



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 13th February 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 3) reports that two nurses at Sydney's Bankstown Hospital were stood down after a video surfaced online showing them claiming they would refuse to treat Israeli patients. Health Minister Mark Butler said that the nurses' comments "run against every single principle in our healthcare system".
- **[ABC News](#)** (online) reports that Labor has been accused of misleading voters and reviving the "Mediscare" campaign after it shared an edited video of Peter Dutton in which he appears to claim he would end free healthcare. An email sent by Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler's office featured a GIF of Mr Dutton saying that Medicare "will not survive in the long term."
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 4) reports that Treasury has revealed that the government's decision to increase the tobacco excise has led to a decline in tax revenue due to a surge in black market sales, along with other factors including higher rates of quitting and increased vape usage.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 3) reports that a new survey shows one in three Tasmanians aged 25-44 want to reduce their alcohol consumption, citing negative impacts on their bodies and mental health.

- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 6) reports that Opposition health spokeswoman Anne Ruston has accused the government of turning its back on those it "vowed to protect" by failing to introduce promised legislation which would ban life insurers from refusing cover based on the results of genetic testing.
- **The West Australian** (page 9) reports that Western Australian Premier Roger Cook has announced a \$100 million loan facility to address the state's aged care bed shortage, aiming to provide up to 500 new beds.
- **ABC News** (online) reports that The Healing Foundation has called on the government to implement the full recommendations of the Bringing Them Home report on the Stolen Generation due to the cohort's age and ailing health, which includes a disproportionate likelihood of developing a disability and/or mental health condition, according to the AIHW.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 19) reports that a major Adelaide GP group, Arkaba Medical Clinic, has announced it will no longer bulk bill for childrens' appointments, citing the impact of state payroll taxes and the failure of the Medicare rebate to keep up with CPI.

MINISTER BUTLER

Jewish body seeks healthcare inquiry after 'vile' antisemitic video sparks online outrage

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/02/2025, Paul Karp, Page 3

The peak Jewish body in NSW has called for a wider investigation into discrimination in healthcare after two nurses at Sydney's Bankstown Hospital were stood down for claiming they would refuse to treat and would kill Israeli patients.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [australianjewishnews.com \(Online\)](#), [cityhub.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Is Ramsay whipping itself into a frenzy?

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/02/2025, Mark Di Stefano & Hannah Wootton, Page 40

The private hospital lobby is turning on itself and Labor is making mileage from it.

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Sick

West Australian, General News, 13/02/2025, Kristin Shorten, Page 1

The Federal Government has scrambled to reassure Australians they are safe in our hospitals after vile footage showed two nurses boasting they would kill Israeli patients and "send (them) to Jahannam (hell)". [...] Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke and Health Minister Mark Butler issued a joint statement to reassure Australians.

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A sickness is in the system

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 13/02/2025, Page 22

Hospitals are places of rescue. They are places of sanctuary. [...] Labor Health Minister Mark Butler's timid online response wouldn't have helped: "The idea that you would single out a particular group in our community and indicate you wouldn't care for them runs against every single principle in our health care system".

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SA young vape use drops by a third

Murray Pioneer, General News, 12/02/2025, Page 22

Strict legislation against illegal tobacco and nicotine products have seen a drop in the rates of South Australian youngsters including those in the Riverland using vapes. [...] Federal Minister for Health

Mark Butler said the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and the Australian Border Force had seized more than seven million vaping products from illegal operators since 1 January 2024.

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New guidelines for trans youth

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/02/2025, Paul Smith, Page 4

The NHMRC is to develop new national guidelines for transgender youth amid the ongoing debate about the prescription of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones. Announced by federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler, he said: "This process will be driven by evidence and conducted by our most eminent medical researchers and clinicians."

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Pharmacists to play critical role in IBD

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 12/02/2025, Page 1

New research published in the State of the Nation in Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Australia report has found that 180,000 Australians are living with IBD, and that number is increasing at a faster rate than in other countries. The report, from Crohn's & Colitis Australia (CCA), was launched in Canberra yesterday by Health Minister Mark Butler, and provides an in-depth assessment of Australians living with IBD, including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, highlighting potential risk factors as well as solutions for improving outcomes.

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Endo treatment on PBS first for 30 years

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Samantha Crawford, Page 11

Visanne (dienogest), an endometriosis treatment, was listed on the PBS in December, making it the first treatment for endometriosis to be listed in 30 years. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who announced the listing at St Andrews Hospital in Adelaide, said: "For too long, women living with endometriosis have had to struggle in silence."

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Labor accused of reigniting 'Mediscare' campaign with misleading video of Peter Dutton

ABC Online, Other, 12/02/2025, Pat McGrath, Kevin Nguyen & Michael Workman

Labor has been accused of reigniting its "Mediscare" campaign ahead of the federal election with a misleadingly edited attack ad in which Opposition Leader Peter Dutton declares "Medicare is dead". [...] A mass email sent from Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler's office included a GIF of Mr Dutton stating: "Medicare will not survive in the long term."

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'Killed the golden goose': Medicare under pressure as Arkaba Medical Clinic ends bulk billing for children

Adelaide Now, Other, 12/02/2025, Brad Crouch

As the federal government boasts about increased bulk billing rates following new investment, a major clinic has dumped bulk billing for children citing lack of federal support for Medicare. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said: "Thanks to our efforts to strengthen Medicare, we've got more doctors, more bulk billing and Urgent Care Clinics that have already seen over a million Australians, all fully bulk billed."

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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\$2 million grant advances Newcastle research into childhood brain cancer

Hunter Headline, Other, 13/02/2025

A University of Newcastle research team has received a \$2 million National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant to support its efforts in developing new treatments for diffuse midline

glioma (DMG), the most lethal form of childhood cancer. The funding was announced by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler as part of a \$20 million Australian Government initiative to combat childhood brain cancers.

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New ad campaign to 'raise the profile' of primary healthcare

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/02/2025, Morgan Liotta

In a bid to encourage more people to join the primary healthcare workforce, a nationwide, first-of-its-kind advertising campaign has been launched, promoting the diversity of the professions. RACGP President Dr Michael Wright, alongside a delegation of primary healthcare professionals, stood side-by-side with Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler inside Canberra's Parliament House to launch the 'Primary healthcare careers' campaign on Wednesday.

[Read More](#)

Campaign to 'raise the profile' of primary care

The Medical Republic, Other, 12/02/2025, Laura Woodrow

The federal government is launching a first-of-its-kind PR campaign to revamp the sector's image. [...] "The government's own modelling shows that over the next decade, without action, we will be short about 70,000 nurses – 20,000 of them in the primary care sector – and about 5500 GPs," said federal health minister Mark Butler at a press conference today.

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ABC News, ABC News Afternoons, 12/02/2025, Ros Childs

Interview with Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism Jillian Segal about a video showing two Bankstown Hospital nurses voicing antisemitic comments about Israeli patients. Segal says that the video has been condemned by the Federal Government and the AMA, with an investigation now ongoing on the matter. She is calling on hospital CEOs to conduct inquiries into their workforce and codes of conduct as well as reassure the Jewish community they can go into hospitals. Childs says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler called the nurses' views contrary to the most fundamental principle of healthcare.

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Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, 12/02/2025, Gemma Acton

The RACGP's Dr Michael Wright is calling for bulk billing incentives and increasing Medicare rebates to make Medicare appointments cheaper as more people put off visiting their GP. New research shows 180,000 Australians are living with IBD but there's not enough funding or awareness. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says Labor will take a stronger Medicare policy in the next election.

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Channel 9, Today Extra, 12/02/2025, David Campbell and Belinda Russell

Police are investigating the safety of patients after a video posted online shows two Bankstown Hospital nurses allegedly bragging and refusing to treat Israeli patients. NSW Premier Chris Minns confirms the pair were stood down. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is appalled by the comments in the video. Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Sharren Haskel has called for the nurses to be fired.

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 12/02/2025, Laura Jayes

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has asked for an urgent NSW Police investigation after a video released on Instagram by a Jewish influencer of two NSW Health workers refusing to treat Israeli patients. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he is 'disgusted and appalled' by the video.

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ABC North and West SA, Breakfast, 12/02/2025, Tom Mann

Interview with Lifeline Regional SA & Far West NSW CEO Robert Martin about mental health. Martin says that Lifeline volunteers currently represent over a thousand years of combined service and \$3.4m worth of unpaid service each year. He states that between 2023 to 2024, the region of Clare received 554 separate counselling sessions and 511 referrals to other services, while the Port Pirie Connect Centre provided 481 separate counselling sessions and 299 referrals. Martin says the Federal Government and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has committed to mental health and suicide prevention through the establishment of the Medicare mental health centres.

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MINISTER WELLS

Mercy closure will unsettle residents

Singleton Argus, General News, 13/02/2025, Louise Nichols, Page 1

Alison Horn didn't expect to have to speak at a public meeting and spend hours researching financial records and lobbying politicians just to ensure her uncle could remain in his chosen aged care facility. [...] In her letter to the Federal Aged Care Minister, Anika Wells, calling for her assistance to save the Mercy Nursing Home, Alison said: "I envisage a bleak future, where people are forced to move to multistorey 'aged care farms' in metropolitan areas, with families separated or forced to sell up and leave their home to move closer."

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Matildas teammate speaks on Sam Kerr for the first time since trial

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/02/2025, Tyson Otto

A Matildas player has become the first of Sam Kerr's teammates to speak out about the Chelsea striker's position in the Australian team. [...] Australian Sports Minister Anika Wells threw her weight behind Kerr in the hours before the verdict was handed down.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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New appointments to Australian Sport Commission board

Australasian Leisure Management, Other, 12/02/2025

Federal Minister for Sport, Anika Wells has announced five appointments to the Australian Sports Commission board. Led by Kate Jenkins AO as Chair of the Commission, Nick Green has been appointed as Deputy Chair, and new members Selwyn Button, Dr Chloë Flutter, Andrew Purchas and Lydia Williams joining the Board.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

RACGP applauds federal governments \$537M women's health package

Bungendore Weekly, General News, 12/02/2025, Page 10

The Royal Australian College of GPs has applauded the Federal Government's \$573.3 million package for women's health which includes new funding for menopause health assessments and increased

funding for longacting reversible contraception (LARCs). [...] The RACGP spoke about this issue and the need for more funding with Health and Aged Care Assistant Minister Ged Kearney just last year.

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Increased government funding for women's health makes Australia a standout

Canberra Times, Other, 12/02/2025, Danielle Mazza

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.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#),

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Menopause health assessment rebate to be \$102

The Medical Republic, Other, 12/02/2025, Holly Payne

When health ministers met on Sunday to announce a \$573.3 million investment in women's health, it was touted as "life changing". [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney called the package – which has bipartisan support – "life changing".

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

Why a legal right to occupy is critical for an application to the ACPA

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Michelle Neil, Page 20

Pharmacists planning to open a new pharmacy or relocate an existing PBS-approved pharmacy must first make an application to the Australian Community Pharmacy Authority (ACPA) for a recommendation to supply PBS medicines from the proposed premises. [...]The Rules set out strict requirements which must be satisfied for the ACPA to make a positive recommendation for approval to the Department of Health and Aged Care (Department).

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Project provides palliative care support

Ballarat Times, Other, 13/02/2025, Tim Bottams

Ballarat Hospice Care staff are looking back on the successful implementation of a pilot initiative designed to improve palliative care practices at aged care services throughout the Grampians region. [...] Ballarat Hospice Care CEO Andrew Howard said the initiative, initially funded by the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care and the Victorian Department of Health, has been a success.

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Putting a wellbeing economy, oral health leadership and workforce priorities on the Federal Budget agenda

Croakey, Other, 12/02/2025, Alison Barrett

Peak Australian health organisations are urging the Federal Government in its upcoming budget to

invest in preventive health measures and strategies to address health inequities and social and cultural determinants of health. [...] Realigning existing Department of Health and Aged Care personnel under the Commonwealth Chief Dental Officer, with relevant skills and experience in population health, "is required to drive meaningful oral health policy and long-term funding reform with the goal for all Australians to have universal access to essential oral healthcare".

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Peak organisations spotlight allied health role in dementia

Healthcare Channel, Other, 12/02/2025, Ritchelle Drilon

Dementia Australia, Occupational Therapy Australia and Speech Pathology Australia are urging the Federal Government to fund comprehensive allied health pathways for people living with dementia. [...] In a recent webinar titled Dementia and Allied Health: Personal and Professional Perspectives on the Benefits of Occupational Therapy and Speech Pathology , Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care Chief Allied Health Officer Anita Hobson-Powell introduced joint position statements on speech pathology, occupational therapy and dementia.

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Opinion: Things home care providers must address before Support at Home begins

Inside Ageing, Other, 12/02/2025, Emily Gillett

Aged care in Australia is undergoing its most significant changes in decades. [...] Some materials may already be available on the Department of Health and Aged Care website's program resources page.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Premier in vow to fund more aged care places

West Australian, General News, 13/02/2025, Jessica Page & Jake Dietsch, Page 9

WA will go it alone to set up a \$100 million loan facility for aged care, to fix a bed shortage Roger Cook has blamed for the growing number of older people overwhelming Perth hospitals. The Premier said aged care was a Commonwealth responsibility but that WA has been left short, as he announced the package to deliver up to 500 new aged care beds if re-elected.

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

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Euthanasia and dementia can it ever be ethical?

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/02/2025, Ciara Seccombe, Page 40

The most ethically complex issue at the heart of the debate about euthanasia is dementia. Advocates consider it a matter of self-determination and autonomy the freedom to choose through an advance care directive the circumstances of our own death at a future point when we lack the capacity to decide.

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Council of Elders welcomes new members

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 12/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Professor Ponniah Anandajayasekeram, Associate Professor John Cullen, William (Uncle Benny)

Hodges and Russell Westacott have this week been appointed to the Aged Care Council of Elders. They join existing members Val Fell, Gillian Groom, James Carey, Lynette Cullinane, Gwenda Darling, Dr John Davis, Anna Harrison, Julie Rankin and Lynda Whiteway, and chair Anne Burgess, who was appointed in 2023

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OPAN welcomes First Nations aged care report

Australian Seniors News, Other, 12/02/2025

The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) has welcomed the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner's report, calling it an important step forward for the sector. The report, Transforming Aged Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, outlined key findings and recommendations for the Commission going forward based on feedback received from older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

[Read More](#)

Calls for budget to tweak funding of home care programs

Community Care Review, Other, 12/02/2025, Natasha Egan

Provider peak body Ageing Australia has recommended the government fund care management at 20 per cent of the consumer's package for a year from the commencement of the Support at Home program in July. Currently, many providers allocate more than 20 per cent of their budget on care management, Ageing Australia said in its pre-budget submission.

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The impossible equation: Why aged care minutes don't add up

HelloCare, Other, 12/02/2025, Jakob Neeland

Australia's aged care sector is under immense pressure to meet government-mandated care-minute targets, introduced as part of reforms following the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. The targets, set at 215 minutes of care per resident per day — including 44 minutes of direct care from a registered nurse (RN) — aim to improve the quality of care for elderly Australians.

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6PR, Drive, 12/02/2025, Oliver Peterson

WA Labor pledged a \$100m low interest loan facility for providers that would help deliver up to 500 extra aged care beds.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 12/02/2025, Ross Solly

Interview with Council of the Ageing ACT CEO Jenny Mobbs about the current Carers Act not aligning with the current aged care model and standards. Mobbs says the planned closure of the Barrengarry care centre is due to a review recommending a complete renovation so that services can continue. She states they will continue to work with the aged care sector, Canberra Health Services, My Aged Care, and transition to the Care and Commonwealth Home Support program to ensure people can still receive care. Mobbs notes of the division between health services in Canberra and the aged care system, which is run by the Federal Government.

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

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POPULATION HEALTH

Treasury fears on lifting tobacco excise borne out

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/02/2025, Michael Read, Page 4

Jim Chalmers went ahead with a proposal to ramp up tobacco excise despite a Treasury warning it

would fuel trade in the black market, and that the high cost of legally purchased cigarettes was one of the factors driving a decline in tax revenue.

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Why CBD is tobacco war safe zone

Age, General News, 13/02/2025, Marta Pascual, Page 1

Nobody torches tobacco shops in Melbourne's central business district. [...] Smoking rates have dropped sharply over the last two decades, with 24.3 per cent of adults smoking in 1991 compared to just over 8 per cent in 2022-23, according to data from the National Drug Strategy Household Survey.

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Vapes littering streets as the 'new problem child of waste'

Age, General News, 13/02/2025, Cara Waters, Page 15

Used vapes are increasingly littering Melbourne's streets and parks despite a government crackdown on e-cigarettes. [...] Under laws brought in last year, the only legal vapes are pharmacy products that have limited nicotine and come in menthol, mint or tobacco flavours, designed for people who want help to quit smoking.

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

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The luxury retreat for men accused of grievous crimes

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/02/2025, Jordan Baker, Page 10

The brochure promises spa nights, baking classes and music therapy "with Maggie". [...] Questions are being asked about the role of private rehabilitation in the justice system, after a Herald investigation into security concerns at another private centre, Connect Global, prompting a review of the Port Stephens facility by the Attorney-General's Department.

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A third want to cut back on booze

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/02/2025, Genevieve Holding, Page 3

About one in three Tasmanians aged 25-44 want to cut back on their drinking, new state research has shown, with some stating it has "taken a huge toll on their bodies". The survey was commissioned by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) and funded by the Tasmanian government.

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PM accused of breaking another promise

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/02/2025, Jade Gailberger, Page 6

Labor has been accused of abandoning its promise to ban life insurers from using genetic testing to refuse cover. Assistant Treasurer Stephen Jones made the commitment to protect us from genetic discrimination in life insurance in September last year following long-running concerns from health advocates, researchers and clinicians.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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Let's get our teeth into issue

Courier Mail, General News, 13/02/2025, Robert Schwarten, Page 25

If there is one truth when it comes to the vexed issue of fluoride in the water supply, it is this: Queenslanders are tragically being robbed of proper healthcare by weak-gutted local councillors who are influenced by the lunatic fringe, who in turn are hiding in the thick hedge of social media. Why are these councillors so unwilling to believe in science?

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The pivotal development years - Care guidance

In terms of child development, children aged five to 12 years are between the preschoolers (three to five) and teenagers (13 to 19). [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, an estimated 4.8 million children aged up to 14 lived in Australia in July 2023.

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Safety taken to new heights after giant slide injuries

Canberra Times, Other, 13/02/2025, Farid Farid

Suburban playgrounds across Australia could get a safety overhaul in an attempt to crack down on serious injuries for children going down slides. [...] A recent report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found playground equipment was the most common cause of falls amongst children nationwide.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#)

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Damning report calls on all governments to 'urgently' assist Stolen Generations and their families

ABC Online, Other, 12/02/2025, Kirstie Wellauer & Tahnee Jash

Stolen Generations survivor Uncle Michael 'Widdy' Welsh was optimistic that change was coming when a groundbreaking national inquiry was launched to bring light to history, recognising experiences like his. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Stolen Generations survivors are more likely to suffer discrimination, have a disability and be diagnosed with a mental health condition than other First Nations peoples.

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Australian Medical Association condemns NT government abandoning alcohol floor price

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/02/2025, Giovanni Torre

The Australian Medical Association (NT) has expressed alarm at the Northern Territory government decision to scrap minimum unit pricing for alcohol, which it called "a crucial measure to reduce alcohol-related harm in the Territory". AMA (Northern Territory) President Dr Robert Parker said the decision by the CLP Government marked the end of the \$1.30 per standard drink floor price, introduced in 2018 to curb alcohol-related harm.

[Read More](#)

GP backs coroner's call for alcohol delivery curfew

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/02/2025, Jo Roberts

New coronial findings into the alcohol-induced death of a Victorian woman have prompted calls for sales restrictions, and funds to enable GPs to diagnose problems sooner. A new study found up to 470,000 Australians may be missing out on substance use disorder treatment.

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Dutton has backed more funding to women's health. But the political record is worth revisiting

The Guardian, Other, 12/02/2025, Van Badham

Who here remembers that Peter Dutton was once health minister? Don't worry if you don't. [...] It's a historical detail relevant to note in the wake of Labor's landmark half-billion-dollar commitment to women's healthcare , announced on 7 February.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/02/2025, Sandra Sully

According to a poll, almost 50% of parents hold the misconception that too much sleep is a sign of laziness amongst teens. Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital Dr Anthea Rhodes found teenagers produce natural melatonin much later in the evening than young children or adults. Severe or more persistent sleep problems could be a symptom of anxiety or depression.

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 12/02/2025, Rick Hind

Interview with University of Queensland Centre for Youth Substance Abuse Research Emeritus Professor Wayne Hall about New Zealand recording a higher smoking rate than Australia in 2016. Hall notes that New Zealand legalised and regulated vapes and promoted a device to help people quit. He states that vaping has made a substantial contribution among Maori because it's been promoted as an alternative to cigarette smoking and believes that if this was implemented in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities it would reduce the smoking rate as well.

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

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 12/02/2025, Samantha Donovan

Report by ABC News journalist Kathleen O'Connor. A new national survey found almost 50% of Australian teens have trouble sleeping at night while more than 25% use screens in bed before sleeping. Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital Dr Anthea Rhodes says sleep is critical to the health, development, and overall wellbeing of children and teens. Sleep Health Foundation CEO Dr Moira Junge is concerned with the number of teens with bad sleeping habits as it could lead to increased risks for cardiovascular disease, dementias, cancer, and type two diabetes.

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

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Radio National, Life Matters, 12/02/2025, Hilary Harper & Beverley Wang

Interview with Melbourne GP Dr Vyom Sharma about Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data finding men are less likely to go to GPs than women. Sharma says men tend to only visit the GP when they have a specific health issue at the time rather than for a general check-up. He states mental health data also found men who tend to conform to traditional masculinity don't tend to ask for help in these ways, even for physical health reasons. Sharma says men need to take more preventative health checks, including for prostate cancer.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Surgery safe way to take the weight off

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/02/2025, Page 3

Bariatric surgery is safe and induces substantial weight loss that reduces the need for diabetes medications, a Monash University and University of Sydney-led Australian study has found. Five years post-surgery, Australians who underwent one-anastomosis gastric bypass from February 28, 2012 until December 31, 2021 had total body weight loss of 34.88 per cent, roux-en-Y gastric bypass (lost 30.73 per cent), sleeve gastrectomy (26.5 per cent) and adjustable gastric bands (17.6 per cent).

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

Tasmania's rise in type 2 diabetes raises critical questions

Launceston Examiner, General News, 13/02/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 2

The rate of Tasmanians affected by type 2 diabetes is increasing, but a think tank event held in Launceston is trying to tackle the issue and help those living with it. [...] Diabetes Australia's General Manager Tasmania, Minke Hoekstra, said the brainstorming event held on February 11 aimed to reduce the impact type 2 diabetes had on Tasmanians and the barriers faced.

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Finding strength when food is not your friend

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Chloe Sargent went through a period of grief after being diagnosed with Crohn's disease in 2010. Ms Sargent, of Thornton, has since been through about 20 surgeries, including one three months ago.

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

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Eye-opener or just big data?

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/02/2025, Mohana Basu, Page 2

A major observational study of nearly two million patients with type 2 diabetes has highlighted the potential wide-ranging health benefits of GLP-1 receptor agonists but also the potential risks. Researchers mapped links between the medications and 175 health outcomes, comparing them with those of patients taking other common antiglycaemics such as sulfonylureas, DPP-4 inhibitors or SGLT2 inhibitors and those continuing with their usual care.

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Digital shift 'ups false positives'

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/02/2025, Mohana Basu, Page 7

A move from film to digital mammography between 2006 and 2010 picked up a small number of extra cancers at the expense of many more false positives, researchers have suggested. While a return to film was unlikely and the absolute numbers of false positives were low, the researchers said it highlighted that better detection did not always mean better outcomes, just as with improving radiography technology.

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When an oncologist is diagnosed with cancer

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/02/2025, Carmel Sparke, Page 14

Radiation oncologist Dr Catherine Sue Hwang used to encourage patients facing chemotherapy to shave their heads as one way to "regain control" of their treatments. She also wondered at the vanity of women who refused chemotherapy for fear of losing their hair.

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

Revisiting vitiligo

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/02/2025, Monisha Gupta & Sahngeun Mun, Page 38

Vitiligo is linked to significant comorbidity, but early diagnosis and treatment can make a substantial difference to disease progression and quality of life. Vitiligo is a common, acquired depigmentation disorder, affecting 0.5-2% of the global population.

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

4BC, Afternoons, 12/02/2025, Sofie Formica

Interview with clinician researcher Dr Lena von Schuckmann about the ATO cracking down on extra chemicals in sunscreen. Von Schuckmann says that the TGA approves a variety of chemical blockers used in sunscreen to reflect the radiation of the sun and prevent skin cancer.

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PRIMARY CARE

'Deranged' nurses banned for life

The Australian, General News, 13/02/2025, Alexi Demetriadi & Liam Mendes, Page 1

Two nurses caught boasting they would kill Israeli patients at a major hospital will never work in the health system again, NSW authorities have vowed, as police probe the background of the pair responsible for an anti-Semitic tirade that left the nation reeling. Strike Force Pearl NSW Police's unit investigating hate crimes of an anti-Semitic nature has launched an investigation, with Police

Commissioner Karen Webb suggesting there would be "further developments overnight", calling it a "sad day for the country".

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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

Nurses' death threats kill trust in our healthcare

The Australian, General News, 13/02/2025, Claire Lehmann, Page 1

Two nurses at Bankstown Hospital, located in Sydney's western suburbs, have been removed from their positions after declaring on video they would refuse to treat and would kill Israeli patients who presented for care. This scandal marks the first time in Australian history that healthcare workers have openly declared their intent to murder patients based on nationality.

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

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

Consortium eyes Healthscope bid

The Australian, Business News, 13/02/2025, Bridget Carter, Page 16

David Di Pilla and health insurance fund Bupa are believed to be working as part of a consortium to gain control of Healthscope, the nation's second-largest private hospital operator. The attempts by Mr Di Pilla, who runs HMC Capital, comes as Healthscope's future hangs in the balance, with rising debt and operating costs and a critical March deadline looming when the healthcare provider is likely to breach debt covenants on loans worth about \$1.6bn.

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

Nurses stood down over hate video

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/02/2025, Jessica McSweeney, Page 3

Two NSW nurses are expected to be fired over an antisemitic video that has rocked Sydney after a summer of anti-Jewish violence, embarrassing the state's health system after they were captured bragging about killing and refusing to treat Israeli patients. Ahmad Rashad Nadir and Sarah Abu Lebdeh (both pictured) were yesterday stood down from their roles at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital in south-west Sydney pending an investigation into the video, posted to social media by Israeli influencer Max Veifer.

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

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

Message of harm from place of care

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/02/2025, Alexandra Smith, Page 29

A new, unthinkable reality emerged yesterday. There will now be patients turning up to NSW emergency departments sick or injured and scared who will question whether a doctor or nurse is wishing them harm.

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

Health provider in liquidation

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/02/2025, Darcy Fitzgerald, Page 3

A regional healthcare provider has gone into liquidation with fears three clinics owned by the company in the town could close. Paion Medical, owned by Mount Gambier GP Richard Try, went into liquidation on January 29.

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

Bulk billing for kids dumped

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/02/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 19

A major Adelaide GP clinic has dumped bulk billing for children, citing lack of support from the federal government and the impact of the state payroll tax which now applied to clinics with contractor GPs. Arkaba Medical Clinic told patients its commitment to high quality care and exceptional services requires adjustments to their fee structure.

Minister says birthing furore a hospital pass

Courier Mail, General News, 13/02/2025, Jackie Sinnerton & Taylah Fellows, Page 6

Health Minister Tim Nicholls has issued a "please explain" to his department over why he was not told of plans to overhaul maternity services at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, despite worried doctors and nurses contacting his office multiple times. On Tuesday Mr Nicholls axed the proposal which would have left women grieving the loss of a pregnancy next to healthy newborn just hours after he learned of the controversial plan via questions from The Courier-Mail.

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

Hate in hospitals a sign of a greater sickness

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/02/2025, Joel Burnie, Page 43

Just when you think people in this country can't slip any deeper into the mire of anti-Semitism and demonisation of Israelis, someone proves you wrong. We now have health care professionals, of all people, telling an Israeli influencer not only that all Israelis should die a horrible death, but that they personally would send Israelis to hell given the chance and had in fact done so!

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

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

Ambos stretched

Herald Sun, Editorials, 13/02/2025, Page 22

Frontline services - police, ambos, nurses and teachers - have all faced rising work-demand pressures as a result of rampant population growth. Together with the shadow of the pandemic and the unique challenges it brought, including mental health impacts across the community, these public interface professionals have often been stretched.

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

Training to ease pressure

Northern Territory News, General News, 13/02/2025, Taylor Mason, Page 3

Pharmacists in the Northern Territory will soon be able to provide expanded healthcare services, thanks to a new training initiative. The Graduate Certificate of Advanced Practice and Prescribing for Pharmacists, offered by James Cook University, is a key step in the NT government's Community Pharmacy Full Scope of Practice initiative.

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

Cops sent to hospital after nurses' 'vile' threat

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/02/2025, Jack Gramenz & Luke Costin, Page 2

Two nurses face criminal investigation for suggesting Israeli patients at Australian hospitals would be denied treatment or killed, in a widely shared video. NSW Health executives overseeing 180,000 staff worked to identify the pair hours after they appeared in footage posted online yesterday.

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

Not right that pensioners travel miles to get treatment

Daily Advertiser, General News, 13/02/2025, Ted Howes, Page 2

Fears are growing that elderly Corowa residents may be missing out on vital medical services since the only dedicated bulk-billing clinic closed in December. Health advocates say many patients were either travelling to Lavington, where the town's bulk-billing doctor moved to after Corowa Mediclinic shut its doors, or were likely to be missing out if they had no means of travelling.

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

Healthy lives

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 13/02/2025, Page 14

General practitioners are on the very frontline of medicine in the community. In cities and towns, big and small, GPs are the medical professionals who people turn to for their most basic ailments and for

advice on health.

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

000 blowout

Shepparton News, General News, 13/02/2025, Taylah Baker, Page 1

Emergency services in Victoria are facing unprecedented challenges, as Ambulance Victoria reports a striking increase in callouts over the past quarter. With crews responding to nearly 100,000 Code 1 emergencies, paramedics are once again at the forefront of a healthcare system under pressure.

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

Nurses to initiate PBS meds?

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/02/2025, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 10

Restrictions on nurse practitioners initiating PBS medicines should be scrapped with few exceptions, the PBAC has recommended. For nurse practitioners with PBS prescribing rights, most items are restricted as 'Continuing Therapy Only', but the PBAC decided that the restrictions should be scrapped.

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

Ambulance ramping 'common' at Mount Gambier Hospital but expansion underway

ABC Online, Other, 12/02/2025, Eugene Boisvert & Conor Burke

Ambulance ramping is now common at the Mount Gambier Hospital and overcrowding in the emergency department is putting patients and staff at risk, a report by the doctors' union says. Limestone Coast Local Health Network had previously denied the ramping crisis that plagues Adelaide had arrived in Mount Gambier, but on Wednesday it told the ABC staff shortages were behind some of the problems.

[Read More](#)

The rural doctor initiative closing the 'trauma gap'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/02/2025, Morgan Liotta

A specialised medical kit is arming rural doctors with life-saving emergency and retrieval equipment, cementing the role of GPs in trauma care. When a 40-tonne semi-trailer truck ploughed into the side of a passenger train at a level-crossing in rural Victoria in June 2007, causing 11 deaths and leaving 23 people with significant injuries, critical time was spent waiting for emergency services to arrive.

[Read More](#)

It's broke, so fix it! campaign in private hospitals

Shepparton News Online, Other, 12/02/2025

Private hospitals across Australia have launched a poster campaign, with banners proclaiming It's Broke So Fix It! and Private Hospitals Are Heavy Lifters, to be prominently displayed in high-traffic areas of private hospitals and day surgery centres. Australian Private Hospitals Association CEO Brett Heffernan said the posters are designed to raise awareness of the critical funding issues facing private hospitals and the knock-on effects to patient choice, access and quality care, while reminding people about the vital role private hospitals play in Australia's healthcare system.

[Read More](#)

Revolutionary AI tool helps to free up hospital beds

The New Daily, Other, 12/02/2025, Imma Perfetto

An artificial intelligence-driven approach that helps to free up hospital beds will likely be rolled out across several South Australian hospitals within the year, with plans to implement it interstate in the next 18 months. The system provides predictions of how likely it is a patient will be discharged within 24 hours.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 12/02/2025, Jeremy Fernandez

Bankstown Hospital health workers Ahmad Rashad Nadir and Sarah Abu Lebdeh have been stood down after a video uploaded by Israeli content creator Max Veifer showed the nurses bragging about killing Israeli patients. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park and NSW Health Secretary Susan Pearce criticised the comments made by the NSW Health workers. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has called the video 'disgusting' while NSW Premier Chris Minns believes this will undermine the current health system. NSW Jewish Board of Deputies' David Ossip says no one should be concerned whether they will get satisfactory treatment at a NSW health facility based on their race or religion.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, The Project, 12/02/2025, Sarah Harris, Hamish Macdonald, Georgie Tunny, and Sam Taunton

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park about an investigation into a video showing two hospital workers allegedly threatening to kill Israeli patients. Park voiced an apology to the Jewish community and spoke to the Jewish Board of Deputies on behalf of the NSW Health System. He states they will ensure that anyone the pair have been caring for have not had adverse impacts based on their vile behaviour.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 12/02/2025, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Bankstown Hospital health workers Ahmad Rashad Nadir and Sarah Abu Lebdeh have been stood down after a video uploaded by an Israeli influencer showed the nurses bragging about killing Israeli patients. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park and NSW Health Secretary Susan Pearce criticised the comments made by the NSW Health workers. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has called the video 'disgusting' while Executive Council of Australian Jewry's Alex Ryvchin doesn't believe this is an isolated case. NSW Police Commissioner Karen Webb called the incident 'appalling', noting that criminals charges are highly likely.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, A Current Affair, 12/02/2025, Peter Overton

Interview with former deputy chief medical officer Dr Nick Coatsworth about two Bankstown Hospital nurses who have been stood down after making antisemitic comments about killing Israeli patients in a video. Coatsworth wants to reassure people that he has worked with people and healthcare workers from all sorts of different backgrounds who have been compassionate and ethical. He notes that since October 7th, health care professionals have expressed antisemitic views to varying degrees.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 12/02/2025, Jonathan Uptin

Patients and Queensland Health members are concerned the Qld Government's new real-time health data website is misleading. State Health Minister Tim Nicholls says the information on the website clarified that the wait time is for the first meaningful intervention but AMAQ President Dr Nick Yim wants clearer information.

Report continues on: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#)

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today , 12/02/2025, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

A parliamentary inquiry revealed Ambulance Victoria failed to get to code one emergencies within 15 minutes. It comes as new rules must see hospitals offload 90% of ambulance patients within 40 minutes to get them back on the road.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 12/02/2025, Janice Petersen

Bankstown Hospital health workers Ahmad Rashad Nadir and Sarah Abu Lebdeh have been stood down after a video uploaded by an Israeli content creator showed the nurses bragging about killing Israeli patients. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says they have been contrary to the most

fundamental principle of healthcare. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park states the pair will no longer work with NSW Health while Prime Minister Anthony Albanese believes they should face the full force of the law. The Australian Medical Association reassures the Jewish community that practitioners are committed to providing the best possible care to every patient.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 12/02/2025, Laura Jayes

Ambulance Victoria faces a toxic culture crisis with over 60 submissions that have been forwarded to a Parliamentary Inquiry, including one from paramedics saying that Ambulance Victoria is crumbling. The latest data from Ambulance Victoria's annual report from 2023-2024 revealed a record \$108m in WorkCover claims had been paid out, \$20m compared to its previous. Yesterday, Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas declared extra measures by the Vic Government aimed at reducing the levels of risk to patients and paramedics, including that a patient must be offloaded from an ambulance within 40 minutes of arriving at a hospital and that paramedics must be leaving within 20 minutes of offloading that patient. Victorian Opposition Leader Brad Battin points out that the Vic Government is celebrating despite only reducing problems by a fraction amid concerns from the ambulance and hospital data.

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2GB, Drive, 12/02/2025, Clinton Maynard

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park about Bankstown Hospital health worker Ahmad Rashad Nadir wanting to apologise for the antisemitic comments he made about killing Israeli patients. Park says his behaviour will not be tolerated in NSW Health, assuring people in multicultural communities that hospitals will provide them with the care they need. He states he has held meetings with Secretary Susan Pearce, the South Western Sydney Local Health District CEO, and the general manager of Bankstown Hospital on the matter.

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2GB, Mornings, 12/02/2025, Mark Levy

Interview with NSW Shadow Minister for Health Kellie Sloane about two Bankstown Hospital nurses who have been stood down after making antisemitic comments about killing Israeli patients in a video. Sloane condemns the comments especially as the hospital deals with the increasing rate of patients in their emergency wards.

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2GB, Mornings, 12/02/2025, Mark Levy

Interview with NSW Premier Chris Minns about two Bankstown Hospital nurses who have been stood down after making antisemitic comments about killing Israeli patients in a video. Minns says a full investigation is now underway into the matter, noting that the pair were immediately stood down and will not return to NSW Health. He states that Health Minister Ryan Park will announce later this morning that this is going to be referred to the Health Care Complaints Commission immediately.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Breakfast , 12/02/2025, Peter Fegan

The Queensland Government has announced a \$100m boost to its Surgery Connect program for elective surgeries over the next six months. Qld Health Minister Tim Nicholls said the initiative would be rolled out swiftly but Shadow Health Minister Mark Bailey criticised the 2500 person increase in the surgery waitlist. Meanwhile, Queensland's ambulance ramping rates have declined from 44.7% in June to 39.1% in December.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 12/02/2025, Steve Austin

Interview with McKell Institute Executive Director Sarah Mawhinney about improving the Queensland health system's waitlists and reducing ramping. Austin notes that Health Minister Tim Nicholls

announced ambulance ramping had been reduced from 40% to 39%. Mawhinney says investment on satellite hospitals and urgent care clinics have improved health outcomes in the last decade.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 12/02/2025, Leon Compton

Interview with Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Secretary Emily Shepherd about chronic understaffing and 400 vacancies at the Royal Hobart Hospital. Shepherd says a bulk recruitment campaign that has been underway to hire nurses and midwives to permanent positions within the THS began in September last year but there has been none that were put in place since.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 12/02/2025, Chris Bath

Interview with Nurses and Midwives Association Assistant General Secretary Michael Whaites about Bankstown Hospital workers stood down over an online video showing their comments on killing and refusing to treat Israeli patients. Whaites says he and members of the association are appalled by the bigotry in the video, noting that it has no place in the healthcare system.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

New genes linked to depression

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 10

Australian researchers involved in the world's largest and most diverse genetic study into depression have revealed nearly 300 previously unknown genetic links to the condition, which will allow scientists to predict depression risk. The discoveries could also pave the way for new, more effective drug treatments, including repurposing existing medications.

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

Construction begins on new youth mental health centre in Ballarat

Ballarat Courier, Other, 12/02/2025, Michelle Smith

Young people experiencing mental health challenges will have more treatment options in Ballarat as construction gets under way on the new Youth Prevention and Recovery Care Centre. Grampians teens aged 16 to 18 needing inpatient mental healthcare currently need to be admitted to the Royal Children's Hospital.

[Read More](#)

ADHD med shortages 'a merry-go-round you just can't predict'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/02/2025, Jolyon Attwooll

The new school year has coincided with another series of shortages, forcing patients and prescribers to rethink their options. Diagnosis of ADHD has increased significantly in recent years.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 12/02/2025, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Tributes have been made for NSW Senior Constable Mark Hobson, who took his own life. Former Police Deputy Commissioner Mick Willing says police officers are more than twice as likely to experience suicidal thoughts as the general adult population. The NSW Police Association's Ian Allwood says 14 serving officers have taken their own lives since 2019 and is calling for the State Government to fund a blue card similar to that of military veterans'. Independent MP Rod Roberts is calling for an inquiry into the causes of suicide.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 12/02/2025, Matt Shirvington and Natalie Barr

Interview with ADHD Support Australia founder Vivian Dunstan about being diagnosed with ADHD at a later age. Dunstan notes that her daughter struggled with school and lived with disorganisation, having taken a while to get diagnosed with it as well. She notes that ADHD can be hyperactive, inattentive, or both.

Continuing interview on: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 12/02/2025, Ryk Goddard

Interview with Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council Director of Policy and Impact Daniel Vautin about the interrelation between ADHD and addiction. Vautin says research has found that early assessment and diagnosis of people with ADHD can reduce risky behaviour and be on par with neurotypical counterparts.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Issues identified

Ballarat Courier, General News, 13/02/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Workload and safety challenges continue to be the top issues of concern for staff working at Grampians Health. Results of the annual People Matter survey showed Grampians Health staff felt better about their work than the previous year, and one of the things they felt happiest about was the meaningful work they do.

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

Riverina pathology workers to walk out

Daily Advertiser, General News, 13/02/2025, Finn Coleman, Page 2

Pathology workers at a Riverina hospital will go on strike as they fight to reverse a government decision. The NSW government plans to close the Cootamundra Pathology Lab and for the lab at Young Hospital to absorb the additional workload.

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

Better pay is vital to maintain GP numbers

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 13/02/2025, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 7

Two Gold Coast general practitioners (GPs) have sounded the alarm on the future of the profession, warning remuneration needs to change to attract more graduates. As Mermaid Central Medical Clinic celebrates four decades of serving the community, partners Dr Graham Exelby and Dr Jack Ashwin who have treated three generations of families say the industry has shifted, with change needed to ease GP shortages across the state.

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

Half of GP registrars worse off

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/02/2025, Rachel Carter, Page 7

More than half of GP registrars are earning less than they did in their final year of pre-vocational hospital training, with many trainees doing hospital locum work to supplement their income. Only 23%

of the 1274 registrars who took part in a national survey said they were earning more now than they did in the hospital system.

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3AW, Drive, 12/02/2025, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with Nine Network's medical expert and former deputy chief medical officer Dr Nick Coatsworth about Bankstown Hospital workers stood down over an online video showing their comments on killing and refusing to treat Israeli patients. Coatsworth says the Australian Federal Police as well as the state and federal health ministers identified the pair as outliers to the health system. He notes comments were made by the Jewish medical community to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency over a year ago about antisemitic concerns but were dismissed.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Push to list obesity drug on PBS

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/02/2025, Mohana Basu, Page 8

Pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly is readying a PBAC application for tirzepatide, which if successful, would become the first GLP-1 receptor agonist publicly funded for obesity treatment. Without giving a dollar figure, the company has acknowledged that a listing would be expensive for taxpayers but says the downstream effects will be worth it.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

When patients expect all consults by telehealth

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/02/2025, Dr Rachel Glasson, Page 16

I remember one of my first days of seeing patients by telehealth, right at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. The scary new coronavirus was looming on the horizon like a tsunami that we knew was going to hit eventually; everyone was nervous, and our first lockdown had just begun.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Prominent rape-accused doctor released after bail granted

Canberra Times, General News, 13/02/2025, Tim Piccione, Page 4

A prominent Canberra doctor who has denied sexually assaulting staff members from his medical practice has been released back into the community on strict bail conditions. [...] According to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's website, the doctor's status is "registered" and there are no conditions on that registration.

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

Robyn James faces court for alleged manslaughter over Vicki Butler's death

The Courier Mail, Other, 12/02/2025, Grace Koo

A Brisbane doctor who allegedly assisted a home birth that caused the death of a mother did not tell paramedics she was a medical professional when they turned up, a court has heard. [...] According to

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, the suspended doctor, who specialises in general practice, first registered in 1997.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

ABC, 7:30, 12/02/2025, Sarah Ferguson

Interview with paediatrician and MacArthur MP Dr Mike Freeland about an investigation into a video showing two hospital workers allegedly threatening to kill Israeli patients. Freeland is disgusted by the comments made in the video, stating that it was their sacred responsibility to care for people who come to them for health reasons. He doesn't believe that social cohesion has broken down in Bankstown, noting that these people have been outliers.

[Play Now](#)

ABC, 7:30, 12/02/2025, Sarah Ferguson

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park about an investigation into a video showing two hospital workers allegedly threatening to kill Israeli patients. Park says that the NSW Health Secretary immediately identified the pair at Bankstown Hospital and immediately had them suspended. He states that NSW Police have informed the Health Care Complaints Commission and will conduct an investigation in the matter. He wants to ensure there is no adverse outcomes as a result of the pair's behaviour.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 12/02/2025, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park about an investigation into a video showing two hospital workers allegedly threatening to harm Israeli patients. Park says contact has been made between the individuals and NSW Police and adds they will not be welcomed back to work with NSW Health. He states that AHPRA and the registration bodies will have a role to play in the investigation, have spoken to Susan Pearce, and have contacted the Health Care Complaints Commission.

Continuing interview on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Sharri, 12/02/2025, Sharri Markson

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park about talking to two Bankstown Hospital workers who made comments of allegedly harming and killing Israeli patients during a video call. Park says that he immediately contacted NSW Health Secretary Susan Pearce after learning of the video and in turn engaged with the Health Care Complaints Commission and AHPRA. He doesn't want to see the pair work in any health care system in the country. Park says he will work to ensure that the individuals have not been responsible for any adverse patient outcomes in the past.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Alarming gaps in our fertility knowledge

Herald Sun, General News, 13/02/2025, Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 11

Victorians are the most comfortable with getting preconception genetic testing to check their risk of passing on a condition to a baby, but the least likely to have used birth control, according to a new poll on fertility. The very first Monash IVF Fertility Insights Index, released today, has also uncovered concerning gaps in what people know could be harming their fertility.

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Emotional new Quit blitz

West Australian, General News, 13/02/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 18

Cancer Council WA has launched an emotional anti-smoking campaign in the wake of its flagship tobacco control program hitting 25 years. The Make Smoking History campaign was launched in 2000, when nearly one in four WA adults smoked cigarettes and people still smoked in bars, nightclubs, playgrounds and cars carrying children.

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

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HIV test for all, says PM

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/02/2025, Page 13

Keir Starmer has urged other world leaders to take an HIV test after becoming the first serving British prime minister and G7 leader to take a public test on camera. His office on Monday released footage of the British leader completing a rapid home test at Downing Street on Friday, in support of a nationwide initiative to encourage HIV testing.

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

The new campaign helping young Indigenous Victorians quit vaping

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/02/2025, Jarred Cross

A new health campaign is scrapping scare tactics for empowering, community-driven messages to help young Indigenous people in Victoria quit vaping. The Koori Way, a state-wide anti-tobacco and anti-vaping initiative led by the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service is encouraging youth mob, with voices their own age, to 'Flip the Vape'.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/02/2025, Natalie Forrest

Cancer Council WA CEO Ashley Reid says they are commemorating the 25th anniversary of its Make Smoking History Campaign today by releasing a new advertisement to motivate people to quit. The Cancer Council WA's Melissa Ledger reports that tobacco causes 13,000 hospitalisations and kills 1500 people each year in WA.

Report continues on: [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

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Channel 7, Seven News, 12/02/2025, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

Cancer Council WA CEO Ashley Reid says they are commemorating the 25th anniversary of its Make Smoking History Campaign today by releasing a new advertisement to motivate people to quit. Tobacco causes 13,000 hospitalisations and kills 1500 people each year in WA. The Cancer Council WA's Melissa Ledger reports of a 25% decline in smoking in the last 25 years. Around 200,000 Australians are expected to die around cancers related to smoking in the next two decades.

Report continues on: [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#).

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Channel 9, Nine News, 12/02/2025, Michael Thomson

Cancer Council WA CEO Ashley Reid says they are commemorating the 25th anniversary of its Make Smoking History Campaign today by releasing a new advertisement to motivate people to quit. Tobacco causes 13,000 hospitalisations and kills 1500 people each year in WA. Cancer Prevention and Research Director Melissa Ledger says that people know not to smoke in public pubs and clubs. Reid notes that vaping has posed a new challenge and serious health risks.

Report continues on: [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#).

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Croc country call dangerously dumb

The Nightly, General News, 12/02/2025, Jeni O'Dowd, Page 18

Forget the Summer Olympics 2032. Welcome to the Survival Olympics, where competitors will race not just for gold but for their lives.

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

She must lose the captain's armband

Herald Sun, General News, 13/02/2025, Erin Smith, Page 6

There is no doubt that Sam Kerr is one of the best women's footballers in the world but the star striker should be stripped of her Matilda captain's armband and banned from any leadership roles. Kerr has been one of many female footballers calling for more equality between men's and women's sports.

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

Uni project has a goal of keeping young girls in sport

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/02/2025, Alanna Tomazin, Page 6

The University of Newcastle has secured \$868,000 in state government funding to help young women in sport tackle body image, self-esteem, mental health and social media pressures. The research, led by UON's centre for Active Living and Learning co-deputy director and professor Philip Morgan, will centre on the voices of young girls in years 7 to 9 to develop programs and resources to help keep them playing.

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

ABC News, News Breakfast, 12/02/2025, James Glenday & Bridget Brennan

Former Sydney Kings MVP Xavier Cooks has been suspended effective immediately after a potential doping violation. Basketball Australia and the NBL confirmed he has been notified by Sport Integrity Australia of an adverse analytical finding.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Indigenous scholars awarded with 'overwhelming honour'

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/02/2025, Keira Jenkins

Eden Slicer has always been interested in how the brain works. [...] Ms Slicer is one of five recipients of the inaugural First Nations Cancer Scholarship, which aims to increase the network of Indigenous people leading and contributing to cancer control.

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Weight-loss jabs may help reduce alcohol intake, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 13/02/2025, Andrew Gregory

Weight-loss drugs could be used to help people reduce their intake of alcohol, researchers have said, after a study found they can cut cravings and curb heavy drinking. The medicines, originally developed to treat type 2 diabetes, have revolutionised the treatment of obesity, and evidence suggests they could have benefits in other areas of health, such as reducing risk of heart attacks and strokes.

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Eating from plastic takeout containers can increase heart failure risk – study

The Guardian, Other, 12/02/2025, Tom Perkins

Eating from plastic takeout containers may significantly increase the chance of congestive heart failure, a new study finds, and researchers suspect they have identified why: changes to gut biome cause inflammation that damages the circulatory system. The novel two part, peer-reviewed study from

Chinese researchers adds to mounting evidence of the risks associated with eating from plastic, and builds on previous evidence linking plastic chemicals to heart disease.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Wahluu Health to focus on change

Western Advocate, General News, 13/02/2025, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 3

The life expectancy for Aboriginal people is around 10 years less than that of non-Aboriginal people living in Australia. There's no quick fix, but Wahluu Health will do everything it can to improve health outcomes for Bathurst's Aboriginal population.

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'Are you waiting for us to die?': Stolen Generations report calls for family tracing and police apologies

The Guardian, Other, 12/02/2025, Sarah Collard

Nearly 30 years after a landmark inquiry into tens of thousands of Aboriginal children being forcibly removed from their families, barely any recommendations aimed at healing and redress for their trauma have been enacted, according to a new report. [...] The Healing Foundation's chair, Prof Steve Larkin, said many survivors are ageing with complex health and wellbeing needs due to trauma with worse health and equity outcomes than other Australians.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Be wary of wet season disease

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/02/2025, Nikita Mcguire, Page 4

As clean up begins and some residents of North Queensland still remain deluged, communities are being reminded to stay alert and aware on the dangers of a wet season disease which can be contracted through contaminated water. Following severe wet weather events, cases of melioidosis can rise.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#). [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#). [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Deadly virus is on rise in FNQ

Cairns Post, General News, 13/02/2025, Arun Singh Mann, Page 5

Health officials are searching for answers as to why there's been a sharp increase of a deadly disease in the Far North, while urging residents with symptoms to seek immediate care. Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health reported there had been nearly 40 confirmed cases of melioidosis in the region since the beginning of the wet season, including two deaths.

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Enhancing vaccination accuracy in pharmacies: Practical Strategies for Reducing Errors

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Melody Mugari, Page 34

Vaccinations are an essential component of preventive healthcare, providing protection against influenza, COVID-19, and other preventable diseases. Pharmacies have become pivotal in the delivery of these services, offering patients convenient access to immunisations.

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Doctors fear health fallout from nuclear energy plans

Canberra Times, Other, 12/02/2025, Marion Rae

Doctors have warned of no "safe" level of radiation from a proposed network of nuclear reactors as battlelines are drawn for the federal election. Similar to other nuclear-powered nations, Australians living within a certain radius of a reactor would need to be issued potassium iodide tablets for use in a radiation emergency, a nuclear briefing has learned.

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

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WHO facing 'new realities' as US withdrawal looms

The Australian, Other, 12/02/2025

The World Health Organization on Tuesday wrapped up its executive board meeting, held against the backdrop of the United States -- by far its largest donor -- heading for the exit. The agenda-setting eight-day gathering at the WHO's Geneva headquarters wrestled with the impact of US President Donald Trump's January 20 decision to start the one-year process of withdrawing from the UN health agency.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Warning for asthma medication

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/02/2025, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 8

New boxed warnings on montelukast advise doctors to stop treatment if patients develop depression, suicidality or other neuropsychiatric symptoms. Commonly used to treat children with chronic asthma as well as seasonal allergic rhinitis, the TGA warns of the potential neuropsychiatric side effects associated with the leukotriene receptor agonist.

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Medicine safety

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 8

An estimated 93 children a day present to emergency departments on average in Australia due to medicine-related problems. [...] With the prevalence of harm clearly illustrated in this report, PSA strongly supports the TGA's move to limit pack sizes of paracetamol from 1 February 2025, which should reduce the incidence of overdose and poisoning.

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Health Check: Vitura Health swoops on medical dope telehealth platform

The Australian, Other, 12/02/2025, Tim Boreham

Medical cannabis platform Vitura Health (ASX:VIT) has expanded its reach in the booming telehealth sector by acquiring the parent company of Queensland-based Candor Medical, for \$5.9 million. [...] Along the way, Vitura needs to tread warily because the Therapeutic Goods Administration -- and some doctor groups -- are on the warpath against the fast-growing medical dope sector.

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