



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 25th February 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has warned Australians should be "pretty sceptical about the opposition's announcement yesterday" after Peter Dutton said he would match Labor's historical investment into Medicare, a reversal on his position as health minister in Tony Abbott's cabinet when he froze Medicare rebates.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports AHPRA has decided not to impose any punishment on Melbourne obstetrician Miranda Robinson after she was accused of making racially motivated comments towards a midwife with a Jewish husband, with AHPRA saying Ms Robinson had "demonstrated her commitment to uphold the professional standards with respect to appropriate conduct on social media".
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports Private Healthcare Australia has called for a new funding model for private maternity services following an announcement by Healthscope that they would be closing maternity wards in Tasmania and the Northern Territory.
- **[The Toowoomba Chronicle](#)** (page 2) reports the Queensland Opposition has warned the state government is going back on their promise of making no cuts to health after a whistleblower warned nurse-led clinics are facing reductions in hours and cuts to staff months after they were opened.

- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 3) reports the SA Civil and Administrative Tribunal has rebuked a doctor after she was hired on a locum contract at Port Pirie Regional Health Service and then left after seeing one patient, allegedly saying "this place should not be a hospital".
- **The Cairns Post** (page 4) reports missing clinician statements relating to the death of a baby at Atherton Hospital last year have been provided to the Northern Coroner, eight months after they were requested, with the Coroner saying an expert review of all the materials would be ordered once they were received.
- **The Australian** (page 5) reports some GPs have said they would still privately bill some patients after Labor's \$8.5 billion investment into Medicare, claiming the costs of running a practice are still too high to provide bulk-billing to all patients.
- **ABC Online** reports Queensland Health has defended the outcomes of a review into the death of a man who overdosed on prescription medication and alcohol four hours after being discharged from a mental health admission, with the death ruled an accidental overdose rather than a suicide, which his parents say has left them outraged. A spokesperson for Queensland Health said the hospital followed best practice guidelines in changing the review type to one that is not shared with the state's Health Ombudsman.
- **ABC Online** reports leaked documents have revealed WA liberal candidate Dr Thomas Brough has been referred to the State Administrative Tribunal by the Medical Board of Australia following homophobic remarks he made last year. A spokesperson for AHPRA said they could not comment on matters until they are on the public record.
- **The Age** (page 8) reports the Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Australia (PANDA) agency has released mental health resources aimed at helping non-English speaking mothers understand perinatal depression after current literature was found to be too Westernised to be easily understood for some from culturally diverse backgrounds.

MINISTER BUTLER

Big pharma sues GenesisCare over Labor-endorsed copycat cancer drug

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 25/02/2025, Michael Smith, Page 14

Swiss drugmaker Novartis is suing Australia's biggest cancer care provider, GenesisCare, for alleged patent infringement in a Federal Court case that escalates a dispute between pharmaceutical giants and Australian doctors.

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

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Public service cuts to fund Medicare boost: Dutton

Canberra Times, General News, 25/02/2025, Dana Daniel, Page 1

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton says he will use public service cuts to fund a \$9 billion boost to Medicare if he wins the coming federal election. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, who spoke alongside Mr Albanese, said: "We've increased Medicare income for doctors by more in three years than the former government did in nine", countering the Coalition criticism that bulk billing rates had been higher before Labor won the 2022 election.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Great Lakes Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Harden Express \(Online\)](#), [Hunter Valley News \(Online\)](#), [Lismore City News \(Online\)](#), [The Rural \(Online\)](#), [Moree Champion \(Online\)](#), [Narooma News \(Online\)](#), [Port Macquarie News \(Online\)](#), [The Armidale Express \(Online\)](#), [The North West Star \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Goulburn Post \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Inner East Review \(Online\)](#), [Yass Tribune \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Port Stephens Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Wellington Times \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Weekly \(Online\)](#), [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

Kids deserve better: mum

Border Mail, General News, 25/02/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

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. [...] The legislative councillor successfully moved a motion in Parliament on Wednesday, February 19, calling on the "state government to ensure CPRS continues in its original form to support children and families" and the Health Minister "liaise with the federal Minister for Health to ensure the funding and future of this vital program is safeguarded indefinitely".

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PM promises biggest ever Medicare spend

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 24/02/2025, Page 6

Australians deserve ambition from their leaders, Anthony Albanese has declared in an election pledge that will deliver millions of free visits to the doctor. [...] 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: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [newsdaily.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Bulletin - News Co \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#), [WEB InQueensland \(Online\)](#).

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Labor 'waited too long' to announce big election pledge

Canberra Times, Other, 24/02/2025, Andrew Brown & Kat Wong

Labor's big health promise might have arrived too late, an expert says, as the party appears to be shifting strategies to stem bleeding support. [...] "On health policy, the choice couldn't be clearer," Health Minister Mark Butler told Nine's Today show.

Also reported by: [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#), [Yarrawonga Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Benalla Ensign \(Online\)](#), [Campaspe News \(Online\)](#), [The North West Star \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Online\)](#), [Batemans Bay Post \(Online\)](#), [Eastern Riverina Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Batemans Bay Post \(Online\)](#), [The Armidale Express \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Macleay Argus \(Online\)](#), [Mudgee Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Port Macquarie News \(Online\)](#), [Southern Cross \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Queanbeyan Age \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Merimbula News \(Online\)](#), [Inner East Review \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Medicare Mystery unravelled. No 'free-fall' in bulk billing

Michael West Media, Other, 24/02/2025, Zacharias Szumer

If you're anything like me, you're somewhat surprised by the federal health department reporting that over 77% of visits to Australian GPs are bulk-billed. [...] As we discussed during our last 'appointment', Health Minister Mark Butler seems to have adopted a stock phrase about bulk-billing either being in "free-fall" under the Coalition or having been "put into free-fall" by them.

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GPs warn not all practices will take up Labor's promised Medicare bulk-billing changes if rebates still too low

The Guardian, Other, 24/02/2025, Natasha May

Health minister says modelling 'very clearly' shows majority of practices will benefit The government has vowed that nine out of ten GP visits will be bulk-billed by 2030, but GPs are warning not all practices will take up the offer as longer consults would not see the same level of benefit as shorter ones. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, on Monday said the government's modelling had "very clearly" shown the majority of practices would benefit by offering extended bulk billing and the estimate of nine out of 10 visits being bulk-billed by 2030 was "conservative".

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

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'Bull***t': Labor and Albanese's Medicare bulk-billing plan under fire

Port Macquarie News, Other, 24/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw

The Albanese government's Medicare election pitch of bulk-billing incentives for everyone "will have no effect in Newcastle", GP Milton Sales says. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said "there is no question that when it comes to Medicare, you'll be worse off under [Coalition leader] Dutton".

Also reported by: [Macleay Argus \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Scone Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Manning River Times \(Online\)](#), [Port Stephens Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Cessnock Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Gloucester Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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Doctors say multibillion-dollar spend on Medicare won't hit bulk-billing targets

MSN Australia, Other, 24/02/2025

Doctors say a multibillion-dollar spend on Medicare will not hit bulk-billing targets because it doesn't match the actual cost of care. [...] When asked on Today how the government would afford it, Health Minister Mark Butler said it'll be laid out in the next budget update.

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'Very solid progress': NSW Police Commissioner Karen Webb provides update Bankstown nurses investigation

Sky News Australia, Other, 24/02/2025, Patrick Hannaford

New South Wales Police has provided an update on the investigation into two nurses from Bankstown Hospital who claimed they would "kill" Israeli patients. [...] Both nurses were stood down by NSW Health over the incident, with federal Health Minister Mark Butler saying he would do everything he could to ensure they never worked in a health related field again.

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Council recommends the adoption of gambling recommendations

Star Weekly, Other, 24/02/2025

Maribyrnong council will write to the federal government demanding it implement the recommendations from the 2023 "You Win Some You Lose More" inquiry into problem gambling. At it's first meeting for the year on February 18, Maribyrnong council voted unanimously in favour of a motion that it write to the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Communications Minister Michelle Rowland and Health Minister Mark Butler to urge them to implement in full the recommendations from the inquiry report released in June 2023.

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

NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association, Other, 24/02/2025, Letitia Wallace

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) today welcomed the Albanese Government's pledge to strengthen the nation's healthcare system – including 400 additional nursing scholarships and an \$8.5 Billion funding boost for 18 million bulk billed GP visits every year. 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.

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A robust future for optometry: Why our Federal Election campaign matters

Optometry Australia, Other, 24/02/2025

Our 'Eyes on Medicare' campaign is the latest in our ongoing commitment to advocate for policies that support both optometrists and their patients. [...] Optometry Australia continues to call on both the Minister for Health, the Hon Mark Butler MP, and the Shadow Minister for Health, Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, to formally respond to our campaign, committing to addressing this issue as a priority in the next term of government.

90% bulk billing seems unlikely, say GPs across the board

The Medical Republic, Other, 24/02/2025, Holly Payne

While the funding is impressive, general practice representative groups have been wary of backing the lofty Labor predictions of boosting bulk-billing rates to 90% with its \$8.5 billion package. [...] According to federal health minister Mark Butler the combined investment will result in nine out of 10 GP visits being bulk billed by 2030, while the number of universal bulk-billing practices will triple to 4800 nationally.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 24/02/2025, Tom Lowrey

Interview with Anne Aly, Youth Minister, about Labor's pledge to improve Medicare. Aly discusses how to encourage GPs to bulk bill, saying she knows Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has conducted extensive consultation on the policy.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 24/02/2025, James Glenday & Bridget Brennan

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, about the Federal Government's announced funding for Medicare bulk-billing, and the Opposition promising to match it. Butler says the funding starts to flow on 1 November if they're re-elected. He notes he expects bulk-billing rates will stop sliding, which is what they're doing for non-concessional patients, and start rising again quite quickly. Butler adds it is a huge investment of new money into Medicare, and they have good data on what GPs are charging, and their modelling suggests that almost 5000 GPs will be better off if they move to a 100% bulk-billing scheme in their practice.

Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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Channel 9, Nine News, 24/02/2025, Peter Overton

Compere says that doctors have said a multi-billion dollar investment on Medicare will not meet bulk billing targets. Anthony Albanese says it makes a difference to the quality of care and that his government believes that people should be able to see a doctor for free.

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

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WIN Cairns, WIN News Far North Queensland, 24/02/2025, Steve Hart

The Coalition has matched Labor's \$8.5b expansion into Medicare. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says Labor's announcement is aimed at Australians who lack access to concession cards.

Also reported by: [WIN Rockhampton \(Rockhampton\)](#).

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3AW, 10:00 News, 24/02/2025

The Federal Government is expected to approve a rise in health insurance premiums, with insurers seeking a 5-6% increase. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he will not approve an unreasonable hike and will announce the decision soon, confirming it will be before the election.

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3AW, Mornings, 24/02/2025, Tom Elliott

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler about the Federal Government's announced funding for Medicare bulk-billing. Butler says most of the funding was provisioned in the Mid-Year Budget update that they delivered in December and the minority part of it will be included in the coming Budget or the Budget update if there's an election call before then. He adds it will reflect what they've done

over the last few years, which is a responsible approach to budget management, by delivering two back to back surpluses, the first in 15 years, while also being able to put a lot more money into Medicare.

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ABC Radio Canberra, AM, 24/02/2025, Sabra Lane

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, about the Federal Government's announced funding for Medicare bulk-billing. Butler says the Federal Government will continue focus on health because it's so important for the Australian people, and yesterday's announcement was the single largest investment in Medicare, probably in its history and it will start to turn around that real challenge of affordability. He adds 1 November is when the changes to the rebates typically occur, which gives GPs time to update their software.

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

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ABC Radio Sydney, The World Today, 24/02/2025, Andy Park

Interview I love the sound of. Universal healthcare. [...] It's a really big change, and it's going to take a lot of time for GPS to understand if it works, like extending these bulk billing incentives to everyone doesn't necessarily mean everyone's going to get bulk billed, because if the rebates are still too low to cover the costs, they're not going to be able to take part in this programme Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is confident the changes will help lower the cost of healthcare for most Australians.

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MINISTER WELLS

Future Brisbane Special Event: Premier to unveil Brisbane 2032 venues plan

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 24/02/2025

Premier David Crisafulli will unveil his 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games venues and infrastructure plan at The Courier-Mail's Future Brisbane Special Event on March 25. [...] Caption: Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner, Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells and Queensland Premier David Crisafulli at The Courier-Mail's Future Brisbane event in November, 2024.

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

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4BC, 07:00 News, 24/02/2025

Both the Federal Government and Federal Opposition are pledging billions to improve Medicare, making it a focus for this year's election campaign. The Albanese Government has announced to spend \$8.5b, with the Coalition matching the funding. Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells states the move is rather hypocritical.

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4BC, Breakfast , 24/02/2025, Peter Fegan

Interview with Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, about the Federal Government's announced funding for Medicare bulk-billing, and the Opposition promising to match it. Wells says the Coalition asked them to rush back to Parliament and she says the umbrage in having to go in and clean up their mess, only for them to say, 'please clean it up faster' is not lost on her. She notes the Federal Government's \$8.5 billion funding builds on what they announced in 2023, and based on that, they are now expanding that so it includes all Australians.

Interview continues on: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Social media stunts may win polities eyeballs, but not votes

West Australian, General News, 25/02/2025, Katina Curtis, Page 13

Have you seen Patrick Gorman talking to himself lately? In the great battle for eyeballs and attention, Assistant Minister Gorman has taken to explaining policy or attacking Liberal offerings to a tracksuit-clad Everyman Gorman in videos posted to social media. [...] A trio of frontbenchers Clare O'Neil, Anika Wells and Ged Kearney staring at a computer screen "waiting patiently for women's health to be taken seriously".

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

Job cuts to fund Medicare: Dutton

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 25/02/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos & Shane Wright, Page 16

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton says he will slash \$24 billion from public service spending to pay for his \$9 billion injection into Medicare, doubling down on plans to cull tens of thousands of public servants so he can match Labor's health spending while still promising smaller government. [...] Almost 2500 have been added to the Health Department; staff the government says are delivering urgent care clinics and general practice incentive payments.

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Women's imaging at a crossroads: ADIA advocates for Medicare rebate increases amid workforce shortages

The Mercury, Other, 24/02/2025, Emma Cam

Growing concerns over the sustainability of diagnostic imaging services, particularly in small regions like Cairns, have sparked the urgent request. [...] In response to those concerns, 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.

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

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Department of Health and Aged Care in Fair Work today

Aged Care Housing News, Other, 24/02/2025

The Department of Health and Aged Care will face a staff dispute in the [...]

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Profits down for residential providers

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Department of Health and Aged Care's latest quarterly report on information from providers highlights the decline in financial performance of the residential aged care sector. The Quarterly Financial Snapshot Aged Care Sector Quarter 1 2024-25 July to September 2024 has largely attributed this decline to the reforms introduced in the lead up to 1 July.

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Pharmacists will soon need to record pregnancy status in AIR

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 24/02/2025, Chloe Hava

Reporting additional patient information when administering vaccines will soon be required for all vaccination providers. Here's why it matters and how to comply. [...] Changes to the Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015 mean it is mandatory for all vaccination providers to report the administration of COVID-19, influenza, National Immunisation Program (NIP) and Japanese encephalitis virus vaccines to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR), a Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson told Australian Pharmacist.

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\$182.6m solution to health workforce planning

The Medical Republic, Other, 24/02/2025, Amanda Sheppeard

Australia needs an independent national health workforce planning agency to future-proof the nation's healthcare system and to get away from policy development that is "happening in a vacuum", says a peak body. [...] Dr McMullen said health workforce planning stalled when Health Workforce Australia was abolished in 2014, and the Department of Health and Aged Care had too many competing priorities to properly tackle the issue.

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90% bulk billing seems unlikely, say GPs across the board

The Medical Republic, Other, 24/02/2025, Holly Payne

While the funding is impressive, general practice representative groups have been wary of backing the lofty Labor predictions of boosting bulk-billing rates to 90% with its \$8.5 billion package. [...] According to federal health minister Mark Butler the combined investment will result in nine out of 10 GP visits being bulk billed by 2030, while the number of universal bulk-billing practices will triple to 4800 nationally.

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icare's new mobile clinic hits the road for lung health checks

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 25/02/2025, Roxanne Libatique

icare has launched a new Lung Health Mobile Clinic to provide respiratory screenings for workers throughout New South Wales. [...] The screening process aligns with national guidelines from the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, and a clinical governance committee oversees the program to ensure best-practice standards are maintained.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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Can a purple humanoid with Disney charm help combat the country's loneliness epidemic?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 24/02/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Abi, the 5-foot-tall purple and orange humanoid inspired by Disney characters, was originally designed to combat one mechatronics engineer's loneliness during the height of the pandemic but has since revealed it's potential to enrich the lives of older people.

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Introducing AAG's president

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/02/2025, Natasha Egan

The Australian Association of Gerontology has formally introduced its refreshed board this month including new president Anita Westera – an academic, registered nurse and former adviser in the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments. Ms Westera, an experienced researcher, policy analyst, project manager and advocate – began the two-year term at the end of 2024 after serving as vice president since mid-2023.

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Crime podcast may have just unmasked an aged care serial killer

HelloCare, Other, 24/02/2025, Jakob Neeland

Anne Connolly is no stranger to exposing the darker sides of the aged care sector. The award-winning ABC investigative journalist is best known in aged care circles for her 2018 exposé on abuse and neglect in Australian nursing homes – a report so damning that then-Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced a Royal Commission the day before it aired.

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POPULATION HEALTH

SA's long-life regions

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/02/2025, Samantha Landy, Page 11

South Australia is home to nine of the nation's 45 healthiest regions, where residents are living up to eight years longer than the national average and are less prone to chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease. The good health spots are Adelaide CBD, Adelaide Hills, Burnside, Holdfast Bay, Mitcham, Port Adelaide Enfield, Unley, Wakefield and Elliston, according to insurance company AIA Australia.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Adelaide mum shares food noise battle and why more needs to be done to tackle SA's obesity epidemic

Adelaide Now, Other, 24/02/2025, Follow

For years Jacquie Lavis couldn't stop thinking about food. Thoughts about what her next meal would be were all consuming, making it near impossible for the Mawson Lakes mum-of-two to lose weight. "I've always struggled with my weight," she said.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

High breast cancer risk

Courier Mail, General News, 25/02/2025, Page 10

Australians have one of the highest rates of breast cancer diagnoses in the world. Of 185 countries studied by researchers, including scientists from The University of Sydney and The University of Queensland, the incidence rate for breast cancer was highest in Australia and New Zealand, although the death rates from breast cancer were at the lower end of the scale.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Hope in fight with big C

West Australian, General News, 25/02/2025, Artemisia Blythe, Page 3

More Australians diagnosed with breast cancer but more are surviving Australia and New Zealand have the highest rates of breast cancer in the world, but fewer people are now dying from the disease, a new study shows. Research examining breast cancer incidents and deaths across 185 countries shows Australia has one of the highest rates of diagnoses across the globe.

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'Life-changing treatment'

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 25/02/2025, Kate McIlwain, Page 1

After nearly five years of having Stage 4 small cell lung cancer and undergoing 32 rounds of chemotherapy, a clinical trial at Westmead is helping Michelle Pearse stay hopeful. However, the long trip to get to the western Sydney hospital from her Warrigal Care home in Wollongong was threatening her ability to stay on the trial.

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Apple Cider Vinegar Netflix series: How to find factual cancer info

Cairns Post, Other, 24/02/2025, Tamara McDonald

A woman who has been diagnosed with two brain tumours is calling for harsher penalties for health fraudsters amid the release of the Netflix series inspired by Australian cancer con artist Belle Gibson. [...] Melody Chew, Cancer Council Australia director of cancer control campaigns and communication, said the spread of health misinformation online made it increasingly difficult for people to make well-informed decisions about cancer prevention, treatment, and care, which could have life-altering consequences.

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

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Brain health alert: This popular medication may raise dementia risk

Your Life Choices, Other, 24/02/2025, Floralyn Teodoro

Millions of people rely on over-the-counter medications for everyday relief, from headaches to allergies and minor aches. However, new research suggests that some widely used medications may have unintended consequences for long-term brain health.

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PRIMARY CARE

Doctors wary of 'free GPs' vision

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 25/02/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 6

Doctors are warning Australians to temper their expectations of free GP visits as they fear patients will be disappointed when most city clinics keep charging gap fees, despite both Labor and the Coalition pledging \$8.5 billion to boost bulk-billing. As both parties try to sell voters on their healthcare records

ahead of the federal election, Labor has made a major pledge – matched by the Coalition the next day – to introduce bulk-billing bonuses for GPs who cover the full cost of adult appointments.

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Maternity overhaul

Hobart Mercury, General News, 25/02/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 1

The peak body for the Australian private health insurance industry has called for a sweeping overhaul of the way maternity services are funded across the country as concerns mount over the closure of a crucial ward in Hobart. North American-owned healthcare company Healthscope announced last Thursday that it would be shutting the maternity ward at Hobart Private Hospital, where 600 babies are delivered every year.

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Infant's records now in

Cairns Post, General News, 25/02/2025, Marnie Buchanan, Page 4

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service has provided the Northern Coroner with missing clinician statements related to the care and treatment of a baby who died in Atherton Hospital eight hours after she was born last year. Northern Coroner Stephanie Williams last week brought on an urgent pre-inquest conference related to the death of baby, Wren Preo, stating that she was concerned by the CHHHS' "refusal, on one view" to provide statements, which she had requested shortly after baby Wren's death on June 1, 2024.

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Bulk-billing, talk gap is growing clearer

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/02/2025, Page 16

More money for Medicare is hardly the most divisive political decision. But when doctors are quick to label it "bullshit", something has gone wrong. There is a growing disconnection between political rhetoric and the front lines where patients pay their doctors.

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Nib reveals plans for 'full ownership' of Honeysuckle Health

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/02/2025, Page 18

Insurance giant nib will move to "full ownership" of Honeysuckle Health in the second half of the 2025 financial year. Honeysuckle Health is an equal joint venture between nib Health Funds Ltd and Cigna Corporation, a global health services company.

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

Good Friday Appeal funding boosts regional health care

Shepparton News, General News, 25/02/2025, Georgia Tacey, Page 4

The Good Friday Appeal has announced a second wave of funding to keep sick regional kids closer to home. A \$3 million investment has been made to regional Victoria's health services, including Goulburn Valley Health, through the Good Friday Appeal.

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Health clinics face scalpel

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 25/02/2025, Rose Innes, Page 2

Vital nurse-led clinics around the state are under threat, with claims jobs and opening hours will be slashed just months after their launch. The state opposition claims a whistleblower raised the alarm that the seven-day Brisbane City clinic, which opened in September, would have staffing reduced and opening hours "dramatically cut" to remove evening and weekend work under changes proposed by the Crisafulli government.

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Emma ditched her expensive health cover but a new plan could get her back

Expectant mothers could have their pregnancy managed by a midwife or a GP under a radical proposal to make private maternity care more affordable and to prevent mass closures of Australia's maternity wards. After last month refusing to accept the federal government's pitch to allow families without gold-tier health insurance policies to access private maternity care, Australia's private health insurers have proposed an alternative plan that would pay midwives, GPs and obstetricians to co-ordinate end-to-end maternity packages spanning a whole pregnancy.

[Read More](#)

NSW woman Kay Henderson's final words revealed as niece sheds light on voluntary assisted dying decision

7news.com.au, Other, 24/02/2025, Bryce Luff

A terminally-ill woman who ended her life using NSW euthanasia laws told family that she "loved us all" before taking her final breath. Kay Henderson, 47, turned to voluntary assisted dying after decades of agonising pain and discomfort triggered by a genetic disorder called Marfan syndrome.

[Read More](#)

Anthony Albanese faces voters in live Q+A as election battlelines are drawn

ABC Online, Other, 24/02/2025, Lewis Wiseman & Jason-Whittaker

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has directly faced Australians worried about their safety amid race-based attacks, with one Jewish mother telling him: "We have suffered because nothing was done." The prime minister has been quizzed by about 240 voters in the ABC's Q+A studio, and from viewers around Australia, sharpening his political attacks ahead of an election expected to be called within weeks.

[Read More](#)

Doctor loses appeal against registration conditions after leaving Port Pirie Hospital over claims it was 'dangerous'

ABC Online, Other, 24/02/2025

A locum doctor who accepted a contract at Port Pirie Hospital stayed just 45 minutes and saw only one patient before leaving because she believed it was "too dangerous a place" to work. Dr Amira Mahboub accepted a placement at the regional South Australian hospital, about 230 kilometres north of Adelaide, from January 28, 2023, to February 1, 2023, but left within an hour without completing a patient handover, alerting other doctors or notifying the head of medical services.

[Read More](#)

Queensland Health discharged man from Gold Coast hospital despite mother's suicide warning

ABC Online, Other, 24/02/2025, Kirsten Robb

A mother spent hours watching her 20-year-old son die. "He moved his finger when he heard my voice — the doctor said that was a good sign," she said. "They did a brain scan and said he wasn't going to survive but they would give him another night.

[Read More](#)

A relief doctor saw one patient at a regional SA hospital and walked out an hour into her four-day shift, claiming it was "dangerous" – now she's been sanctioned.

Cairns Post, Other, 24/02/2025, Agnes Gichuhi

A relief doctor who saw one patient at a regional hospital and walked out saying "this place should not be a hospital" has lost an appeal after being sanctioned by the Australian Medical Board. Dr Amira Mahboub accepted a locum contract at Port Pirie Regional Health Service in 2023 but left within the hour after failing to notify the head of patient services.

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

Payroll tax relief passes Queensland Parliament

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 24/02/2025

New laws have passed through the Queensland Parliament to permanently exempt the state's GPs from payroll taxes. The State Parliament's support is the final step in cementing the legal changes, which mean that wages paid by medical practices to GPs are exempt from the controversial tax.

[Read More](#)

Changes in the works for general practice accreditation

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 24/02/2025

GPs are being encouraged to give their feedback on proposed changes to the National General Practice Accreditation Scheme. Only 22% of accredited general practices meet all mandatory indicators at their subsequent assessment.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 24/02/2025, James Glenday & Bridget Brennan

The Australasian College of Emergency Medicine says patient violence has reached unacceptably high levels in emergency rooms, and is calling on the Federal Government to take urgent action to keep staff safe. More than half of the 100 emergency medicine directors surveyed by ACEM said physical violence occurred in their department daily or weekly.

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

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 24/02/2025, Matt Shirvington & Natalie Barr

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President Michael Wright, about the Federal Government's announced funding for Medicare bulk-billing. Wright says the \$8.5 billion funding package is an investment to grow the GP workforce. He notes the big changes will increase demand and will take some time for GPs to understand how the program works and if they will participate. Wright adds extending the bulk-billing incentives to everyone won't necessarily mean everyone gets bulk-billed because the patient rebates are still too low to cover the cost of care.

Interview continues on: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 24/02/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President Michael Wright, about the Federal Government's announced funding for Medicare bulk-billing. Wright says it's an \$8.5 billion commitment for workforce initiatives and also additional funding for general practice. He adds the workforce aspect of the package is a significant boost for growing the GP workforce and it will ensure more communities around the country can access GP care when they need it.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Melissa fell through the post-natal anxiety aid gaps. That's changing

Age, General News, 25/02/2025, Wendy Tuohy, Page 8

Melissa Mendoza had a strong enough grasp of English to hold down a professional career in Melbourne, but after a traumatic experience giving birth, and isolated from her family, she struggled to find support in the right words to capture what she was going through. Mendoza understood how what she was feeling might be treated in Peru, where she was born.

School's rowing culture 'toxic'

Herald Sun, General News, 25/02/2025, Susie O'Brien & Rebecca Borg, Page 7

Parents claim the rowing program at a leading private girls' school has a "toxic" culture marked by favouritism, extreme pressure, bullying and mental health issues. An external review last year highlighted many of these problems at St Catherine's School, Toorak, which has long been regarded as the best girls' rowing school in the state.

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

Emergency situation

Ballarat Courier, General News, 25/02/2025, 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. More than a dozen volunteers came forward after ACM, publisher of The Courier, revealed serious internal concerns about mental health support and blacklisting of members within the organisation.

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Albany Liberal candidate Dr Tom Brough hits out at firearm licence checks

ABC Online, Other, 24/02/2025, Rosemary Murphy & Andrew Chounding

A Liberal candidate has attempted to walk back comments suggesting he and a "posse" of rural doctors would help potential gun owners navigate Western Australia's strict firearms laws. Speaking at a community forum in Mount Barker last week, Liberal candidate for Albany Thomas Brough said firearm holders would not be left "high and dry" by doctors in the region.

[Read More](#)

'A really dark place': Why LGBTIQ+ Australians fear Meta's 'disturbing' changes

SBS, Other, 24/02/2025, Catriona Stirrat

Chantel Le Cross fears becoming traumatised by social media content ever since Meta changed its community guidelines around hateful conduct. The parent company of Facebook, Instagram, and Threads has made changes that now allow users to refer to LGBTIQ+ people as "mentally ill", among other controversial moves.

[Read More](#)

Katrina was separated from her newborn twins for 33 days. NSW psychiatrists warn specialised support for mothers is in crisis

The Guardian, Other, 25/02/2025, Natasha May

For 33 days, Katrina Weynberg was separated from her newborn twins by a hospital floor. They're 33 days she'll never get back. After falling pregnant for the first time in 2021, Katrina was excited. But that was soon overshadowed by anxiety after she found she was having twins who shared one placenta, which carries a high risk of complications.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 24/02/2025, Spence Denny

Economists are optimistic the federal government's Medicare election promise will help parts of the health industry save money in the long run. Labor is promising \$8.5 billion to boost bulk billing rates and make visits more affordable in a bid to have nine out of ten GP visits bulk billed by 2030.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Emergency on aggro

Herald Sun, General News, 25/02/2025, Page 15

Concerning new data reveals increasing levels of violence and aggression faced every day by Australia's emergency medicine workforce. Nine out of 10 respondents in an Australasian College for Emergency Medicine survey reported having experienced violent incidents in their ED in the past week, and more than three quarters reported that this included physical harm.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Fear in our hospitals

West Australian, General News, 25/02/2025, John Flint, Page 12

WA doctors and nurses regularly face violence as they try to save lives Punching, kicking, biting, abuse and threats violence against emergency doctors is pushing them to "breaking point". Experts say the abuse is so commonplace that it needs to be dealt with urgently before highly skilled doctors quit.

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GV mental health nurses take action

Shepparton News, General News, 25/02/2025, Djembe Archibald, Page 4

Almost 4000 Victorian public sector mental health nurses, including GV Health nurses, began protected industrial action on Friday, February 21. They are campaigning for improved entitlements, working conditions, workloads and enforceable nursing staffing levels.

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

Developments to go under the microscope

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 24/02/2025, John Conroy, Page 5

Mildura's new council will cast judgement on its first tranche of development applications for the municipality, with a planning meeting scheduled next month. Mildura Rural City Council has announced a planning delegated committee meeting will take place on March 13 the first since July last year, and the first since November's statewide local government elections.

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Flinders University welcomes largest ever cohort of 42 medical students to the Northern Territory

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 24/02/2025, Taylor Mason

Flinders University's Northern Territory Medical Program has reached a new milestone, welcoming its largest-ever intake of medical students. A total of 42 students – 38 local and 4 international – are embarking on their four-year journey to becoming doctors, with the program set to boost the Territory's health workforce.

[Read More](#)

'Help grow their workforce': new opportunity to tackle aged care staff shortage

The Border Mail, Other, 24/02/2025, Madilyn McKinley

The number of aged care staff on the Border could rise through a new vocational course. For the first time, TAFE NSW Albury is offering a certificate III in health services assistance owing to the demand for workers in the industry.

[Read More](#)

Aged care nurses set to earn more from March 1

Aged Care Insite, Other, 24/02/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Registered and enrolled nurses working in aged care will soon be paid more under the Fair Work Commission's (FWC) changes to the Nurses Award 2020. The pay increases, outlined in the FWC's final determination in December of last year, will vary across classifications, but will build upon the 15 per cent award wage increase introduced from 30 June 2023.

[Read More](#)

Increase in violence against aged care nurses

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Incidents of workplace violence for nurses are increasing, according to two recent studies from the Caring Futures Institute and another from RMIT University. Both have highlighted the increasing incidences of workplace violence and aggression as leading to long-term consequences for nursing students, their supervisors, and the profession at large.

[Read More](#)

Labor's \$8.5 billion Medicare boost to deliver 400 more nursing and midwifery scholarships and bulk-billing for all Australians

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 24/02/2025, Robert Fedele

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) has welcomed the Albanese Government's \$8.5 billion Medicare investment, announced yesterday, which will fund 400 extra nursing and midwifery scholarships and increased access to bulk-billing. If re-elected, Labor will expand its GP bulk-billing incentive payments, currently only applied to children under 16, pensioners, and concession card holders, to all Australians from 1 November 2025.

[Read More](#)

Bastas Health Leadership academy

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 24/02/2025

A new Health Leadership academy will be established at the University of Melbourne thanks to a \$7.5 million donation from Dennis Bastas, CEO of DGBHealth. The Bastas Academy for Health Leadership - a cross-disciplinary partnership between the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and Melbourne Business School - will provide world-class leadership development programs to upskill and empower health professionals to drive innovation, collaboration and excellence across the industry.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 24/02/2025, Chris Bath / Dom Knight

Interview with Dr Pramudie Gunaratne, Chair, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists NSW Branch. Gunaratne comments on the violence taking place in emergency departments of hospitals across Australia, and the huge increase in wait times for mental health patients in EDs. She notes over 70 psychiatrists have left the public mental health system.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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Why Libs backed Labor on Medicare

Australian Financial Review, General News, 25/02/2025, Phillip Coorey, Page 5

Senior Liberals concede the opposition had no choice but to quickly match Labor's \$8.5 billion Medicare pitch or risk being torn asunder like Malcolm Turnbull in 2016 when then opposition leader Bill Shorten mounted "Mediscare".

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

Pre-election spending has reached 'disgusting' levels

The Australian, General News, 25/02/2025, Simon Benson, Page 1

Canberra appears to be heading toward new levels of fiscal incontinence. Only last week, economists warned that the RBA benching itself from the political cycle by handing down a one-off rate cut before an election was called would simply encourage both sides of politics to empty their wallets.

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

Dutton's \$24bn of public service cuts

The Australian, General News, 25/02/2025, Greg Brown, Page 1

Peter Dutton has declared he will offset increased spending on Medicare by cutting \$6bn a year out of the public service, raising expectations he will cull all 36,000 bureaucracy jobs added by the Albanese government. As Labor refuses to outline any offsets for its \$8.5bn funding boost for Medicare, the Opposition Leader said the Coalition would save \$6bn a year by reversing Labor's 36,000 increase to the public service workforce.

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We still won't be able to bulk bill: doctors

The Australian, General News, 25/02/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 5

Frontline doctors have greeted Labor's blockbuster Medicare announcement with scepticism and say the economics of the bulkbilling incentive will not work for their practices. The Albanese government has based its health pitch on an extension of the triple bulk-billing incentive to all patients, and a 12.5 per cent further uplift to practices who bulk bill all patients.

Also reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#)

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Dutton vows public service cuts

Courier Mail, General News, 25/02/2025, Brendan O'Malley, Page 1

Tens of thousands of federal public servants will be let go under a Coalition plan to pump the nearly \$6bn in savings into matching Labor's promise to restore bulkbilling for most visits to the GP. "We have looked at how we can fund this ... we've identified scaling back of the public service, which has grown phenomenally under the Labor Party – 36,000 additional public servants," he said.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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

Medicare moves an unhealthy wealth transfer

The Nightly, General News, 24/02/2025, Aaron Patrick, Page 8

Anthony Albanese has been looking for a fight over Medicare pretty much since he became Labor Party leader in 2019. On the weekend, facing a tough election, he promised to reverse what had been the managed retreat away from almost-universal free medical care.

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Incredible bulk?

West Australian, General News, 25/02/2025, Nicola Smith, Katina Curtis & Ellen Ransley, Page 11

More than 400 GP clinics across Western Australia will be better off if they shift to bulk-billing all

patients with the new incentive payments the Albanese Government has promised will be on offer from November. That's nearly 10 times the number that currently offer all patients free appointments, according to the latest data.

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Any Medicare investment is welcome

Canberra Times, Editorials, 25/02/2025, Page 14

The alacrity with which the opposition matched Labor's pledge to commit \$8.5 billion over four years to increasing bulk billing rates by general practitioners can be interpreted in a couple of different ways. Cynics will accuse the Coalition of trying to cut off a 2025 repeat of the "Mediscare" campaign at the pass.

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

Time for a good ol' fashioned Medicare bidding war!

Crikey, Other, 24/02/2025, Alex Cameron

The weekend has come and gone, and predictions that Anthony Albanese was going to call a federal election ended up being unfounded. Instead, the prime minister made one of his biggest pre-election announcements of the faux campaign so far: an \$8.5 billion investment in Medicare designed to dramatically increase rates of bulk billing.

[Read More](#)

Labor's new Medicare policy could have been an election trap but the Coalition said 'me too'

ABC Online, Other, 24/02/2025, Patricia Karvelas

There's a point in the political cycle — often on the cusp of the election campaign — best described as the "me-too" phase. We have entered this phase in the past few weeks with two key moments that demonstrate the thesis.

[Read More](#)

Breast imaging providers warn of potential service collapse without urgent Medicare reform

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 24/02/2025, Emma Cam

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 both patients and providers. Specialists, women's imaging providers, and the peak body for radiology, Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association, have united to highlight the growing financial strain on both the industry and patients, due to rising out-of-pocket costs.

[Read More](#)

Tit for tat: Major parties put health at the centre of pre-election promises

Aged Care Insite, Other, 24/02/2025, Stefanie Schultz

The Prime Minister has promised the largest single investment in Medicare in its 41 years, tripling the current bulk billing incentive but the opposition has said it will match it. Labor announced the major \$8.5 billion investment over the weekend, promising to cover 90 percent of Australians' GP visits.

[Read More](#)

ABC, 7:30, 24/02/2025, Sarah Ferguson

The Albanese Government has pledged an \$8.5b funding investment into Medicare. The Opposition has matched the announcement. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler recalls Opposition Leader Peter Dutton's attempt at abolishing bulk billing and cutting \$50b from hospitals.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 24/02/2025, Tom Lowrey

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese addressed his cabinet in Melbourne today, ahead of the Federal Election campaign. Albanese discussed the Government's flagship new Medicare policy, despite the Opposition saying it will match the funding.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Newsday, 24/02/2025, Kieran Gilbert

Interview with Angie Bell, Liberal Frontbencher, about Labor's \$8.5b Medicare pledge. Bell says it is important for the Opposition to match the pledge, and add \$500m in mental health support. She also comments on the importance of the issue, noting Australia is in a health crisis under Labor Government.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 24/02/2025, Tom Connell

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has announced Labor's \$8.5b investment into Medicare to improve bulk billing. This comes as Albanese took aim at Opposition Leader Peter Dutton's record as Health Minister in the Abbott Government.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 24/02/2025, Tom Connell

Interview with Peter Khalil, Special Envoy for Social Cohesion, about Labor's \$8.5b promise for Medicare. Khalil notes it is the biggest investment in Medicare since its creation 40 years ago. He also comments on the Opposition matching the announcement, and recalls Opposition Leader Peter Dutton's record as former Health Minister.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Newsday, 24/02/2025, Kieran Gilbert

Panel discussion with Labor MP Sam Rae and Liberal MP Aaron Violi. Rae comments on Labor Party's \$8.5b investment in Medicare and recalls Opposition Leader Peter Dutton freezing the Medicare rebate when he was Health Minister. Violi comments on the bulk billing rates dropping from 84% in 2019 to 73% in 2023.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News (Weekend), 23/02/2025, Karina Carvalho and Mike Amor

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has pledged \$8.5b into Medicare. His promise has been immediately matched by Opposition Leader Peter Dutton. Albanese says it is aimed at making it easier for Australians to go see the GP for free.

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

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 24/02/2025, Sally Sara

The Coalition has promised to match Labor's \$8.5 billion election promise to boost bulk-billing for GP appointments. Both major parties are committing to lifting bulk-billing rates and committing to a lot of extra spending in the Budget.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 24/02/2025, Leon Compton

Nationals MP Barnaby Joyce is challenging the Federal Government to return to Canberra for a budget to discuss how both parties would pay for a multi-billion-dollar boost to Medicare. Labor says it will spend \$8.5 billion to make nine out of ten GP visits free for patients by 2030, which is a pledge the Coalition matched.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 24/02/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Dr Kylie Sterry, Kalgoorlie GP. Sterry comments on the Federal Government's \$8.5b investment to boost Medicare rebate and bulk billing. She says the announcement won't mean anyone can walk into GP clinic and get bulk-billed. She adds the Medicare rebate and bulk billing incentive is just so far below the AMA recommended fee for senior GP, that a majority of general practises cannot afford to bulk bill everybody.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#).

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2CC, Canberra Live, 24/02/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Kristy McBain, Federal Member for Eden-Monaro. McBain comments on Opposition Leader Peter Dutton's promise to match PM Anthony Albanese's \$8.5b package to boost Medicare.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor accused of 'racist, anti-Semitic' comments off hook

The Australian, General News, 25/02/2025, Liam Mendes, Page 1

A Melbourne obstetrician accused of making "racially motivated" comments towards a midwife married to a Jewish man has avoided punishment under the nation's health regulator, with authorities saying she claimed she "never intentionally meant to cause harm". Miranda Robinson was reported to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency last year by midwife Sharon Stoliar, after Dr Robinson accused Ms Stoliar of "almost certainly" being behind an anonymous Instagram account posting about anti-Semitism in healthcare and the conflict in the Middle East because she was a "POC" (person of colour) and married to a Jewish man.

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Shocked doc quits hospital

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/02/2025, Agnes Gichuhi, Page 3

A relief doctor who saw just one patient at a regional hospital and then walked out saying "This place should not be a hospital" has lost an appeal after being sanctioned by the Australian Medical Board. Dr Amira Mahboub accepted a locum contract at Port Pirie Regional Health Service in 2023 but left within an hour without notifying the head of patient services.

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WA Liberal candidate to face tribunal over claims of professional misconduct

ABC Online, Other, 24/02/2025, Andrew Chounding , Rosemary Murphy & Keane Bourke

The WA Liberal candidate for the seat of Albany has been referred to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) to answer claims of professional misconduct. [...] Several letters from Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to complainants, dated December 5 and sighted by the ABC, confirm the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) has since referred Dr Brough's conduct to SAT.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Family shares pain to save more lives

Courier Mail, General News, 25/02/2025, Samantha Landy, Page 17

A heart transplant for their beautiful baby, Remy, was the "light at the end of the tunnel" that never came for Melissa Lei and Joseph Shomali. Little Remy was born with a genetic cardiac condition and a new heart was his only chance at life.

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

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Gifts that save lives

Herald Sun, Editorials, 25/02/2025, Page 20

The gift of life is so precious, but precious few of us are offering it. When it comes to organ donation recipients, Victorians lead the nation, but there's plenty more work to do to educate and to lift state and national rates of donor registrations.

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Giving the gift of life

Hobart Mercury, General News, 25/02/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 6

When his phone rang at 11.30pm on a winter's night last year, organ transplant recipient David Wightman knew it could be a life-changing call. The 50-year-old, who first suffered kidney failure in 1999 and received an organ donation from his mother, was on a second round of dialysis in 2024 after his body rejected the original transplant.

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Ultimate gift of giving life

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 25/02/2025, Page 14

Tasmania is leading the nation in organ donation, with an impressive 72 per cent consent rate well above the national average of 53 per cent. This is an incredible achievement, but there is still more to be done.

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Stem cell donor shortage forces Australian families overseas

7news.com.au, Other, 24/02/2025, Jennifer Bechwati

For hundreds of children battling severe illness a stem cell or bone marrow donation can truly mean the difference between life and death. But finding a compatible donor is like finding a needle in a haystack.

[Read More](#)

Vape quitting app, Pave

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 24/02/2025

An app to help young people quit vaping, Pave, has been launched by NSW Health. Developed by the Cancer Institute NSW, and designed together with young people who vape or had recently quit vaping, Pave is now available on Apple's App Store and Google Play.

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SPORT

Who ordered the beef?

Age, Sport, 25/02/2025, Sam McClure & Jon Pierik, Page 40

At least two captains confronted AFL Commission chairman Richard Goyder over the proposed tightening of the illicit drugs policy when the skippers of all 18 clubs dined with league heavyweights at South Melbourne restaurant Lamaro's on Sunday night. The dinner was held in a private dining room at the gastro pub, where Goyder was accompanied by AFL chief executive Andrew Dillon, football boss Laura Kane and fellow commissioners Andrew Ireland and Robin Bishop.

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

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Tate's play for hockey

Courier Mail, General News, 25/02/2025, Jeremy Pierce, Page 5

Plans for hockey to be played at a rebuilt Ballymore for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games could be dashed, with an existing Gold Coast field emerging as the preferred venue. Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate, in his latest pitch to nab more Games events to the city, has outlined a plan to the 2032 review panel to relocate hockey from a temporary set-up at rugby union's spiritual home of Ballymore to the Gold Coast Hockey Centre.

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

Channel 9, Nine News Late, 24/02/2025, Tracy Vo

The GIICA panel carrying out the 100 day review into Brisbane 2032 Olympic stadiums say the panel can't fault Graham Quirk's logic, referencing the former Lord mayor's decision to recommend a new Victoria Park stadium to the former labor government. Government sources say the panel arrived at that conclusion after examining the costs and timelines associated with redeveloping the Gabba, saying there are serious questions about whether there is even enough time to redevelop the Gabba,

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Channel 9, Nine News, 24/02/2025, Melissa Downes

Queensland Government has received a draft report on which stadium should host the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games. Sources say the independent panel has arrived at a conclusion that building a new Victoria Park Stadium is a better option than rebuilding The Gaaba, after examining the costs and timelines associated. However, the final decision is up to the Queensland Premier David Crisafulli and the Cabinet.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Women slow on 000

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 25/02/2025, Page 3

Women who have heart attacks have a worse outcome than men, and one of the reasons may be that women are less comfortable calling triple0. Monash University research found that while women were more likely to call triple-0 if experiencing heart attack symptoms (70.4 per cent versus 62.7 per cent), women were significantly less comfortable to call (69.1 per cent versus 76.7 per cent men).

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

Researchers find infant brain health link to creatine supplements

The Australian, Other, 24/02/2025, James Dowling

Two baby-science researchers have used their own pregnancies to trial a groundbreaking supplement that promises to reduce cerebral palsy, deafness and blindness in infants. New research from the Hudson Institute in Melbourne has shown creatine can also reduce learning or behavioural difficulties by helping fight the effects of oxygen deprivation in the womb.

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Even doctors say 'I've never seen this before': New Wollongong support hub for rare cancers

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 24/02/2025, Kate McIlwain

After nearly five years of having Stage 4 small cell lung cancer and undergoing 32 rounds of

chemotherapy, a clinical trial at Westmead is helping Michelle Pearce stay hopeful. However, the long trip to get to the western Sydney hospital from her Warrigal Care home in Wollongong was threatening her ability to stay on the trial.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

WA Aboriginal Health Council welcomes remote food plan, urges expansion to all communities

National Indigenous Times, Other, 24/02/2025, Giovanni Torre

The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia welcomed the federal government's price cap on food and essential items in remote stores on Monday but stressed that all remote stores must be able to access the scheme to ensure that no community is disadvantaged. The government announced this month it would reduce the costs of around 30 products like fresh fruit, vegetables and essential household items in more than 76 remote stores nationwide through a product subsidy scheme aimed at ensuring the cost of goods in these stores was comparable to that of urban supermarkets.

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Community-led men's wellness centre set for Gunaikurnai country

National Indigenous Times, Other, 24/02/2025, Dechlan Brennan

The federal government's focus on combatting the scourge of gendered violence will see the opening of a new men's wellness centre in Victoria's east. Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth announced on Sunday the Gippsland Lakes Complete Health Limited will receive \$2.4 million in funding to help set up the Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association (LEAHA) Deyettyan Dardiganni Wellness Service project.

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Closing the Gap is a long-term commitment

National Indigenous Times, Other, 24/02/2025, Malarndirri Mccarthy

In the six months since I became the Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, I have heard some inspiring stories of success. I have met with men and women in Kununurra in WA's Kimberley region and in town camps outside Alice Springs who have told me about how proud they are to be working.

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"We need to know before you go": First Nations people encouraged to yarn about future health care

National Indigenous Times, Other, 24/02/2025, Rhiannon Clarke

In recognition of National Advance Care Planning Week and National Close the Gap Day next month, First Nations people are encouraged to gather, share a cuppa, and have important conversations about future health care—because, as the message says, "we need to know before you go".

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Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care: 30 years of community-led care

National Indigenous Times, Other, 24/02/2025, Joseph Guenzler

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care, a vital organisation based in Redfern that provides culturally safe, in-home care and social support for Aboriginal Elders. Founded in 1996 by Wiradjuri Elder Sylvia Scott and Dunghutti Elder Mary Silva, Wyanga was established to address a critical gap in care for Elders, ensuring services were culturally appropriate and community-driven.

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Renal health a key focus of WA Labor's \$54 million Pilbara pledge

A \$44.2 million eight-chair dialysis facility and renal hostel in Karratha and a \$10 million boost for Wirraka Maya Aboriginal Health Services in South Hedland are at the centre of WA Labor's recent re-election pledges to bolster Pilbara health services. The \$54 million promise was announced at the Karratha Health Campus on Friday, February 21 by Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

How to treat flesh eater

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 25/02/2025, Page 7

Guidelines on how to treat the flesh-eating Buruli ulcer have been developed by Australian experts. Buruli ulcer is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium ulcerans*, which releases toxins that can destroy skin, blood vessels and subcutaneous tissue, leading to ulcers.

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

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Falling vaccination rates in this country endanger us all

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 24/02/2025, Wendy Hu & Peter Breadon

After being officially eliminated in the US in 2000, measles is making a comeback. It couldn't happen here, right? After all, the US health system was already a mess, and now Donald Trump has put an anti-vaccine activist, Robert F. Kennedy Jr, in charge of health policy.

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opinion Andrew Leech: Cost of protecting children from meningococcal B falls on shoulders of WA families

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 24/02/2025, Andrew Leech

Henry was just three months old when his parents rushed him to the emergency department at PMH, barely recognising their once-thriving baby. He had a fever that wouldn't break, a spreading red rash, and an eerie, high-pitched cry.

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Melioidosis is caused by the bacterium

The New Daily, Other, 24/02/2025, Thomas Jeffries

Seven people have now died from melioidosis in flood-ravaged north Queensland this year. Dozens of cases have been reported in the state in recent weeks, which experts have described as unprecedented So what is melioidosis, and why are we seeing a spike in cases now?

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Boosting shingles awareness

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 24/02/2025

Glaxosmithkline Australia is sponsoring a shingles awareness campaign to increase understanding of the impact of shingles and address common misconceptions surrounding it. Shingles Awareness Week starts today, and highlights the stories of its ambassadors, journalist Shelly Horton, former AFL player Robert 'Dipper' DiPierdomenico and news presenter Deborah Knight, who have experienced first-hand the pain and impact of shingles.

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Fit or fixated: Could health apps be doing more harm than good?

SBS, Other, 24/02/2025

They're on the phones of 311 million people worldwide and used to track calories, monitor steps, and set fitness goals. But how healthy are health and fitness apps, really? [...] Calls for more research and greater regulation The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) does not regulate health and lifestyle apps.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

'Unintended fermentation': Non-alcoholic drink recalled from shelves across Australia over risk of exploding bottles

Sky News Australia, Other, 24/02/2025, Preston Potts

A non-alcoholic salted grapefruit mixer sold across Australia has been recalled over fears the bottle could explode. [...] Food Standards Australia and New Zealand have warned the 180ml and 540ml bottles should not be opened and returned immediately.

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