re-elected. An Australian first clinic was established in Milton in September 2023, after the government committed more than \$700,000 in funding over four years under a re-elected government.

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, Mornings , 11/02/2025, Raf Epstein

If you want to ask GED Kearney about a question about that or anything else, 1300 222774 is the phone number. And keep in mind in this hour, we'll give you a chance to win those Hans Zimmer tickets at the end of April.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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## DEPARTMENT

### Thousands wait on home care packages

The Australian, General News, 12/02/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 5

More than 1000 people are waiting on home care packages in some electorates, new figures reveal, as Labor bids to rein in wait times for packages that have blown out to as much as 15 months. [...] The figures, provided by the Department of Health and Aged Care in response to questions on notice from the latest round of Senate estimates, showed more than 25,000 people were waiting on a package in NSW, 16,000 in Victoria and more than 12,000 in Queensland.

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### Australian ageing agenda

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 11/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

People with dementia benefit greatly from allied health services, and three peak bodies are calling for better access and funding. Dementia Australia, Occupational Therapy Australia and Speech Pathology Australia have come together to call for access and appropriate funding to pathways of allied health support and services for people living with dementia.

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### Over 100 new aged care places approved for rural Australia

Healthcare Channel, Other, 11/02/2025, Ritchelle Drilon

The Albanese Government has unveiled an expansion of its Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) program to support aged care in rural and remote communities across Australia. [...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, welcomed the expansion, saying: "We know older people in rural and remote Australia want to stay in their local communities and this is another way the Albanese Government is helping people remain close to family and friends.

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### Allied health support is key for quality dementia care

Medianet, Other, 11/02/2025

Dementia Australia, Occupational Therapy Australia and Speech Pathology Australia have today called for people living with dementia to have access to pathways of allied health support and services, such as speech pathology and occupational therapy, with appropriate funding. [...] The webinar was introduced by Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care Chief Allied Health Officer Anita Hobson-Powell and highlighted joint position statements on speech pathology, occupational therapy and dementia.

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### The Water Cooler: Comings and goings in the APS

PS News, Other, 11/02/2025, Andrew McLaughlin

A breakdown of the latest appointments in the Australian Public Service and across the public services of the states and territories. [...] Claire Larter has been promoted to head of the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme in the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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## VACCINES

### CSL hit as US turns away from vaccines

The Australian, Business News, 12/02/2025, Cameron England, Page 17

CSL's vaccine division is suffering as Americans turn away from flu vaccinations, with a "very severe" influenza season driving at least 24 million infections so far. But the company has benefited from

winning tenders to counter the impact of the avian flu pandemic which has swept the globe, with most of that revenue to be recognised in the second half.

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## Falling vaccination rates in US hits biotech CSL

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 12/02/2025, David Swan, Page 27

Australian biotech giant CSL's profits have taken a hit from lower vaccination rates in the US as noted vaccine sceptic Robert F. Kennedy Jr closes in on the role of health secretary in the Trump administration.

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

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## Drop in immunisation rates impacts CSL's revenue

Canberra Times, Business News, 12/02/2025, Page 16

Revenue from CSL's flu vaccine-making business dropped sharply in the first half of the financial year amid a significant fall in immunisation rates, particularly in the US. CSL Seqirus brought in revenue of \$US1.66 billion (\$2.6 billion) in the six months to December 31, down 9 per cent from a year ago.

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## Overseas travellers urged to vaccinate

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/02/2025

The current global increase in measles has led the Victorian Department of Health to urge people travelling overseas to ensure they are fully vaccinated against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases before they leave Australia. These include hepatitis A, which has increased in returned travellers in recent months, and influenza and COVID.

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## PSA welcomes SA's pharmacist vaccination scope, urges nationwide adoption

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 11/02/2025

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has commended the South Australian (SA) Government's decision to expand the vaccination scope of pharmacists, calling on other states to follow suit. Announced on 6 February 2025 by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton MP, effective immediately, South Australian pharmacist immunisers can authorise and administer any vaccine within their individual scope of practice, including for the first time travel health vaccines for cholera, rabies and typhoid.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Six months, 300 products: Booze delivery changes urged

Age, General News, 12/02/2025, Erin Pearson, Page 13

Victorians may see major changes in the way they can access alcohol delivery services after a 30-year-old woman drank herself to death. Kathleen Arnold, from Heidelberg in Melbourne's north-east, was able to order the delivery of more than 300 alcoholic products, such as wine and vodka, over 182 days, before she was found dead by her mother in September 2023.

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## Apps a lethal cocktail

Herald Sun, General News, 12/02/2025, Miles Proust, Page 5

A coroner has called for stricter regulation of alcohol delivery services after a woman ordered 319 bottles of wine, spirits and cider to her home in the months before her death. Kathleen Arnold, 30, drank a bottle of wine and half a bottle of vodka before she was found dead by her mother in her Heidelberg home from acute alcohol toxicity in September 2023.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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## Australia stands out in women's health

Canberra Times, General News, 12/02/2025, Danielle Mazza, Page 14

In early February, the federal government announced more than half a billion dollars in funding for women's health, including over \$400 million in providing better and cheaper access to contraception and menopausal hormone therapy. Sadly, it makes Australia an international standout at a dark time when women in the US cannot even access information on family planning from the main US federal health agency, the Centers for Disease Control.

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## Dependence and ADHD connection

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/02/2025, Dan Vautin, Page 23

The Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council (Tasmania) is the peak body for alcohol and other drugs (AOD) in Tasmania. Our role is to represent community-managed AOD services to government and the Tasmanians who access them.

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## Tech weapon joins tougher penalties in the war on vaping

Launceston Examiner, General News, 12/02/2025, Page 7

A record fine for selling vapes might not stand for long, as harsher penalties come into force in the war on vaping and efforts to help people quit ramp up. The recently released app Pave, from the Cancer Institute NSW, joins others like the federal government's My QuitBuddy in targeting nicotine addiction, amid attempts to stymie the illegal supply of vapes.

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## Gender bias in healthcare guidelines is failing women

West Australian, Other, 11/02/2025, Maeve Bannister

Australian women are being let down by a lack of consideration for gender and sex in healthcare guidelines, leading to entrenched gender inequities at the highest levels of the health system. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said gender discrimination needed to be tackled at every level of the health system.

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## Tech weapon in war on vaping as black market booms

West Australian, Other, 11/02/2025, Jack Gramenz

One common addiction for young people could help them kick another with the launch of a smartphone app aimed at making it easier for youths to quit vaping. The recently released app Pave, from the Cancer Institute NSW, joins others like the federal government's My QuitBuddy in targeting the increasing numbers of people who are addicted to vaping.

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## Lisdexamfetamine may be helpful in treating methamphetamine dependence



Australian researchers have found that lisdexamfetamine appears to reduce methamphetamine use over a 12-week treatment period in people dependent on methamphetamine. Published in *Addiction*, the randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial included 164 adults (62% male, 38% female, <1% other; mean age 39 years) with methamphetamine dependence from six specialist outpatient clinics in Adelaide, Melbourne, Newcastle and Sydney from 2018 to 2021.

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### **Channel 10, 10 News First, 11/02/2025, Sandra Sully**

The NSW Government launched a mobile app that aims to help young people to quit vaping. Named Pave, the app offers tips for quitting vape and a click-to-call button with Quitline counsellors. Health Minister Ryan Park says a recent campaign has persuaded 24,000 youths to quit.

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### **Channel 7, Seven News, 11/02/2025, Angela Cox & Mark Ferguson**

The NSW Government says a recent anti-vaping campaign has persuaded 25,000 youths to quit and made another 15,000 to consider doing the same. On Tuesday, the State Government launched a mobile app called Pave that aims to help young people to quit vaping.

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### **2GB, Mornings, 11/02/2025, Mark Levy**

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Parker, discussing the launch of a new mobile app called Pave that aims to help young people to quit vaping. He claims that a recent anti-vaping campaign has persuaded 25,000 youths to quit and made another 15,000 to consider doing the same.

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### **ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 11/02/2025, Craig Reucassel**

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Parker, discussing the launch of a new mobile app called Pave that aims to help young people to quit vaping. He claims that a recent anti-vaping campaign has prompted around 40,000 youths to quit or consider quitting. Parker also addressed possible PFAS contamination in the Blue Mountains, saying he will consult Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant regarding potential government support for community testing and management of the issue.

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### **FIVEAA, Mornings, 11/02/2025, Graeme Goodings**

Interview with Deakin University criminologist Dr James Martin, discussing his suggestions to freeze or lower tobacco taxes and legalising regulated vaping markets in a bid to combat growing black markets and the associated violence. He says countries like New Zealand and Sweden have successfully lowered smoking rates by providing legal access to less harmful nicotine products rather than be subjected to punitive measures.

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

### **Medical investors back AI's 'second set of eyes'**

Adelaide Advertiser, Business News, 12/02/2025, Jared Lynch, Page 39

A Sydney start-up has completed one of the year's biggest capital raisings as it takes on the world with technology it says can dramatically increase cancer survival rates and slash waiting times in hospital emergency departments. Harrison.ai backed by investors including Aware Super, Horizons Ventures and Blackbird Ventures has completed a \$179m, series C raising as the venture capital market begins roaring back to life after several subdued years.

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## Bowel disease on rise

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 12/02/2025, Page 3

Queensland has the third highest prevalence of a debilitating bowel disease that impacts 180,000 Australians, costing sufferers thousands in medical expenses. The State of the Nation report into Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) has revealed ultra-processed food is contributing to a significant rise in the disease.

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## Mindful conversation

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 12/02/2025, Page 20

In 2025 there are an estimated 85,200 people living with dementia in Queensland and without a significant intervention, this is expected to increase to an estimated 168,300 by 2054. That's why Dementia Australia is leading a call for a national conversation on dementia and brain health to raise community awareness of dementia, combined with more targeted and effective supports for people impacted by dementia.

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## Inflammatory bowel disease cases rise due to ultra-processed foods

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/02/2025, Tayla Couacaud

Queensland has the third highest prevalence of a debilitating bowel disease that impacts 180,000 Australians, costing sufferers thousands of dollars in medical expenses. The State of the Nation report into Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) has revealed ultra-processed food is contributing to a significant rise in the disease which was released on Tuesday by federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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## Australia-wide inflammatory bowel disease report reveals increasing number of people living with condition

West Australian, Other, 11/02/2025, Claire Sadler

A new report into the state of inflammatory bowel disease in Australia has revealed rates of the life long disease in the nation are expected to outpace prevalence in other countries. The State of the Nation in Inflammatory Bowel Disease report by Crohn's & Colitis Australia revealed nearly 180,000 Australians are living with IBD today, an increase from the previously reported 100,000.

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## Women's health in fast lane

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 11/02/2025, Lewis Nancekivell

Women in regional areas of Victoria are set to have better access to healthcare thanks to a travelling health van and a soon to be established online clinic. The portable medical centre, operated by BreastScreen, will travel across regional and rural areas of the state.

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## Clinical cancer trials are vital for scientific progress – but there are many unanswered questions for patients

The Guardian, Other, 12/02/2025

Australian regulators can do more to ensure measures such as age, ethnic diversity and quality-of-life are studied in cancer trials "Doctor, should my dad enter a clinical trial?" Nearing 80, my newly diagnosed cancer patient is like many people his age.

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## Long COVID patients show brain swelling linked to memory and concentration problems, study finds

ABC Online, Other, 11/02/2025, Janelle Miles

Long COVID patients exhibit swelling in an area of the brain linked to memory problems, poor concentration and delayed responses during conversations, researchers have found. Based on high-powered scanning, Griffith University scientists say they have also shown patients with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) share similar issues in a part of the brain known as the hippocampus.

[Read More](#)

## **Gabapentinoids are associated with hip fracture risk**

Medicine Today, Other, 11/02/2025, AI Gabapentinoids

Hip fractures were 30% more common among older people who were taking gabapentinoids. Gabapentinoids can cause gait disturbance, drowsiness and dizziness, which could raise risk for falls and fractures, especially among older patients.

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## **More evidence that menopause before age 45 years is linked with CVD**

Medicine Today, Other, 11/02/2025, Melanie Hinze

Australian researchers report that women with premature or early menopause are at a higher risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD) when compared with women who experience menopause at a later age and that a healthy lifestyle can mitigate this risk. Their study, published in Heart, included 46,238 women (mean age 62.1 years) from the Sax Institute's 45 and Up Study and compared the risk of CVD in women with premature (<40 years) or early (40 to 44 years) menopause with the risk in those with menopause between 50 and 52 years.

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## **ABC News, ABC National News, 11/02/2025, Ruby Cornish**

The Breast Cancer Network's Vicki Durston is urging the Federal Government's BreastScreen service to inform women of a factor that increases breast cancer risks. Some women have more fibroglandular tissue and less fat in their breasts. Currently, BreastScreen's policy is not to report this risk to women, though some states are now telling women. The Federal Health Department says the national guideline will be updated this year.

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## **ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 11/02/2025, Craig Reucassel**

Interview with Mater Hospital oncologist Prof Fran Boyle, efforts to encourage women and girls to pursue careers in breast cancer research. She says the growing number of oncologists not only gives female patients more options but also allows women to take leadership roles in international clinical trials.

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## **PRIMARY CARE**

### **\$179m diagnosed for medtech start-up**

The Australian, Business News, 12/02/2025, Jared Lynch, Page 17

A Sydney start-up has completed one of the year's biggest capital raisings as it seeks to take on the world with its technology that can help dramatically increase cancer survival rates and slash waiting times in hospital emergency departments. Harrison.ai backed by investors including Aware Super, Horizons Ventures and Blackbird Ventures has completed a \$179m Series C raising as the venture capital market returns to life after several subdued years.

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### **Gap in health refunds 'shows need for reform'**

Australian Financial Review, General News, 12/02/2025, Michael Smith, Page 7

Doctors say some private health funds are reimbursing up to 30 per cent less for identical medical procedures than their rivals, as they push for reform of the insurance sector ahead of an expected increase in annual premiums for 14 million Aust...

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## Visits to a GP should be easier for young people

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 12/02/2025, Page 20

Australians are fortunate to have one of the world's best health systems. But there are many signs that the system is under pressure, one being the out-of-pocket costs many pay to visit a GP.

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

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## Ambos to treat multiple patients more often to reduce ramping

Age, General News, 12/02/2025, Broede Carmody, Page 13

Paramedics will be asked to treat multiple patients at emergency departments more often in order to free up other ramped ambulance crews and ease what a senior minister has described as one of the biggest issues plaguing Victoria's health system. The expectation is just one plank in the Allan government's latest plan to tackle ambulance ramping, which is when paramedics have to wait at a hospital's entrance because their patients cannot be transferred to the emergency department in a timely manner.

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

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## Premier, the people have spoken

Age, Editorials, 12/02/2025, Page 18

The state government is caught in a loop. It keeps going round and round the same circuit. And rather than acknowledging what is happening, and acting upon it, that is, breaking the loop, the government is being constricted in its ability to serve the people. Last Saturday, the people spoke Labor received a walloping in the Werribee byelection. It's now up to Premier Jacinta Allan whether her government chooses to listen.

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## Acute toxicity

Herald Sun, General News, 12/02/2025, Shannon Deery, Page 1

Several lives have been lost and many more are at risk due to a toxic culture of harassment, poor management, burnout and a resourcing crisis in Ambulance Victoria, a parliamentary inquiry has heard. Submissions filed by paramedics, patients and their families to the inquiry into the ambulance service have exposed escalating concerns as new figures show WorkCover payouts at the agency are soaring.

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## Crisis is putting lives at risk

Herald Sun, General News, 12/02/2025, Mitch Clarke, Page 6

Ambulance Victoria has again failed to meet one of its key benchmarks, with one in three ambulances failing to get to Code 1 emergencies within 15 minutes. The concerning revelation, outlined in fresh data released on Tuesday, comes as hospitals are hit with tough new standards aimed at ending ambulance ramping.

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## Mums' birth ward insult

Courier Mail, General News, 12/02/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

A plan by the state's biggest hospital to put mums who have just lost their babies in wards alongside newborns has been axed by Health Minister Tim Nicholls just hours after he learnt of it after questions from The Courier-Mail. Doctors and midwives working in the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital had sounded the alarm.

## IVF without without the the IVF eggstra expenses

Courier Mail, General News, 12/02/2025, Ashleigh Gleeson, Suzan Delibasic & Annabel Fleming, Page 18

Queenslanders are forking out up to \$12,827 before rebate for a standard IVF cycle and as much as \$10,560 for elective egg freezing. A Courier-Mail investigation can reveal the prices for a standard IVF cycle and egg freezing, including monthly storage fees, at about 100 clinics across Australia in January 2025.

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

## Doctor, doctor

Border Watch, General News, 12/02/2025, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Initially, the Urgent Care Clinic was expected to be a bulkbilled service giving treatment to minor urgent medical cases such as lacerations, burns, broken bones and respiratory issues. When originally announced, the clinic was expected to be operating seven days a week from 7am until 10pm yet clinical office manager Monique Pearce has since stated it was almost impossible due to staffing issues.

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## Stop the ramping or you'll feel pain

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/02/2025, Mitch Clarke, Page 5

Victoria's Health Minister has threatened hospitals with "consequences" if they fail to meet new standards aimed at ending ambulance ramping as fresh data shows response times are getting worse. Under new benchmarks, hospitals must offload 90 per cent of all ambulance patients within 40 minutes and allow paramedics to get back on the road 20 minutes after that.

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

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## Liberal GP plan has AMA support

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 12/02/2025, Jake Dietsch, Page 5

Medical groups have endorsed a Liberal plan to boost GP numbers, but the State's Health Minister has warned the package will drain doctors from the hospital system. The \$140 million package includes grants of \$40,000 for medical students to train as GPs and a \$10m fund to support for junior doctors in training for high-demand specialities, such as paediatrics.

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## Mayor's criticism disappoints Swanson

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/02/2025, Sage Swinton, Page 7

Paterson MP Meryl Swanson has defended her petition for an urgent care clinic, describing the Maitland mayor's criticism of it as "disappointing". Ms Swanson launched a petition this month calling on the federal government to establish a Medicare urgent care clinic in her electorate.

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## Auxiliary raises funds for GV Health

Shepparton News, General News, 12/02/2025, Page 3

The auxiliary has been raising funds since the late 1960s to support Mooroopna Hospital, formerly known as MECA, and now directs its efforts towards Goulburn Valley Health. The group meets monthly to organise fundraising initiatives for the Mary Coram Unit and Grutzner House, with activities ranging from plant sales and community donations to fashion parades.

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## \$100m funding boost to funnel public patients through private hospitals

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/02/2025, Catherine Strohfeldt

The state government has set aside \$100 million to divert patients waiting for elective surgery in a public hospital through the private sector, with 10,000 additional patients expected to be treated under

the plan before July. Queensland Health's most recent data found 66,632 patients were currently awaiting elective surgery in the public system.

[Read More](#)

## **Health Minister Tim Nicholls' press conference interrupted by gatecrashing hospital patient**

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/02/2025, Taylah Fellows

A member of the public has gatecrashed Health Minister Tim Nicholls' press conference at the Greenslopes Private Hospital, berating him with questions about the Trump steel tariff and dental hygiene. Mr Nicholls was at Greenslopes Hospital announcing a \$100m funding boost to Surgery Connect to help draw down the state's elective surgery waitlist which hit 66,362 people in October.

[Read More](#)

## **'Unfortunate trend': Regional Aussies hit hardest by bulk-billing crisis**

Canberra Times, Other, 11/02/2025, Carla Mascarenhas

Regional Australians are paying almost seven per cent more than their city counterparts in out-of-pocket expenses when they visit the doctor. [...] The findings have been rejected by federal health minister Mark Butler as "unreliable" describing the methodology as a "headline-grabbing phone poll by a private company".

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## **Proposed bulk-billing shake-up to help more Aussies see GP for free**

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 11/02/2025

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is pushing for the bulk-billing incentive to be expanded to include a specific age group that was considered the most likely to delay care.

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## **'Terribly wasted': Albanese should cut waste to expand bulk-billing for all**

Newcastle Herald, Other, 11/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw

The Albanese government should cut waste in the system to slash out-of-pockets costs to see a GP, Dr Fiona Van Leeuwen says. Dr Van Leeuwen, chair of the Hunter General Practitioners Association, said "I think there's loads of money in the system".

Also reported by: [Hunter Valley News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## **'Years too late': Hunter mayor slams MP's petition for urgent healthcare clinic**

Newcastle Herald, Other, 11/02/2025, Blair Wise

A petition calling for an urgent care clinic to service Maitland and Port Stephens and ease the burden on local hospitals has drawn criticism from a Hunter mayor. [...] Last year, Ms Swanson toured the region with Health Minister Mark Butler where she emphasised the need for a clinic.

[Read More](#)

## **'Perfect storm': dental hospitalisations rise amid cost of living nightmare**

Port Stephens Examiner, Other, 11/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw

More than 15,600 people are on a public waiting list for dental treatment in Hunter New England, a 22 per rise in five years. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said in December "I know in my own party, people are ambitious for dental to be covered by Medicare".

[Read More](#)

## **Doctors pitch plan to lift bulk-billing rate to 85 per cent**

ABC Online, Other, 11/02/2025, Stephanie Dalzell & Shalailah Medhora

Australians under 34 would have greater access to free GP visits, bulk-billing rates would be lifted and out-of-pocket costs slashed under a bold plan championed by the nation's doctors, as the major parties finalise their election pitches before voters head to the polls.

[Read More](#)

## **Opposition Leader Peter Dutton confirms Coalition maintains conscience vote on transgender matters**

Sky News Australia, Other, 11/02/2025, Oscar Godsell

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has confirmed the Coalition has a conscience vote on transgender issues after about 20 Senators supported One Nation Senator Pauline Hanson's inquiry into child gender treatments. The conscience vote allows Liberal and National Party members to vote freely, without an official party position, on matters of moral or social significance.

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## **Albanese's big health pledges: \$1.7bn for public hospitals, \$573m for women's health**

Nursing Review, Other, 11/02/2025, 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."

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## **2025-26 Federal Budget an opportunity to strengthen pharmacist care**

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 11/02/2025

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is calling on the Federal Government to invest in pharmacists as part of the 2025-26 Budget, supporting the pharmacists stepping up to helping ease pressure on the wider healthcare system and deliver better patient outcomes. As the peak body for all pharmacists practising across Australia's health system, PSA highlights opportunities to support pharmacists as medicine experts to improve the quality use of medicines and medicine safety in all areas of practice.

[Read More](#)

## **Bulk billing rates on a rocky path upwards**

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/02/2025, Holly Payne

Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler took to the airwaves and TV screens this morning to spruik the latest Medicare bulk billing data, which he claims to show a halt in the slide of bulk billing services. On a closer look, the situation is more nuanced.

[Read More](#)

## **Why under 35s should get bulk-billed GP appointments**

The Mercury, Other, 11/02/2025, Sarah Booth

The Royal Australian College of GPs is pushing for the bulk-billing incentive to be expanded to include a specific age group that was considered the most likely to delay care. Australians under 35 would qualify for the bulk-billing incentive at their GP in a bid to create an extra 2.2 million zero-fee doctors' appointments for young adults.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 7, Seven News, 11/02/2025, Peter Mitchell**

The Victorian Government has ordered the state's busiest hospitals to adhere to new measures that aim to reduce ambulance ramping. Hospitals that fail to follow the new guidelines could risk losing future grants but Channel 7 understands the new standards have yet to receive funding. Victoria Ambulance Union's Danny Hill says there must be a framework of accountability.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 11/02/2025, Alicia Loxley & Tom Steinfort

New figures show Ambulance Victoria was only able to respond to just 64.9% of Code One cases within the 15-minute target, or one in three Code One cases, from October to December 2024—lower than the previous quarter. It comes as the Victorian Government rolls out new standards to ease ambulance ramping in emergency departments. Ambulance Victoria regional director Michael Georgiou says the new measures will allow paramedics to respond more timely.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 11/02/2025, Melissa Downes

Queensland Shadow Health Minister Mark Bailey criticised the LNP State Government over growing elective surgery wait times. Health Minister Tim Nicholls announced a \$100m funding boost for public hospital patients to have their surgeries done in private hospitals.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Prison is no place for kids

West Australian, General News, 12/02/2025, Annabel Hennessy, Page 37

In the space of four weeks in November 2024, there were at least 63 recorded cases of children in WA's youth detention system attempting to harm themselves. This means on the average day that month there were at least two self-harm attempts.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Burnt out, unappreciated, up to 12% of healthcare workers want out

Herald Sun, General News, 12/02/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 6

More than one in 10 healthcare workers are contemplating quitting, the national regulator has revealed, citing burnout, a feeling of being undervalued and other grievances. A survey of more than 25,000 mostly allied health workers has found more than 5 per cent planning to leave, while almost 7 per cent are "unsure" of their futures.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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### University of Southern Queensland offers OT and Physio programs at Toowoomba campus

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/02/2025, Christine Schindler

As a way to combat a healthcare shortage, a regional Qld university has opened up two allied health programs in Toowoomba with the hopes to fill a much needed gap in the workforce. Meet a couple of the inspiring students: University of Southern Queensland students Liisa-Henriette Cooper and Elle Weeding have just finished their first class of a health degree offered for the first time at the university's Toowoomba campus.

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## NSW Health could save \$35m a year by giving psychiatrists a 25% pay rise, modelling suggests

The Guardian, Other, 12/02/2025, Natasha May

NSW Health could save \$35m a year and improve patient care by giving psychiatrists a 25% pay rise compared with what they are currently spending on staff due to a reliance on contractors to fill vacancies, according to modelling seen by Guardian Australia. The modelling, conducted by a group of senior psychiatrists who have worked in medical administration, assumes the pay rise would entice psychiatrists back to work as staff specialists, who are employed in permanent roles in New South Wales public health, and reduce the state's reliance on casual doctors, known as locums, over four years.

[Read More](#)

## Mount Gambier Medicare Urgent Care Clinic operator enters liquidation amid GP shortage

MSN Australia, Other, 11/02/2025

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) says a shortage of doctors is hampering the federal government's urgent care clinic service after the operator of a site in regional South Australia entered liquidation. Ahead of the last federal election Labor promised the clinics would be open from 8am-10pm every day, as a way to ease the pressure on GPs and emergency departments.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 11/02/2025, Manny Tsigas

WA Labor announced a \$14m funding to expand women's health centres amid rising demand. Premier Roger Cook says it will ensure continuous, world-class care for women in the state. Meanwhile, WA Liberals Leader Libby Mettam criticised the Cook Government for failing to recruit more GPs, especially in regional and rural areas.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 11/02/2025, Susannah Carr & Rick Ardon

WA Labor announced plans to build a \$17m reproductive procedure centre at Coburn as part of their election promises. Meanwhile, WA Liberals Leader Libby Mettam criticised the Cook Government over the shortage of GPs with cash incentives and the funding of free GP visits.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Ozempic's PBS push could shake up ASX food stocks, and here's how

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/02/2025, Eddy Sunarto

Over the weekend, Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly, the companies behind Ozempic, Wegovy, and Mounjaro, have made a request to the Australian government. They want their weight-loss drugs to be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) ahead of the Federal Budget.

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### Government not in a position to list cannabis on PBS: Butler

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/02/2025

Health minister acknowledges cost barriers for patients seeking medicinal cannabis, but says the government has no control over prices suppliers charge. Patients prescribed medicinal cannabis are being urged to seek access to "compassionate access" schemes to manage the cost of their treatment.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### **Channel 7, Seven News, 11/02/2025, Peter Mitchell**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners called on all politicians to extend Medicare benefits to Australians below 35. The peak body for GPs also wants rebates for longer consultations be increased to 40% and to train 1500 more doctors. The measures are expected to cut out-of-pocket costs by half for those who are not bulkbilled.

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### **Channel 9, Nine News, 11/02/2025, Brenton Ragless & Kate Collins**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners wants to extend Medicare benefits to Australians below 35. The peak body for GPs also wants rebates for consultations longer than 20 minutes be increased to cut out-of-pocket costs by half from \$59 to \$25. The measures are expected to cost taxpayers over \$1.5b.

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### **SBS, World News Australia, 11/02/2025, Janice Petersen**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners wants to extend Medicare benefits to Australians below 35. President Dr Michael Wright says that while more incentives improve bulkbilling, more needs to be done.

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### **4BC, 12:00 News, 11/02/2025**

Doctors are lobbying for a Medicare funding boost in a bid to make treatment more affordable for younger Australians. GPs currently get financial incentives to give free appointments to groups including pensioners and children under 16. The College of General Practitioners wants the Federal Government to extend that scheme to all patients under the age of 35. President Michael Wright states young Australians are the most likely to put off seeing a doctor due to the price tag. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler won't be drawn on the push, but notes new bulk billing measures will be announced before the election. The RACGP states the proposal could cost up to \$560m per year.

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### **ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 11/02/2025, Saskia Mabin**

Interview with RACGP NSW&ACT Chair Dr Rebekah Hoffman, discussing her organisation's call for a \$1b investment in Medicare. She says the ACT also needs to incentivise GP registrars to retain them, similar to what was done in Queensland and Victoria. Dr Hoffman says retaining doctors is the key as they tend to settle where they train.

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### **ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 11/02/2025, Chris Bath & Dom Knight**

Interview with RACGP President Dr Michael Wright, discussing his organisation's call to extend Medicare benefits to Australians below 35. He says increasing rebates for consultations longer than 20 minutes could help non-bulkbilled patients to save as much as half, from \$49 to \$25. Dr Wright also calls for increased funding to train more doctors as the RACGP already trains 90% of physicians.

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## FIVEAA, Mornings, 11/02/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Australian Medical Association president Dr John Williams, welcoming recommendations for increased funding in general practice. The AMA proposes a \$4b investment over four years to modernise Medicare and to train more doctors. He says longer consultations are necessary to properly address growing mental health and chronic disease issues.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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## SPORT

### 'We can do a lot better': Backing for AFL mental health round

Herald Sun, Sport, 12/02/2025, Eliza Reilly, Page 78

The AFL says it continues to consider a dedicated mental health round as calls grow for more support for past players. The shock deaths of West Coast premiership swingman Adam Hunter and former Brisbane player Troy Selwood have prompted a conversation on how the industry could better support past players, with one idea being a mental health round to raise awareness.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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### We will do more

The Nightly, General News, 11/02/2025, Glen Quartermain, Page 36

The AFL is open to exploring a mental health round, following calls by former players for the competition to do more to highlight the insidious issue. The deaths of Adam Hunter and Troy Selwood last week sparked plenty of talk about the impact of mental health struggles for both current and former players.

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### 'We have a problem': Sporting bodies are not focused on 'fairness and safety'

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/02/2025

Women's Forum Australia's Stephanie Bastiaan has expressed concern for sporting bodies prioritising "inclusion and diversity" instead of focusing on "fairness and safety". Ms Bastiaan's insights follow Health Minister Mark Butler coming under fire for his response to comments Opposition Leader Peter Dutton made about protecting women's sports.

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

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### ABC, ABC News, 11/02/2025, Jeremy Fernandez

Sports Report

Basketball - Sydney Kings and Boomers player Xavier Cooks has been provisionally suspended ahead of the NBL finals. Sport Integrity Australia notified Cooks of an alleged doping violation two days before the Kings clash with the 36ers.

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## Medicinal cannabis trial for children

Herald Sun, General News, 12/02/2025, Alexander Blain, Page 16

Medicinal cannabis could be used to treat children from age five with ADHD and anxiety, with research trials by major Victorian universities underway. Geelong-linked biotech company Medigrowth has teamed up with Deakin University, in collaboration with researchers at Swinburne and Monash, to test the effectiveness of it on kids.

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

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## Climate link to longer pregnancies

West Australian, General News, 12/02/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 14

Exposure to outdoor air pollution and extreme temperatures may increase the risk of prolonged pregnancy, Curtin University research has revealed. The study analysed data from nearly 400,000 births in WA from 2000 to 2015, finding that higher exposure to fine particulate air pollution and biothermal stress a measure of how the environment and human physiology interact to create heat was linked with pregnancies lasting beyond 41 weeks.

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

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 11/02/2025, James Glenday & Bridget Brennan

A new study from Griffith University found that the brains of people suffering from long COVID and chronic fatigue are similar to brains that have an inflamed hippocampus, which is responsible for memory. Scientists hope the findings will allow them to fast track treatments for those with long COVID and chronic fatigue.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Experts warn of possible link between weight loss drugs and vision loss

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/02/2025, Adella Beaini

Doctors have warned that people using popular weight loss drugs like Ozempic face the risk of developing a debilitating condition. [...] According to Novo Nordisk, they have recently advised Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the Ozempic Medicine Shortage Action Group (MSAG) that supply will remain limited in 2025.

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## Your favourite sunscreens could skyrocket in price – here's why

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/02/2025, Sarah Mitchell

Is your SPF layer actually protecting your skin? Our favourite luxury and multi-purpose sunscreens may soon cost us more as the ATO cracks down on skincare companies' marketing and pricing of products. [...] "What I've been seeing is companies that are marketing their product as a sunscreen but they've not gone through the TGA testing processes to have their product listed as a sunscreen," she told the ABC .

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## Tech weapon joins tougher penalties in war on vaping

Canberra Times, Other, 11/02/2025, Jack Gramenz

A record fine for selling vapes might not stand for long, as harsher penalties come into force in the war on vaping and efforts to help people quit ramp up. [...] Enforcement at the border has netted much more, with Australian Border Force and the Therapeutic Goods Administration seizing more than seven million vapes in 2024.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Alzheimer's: The game changers for 2025 to treat this leading cause of dementia

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 11/02/2025, Robyn Riley

This is the year to be optimistic about dementia, with eight game changers that are starting to translate into the real world. [...] "These new disease-modifying therapies have been approved in America, Europe, England, Japan, and other jurisdictions around the world and are under assessments by the TGA in Australia," he said.

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## 'An important milestone': New MS guidelines published

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 11/02/2025

The first consensus statement for multiple sclerosis in Australia and New Zealand includes 80 recommendations for treating the disease. [...] According to Monash University, the Therapeutic Goods Administration adopted an international MS guideline in 2009, which was updated most recently in 2015.

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## The Two Major Health Updates You Need This Week

Mamamia, Other, 11/02/2025

A nationwide shortage of ADHD medication is causing widespread concern, as thousands of Australians face the possibility of going without their essential prescriptions. With the new school year underway, parents are particularly worried about how this shortage could impact their children's ability to learn and focus in the classroom.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### 6PR, Drive, 11/02/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with the University of Sydney's Lambert Initiative team leader Prof Iain McGregor, sharing the findings of a study on the impact of cannabis legislative reform five years ago. The study found that while 70% of respondents grew cannabis for recreational use, 60% also used it for medicinal purposes, such as managing pain, anxiety, and sleep issues. He also notes minimal impact on driving behaviour and THC levels in wastewater.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### **ACCC denies MAIF extension, effectiveness “undermined”**

Food & Drink Business, Other, 11/02/2025, Kim Berry

The ACCC has rejected the Infant Nutrition Council's (INC) application to continue the infant formula marketing agreement for another five years citing concerns over its effectiveness and impact on competition. The Marketing in Australia of Infant Formula: Manufacturers and Importers Agreement (MAIF Agreement) and associated guidelines was developed to restrict the advertising and promotion of infant formula.

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## AICIS

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