



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 22nd February 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports Alfred Health has faced criticism for allegedly allowing a doctor who praised Hamas on social media to resign, while a spokesperson for the hospital operator has insisted Dr Ghilan was reported to Victorian Police and AHPRA on December 7. AHPRA formally launched an investigation into Dr Ghilan on Friday following inquiries from the media.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports Health Minister Mark Butler and Tasmanian Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma have met to discuss options to fill the gap in maternity services that will be left when Healthscope closes the Hobart Private Hospital maternity ward in six months. "Everyone deserves access to safe, affordable and accessible maternity care, no matter their background or where they live ... We want women to have a choice on where they give birth ", Mr Butler said. *Also reported by:* [ABC Online](#)
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 1) reports the Victorian Healthcare Association has called on the state government for additional funding dedicated to the setting up of new health service networks in the May budget, claiming the money will be needed to ensure compliance and quality healthcare.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 2) reports patients in West Australia's public hospitals are waiting nearly two months before beginning treatment for lung cancer, according to data that shows

waiting times are up five per cent since the previous year, a sign that the current system needs expanding to meet the needs of increasing numbers of patients, according to Curtin University professor Fraser Brims.

- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 5) reports Sports Minister Anika Wells has announced 12.5 million in funding for Dementia Australia to establish a program for Australians suffering from CTE, alongside an education program on head trauma for schoolchildren, with former NRL star Wally Lewis speaking after the announcement on his experiences living with dementia after being diagnosed with suspected CTE in 2023. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#), [ABC Online](#)
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 6) reports there are calls for Sydney's Northern Beaches hospital to return to public hands after an inquiry found systemic failures in the hospital's management contributed to the death of toddler Joe Massa, while NSW Health Minister Ryan Park said the state government will implement all the recommendations of the review, saying a failure to listen to the infant's parents was at the heart of the failures.
- **The West Australian** (page 7) reports Cystic Fibrosis WA has said overcrowding and ageing facilities at the state's only adult outpatient clinic for the disorder are putting patients at risk of cross-infection that could result in deaths, with the organisation calling for urgent upgrades to the facilities.
- **ABC Online** reports the Northern Territory government has announced families affected by the closure of maternity services at Healthscope's Darwin Private Hospital will be transitioned to Royal Darwin Hospital following the closure of private maternity services in April.

MINISTER BUTLER

Job rehab for Hamas fan doctor

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/02/2025, Liam Mendes, Page 1

A Melbourne doctor who praised terrorist group Hamas and its former leader, Yahya Sinwar, has quietly begun work at a new hospital despite resigning from another just months ago after being exposed for his horrific social media posts. [...] A dossier sent to Health Minister Mark Butler two years ago blew the whistle on rising anti-Semitism in Australia's healthcare sector, but it appears the red flags were never acted upon.

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

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Baby talk

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/02/2025, Duncan Abey, Page 1

Tasmanian and federal health officials have resumed talks on the impending closure of Hobart Private Hospital's maternity ward, as stakeholders race the clock to find extra capacity for birthing services in southern Tasmania before August 20. A day after hospital operator Healthscope gave the state government six months' notice of its intention to cease maternity services at Hobart Private, Tasmanian Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma, and her federal counterpart Mark Butler held what both representatives described as "productive" discussions about potential solutions to the looming clinical deficit.

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

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Hike in bulk billing: MP

Gympie Today, General News, 21/02/2025, Arthur Gorrie, Page 3

People in Gympie's Wide Bay Burnett region are getting better publicly funded health care, Queensland Labor senator Murray Watt said this week. [...] In a joint statement with Health Minister Mark Butler, he said the government had also just announced big investments in women's health care, more doctors across regional and rural Queensland and more funding for Queensland's public hospitals.

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Conaghan slams decision on eye injections

Nambucca Valley News Of The Area, General News, 21/02/2025, Page 4

Pat Conaghan, Federal Member for Cowper, has slammed the Labor Government for its "reckless decision" to remove private health insurance rebates for intravitreal eye injections. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was contacted for comment.

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New mum 'devastated' other parents will miss Hobart Private Hospital maternity experience

Herald Sun, Other, 21/02/2025, Duncan Abey

New mum Alicia Read will be eternally grateful for the professional care and personal support she and baby Millie received from doctors and midwives at Hobart Private Hospital earlier this month. [...] Federal Minister for Health, Mark Butler "I'm sure Healthscope's decision will cause a lot of concern for people planning a birth at Hobart Private.

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

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Why children need 'protection' from zealous use of puberty blockers and hormone therapy

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/02/2025, Follow

Newcastle mum Jude Hunter says medical professionals failed her child – and shattered her entire family – after the teenager was prescribed cross-sex hormones following a one-hour appointment. [...] Caption: Senior child and adolescent psychiatrist Dr Jillian Spencer labels Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement of a review into gender-affirming care for minors as "grossly inadequate".

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

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Vice-chancellor's pay rise in year CDU profit flopped revealed

NT Independent, Other, 21/02/2025, David Wood

Charles Darwin University vice-chancellor Scott Bowman was given a pay rise in the same year the university reduced its profitability by close to \$40 million despite increasing revenue, CDU financial documents show. [...] This is despite Mr Bowman having reportedly written to federal Health Minister Mark Butler in December 2023, suggesting the work to attain the accreditation had begun in at least December 2022.

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Three reasons why Australia is unlikely to follow Trump's anti-trans campaign

Monash University, Other, 21/02/2025

Many people's heads are spinning at the rapid rate that Donald Trump has been signing executive orders since becoming president – 70 in the 30 days since he took office. [...] The first is that federal Minister for Health Mark Butler on 25 January announced a NHMRC review into gender-affirming care for trans and gender-diverse children, with a view to developing national guidelines for consistent and appropriate clinical practice for young Australians.

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Is anyone noticing that the usage of the myHealthRecord is on a tear?

Australian Health Information Technology, Other, 21/02/2025, Dr David G More

Healthcare providers will be forced to upload key health information to My Health Record by default after laws designed to improve the utility of the national digital health platform passed parliament. [...] "We have discussed this issue with the Department of Health and Aged Care at length and we have

been assured that there is no plan to extend the use of this power to GPs or other specialists in the near future."

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 21/02/2025, Leon Compton

Interview with Jacquie Petrusma, Tasmanian Liberals. Petrusma mentions that their number one priority is ensuring that mothers, babies, and families have the appropriate support and services they need during birthing journeys. She states that she has had a positive conversation with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler this morning about what support the Federal Government can assist with and because they do believe that with some support alongside Calvary Lenah Valley Hospital, they can absorb an increase in maternity services capacity from Royal Hobart Hospital.

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

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MINISTER WELLS

Wally admits he gets embarrassed by his dementia

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/02/2025, Georgia Clelland, Page 5

Wally Lewis has opened up about his struggles with probable chronic traumatic encephalopathy, two years after his diagnosis, revealing the devastating impact of dementia on his daily life. [...] The federal funding, announced by Sports Minister Anika Wells on Friday, will be directed to Dementia Australia to establish a national pilot program supporting Australians living with CTE.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy ITK \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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Albo back in town to pledge \$13.2m for Dragons' high performance centre

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 21/02/2025, Glen Humphries

The Dragons will land \$13.6 million in federal funding if Labor wins the next election - the third financial promise for the Illawarra in a week. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells said the new facility would help the growth of women's participation in sport.

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Albo's funding promises a 'vote of confidence' in the Illawarra region

Milton Ulladulla Times, Other, 21/02/2025, Glen Humphries & Joel Ehsman

The Dragons will land \$13.6 million in federal funding if Labor wins the next election - the third financial promise for the Illawarra in a week. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells said the new facility would help the growth of women's participation in sport.

Also reported by: [Southern Highland News \(Online\)](#), [South Coast Register \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 21/02/2025, Natalie Forrest

Athletes from some of Australia's most popular sports have issued a strong warning to Olympic organisers, as they are not only without training facilities and it could be at least a year until what sports will be included in the Brisbane Games. Federal Minister for Sport Anika Wells has cited several considerations including gender equality and team sizes in working out what sports will feature.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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DEPARTMENT

Home care pricing survey underway

Community Care Review, Other, 21/02/2025

The Department of Health and Aged Care is urging home care providers to respond to the survey emailed to them about the prices they intend to charge under the new Support at Home program. The department is seeking a response by 26 February and has encouraged providers to email SAH.Pricing.Survey@health.gov.au if they have not received the survey.

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Health re-ups with Salesforce for vaccine data

InnovationAus, Other, 21/02/2025, Joseph Brookes

The Health department has signed up for another year of Salesforce to help manage its COVID-19 vaccine data, after tightening assurance controls to verify its technology suppliers' data security and privacy. [...] Salesforce struck a 12-month contract with the Department of Health and Aged Care in early 2022 to support its COVID-19 Vaccine Administration System (CVAS).

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Govt funding plays key role in worker suicide prevention

Safety Solutions, Other, 21/02/2025, Mates Helpline

Federal government funding has been a huge support for mental health and suicide prevention within the construction, energy, mining and manufacturing sectors. That's according to MATES Australia, which has been able to support thousands of workers and industry leaders within high-risk industries thanks to Department of Health and Aged Care funding.

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AMA 'frustrated and disappointed' with extent of private insurance reform

The Medical Republic, Other, 21/02/2025, Holly Payne

The AMA is pushing for the Department of Health and Aged Care to go further with proposed reforms to the private health sector, arguing that "the lack of genuine reform" over the last 20 years has left the system in need of root-and-branch overhaul. DoHAC's consultation paper on private health reform options lays out reforms across six areas : second-tier default benefits; private hospital cash flows and administrative costs; patient access to hospital-in-the-home programs; overseas-trained psychiatrists; accessibility of maternity care; and risk equalisation in insurance.

DoHAC releases 'PIP pimp' PHN report three years late

The Medical Republic, Other, 21/02/2025, Laura Woodrow

The Department of Health and Aged Care has released its latest Primary Health Network annual performance report, suggesting everything is fine and dandy, a far cry from the damning Australian National Audit Office report published last year. In February 2024, the ANAO released a scathing report showing that the efficacy of the PHN model was "not demonstrated" due to a lack of baseline data and relevant performance measures.

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Is anyone noticing that the usage of the myHealthRecord is on a tear?

Australian Health Information Technology, Other, 21/02/2025, Dr David G More

Healthcare providers will be forced to upload key health information to My Health Record by default after laws designed to improve the utility of the national digital health platform passed parliament. [...] "We have discussed this issue with the Department of Health and Aged Care at length and we have been assured that there is no plan to extend the use of this power to GPs or other specialists in the near future."

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MIX 92.7, 08:00 News, 21/02/2025

Headspace Caloundra has had its opening and is now offering free confidential health support for Sunshine Coast young people. The new centre is operated by Lives Lived Well, with funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Shame of taxis highlights need for protection

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 22/02/2025, Page 32

At its most basic, the act of hailing or booking a taxi and then getting into it is an act of trust. We trust that a driver will take us where we want to go in a timely and cost-effective manner, that they will drive safely and that they will not misuse the advantage of having us confined in a moving vehicle under their control.

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Taxi industry is taking us for a ride

The Saturday Age, Editorials, 22/02/2025, Page 38

At its most basic, the act of hailing or booking a taxi and then getting into it is an act of trust. We trust that a driver will take us where we want to go in a timely and cost-effective manner, that they will drive safely and that they will not misuse the advantage of having us confined in a moving vehicle under their control.

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'We took a punt ... I think that's paid off'

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 22/02/2025, Brodie Everist, Page 2

Strong demand for aged care places in Bendigo has vindicated a call to build a new \$13.3 million residential wing in Kennington, according to the CEO of a major service provider. Andrew Kinnerly, chief executive officer of Uniting AgeWell, was on Wednesday one of about 70 attendees at the opening of Strath-Haven's new Reservoir Wing, where 22 residents have already settled into the 30-bed building extension.

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Lying in wait: Data reveals bottleneck for elderly seeking in-home support

Newcastle Herald, Other, 21/02/2025, Gabriel Fowler

Thousands of older people living in the Hunter and Central Coast regions are waiting on federally-funded home care packages to support them to stay in their own homes. More than 1500 Hunter residents and 1100 people living on the Central Coast were among the 20,000 on waitlists for packages throughout NSW.

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Resident experience surveys return

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 21/02/2025

The Resident Experience Survey has opened for 2025, with older Australians again given the opportunity to talk about their experience of living in an aged care home. The survey is conducted face-to-face with residents by an independent third party on behalf of the department, as previous feedback indicated participants – and their families and carers – preferred to share with someone not directly related to their care.

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Providers look forward to a 'person-centered' future

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 21/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

While some providers expressed concern to Australian Ageing Agenda about the digital readiness of the the aged care sector for the 1 July changes, other providers said they felt confident in their preparations and welcomed the transition period as a time of positive change. From July, the new Aged Care Act is set to bring major changes to the sector, introducing new regulatory frameworks, reporting requirements, staffing quality indicators and provider obligations.

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POPULATION HEALTH

No room for homeless

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/02/2025, Page 23

More than 120,000 Australians are not getting the support they need when they encounter homelessness, according to a landmark analysis conducted by Homelessness Australia ahead of the federal election. According to figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Productivity Commission and Impact Economics, 75,277 people are turned away by overstretched homelessness services each year.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\)](#), [\(Perth\)](#).

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Rehab centre views aired

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 22/02/2025, Wade Stephens, Page 3

A vocal crowd aired their objections and support of a \$36 million alcohol and other drugs treatment facility in Merbein during a community information drop-in session on Thursday. Representatives from the Health Department, Victorian Health Building Authority, Sunraysia Community Health Services,

Odyssey Victoria, the project architects, and other professionals were available at the Merbein Football Netball Club's rooms to answer questions between 4pm and 7pm.

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Issue could sway voters

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 22/02/2025, Aisling Brennan, Page 16

Voters are looking for increased support for homelessness services, as more than 120,000 Australians facing homelessness reveal they're not getting the support they need. [...] The analysis, which cross-referenced data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Productivity Commission and Impact Economics, revealed these unmet needs could be fulfilled with an overall funding boost of \$671m.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Young cardiac stats

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/02/2025, Page 19

About 60 per cent of people aged 18-40 who experience cardiac arrest outside hospital die before reaching medical help, with up to 16 per cent surviving to hospital discharge. A University of California review found that most cardiac arrests happened while people were resting or asleep.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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Lung cancer fails exposed

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 22/02/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 2

Most West Australians suspected to have lung cancer the leading cause of cancer deaths in the State are waiting almost two months to begin life-saving treatments. The National Lung Cancer screening program is due to roll out in July but Curtin University professor Fraser Brims believes there is more work to be done to ensure Australia is ready.

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Lives threatened at clinic

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 22/02/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 7

Overcrowded cystic fibrosis centre fails to meet national standards Overcrowded, ageing facilities at WA's only adult outpatient clinic for cystic fibrosis is putting lives at risk, according to the peak body for the disorder. The WA Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre, run out of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, opened in 1978 when the average life expectancy for those with cystic fibrosis was just to 11 years old.

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The king's memory battle

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 22/02/2025, Georgia Clelland, Page 1

Rugby league legend Wally Lewis has opened up about his struggles with probable chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), two years after his diagnosis, revealing the impact of dementia on his daily life but vowing to regain control. Speaking following the federal government's announcement of a \$12.5m funding boost for dementia support, the Queensland icon, 65, shared how the condition has turned simple conversations into an "embarrassment".

Also reported by: [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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On the case of Hunter's biggest killer

Newcastle Herald, General News, 22/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 46

A new health project aims to prevent thousands of heart attacks and strokes in the Hunter by treating

people earlier for high cholesterol. University of Newcastle Professor Aaron Sverdllov, a cardiologist, said high cholesterol was a "silent killer".

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West Australians call for overhaul of the State's only adult cystic fibrosis outpatient clinic

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 21/02/2025, Claire Sadler

Overcrowded, ageing facilities at WA's only adult outpatient clinic for cystic fibrosis are putting lives at risk, according to the peak body for the disorder. The WA Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre, run out of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, opened in 1978 when the average life expectancy was just 11 years old.

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

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New best practice guide for lung cancer testing

Medical Forum, Other, 21/02/2025

The Lung Cancer Molecular Testing Best Practice Recommendations aim to give patients access to the most appropriate molecular testing. It is hoped that the new recommendations will avoid unnecessary biopsies, reduce treatment delays, and improve survival outcomes as well as help patients to live longer and healthier lives with fewer side effects.

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Calls for national approach to breast density reporting

Medical Forum, Other, 21/02/2025

Some 10% of women have high breast density, which significantly increases the risk of developing breast cancer and impacts the effectiveness of detecting the disease through 2D mammography. Breast Cancer Network Australia wants breast density to be reported through Australia's national screening program, BreastScreen.

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PRIMARY CARE

Courage of the sister: uncovering one of medicine's most confounding scandals

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/02/2025, Christine Middap, Page 1

Amanda Duncan felt surprisingly calm as she gathered her notes, took a deep breath, and strode into a parliamentary inquiry to drop a bombshell on a scandal-ridden Tasmanian hospital. The young registered nurse and midwife wasn't nervous because she was prepared.

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Hospitals' cash cry in budget squeeze

The Saturday Age, General News, 22/02/2025, Broede Carmody, Page 1

Another funding fight is brewing between Victorian hospitals and the Allan government just months after a battle triggered by spending crackdowns and a once-in-a-generation restructure in the second half of last year. The peak body representing the state's 76 public health services has called on Treasurer Jaclyn Symes to use her first budget to provide hundreds of millions of dollars of additional funding to implement the new health service networks, even as the public Continued Page 12

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

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Hospital told: You should have listened to Joe's mum and dad

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/02/2025, Angus Thomson & Nick Newling, Page 6

Doctors and nurses who treated a two-year-old boy who died at Northern Beaches hospital should

have listened to his parents, NSW Health Minister Ryan Park said as he flagged greater scrutiny on the hospital's private operators. An investigation into the September death of Joe Massa, two months shy of his second birthday, found serious individual and systemic failures in the hospital's management of his soaring heart rate and deteriorating condition in the hours leading up to his cardiac arrest.

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Hospital under pressure after child death tragedy

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/02/2025, Lisa Wachsmuth, Page 11

Teal MP Sophie Scamps says a "line needs to be drawn in the sand" after the death of a little boy following a misdiagnosis and critical delays at Northern Beaches Hospital. Dr Scamps said Northern Beaches, run under a public-private partnership (PPP) sanctioned by the former Liberal state government, needed to revert to a public hospital.

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She had her perfect end

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/02/2025, Cydonee Mardon, Page 13

It was exactly how she wanted it to be. Kay Henderson spent her last morning on earth with family, friends, puppies and favourite feline Byron as she sipped on bubble tea, had her friend braid her hair and giggled and grooved in her chair before it was time for the final goodbye.

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Shock at Healthscope closure

Herald Sun, General News, 22/02/2025, Spud Harrap, Page 15

One of the nation's largest private hospital operators, Healthscope, has shut down another location, continuing the trend of private hospital closures across the nation. Healthscope this week announced its decision to close down the North Eastern Rehabilitation Centre in Ivanhoe.

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

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Shocking symptom of a wider problem

Courier Mail, Editorials, 22/02/2025, Page 67

That Queensland's largest hospital has been reduced to bedding down patients in a gymnasium is utterly scandalous. That the record \$28.9bn health budget allocated for 2024-25 has left patients recuperating in beds while exercise classes are allegedly conducted nearby is an insult to not merely the patients of our "world class" health system, but to all Queenslanders.

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'At risk': Diminished food quality fears for LGH patients

Launceston Examiner, General News, 22/02/2025, Matt Maloney, Page 2

Labor has said food quality and jobs will be at risk should the state government decide to shift food services from the Launceston General Hospital. But Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma says food quality will not be downgraded as the government spends hundreds of millions of dollars on the hospital's redevelopment, which included upgrades to kitchen and food services.

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'Life-changing project' on the cards

Launceston Examiner, General News, 22/02/2025, Saree Salter, Page 2

St Giles' Good House project has received an election commitment of \$3.74 million from Liberal MP Bridget Archer, on behalf of the Federal Opposition. The coalition has promised to fund the project, however, the Albanese Government has made no firm commitment.

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Haines talks up her campaign efforts

Indi MP Helen Haines says she does not have to raise the Border's hospital plight with Anthony Albanese in a social setting because "I have the ear of the Prime Minister in his office". The independent was responding to The Border Mail asking Dr Haines whether she spoke to Mr Albanese about the hospital at a soiree with cross-benchers hosted by the PM at his Canberra residence earlier this month.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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MP's bill to address barriers to abortion

Border Mail, General News, 22/02/2025, Tahlia Sinclair, Page 21

Further abortion reforms could help ease access concerns in regional NSW, but they won't be a catchall solution. Five years after decriminalisation only three of the 220 public hospitals in NSW are regularly providing abortion services.

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Dying safely at home has never been easier or more desirable

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 22/02/2025, Dr Jaimon, Page 79

Dying at home in your own bed is not only the preferred way to go for most people, but it will also save taxpayers millions of dollars in health costs. It is estimated 70 per cent of patients receiving palliative care would prefer to die at home, but only 12 per cent actually do.

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Hospitals insist on extra cash to aid shake-up as state tightens belt

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 21/02/2025, Broede Carmody

Another funding fight is brewing between Victorian hospitals and the Allan government just months after a battle triggered by spending crackdowns and a once-in-a-generation restructure in the second half of last year. The peak body representing the state's 76 public health services has called on Treasurer Jaclyn Symes to use her first budget to provide hundreds of millions of dollars of additional funding to implement the new health service networks, even as the public sector is braced for widespread cuts.

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Gold Coast Private Hospital maternity ward closure fears after Healthscope shuts wards

The Courier Mail, Other, 20/02/2025, Jackie Sinnerton

Fears are rising over the long-term future of the Gold Coast Private Hospital maternity unit as Healthscope closes wards in Hobart and Darwin. The Gold Coast Private and Brisbane Private are the two maternity Healthscope hospitals in Queensland and the National Association of Specialist Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (NASOG) fear more cuts, putting extra pressure on already overworked public maternity services.

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

[Read More](#)

Blow out in maximum wait times to see some public hospital specialists in South Australia

The Courier Mail, Other, 21/02/2025, Brad Crouch

Wait times to see a public hospital specialist continue to blow out, with latest data showing 12 key specialities now with a maximum wait of five years or more — including four of more than six years. This compares to 11 with waits of five years and two of six years in the previous quarter.

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

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NSW Health Minister Ryan Park rules out further privatisation of health services

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/02/2025, Holly Truelove

The privatisation of health services is not the model of healthcare that NSW Health Minister Ryan Park “will be ever implementing”. In an interview with the ABC on Friday morning, Mr Park spoke about the climate health services are facing.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

New postnatal care options announced for families affected by Darwin Private Hospital maternity services closure

ABC Online, Other, 21/02/2025, Oliver Chaseling

The Northern Territory government has announced two new options for private postnatal care for families affected by the shock closure of birthing services at Darwin Private Hospital (DPH). Operator Healthscope announced on Thursday that private maternity services at DPH would end from April 17 , with April 10 the last date for patients to be admitted.

[Read More](#)

GP ‘gag clause’ for VAD to be scrapped

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/02/2025

Victorian GPs could soon be allowed to raise voluntary assisted dying with their patients for the first time after the State Government vowed to update laws currently 'impeding access'. The RACGP supports patient-centred decisions in end-of-life care, and 'respects that this may include palliative care and requests for VAD'.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 21/02/2025, Manny Tsigas

The Northern Territory government says expectant families who will be locked out of Darwin Private Hospital will have the option of a hotel based postnatal retreat. Healthscope has announced the hospital's maternity ward, the only private service in the territory, will close in two months.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 21/02/2025, David Woiwod & Natalie Barr

A Sydney nurses' strike that was meant to take place today at Sydney Hospital has been cancelled at the 11th hour. It comes as hundreds of nurses and midwives were initially looking to walk-off the job at the Northern Beaches Hospital for 26 hours, but the Fair Work Commission has put a ban on all stop-work action for the next 24 hours.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 21/02/2025, Melissa Downes

Queensland nurses have launched a campaign for higher wages, negotiating for a pay deal with the new government. The bargaining comes as Queensland Health continues to battle issues such as overcrowding in hospitals.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today , 21/02/2025, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo

Overcrowding is worsening at Queensland's biggest hospital that some patients have had to be treated in its gym. The hospital claims patient safety is the top consideration, however, the AMA is calling for an increase in both infrastructure capacity and workforce.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 21/02/2025, Anton Enus

One of Australia's largest healthcare providers, Healthscope, is looking to stop offering maternity services in Tas and the NT. In a statement, Healthscope mentioned that their decision to close maternity wards in Hobart and Darwin is due to ongoing workforce challenges and a significant decline in private births.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, News Night, 21/02/2025, Rhiannon Elston

The parents of a toddler who died at the emergency department of Sydney's Northern Beaches hospital are calling for an independent inquiry. Private hospital operator Healthscope has apologised after the parents desperate pleas to hospital staff were allegedly ignored.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 21/02/2025, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Dr Kerrie Aust, ACT President, AMA. Compere mentions that Australian healthcare leaders are gathering just up the road in Sydney for a summit on psychosocial safety in health workplaces. Aust believes that these types of conversations are important to have as the mental health of doctors used to be something that was hidden and something that people were discouraged from talking about from both the doctors' and patients' sides.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Force of nature: 'ADHD diagnosis changed my life'

Weekend Australian, Sport, 22/02/2025, Jamie Pandaram, Page 46

Carlo Tizzano hated coming home with his school reports. "Distracts others in class," was the common gripe of his teachers. Then came his professional rugby career.

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

GPs to diagnose and treat ADHD under new plan

Medical Forum, Other, 21/02/2025

Under a new proposal by WA Labor, if re-elected, GPs scope of practice would be extended to provide specialist support for people with ADHD. They will also be able to consult directly with psychiatrists specialising in ADHD as part of the proposed GP ASK pilot program. The program would allow GPs to be advised directly by non-GP specialists over the phone or through secure messaging.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

'Last resort' for mental health nurses

Herald Sun, General News, 22/02/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 29

Mental health nurses in the public system have begun "last resort" industrial action after more than seven months of EBA negotiations failed to produce a deal. Almost 4000 nurses began refusing to

work overtime or be redeployed on Friday morning under the stage one actions, in a move the union acknowledged may cause "some disruptions".

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

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

Major medical boost as 160 nurses scrub in

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 22/02/2025, Page 3

One of Townsville University hospitals largest cohorts of nurses and midwives have started the next chapter of their careers, with one graduate overcoming obstacles to fulfil her childhood dream. The doors to the hospital recently welcomed 160 nurses and 24 midwifery graduates.

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

Providing help through dark moments

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/02/2025, Bridget Clarke, Page 18

Mental Health Nurses Day is a time to express gratitude and push for stronger mental health care, nurse Stuart O'Neill says. Mr O'Neill is one of 25,000 mental health nurses nationwide who were recognised on Friday for World Mental Health Nurses Day (MHND).

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

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Plan for more nurses, midwives at Base

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 22/02/2025, John Conroy, Page 9

The Victorian Government has announced plans to lift the minimum nurse and midwife to patient ratios, and will spend \$101.3 million to help hospitals with hiring and rostering. Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas said the changes to the Safe Patient Care Act, which were introduced to Parliament on Tuesday, would result in more nurses and midwives on shift at all hours of the day.

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

Hospital security guards dealing with violence are owed almost three years in back pay

Northern Territory News, Other, 21/02/2025, Brad Crouch

Hospital security guards dealing with rising rates of violence are owed almost three years back pay with no sign of when they will get the cash. Furious guards accuse the state government of "dragging the chain" in forcing contractor MSS Security to pay the money during a cost-of-living-crisis — but the SA Health says the calculations are "complex."

[Read More](#)

New cohort of medical students look forward to gaining experience in Kalgoorlie-Boulder

West Australian, Other, 21/02/2025, Carwyn Monck

A cohort of medical students will immerse themselves in regional health during a 12-month placement with the Rural Clinical School of WA's Kalgoorlie-Boulder branch. Twelve students will spend their penultimate year of study in the Goldfields focusing on a range of theoretical and hands-on learning experiences across the disciplines of general practice, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, ophthalmology and psychiatry.

[Read More](#)

Mental health plan to protect both doctors and patients

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 21/02/2025, Farid Farid

Long hours, complex operations, competition to succeed at the highest level and looking after the lives of patients exact a heavy mental toll on Australian doctors. So the profession is set to examine itself with a new medical initiative to remedy the mental health of Australia's healthcare professionals.

[Read More](#)

Health homes win

Shepparton News Online, Other, 21/02/2025, Zoe McMaugh

A share of \$23 million is to be spent to establish housing for health staff in Deniliquin. It is one of three communities in the Murrumbidgee Local Health District announced to share the funding allocation, alongside Griffith and Lake Cargelligo.

[Read More](#)

Nurses and midwives welcomed

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 21/02/2025, Em Jensen

Twenty new nursing and midwifery graduates have been welcomed to the team at the Far West Local Health District, and the hope is they'll provide a boost to health services locally. Of the 20 graduates, three are local nurses with the remaining 17 from throughout New South Wales and interstate.

[Read More](#)

Funding boost for women's health includes more GP training

Medical Forum, Other, 21/02/2025

The \$573.3m funding boost will provide more training for GPs and health professionals, add new contraceptive medicines and menopausal therapies to the PBS, build new endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics and increase Medicare rebates for menopause assessment. RACGP Vice President and WA Chair Dr Ramya Raman said the new funding package recognised the unique costs that female patients bore and provided greater choice for their healthcare.

[Read More](#)

Rural health snapshot reveals 'shameful failure'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/02/2025

A report once again showing significant health disparities between country and city patients is a 'wake-up call' to political parties as we head towards the polls, the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) says. The Alliance's Rural Health in Australia Snapshot 2025 describes a confronting reality for the 7.3 million Australians living in rural and remote areas, with poorer health outcomes, lower life expectancy and reduced access to healthcare services compared with those in the major cities.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Life lost, life ruined as two paths collide

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/02/2025, Paul Garvey, Page 11

Rhys Bellinge seemingly had it all. Elizabeth Pearce had it all in front of her. [...] Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency records show two other Bellinges with the same middle name as Bruce: Rhys and Brynn, who graduated as a doctor of medicine from the University of Queensland in 2020.

Burnout widespread amongst the professions

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 21/02/2025, Megan Haggan

A new study looks at the top reasons Australian health professionals are leaving practice – but what about pharmacists? Research from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, published in CSIRO Publishing's Australian health review, has found that mental burnout is the top reason why health professionals are leaving the registerable professions surveyed.

[Read More](#)

Practitioners reminded on discrimination, racism

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 21/02/2025, Megan Haggan

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has issued a statement noting that safe health care "relies on trust between patients and practitioners". "Discrimination and racism erode that trust and put lives at risk," it warned.

[Read More](#)

Mental burnout causing health practitioners to quit

Medical Forum, Other, 21/02/2025

A new survey by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency found more than one in 10 practitioners are either considering quitting within a year or are unsure about their future. Ahpra surveyed 25,752 health practitioners and analysed a decade of registration data across nine specialities including medical radiation practice, occupational therapy, dental and optometry as part of its Workforce Retention and Attrition Project.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Bold new plan to help tackle youth crime

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 22/02/2025, Nick McGrath, Page 6

Can rugby league help curb the region's youth crime crisis? NSW Premier Chris Minns is hoping so, in fact, ahead of the National Rugby League's opening round spectacular in Las Vegas, he's going all-in on the notion, and its headed to Tamworth.

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SPORT

AFL player charged with rape and sexual assault

Weekend Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 22/02/2025, Hannah Wilcox, Page 3

An AFL player has been charged with rape in Victoria's third high-profile case kept secret in the past few months. The man, unable to be identified for legal reasons, was charged on Thursday with two counts of sexual assault, one count of rape and one count of sexual assault by compelling sexual touching.

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

'Think again' call on Olympic option

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/02/2025, Jamie Walker, Page 8

Former Queensland premier Campbell Newman has put the state government on notice that he will

conduct lawfare against the new Olympic stadium if it goes to Brisbane's "Central Park". Mr Newman is on an unlikely unity ticket with his old political nemesis, Annastacia Palaszczuk, to scratch inner-city Victoria Park as an option for the \$3.4bn-plus build.

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

On a slow track to 2032

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/02/2025, Jamie Walker, Page 19

It seems odd to be talking about time constraints when there are 2707 days to go until the starter's gun is fired at the 2032 Brisbane Olympics. But here we are, watching the clock.

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

AFL rape charge

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 22/02/2025, Regan Hodge, Page 1

An AFL player has been charged with rape and a string of other serious sexual offences. Police on Friday confirmed the man had been charged with two counts of sexual assault, one of rape and one of sexual assault by compelling sexual touching.

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Hawks fly and Waverley Park for sale

The Saturday Age, Business News, 22/02/2025, Nicole Lindsay, Page 16

It's the end of an era at Waverley Park as the Hawks fly south and put the historic Mulgrave football oval and its grandstand up for sale. With the AFL club's new \$100 million Dingley Village HQ almost ready, Hawthorn are selling the Waverley headquarters and training facility with vacant possession and the adjoining Goodlife Health Club.

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

'No one is saying that it's not worthy'

Daily Liberal, General News, 22/02/2025, Nick Guthrie, Page 7

Josh Black knows reversing a \$50 million decision is an extremely difficult thing to do, but that isn't stopping the mayor from fighting for the Dubbo Sports Hub's future. The head of Dubbo Regional Council led a delegation to NSW Parliament in Sydney on Wednesday, February 19, and spoke to as many politicians as he could to help build support for the project.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Shock health risks of artificial sweeteners revealed

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 22/02/2025, Tracy Swartz, Page 4

Not all artificial sweeteners are created equal. A new study out of Sweden reports that one of the most popular sugar substitutes found in diet drinks, chewing gum and low-sugar yoghurt raises insulin levels in animals, potentially increasing their risk of heart attacks and stroke over time.

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

Off-switch found for known driver of prostate cancer

The New Daily, Other, 21/02/2025, Imma Perfetto

A new study gives hope for improved treatment of prostate cancer, the second most diagnosed cancer, and the fifth leading cause of cancer death, among men worldwide. In fact, one of the researchers behind the find has gone so far as to say the discovery could "stop the progression of implicated cancers in their track".

[Read More](#)

'Acts like a bait': Alarming finding about common artificial sweetener

The New Daily, Other, 21/02/2025

A disturbing study had sparked more confusion about the potential ill-health effects of consuming one of the most common artificial sweeteners. The study – a combined effort by Sweden's Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and Chinese colleagues – looked at the effect on mice of aspartame – an artificial sweetener commonly used in diet soft drinks and baked goods.

[Read More](#)

Paxlovid not helping vaccinated

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 21/02/2025

Researchers have reported that despite a doubling of prescriptions for COVID antiviral Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir-ritonavir) in Canada in 2022, there was no corresponding decrease in hospitalisations or death rates among highly vaccinated older adults. Paxlovid has been shown in trials to reduce COVID-related hospitalisations among middle-aged unvaccinated patients, but not vaccinated middle-aged adults.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Education the only way we can ever Close Gap

Northern Territory News, General News, 22/02/2025, Matt Cunningham, Page 20

The latest Closing the Gap targets released by the Productivity Commission make for some pretty depressing reading. Just five of 19 targets are on track, there's not enough data to assess four targets, one target is showing no change and in four target areas we're going backwards.

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

Culture Kings founder travels for bizarre medical treatment

NEWS.com.au, Other, 21/02/2025, Heath Parkes-Hupton

The co-founder of an Australian streetwear giant has detailed the bizarre health procedure he has undergone in Mexico – which includes having his blood drained four times. Simon Beard, who started Culture Kings with wife Tah-nee, has provided social media followers with updates on the “oil change” he paid \$100,000 for.

[Read More](#)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses experience harmful racism in workplaces

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 21/02/2025, Micah Peters & Odette Best

An Indigenous nurse-led research project recently investigated the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses in Queensland who face racism in their workplaces. The research, now published in Collegian, highlights that racism is a significant barrier to the personal well-being, professional development, and workforce engagement of these nurses.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Vax hope for TB

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/02/2025, Page 19

A novel vaccine that boosts immunity against tuberculosis (TB) has been shown to be effective in pioneering pre-clinical trials. The study, led by researchers at the University of Sydney, the Centenary Institute and Monash University, found the LNP-mRNA vaccine was effective in triggering an immune defence response that helped to destroy cells infected with TB.

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Vaxxas avian flu patch trial

Courier Mail, Business News, 22/02/2025, Glen Norris, Page 69

Brisbane needle-free vaccine company Vaxxas is getting to the pointy end in the battle to fight global diseases. Vaxxas has enrolled 258 healthy participants in Victoria and Queensland to evaluate the safety and immune response of an avian influenza vaccine using its revolutionary needlefree vaccine patch, known as HD-MAP.

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Death prompts warning in flood-affected areas

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 22/02/2025, Page 14

An elderly person has died from the serious infectious disease, melioidosis, which can be contracted from contaminated water. The Townsville Public Health Unit said the elderly person died from melioidosis in the past week, while there have been three new cases of dengue virus.

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Third melioidosis death

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 22/02/2025, Kyle Rode, Page 3

Another death from melioidosis has been confirmed, bringing the total number of deaths from the flood-borne infectious disease to three. The Townsville Public Health Unit has revealed the latest death was an elderly person from Ingham.

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Death from flood disease

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 22/02/2025, Page 22

Townsville has recorded its first death from melioidosis in the wake of the 2025 floods. The Townsville Public Health Unit has confirmed an elderly person died from melioidosis in the past week, while three new cases of dengue virus were also being investigated.

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'Very infectious': NSW Health warns Aussies to monitor for measles symptoms

The Australian, Other, 21/02/2025, Ria Pandey

Health authorities have urged residents to stay alert for symptoms of measles after an infected individual visited several places in Sydney over the last seven days. The traveller had returned from South East Asia where there are ongoing outbreaks of measles in several countries including Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia, NSW Health said on Friday.

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

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Measles alert issued for Sydney after traveller returns from Asia and visits Town Hall, QVB, Myer and Westfield Eastgardens

7news.com.au, Other, 21/02/2025, Demi Huang

People who have visited cafes and shops in Rosebery, Alexandria, Eastgardens, and Botany should also stay alert for symptoms. A confirmed case of measles has prompted health authorities to issue warnings for popular locations in Sydney , including the CBD.

[Read More](#)

Urgent health warning after traveller suffering from highly infectious illness visited dozens of shops in major Aussie city including Westfield,

Bunnings and Myer

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/02/2025, Zak Wheeler

A returning traveller from Southeast Asia has entered Australia while infected with measles and visited several of Sydney's busiest areas before realising. NSW Health have urged anyone who frequented the city's CBD since February 14 to be on the lookout for developing symptoms.

[Read More](#)

Health warning issued after Murray Valley Encephalitis case confirmed in Karratha

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 21/02/2025

A case of Murray Valley encephalitis has been confirmed in Karratha, prompting renewed health warnings about mosquito-borne diseases in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions. The patient, an overseas traveller in their 50s, is believed to have contracted the infection in late January while in the west Pilbara region.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Star biotech Telix in \$1.2b revenue pledge

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 22/02/2025, Michael Smith, Page 27

Nuclear medicine Telix Pharmaceuticals forecast revenue of up to \$1.23 billion in fiscal 2025 ahead of a critical year for the ASX nuclear medicine company, which has three new cancer diagnosis products scheduled to hit the market. Shares in Telix, which ...

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Culture Kings founder travels for bizarre medical treatment Millionaire undergoes \$100k treatment to ... remove microplastics

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/02/2025, Follow

The co-founder of an Australian streetwear giant has detailed the bizarre health procedure he has undergone in Mexico – which includes having his blood drained four times. [...] The treatment is not available in Australia and has not been approved by the Australia Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

McDonald's responds to claims Brisbane man found sharp plastic in burger

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 21/02/2025, Eleanor Katelaris

A Brisbane dad claims he has ongoing health issues after swallowing something in his Macca's burger

that shouldn't have been there. 2 min read A Brisbane father who mistakenly swallowed and choked on a sharp piece of plastic while eating a McDonald's Quarter Pounder has shared his harrowing experience.

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AICIS

2GB, Drive, 21/02/2025, Clinton Maynard

Three staff and five students have been taken to a hospital due to a possible gas leak at a school in Mascot. Latest tests reveal all current samples from the Blue Mountains water supply are below safe levels for PFAS, according to Australian guidelines.

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