



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 14th February 2025

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) and the **[Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) lead widespread coverage reporting that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has confirmed two NSW Health nurses making threats against Israeli patients on social media have been banned from working across the health system. Mr Butler said "I'm doing everything that I can to make sure these two people are not put in touch in a caring sense with any Australian again." *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [The Guardian](#).
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports Health Minister Mark Butler said the development of NDIS foundational supports would not be impacted by the lack of a five-year hospital funding deal with the states, and that the Commonwealth was "very satisfied" with NDIS reform progress. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#)
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports NSW psychiatrists have criticised the use of locums to fill gaps in mental health care. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler recently agreed that systemic problems in mental health care were "a stain on the nation". *Also reported by:* [The Guardian](#)
- **[Aged Care Insite](#)** reports a new Department of Health and Aged Care paper on aged care options for First Nations communities has highlighted the urgent need for reform. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells welcomed the findings and "the government is actively considering the recommendations and how they can be taken forward."

- [The Medical Republic](#) (online) reports the federal government passed a bill that will require some health services to upload specified information to My Health Record
- [ABC Online](#) reports food manufacturers have been accused of continuing to market highly processed baby foods as healthy products for kids.
- [ABC Online](#) reports inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) sufferers have called for more support and research funding for the condition. *Also reported by:* [9News](#)
- [The Courier Mail](#) (page 1) reports Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls will reduce spending on the state's hospital build program, raising concerns about plans for construction of new perinatal facilities for at-risk mothers.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### 'Kill Israeli' nurses banned, police mull charges

The Australian, General News, 14/02/2025, Alexi Demetriadi, Page 1

Health authorities are trawling through thousands of hospital patient records in a bid to establish whether two Sydney nurses ever acted on threats to kill or harm Israeli patients, as police weigh possible "hate crime" charges against the pair. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed the pair had been banned from practising nursing "anywhere in Australia, in any context".

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

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### 'No limits': \$44bn NDIS there for all

The Australian, General News, 14/02/2025, Greg Brown and Sarah Ison, Page 1

NDIS Minister Amanda Rishworth says there will be no tightening of which disabilities are eligible for the \$44bn scheme despite the government facing a mammoth effort to rein in costs, with Labor instead to launch a new panel to review "contestable" services and programs participants are using. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler hosed down suggestions this jeopardised foundational supports being rolled out in the second half of the year, declaring the commonwealth was "very satisfied" with progress on NDIS reforms and development of foundational supports.

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

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### 'Stopgap more harm than good'

The Australian, General News, 14/02/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

The NSW government's stopgap strategy of relying on locums and visiting medical officers to care for the most severely mentally ill "will almost certainly do more harm than good" and is out of step with world's best practice, the nation's most prominent psychiatrists say as they launch a bid for funds to be quarantined to rebuild crumbling mental health systems. [...] They warn the crisis in NSW is not primarily about pay or an industrial dispute, but more about systemic problems that have demoralised psychiatrists nationwide over the past decade, described recently by federal Health Minister Mark Butler as "a stain on the nation".

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

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### Citizenship changes urged

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/02/2025, Andrew Tillett, Page 1

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has signalled the need for a tougher regime on granting citizenship, drawing a fresh link between rising antisemitism to a migration system that is not adequately screening people for their commitment to Australian values.

*Also reported by:* [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).

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## Nurses banned after rants shocked nation

Herald Sun, General News, 14/02/2025, Clementine Cuneo and Elizabeth Pike, Page 10

Two nurses filmed making anti-Semitic threats have been banned from practising anywhere in Australia in the wake of their hate-filled rant. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said: "Australians have a right to feel safe wherever they go and nowhere should be safer than a hospital."

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

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## Pollies unite to condemn the pair

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/02/2025, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer, Page 6

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton is calling for a review of the country's migration system after it was revealed one of the nurses caught making anti-Semitic threats was granted Australian citizenship in 2020. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the pair will be unable to practice nursing anywhere in Australia in any context after their registrations were suspended.

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## New urgent care clinic opens

Canning Examiner, General News, 13/02/2025, Zoran Nedeljkovic, Page 1

Gosnells is now the proud home to a much-needed free Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, offering walk-in care seven days a week entirely bulk billed at Unit 1, 2227 Albany Highway, Gosnells. It is the largest of its kind in Western Australia. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the urgent care clinics have been a game changer.

Also reported by: [Examiner Newspapers \(Online\)](#).

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## Patching up women's care

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/02/2025, Jennifer Cromarty, Page 26

If you are a woman needing hormone replacement therapy (HRT), you will know the challenges with access to supply. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said: "It's been very clear to us that women simply haven't been getting the level of support they deserve through our healthcare system for too long."

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## Take a lead on pregnancy vaccination

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 13/02/2025, Page 4

Against a worrying trend of decreasing rates of vaccination among pregnant women (PD 31 Jan), and with free RSV vaccines now available for pregnant women (PD 20 Jan), the Immunisation Foundation of Australia (IFA) has highlighted the important role of pharmacists in vaccinating pregnant women - not only against RSV, but other vaccine-preventable diseases. "Pharmacists are trusted and readily accessible healthcare professionals, making them perfectly placed to champion pregnancy vaccination," said IFA CEO Catherine Hughes (pictured with Health Minister Mark Butler).

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

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## Bankstown Hospital nurses charged after anti-Semitic rant caught on camera

The Australian, Other, 13/02/2025, Clareese Packer

A nurse who vowed to "kill" Israeli patients and another who claimed he had already sent Israeli patients to the afterlife have now been banned from practising "anywhere in Australia, in any context". Ahmad "Rashad" Nadir and Sarah Abu Lebdeh were deregistered by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of NSW, effective from February 13, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said on Thursday

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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## Nurses cop national ban over anti-Israel 'kill' rant

A pair of nurses will be barred from working anywhere in Australia after allegedly threatening to kill Israeli patients in a video. [...] "Their sickening comments - and the hatred that underpins them - have no place in our health system and no place anywhere in Australia," Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said in a statement.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Why is Australia's smoking rate falling slower than NZ's? (Hint: vapes)

Crikey, Other, 13/02/2025, Bernard Keane

New Zealand has been far more effective at reducing smoking than Australia. Is it because of vaping? [...] That also — again — demolishes the conspiracy theory pushed by anti-vaping activists and Health Minister Mark Butler that vaping is a Big Tobacco plot to lure young people into smoking.

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## Family of nurse at the centre of anti-Semitic video firestorm say they are 'ready' for reprisal attacks - as pair refuse to be interviewed by police

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/02/2025, Jonica Bray

The family of a NSW nurse whose anti-Semitic rant sparked public outrage say they are preparing for possible attacks after being bombarded with threats. [...] 'As a result [of the deregistration], the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has automatically updated their record on the public register of practitioners,' federal health minister Mark Butler said.

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## Two NSW nurses who threatened to kill Israeli patients are banned from practising in Australia

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/02/2025, Matt Jones

The two nurses at the centre of an anti-Semitic firestorm have been deregistered from practising anywhere in Australia. [...] 'As a result, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has automatically updated their record on the public register of practitioners,' federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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## General bulk-billing availability reduces nationwide, despite over 77 per cent of GP visits being bulk-billed

Mountain Views.Mail, Other, 13/02/2025, Callum Ludwig

Cleanbill's annual Blue Report has been released, revealing the rates of bulk-billing availability across the country. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler was asked for comment on the report in January and said a ring around of general practices by this private company is no substitute for core Medicare data though Medicare data shows that there aren't as many bulk billed visits as they would like.

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## “Vile, dehumanising and unacceptable”: NSW Health employees investigated for antisemitic video

Aged Care Insite, Other, 13/02/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Two Sydney nurses have been stood down after disturbing footage emerged of the pair saying they would "kill" and refuse to treat Israeli patients.[...] In a joint statement, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Federal Minister for Home Affairs Tony Burke said the government "utterly condemns the appalling video".

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## Nurses allegedly caught making antisemitic comments barred from

## working in hospitals

MSN Australia, Other, 13/02/2025

The Bankstown Hospital nurses accused of making antisemitic remarks in an online video have had their nursing registrations suspended, as their lawyers revealed they are "very emotional" about the incident. [...] It means the pair will not be allowed to work in any hospital in Australia effective immediately, regardless of whether the hospital is public or private, federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed.

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## Top cop reveals criminal case hinges on raw footage

MSN Australia, Other, 13/02/2025

The Israeli influencer who made the video showing two Sydney nurses making antisemitic remarks has agreed to provide the full footage and a statement to police, Commissioner Karen Webb has said. [...] It means the pair will not be allowed to work in any hospital in Australia effective immediately, regardless of whether the hospital is public or private, federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed.

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## National framework for genomics in cancer control launches

Oncology Republic, Other, 13/02/2025, Amanda Sheppeard

The latest milestone in the Australian Cancer Plan brings genomics-based screening and treatment closer to all Australians. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler launched Cancer Australia's National Framework for Genomics in Cancer Control, the latest milestone in the 10-year Australian Cancer Plan.

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## Sydney nurses who threatened to kill Israeli patients in video banned from practising 'anywhere in Australia, in any context'

Sky News Australia, Other, 13/02/2025, Adriana Mageros

Two Sydney nurses who threatened to kill Israeli patients in a viral social media video have been banned from practising anywhere in the country. Ahmad 'Rashad' Nadir and Sarah Abu Lebdeh were stood down from their jobs at Bankstown Hospital after a video emerged of the pair speaking about refusing to treat, and suggesting killing, Israeli patients. Late Thursday, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed the Nursing and Midwifery Council of New South Wales had suspended the pair's nursing registrations, effective immediately.

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## Muslim GP Dr Jamal Rifi condemns Sydney nurses' 'abhorrent' antisemitic remarks, insists wider Muslim community does not share views

Sky News Australia, Other, 13/02/2025, Gemma Crotty

Dr Jamal Rifi, a Muslim GP and community leader, has condemned the antisemitic remarks of two Sydney nurses as "disgusting", saying there is "no excuse" for their behaviour. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Thursday slammed the incident as "shocking and sickening" and pushed to lock the nurses "out of the health system entirely".

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## 'Zero tolerance': Health Minister Mark Butler committed to ensuring Bankstown nurses banned from all health related fields

Sky News Australia, Other, 13/02/2025, Patrick Hannaford

Health Minister Mark Butler has outlined plans to ensure two Sydney nurses recorded talking about killing Jewish patients are never again employed in a caring capacity. The two Bankstown hospital nurses shocked the nation after a recording of them making a series of antisemitic comments went viral.

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## Sydney nurses stood down over shocking video allegedly bragging

## about harming Israeli patients

The Australia Today, Other, 13/02/2025, Julius Sans

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese labelled the footage "sickening and shameful," stating, "This antisemitic video is disgusting. The comments are vile." [...] Bankstown MP Tony Burke and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler also condemned the remarks, saying, Jewish community leader Alex Ryvchin described the video as "utterly sickening" and a "warning sign" about extremism infiltrating Australian institutions.

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## Minister to meet staff at Bankstown hospital as two nurses' anti-Israeli video threats investigated

The Guardian, Other, 13/02/2025

The New South Wales health minister says he will meet with staff at Bankstown hospital after footage emerged on social media of two of its nurses threatening Israeli patients , one of whom has since issued an apology. [...] The federal health minister, Mark Butler, and the minister for home affairs, Tony Burke, released a joint statement condemning the video, labelling it "as chilling as it is vile".

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## Referendum needed for Dutton's call to toughen citizenship-stripping laws, expert says

The Guardian, Other, 14/02/2025, Sarah Basford Canales

Peter Dutton's proposal to toughen citizenship-stripping laws in response to comments made by two NSW nurses would probably require a referendum, a constitutional lawyer says. [...] On Thursday, the federal health minister, Mark Butler, said the Nursing and Midwifery Council of NSW had suspended both nurses' registrations.

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## 500 rural generalists in the making

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/02/2025, Holly Payne

Rural generalism is closer again to being recognised as an official medical specialty, RG training numbers continue to increase and even the non-GP specialist colleges are making an effort in the regions: things are looking up for rural medicine. According to federal health minister Mark Butler, one third of the 1750 ACRRM and RACGP registrars recruited so far this year will be training to be rural generalists.

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## Parliament passes MHR Sharing By Default legislation

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/02/2025, Laura Woodrow

Certain healthcare providers will be required to upload certain information to My Health Record... the specifics are yet to be decided. [...] While "not designed to be punitive", the bill "will provide the powers necessary to ensure compliance with the requirement to upload", health minister Mark Butler said during the bill's second reading.

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## Two nurses filmed in vile anti-Semitic rant yet to present to police for questioning, with lawyers 'negotiating' on their behalf

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 13/02/2025, Benedict Brook

Two Sydney nurses filmed in a vile anti-Semitic rant are yet to present themselves to police for questioning, instead hiring lawyers to "negotiate" on their behalf. [...] Speaking to reporters today, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the views of Mr Nadir and Ms Lebdeh were "deeply shocking" and saw his job as being to "protect all Australians, particularly Jewish Australians, against these two people".

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## Major update after Bankstown Hospital nurses recorded in anti-Semitic

A nurse who vowed to "kill" Israeli patients and another who claimed he had already sent Israeli patients to the afterlife have now been banned from practising "anywhere in Australia, in any context". Ahmad "Rashad" Nadir and Sarah Abu Lebdeh were deregistered by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of NSW, effective from February 13, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said on Thursday "As a result, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has automatically updated their record on the public register of practitioners," Mr Butler said.

*Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).*

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 13/02/2025, James Glenday and Bridget Brennan

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park on the investigation into an alleged antisemitic video featuring two NSW Health nurses. Park confirms that a full police investigation and NSW Health review are underway. He says NSW Health has contacted AHPRA and adds that he has spoken with federal Health Minister Mark Butler. He also states that the state will work with the Health Care Complaints Commission to ensure the individuals are permanently barred from the sector.

[Play Now](#)

## Hope 103.2, 17:00 News, 13/02/2025

Two Sydney nurses involved in an antisemitic video suggesting harm to Israeli patients have been immediately deregistered. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed they can no longer practise in Australia. Meanwhile, NSW nurses, who had planned to protest over pay, gathered in Sydney to reassure the Israeli and Jewish communities of their safety in the health system. Nurses and Midwives Association' acting general secretary Michael Whaites says they want everyone to have confidence in the medical system.

[Play Now](#)

## 4BC, 17:00 News, 13/02/2025

The two nurses behind the controversial video threatening Israeli patients have been barred from practising in Australia. The NSW Nursing and Midwifery Council suspended their registration, and federal authorities have updated their records. Health Minister Mark Butler says Australians have the right to feel safe wherever they go.

[Play Now](#)

## 4BC, Breakfast , 13/02/2025, Peter Fegan

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on a video showing two NSW nurses threatening Israeli patients. Butler calls the video 'sickening' and backs the NSW government's investigation and suspension of the nurses' registrations to prevent them from working in healthcare nationwide. He notes the need to protect Jewish Australians and uphold zero tolerance for discrimination in healthcare.

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## FIVEAA, Mornings, 13/02/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Dr Chris Moy, Arkaba Medical Centre, on the clinic dropping bulk billing for children. Moy says the decision was made due to rising operational costs. He says he supports the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' (RACGP) call for all political parties to ensure affordable GP care. He warns that decades of Medicare rebate freezes and underfunding have put general practice at risk. With only 14% of medical students choosing to become GPs, he urges Health Minister Mark Butler to act swiftly to prevent a future where Australians struggle to access primary healthcare.

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### **'It's f\*\*\*ing scary': How full 34-min police tape changed my mind on Sam Kerr saga**

Herald Sun, Other, 13/02/2025, Sam Squiers

Every woman has felt like Sam Kerr felt. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells also weighed in and said "The more we find out about the incident the more you can understand why they've acted the way they have....Sam certainly has Australia behind her."

*Also reported by:* [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [CODE Sports \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### **Don Farrell's press conference turned pantomime as MPs up the theatrics**

ABC Online, Other, 13/02/2025, Brett Worthington

[...] As polling day approaches, there's been a noticeable shift in Labor's campaigning, with Queensland cabinet minister Anika Wells leading the way on social media posts.

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### **Top doctor Nick Coatsworth slams nurses who threatened to kill Jewish patients: 'Can never be near a patient again'**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/02/2025, Cameron Carpenter

One of Australia's top doctors has demanded a permanent ban for the NSW nurses who bragged about killing and refusing to treat Israeli patients. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells agreed, saying Australia's health system was world-class.

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### **New aged care report centres voices of older First Nations people**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 13/02/2025, Stefanie Schultz

A new report from the Department of Health and Aged Care on transforming the nation's aged care system for First Nations communities has highlighted the need for urgent reform. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells has welcomed the report's findings, affirming that "the government is actively considering the recommendations and how they can be taken forward."

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### **Sam Kerr verdict: Australia needs civility, not sports ministers making generalised assertions about how we should think**

Sky News Australia, Other, 13/02/2025, Alexander Voltz

"i would never seek to interfere or comment on a court trial process whilst it's in action," said Labor's Sports and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells over the weekend, "but I think...Sam [Kerr] certainly has Australia behind her." I wonder, is that Anthony Albanese's position, that all of Australia is behind Kerr at this very moment?

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### **Alarm bells ringing on care minutes and additional services: Ansell Strategic**

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/02/2025, Lauren Broomham

The advisory firm is flagging a year of "opportunity and change" ahead for the aged care sector with an increase in transactions tempered by concerns about regulatory reforms. [...] A warning from the Aged Care Minister Anika Wells in October last year has resulted in the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) increasingly targeting operators that fall short on care minutes With the



Government set to cut AN-ACC funding for providers in MM1 (metropolitan) areas that don't meet the targets from 1 April 2026, Ansell Strategic notes that this change is significantly more impacted by total care minutes than RN minutes.

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## Meet the new Chair and members of the National Aged Care Advisory Council

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/02/2025, Caroline Egan

Professor Sue Gordon, former Research Director at Aged Care Research and Industry Innovation Australia (ARIIA), has been appointed Chair of the National Aged Care Advisory Council (NACAC) from January 2025. [...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, said, "During the past three years, the National Aged Care Advisory Council has played an integral role in the government's mission to improve the quality of aged care in Australia.

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## Aged Care Minister Anika Wells on back foot on home care waiting list as times blow out further

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/02/2025, Caroline Egan

The Minister for Aged Care has been forced to concede the wait times for Home Care Packages have blown out under the Albanese Government but has promised that from 1 July 2025, a record number of Packages will enter the system as her Government brings aged care "back from the brink".

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## Channel 9, Today , 13/02/2025, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Panel discussion with Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells and commentator Lucy Zelic on two nurses from South West Sydney Hospital being stood down after making threats against Israeli patients. Wells condemns their remarks and says they will never work in the health system again. She assures that authorities will take the strongest action to maintain public confidence in healthcare, with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park ordering a full audit of the nurses' work histories to uncover any past misconduct. She notes the federal government's introduction of the Serious Incident Response Scheme following the Aged Care Royal Commission's findings.

*Panel discussion continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).*

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## Gold 101.7, 07:30 News, 13/02/2025

The federal government hopes threats made by two Sydney nurses against Israelis won't damage confidence in Australia's health system. Police have requested the unedited video of the nurses speaking to an Israeli man. Labor Minister Anika Wells has assured the public that these comments do not reflect the health system, stating the nurses will never work in the system again.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Strong employment growth with 21,200 new jobs

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 13/02/2025, Page 24

Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force figures released this month reveal that in the past two and a-half years the Central Coast has grown by 21,200 new jobs, bringing local employment to 172,700. [...] Central Coast Federal MPs Pat Conroy (Shortland), Emma McBride (Dobell) and Dr Gordon Reid (Robertson) say that strong job creation in the region has occurred through workplace reforms introduced by the Labor Federal Government.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### **Confectionary is being marketed to parents as nutritious toddler food, report finds**

ABC Online, Other, 13/02/2025, Hannah Meagher and Norman Swan

A new report has found that parents are being duped by food manufacturers into buying unhealthy foods for their kids. The report, released exclusively to 7.30, says that manufacturers of toddler foods use various marketing strategies to make busy parents think they're buying something healthy for their child to consume. [...] The federal politician with responsibility for food is Ged Kearney, who is Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care.

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### **PhD researcher and First Nations cancer scholar works to end medical system failing LGBTQISB+ mob**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/02/2025, Jarred Cross

Thai, Wiradjuri, and Ngemba Wayilwan PhD student Khwanruethai Ngampromwongse wants to change the experience and effectiveness of the medical system for sexual and gender diverse mob, not just work within it. [...] "To improve cancer outcomes for First Nation Australians, we must increase Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander representation in the field – that's exactly what these landmark scholarships support," Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Ged Kearney said.

[Read More](#)

### **Cancer Australia awards: First Nations scholars named, Jeannie Ferris Award opens**

Oncology Republic, Other, 13/02/2025

2025 has started with a flurry of award-related activity. [...] Federal assistant minister for Indigenous health Ged Kearney said increasing Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander representation in the field was necessary to improve cancer outcomes for First Nation Australians, and "that's exactly what these landmark scholarships support".

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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## DEPARTMENT

### **Irritable bowel disease rates increasing in Australia, costing the economy billions**

ABC Online, Other, 13/02/2025, Liana Walker

Australians living with irritable bowel disease (IBD) are calling for more support and research amid warnings the often stigmatising condition is costing the economy \$7.8 billion a year. [...] A Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said the federal government "acknowledges the growing prevalence of IBD and chronic inflammatory conditions in Australia."

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### **Amid growing demand and bed shortages, ACT government makes 'difficult decision' to shut aged care respite facility**

Access to respite aged care in Canberra will become even tougher from June, when the ACT government will shut a 15-bed facility in Canberra's south. [...] A spokesperson for the federal government said the Department of Health Aged Care and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission would work closely with the provider to ensure "continuity of care" for residents.

Also reported by: [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## La Trobe signs MOU with fellow rural health educators

Bendigo Times, Other, 14/02/2025, Adam Carswell

La Trobe University has co-signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with Melbourne, Monash, and Deakin universities' University Departments of Rural Health (UDRH). Each university's UDRH is funded by the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care and acts to facilitate education, research and rural health workforce development across the state of Victoria.

[Read More](#)

## Be the voice young people need in mental health

Shepparton News Online, Other, 13/02/2025, Khadija Hadjab

If you're between 15 and 24 and care about youth mental health, here's your chance to make a real impact. [...] Headspace is Australia's National Youth Mental Health Foundation, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

[Read More](#)

## Sydney Fair Day Is Doing Free Breast & Cervical Cancer Screenings This Saturday

Pedestrian TV, Other, 13/02/2025, Rhea Nath

Sydney Mardi Gras Fair Day is set to offer more than fun and festivities this year, promising an essential health opportunity for the LGBTQ+ community to make the most of free cervical and breast cancer screenings. Taking place on Sunday, 16 February, Fair Day will host the free cervical screenings as part of the national 'Own It' campaign, thanks to a collaboration between ACON, the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, and the Cancer Institute NSW.

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## Next generation of doctors will thrive at Riverina's new state-of-the-art medical school

The Area News, Other, 13/02/2025, Finn Coleman

Karen Rezkalla is on her way to fulfilling her dream of becoming a doctor. [...] An investment in rural medical education and workforce by UNSW, the UNSW Rural Clinical Campus is a significant upgrade from the previously used Harvey House and was funded through the Australian government's Department of Health and Aged Care.

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## Four new members appointed to Aged Care Council of Elders

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/02/2025, Caroline Egan

The Federal Government has welcomed four new members to the Aged Care Council of Elders as it enters its fourth year since inception. The Aged Care Council of Elders was established in late 2021 as a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Its purpose is to provide a direct voice to the Department of Health and Aged Care about aged care reform.

[Read More](#)

## Ten aged care homes closed in 2024 shutting nearly 800 beds

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/02/2025, Caroline Egan

10 residential aged care homes closed their doors across Australia between 1 January 2024 and 20 November 2024, resulting in the closure of 769 beds. The figures were provided by the Department of

Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) in response to a question on notice from Senator Anne Ruston, Shadow Minister for Aged Care, in Budget Estimates in November last year.

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## **Largest Govt capital assistance grant goes to Harbison aged care redevelopment in Labor electorate**

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/02/2025, Caroline Egan

The Not For Profit aged care provider, based in NSW's Southern Highlands, will be able to start construction of a 72-bed residential aged care redevelopment in Burradoo after being awarded \$27.5 million from the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care. The grant was the largest awarded under the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program announced last December.

[Read More](#)

## **5CC, 07:00 Regional News, 13/02/2025**

Two new community sessions on the Eyre Peninsula next month will focus on accessing regional aged care. The sessions, organised by the Department of Health and Aged Care, will provide interactive discussions on Commonwealth-funded aged care services. They will take place in Cummins and Coffin Bay on March 13 and 14.

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## **VACCINES**

### **They volunteer to get sick to help vaccine development**

The Nightly, General News, 13/02/2025, Brent Crane, Page 24

One morning last October, 26-year-old Alexander Laurenson strode into a small room in Baltimore to have his arm preyed upon by mosquitoes that had been infected with malaria, a disease that kills over 600,000 people every year. [...] Funding has poured in. Countries including India, Canada and Australia are developing the capacity to conduct them.

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## **AGEING AND AGED CARE**

### **Closure of centre labelled 'disgusting'**

Canberra Times, General News, 14/02/2025, Steve Evans, Page 11

The Barr government has been branded as "disgusting" by the wife of a man with dementia after its decision to stop funding a Salvation Army centre for older people, leading to its closure in July. "This government doesn't care," the woman said about the decision to close the Burrangiri Aged Care Respite Centre in Rivett.

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

### **2CC, Canberra Live, 13/02/2025, Leon Delaney**

The ACT Government is under fire for withdrawing funding from the Salvation Army's Burrangiri Centre in Rivett, leading to its closure in July. The centre, which has operated for 35 years, provides short-term respite care for older people, often in the early stages of dementia. ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith says responsibility for the centre falls on the Federal Government through the aged care system.

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### **2CC, Breakfast, 13/02/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo**

Interview with Kathryn McKenzie, Acting NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner, on domestic and family violence against older women. McKenzie says elder abuse is a long-overlooked issue, revealing that reports to the commission about abuse, neglect, and exploitation have doubled in five years. She notes that two-thirds of the 14,000 reports involve older women, with financial abuse being a major concern. McKenzie highlights cases where adult children coerce elderly parents into handing over money or assets.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Tassie tops health chart

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/02/2025, Bridget Clarke, Page 10

A new study has identified Tasmania and Hobart as the healthiest places to live in the country, but its author says it does not tell the full story. The new Environmental Quality Health Index from Monash University measures links between environmental and socio-economic conditions and death risks to determine the "healthiness" of particular geographical regions.

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

### Our healthier opportunity

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 14/02/2025, Page 18

A recent report has crowned Tasmania and Hobart as the healthiest places to live in Australia based on environmental factors like air quality and green spaces. Yet, paradoxically, Tasmania also leads the nation in high blood pressure, smoking and obesity rates.

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### Playground overhaul aims to boost child safety

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 14/02/2025, Page 8

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 Welfare found playground equipment was the most common cause of falls among children nationwide. Hospitalisation rates were highest among children aged five to nine years.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#)

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### Aussies don't know steroids, too much coffee can impact fertility, Monash IVF poll finds: Test your knowledge

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/02/2025, Ashleigh Gleeson

Sex is the main reason men think about fertility, while for women the biggest thing that makes them consider it is age, according to a new poll. The very first Monash IVF Fertility Insights Index, released today, has also uncovered concerning gaps in what people realise could be harming their fertility.

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

[Read More](#)

### Dementia risk factors revealed and how to stop them

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/02/2025, Jack Nivison

It remains our biggest health worry as we age — even more so than cancer or losing mobility. [...] Dementia is projected to soon be the leading cause of death among Australians, and is now the leading cause of death for Australian women, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba](#)

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 13/02/2025, Ryk Goddard

New research from the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education, funded by the Tasmanian government, reveals that one in three Tasmanians aged 25 to 44 want to reduce their alcohol consumption.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Trial results offer hope to prostate cancer sufferers

The Australian, General News, 14/02/2025, Penny Timms, Page 3

Christian Edouard-Betsy was at work when his doctor called and asked him to meet immediately to discuss the results of a blood test for his prostate. "When I got there he just said 'I don't like your result and I think you've got a real active and aggressive prostate cancer', and hearing that word 'cancer' that just knocked me," the now 66year-old father of four says.

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### 'Heavily exposed'

Age, General News, 14/02/2025, Henrietta Cook, Page 1

At least four former ABC employees have died after breathing in asbestos dust while working at the public broadcaster's former Melbourne studios, while many more are believed to have been exposed to the deadly substance. Family, colleagues, lawyers and experts confirmed the deaths with The Age. They said the asbestos exposure occurred at the old television studios in Elsternwick, which operated until 2017, and at Broadcast House in the CBD, home to ABC radio until the late 1980s.

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

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### DIY test could save your life

Courier Mail, General News, 14/02/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 20

Cervical screen can be done at home but many don't know Many women don't know about a self-collected cervical screening test despite the simple swab being readily available in Australia since 2021. The test takes a sample from the vagina in less than a minute to check for the human papillomavirus (HPV), a common sexually transmitted infection that causes most cervical cancers.

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

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### Call for conversation on dementia

Border Mail, General News, 14/02/2025, Page 50

In 2025 there are an estimated 110,600 people living with dementia in Victoria and without a significant intervention, this is expected to increase to an estimated 216,400 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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### Dynamic duo fight silent killer

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 14/02/2025, Toni Moon, Page 11

Losing her hair at 59 a stark, visible sign of her struggle with ovarian cancer was a "distressing" time for Victoria Turner. [...] Now the pair, who are both in remission, are leading a national campaign raising

awareness for other women in Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month this February by Black Pepper and Ovarian Cancer Australia.

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## Harrison is one of 180,000 Aussies losing \$5900 every year to common illness

9News, Other, 13/02/2025, Maddison Leach

Harrison Kefford has had to change career paths just to keep up with the cost of a disease affecting 180,000 Australians. The 30-year-old writer from Melbourne was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease, a type of incurable inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), in his mid-20s and has been scraping to pay for private health insurance, specialist appointments and other medical fees ever since.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### NSW nurses and midwives to prescribe abortion drugs

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/02/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 21

Nurses and midwives would be able to prescribe abortion medications, and doctors with a conscientious objection would be compelled to refer patients to abortion providers under a new bill aimed at redressing discriminatory barriers preventing women from accessing abortions. The private member's bill tabled this week by Greens health spokesperson Amanda Cohn aims to legislate key recommendations from NSW Health's review of the Abortion Law Reform Act, which found terminations are beyond the reach of many vulnerable women who cannot afford private clinics or live outside metropolitan areas.

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

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### Beds axed as costs blow out

Courier Mail, General News, 14/02/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 1

Health Minister Tim Nicholls has taken a scalpel to the hospital build program, cutting plans to deliver beds that support new mothers with severe mental health problems. Mr Nicholls (left) has revealed an eight-bed perinatal unit in Townsville will no longer go ahead after the project ballooned to \$38m chewing up almost the entire \$39m allocated by the previous government to 30 beds across the state.

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

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

### Baby hospital fight not over

West Australian, General News, 14/02/2025, Dylan Caporn, Page 5

Libby Mettam will continue to fight Labor's plans to relocate the new women's and babies hospital to Murdoch, no matter the outcome of the State election. Speaking alongside a dozen mothers in Kings Park on Thursday, Ms Mettam also rejected claims from Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson that she was spreading "fear and misinformation" about the move insisting her claims on infant mortality risk came from the Government's own reports.

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### Flinders not keepers of hospital, housing plan

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/02/2025, Darren Chaitman, Page 2

Secret Flinders University plans for a \$300m hospital, more than 1000 new homes and 2500 student accommodation beds have been accidentally revealed by Mitcham Council. The council published a detailed description of the proposal on its website this week but removed the document after Flinders University said it was provided confidentially.

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

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## Flinders has grand design for south

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 14/02/2025, Page 26

Colin Stirling's grand vision for Flinders University land hits the state's most challenging levers. It trains much-needed doctors, nurses and other allied health practitioners to staff a brand new hospital tackling the state's long patient waiting lists.

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## Health fight or flight

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/02/2025, Camden Smith, Page 1

A remote medicine expert says the need for new runway infrastructure to allow for urgent medical care never goes away. It comes as a Red Centre woman shares she paid nearly \$1k to fly interstate for surgery - an option not available to many living in remote regions.

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## Patient slams costly flights

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/02/2025, Gera Kazakov, Page 11

Despite only having to fly fewer than three hours, one Alice Springs resident says she was stung "almost \$1000" for a flight interstate to get the medical treatment she required. Christabel Moschetti said she recently paid "about \$800" for return flights from Sydney to Alice Springs when she had to fly to the NSW capital to get treatment for her endometriosis.

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## Staff abused, Jews fearful after nurse video

Canberra Times, General News, 14/02/2025, Page 8

Jewish people are moving elective surgeries to "safer" hospitals and devastated health workers have been abused amid the fallout from two nurses' video threats towards Israeli patients. The pair of Bankstown Hospital nurses face possible criminal and health prosecutions after widely condemned viral footage of them boasting of not treating Israelis spread on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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## Lagging behind

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 14/02/2025, Ben Silvester, Page 1

Regional Victorians continue to wait significantly longer than Melbourne emergency department patients as the government introduces strict new ambulance and hospital guidelines at 16 health services across the state. Data released by the Victorian Agency for Health Information (VAHI) on Tuesday showed almost every major regional hospital lagging the statewide average in every ED performance metric in 2024.

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

## The spin doctor

Border Mail, General News, 14/02/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

The Border Medical Association is dismayed with a suggestion by the Victorian Health Minister that clinicians support an upgrade of Albury hospital. In an online meeting with the Albury and Wodonga mayors this week, Mary-Anne Thomas cited support from Border medics.

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

## Lifeline for clinic

Border Watch, General News, 14/02/2025, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

The Medicare Mount Gambier Urgent Care Clinic has received a lifeline from the state's Primary Health



Network (PHN) following its parenting company going into liquidation. Earlier this week, the clinic's overarching company Paion Medical - owned and operated by Dr Richard Try - went into shock external administration before formally entering liquidation on Tuesday.

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## Base ED feeling patient pressure

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 14/02/2025, John Conroy, Page 3

Mildura Base Public Hospital's emergency department is trailing the state average on wait times but ahead on ambulance transfer metrics, new data shows. The Victorian Agency for Health Information has released its December quarter numbers for hospital ED performances, with MBPB treating 7120 ED patients during the three months.

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## Health minister accuses Liberal leader of misinformation amid hospital controversy

9News, Other, 14/02/2025, Connor McGovern

Western Australian Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson has accused Liberal leader Libby Mettam of spreading "misinformation" and causing unnecessary fear among parents regarding the government's proposed women and babies hospital.

However, Sanderson has chosen to withhold her own plans for addressing the concerns raised by parents and medical professionals until after the upcoming election.

[Read More](#)

## Queensland Health develops new obstructed labour guideline after baby's hospital death

ABC Online, Other, 13/02/2025, Jasmine Hines

This month Bec Spreadborough should be celebrating her little boy Alby's second birthday, but instead she is grieving his death and fighting for change. Alby died in February 2023 after an obstructed labour, when the baby cannot move through the birth canal, at Emerald Hospital in central Queensland.

[Read More](#)

## More doctors go bush, but hospitals still squeezed

Newcastle Herald, Other, 13/02/2025, Stephanie Gardiner

Emergency departments at regional hospitals are under immense pressure, despite more specialist doctors working in the bush. There has been a 75 per cent increase in the proportion of emergency medicine specialists working in rural and remote areas across NSW.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## 'Our community is outraged': Minister's attitude expected to boost hospital rally

The Border Mail, Other, 13/02/2025, Anthony Bunn

A rally for a new Border hospital will now be held at Melbourne's Parliament House in March, with Wodonga's mayor tipping hundreds to attend after community "outrage" at the attitude of Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas.

[Read More](#)

## Hospitals will get \$1.7 billion more federal funding. Will this reduce waiting times?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 13/02/2025, Henry Cutler

Last week, the federal government announced it will pay states and territories an extra, one-off, A\$1.7 billion for public hospitals. This has been billed as a way to fix some ailing hospitals, and shorten waits for care in emergency departments and for elective surgery.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 7, Seven News, 13/02/2025, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon**

Perth's new Women's and Babies Hospital will be built in Murdoch, but its location has sparked political debate. Liberal Leader Libby Mettam wants it next to Perth Children's Hospital, arguing the distance from Murdoch poses safety risks. Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson says there is no space in Nedlands and that moving it would delay the project by a decade. The Australian Medical Association (AMA) suggests mitigation strategies, such as a specialist birthing suite at QEII or paediatric surgery at Murdoch, to address concerns.

[Play Now](#)

## **Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 13/02/2025, Laura Jayes**

NSW nurses and doctors have condemned a video of two Bankstown Hospital nurses allegedly suggesting harm to Israeli patients. At the Solidarity Against Hate Speech rally in Sydney, organised by the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association, nurses reassured the public that all patients receive care without discrimination.

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## **2CC, Breakfast, 13/02/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo**

Cenatiempo says the Australian Islamic Medical Association (AIMA) has issued a statement reaffirming its commitment to ethical and compassionate healthcare. It has condemned the recently circulated video showing NSW healthcare workers making unprofessional and inappropriate comments, stating that such behaviour undermines the ethical principles of the medical profession and the trust patients place in healthcare providers.

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## **2GB, Drive, 13/02/2025, Clinton Maynard**

Interview with Michael Whaites, acting general secretary, NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association, on a video of two Bankstown Hospital nurses making antisemitic comments. Whaites assures that hospitals are safe spaces and that nurses and midwives stand against racism and bigotry. He addresses concerns from the Jewish community and reaffirms that nurses adhere to ethical and professional codes that mandate equal treatment for all patients.

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## **2GB, Mornings, 13/02/2025, Mark Levy**

Interview with Alex Ryvchin, Executive Council of Australian Jewry, on the rise of antisemitism. Ryvchin cites deep concerns about antisemitism within the NSW health system, saying he has long heard reports of discriminatory behaviour. He cites social media posts, private chats, and participation in protests by doctors and nurses as evidence that the issue extends beyond the recent hospital incident.

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## **2GB, Mornings, 13/02/2025, Mark Levy**

Interview with NSW Police Commissioner Karen Webb on the investigation into the viral video involving two nurses from Bankstown Hospital. Webb says that detectives have contacted the influencer in Israel who recorded the video to secure unedited footage, which is considered critical evidence. [...] Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park on his visit to Bankstown Hospital with Jewish Board of Deputies representatives and NSW Health Secretary Susan Pearce. Park says his priority is restoring public trust. He acknowledges Jewish leaders' concerns about patient safety and states that political messaging, including pro-Palestine badges, has no place in healthcare.

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## **2GB, Breakfast, 13/02/2025, Ben Fordham**

Interview with NSW Shadow Health Minister Kellie Sloane on calls for an independent audit of Jewish patients treated at Bankstown Hospital. Fordham reports it follows online comments made by two nurses who allegedly boasted about harming Israeli patients. Sloane says that an audit is essential to

restore public confidence in the hospital system. She notes broader concerns about workplace culture in NSW hospitals, citing reports of Jewish staff feeling the need to hide their identity.

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### **4BC, Breakfast , 13/02/2025, Peter Fegan**

Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls is defending the accuracy of a new online platform displaying average wait times at 25 major hospitals. Many patients report waiting longer than the published times. Nicholls insists the data is correct but acknowledges that actual wait times depend on patient urgency.

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### **ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 13/02/2025, Craig Reucassel**

Interview with Michael Whaites, assistant general secretary, NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association, on the gathering of nurses protesting against hate speech. It comes after a video surfaced of two Bankstown Hospital nurses making antisemitic comments online. Whaites condemns the video and assures the public that nurses uphold ethical codes to provide equal care to all patients. He says their planned protest over pay has now shifted focus to solidarity against racism and bigotry.

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### **Radio National, Breakfast, 13/02/2025, Sally Sara**

Interview with Michael Whaites, acting general secretary, NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association, who condemns a video featuring antisemitic comments allegedly made by NSW Health professionals. Whaites describes the video as 'abhorrent' and says that such views do not represent the profession. He stresses the importance of upholding healthcare ethics, which require treating all patients equally. He reassures the community that NSW Health is working to ensure hospitals remain safe and inclusive.

*Interview continues on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).*

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **'Don't sit back'**

Ballarat Courier, General News, 14/02/2025, Bryan Hoadley, Page 1

Reeling from the recent deaths of two former soldiers, Ballarat's veterans are taking proactive steps to confront suicide and mental health issues within their community. In November last year, two Ballarat veterans - aged almost 50 years apart - died by suicide.

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### **'Quantum leap' by counselling service**

Border Mail, General News, 14/02/2025, Madilyn McKinley, Page 3

A new Border counselling service wants to remove the stigma from therapy. Carefully designed from the paint colour on the walls to the scent in the room to regulate the nervous system, Albury Wodonga Counselling and Therapies has opened in Lavington for all ages.

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### **Advocates say stigma around gambling harm leaves some young women reaching 'crisis point' before seeking support**

ABC Online, Other, 13/02/2025, Amelia Walters

Ella McIntosh never thought downloading a solitaire app would lead to her losing almost \$20,000. But in 2022, something that began as a bit of fun after a long day of work quickly turned into severe gambling harm.

[Read More](#)

## NSW Labor accused of trying to 'redesign' a mental health system with no psychiatrists

The Guardian, Other, 14/02/2025, Natasha May

The New South Wales Labor government is seeking to "redesign" the state's mental health system without psychiatrists, despite the risks to patient care, its political rivals claim.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 13/02/2025, Rick Hind

Interview with Michelle Olaithe, Clinical Director, someone.health, on the financial barriers to mental health care. Olaithe says long wait times for psychology appointments are causing worsening mental health conditions. She highlights that telehealth has significantly reduced wait times to around seven days and is just as effective as face-to-face therapy for most issues. She points out that only about 20% of GP clinics offer bulk billing for mental health care, making access to affordable services a continuing challenge.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### State ALP warning on PM's IR laws

The Australian, General News, 14/02/2025, Paul Garvey, Page 4

Western Australia's Labor Treasurer has warned of the risks of further unionisation in the Pilbara amid complaints about rising union activity at mine sites across the state following the Albanese government's industrial relations changes. And the WA Greens have revealed that they will expect WA Labor to come to the party on major climate and environmental reforms in the event they secure the balance of power in the upper house at next month's election, including a potential multi-billion-dollar levy on the state's gas industry.

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### Nursing dangers on the rise

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/02/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 3

Frontline health workers ducking punches and coping verbal abuse Frightened frontline health workers are urgently calling for help from security guards an average of 40 times a day amid escalating levels of violent and threatening behaviour in public health facilities. Code Black calls for help by SA Health workers dealing with physically and verbally aggressive patients, families and members of the public jumped from 12,990 in 2021 to 14,816 last year.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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### 'Critical' evidence is needed for charges against nurses

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/02/2025, Jessica Mcsweeney, Page 2

Detectives will forensically examine the full video provided by an Israeli social media personality of his exchange with two Sydney nurses, with his evidence vital in determining possible criminal charges against them. NSW Police detectives have been in touch with Max Veifer, the Israeli man who recorded and posted footage of two BankstownLidcombe Hospital nurses allegedly making threats against Israeli patients.

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

## Recruitment blitz 'not happening'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/02/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 3

Despite an ongoing health workforce recruitment blitz, the Tasmanian government has a hiring freeze in place and has contradicted itself, the state's largest nursing and midwifery union has claimed. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) branch secretary Emily Shepherd said a government protocol, released in December 2024, discouraged filling vacancies in the public health system with agency nurses and midwives, and limited agency staff contracts to three months.

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

## Premier: Threats by nurses 'aberration'

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 14/02/2025, Page 12

The anti-Semitic views of two nurses who allegedly threatened to kill Israeli patients have been described as an "aberration" as police investigate the pair for potential criminal breaches. The unfolding scandal stemming from an Israeli influencer's since-deleted social media video involving two staff at a south-west Sydney hospital has broken trust in the public health system, NSW Premier Chris Minns conceded.

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## 'It's really exciting to come back to a rural area'

Western Advocate, General News, 14/02/2025, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 1

Bathurst keeps calling Dr Patrick Corcoran home. The former St Stanislaus' College boy, who also spent time at Bathurst Hospital as a medical student, is back in Bathurst to under take the next step of his career.

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## Nurses gather to condemn hate speech following Bankstown Hospital nurses' anti-Semitic rant

The Australian, Other, 13/02/2025, Clareese Packer

Nurses across NSW have rallied outside NSW parliament following the emergence of footage of an anti-Semitic rant where one nurse vowed to "kill" Israeli patients and another claimed he'd already sent Israeli patients to the afterlife. The pair were filmed wearing their NSW Health uniforms as they threatened Israeli patients in an anti-Semitic tirade during a video call with Israeli influencer Max Veifer.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Sydney nurses suspended after threatening anti-Israel video goes viral

7news.com.au, Other, 13/02/2025, Natasha Squarey

Police have enlisted the help of an influencer who the pair spoke to as they build a criminal case against them. Two nurses caught threatening to kills Israeli patients have had their nursing credentials suspended, the national watchdog has confirmed.

[Read More](#)

## NSW nurses and midwives condemn 'abhorrent' alleged remarks made by two Sydney nurses in video

9News, Other, 13/02/2025

NSW nurses today ditched their planned pay dispute picket outside state parliament to stand in solidarity against hate speech and antisemitism. The NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) held a demonstration outside NSW parliament after two Sydney nurses were stood down from their jobs at Bankstown Hospital

[Read More](#)

## Dr Robyn Mary James committed to stand trial over Vicki Butler's

## homebirth death

ABC Online, Other, 13/02/2025, Tobi-Loftus

A doctor who helped in a homebirth where a mother died has been committed to stand trial charged with manslaughter. Dr Robyn Mary James, who is yet to enter a plea on the charge, appeared in Ipswich Magistrates Court for a committal hearing on Thursday.

[Read More](#)

## Health workers condemn video showing NSW Health nurses bragging about killing Israeli patients

ABC Online, Other, 13/02/2025, Joshua-Boscaini

Medical workers have condemned a video showing two NSW Health nurses bragging about killing and refusing to treat Israeli patients at a Sydney hospital. Ahmad Rashad Nadir and Sarah Abu Lebdeh, who are both nurses at Bankstown Hospital in Sydney's south-west, have been stood down after they appeared in a clip shared by content creator Max Veifer.

[Read More](#)

## Gold Coast doctors dire warning over shortages

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 13/02/2025, Ashleigh Jansen

Two long-serving Gold Coast GPs have sounded the alarm on GP services, warning remuneration needs to change to attract more graduates to the vital profession. Ashleigh Jansen Gold Coast Bulletin 0 Comments Two Gold Coast general practitioners (GPs) have sounded the alarm on the vital profession, warning remuneration needs to change to attract more graduates.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Midwife's chilling warning about NSW nurses 15 months before the new antisemitic firestorm - but health bosses threatened to sack HER

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/02/2025, Jonica Bray

A Sydney midwife has revealed how she almost lost her job when she sounded the alarm on antisemitism among NSW Health nurses long before the latest row erupted. Rashad Nadir and Sarah Abu Lebdeh have gone into hiding as police wait to grill them over video where they claimed to have killed Israeli patients at Bankstown Hospital in Sydney's west.

[Read More](#)

## Nursing union's stunningly 'tone deaf' response after Bankstown nurses threatened to kill Israelis on their ward

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/02/2025, Brett Lackey

A nursing union has been slammed for mentioning Islamophobia in its official response to the dismissal of two NSW Health workers caught on video saying they would not treat Jewish patients and instead would 'kill them'. Bankstown Hospital employees Ahmad 'Rashad' Nadir and Sarah Abu Lebdeh - both of whom were from Islamic backgrounds - appeared on an online video chat app which was recorded by Israeli social media figure Max Veifer.

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## Associations jostle for election funds

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/02/2025

An election pledge by the Western Australia Liberal Party to authorise community pharmacists to prescribe selected medicines has been welcomed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia WA Branch. Based on the existing Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot, the state opposition says it will allow 680 community pharmacists operating through the state network to prescribe medicine for 23 select conditions.

[Read More](#)

## Nurses union accused of 'complicity' with Jewish harassment

Emotional nurses have rallied against hate speech as Jewish leaders say some are wondering whether they need to hide their religion to get equitable healthcare. Devastated health workers have been abused amid the fallout from two nurses' video threats towards Israeli patients.

[Read More](#)

### **ABC, ABC News, 13/02/2025, Jeremy Fernandez**

Two nurses from Bankstown Hospital caught on video boasting about killing Israeli patients have had their registrations suspended. Police have requested the unedited footage and a statement from the Israeli influencer who recorded it. The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association says some healthcare workers have faced verbal abuse from the public in response to the incident. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says the investigation is now being handled by the Health Care Complaints Commission.

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### **ABC News, News Breakfast, 13/02/2025, James Glenday and Bridget Brennan**

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park on the investigation into an alleged antisemitic video featuring two NSW Health nurses. Park confirms that a full police investigation and NSW Health review are underway. He says NSW Health has contacted AHPRA and adds that he has spoken with federal Health Minister Mark Butler. He also states that the state will work with the Health Care Complaints Commission to ensure the individuals are permanently barred from the sector.

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### **Channel 10, The Project, 13/02/2025, Sarah Harris, Waleed Aly and Sam Taunton**

Interview with Labor MP Josh Burns on the viral antisemitic video that led to two nurses being banned from practising in Australia. The controversy has led to abuse against healthcare workers, and some Jewish patients now fear seeking treatment. The opposition is calling for one nurse, a former Afghan refugee, to be stripped of citizenship. Burns rejects calls to revoke citizenship but says removing the nurses from the profession was the appropriate response, as their comments violated medical ethics and the duty of care.

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### **Channel 10, 10 News First, 13/02/2025, Sandra Sully**

Two Bankstown Hospital nurses are in hiding as police investigate an antisemitic video filmed inside the hospital, in which they allegedly claimed they would let Israeli patients die. Israeli influencer Max Veifer has agreed to provide police with the full, unedited footage. The nurses have been suspended without pay, and NSW Premier Chris Minns has called for severe consequences.

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### **Channel 7, Seven News, 13/02/2025, Peter Mitchell**

There are calls to deport two Sydney nurses after they were allegedly filmed bragging about killing Israeli patients at Bankstown Hospital. They have lost their jobs, and their nursing registrations were revoked this afternoon. NSW Premier Chris Minns, PM Anthony Albanese, and the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association have condemned the comments. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says they are focused on regaining trust in the public health system.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#).

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### **Channel 7, Sunrise, 13/02/2025, Matt Shirvington and Natalie Barr**

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park on the investigation into a video showing two Bankstown Hospital nurses boasting about killing and refusing to treat Israeli patients. Barr reports that the nurses, who later claimed it was a joke, were immediately stood down. Park assures they will never

work in the state's hospitals again. He acknowledges the Jewish community's broken trust and promises a thorough investigation into their patient history, with full transparency on the findings.

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### **Channel 9, Nine News, 13/02/2025, Melissa Downes**

Dr Robyn Mary James has been ordered to stand trial over the death of Ipswich mother Vicki Butler, who died from severe blood loss after a home birth in December 2017. An obstetrician told the court that calling an ambulance just 10 minutes earlier could have saved her life. James' medical registration is currently suspended, and the case will be heard in the Brisbane Supreme Court at a later date.

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### **Channel 9, Today , 13/02/2025, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo**

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park on a video of two Bankstown Hospital nurses allegedly refusing to treat and threatening to kill Israeli patients. Park says the two nurses involved in the controversial video have been stood down while an investigation is underway. He assures the public that they will never work in NSW hospitals again and pledges to collaborate with regulatory bodies across Australia to prevent them from practising nationwide. He also promises a thorough investigation to determine whether the nurses' past conduct impacted patient care.

*Interview continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).*

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### **SBS, World News Australia, 13/02/2025, Janice Petersen**

Two NSW nurses were filmed allegedly threatening to kill Israeli patients, prompting health authorities to reassure the Jewish community that they are safe in medical care. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says there is no evidence patients were harmed. The nurses have had their registrations suspended and cannot practise in Australia amid a police investigation. NSW nurses, facing abuse from patients since the video emerged, rallied today to oppose hate in healthcare.

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### **ABC Radio Brisbane, Evenings, 13/02/2025, Kelly Higgins-Devine**

Two Sydney nurses who made threatening comments toward Israeli patients have been de-registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of NSW. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has confirmed they've updated the public register of practitioners.

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

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### **2CC, Canberra Live, 13/02/2025, Leon Delaney**

Interview with Susi Tegen, CEO, National Rural Health Alliance, who welcomes the Australian Government's recognition of rural generalism as an official general practice specialty. Tegen explains that rural generalists require additional training beyond standard GP qualifications, including in emergency medicine, obstetrics, anaesthetics, and Indigenous health. She highlights the need for a national rural health strategy, explaining that rural communities have unique challenges and worse health outcomes than urban areas.

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## **TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS**

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### States lashed for care system failure

The Australian, General News, 14/02/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 4

The nation's peak disability body has slammed states and territories for not striking an agreement on a new system of care services known as foundational supports, as figures reveal the number of people being kicked off the National Disability Insurance Scheme with no such system yet in place skyrocketed after federal reforms last year. The data, provided by the disability agency in response to questions on notice, showed that between July and September last year, nearly 12,000 letters were sent to NDIS participants informing them that their eligibility needed to be reassessed.

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

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### Keep us safe

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 14/02/2025, Page 46

For almost 100 years, the Royal Flying Doctor Service has been delivering health services to remote communities that otherwise might have missed out. But leading remote medical specialist and chairman of Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Michael Clements reminds us that delivering distance medicine isn't always so orderly.

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

### Helping kids find their voice

Burnie Advocate, General News, 14/02/2025, Emily Williams, Page 1

Last year, five-year-old Dakota Steedman-Tippet was non-verbal. Today, he is speaking in short sentences.

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### England and Australia have diametrically opposed vaping laws. Only one is proving effective

The Australian, Other, 13/02/2025, Natasha Robinson

Natasha Robinson It was the bold public health claim that formed the foundation of a permissive national strategy on vapes. Five years ago, Public Health England declared e-cigarettes to be 95 per cent less harmful than tobacco smoking and encouraged smokers to switch to the devices.

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## SPORT

### Labor sends cash to key states

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/02/2025, James Massola, Page 8

The federal government has splashed more than \$600 million on community infrastructure projects in the three battleground states Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia that will play an outsize role in determining if Labor can secure re-election. The two programs, Thriving Suburbs and Growing Regions, award between \$500,000 and \$15 million to local councils and not-for-profits for projects including swimming pools, community hubs, high street upgrades and sports ovals.

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## **\$600k sport complex work starts**

Daily Mercury, General News, 14/02/2025, Krystal Hender, Page 14

Construction has started on the much anticipated \$600,000 Bowen Sporting Complex upgrade which is set to give locals the opportunity to enjoy the complex day and night. The upgrades commenced in late January with the installation of high-quality field lighting, specially designed to meet the standards required for local night cricket matches and semi-professional football, supporting both gameplay and training sessions.

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## **Proud of legacy to unite our city**

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/02/2025, Jordan Philp, Page 3

Toowoomba deserves to host an Olympic event as part of the 2032 Games. Not only for the reasons that it will bring significant economic boosts and priceless tourism exposure to the Garden City for seven days in 2032.

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## **'Game changer': university to research how to keep young girls in sport**

Newcastle Herald, Other, 13/02/2025, Alanna Tomazin

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.

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# HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

## **Healius, ACL have revived merger talks: sources**

The Australian, Business News, 14/02/2025, Bridget Carter, Page 16

Two of the country's top pathology services providers, Healius and Australian Clinical Labs, are understood to have resumed talks about a potential \$2bn tie-up, say market sources. The pair carried out discussions about a tie-up in 2023, when ACL made a hostile takeover bid for Healius, which it fended off, calling it opportunistic.

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## **Healthscope picks former Qantas high-flyer as new boss**

West Australian, Business News, 14/02/2025, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 61

The nation's second-biggest private hospital operator, Healthscope, has tapped former Qantas international boss Tino La Spina to take on the top job amid its \$1.6 billion debt pain. In an internal memo obtained by The West Australian, Healthscope told staff chief executive Greg Horan would step down to be replaced by Mr La Spina, who was also the former chief finance boss of building materials provider Boral.

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## **Ozempic may help to combat alcoholism**

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 14/02/2025, Page 7

Novo Nordisk's blockbuster GLP-1 diabetes drug Ozempic led to improvements in some measures of alcohol-use disorder in a small trial, US researchers say. The 48 participants in the nine-week trial all had moderately severe alcohol-use disorder and were given either once-weekly Ozempic or a placebo.

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## Cut silly red tape and save health system

Herald Sun, General News, 14/02/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 3

Bureaucratic red tape and "stupid stuff" across hospitals is costing workers and patients time and the Victorian healthcare system money. As hospitals face increasing pressure to save costs, the Australian Medical Association Victoria has taken aim at waste and duplication.

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## Healthscope loses chief executive and chairman amid debt pain

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 14/02/2025, Michael Smith, Page 13

The country's second-largest private hospital operator, Brookfield-owned Healthscope, has replaced its chief executive and chairman amid negotiations to refinance a debt pile that stretches to \$1.6 billion.

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

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## 'It's a cowboy show out there': the deadly lottery of the snakebite antivenom industry

The Guardian, Other, 13/02/2025, Rachel Schraer, Andjela Milivojevic, Paul Eccles and Laura Margottini

He had heard rats scuttling around and was reaching to turn on his bedside lamp when Kamidikolo Badilu was bitten. By the time he reached hospital, snake venom had already started breaking down his skin and muscle. The flesh around the bite was necrotising, or dying.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 13/02/2025, Spence Denny

Interview with Anthony Skeats, Chief Operating Officer, Micro-X, on the world's first full-body mobile CT machine. Skeats says their carbon nanotube technology enables smaller, more efficient X-ray machines that can be installed in ambulances to help address rural imaging shortages. He highlights ongoing collaboration with the Australian Stroke Alliance and funding from the Medical Research Future Fund over the past three years. He notes Micro-X has also secured a major contract with the US Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### 'Brutal status quo' failing First Nations

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/02/2025, Gera Kazakov, Page 5

A "brutal status quo" has been in place by "both sides of politics" since the apology to the Stolen Generations 17 years ago, a survivor says. Thursday, February 13, marked 17 years since former prime minister Kevin Rudd delivered the Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples.

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### Closing the Gap will fail

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/02/2025, Gera Kazakov, Page 17

Governments must 'genuinely engage' to find solutions Only five Closing the Gap targets are on track to be met and four are worsening with the whole policy expected to "broadly fail" "on this current trajectory" unless the government genuinely engages, according to one not-for-profit. Of the 19 Closing

the Gap targets, "only five" are on track to be met by 2031, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told parliament on Monday.

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## Outback grocer vows to deliver affordable essentials

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/02/2025, Gera Kazakov, Page 17

The company that manages 58 stores across Australia says it's looking to up the Prime Minister's proposal when it comes to subsidising groceries in remote communities. Outback Stores said it welcomes Anthony Albanese's announcement to expand on ongoing trials to subsidise the cost of key selected products in remote Indigenous community stores, "with an aim to improve overall affordability for essential items".

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## Hoops 4 Health and APM - empowering youth through sport and culture

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/02/2025, Nicole Brown

Alice Springs is a town filled with strength, resilience, and deep cultural roots, yet challenges persist for its youth. Disconnection, unemployment, and limited opportunities have left many feeling uncertain about their future.

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## The Gathering: a unique and powerful conversation to transform Indigenous kidney care

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/02/2025, Giovanni Torre

More than 120 people from across the country will come together next week for the second National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce (NIKTT) Gathering, a landmark event focused on improving access to kidney transplantation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

[Read More](#)

## Scholarships support Indigenous health students

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/02/2025, Joseph Guenzler

Kawana Crowe, Bryony Forrest, and Brodie Seymour have been announced as recipients of the Bupa Foundation's 2025 Dr Evelyn Scott Scholarship. The scholarship, established in 2018, honours Dr Evelyn Scott, an Indigenous leader and former resident of Bupa's Mount Sheridan aged care home, known for her lifelong advocacy for human rights.

[Read More](#)

## WA government pledges \$15 million more for aged care facility at significant Stolen Generations site

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/02/2025, David Prestipino

WA Labor has confirmed a major announcement regarding the future of an aged care facility on a prominent Stolen Generations site southeast of Boorloo/Perth. The National Indigenous Times can reveal the Labor government will make a major multi-million-dollar funding commitment to further develop Sister Kate's aged care facility to include 90-100 beds, if re-elected this month.

[Read More](#)

## Running program transforms Indigenous youth into leaders

Shepparton News Online, Other, 13/02/2025, Bree Harding

Six men and six women of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent between the ages of 18 and 30 are selected to participate in the program each year. Yorta Yorta man Koolyn Briggs (second from left) was selected last year.

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## Aged care system continuing to fail Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner

In her first report, Andrea Kelly, who was appointed to the interim role just over a year ago, has made four recommendations for the Federal Government, plus another 27 "urgent and time sensitive" recommendations. Kelly writes in the 108-page report that following consultations with more than 1,000 Australians last year, she has found "not enough has changed" for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people since the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety four years ago.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 13/02/2025, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Shannan Dodson, CEO, The Healing Foundation, on the 17th anniversary of the National Apology. Dodson notes that progress since the apology has been slow, with only 6% of the recommendations from the Bringing Them Home report fully implemented. She urges a national healing package for ageing survivors, noting the need for culturally safe, trauma-informed aged care to prevent re-traumatisation.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Lismore measles warning issued

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 14/02/2025, Catherine Piltz, Page 11

The Northern NSW Local Area Health District has issued an alert for measles following reports of a confirmed infectious case in Lismore. Health authorities said the person had recently returned from overseas and visited several locations in the town while infected.

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### RFDS issues JE warning

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 14/02/2025, Em Jensen, Page 8

The Royal Flying Doctor Service has encouraged residents throughout New South Wales to remain vigilant for Japanese encephalitis. JE is spread by mosquitoes that have bitten an animal carrying the virus and then bite a human.

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### Deadly encephalitis virus found in North Burnett mosquitoes

Cairns Post, Other, 13/02/2025

Local residents have been urged to protect themselves against mosquito bite after the deadly Japanese Encephalitis Virus was found in mosquitoes near Monto, with pig hunters and people who work in or near piggeries urged to take precautions. Staff Reporter Mosquito surveillance programs in the North Burnett of Queensland have confirmed the presence of deadly Japanese encephalitis viruses in Monto.

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### Countries with confirmed cases of new mpox strain

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/02/2025

Countries outside of Africa are still reporting cases of the clade 1b form of the mpox virus that prompted the World Health Organization to declare the virus a global public health emergency in August. The outbreak began in the Democratic Republic of Congo and has spread to neighboring countries, with Sweden becoming the first country outside of Africa to report a case last year.

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### Melbourne again on high alert over measles after confirmed diagnosis in individual who returned to Australia on Emirates flight

Sky News Australia, Other, 13/02/2025, talkUrl coralComments

Melbourne has recorded another case of measles in an individual who has returned from overseas, with health authorities pleading with travellers to ensure their vaccinations are up-to-date before heading abroad. The Victorian Department of Health confirmed on Wednesday a resident who flew into Melbourne Airport on an Emirates flight after visiting Pakistan was confirmed to have the highly infectious viral illness.

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## Dr Steven Donohue reminds Townsville locals to stay alert for melioidosis

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 12/02/2025, Nikita Mcguire

As the clean-up begins across North Queensland, residents are being reminded to stay alert and aware on the dangers of a wet season disease which can be contracted through contaminated water. 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.

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## Channel 7, Sunrise, 13/02/2025, Matt Shirvington and Natalie Barr

Interview with Dr Paul Griffin, Director of Infectious Diseases, Mater Health Services, on Australia's bird flu outbreak. Griffin says the risk of contracting bird flu from contaminated eggs or milk is very low, especially given Australia's high food safety standards. He assures that Australia's strong biosecurity measures and the CDC help manage outbreaks in poultry flocks.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### The new women's health initiatives, explained

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 13/02/2025, Chloe Hava

Over the weekend, the Albanese Government announced a \$573 million commitment to national women's health initiatives, to bipartisan support. [...] The TGA has also warned that supply shortages of some PBS-listed menopause treatments will persist throughout 2025.

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### Truth about aphrodisiacs and recipes to boost your libido

The Australian, Other, 13/02/2025, Stephanie Sekulovska and Giselle Bueti

Whenever Valentine's Day rolls around, restaurant menus are filled with oyster appetisers and chocolate sweets for dessert. [...] Collins warns against so-called natural supplements, particularly those which are not regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to improve libido.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Salmon antibiotics concern

Huon Aquaculture notifies fishers of drug use on fish in D'Entrecasteaux Channel A conservation group opposed to Tasmania's salmon farming industry has attacked Huon Aquaculture's latest use of antibiotics on fish in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, describing the practice as "unacceptable" and accusing the company of falling short of contemporary international standards. As Huon announced it was notifying local fishers of an antibiotic treatment undertaken at its Zuidpool lease near Bruny Island, Neighbours of Fish Farming (NOFF) spokeswoman Jessica Coughlan said the company had placed the health of the wider Tasmania marine environment at risk.

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## Victorian Farmers Federation calls for pause to caged egg phase-out plan

ABC Online, Other, 13/02/2025, Jane McNaughton

Victoria's peak farming body wants the state and federal governments to pause the looming phase out of conventional caged eggs. Conventional caged eggs are set to be phased out by 2036 under the latest Commonwealth guidelines , with Australia's major supermarkets committed to taking them off shelves this year.

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## AICIS

### PFAS blood results cause concern as Blue Mountains residents push for testing

ABC Online, Other, 13/02/2025, Xanthe Gregory

Catherine moved to the NSW Blue Mountains in search of a cleaner, greener life, but was left wondering if her home was "poisoning" her family. She is one of three residents with some PFAS levels higher than averages in the nation's most contaminated communities.

[Read More](#)

### ABC, ABC News, 13/02/2025, Jeremy Fernandez

Pressure is growing on the NSW government to provide blood testing for Blue Mountains residents exposed to PFAS-contaminated water after three individuals recorded above-average indicators. Stop PFAS Action Group leader John Dee is pushing for government-funded screening, citing links to high cholesterol. However, the author of an Australian study that found high psychological distress in exposed communities has questioned the benefits of testing small populations. NSW Health maintains there is insufficient evidence linking PFAS levels to health issues.

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