



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 26th February 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **[Cairns Post](#)** (Page 1) reports that since January 1, 2025, nine people have been confirmed dead by the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service with bacteria-borne disease being the cause of death.
- **[The Australian](#)** (Page 3) reports that a new research study has found that taking antidepressants could speed up memory loss in older adults with dementia. According to Dementia Australia there is an estimated 433,300 people in Australia are living with dementia.
- **[The Australian](#)** (Page 7) reports that on Wednesday Greens Leader Adam Bandt announced a new policy to make all ADHD and autism assessments free across all age groups at an annual cost of \$181 million. "The Greens will make big corporations and billionaires pay tax so you don't have to pay thousands to get an ADHD or autism diagnosis," Mr Bandt said.
- **[The Age](#)** (Page 11) reports that the Council for Intellectual Disability has launched a campaign, calling for full implementation of the National Roadmap to address widespread healthcare neglect of people with intellectual disabilities. Families of affected individuals say unconscious bias in medical settings continues to result in preventable deaths and inadequate care.
- The **[Cairns Post](#)** (Page 11) reports that the potential Americanisation of healthcare if Labor loses the federal election has been warned by Anthony Albanese, saying "What we know is that

Peter Dutton, when he was health minister, took \$50bn out of the hospital system, tried to introduce a GP tax every time everyone visited a GP."

- The **Courier Mail** (Page 13) reports that at Mater Hospital Brisbane new clinical trials of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) are underway with the state leading with the revolutionary new therapy that is giving hope of "maintaining or repairing" the symptoms of people living with multiple sclerosis (MS).
- The **Courier Mail** reports that Australia's public mental health system is nearing crisis as demand surges, with seven in 10 Australians with poor mental health reporting further deterioration over the past year. Experts warned that without increased investment in mental health services, rising financial stress and limited access to care will leave many Australians suffering needlessly.

MINISTER BUTLER

Push to give 'unseen' children the attention they deserve

Age, General News, 26/02/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 11

Two mothers, Danijela Fitzgibbon and Rachel Browne, shared the same gut-wrenching fear since their sons were babies: if their boys needed lifesaving care, their pain would be dismissed, their cries overlooked and their humanity reduced to an inconvenience. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government acknowledged the serious health inequities faced by people with intellectual disability and continued to support the roadmap.

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Facility to help children with hearing loss

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/02/2025, Simon Mcguire, Page 2

The Shepherd Centre, which offers its services free of charge, had previously only operated in Hobart, since 2022, and before that offered fly-in/fly-out services. [...] The new facility, a 2022 election commitment from the Albanese government, was opened on Tuesday by federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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Albanese promises largest investment in Medicare to ease cost pressures

The Australia Today, Other, 25/02/2025, Julius Sans & Amit Sarwal

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the landmark investment would deliver an additional 18 million bulk-billed GP visits each year, ensuring Australians can access healthcare without worrying about out-of-pocket expenses. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the initiative would reverse cuts made under the previous Coalition government, which the Australian Medical Association estimates drained \$8.3 billion from Medicare due to a funding freeze initiated by Peter Dutton a decade ago.

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Private Healthcare Australia calls for maternity service funding reform after Hobart ward loss

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/02/2025, Rob Inglis

Just days after the closure of the maternity ward at the Hobart Private Hospital was announced, a peak national healthcare body has publicly called for a new funding model for maternity services. [...] The decision has prompted community outcry, with Premier Jeremy Rockliff, Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma and her federal counterpart Mark Butler all scrambling to find solutions to the problem.

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Continuous glucose monitors still unsubsidised for type 2 diabetes patients

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2025, Olivia Sanders

After more than a decade of aching fingertips, Melanie Moor finally got some reprieve last year. [...] In a statement, a spokesperson for federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government would carefully consider the report. "This report shines a light on a serious public health issue affecting every community in Australia," the statement said.

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The Zap: comprehensive update on health and aged care news, plus consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 25/02/2025, Melissa Sweet

As has been widely reported, Labor has announced plans for "the single largest investment in Medicare since its creation over 40 years ago, with \$8.5 billion to deliver an additional 18 million bulk billed GP visits each year, hundreds of nursing scholarships and thousands more doctors in the largest GP training program ever". [...] Charles Maskell-Knight writes: Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister Emme McBride announced grants totalling \$135 million to 12 mental health services under the Digital Mental Health Program to "provide Australians access to digital and online mental health support at a time and place that suits them".

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National plan to improve health of Autistic people

La Trobe University, Other, 25/02/2025

A new federal government plan to improve the health and wellbeing of the growing number of Australians diagnosed with autism is an important step towards better care, La Trobe University experts say. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said the roadmap formed a key part of the National Autism Strategy, which would improve outcomes for all Autistic people by coordinating a national approach to services and supports, including access to services, health care, education and employment.

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Genomic research embedded in cancer trials

Mirage News, Other, 26/02/2025

The Albanese Labor Government is taking a significant step forward in cancer research and care by establishing the Cancer Genomics Clinical Trials Fund to drive advancements in genomic medicine and ensure equitable access to cancer clinical trials incorporating genomics. [...] Quotes attributable to Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care "We are living through a supercharged period of discovery that promises to extend the health and wellbeing of Australians, and the Australian Government is proud to fund this important work."

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ABC, ABC News, 25/02/2025, Guy Stayner

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler opened the Shepherd Centre's new urgent care facility in Launceston on Tuesday. More Tasmanian families are expected to benefit from early intervention and therapies like speech pathology.

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ABC, ABC News, 25/02/2025, Guy Stayner

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says bailing out Healthscope is not on the government's agenda, arguing it's a private operation run by international private equity firms. It comes as Calvary Health offered its Lenah Valley Hospital to help fill the void left by Hobart Private Hospital's decision to close its maternity unit. However, abortions will be transferred to Royal Hobart Hospital since Calvary Health is a Catholic institution.

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Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 25/02/2025, Kim Millar

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler opened the Shepherd Centre's new urgent care facility in Launceston on Tuesday. He expects the new clinic will ease pressure on emergency rooms as more

people will be able to receive primary treatment. Starting in July, the clinic will open between 9am to 8pm.

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MIX 104.9, 360, 25/02/2025, Katie Woolf

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, about the Federal Government's announced funding for bulk-billing. Butler says for many years, doctors have received an incentive payment if they bulk-bill pensioners and concession card holders. He adds bulk-billing even for pensioners and concession card holders was starting to drop across the country and the incentive turned that around. Butler states people who don't have a concession card have never received any support to be bulk billed, so for the first time, they're going to pay that incentive to doctors if they bulk-bill those Australians as well.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 11:00 News, 25/02/2025

Experts like Australian Diabetes Society chief executive Sof Andrikopoulos are urging the Federal Government to expand cheap access to diabetes management devices to all diabetics who are dependent on insulin. Spokesperson for the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the department will respond to the parliamentary inquiry and its recommendation in the coming months.

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MINISTER WELLS

PM's 'green dream' future is vanishing into thin air

The Australian, Other, 25/02/2025, Judith Sloan

If green energy is akin to a dead parrot, then Future Made in Australia is like Scott's expedition to the South Pole. [...] Treasurer Jim Chalmers, Employment and Workplace Relations Minister Murray Watt and Aged Care and Sport Minister Anika Wells.

[Read More](#)

Govt to phase in digital changes until Feb

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 25/02/2025, Anika Wells

Staging digital changes gives providers more time to get their systems ready for reforms, writes Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells for Australian Ageing Agenda. The Albanese Government's once-in-a-generation reforms are changing aged care for the better for older people, their families and carers.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

LA FM, 17:00 News, 25/02/2025

Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Ged Kearney urged those who registered for organ donations to talk about it during family and social functions to raise awareness about it. New data from Donatelife

shows Tasmania as having the highest number of organ donors at 43 donors per 1 million people in 2024—higher than the national average of 19.4.

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2SM, 08:00 News, 25/02/2025

Over 1300 Australian lives were saved or improved last year thanks to organ donors. That's a 3% increase on the number of donors on the previous year. Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Ged Kearney says the number of families who agreed to organ donation fell by 2%.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

Logan Hospital maternity bed shortage forces new mums to wait and go home early

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/02/2025, Judith Kerr

A bed shortage in the maternity ward of a major South East Qld hospital is forcing new mothers out, even when medical concerns arise, as the facility struggles with a birth boom. [...] A review of regional maternity services by the federal Department of Health and Aged Care in December found significant workforce shortages in key roles such as obstetrics, anaesthetics and midwifery.

[Read More](#)

Providers see department's goodwill

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 25/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Providers tell Australian Ageing Agenda they are ready for the upcoming 1 July changes but hope the Department of Health and Aged Care is too, expressing sympathy for its "herculean task." As providers of both residential and home care services, mid-size, southern Sydney and ACT-based provider Warrigal, and large, majority South Australia-based provider Southern Cross Care SA, NT & VIC have a heavy workload to ensure they are ready for the 1 July changes.

[Read More](#)

Support at Home: advocating for a Smoother Transition

Catholic Health Australia, Other, 25/02/2025

In December 2024, following advocacy by CHA, the Government announced positive changes to the implementation roadmap of the Support at Home Program. [...] Additionally, the Department of Health and Aged Care has begun surveying providers to gauge how they plan to price Support at Home services.

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The major parties want 9 in 10 GP visits bulk billed by 2030. Heres why we shouldnt aim for 100%

MSN Australia, Other, 25/02/2025

Unaffordable GP visits has become a pressing issue amid the increasing cost-of-living crisis. [...] In the past, Professor Zhang has received funding from several US institutes including the US National Institutes of Health, Commonwealth fund, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She has not received funding from for-profit industry including the private

health insurance industry. Karinna Saxby has previously received funding from the Department of Health and Aged Care,

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Aged care nurses set to earn more from March 1

Nursing Review, Other, 25/02/2025, 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. [...] That will be for all residential aged care providers and that will be to fund the first phase of the wage increase for registered and enrolled nurses," he explained during the Department of Health and Aged Care's Award Wage Increase for Nurses in Aged Care Webinar on Tuesday.

[Read More](#)

icare safeguards NSW workers with new Lung Health Mobile Clinic

OverSixty, Other, 25/02/2025

icare has launched a new, state-of-the-art Lung Health Mobile Clinic, which has embarked on its inaugural road trip to deliver lung health checks to individuals across NSW. [...] icare's lung screening program adheres to the national guidance for doctors assessing workers exposed to respirable crystalline silica dust set by the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, ensuring the highest standards of care for detecting and managing respiratory diseases.

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Much-loved leaders of medical school could be replaced with metro counterparts

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 25/02/2025, Jessica Howard

Much-loved leaders of Warrnambool's medical school could be replaced with metropolitan counterparts, sparking fears Deakin University will fail in its goal of creating more regional and rural doctors. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said restructures and staffing arrangements were a matter for Deakin University.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Planning ahead for golden years

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 26/02/2025, Tamara McDonald, Page 8

When it comes to navigating the aged care process, it pays to be prepared. Aged care insiders have revealed what Australians should look for in a home, and how to navigate the process of finding one. Rosemary Seam has lived in residential aged care in regional NSW for five years.

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Over one million Aussie retirees yet to claim Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/02/2025

More than a million Australian retirees have been warned they could be missing out on a substantial financial benefit, with the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card offering savings that can make a serious

difference to their budgets. The card, which provides cheaper healthcare and discounts, is yet to be claimed by a massive portion of eligible Aussies.

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More than one million Aussies missing out on \$60,000 perk, as Commonwealth Seniors Health Cards go unclaimed

7news.com.au, Other, 25/02/2025, Caleb Taylor

'It is quite significant.' Aussie retirees could be missing out on a benefit worth \$60,000 perk, with more than one million people yet to claim their Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

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Good news for our sector and older Australians – quality executives leading advocacy at the right time

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/02/2025, Chris Baynes

Regular readers will be aware that we are forecasting that with few village homes and aged care beds being built relative to the Baby Boomer bubble just hitting 80 this year, and no real increase in the home care workforce or packages, there will be a significant rise in bad (and sad) news stories. It is already happening, and with it, negative views of our seniors housing products and services will be dragged in, creating fear.

[Read More](#)

ABC Alice Springs, Drive Show, 25/02/2025, Andrew Murdoch

Interview with Purple House CEO Sarah Brown, discussing her organisation's receipt of a \$1m federal grant, which will help extend aged care services in Alice Springs. Brown says they will continue to build new dialysis centers in multiple locations, especially in rural areas, and supporting kidney transplants.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Fluoride ditched in Cooktown

Cairns Post, General News, 26/02/2025, Samuel Davis, Page 1

A southern Cape York council will stop fluoridating its largest town's water supply with councillors narrowly voting in favour of removing the mineral at a fiery meeting on Tuesday. But a councillor has warned the vote will lead to worse health outcomes across regional Queensland with just 24 of the state's 77 councils now fluoridating their water.

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No fluoride for Cooktown

Cairns Post, General News, 26/02/2025, Page 12

Cook Shire Council has voted to remove fluoride from the Cooktown water supply, in a move that medical experts and some councillors say will deliver poorer health outcomes for the town's residents. Since the LNP state government handed over the responsibility of fluoridating water supplies to local government in 2012, the topic of fluoridation has become increasingly fraught and divisive.

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Viva retail sales under the pump from illegal tobacco

The Nightly, General News, 25/02/2025, Jackson Hewett, Page 20

The illegal cigarette trade continues to smoke out retail returns, with fuel and convenience store operator Viva reporting a \$27 million decrease in earnings on tobacco products in its half-year results today. The company, which reported a 20 per cent decline in full-year profit after tax of \$254m, called out the impact of the illegal cigarette trade on its retail margins.

On-site testing for sexually-transmitted diseases saves time and reduces spread

The Australian, Other, 25/02/2025, Sian Powell

Highly accurate sexually- transmitted infection testing with same-day results has been estimated to lead to a 33 per cent reduction in pelvic inflammatory disease and a 17 per cent reduction in preterm births and low birth weight babies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living in remote communities.

[Read More](#)

Why you should pay close attention to your blood pressure

The Australian, Other, 25/02/2025, Jason Kovacic

Measuring blood pressure is one of the most common health checks performed by GPs. But do you know what your blood pressure stats mean, and why those numbers matter?

[Read More](#)

Far North Queensland's Cook Shire Council votes to stop fluoridating water

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2025, Sharnie Kim & Sophie McManus

One of the few Queensland regional councils still providing fluoridated water has voted to stop adding the tooth-strengthening mineral to its water supply. The Cook Shire, which covers much of the vast Cape York Peninsula in Far North Queensland, voted four to three on Tuesday to stop fluoridating the water of its largest centre, Cooktown, which is home to about 3,000 people.

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Families in limbo as Red Nose service fails to secure government funding

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2025

Thousands of families who have suffered miscarriage, stillbirth and baby and child death are in limbo as the federal government prepares to end funding for support group Red Nose Australia. [...] An average of six babies are stillborn — or die after 20 weeks of gestation — every day, and another two die within 28 days of birth, which is known as neonatal death, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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'Everything is just getting harder:' Brother of Ben Ellis, Frankston father who took his own life, demands action from government to address mental health crisis among men

Sky News Australia, Other, 25/02/2025, Amy Roulston

The brother of a Frankston father who took his own life has called on the government to act on the mental health crisis affecting men across Australia. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's suicide register shows that men in Australia accounted for 72 per cent of suspected or confirmed suicide deaths in 2023.

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Urgent health alert after Aussie dies of rare virus: 'Incredibly unlucky'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 25/02/2025, Sophie Coghill

Australians are being urged to take precautions against mosquitos after health authorities confirmed the first recorded death from a rare infection since 2022. On Tuesday, NSW Health confirmed a man in his 70s died in a Sydney hospital after contracting Japanese encephalitis (JE) .

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NSW health authorities urge the public to take precautions against mosquito-borne illnesses after a Sydney man in his 70s died of Japanese encephalitis while holidaying in Murrumbidgee.

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6PR, Drive, 25/02/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Royal Children's Hospital national poll director Dr Anthea Rhodes, discussing recent findings that nearly half of Australian school-aged children experience sleep issues, including trouble falling asleep, waking at night, or struggling to wake up. She attributes it to excessive screen use before bed, irregular sleep routines, and caffeine consumption, particularly from less obvious sources like chocolate, energy drinks, and matcha. She stresses the need for children to reduce screen time before bed, getting enough sleep, and cutting caffeine intake.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 25/02/2025, Chris Bath & Dom Knight

Interview with NSW Health executive director of health protection Dr Jeremy McAnulty, urging the public to take precautionary measures against mosquito-borne diseases after a man in his 70s died from Japanese encephalitis after holidaying in Murrumbidgee. Dr McAnulty advises the public to wear long-sleeved clothing and pants, especially in areas where mosquitoes thrive. He also advised using insect repellent for exposed parts of the body.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Push to give 'unseen' children the attention they deserve

Age, General News, 26/02/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 11

Two mothers, Danijela Fitzgibbon and Rachel Browne, shared the same gut-wrenching fear since their sons were babies: if their boys needed lifesaving care, their pain would be dismissed, their cries overlooked and their humanity reduced to an inconvenience. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government acknowledged the serious health inequities faced by people with intellectual disability and continued to support the roadmap.

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World first trial for MS sufferers

Courier Mail, General News, 26/02/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 13

Queensland is leading the world with a revolutionary new therapy giving hope of "maintaining or repairing" the symptoms of people living with multiple sclerosis (MS). Clinical trials of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) are under way at Mater Hospital Brisbane with the TAURUS.2 study targeting brain cells with electromagnetic waves.

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

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Facility to help children with hearing loss

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/02/2025, Simon McGuire, Page 2

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We found the 'silver bullet: Instant cancer detection on a glass slide

The Australian, Other, 25/02/2025, Sian Powell

A smart microscope slide developed by researchers at Melbourne's La Trobe University could make

early- stage cancer detection significantly quicker and easier, which could be key to increased rates of survival. The scientists harnessed nanotechnology to develop the NanoMslide, the world's first smart microscope slide.

[Read More](#)

\$49m Playford Health Hub opens opposite Lyell McEwin Hospital

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/02/2025, Brad Crouch

Northern suburbs residents including cancer patients are set to benefit from the opening of the \$49m Playford Health Hub, opposite the Lyell McEwin Hospital. The private specialist medical centre including comprehensive cancer care services officially opened on Tuesday at Elizabeth Vale, marking completion of Stage 2 of the overall \$165m project

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

[Read More](#)

Bargain Barrel: Four ASX cancer-fighting stocks with market caps under \$35 million

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/02/2025, Nadine Mcgrath

Cancer remains a leading cause of death globally but according to the World Health Organisation many cancers can be beaten if detected early and treated effectively, driving a need for better diagnostics, treatments and monitoring of the disease. While large pharmaceutical companies continue to dominate the oncology sector, a number of ASX-listed healthcare firms – many with relatively low market caps – are making strides in tackling cancer.

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Breast cancer cases expected to surge across the world, WHO reports

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/02/2025, Mia Erickson

The number of people diagnosed with breast cancer – and the number of people who will lose their lives to the disease – are expected to surge worldwide by 2050, the findings of a new study reveal. Published in the journal Nature Medicine, the findings are echoed by the World Health Organization's cancer agency.

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

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Continuous glucose monitors still unsubsidised for type 2 diabetes patients

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2025, Olivia Sanders

After more than a decade of aching fingertips, Melanie Moor finally got some reprieve last year. [...] In a statement, a spokesperson for federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government would carefully consider the report. "This report shines a light on a serious public health issue affecting every community in Australia," the statement said.

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Australia, New Zealand record highest breast cancer rates in world

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2025, Hannah Murphy

A study by University of Sydney, University of Queensland and Alberta Health Services in Canada looked at global breast cancer incidence and death rates in 185 countries. It found one in 20 women globally were diagnosed with breast cancer, while one in 70 were likely to die from the disease.

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Alarming theory behind huge surge in bowel cancer among young Australians

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/02/2025, Harrison Christian

Experts are suggesting too much meat and microplastics in food could be behind the cause of a massive surge in bowel cancer in young Australians. [...] 'Some theories are it could well be related to

accelerated ageing in a younger population,' Bowel Cancer Australia CEO Julien Wiggins told 10 News.

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Genomic research embedded in cancer trials

Mirage News, Other, 26/02/2025

The Albanese Labor Government is taking a significant step forward in cancer research and care by establishing the Cancer Genomics Clinical Trials Fund to drive advancements in genomic medicine and ensure equitable access to cancer clinical trials incorporating genomics. [...] Quotes attributable to Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care "We are living through a supercharged period of discovery that promises to extend the health and wellbeing of Australians, and the Australian Government is proud to fund this important work."

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Laundry program helping prevent Rheumatic Heart Disease

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/02/2025, Joseph Guenzler

Queensland's North West Hospital and Health Service is lowering Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) rates in remote Indigenous communities through a partnership providing free laundry facilities. The North West Hospital and Health Service (NWHHS) has teamed up with Orange Sky to offer laundry services in Mount Isa, Doomadgee, and Mornington Island as part of its Health Equity Strategy.

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Australia among highest rates of breast cancer but fewer are dying

SBS, Other, 25/02/2025

Australia has one of the highest incidence rates of breast cancer in the world according to new research from Sydney and Queensland universities, and Canadian health services. Although more women are diagnosed with breast cancer in Australia, fewer are dying from it.

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Australia leads global breast cancer diagnoses, yet Kate's cancer was found by accident

SBS, Other, 25/02/2025

A new study has found Australia has one of the largest rates of breast cancer diagnoses in the world, but Kate is still concerned about a "chilling" diagnosis gap. Kate Browne discovered she had breast cancer by accident.

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Australia had world's highest rates of breast cancer in 2022

The New Daily, Other, 25/02/2025, Imma Perfetto

An analysis of global breast cancer rates has found that Australia and New Zealand had the world's highest rates of breast cancer in 2022. This is despite both countries substantially decreasing the disease's mortality rate in the past decade.

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ABC, 7:30, 25/02/2025, Sarah Ferguson

On Tuesday's edition of 7.30, Adam Harvey reports the debate around skin cancer screening in Australia. Despite high skin cancer rates, Australia lacks a national skin cancer screening program. Authorities like the Cancer Council and Melanoma Institute do not recommend skin cancer checks on the general population. Experts like Dr Linda Martin double down arguing that widespread screening has not been proven to reduce mortality and can lead to unnecessary anxiety and costs. Instead, doctors advocate for targeted screening for high-risk individuals and educating the public about the importance of sun protection amid the sustained popularity of tanning.

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

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SBS, World News Australia, 25/02/2025, Janice Petersen

A new study by Prof Nehmat Houssami shows that while Australia has among the world's highest rates of breast cancer, few people die due to high screening rates and advanced treatment. The study, which covered 185 countries, found that 1 in 20 women worldwide are diagnosed, but the highest death rates are in low-income regions like Melanesia, Polynesia, and Western Africa.

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

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 25/02/2025, Samantha Donovan

A new study by Prof Nehmat Houssami shows that while Australia has among the world's highest rates of breast cancer, few people die due to high screening rates and advanced treatment. The study, which covered 185 countries, found that 1 in 20 women worldwide are diagnosed, but the highest death rates are in low-income regions like Melanesia, Polynesia, and Western Africa.

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PRIMARY CARE

Greens' free ADHD, autism diagnosis pitch

The Australian, General News, 26/02/2025, James Dowling, Page 7

A new Greens policy championing the full subsidisation of autism and ADHD assessments has become the latest announcement in a parliamentary splurge on Medicare investments, while positioning a formidable patient load before overburdened psychologists and psychiatrists. Greens Leader Adam Bandt on Wednesday announced the latest in the party's string of 'Robin Hood' reforms which seek to finance expanded social support and medical treatment access through increased taxes on major corporations.

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APS at 10 paces

Canberra Times, General News, 26/02/2025, Dana Daniel, Page 1

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has lashed Opposition Leader Peter Dutton over his plan to fund a boost to Medicare by cutting the public service. And Mr Albanese had strong words about bureaucrats who jump ship to work for big consulting firms - at a cost to taxpayers - under APS outsourcing the government is working to reduce.

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Dad's death probed after 27-minute ambulance wait

West Australian, General News, 26/02/2025, Jessica Page, Page 8

Labor under fire over ramping crisis as paramedics warn lives are at risk Ambulance delays have been linked to a father's death, prompting an investigation, as paramedics warn WA's ramping crisis is putting lives at risk. It's understood it took 27 minutes for an ambulance to reach a 39-year-old man in cardiac arrest in Perth's south this month.

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Healthy signs for JPH

West Australian, General News, 26/02/2025, Liam Murphy, Page 35

The \$190 million expansion of Joondalup Private Hospital has taken a major step forward with the laying of the final concrete slab. Scheduled to open by early 2026, the expansion includes six new operating theatres, two of which will be shared with Joondalup Health Campus' public patients, along with two day procedure rooms, a day of surgery admissions unit, a 22-bed short-stay surgical ward, a 30-bed surgical/medical ward, and six cardiac care beds.

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Call in the calvary

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/02/2025, Duncan Abey, Page 1

Hobart's looming maternity service crisis moved a step closer to resolution on Tuesday, with Calvary Lenah Valley Hospital promising to welcome as many new patients as necessary after Hobart Private's decision to close its birthing services from August. Flying into Hobart to continue discussions with the Tasmanian government about expanding capacity at its Augusta Rd facility, Calvary Health Care national chief executive officer Martin Bowles said the hospital was working to increase staffing levels and reconfigure ward capacity for an expected doubling in births.

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Stoush on cost of baby delivery

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/02/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 5

A stoush has erupted between the private hospital sector and the health insurance industry over the closure of maternity wards across Australia, including the service at the Hobart Private Hospital. It comes after Private Healthcare Australia (PHA), the peak industry body for private health insurers, called for a major overhaul of the way maternity services were funded.

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Warning if Coalition axes public servants

Border Mail, General News, 26/02/2025, Page 6

Taxpayers could end up spending more on government services under a Coalition plan to cut public service jobs, cabinet ministers warn. After revealing he would match Labor's \$8.5 billion plan to boost Medicare, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton said his pledge would be funded by axing tens of thousands of jobs in the public service.

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Albo on health attack

Cairns Post, General News, 26/02/2025, Blair Jackson, Page 11

Anthony Albanese has warned against an Americanisation of healthcare if Labor loses the election. Continuing to spruik an \$8.5bn "free GP visits" election pledge, the Prime Minister said the opposition's health plans were as "sincere as a fake tan".

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

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Any Medicare investment is welcome

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 26/02/2025, Page 11

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.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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

Australia's doctors welcoming multibillion-dollar boost to Medicare

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 25/02/2025

Australia's doctors are welcoming the multibillion-dollar boost to Medicare that promises more free trips to the GP. But while the household budget will improve, long-term challenges for the nation's bottom line remain and will only get worse.

[Read More](#)

What you said about Peter Dutton's plan to cull public servants

Herald Sun, Other, 25/02/2025

It was revealed a federal Coalition will fund its pledge to match Labor's huge Medicare boost through \$6bn in savings generated by making cuts to the group hired under the Albanese government.

Opposition Leader Dutton said that unlike Labor his party's \$8.5bn Medicare scheme would be fully funded.

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

[Read More](#)

'What else you got?': Labor thought its Medicare pledge was a 'silver bullet'

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/02/2025

Sky News Political Editor Andrew Clennell says Anthony Albanese thought his government's Medicare pledge was the "silver bullet" they needed ahead of the federal election. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced he would deliver the biggest Medicare investment since its inception before Opposition Leader Peter Dutton promised to match the funding on Sunday.

[Read More](#)

'Desperate and clueless': Albanese reaching for 'dirty tricks' ahead of election

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/02/2025

Sky News host Andrew Bolt claims he can tell the Prime Minister is now "desperate". This comes as the PM announced he would deliver the biggest Medicare investment since its inception before Opposition Leader Peter Dutton promised to match the funding on Sunday.

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

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LNP Government deliver on election promise to axe Labor's proposed patients tax

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/02/2025, Nikita McGuire

The LNP government says the abolishment of a tax on GPs, which would have been a 'burden' to the health system, is a major win. Mundingburra MP Janelle Poole visited Cranbrook Medical owner Dr Naomi Gleadow as the LNP say they delivered on their election promise to end the tax for GPs.

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

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Eurobodalla Regional Hospital construction 'full steam ahead', says developers

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/02/2025, Tom McGann

Construction of a \$330m regional NSW hospital is "full steam ahead", with the project still on track, despite a last minute cost blowout in the millions Premier Minns hoped "would be the last". This publication was granted exclusive access to the Eurobodalla Regional Hospital site in Moruya on Tuesday, where development firm Multiplex confirmed the four-level hospital was progressing as scheduled.

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

[Read More](#)

Private Healthcare Australia calls for maternity service funding reform after Hobart ward loss

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/02/2025, Rob Inglis

Just days after the closure of the maternity ward at the Hobart Private Hospital was announced, a peak national healthcare body has publicly called for a new funding model for maternity services. [...] The decision has prompted community outcry, with Premier Jeremy Rockliff, Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma and her federal counterpart Mark Butler all scrambling to find solutions to the problem.

[Read More](#)

Greens 'stoked' after extra Medicare funding committed

Canberra Times, Other, 25/02/2025, Tess Ikonomidou & Dominic Giannini

Australians are being urged to turn away from the two major parties at the federal election, as the Greens claim a win on healthcare. Both Labor and the coalition announced at the weekend \$8.5 billion would be spent on Medicare to increase access to healthcare for people.

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

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'Economically irresponsible': PM blasts Dutton over APS cuts

Canberra Times, Other, 25/02/2025, Dana Daniel

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has lashed Opposition Leader Peter Dutton over his plan to fund a boost to Medicare by cutting the public service And Mr Albanese had strong words about bureaucrats who jump ship to work for big consulting firms - at a cost to taxpayers - under APS outsourcing the government is working to reduce.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Voluntary assisted dying: What does it mean, and how does it work in Australia?

Adelaide Now, Other, 25/02/2025, Mia Erickson

End-of-life conversations can often be daunting, with most people choosing to avoid the morbid topic for as long as possible. But for people living with a terminal illness, the notion of voluntarily ending their immense suffering with control, choice, and dignity is something many find worthy of exploring. "Voluntary assisted dying is where someone with a asks for medical assistance to end their life," explains Sydney-based GP "There are strict eligibility criteria and, once they meet this and follow appropriate legal steps, they can be prescribed a medication that will at a time of their choice."

[Read More](#)

Warnings consultants would replace axed public servants

Newcastle Herald, Other, 25/02/2025, Kat Wong, Tess Ikonomou & Dominic Giannini

Taxpayers could end up spending more on government services under a coalition plan to cut public service jobs, cabinet ministers warn. After revealing he would match Labor's \$8.5 billion plan to boost Medicare, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton said his pledge would be funded by axing tens of thousands of jobs in the public service.

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

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Should Australia's GPs and patients be excited about the Medicare pledge? Yes and no

The Guardian, Other, 25/02/2025

A commitment to universal healthcare is welcome. But we need to ensure doctors can provide good medicine, not just fast medicine "I haven't really had a GP in years," a single mum friend says, as we push our children on the swings.

[Read More](#)

Families break silence on hospital trauma after child deaths and close calls

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2025, Bec Symons & Danielle Pope

One of Victoria's biggest regional hospitals has reported nine sentinel events in five years a tally of patients, including infants, who have died or experienced serious harm due to adverse care. Staff members say those numbers are the tip of the iceberg.

[Read More](#)

Hobart doctors say federal Labor and Coalition election promise to increase bulk billing not 'viable'

ABC Online, Other, 25/02/2025, Josh Duggan

Siblings Jay and Emma Shoemaker opened their general practice in Hobart's CBD less than a year ago, and in that time, it's grown to house eight full-time doctors. It's a welcome change in Tasmania, where appointments are usually hard to come by.

[Read More](#)

The Zap: comprehensive update on health and aged care news, plus consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 25/02/2025, Melissa Sweet

As has been widely reported, Labor has announced plans for "the single largest investment in Medicare since its creation over 40 years ago, with \$8.5 billion to deliver an additional 18 million bulk billed GP visits each year, hundreds of nursing scholarships and thousands more doctors in the largest GP training program ever". [...] Charles Maskell-Knight writes: Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister Emme McBride announced grants totalling \$135 million to 12 mental health services under the Digital Mental Health Program to "provide Australians access to digital and online mental health support at a time and place that suits them".

[Read More](#)

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

Nursing Review, Other, 25/02/2025, 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](#)

AdPha welcomes bulk billing boost

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 25/02/2025

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has welcomed the Labor Government's \$8.5 billion investment in Medicare reform, calling it "a vital step toward improving access to Australia's struggling health system". Announced on the weekend, with the Coalition opposition committing to match it, this is the largest investment in Medicare since its inception 40 years ago.

[Read More](#)

Shadow health minister Anne Ruston torches Labor govt for 'lying' to Australians about Medicare to get re-elected

Sky News Australia, Other, 25/02/2025, Laurence Karacsony

Shadow health minister Anne Ruston has hit out at the Albanese government for "lying" to Australians about the Coalition's stance on the issue of healthcare. Ms Ruston said Australians "deserve better" than being misled by the government in the face of an increasingly more expensive health care industry.

[Read More](#)

Albanese promises largest investment in Medicare to ease cost pressures

The Australia Today, Other, 25/02/2025, Julius Sans & Amit Sarwal

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the landmark investment would deliver an additional 18 million bulk-billed GP visits each year, ensuring Australians can access healthcare without worrying about out-of-pocket expenses. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the initiative would reverse cuts made under the previous Coalition government, which the Australian Medical Association estimates drained \$8.3 billion from Medicare due to a funding freeze initiated by Peter Dutton a decade ago.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 25/02/2025, Joe O'Brien

Multiple sentinel events at the Latrobe Regional Hospital have prompted fresh calls for an investigation. A sentinel event involves a death or severe injury as a result of adverse care. Former staff say burnout

and ignored recommendations have led to such events. The hospital denies wrongdoing, arguing that its training aligns with employment agreements.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 25/02/2025, Michael Thomson

Interview Doctors are welcoming the multi-billion dollar boost to Medicare, promising more free trips to the GP bubble. Household budgets will improve.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 25/02/2025, Peter Overton

Interview The government's \$8.5 billion plan and opposition's \$9 billion plan, the largest investments in Medicare's history, but dwarfed by forecast spending on the Aukus submarines and the coalition's nuclear power policy, costing 331 billion, according to the coalition, or up to 600 billion, according to the Smart Energy Council. The iceberg that the Titanic is heading to is a perpetual fiscal hole in our budget that we're never going to be able to fill.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 25/02/2025, Peter Overton

Interview Australia's doctors are welcoming the multi-billion dollar boost to Medicare, promising more free trips to the GP. But while the household budget will improve, long term challenges for the nation's budget remain and will only get worse.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 25/02/2025, Alicia Loxley & Tom Steinfert

Interview Doctors are welcoming the multi-billion dollar boost to Medicare, promising more free trips to the GP. But while household budgets will improve long term challenges for the federal budget remain.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Worrying divide in Australians' mental health

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/02/2025, Natalie Brown

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

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Mental health, bullying top concerns for Mid West youth: report from Commissioner for Children & Young People

West Australian, Other, 25/02/2025, Kate Campbell

Mental health, bullying and racism are the biggest issues confronting Mid West youth and they feel their parents and teachers don't understand their struggles, according to WA's Commissioner for Children and Young People. Commissioner Jacqueline McGowan-Jones released her findings from a "listening tour" she conducted in Geraldton, Dongara and Northampton in September last year when she spoke to 100 young people aged between nine and 17 at meet-up events and student forums at 12 local schools.

[Read More](#)

Ozempic could be prescribed to treat depression - as major study shows weight loss jabs boost mental health

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/02/2025, Luke Chafer

Weight loss drugs could soon be used to treat depression following a landmark study involving almost 30,000 patients. Researchers have found that the slimming jabs—which include blockbusters Wegovy or Ozempic—may have 'an antidepressant effect'.

[Read More](#)

National plan to improve health of Autistic people

La Trobe University, Other, 25/02/2025

A new federal government plan to improve the health and wellbeing of the growing number of Australians diagnosed with autism is an important step towards better care, La Trobe University experts say. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said the roadmap formed a key part of the National Autism Strategy, which would improve outcomes for all Autistic people by coordinating a national approach to services and supports, including access to services, health care, education and employment.

[Read More](#)

'Mood changes and cognitive impairment': How heat is affecting our mental wellbeing

SBS, Other, 25/02/2025, Elfy Scott

Extreme heat is leading to a rise in a range of mental health and social issues. Experts say its effects need to be taken more seriously.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 25/02/2025, Liz Trevaskis

Interview Australia's young people are struggling through a collective mental health crisis. How are your kids?

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Opportunity to tackle aged care staff shortages

Border Mail, General News, 26/02/2025, Madielyn McKinley, Page 2

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. It was welcome news for Albury's Nicole Waite, who in her 36 years in the industry had seen a desperate need for qualified staff.

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

Strike is a bitter pill

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/02/2025, Simon Mcguire, Page 13

Pharmacists working at private hospitals around Tasmanian went on strike on Tuesday. Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) members employed at HPS Pharmacies in Hobart and Launceston hospitals staged a two-hour work stoppage.

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Med students do full degree at city's JCU

Cairns Post, General News, 26/02/2025, Page 6

Hundreds of Far North medical students have celebrated a milestone in achieving their medical degree, without having to move from home. James Cook University medical students gathered at the Nguma-bada campus in Smithfield to celebrate the first time students could be enrolled in all six years of its medical program in Cairns.

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Fixing the 'mess'

Daily Liberal, General News, 26/02/2025, Ciara Bastow, Page 1

Jonathon Toll wants to be part of the solution to the doctor shortage in regional NSW, rather than complaining about it. Mr Toll is one of 24 medical students, undertaking their first year of the University of Sydney's four-year Doctor of Medicine program in Dubbo at the School of Rural Health.

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Probe into funding for Islamic groups who defended Bankstown nurses blocked by Minns govt: parliament

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/02/2025, Derrick Krusche & Matthew Benns

The Minns Government has blocked moves to investigate the funding of Muslim groups behind a controversial communiqué supporting two Bankstown nurses who claimed to have killed Israeli patients.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 25/02/2025, Spence Denny

How do we encourage those GPS to actually practise in regional areas? Yeah. Well, that's a good question. We we've done a number of things to try to achieve that. Several governments have done that now, you know, with financial incentives and things like that. But really, we think the best way to do it is to select people who are already are prone to work and live in rural environments and train them in rural places.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 25/02/2025, Stacey Lee

A huge battleground in the lead up to the federal election. Can you tell there's an election in the air, commitments flying around, and they all carry a B in front of them, the Labor Party announced on the weekend \$8.5 billion to go towards Medicare to try and boost the bulk billing rates to make 90% of visits to the doctor bulk billed or free to most Australians.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Calls for Labor to be 'clear' on the accessibility of new pledge to women's health

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 25/02/2025

The Albanese government is continuing its re-election pitch with a \$573 million funding promise for women's health, including new measures for women experiencing menopause. Three new menopausal hormone treatments including Prometrium, Estrogel and Estrogel Pro will be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from March 1.

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

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

There's no room for big spending

The Australian, Editorials, 26/02/2025, Page 12

Even before the starting gun is fired, the election race is producing alarming levels of spending that will not help the nation long term. After matching Labor's \$8.5m Medicare cash splash, then topping it to \$9bn with an additional \$500m for mental health services, Peter Dutton says he will offset some of the outlay by cutting \$6bn a year from the public service.

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IVF clinic patients hit in cyber attack

Newcastle Herald, General News, 26/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Newcastle IVF clinic Genea has been caught in a cyber attack that involved hackers stealing confidential patient information. A spokesperson for Genea said its patient management system "was accessed by an unauthorised third party".

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The future of health: where AI meets medicine

The Australian, Other, 25/02/2025, Wei Xiang

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the healthcare sector, changing how we diagnose disease, develop treatments and personalise care. The 2024 Nobel prize in Chemistry, awarded for breakthroughs in predicting and designing the structure of proteins, highlights the crucial role AI will play in the future of health and biology.

[Read More](#)

Genea confirms cyber breach after 'unauthorised third party' accesses data

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/02/2025, Ria Pandey

IVF provider Genea says an "unauthorised third party" has accessed a trove of confidential patient information stored in management systems during a cyber attack on February 14. "As a result of our ongoing investigation, we now believe the attacker may have accessed and taken personal information which we hold," the health provider said in a statement.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 25/02/2025, Peter Mitchell

Interview More than a million Australians are missing out on faster and more affordable health care. Many over the retirement age of 67 are yet to claim their Commonwealth seniors health cards that come with a string of benefits.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 25/02/2025, Melissa Downes

Interview Sensitive patient information, including test results and personal diagnoses, could be in the hands of hackers tonight with one of the country's biggest IVF providers the victim of a data breach. Ruth Wynn Williams has more.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 25/02/2025, Leon Compton

Nationals Senator Bridget McKenzie says the Coalition worked on its Medicare policy for months, rejecting criticism they just picked up Labor's policy. On Sunday, the Federal Government announced it would spend \$8.5 billion boosting Medicare if re-elected, promising an extra 18 million bulk billed GP visits a year.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

\$250k court upgrade pledge

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 26/02/2025, Crystal Fox, Page 5

An LNP candidate for the southern Gold Coast is promising a \$250,000 upgrade for a popular sports facility following a spate of injuries that is plaguing a club. McPherson LNP candidate Leon Rebello announced he would provide the major improvement to the Mallowa Netball Court in Palm Beach if the Dutton government was elected this year.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Memory loss 'linked to SSRIs'

The Australian, General News, 26/02/2025, Eleanor Hayward, Page 3

Researchers found that people taking selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, the most common type of antidepressant, suffered a faster decline in their brain function. A team at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden looked at 18,700 adults, who were aged 78 on average, and had all been newly diagnosed with dementia.

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Knives out for research grants red tape

The Australian, Higher Education, 26/02/2025, Natasha Bitá, Page 25

Red tape for research grants will be cut as the Australian Research Council backs "riskier" projects with stronger links between universities and industry. The ARC revealed its "bold thinking" for a streamlined yet more rigorous National Competitive Grants Program in a discussion paper released at the Universities Australia conference in Canberra on Tuesday.

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Investment in rehabilitation pays for itself, 91 times over

West Australian, General News, 26/02/2025, Bruce Powell, Page 38

A recently published study has confirmed what medical professionals have known for years: rehabilitation pays for itself. [...] This isn't global theory it's Australian data, from an Australian research team, about Australian healthcare economics. The study, published in the British Medical Journal, was conducted by Australian researchers using local data and applying a UK-validated economic model to the Australian healthcare system.

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Night shift supplement

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 26/02/2025, Page 6

Taking a melatonin supplement may help offset the DNA damage associated with night shift work, a

new study has found. A University of British Columbia trial found that taking 3mg of melatonin before daytime sleep improved a night shift worker's ability to repair oxidative DNA damage, which can contribute to developing cancer.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 25/02/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

Interview There's been a drop in the number of families consenting to organ transplants. Only 53% agreed to donate a relative's organs last year.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Key to tackling rheumatic heart disease in Australia

West Australian, Other, 25/02/2025, Keira Jenkins

Culturally safe health care is key to tackling rheumatic heart disease in Australia, with researchers saying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led prevention programs need to be prioritised. Rheumatic heart disease (RHD) is an acquired, but preventable condition, with more than 40 million cases worldwide.

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

[Read More](#)

NDIS provider facing criminal charges over burns death

West Australian, Other, 25/02/2025, Miklos Bolza & Stephanie Gardiner

A regional disability provider is facing criminal charges, accused of gross negligence over the death of a young Aboriginal woman who suffered burns in a bathtub. Kyah Lucas was severely burnt when she was bathed at her home in Orange, in central western NSW, by two workers from NDIS provider LiveBetter on February 2, 2022.

[Read More](#)

Indigenous youth at risk due to 'culturally unsafe' healthcare

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/02/2025, Joseph Guenzler

University of Queensland researchers say Indigenous children and young adults are dying from rheumatic heart disease due to 'culturally unsafe' and inaccessible healthcare in Australia. Mandandanji woman Lorelle Holland, from UQ's Child Health Research Centre, said urgent action centred on Indigenous-led prevention initiatives is required to achieve the goal of eliminating RHD by 2031.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Mystery disease kills more than 50 within two days, says WHO

Sydney Morning Herald, International News, 26/02/2025, Jean-Yves Kamale, Page 15

An unknown illness has killed more than 50 people in northwestern Congo, according to doctors on the ground and the World Health Organisation. The interval between the onset of symptoms and death has been 48 hours in the majority of cases, and "that's what's really worrying", Serge Ngalebato, medical director of Bikoro Hospital, a regional monitoring centre, told The Associated Press.

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Deaths on rise from outbreak

Nine people have died from a bacteria-borne disease since the start of the year in what health authorities have described as a "record-breaking" outbreak in Far North Queensland. Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service have confirmed nine people have died and 53 cases of melioidosis have been recorded in the region since January 1, 2025.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Another five people die after contracting soil-borne disease in Australia

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/02/2025, Harrison Christian

Five more people have died from melioidosis, bringing the death toll from the bacteria in Queensland 's north to 12. The threat from the infection-causing bacteria is lurking in the mud and dirty water left behind by the February floods.

[Read More](#)

Urgent warning after man dies from Japanese encephalitis in NSW

The Australian, Other, 25/02/2025, Clareese Packer

A man has died after contracting mosquito-borne Japanese encephalitis, marking the first death from the disease in NSW since May 2022. A northern Sydney man in his 70s died in hospital on Sunday after contracting Japanese encephalitis (JE).

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

The market for eyelash serums is growing – but so are the risks

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 25/02/2025, Nell Geraets

When Betty Boop wants attention, she flutters her long, luscious eyelashes. [...] "It can permanently turn green or blue eyes into brown eyes," she says. "It can also grow hair along the skin when used as an eye drop, as well as darkening around the skin, which is referred to as panda eyes." For this reason, the Therapeutic Goods Administration has not approved the supply of Latisse in Australia.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Bird flu: do humans get it (and do I need to hard-boil my eggs)?

The Australian, Other, 25/02/2025, Stephen Lunn

For many of us bird flu only registers as an issue as we wander past supermarket shelves stripped of egg cartons. But there is much to understand, and a deal to fear, about the potential impact of avian influenza into the future.

[Read More](#)

Should you worry about seed oils in ultra-processed foods?

Experts clarify the link between ultra-processed foods and cancer risk. Seed oils have been a hot topic in Australia's health and wellness circles, with some influencers and nutrition advocates claiming they contribute to inflammation and chronic disease.

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AICIS

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