



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 24th February 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sydney Morning Herald \(page 3\)](#) reports that Opposition Leader Peter Dutton announced that the Coalition would match the ALP's \$8.5 billion investment into Medicare if they are elected at the next federal election. Health Minister Mark Butler said: "Remember them saying that months before Dutton tried to abolish bulk-billing and cut \$50 billion from our public hospitals? You bet. He'll say he loves Medicare! He'll protect Medicare. But he doesn't. He won't. Medicare is not in this man's DNA."
- The [Daily Telegraph \(page 5\)](#) reports that up to 17 per cent of non-concession card holders in November said that they were unable to pay for a prescribed medication, a 50 per cent increase from the 11 per cent reported in April 2022. Health Minister Mark Butler said that the government's medication reforms helped save \$1.2 billion in out-of-pocket costs since 2022.
- The [Australian Financial Review \(page 7\)](#) reports that the AMA and RACGP presidents said that the ALP's \$8.5 billion Medicare pledge would affect low-income areas more than high-income areas and that doctors may rush consultations to capitalise on the increased incentives. Health Minister Mark Butler said that the Coalition's claims that the bulk-billing rate was higher during their time in government was a result of inflated data from Covid-19.
- The [Hobart Mercury \(page 4\)](#) reports that Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff has said that he was "very concerned" about Healthscope's decision to close its maternity ward, coming after

Tasmanian Health Minister Jacqui Petrusma met with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on Friday.

- **The Australian (page 5)** reports that Catholic Health Australia has called for the federal government to subsidise the rents of aged-care staff, warning of increases to costs for aged-care residents. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said that more work can be done on the federal government's aged-care reforms, but that a taskforce had been set up to implement the changes.
- The **Sydney Morning Herald (page 3)** reports that health insurers have proposed a plan to allow its clients to nominate a GP or midwife to co-ordinate end-to-end maternity packages spanning a pregnancy.
- **The Australian (page 3)** reports that international trials have shown that the sugar substitute aspartame led to mice producing symptoms of heart disease, including more insulin, having higher levels of inflammation and developing fatty plaques in their arteries.
- **The Australian (page 3)** reports that a study by Monash University has found that women are more likely to delay calling an emergency ambulance when suffering heart attack symptoms, increasing the risk of harm.
- **The ABC (online)** reports that a study by the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine has found that 50 per cent of GPs reported instances of physical violence occurring in their services either daily or monthly.

MINISTER BUTLER

Doctors warn Medicare plan could add pressure for fast consultations

Australian Financial Review, General News, 24/02/2025, Michael Smith, Page 7

Doctors say Anthony Albanese's \$8.5 billion Medicare overhaul will help patients who need it the most, but predict practices in wealthier areas that already charge significant out-of-pocket fees will retain them to make up for rising business costs.

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

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Labor loses ground and brings on Mediscare election

Australian Financial Review, Editorials, 24/02/2025, Page 38

The Australian Financial Review/Freshwater Strategy poll shows the Albanese government has even more ground to make up on the Coalition ahead of an imminent election that will be fought over issues related to the cost of living.

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My patient Shirley won't benefit from bulk billing

Australian Financial Review, General News, 24/02/2025, Nick Coatsworth, Page 39

Healthcare Labor is shining an 8.5-billionwatt spotlight on General Practice to divert attention from the elephant in the room that everyone in Australia has seen. Shirley* is a patient of mine.

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

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Medicare splurge signals big-spending election race

The Australian, Editorials, 24/02/2025, Page 10

[...] Neither did Mr Albanese nor Health Minister Mark Butler.

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A sick struggle to pay for medicine

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/02/2025, Clare Armstrong, Page 5

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said Labor's reforms were delivering cheaper medicines to millions of Australians, who had already saved \$1.2bn in out-of-pocket costs since 2022.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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United push for a solution

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/02/2025, Elise Kaine, Page 4

[...] He said Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma had been engaging with Calvary Health and with federal Health Minister Mark Butler but did not say what the results of the discussion were.

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Dutton matches Labor's \$8.5b for free GPs in Medicare battle

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/02/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 3

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler tried to get a step ahead of Dutton yesterday by saying Australians could not trust what the Liberals leader said.

Similar coverage reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Bulk-billing billions falls short

West Australian, General News, 24/02/2025, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 8

[...] Also speaking at the Labor campaign event, Health Minister Mark Butler accused Mr Dutton of attempting to abolish bulk-billing in 2014.

Similar coverage reported by: [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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'Cooking the books'

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/02/2025, Joseph Olbrychtpalmer, Page 10

[...] Mr Butler has been spruiking the Albanese government's pledge of a historic \$8.5bn Medicare boost ahead of its official unveiling.

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

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Labor mulls budget update before early election

Australian Financial Review, Other, 23/02/2025, Ronald Mizen

Treasurer Jim Chalmers could deliver an economic update instead of a full budget, with Treasury officials poised to truncate the process if Prime Minister Anthony Albanese calls an early election for March or April.

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Health Minister Mark Butler tells Andrew Wilkie that local Moderna vaccination available mid year

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/02/2025, Sue Bailey

[...] In a letter to Mr Wilkie, Health Minister Mark Butler said that subject to regulatory approvals, supply of an Australian-made Moderna Covid vaccine was expected to start in mid-2025.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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Medicare the winner as parties match funding pledges

Canberra Times, Other, 23/02/2025, Adrian Black and Tess Ikonomou

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the modelling done on the policy showed there would be 20 million additional free visits to the doctor.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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Labor health pledge points to key election battleground

Canberra Times, Other, 23/02/2025, Ethan James

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler told the Labor function on Sunday he had not seen the party put forward a stronger line-up of candidates in Tasmania.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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\$573m pledge to improve women's health

Geelong Times, Other, 24/02/2025, Ellie Claringbold

[...] Minister for Health Mark Butler said the funding package will deliver more choice, lower costs and better healthcare for women at all stages of their lives.

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ANMF welcomes boost to Medicare: more GP visits and extra nurses

Medianet, Other, 23/02/2025

[...] Under the package announced by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler today, nine out of 10 GP visits will be bulk billed by 2030, boosting the number of fully bulk billed practices to around 4,800 nationally – triple the current number.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News (Sunday), 23/02/2025, Peter Overton

The Federal Government has pledged a multibillion dollar pitch on Medicare. PM Anthony Albanese has announced \$8.5b pledge, with triple the incentives and extra incentives to bulk bill. Meantime, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has announced a \$9b commitment to Australia's GP network. Nationals Leader David Littleproud and Health Minister Mark Butler also comment on the announcements.

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Sky News Live, Sunday Agenda, 23/02/2025, Andrew Clennell

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, about Labor's announcement in relation to Medicare. Butler responds to former Health Minister Angus Taylor's comments regarding the Federal Government returning Medicare. He also discusses the Medicare visits in Australia.

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

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3AW, Weekend Mornings, 23/02/2025, Darren James

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care. Butler discusses the Federal Government's multibillion dollar pledge to extend bulk billing support to all Australians. He says they have no plans to increase the Medicare levy. Butler recalls the RACGP's comments about how out of pocket or gap fees are soaring.

Continuing interview on: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Call for rental help for aged-care workers

The Australian, General News, 24/02/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 5

[...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said there was "of course more work to be done" on agedcare reforms, but pointed to the fact a transition taskforce had been set up to help implement the changes already under way.

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

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Channel 7, Weekend Sunrise, 23/02/2025, Unspecified

The Albanese Government has announced \$8.5b pre-election commitment to Medicare. Medical centres that bulk bill will also get an additional 12.5% on Medicare rebates. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the government is also trying to address workforce shortages. PM Anthony Albanese says it is about making health care affordable for all Australians.

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Channel 7, Weekend Sunrise, 23/02/2025, Unspecified

Interview with Anika Wells, Federal Aged Care Minister, about the Federal Government's \$8.5b pre-election commitment on Medicare. Wells says Australians are looking for high quality public services that they can rely upon. She also discusses the government initiatives led by Health Minister Mark Butler, including a \$1.7b agreement with the states under the new health and hospital agreement.

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

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Channel 9, Today on Sunday, 23/02/2025, Alison Piotrowski and Clint Stanaway

PM Anthony Albanese will today announce the largest investment into Medicare since its inception 40 years ago. Labor Party has pledged \$8.5b into boosting bulk billing rates if elected. Nationals Leader David Littleproud and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells have commented on the announcement.

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

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Channel 9, Today on Sunday, 23/02/2025, Alison Piotrowski and Clint Stanaway

Interview with Anika Wells, Minister for Aged Care and Sport, about Labor's \$5.8b pre-election commitment to boost Medicare. Wells discusses how the changes will help Australians, saying the funding is to make Medicare available to all Australians. She also comments on Clean Bill's latest report about bulk billing rates.

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DEPARTMENT

Private maternity plan promises savings, better care

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/02/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 3

[...] The number of gold-tier policies has dropped by 7 per cent in the past three years, Department of Health and Ageing data shows.

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Medics urge overhaul of imaging services

Cairns Post, General News, 24/02/2025, Emma Cam, Page 6

[...] In response, a spokesman for the Department of Health and Aged Care confirmed meetings were held in early February with key stakeholders such as the Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association, I-MED, and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

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Questions on digital maturity

Pulse+IT, Other, 23/02/2025

[...] The project is conducted by EY for the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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VACCINES

Falling national vaccination rates a danger to us all

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/02/2025, Peter Breadon and Wendy Hu, Page 24

A measles outbreak has just erupted in rural Texas, putting children in hospital. After being officially eliminated in the US in 2000, measles is making a comeback. It couldn't happen here, right?

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Fiscal discipline goes overboard in race for votes

The Australian, General News, 24/02/2025, Greg Brown, Page 1

[...] When asked what he was going to do to take structural pressures off the budget after immediately endorsing the Prime Minister's plan to pour billions more into Medicare, the Opposition Leader merely pointed to the Coalition supporting Labor's reforms to lower spending growth in the NDIS and aged care.

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Stroke risk rises if thinners are stopped

West Australian, General News, 24/02/2025, Page 12

Taking older patients off blood-thinning drugs could put them at risk of a life-threatening stroke or heart attack, a new study has warned doctors.

Brightwater Care Group offering \$20,000 to help find solution to loneliness among older Australians

West Australian, Other, 23/02/2025, Sean Smith

A leading aged care group is teaming up with tech-saavy innovators to help solve a scourge of Australia's ageing population — loneliness.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#)

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POPULATION HEALTH

'Mediscare' ploy won't be so easy this time around

Australian Financial Review, General News, 24/02/2025, Michael Smith, Page 1

Anthony Albanese's \$8.5 billion Medicare funding package announced yesterday will strike a chord with thousands of Australians, including many in marginal outer suburban seats who struggle to afford the cost of seeing a doctor.

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Illegal cigs boomtown

Herald Sun, General News, 24/02/2025, Jon Kaila, Page 1

A Herald Sun investigation reveals 1044 shops have been found selling illegal cigarettes, vapes or tobacco pouches since March 2023, when the firebombing of tobacconists began.

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Fangs for top advice

Herald Sun, General News, 24/02/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 16

Snakes are active this summer, paramedics warn, with the number of bites reported to Ambulance Victoria now in triple figures.

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Disease often 'overlooked'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/02/2025, Elise Kaine, Page 8

Experts are sounding the alarm over the next "cardiac epidemic" but a Tasmanian hearth health specialist says in reality the "overlooked" condition is easily treatable.

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So long hand sanitiser

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/02/2025, Gera Kazakov, Page 1

The Territory's chief health officer has written to businesses to keep hand sanitiser secured, as the prevalence of people abusing the substance continues.

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'I was haunted by flashbacks': The harsh reality for one in three new mums

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/02/2025, Elli Jacobs

Too often, the image we have of new motherhood is one of pure bliss. But for many women, the reality of life after – and even before – having a baby could not be more different.

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The same weeks you see extra ads about booze are the same weeks paramedics experience a spike in drinking-related calls

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/02/2025, Sarah Booth

Social media knows when you drink more alcohol than usual. So do paramedics — and they're not as separate as you'd think.

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

[Read More](#)

How to live a less stressed life

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/02/2025, Lauren Clark

Australia is in the grips of a stress epidemic – and it's affecting everything from our sleep and digestion to immunity and mental health. So how do you put the brakes on?

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#),

[Read More](#)

Ezaria Hudson takes her own life at 17 after being released by NSW hospital despite father's plea

Cairns Post, Other, 23/02/2025, Heath Parkes-Hupton

[...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows 94 Australian children died by suicide in 2023, with the majority of those aged 15 to 17.

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'Inflammatory reaction': How the air we breathe could be impacting our brains

SBS, Other, 23/02/2025, Sydney Lang

Air pollution threatens more than just our lungs, experts say. And while Australia has some of the best air quality in the world, we've been warned against complacency.

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As menopause wars rage, social media skirmishes erupt over new approaches to hormone therapy – and Sydney is about to be a flashpoint

The Guardian, Other, 23/02/2025, Anne Davies

A menopause and hormone treatment conference in Sydney in March has ignited a passionate debate among medical doctors and researchers about women's empowerment, social media advice, big business and even how doctors communicate with their patients.

[Read More](#)

Australia's booming cosmetic industry: closing regulatory gaps to protect patients

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 24/02/2025

The rapid expansion of Australia's cosmetic industry underscores the urgent need for stronger regulation, better oversight and stricter enforcement of safety standards.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Sugar substitute may be linked to heart disease

The Australian, General News, 24/02/2025, James Dowling, Page 3

The sugar substitute aspartame, which is used in some soft drinks, has been linked to heart disease, although further research on humans is required.

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Doctor who survived heart attack issues cholesterol warning

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

A retired Charlestown doctor who had a severe heart attack at age 52 has urged people to get regular check-ups and know their cholesterol.

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2GB, Weekends, 23/02/2025, Luke Grant

Interview with Mark Brooke, CEO of the Lung Cancer Foundation, about the National Lung Cancer Screening programme. Brooke discusses the programme, noting it is the first screening programme in the digital age. He also recalls the Australian Lung Cancer Conference that took place last week.

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PRIMARY CARE

Women hesitating on ambulance calls

The Australian, General News, 24/02/2025, James Dowling, Page 3

Women are more likely than men to delay calling 000 when having a heart attack, increasing their risk of lasting harm.

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Cops v Comcare

Canberra Times, General News, 24/02/2025, Connor Pearce, Page 1

Current and former Australian Federal Police members are trying to overhaul the workplace compensation scheme that they say does not account for the unique pressures of their job.

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Deliver vital maternal care

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 24/02/2025, Page 12

The Mercury's "Deliver for Tassie Mums" campaign has been met with a swift and passionate response from Tasmanian families sharing their stories of childbirth at Hobart Private Hospital.

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Assisted dying 'gag' on doctors to be binned

Ballarat Courier, General News, 24/02/2025, Page 2

Doctors will no longer be muzzled from initiating voluntary assisted dying conversations with terminally ill patients under long-called-for law changes.

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MP issues blast over surgical wait times

Border Mail, General News, 24/02/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 7

Amid ongoing debate about a new Border hospital, Benambra MP Bill Tilley has highlighted existing woes, labelling the waiting time for surgery as "horrendous".

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Bulk-bull: GPs slam plan

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

The Albanese government's Medicare election pitch of bulk-billing incentives for everyone "will have no effect in Newcastle", GP Milton Sales says.

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Moana's dying wish comes true in hospital's fairy garden

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/02/2025, Alanna Tomazin, Page 9

A woman's dying wish was to marry her partner of 35 years. The palliative care team at John Hunter Hospital hurried to make that wish come true for 65-year-old Moana Gurewitz.

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Leading obstetrician urges help for Calvary Hospital to cover Hobart's looming maternity services gap

Northern Territory News, Other, 23/02/2025, Duncan Abey

A veteran Tasmanian obstetrician says Calvary Hospital has the capacity to absorb hundreds of extra maternity patients each year after Hobart Private closes its birthing services in August.

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Kay Henderson's final days: a swim, some cuddles, then freedom from her pain

Northern Territory News, Other, 23/02/2025, Cydonee Mardon

Kay Henderson knew exactly how she wanted to spend her last day before dying: in the ocean with her family and friends. It was, said the voluntary assisted dying advocate, 'the best day'.

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'Nothing short of playing with our children's health': mum slams hospital shift

The Border Mail, Other, 23/02/2025, Anthony Bunn

The old saying "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" proved far from true for a Lavington girl when she decided to tuck into the fruit over four consecutive days.

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Violence in emergency departments a 'national crisis': report

ABC Online, Other, 24/02/2025, Paige Cockburn

Emergency department doctors say the government needs to declare "a national crisis" after data revealed most departments were seeing violence from patients daily or weekly.

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NDIS reforms aim to make the scheme fairer. But we've found the groups struggling to gain access

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 24/02/2025

When the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was established in 2013, one of its driving aims was to make disability services and support systems fairer.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 23/02/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim and Guy Stayner

News Trade and tariffs will be part of the conversation, but not the whole conversation. That's an ongoing discussion that we are having with our American counterparts.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 23/02/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim and Guy Stayner

News While the Greens agree that the industry needs a shake up. Well, for more on that story and a

few others making headlines today, we are joined by author and former Deputy Mayor of the City of Sydney, Jess Scully.

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Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 23/02/2025, Chris Bath

PM Anthony Albanese has announced an \$8.5b investment into Medicare ahead of the election. Meantime, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton matched it with a \$9b commitment of his own. Australian Medical Association welcomes the announcement, but concedes it won't be enough to cover costs in some city areas. AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen comments on the announcements.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Getting ADHD diagnosis at 48 was a revelation

Age, General News, 24/02/2025, Wendy Tuohy, Page 1

When Sarah Hayden was diagnosed with ADHD at the age of 48 many things fell into place. For one, she understood her uncanny ability to do a vast volume of things at once, and why she easily gets bored.

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

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Mental health in crisis

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/02/2025, Natalie Brown, Page 14

Australia is "approaching a crisis point" as the mental healthcare needs of the population threaten to overwhelm the public system.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Performance woes for men

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/02/2025, Julie Cross, Page 14

More than a quarter of Australian men say a negative view of their bodies affects their sexual performance, with almost one in five avoiding intimacy with a partner due to insecurities, according to a report.

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Emergency situation

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 24/02/2025, Ben Silvester, Page 1

Victorian State Emergency Service volunteers say they are being pushed to the brink of suicide and homelessness because of what they call a culture of "bullying", "gaslighting" and belittling within parts of the organisation.

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Calls for greater scrutiny of patient suicides at Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service

ABC Online, Other, 23/02/2025, Kirsten Robb

After Jonathan Stevens swam out past Gold Coast shark nets in his second suicide attempt in as many months, his parents thought he would be in for a long stay in a mental health ward.

[Read More](#)

Great Australian Parent Survey 2025 reveals almost half of kids are

bullied at school

The Courier Mail, Other, 23/02/2025, Lauren Novak

A national survey of parents has uncovered sky-high rates of bullying – and heaped pressure on governments to take a national approach to tackle the harmful behaviour.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

I became absorbed in strangers' fertility journeys online

The Guardian, Other, 24/02/2025, Celia Silvani

What started as curiosity would turn into an emotional investment – and eventually, a lifeline A few nights ago, my phone lit up with a TikTok notification: "WE'RE PREGNANT".

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Three years' back pay owed

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/02/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 9

Hospital security guards dealing with violence waiting for their cash 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.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Health clinics facing scalpel

Courier Mail, General News, 24/02/2025, Rose Innes, Page 18

Claims of cuts for nurse-led centres Vital nurse-led clinics around the state are facing the scalpel, with claims jobs and opening hours will be slashed just months after their launch.

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Record intake for NT medical program

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/02/2025, Taylor Mason, Page 7

Flinders University's Northern Territory Medical Program has reached a new milestone, welcoming its largest-ever intake of medical students.

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LifeFlight's new doctors

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/02/2025, Page 7

Intake at Roma and Toowoomba LifeFlight has welcomed its latest intake of doctors, with three new personnel stationed at the Toowoomba and Roma bases.

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RACGP applauds GP workforce commitment in Government's \$8.5 billion Medicare package

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/02/2025

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has applauded the Government's workforce

commitment to train 2,000 new GPs every year by 2028 and incentivise more junior doctors to become specialist GPs, as part of its \$8.5 billion Medicare package.

[Read More](#)

GV Health mental health nurses take part in industrial action

Shepparton News Online, Other, 23/02/2025

Almost 4000 Victorian public sector mental health nurses, including GV Health nurses, began protected industrial action this week, beginning on Friday, February 21.

[Read More](#)

Seven Tasmania, Nightly News (Sunday), 23/02/2025, Louise Houbaer

Staff working in Hobart Private Hospital's maternity services could be transferred to Calvary as their new employer to ensure patient demand can be met. This comes after Tasmanian Government and stakeholders seek solutions after Healthscope announced Hobart Private's maternity services will close in August. Tasmanian Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma has also spoken with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler about the issue.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Dutton pledges to match Labor's GP funding

Australian Financial Review, General News, 24/02/2025, Michael Smith and Ronald Mizen, Page 7

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has pledged to match Labor's promise to make doctor visits cheaper by spending \$8.5 billion on Medicare as he seeks to stave off a renewed push by Anthony Albanese to discredit his record as health minister.

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PM's \$8.5b Mediscare legacy built on a runaway debt pile

Australian Financial Review, General News, 24/02/2025, Phillip Coorey, Page 7

Anthony Albanese's campaign is starting to look a bit like Bill Shorten's 2019 crusade but with one key difference.

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Whacking an election on nation's credit card

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 24/02/2025, Greg Brown, Page 1

Peter Dutton has raised doubts about the Coalition's commitment to fiscal prudence after immediately outbidding Labor's \$8.5bn spending splurge on Medicare without any detail on how it would be paid for, with economists warning there is no sign either major party has a plan to fix the budget.

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\$8.5bn bulk-bill boost 'no quick fix'

The Australian, General News, 24/02/2025, Penny Timms, Page 5

Doctors have warned Labor's \$8.5bn plan to extend bulk-billing incentives will not immediately lead to everyone in Australia getting to go to the doctor for free, as the medical sector pushes both parties to support more reform at the upcoming election.

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

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Bulk-billing incentive no cure for health ills

The Australian, General News, 24/02/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

No doubt about it a pitch to voters that Labor will make the biggest investment in Medicare since its inception and restore bulk billing to millions of Australians is seductive and powerful politics.

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Health the focus of ailing Labor's re-election bid

The Australian, General News, 24/02/2025, Matthew Denholm, Page 5

Customarily, elections are kicked off with a visit to Yarralumla for tea and scones. On Sunday, Anthony Albanese fired the starting gun for election 2025 at the site of old tram sheds on a Launceston floodplain.

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

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Albo is a crazy Doctor Yes when it comes to spending

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/02/2025, Page 13

I must apologise for writing yet another attack on the Albanese government, now that it's found the world's biggest gold mine.

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Dutton matches Labor bulk-billing pledge

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/02/2025, Clare Armstrong, Page 1

Peter Dutton has backed Labor's historic \$8.5bn investment to dramatically increase GP bulk billing and urged Anthony Albanese to implement the policy before the election as the Coalition desperately seeks to avoid a scare campaign on health.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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What's the catch with Medicare splurge?

West Australian, Editorials, 24/02/2025, Page 2

No matter which party is victorious at the Federal poll this year, Australian families will be better off after both sides of politics pledged the biggest funding injection to Medicare since its inception four decades ago.

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PM caught throwing fake mud

West Australian, General News, 24/02/2025, Page 9

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese deflected calls for Labor to increase bulk-billing subsidies for GPs by claiming Medicare rebates were frozen by the previous Coalition government when Peter Dutton was health minister.

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Albo scared of Budget 'disaster'

West Australian, General News, 24/02/2025, Page 9

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton believes Anthony Albanese will call an early election to avoid presenting a horror Budget amid a cost-of-living crisis.

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'We're struggling'

Breast cancer diagnostic services in Australia are at risk of a potential collapse due to unsustainable Medicare rebates, which are failing to cover the rising costs of care for patients and providers.

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ABC, ABC News (Sunday), 23/02/2025, Jeremy Fernandez

Labor Party has pledged that by 2030, 90% of GP visits will be bulk-billed. PM Anthony Albanese has made the announcement at a Labor rally in Launceston. Meantime, the Opposition has matched the promise.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 23/02/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim and Guy Stayner

Labor says nine out of ten GP visits will be free for patients by 2030 as part of an \$8.5b Medicare election funding promise. PM Anthony Albanese is set to make the announcement today. The funding includes increased payments to doctors who provide taxpayer funded free consultations for patients.

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

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Danger to children': Nurse leaves baby twins with broken leg, cracked ribs and fractured skull

NEWS.com.au, Other, 23/02/2025, Paul Sims and Ed Southgate

A judge has taken the unusual step of naming a private maternity nurse responsible for 20 separate injuries on newborn twins.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

World first B-double aid for remote areas

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/02/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 11

The world's first battery powered CAT scanner embedded in a B-double truck is now rolling out to remote communities, with another four of the \$5 million mobile clinics set to follow.

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SPORT

AFL drug policy 'saves lives', says treating doctor

The Australian, Sport, 24/02/2025, Jon Ralph, Page 24

The AFL's first chief psychiatrist Ranjit Menon says the league's maligned "medical model" drugs policy has saved the lives of countless AFL players despite its criticisms, including about its "off the books" testing.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

Tate's bid for 2032 swimming

Courier Mail, General News, 24/02/2025, Jeremy Pierce, Page 1

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate is in talks to host an international swim meet on the Glitter Strip in a bid to pinch the event for the 2032 Games.

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The sliding doors of addiction recovery

Herald Sun, Sport, 24/02/2025, Jon Ralph, Page 44

Footy's illicit drugs policy has been many things all of them controversial since the AFL Commission rubberstamped its introduction in January 2005.

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Tigers star to be sued over attack

Border Mail, General News, 24/02/2025, Page 3

A yarrawonga man who was seriously injured by Richmond player Noah Balta will sue the footballer, with his lawyer describing the Mulwala assault as savage, brutal, and unprovoked.

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The reason for what plays in Vegas

Central Western Daily, General News, 24/02/2025, Tim Costello, Page 9

The now-embedded ritual of taking the NRL's opening round to the city that is the symbolic global capital of gambling is simply the natural outcome of a sport that has sold its soul to the harmful practice.

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Grant died after a rugby league match in 2016. Nine years on, his family believe he didn't have to lose his life

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/02/2025, Adrian Prosenko

The family of a rugby league player who died following a match on the NSW North Coast claims the tragedy could have been prevented with better concussion protocols after reaching an out-of-court settlement with the game's governing bodies.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Argenica's stroke med garnering Chinese interest

West Australian, Business News, 24/02/2025, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 19

WA biotech Argenica Therapeutics says its potentially life-saving neuroprotective drug is drawing increasing interest from major pharmaceutical companies in China, where stroke is now the leading cause of death.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Shortages of benzathine benzylpenicillin G in Australia highlight the need for new sovereign manufacturing capability

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 24/02/2025

Benzathine benzylpenicillin g (BPG) is the most effective treatment for syphilis and prevention of rheumatic heart disease (RHD), both of which disproportionately affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Bird flu outbreak widens at Euroa

Shepparton News, General News, 24/02/2025, Kate Walters, Page 3

A bird flu outbreak at Euroa has spread, with avian influenza detected at a third poultry farm in the area.

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New bat virus is revealed

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/02/2025, Page 7

A Chinese virologist known as "batwoman" and a team of researchers have found a new bat coronavirus, and it carries the risk of animal-to-human transmission.

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Consensus statement for managing Buruli ulcer infections

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 24/02/2025

With cases of Buruli ulcer increasing, the consensus statement provides up-to-date recommendations for clinicians who may encounter the disease.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Argenica Therapeutics' world-first stroke drug gains attention in China amid rising mortality

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 23/02/2025, Cheyanne Enciso

WA biotech Argenica Therapeutics says its potentially life-saving neuroprotective drug is drawing increasing interest from major pharmaceutical companies in China, where stroke is now the leading cause of death.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

McDonald's puts uni courses on the menu

The Australian, General News, 24/02/2025, Natasha Bitá, Page 1

Fast-food giant McDonald's is taking on academia by offering its staff shortcourse "micro-credentials" that can count towards a university degree.

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

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