



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 15th February 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)  
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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports a new anti-drug code has been proposed by the AFL, with increased testing and greater penalties part of the suggested reforms.
- **[The Launceston Examiner](#)** (page 1) reports the Tasmanian Department of Health secretary has refuted claims that \$10,000 worth of medicine at Launceston General Hospital was destroyed last week due to insufficient air conditioning.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 3) reports principals and teachers have reported significant decreases in behavioural problems and suspensions for vaping since bans on smartphones and vaping were instated. Health Minister Mark Butler said that "This data shows the Albanese government's vaping reforms are working to prevent a new generation from becoming addicted to nicotine".
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 3) reports parents and staff have raised concerns that the Colorectal and Pelvic Reconstruction Service at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital has been closed without notifying parents or patients, with a spokesperson for the hospital declining to answer whether the unit was still operational.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 5) reports the Department of Health and Aged Care is looking to overhaul how it manages fraud cases after the previous system was found to be outdated and

led to failures in the management and tracking of cases, according to a report from the ANAO.

- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 5) reports \$3 million in funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council has been granted towards the development of a single vaccine for meningococcal and gonorrhoea.
- **ABC Online** reports a Northern Territory coroner has recommended mental health beds at Royal Darwin Hospital be doubled after finding a shortage of beds was among the factors that contributed to the death of Tiwi woman Pukumani Alimankinni in 2021.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 8) reports a shortage of public psychiatrists in NSW has led to delays of up to a week for the assessment of involuntary admissions, with staff at Cumberland Hospital saying the delays are leading to distressed patients with increased instances of violence against staff, while NSW Health Secretary Susan Pearce said the government is working on contingency plans to move patients to private hospitals and acquire locum staff to fill the shortages.
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 9) reports research from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has revealed 20 per cent of Tasmanians are struggling to pay for medicines due to cost of living pressures. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Labor government is working towards cheaper medicines, saying "The Albanese Labor government has lowered the maximum co-pay on prescriptions, slashed the amount pensioners and concession card holders pay for their medicine in a year by 25 per cent, [and] introduced the landmark 60-day prescriptions ... ensuring medicines stay cheaper"

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Phone ban brings calm to classrooms

Weekend Australian, General News, 15/02/2025, Natasha Bitá, Page 3

Smartphone and vaping bans in schools are leading to "better behaved" students and calmer classrooms. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said that "we have finally turned the corner on the scourge of vaping".

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

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### Gold-plated grey power

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/02/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 24

Walking past the baby grand piano in the foyer to chat with concierge Vicki Ganley, visitors may think they have stumbled into a luxury hotel. [...] The \$40m facility staking the claim as "Adelaide's most luxurious aged care site" was opened on Friday by federal Aged Care Minister Mark Butler, who noted it is a "leading example of how the sector can meet the evolving needs of our ageing population".

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### Unable to buy medicines

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/02/2025, Simon Mcguire, Page 9

New research from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has found that more than one in five Tasmanians have been unable to afford medicine over the past three years. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said his government was taking action on the issue.

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### Rant-accused nurse taken to hospital amid welfare fears

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 15/02/2025, Page 8

A nurse whose alleged anti-Israeli rant triggered outrage and disgust across Australia has been hospitalised as a longer video of the exchange emerges. [...] "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.

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## Pensioners travel for miles to be treated

Border Mail, General News, 15/02/2025, Ted Howes, Page 11

Fears are growing that elderly Corowa residents may be missing out on vital medical services since the only dedicated bulk-billing clinic closed in December. [...] On Monday in federal parliament, Farrer MP Sussan Ley tabled a petition with 800 signatures calling for a reversal of the decision to close the clinic and questioned Health Minister Mark Butler about the cause.

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## The dealin's not done on Border hospital

Border Mail, General News, 15/02/2025, Helen Haines, Page 71

Regional Australians experience worse health outcomes and lower life expectancy than metropolitan Australia. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney attended the Regional Health Summit in Wodonga on my invitation and I organised a meeting with Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride and the former mayors of Wodonga and Albury councils and others in Canberra last year.

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## Light therapy implant may soothe spinal cord injury

Subiaco Post, General News, 15/02/2025, Page 67

A local scientist will lead research into a treatment for spinal cord injury in which light therapy is delivered via an implanted device. [...] Funding was announced by the health and aged care minister Mark Butler in December.

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## Vile threats to Israelis

Australian Jewish News, General News, 14/02/2025, Bruce Hill, Page 4

A social media post showing two NSW nurses making threats against Israeli patients has sent shock waves through the community. [...] The JBD is seeking urgent advice from Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority, maintaining that no healthcare worker who holds these views should be registered in Australia.

*Also reported by:* [Australian Jewish News \(VIC edition\) \(Melbourne\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Hospital and Healthcare \(Online\)](#), [Kyabram Free Press \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Armidale Express \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Goulburn Post \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [WEB InQueensland \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Yarrawonga Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Campaspe News \(Online\)](#), [Benalla Ensign \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Parents of children with colorectal conditions furious amid clinic's quiet closure

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/02/2025, Broede Carmody & Henrietta Cook

Parents of sick kids as well as staff at the Royal Children's Hospital fear a specialist unit that treats complex colorectal conditions has been quietly disbanded to cut costs amid Victoria's worsening budget woes. [...] A spokesperson for federal Health Minister Mark Butler directed questions about the centre's ongoing funding to the Victorian government.

*Also reported by:* [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#).

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

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

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## More than ever, we need to focus on prevention

Croakey, Other, 14/02/2025, Melissa Sweet

There is growing recognition that the only way to contain burgeoning healthcare costs and the burden of chronic illness and disability is to focus on prevention – even if this means moving funding from elsewhere in the health system. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is promising more fundamental reforms for Medicare and around managing chronic disease.

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## Biggest cohort of GPs start 'rural generalism' training

The Mandarin, Other, 14/02/2025, Melissa Coade

Health Minister Mark Butler has announced a milestone in Australian medical history, with more than 1,750 doctors expected to start their GP training in 2025. The minister said all indications suggested new graduates were confident in pursuing general practice as a speciality and that financial support from the government would encourage further growth.

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## Looks like we have a doctor distribution problem! too many docors, just not in the right places!

Australian Health Information Technology, Other, 14/02/2025

An adult without concessions would not be able to find a bulk billing GP in 10% of electorates, according to a new report. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, said: "Official data shows our record investment to strengthen Medicare has stopped the freefall in bulk billing that was created under the Coalition Government.

Also reported by: [Australian Health Information Technology \(Online\)](#).

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## Sky News Live, Newsday, 14/02/2025, Kieran Gilbert

NSW Police have reportedly studied the full video of the anti-Semitic tirade beside a Sydney hospital by two former nurses. Health Minister Mark Butler confirming that the national registry has been updated with that information as well.

Also reported by: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

## 2GB, Breakfast, 14/02/2025, Ben Fordham

Health authorities have kept their word. The two nurses at the centre of a vile anti-Jewish rant, have lost the right to practise medicine in Australia. Health Minister Mark Butler says this means that the two nurses are unable to practise nursing anywhere in Australia in any context.

Also reported by: [2EC \(Bega\)](#).

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Language warning in brave new words

Bega District News, General News, 15/02/2025, Garry Linnell, Page 8

A bottle of wine, a couple of cocktails and a late-night taxi ride through London's bleak wintry streets.

Little wonder Australian soccer star Sam Kerr wanted to throw up. [...] You could also query whether similar public behaviour by a male athlete might have led to louder condemnation, rather than the cringe-inducing claim by federal sports minister Anika Wells that Kerr "certainly has Australia behind her".

Also reported by: [Macleay Argus \(Kempsey\)](#), [Lithgow Mercury \(Lithgow\)](#), [Manning River Times \(Taree\)](#), [Port Macquarie News \(Port Macquarie\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Katherine Times \(Online\)](#), [Blue Mountains Gazette \(Online\)](#), [Port Macquarie News \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Batemans Bay Post \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## 'It's pressure to not let people down': Lydia Williams makes leap from goalline to boardroom

The Guardian, Other, 15/02/2025, Jack Snape

With a cast covering her surgically repaired right wrist, the transformation of Lydia Williams has begun. [...] Her appointment is the latest step in plans by the federal government under sport minister Anika Wells to modernise Australia's sporting sector.

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## Sue Gordon announced as new chair of NACAC

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Professor Sue Gordon has been announced as the new chair of the National Aged Care Advisory Council. Ms Gordon, who was previously the research director at Aged Care Research and Industry Innovation Australia, brings more than 20 years of physiotherapy practitioner experience to the role, and 18 years in academia. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said she looked forward to working with Professor Gordon and all other new and returning members.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### The dealin's not done on Border hospital

Border Mail, General News, 15/02/2025, Helen Haines, Page 71

Regional Australians experience worse health outcomes and lower life expectancy than metropolitan Australia. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney attended the Regional Health Summit in Wodonga on my invitation and I organised a meeting with Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride and the former mayors of Wodonga and Albury councils and others in Canberra last year.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### The dealin's not done on Border hospital

Border Mail, General News, 15/02/2025, Helen Haines, Page 71

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## Australia stands out in women's health

Wimmera Mail Times, General News, 14/02/2025, Danielle Mazza, Page 35

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

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## Cost relief the right prescription

Star Weekly, Other, 14/02/2025

Government-subsidised access to hormone therapy for menopausal women will make a "meaningful difference" to the lives of countless sufferers, experts say. Three menopausal hormone therapies – EstroGel Pro, EstroGel and Prometrium – will become available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from March 1. [...] Assistant Health Minister and former nurse Ged Kearney said it would "shift the dial on an entrenched culture of medical misogyny".

[Read More](#)

## Triple M Geraldton , 07:00 News, 14/02/2025, Unspecified

A deep dive into toddler food has found Aussie parents are being duped into buying unhealthy food for their kids. A new report suggests more than 70% of toddler food products don't meet international nutrition standards, despite claiming to be healthy. Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney has told the ABC it's in her sights.

Also reported by: [Triple M Central Coast \(Gosford\)](#), [Triple M Albany \(Albany\)](#).

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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## DEPARTMENT

### Health failed to track fraud complaints Health failed to track fraud complaints

Canberra Times, General News, 15/02/2025, Connor Pearce, Page 5

The Department of Health and Aged Care was using an outdated and incompatible system to manage cases of fraud at the same time as the agency was experiencing a surge in complaints. The Department is now belatedly going to market for a fix for the issue, four months after an Audit Office report found the agency was struggling to track cases of fraud and with the new system not expected to be up and running until a year after it was required.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Braidwood Times \(Online\)](#).

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## La Trobe signs MOU with fellow rural health educators

Bendigo Times, General News, 14/02/2025, Adam Carswell, Page 6

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.

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## Project provides palliative care support

Golden Plains Times, General News, 14/02/2025, Tim Bottams, Page 13

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

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## US tech company DEI rollbacks on 'collision course' with Aussie govt contracts

ARN, Other, 14/02/2025, Lilia Guan

The global nature of US technology companies means that changes in their diversity policies to meet executive and legal orders could set it on a "collision course" with their international contracts with the Australian government. [...] Currently, Accenture has a \$289 million dollar contract with the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC) to support its aged care digital transformation program.

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## Positive Ageing Summit brings allied health to the fore

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/02/2025

Set to become a cornerstone for shaping the future of aged care, Positive Ageing Summit takes to Adelaide from 28-29 May with a packed program of experts, pioneers and innovators exploring a holistic and evidence-based approach to better ageing. [...] Appointed Chief Allied Health Officer in June last year, her role includes supporting the Department of Health and Aged Care to raise awareness of the value of allied health care and promote its inclusion in policies, programs and reforms.

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## Aged Care Collaborative launches to address critical workforce challenges

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 14/02/2025, Alex Jacobs

Workforce innovations are about to be fast-tracked into existence following the launch of the Aged Care Collaborative which will fund and support evidence-based projects that address critical workforce challenges in the sector. [...] He also acknowledged the support of the Australian Government in making these new grants possible and said ARIIA would collaborate closely with the Department of Health and Aged Care and the aged care sector to communicate the progress, impacts and outcomes.

[Read More](#)

## New CDIO to address ITAC 2025

Pulse+IT, Other, 14/02/2025

Faye Flevaras, recently appointed as Chief Digital Information Officer at the Department of Health and Aged Care, will give a keynote address on government plans for digital transformation in aged care when she appears at ITAC 2025. Ms Flevaras also joins the panelists discussing interoperability and standards.

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## ACCC denies MAIF code authorisation

Retail World, Other, 14/02/2025, Hailey Settineri

The Infant Nutrition Council has been denied authorisation for the five-year continuation of an industry code which seeks to restrict the advertising and promotion of infant formula. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care intends to introduce a mandatory regime to restrict marketing of infant formula, which it expects would take two years to implement.

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## Early bird ending soon for Towards One Healthcare System Summit

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/02/2025

Towards One Healthcare System Summit and Workshop is bringing together key thought leaders from state and federal governments and agencies, hospitals, PHNs, primary, specialist and allied care provider groups, consumer health advocates, private health insurers and leading technology vendors, to examine practical steps that might be taken to help better align current disparate policies, regulation, initiatives, technology and politics towards a framework that would facilitate our entire healthcare system operating more like it was one integrated system. [...] Speakers Include: Daniel McCabe, First Assistant Secretary Medicare Benefits and Digital Health at Australian Department of Health.

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## The tough choice facing residential aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/02/2025, Lauren Broomham

The regulatory crackdown on residential aged care providers failing to meet care minute targets is one factor behind the growing number of smaller operators looking to exit the sector – and the new Aged Care Act appears set to speed up this consolidation. [...] Providers will also be required to publicly attest that they are compliant with their obligations as part of their reporting to the Department of Health and Aged Care – a risky prospect for board directors and key personnel.

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## Is the 'traditional' aged care home on borrowed time? Ian Yates says yes

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/02/2025, Lauren Broomham

As we have reported, the cost of building an aged care bed has doubled since the COVID-19 pandemic, with land, development and operational costs pushing the average bed price to over \$600,000 in some metropolitan areas. [...] The national waitlist stands at 76,000 according to the latest figures from the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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## VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### The promises that could determine the next federal election

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/02/2025

About 50 per cent of Australia's electorate is now aged 50 and over, so retirement-related issues are no longer a side note – they're a deciding factor. Superannuation, the age pension, housing, healthcare and the cost of living are all on the table. The choices made in this election will shape the future for millions of Australians in their 50s and beyond.

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### WA Labor promises big-spending on aged care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

In the lead up to the Western Australia state election, WA Labor has promised \$140 million to the aged care sector if re-elected, including low-interest loans to providers to boost bed availability. The Labor Party in Western Australia has announced a \$140 million package to support aged care services across the state if re-elected.

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## Regulator relaunches digital guidance tool

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/02/2025

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission has refreshed a digital tool they developed for providers looking for tailored guidance on the strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards. With the tool, providers can find information to support their understanding of the strengthened quality standards and how to apply them in practice.

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## Efficiency the 'new black' for home care

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/02/2025, Lauren Broomham

With just under five months until the introduction of Support at Home on 1 July, home care providers are facing a perfect storm of changes that could make – or break – their business model. The Government's decision to place a 10% cap on care management – a surprise not discussed or recommended by the Aged Care Taskforce – will take a big toll given the average care management fees has been 17% of Packages.

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## FIVEAA, Mornings, 14/02/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Chris Grice, CEO, National Seniors Australia. Compere mentions that the Federal Government has proposed a mandate to ensure that cash remains a legal tender for essential purchases. Grice believes that what is being proposed will make it quite challenging for retailers to be able to challenge whether they accept cash or they can continue to use tap & go digital method.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Inside the dark side of private rehab centres

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/02/2025, Jordan Baker & Perry Duffin, Page 32

In a neighbourly gesture, a suburban rehabilitation centre threw open its doors for a day. The property used to be a brothel, which was once promoted by famous Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss, so locals were keen to spot any relics from its bordello days.

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### New call to change guidelines on obesity

The Nightly, General News, 14/02/2025, Gina Kolata, Page 22

Obesity should be assessed in a way that goes beyond the standard measure of body mass index, or B.M.I., according to a new definition of the condition released by an international commission. Its report, published last month in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology journal, makes the case for focusing on how much body fat and what medical complications the person has.

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### Workers left hurting

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/02/2025, Page 8

Injuring yourself at work may be worse for your mental health than injuring yourself outside work, new research suggests. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare researchers were involved in a study of 36,457 Canadians who had suffered an injury, including 7556 hurt at work.

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

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## Safety overhaul for giant Aussie slides

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 amongst children nationwide.

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## Tasmania ranked dead last in study of healthiest regions

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/02/2025, Aaron Smith, Page 7

Tasmania has been ranked dead last in a recent study of Australia's healthiest states and territories. Training course provider CPR First Aid analysed data from the 2022 National Health Survey, combining self-reported health statuses, body mass index (BMI), fruit and vegetable consumption, smoking rates, and activity levels.

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## Dementia fears as we get older

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/02/2025, Jack Nivison, Page 13

More than 50 per cent of Australians fear developing dementia, according to Body+Soul's Health of the Nation report, which found that fear was greater among older Australians and women. [...] 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).

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 14/02/2025, Steve Austin

Compere is joined by Katherine Feeney, ABC presenter. Feeney discusses students at a high school in South East Qld are dealing with problem in regard to toilet availability as students might be using them for vaping purposes.

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# CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

## Initiative could save thousands of lives

Courier Mail, General News, 15/02/2025, Andreas Nicola, Page 21

Thousands of lives could be saved across Queensland following the launch of a new initiative aimed to help police find missing people before it's too late. Queensland Police in partnership with the non-profit MedicAlert Foundation have launched the Safe and Found Initiative which allow officers access to personalised profiles of people living with dementia, Alzheimer's and other cognitive disabilities, allowing the search to be more targeted about possible locations or specific locations.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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## Call for brain health

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 15/02/2025, Page 20

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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## Qld Police and MedicAlert partner for new initiative Safe and Found to help missing people with Alzheimers, Dementia

The Courier Mail, Other, 14/02/2025, Andreas Nicola

Thousands of lives could be saved across Queensland following the launch of a new initiative aimed to help police find missing people before it's too late. Queensland Police in partnership with the non-profit MedicAlert Foundation have launched the Safe and Found Initiative which allow officers access to personalised profiles of people living with dementia, Alzheimer's and other cognitive disabilities, allowing the search to be more targeted about possible locations or specific locations.

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## Perth AI startup Artrya raises \$15m for heart health tech

West Australian, Other, 14/02/2025, Matt McKenzie

A West Perth company developing artificial intelligence to diagnose heart disease has raised \$15 million to pursue the United States market. The medtech business was founded in 2018 to apply machine learning to coronary artery disease, training software to pick out problems from heart images.

[Read More](#)

## Simple test screens for a deadly cancer, but women don't know about it

Northern Territory News, Other, 14/02/2025, Robyn Riley

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: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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## WHO calls for cigarette-style cancer warnings on alcohol packaging

The Guardian, Other, 15/02/2025, Denis Campbell

Cans and bottles of alcohol should carry cigarette-style labels warning that drinking increases the risk of cancer, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). It has said governments should insist that "prominent" warning labels become standard in order to alert consumers to the link between alcohol and cancer and tackle the harm caused by heavy drinking.

[Read More](#)

## World-first treatment boosts prostate cancer survival

Daily Liberal, Other, 14/02/2025, Rachael Ward

Firefighter Patrick Fitzell was the picture of health until the day he started having trouble going to the bathroom. His wife convinced him to go for a "man check" which eventually led to a prostate cancer diagnosis, a move from New Zealand to Australia and a place in a world-first medical trial.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Call for diabetes tech funding

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/02/2025

Diabetes Australia is calling on both sides of politics to commit to a \$200 million investment in diabetes technologies in the upcoming Federal Election. Expanding subsidies for insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitoring devices will ensure that the more than 1.5 million Australians living with all types of diabetes have access to the technology they need to live well, it said.

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## Di Pilla's HMC circles ailing Healthscope

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 15/02/2025, Michael Smith, Page 20

A bidding group led by David Di Pilla's HMC Capital is circling loss-making Healthscope's Australian hospitals and offered to take over the operations of 11 facilities as the Brookfield-owned group seeks to renegotiate \$1.6 billion of debt.

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

## Anger at closure of kids' clinic

The Saturday Age, General News, 15/02/2025, Broede Carmody & Henrietta Cook, Page 3

Parents of sick kids and staff at the Royal Children's Hospital fear a specialist unit that treats complex colorectal conditions has been quietly disbanded to cut costs amid Victoria's worsening budget woes. While hospital bosses have apologised for any distress caused by the shake-up, they insist the level of surgical care will remain the same and wraparound services will continue thanks to "centralised" teams.

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

## Acute doctor shortage hits psych wards

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/02/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 8

Extremely unwell patients held against their will at the state's biggest psychiatric hospital are waiting for days to see a specialist as the government offers more than \$3000 a day for doctors to fill roster holes. Cumberland Hospital staff have accused the NSW government of failing to prepare for the damaging effects of the state's public psychiatrists resigning en masse, which they say has left acutely psychotic and psychologically disturbed patients in locked wards without enough doctors to care for them.

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

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

## Sick kids to suffer as specialist RCH clinic disbanded

Herald Sun, General News, 15/02/2025, Carly Douglas, Page 4

Distressed Victorian parents say they have been "left in the dark" after a world-class program at the Royal Children's Hospital for rare and complex colorectal diseases was quietly disbanded, leaving hundreds of families desperate for answers. The Australia-first specialist Colorectal and Pelvic Reconstruction Service unit has slowly been dismantled, after funding from a one-off \$5.9m grant from the former Morrison government came to an end in June last year.

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

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

## When DNA is the code for discrimination

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/02/2025, Suzan Giuliani, Page 33

Mia is only 20 years old but already she's planning a double mastectomy to avoid getting cancer - although she now risks being discriminated against because she chose to do genetic screening. About two years ago she tested positive to one of the most commonly inherited gene mutations BRCA2 which increases the risk of ovarian and prostate cancers.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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## Libs' hospital emergency warning

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 15/02/2025, Jake Dietsch, Page 20

The Liberals have accused the Government of failing to commit money to run two new wards at Joondalup Health Campus despite a major redevelopment already being under way. Libby Mettam, who on Friday promised to spend \$110 million to deliver an extra 60 beds at the hospital if elected to government, claimed that more funding was needed.

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

## Local councils can't keep picking up the slack on health

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 15/02/2025, Karen Chappel, Page 142

Every Australian, no matter where they call home, should have equal access to primary healthcare services. Yet, our healthcare system is letting down millions of Australians, with the impact disproportionately felt by those living in rural, regional, and remote areas, including more than 500,000 here in Western Australia.

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

## Regional ED patients waiting longer

Ballarat Courier, General News, 15/02/2025, Ben Silvester, Page 7

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 February 11 showed nearly every major regional hospital lagging the statewide average in every ED performance metric in 2024.

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

## Bendigo clinic closing but work goes on

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 15/02/2025, Ben Loughran, Page 3

After more than two decades of treating and supporting women's healthcare in Bendigo, a key service has found new purpose with a change in direction. The Women's Health Loddon Mallee's Well Women's Clinic will close at the end of the month as the organisation moves into a more "advocacy"-based and prevention model.

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

## \$6m health hub, 'it's a good news story'

Border Mail, General News, 15/02/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 5

A \$1.5 million machine that helps patients recover from strokes is the centrepiece of a new rehabilitation unit at the Albury Wodonga Private Hospital. The area inside the West Albury treatment hub includes a gymnasium and 14-bed ward to allow patients to stay for up to three weeks.

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## Be thankful for our healthcare workers

Burnie Advocate, General News, 15/02/2025, Page 20

As summer comes to an end, I'd like to recognise all of our extraordinary healthcare workers and to thank them all for their hard and outstanding work over the busy holiday period. Last year was an exceptional year of delivery for our healthcare system with more than 50,000 outpatient appointments on average delivered every month, and more elective surgeries performed than ever before.

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

## Heat on hospital

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/02/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 1

The Tasmanian health department secretary has denied claims that \$10,000 worth of medicine at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) was discarded last week due to exceeding temperature limits. Department of Health secretary Dale Webster said the hospital's stock losses from the previous week were not linked to a lack of air conditioning, and fridges were alarmed if certain temperatures were exceeded.

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

## NT flights: The solution to delivering remote critical care is in plane sight

The Courier Mail, Other, 14/02/2025, Camden Smith

Now based in Townsville, Royal Australian College of GPs rural chair, Associate Professor Michael Clements, worked and trained in Katherine between 2007 and 2009 at Tindal, the hospital and in general practice. Also a pilot, he mainly flew for fun around the town and the communities but has a

serious focus on the importance of aviation and medicine in remote Australia and the Northern Territory.

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

[Read More](#)

## NT flight prices: Alice Springs woman paid almost \$1k for flight to get surgery interstate

The Courier Mail, Other, 14/02/2025, Gera Kazakov

Despite only having to fly fewer than three hours, one Alice Springs resident says she was stung almost \$1k for a flight to get vital medical treatment interstate. 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.

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

[Read More](#)

## Ten years on, SA Health chemotherapy underdosing victim Andrew Knox is ‘worn out’ fighting the good fight

Adelaide Now, Other, 14/02/2025

After years of fighting the good fight to try to ensure what happened to him does not happen to others, Andrew Knox is “worn out”. Mr Knox, of Belair, became the public face of SA Health’s chemotherapy underdosing scandal, exposed by The Advertiser, when in January 2015 10 patients with leukaemia were mistakenly given only a single daily dose of cytarabine instead of the appropriate twice daily dose.

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

[Read More](#)

## Doctors frustrated with the State Government's refusal to release shelved hospital master plan

West Australian, Other, 14/02/2025, Warren Hatley

Local doctors have voiced ongoing frustration with the State Government’s refusal to even talk about the hospital’s shelved master plan. Speaking with the Times this week in the aftermath of the WA branch of the Australian Medical Association last week demanding the plan’s release, GPs including GP specialists said the failure to invest in the future of Margaret River Hospital was short-sighted.

[Read More](#)

## Geraldton set for RFDS base after Nationals pledge \$12m for local facility

West Australian, Other, 14/02/2025, Matthew Paddick

Geraldton is all but set for a locally-based Royal Flying Doctor Service facility, following the Nationals announcement to establish a base in the city if it forms government at the State election. The party has promised \$12m towards the project if they form government, in what they say will help address the need for more reliable support for the Mid West and Gascoyne.

[Read More](#)

## Motorola nabs \$500m deal for Victorian emergency comms

Northern Territory News, Other, 14/02/2025, Joseph Lam

The Victorian Government has spent \$500m on the extension of a critical communications service with Motorola Solutions, in a deal which will give the state’s emergency services a boost which will rival state-of-the-art technology in the US. The 10-year extension will for the first time bring Marine, Search & Rescue onto the network via purpose-built radios that use artificial intelligence and voice commands to communicate.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## NT coroner finds staff failures, bed shortages and confusion over medications contributed to Tiwi woman's death in Darwin hospital

ABC Online, Other, 14/02/2025

Critical understaffing, a shortage of mental health beds and miscommunication between hospital staff were among the factors that contributed to the death of a woman in an acute care ward of Darwin's largest hospital, the Northern Territory coroner has found. In August 2021, Tiwi woman Pukumani Alimankinni, as she is known for cultural reasons, was involuntarily admitted to Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) after suffering an acute psychotic episode in her home community of Wurrumiyanga on Bathurst Island.

[Read More](#)

## Double mental health beds, coroner tells government

Daily Liberal, Other, 14/02/2025, Abe Maddison

"Bed block" in the NT health system led to death of a Tiwi Island mother, a coroner has found, recommending that NT government urgently fund the doubling of mental health beds to address an ongoing crisis. Following days of sedation in the Royal Darwin Hospital emergency department and high-security Joan Ridley Unit, Pukumani Alimankinni, 47, stopped breathing while sleeping in a bean bag on August 8, 2021.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Bed block crisis: SA to trial hotels as a half-way house for elderly patients

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 14/02/2025, Anthony Caggiano

Bed block is a \$2 billion problem that takes away hospital beds and costs taxpayers dearly, but the South Australian government is trailing hotel stays as a solution. The predicament is an Australia-wide problem, where elderly patients are well enough to go home but are awaiting an aged care placement and, therefore, are left in limbo in a hospital bed.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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## GP crisis needs your voice

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/02/2025, Rowan Frazer

The Deniliquin medical fraternity is calling on the community to add their voices to the chorus demanding improved access to general practitioner support. With access to doctors a continuing issue locally, and nationally, the Deni Local Health Advisory Committee has launched a social media information campaign to try and explain why.

[Read More](#)

## Base ED feeling patient pressure

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 14/02/2025, John Conroy

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.

[Read More](#)

## General practice a key battle ground in State election

Medical Forum, Other, 14/02/2025

General practitioners will be able to quickly contact specialists for advice in a bid to reduce referrals under a state election pledge from WA Labor. Meanwhile the WA Liberal party has vowed to boost GP numbers and provide free GP appointments.

[Read More](#)

## WA wait times and GP numbers 'not improving'

Medical Forum, Other, 14/02/2025

A Productivity Commission report into government services focusing on health found the States health services were not performing as well as expected. Although the report found the number of GPs had increased to 4,090 in 2023 (up from 3,998 in 2022), the full-time equivalent rate of GPs per 1000 people fell from 101.8 to 95.8.

[Read More](#)

## RACGP unveils plan for more bulk billing and GP incentives

Medical Forum, Other, 14/02/2025

Millions more bulk billed GP appointments could be delivered every year through increased investment and an expansion of incentives, according to the Royal Australian College of GPs. The College has developed a 19-point plan that calls on the Federal Government to increase Medicare funding, extend bulk billing incentives, expand MBS health assessment items and provide GP training incentives.

[Read More](#)

## First nurse practitioners, now this state has paramedic practitioners to prescribe S8 drugs | AusDoc

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/02/2025

Paramedics with master's degrees will diagnose and prescribe treatments for wounds, infections and fractures during ambulance call-outs under a new role designed to cut ED presentations. The Victorian Government has passed legislation enabling 'paramedic practitioners' to prescribe S4 and S8 drugs from a list decided by the Minister for Health.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 14/02/2025, Manny Tsigas

The Northern Territory. Coroner has blamed multiple failures by Royal Darwin Hospital staff for the 2021 death of a Tiwi woman in their care. Judge Armitage handed down four recommendations calling for the hospital to double its number of acute mental health beds.

[Play Now](#)

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Hope ADHD plan could fix waitlists

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 15/02/2025, Jessica Evensen, Page 20

GPs will be able to prescribe ADHD medication to anyone over the age of 10 under a reelected WA Labor Government. Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson announced the new plan, which will require GPs to undertake further training.

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

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### Resignations puts private mental health care in play

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 14/02/2025

Sending mentally unwell patients for involuntary treatment in private hospitals remains on the table,



after more than 110 public psychiatrists quit. The mental health doctors were among 206 of the 292-strong NSW workforce to threaten to quit in January over extensive concerns with pay, vacancies and care quality.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## WA Labor releases plan to break barriers to ADHD diagnosis and treatment by GPs

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 14/02/2025

Specialist GPs will be able to diagnose attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and initiate and manage its treatment with stimulant medication under proposed WA Labor reforms hailed as a breakthrough for patients by Australia's peak body for general practice. WA Labor worked closely with the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) to develop the proposal and has committed to implementing it in consultation with specialist GPs if returned to government at the state election on 8 March.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 14/02/2025, Michael Thomson

Both major parties have now promised to give GPs the power to prescribe ADHD medication after the WA Election. Labor today also committing \$49 million to expand mental health services, including funding free parenting support services at Ngala.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### This doctor loves his job in the bush

Daily Liberal, General News, 15/02/2025, Page 4

There's many reasons why Dr Marty Ryan loves his job. But the one that'll be music to the ears of most - particularly those battling away without a GP in town - is that he's practicing in a regional area.

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

### Frontline health staff raising more Code Black calls due to rising aggression and intimidation

Adelaide Now, Other, 14/02/2025

Code Black calls for security help from frightened health workers have spiralled in nine of the 10 Local Health Network public hospitals across the state, new data obtained by The Advertiser shows. The updated data shows SA Health staff calling for urgent security help an average of 40 times every day.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

## Do you qualify for the \$60,000 health card?

AFR Weekend, Smart Money, 15/02/2025, Andrew Hobbs, Page 30

What if there were a government handout that even someone with \$10 million in assets could comfortably get? What if that handout were worth conservatively \$60,000 and more than \$90,000 if you lived in certain parts of Australia?

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

## GST red rag to tariff attack from Trump

The Saturday Age, General News, 15/02/2025, Shane Wright & Mike Foley, Page 15

Australia faces being dragged into Donald Trump's widening trade war even if it escapes punitive tariffs after the president signalled an assault against taxes such as the GST and domestic protections on everything from TV content rules to regulations on foreign ownership of property. [...] The US has also expressed ongoing concern about Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

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

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Longer video released of Sydney nurses bragging about killing Israeli patients, police await unedited version

ABC Online, Other, 14/02/2025, Jamie McKinnell

The Israeli content creator who recorded two Sydney nurses threatening harm to Israeli patients has published what he claims is the "unedited" online chat with the pair, after police requested the full version. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency confirmed Mr Nadir and Ms Lebdeh's registrations were suspended.

[Read More](#)

### Sydney male nurse is deregistered after being caught masturbating in front of an elderly dementia patient during a 'movie night'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/02/2025, Matt Jones

A Sydney nurse has been deregistered after he masturbated in front of a dementia patient at an aged care facility. Arnold Bulwayan Alunday, 48, from Ropes Crossing in Blacktown, masturbated in front of the 70-year-old dementia patient after turning the lights off and closing the curtains to her private room, a tribunal has heard.

[Read More](#)

### ABC News, News Breakfast, 14/02/2025, James Glenday & Catherine Murphy

Two Sydney nurses, who made threatening comments to Israeli patients in an online video have been suspended from practising in Australia. Health regulator, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has confirmed they have updated the public register for practitioners.

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## Effort aimed at preventing harm

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 15/02/2025, Denika Anderson, Page 7

New Flip the Vape billboard and bus ads have popped up in Mildura as part of a statewide antivaping and anti-smoking campaign aimed at young Indigenous people. The campaign has been launched by The Koori Way, a Victorian-wide anti-tobacco and anti-vaping health promotion campaign by the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.

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## SA Government bans "junk food" ads on public transport

C&I, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 59

The South Australian Government is set to ban "junk food" advertising on Adelaide Metro buses, trains, and trams from 1 July 2025. Data from Cancer Council SA shows that almost 80 per cent of food and drink advertisements on South Australian buses promote unhealthy food and drinks such as such as chocolate, lollies, confectionery, desserts, ice creams, soft drinks and chips.

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## SPORT

### AFL's plan for strict new drugs code revealed

The Saturday Age, General News, 15/02/2025, Caroline Wilson, Page 1

The AFL has proposed a strict new anti-drug regime in a bid to catch players abusing its illicit drugs code, which includes a full-scale and yearround hair testing program, immediate fines and the removal of a controversial loophole. Under the tougher campaign against illicit drugs, which has the league in conflict with its players, the competition's governing body would expand the number of AFL officials immediately notified of the drug offender's identity.

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

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### Spend up for oar-some hub

Courier Mail, Sport, 15/02/2025, Emma Greenwood, Page 81

National sports bodies have called on the Queensland Government to fully leverage the opportunities on offer ahead of the 2032 Olympics by developing an international sport event strategy to secure major competitions in the lead-up to the Games. Several sports presenting to the government's 100-day infrastructure review have suggested the government, through Tourism and Events Queensland, develop a body to bid for international sporting events ahead of the Games in a move that would be a major revenue generator.

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### Swans star's drug shame

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/02/2025, Lachlan McKirdy, Page 3

Sydney Swans youngster Caiden Cleary has been hit with a two-match suspension after being charged with conduct unbecoming by the AFL following an off-season incident. Cleary, 19, was caught trying to buy illicit substances by NSW Police in December at a venue in Sydney's eastern suburbs.

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

### Bring out the big guns

Daily Liberal, General News, 15/02/2025, Nick Guthrie, Page 1

Mayor Josh Black will lead a delegation to Sydney this week as the fight to have funding for the Sports Hub returned to Dubbo rages on. It has been more than 50 days since Tara Moriarty, Minister for

Regional NSW and Minister for Western NSW, announced the \$48.6 million set aside for the project was being withdrawn.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 14/02/2025, Melissa Downes

A major development company is making a bold pitch for Brisbane's 2032 games in the heart of the Sunshine Coast. Walker Corporation's \$1 billion Horizon Centre proposal would see a 7000 seat Arena Athlete Village and a five-star hotel in the Maroochydore city centre.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### More than depression

Herald Sun, General News, 15/02/2025, Page 23

Adults with a history of depression gain long-term physical conditions about 30 per cent faster than those without, according to UK research. Depression is the most common mental health condition and is associated with a range of adverse physical health outcomes such as heart disease and diabetes.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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### No approval for 'revolutionary' drugs

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 15/02/2025, Paul Murray, Page 30

Alzheimer's drugs hailed as "revolutionary" by doctors could give patients almost an extra year of independent life, a study suggests. The research found patients with mild Alzheimer's given lecanemab could live without 24/7 care for an extra 10 months, while donanemab could allow independence for an additional eight months.

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### Surprising food that could lower risk of Australia's second most deadly cancer

NEWS.com.au, Other, 15/02/2025, Reda Wigle & Tsn Flex

A study has revealed that eating one particular item could help lower the risk of bowel cancer — an illness impacting Australians at an alarming rate. Scientists have discovered that regular, long-term yoghurt consumption could help lower the risk.

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

[Read More](#)

### Aboriginal-led study sees 30% achieve diabetes remission

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 14/02/2025

A first-of-its-kind study in Australia has highlighted the importance of community-led initiatives in diabetes management. Study participants and members of the South Coast Women's Health and Wellbeing Aboriginal Corporation (Waminda).

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 14/02/2025, Michael Thomson

There's growing evidence weight loss drugs are an effective tool to relieve the pain of knee arthritis, but they are an expensive option, so Australian researchers have launched a landmark trial of cheaper ways of dropping crucial kilos. Late last year, a rigorous trial showed semaglutide, the core ingredient in Ozempic, and its weight loss counterpart, WeGovy can significantly improve symptoms.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Peter Dutton's efficiency spokesperson hints at what she would cut

Canberra Times, Other, 14/02/2025, Dana Daniel

Opposition government efficiency spokesperson Jacinta Price has hinted at where a Dutton government may cut federal spending if elected. Senator Price named the Indigenous Affairs portfolio as one she would audit for potential cuts if the Coalition wins the election and identified areas of wasteful spending.

[Read More](#)

### We need unity if we are to close the gap

Daily Liberal, Other, 14/02/2025

This year's Closing the Gap report, like those before it, documents the chasm separating health, justice, educational, employment and material outcomes for Indigenous Australians from the general population. Ensuring First Nations people achieve the same outcomes as the rest of the community is one of the great moral challenges facing this country.

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

[Read More](#)

### Calls for more action as Apology to Stolen Generations remembered in Victoria

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/02/2025, Jarred Cross

Survivors, advocates and the broader community gathered in Naarm on Thursday commemorating a "momentous occasion" which "still affects us deeply" on the 17th anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations. Stories of lived-experience, memories of the day in 2008, performance and ceremony were shared among attendees on a day also reserved for reflection.

[Read More](#)

### Having a Day out in parliament to provide a strong Indigenous voice on mental health

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/02/2025, Andrew Mathieson

Delphina Day comes from Weipa, where the conversation points are the bauxite deposits that lie along its coastline and how to stay cool in a town where temperatures average above 30°C year round. But the 18-year-old from Far North Queensland has an inspiring story of triumph over troubles.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Single vax plan for deadly duo

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/02/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 5

Moves are underway in Adelaide to develop a single vaccine for meningococcal disease and gonorrhoea. The Centre for Research Excellence in Neisseria disease control launched this month with plans for a "2030 roadmap" to develop ways to control two serious diseases in young people, caused by closely related Neisseria bacteria.

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### Two die in far north Queensland as health authorities warn of spike in melioidosis

The Guardian, Other, 14/02/2025, Ben Smee

Two people have died in far north Queensland after contracting melioidosis, a tropical bacterial infection, prompting a warning from health authorities about a "very big" spike in cases possibly linked to recent heavy rainfall. Melioidosis is endemic in parts of Queensland and the Northern Territory , where it is often contracted from contaminated soil. It can also be spread via water or the air.

[Read More](#)

## Doctors urged to be alert for measles

Medical Forum, Other, 14/02/2025

Health professionals are urged to be alert for possible measles presentations after a case was reported in the State in early February. The case was identified in a returned overseas traveller who mainly frequented the East Perth area.

[Read More](#)

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### The game changer for women's health

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/02/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 20

A "natural" 3D mesh that could be customised to treat women with pelvic organ prolapse has been developed by Victorian researchers. Pelvic organ prolapse (POP) is a debilitating gynaecological condition that affects around one in four women, usually following childbirth. [...] The TGA first approves the use of the mesh in Australia.

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### Health Check: Vitura Health swoops on medical dope telehealth platform

NEWS.com.au, Other, 14/02/2025, Tim Boreham

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

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### ABC News, News Breakfast, 14/02/2025, James Glenday & Catherine Murphy

A group of Victorian health experts, including paramedics, is warning deaths from synthetic opioids may rise as more illicit drugs are laced with Nitazenes, which are more potent than heroin or fentanyl.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Crowne Plaza Terrigal faces Gosford Local Court over charges of unsafe food handling

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/02/2025, Satria Dyer-Darmawan

A popular Central Coast hotel has admitted to failing to comply with several food safety standards but will fight charges they were responsible for food laced with salmonella. Terrigal Pacific Hotel Pty Ltd,

trading as Crowne Plaza Terrigal Pacific, has denied it was responsible for a number of guests who fell ill after attending a conference more than two years ago.

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## AICIS

### NSW councils push for PFAS funds

Broken Hill Times, General News, 14/02/2025, Wade Stephens, Page 8

Lobby group Local Government New South Wales is seeking extra funding for municipalities in that state to monitor the levels of "forever chemicals" in local water supplies. At the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Per- and polyfluoroalkyl contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies, LGNSW warned that local councils could not shoulder the ongoing financial burden of addressing and managing PFAS risks alone.

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### PFOS - a case study

Inside Waste, General News, 01/02/2025, Ruth Jarman, Page 1

The world is made up of chemicals. When assessing risks from any chemical, it is important to acknowledge that the fundamental building blocks for the entire planet are chemicals. Whether it is the water we drink, the air we breathe, the food we eat, the ground we walk on, the houses we live in, the things we have in our houses or workplaces or what we ourselves are made of - everything is made from chemicals.

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