



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 27th February 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that private health insurance premiums in Australia will rise by an average of 3.73 per cent from April 1, impacting 15 million Australians. Health Minister Mark Butler said that the change represented a "better deal for Australians" after lengthy negotiations with insurers.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has announced that the federal government will provide \$6 million in funding to support maternity services in Tasmania after Healthscope announced it would close its maternity ward at Hobart Private Hospital.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 9) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has intervened to save federal funding for charity helpline Griefline after backlash to the government's previously announced cuts to the service.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 2) reports that comments made by radio presenter Marty Sheargold in which he disparaged the Matildas and women's sport generally have drawn widespread condemnation, including from Sports Minister Anika Wells who called the rant "boorish, boring [and] wrong".
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that the death toll for an outbreak of soil-borne disease melioidosis in North Queensland has climbed to 12, with experts attributing the spread to the region's monsoonal rainfall in recent weeks.

- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 1) reports that the widow of famous pastry chef Vili Milisits will sue South Australian health authorities, Melbourne's The Alfred hospital, and a neuropsychologist, for negligence and wrongful death, claiming that a misdiagnosis denied her husband a much-needed lung transplant.
- **The West Australian** (page 1) reports that Western Australian Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson refused to comment on the death of a Perth father who reportedly waited 27 minutes for an ambulance while suffering a cardiac arrest.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 3) reports that NSW Premier Chris Minns has acknowledged the "major issue" facing his state's mental health system, saying that "of course" he worries that the mass resignations of psychiatrists could result in the death of a patient.
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 5) reports that new research from The Australian National University suggests that smoking kills more Australians each year than previously assumed, with their new estimate placing the figure at 24,000.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 11) reports that the New South Wales government will strengthen a program allowing families to report concerns about loved ones' hospital treatment, renaming it "Joe's Rule" after a two-year-old boy's death.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Private health rise cancels rates drop

The Australian, General News, 27/02/2025, Sarah Ison & Jack Quail, Page 1

Almost 15 million Australians covered by private health insurance will see their premiums jump up by an average of 3.73 per cent from April 1, eating away at the relief provided by the Reserve Bank's decision to cut the cash rate last week. [...] The decision comes after several months of negotiations between insurers and the government, during which Health Minister Mark Butler twice rejected proposed premium increases of up to 6 per cent.

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

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### Another sign the poll is nigh

Australian Financial Review, General News, 27/02/2025, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

Yesterday afternoon, Health Minister Mark Butler shared the good news with 15 million Australians that their already bloated health insurance premiums will rise by an "average" of "just" 3.73 per cent from April 1.

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

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### Labor hike for health insurance

Australian Financial Review, General News, 27/02/2025, Michael Smith, Page 1

More than 15 million Australians face the highest annual rise in private health insurance premiums in seven years after the Albanese government approved an above-inflation increase.

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### Private health goes up

Herald Sun, General News, 27/02/2025, Page 3

Private health insurance premiums will go up an industry average of 3.73 per cent from April 1 after Health Minister Mark Butler intervened to lower insurers' proposals. Mr Butler had called on insurers to resubmit their premium increase claims three times before approving the figure on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Feds deliver \$6m to fix maternity services here

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/02/2025, David Killick, Page 6

A federal cash splash has secured the future of Tasmania's maternity services following Healthscope's announcement it would axe the ward at Hobart Private Hospital in August. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler made the announcement on Wednesday morning flanked by his state counterpart Jacquie Petrusma and Minister and federal Labor member for Franklin, Julie Collins.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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

## Special \$6m baby delivery

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 27/02/2025, Page 16

The federal government's commitment to step in with \$6m of extra funding towards Hobart maternity services, along with Calvary Private Health's assurance it can take on extra births, must be a relief to thousands of Tasmanian mothers. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler made the funding announcement yesterday with Royal Hobart Hospital in the background.

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## Labor backflips again after slashing charity funding

Daily Telegraph, General News, 27/02/2025, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 9

The Albanese government has backflipped again after cutting funding to a charity before being forced to reinstate it. Health Minister Mark Butler has been forced to intervene after a nearly 40-year-old charity helpline supporting Australians going through grief was forced to shut down after a shock funding cut from the federal government.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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## Private health rise biggest in seven years

West Australian, Business News, 27/02/2025, Sean Smith, Page 18

Pressure from the Albanese Government has restricted this year's rise in private health insurance premiums, but millions of policyholders are still facing an above-inflation hit. [...] Confronted with rising healthcare costs, some of the big insurers lobbied for substantially bigger increases, but were repeatedly rebuffed by Health Minister Mark Butler, pictured, who has to approve premium rates.

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

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## Both sides back bulk billing

Cairns Post, General News, 27/02/2025, Catherine Duffy, Page 4

Regional families could save hundreds of dollars on bulk-billed GPs under a new health boost promised by both sides of politics in the lead-up to this year's federal election. [...] In a joint statement, Health Minister Mark Butler and Senator Nita Green said the government's initiative would help Far North residents access an additional 199,600 bulk-billed visits and a boost to the number of fully bulk-billing GPs in the region, should the government be re-elected.

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## Boost to Medicare

Cowra Guardian, General News, 27/02/2025, Page 1

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 Of The Area \(Online\)](#).

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## 'More free visits for patients': Launceston Urgent Care Clinic gets extra

money

Launceston Examiner, General News, 27/02/2025, Craig Thomson, Page 6

The Launceston Medicare Urgent Care Clinic will receive additional federal funding to expand its operating hours and provide free care to more patients. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinic, which has already treated over 26,000 patients in 18 months, will now operate from 9am to 8pm, seven days a week, starting July 1, 2025.

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

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## Community's need for urgent care clinic

Port Stephens Examiner, General News, 27/02/2025, Laura Rumbel, Page 11

A petition launched earlier this month by Member for Paterson Meryl Swanson to establish a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in her electorate has been supported by Port Stephens Council. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was asked about a Paterson urgent care clinic during a visit to Raymond Terrace in October 2024, but said the government didn't have the funding for additional clinics.

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## Liberal senator Anne Ruston and Labor's Malarndirri McCarthy clash over claims Labor "failed to act" over letter warning of anti-Semitism

The Australian, Other, 26/02/2025, Jessica Wang

Labor and the Coalition have clashed over assertions Labor "failed to act" on concerns from practitioners over rising pro-Hamas social media posts from fellow healthcare workers which were not passed onto Health Minister Mark Butler. However Labor minister Malarndirri McCarthy rejected claims the government has been soft on anti-Semitism and said the incident could not be related to a highly-condemned video of two NSW Health nurses allegedly threatening to kill and not treat Israeli patients.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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## Private health premiums to rise as insurers cry poor

Canberra Times, Other, 26/02/2025, Jack Gramenz

Millions of Australians will soon be paying more for private health cover following the approval of premium increases for insurers, who say the rise is as low as they can go. The federal government has signed off on an average industry premium increase of 3.73 per cent, Health Minister Mark Butler announced on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Health insurance premiums set to rise by 3.73pc after lengthy government negotiations

ABC Online, Other, 26/02/2025, Stephanie Dalzell

Health insurance premiums will rise by an average of 3.73 per cent from April after lengthy negotiations between the federal government and insurers, with the opposition describing the hike as "another hit" to Australian household budgets. Health Minister Mark Butler had previously ordered private health insurers to go back to the drawing board on three occasions and come up with a more "reasonable" premium increase, as the government tried to fend off a political headache on the eve of a federal election.

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## Federal government funding will allow for an expansion of maternity services in Hobart

ABC Online, Other, 26/02/2025, Sophie Jagers

The federal government is stepping in with \$6 million to expand maternity services in Hobart following the announcement Hobart Private Hospital is closing its maternity ward. Federal Health Minister Mark

Butler said the money would be used to expand services in the private and public systems.

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## Calvary Lenah Valley Hospital prepares to absorb Hobart Private Hospital births in wake of maternity ward closure

ABC Online, Other, 26/02/2025, Meg Whitfield

A private hospital in Tasmania's south says it's preparing to pick up "as many" additional births "as possible" in light of the impending closure of Hobart Private Hospital's maternity services. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said he'd had "constructive" conversations with state Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma about the situation.

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## Health outcomes for people with intellectual disability remain 'comparable to third world countries'

ABC Online, Other, 26/02/2025, Nas Campanella & Evan Young

Australians with intellectual disability continue to experience unconscious bias in the medical system and much poorer health outcomes than people without disability. [...] In a statement, Health Minister Mark Butler said the health inequities that people with intellectual disability faced were "serious" and the community deserved "respectful, high quality and timely health care".

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## 'Not just about words': How Launceston's newest clinic is changing kids' lives

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 26/02/2025, Annika Rhoades

After a Launceston newborn was diagnosed with a rare hearing disorder at just a few months old, his family was grief-stricken for his future. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler officially opened the Shepherd Centre's new facility with Madelyn and reflected on how far Australia had come in terms of hearing diagnoses and technology.

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## Labor's plan to expand bulk billing if re-elected in Federal Election

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 26/02/2025

Promising 181,600 more free visits to the GP if re-elected, Townsville's Labor candidate says people in the city will be 'better off' thanks to the Albanese Government's investments in Medicare. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said there was a reasons Australia's doctors voted Peter Dutton 'the worst Health Minister in Medicare history'.

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

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## Feds give Tasmania \$6m to boost public maternity services

Health Services Daily, Other, 26/02/2025, Cate Swannell

In the wake of Healthscope's Hobart closure the extra dollars will boost capacity. [...] "This funding will improve both capacity and capability of the local hospitals to provide such services," said the Department of Health and Aged Care announcement.

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## Australia invests \$422 million in 229 researchers

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 26/02/2025

The Australian Government has announced that 229 high-performing researchers at all career stages will share in \$422 million in funding through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Investigator Grants scheme. [...] "This year's crop of incredible researchers will further cement Australia's status as a world leader in health and medical research, and all Australians will benefit from their ingenuity and interest," Australia's Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said.

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## An unhealthy Mediconsensus

Inside Story, Other, 26/02/2025, Lesley Russell

With the Coalition matching Labor's promises, are vital Medicare reforms being dealt out of contention? [...] Health minister Mark Butler and his colleagues have highlighted the positive impact of the tripling of bulk-billing incentives for concession card-holders and children under sixteen, which Labor introduced in November 2023.

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## Hundreds of people respond to Optometry Australia Medicare campaign

Insight, Other, 26/02/2025, Rob Mitchell

Hundreds of Optometry Australia (OA) members have written to their federal representatives and sent thousands of emails in response to the organisation's campaign for reinstatement of biennial Medicare rebates for comprehensive eye exams for all Australians under 65. [...] "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."

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## Channel 10, 10 Late News, 26/02/2025, Ursula Heger

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says Australian health insurers will be allowed to increase premiums by an average of 3.73% this year instead of the requested 6%. Around 15 million Australians paid almost \$30b in health insurance premiums in the 12 months to September last year.

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## Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 26/02/2025, Kim Millar

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says a \$6m funding boost will be given to expand maternity services in Tasmania following Healthscope's decision to cease services from August. State Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma says the funding will go towards infrastructure and equipment upgrades at Royal Hobart Hospital, Calvary Hospital Lenah Valley, and Saint John's Park in Newtown. ANMF Tasmania's Emily Shepherd says the closure of Hobart Private Hospital could lead to a significant shortfall. Tas Shadow Health Minister Ella Haddad voiced concern about the staffing crisis of midwives and other health professionals.

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## WIN Hobart, WIN News, 26/02/2025, Bruce Roberts

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says a \$6m funding boost will be given to expand maternity services in Tasmania following Healthscope's decision to cease services from August. Tas Shadow Health Minister Ella Haddad welcomed the announcement. The funding will go towards infrastructure and equipment upgrades at Royal Hobart Hospital and Calvary Hospital. Tas Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma says they are offering scholarships and relocation allowances for workers transitioning from Hobart Private.

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## Triple M Hobart, Breakfast, 26/02/2025, Kaz McMullen and Andy 'Tubes' Taylor

Interview with Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler. Butler says he has discussed with Tas Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma the decision of Healthscope to pull out their maternity services in Hobart. He notes there has been good discussions with Calvary and they're going to make sure they expand their capacity. Butler states they are putting \$6 million into the program so that if the Tas Government wants to provide money to Calvary, they are also able to make the upgrades to their maternity suites to cater for the additional demand that's going to come from Healthscope cutting their maternity services.

*Interview continues on: [Triple M Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).*

## 2SM, 20:00 News, 26/02/2025

News Corp reports Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has been forced to intervene after Griefline was forced to shut down after a funding cut from the Federal Government.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, 18:00 News, 26/02/2025

The Federal Government has approved a 3.73% increase in private health insurance premiums from April. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler previously ordered private health insurers to come up with a more reasonable premium increase on three occasions.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 26/02/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Tas Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma about the Federal Government's \$6m funding to help support the expansion of Hobart's private and public maternity services. Petrusma says she has worked with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler since the announcement of Healthscope's closure. She states the initial scoping for a new maternity unit at Saint John's Park in Newtown has begun. Petrusma says her priority over the last five days has been ensuring mothers and their babies have the appropriate support and services they need during their birthing journeys.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, 09:00 News, 26/02/2025

The Federal Government says it's providing \$6 million to help support the expansion of Hobart's private and public maternity services. It follows Healthscope announcing maternity services at the Hobart Private Hospital, which deliver more than 500 babies per year, would cease. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the amount given to each hospital will not be decided by the Commonwealth, but by the Tasmanian Health Service in consultation with Calvary.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 26/02/2025, Leon Compton

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, about the Federal Government's \$6 million funding to help support the expansion of Hobart's private and public maternity services. Butler states he and Tas Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma have had constructive discussions and they recognised that both governments have make sure that no one fall through the cracks that essentially Healthscope has opened up here in Hobart and in Darwin as well, by pulling maternity services. He notes Calvary has talked about expanding their capacity and taking a big share of what otherwise would have gone to Healthscope.

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## Cruise, 16:00 News, 26/02/2025

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says a proton therapy unit in the Australian Bragg Centre on North Terrace to help children receive cancer treatment, has been delayed due to contract problems. The SA Government hopes to see whether another type of unit from another supplier can be sourced.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Sheargold departs Triple M after Matildas tirade

Age, General News, 27/02/2025, Frances Howe, Page 2

Triple M and Marty Sheargold have parted company after the radio host's derogatory comments about

the women's national soccer team on Monday drew a furious backlash. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells led a chorus of condemnation yesterday, saying Sheargold's comments were "boorish, boring, [and] wrong".

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

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## **Matildas condemn misogynist comments about Australian women's soccer team**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/02/2025

The Matildas have joined in the heavy criticism Wednesday of a commercial radio host's misogynistic and crass comments about Australia's national women's soccer team. [...] Australia's sports minister, Anika Wells, described the comments as "boorish, boring, wrong" and soccer's national players' union said "it is important such ignorance does not go unchecked."

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## **Football Australia slams Triple M host Marty Sheargold's 'unacceptable' Matildas comments**

Pedestrian TV, Other, 26/02/2025, Rhea Nath

Australia's leading football associations and athletes across the board are rallying behind the Matildas after a radio host's extremely gross rant this week, in which he minimised women's sport and compared the athletes to "Year 10 girls." [...] Per the publication, Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells also called Sheargold's comments "boorish, boring, wrong" and highlighted the significant strides women's sport has made in the country.

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## **ABC Radio Darwin , 10:00 News, 26/02/2025**

The Federal government has announced funding to support aged care staff working in Alice Springs. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says \$6.4 million will be invested in the Australian Regional and Remote Community Services Limited. The funding will deliver up to 32 fully-refurbished studio apartments for aged care staff and other infrastructure at its three residential care services in Alice Springs.

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

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE**

### **Second free mental health centre opens on Coast**

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 27/02/2025, Page 28

The Gosford Medicare Mental Health Centre, which offers free, walk-in mental health support, is now officially open. [...] Gosford centre was officially opened on Friday, February 14, by Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Member for Dobell Emma McBride, and Member for Robertson, Dr Gordon Reid.

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY**

### **Changes to how paracetamol is sold now in effect**

Condobolin Argus, General News, 26/02/2025, Melissa Blewitt, Page 3

Changes to how paracetamol is sold in Australia are now in place. [...] PSA joined Assistant Minister for



Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney at Westgarth Pharmacy in Melbourne to launch the report and discuss paracetamol changes.

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## 2RE, 07:30 Local News, 26/02/2025, Unspecified

Mid Coast resident are being urged to sign up to the Australian Organ Donor Register and discuss the decision with their family. It comes as latest figures reveal more than 1300 Australian lives were saved or significantly improved last year, thanks to 527 deceased organ donors. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney says it's a timely reminder about the power of organ donation, and she's encouraging locals to register.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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## DEPARTMENT

### Uni's move slammed

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 27/02/2025, Jessica Howard, Page 1

Doctors have ripped into Deakin University's proposal to replace the two much-loved leaders of Warrnambool's medical school with metropolitan counterparts. [...] 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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### Be Shingles aware

Southern Highlands Express, General News, 26/02/2025, John Swainston, Page 13

In new research, which surveyed 600 Australians, it's been revealed that Australians aged 50-79 have limited understanding of their risk of the viral infection shingles. [...] The Dept. of Health and Aged Care issued new national immunisation arrangements in November 2023, for those over 50, including the availability of the newer Shingrix 2-dose course, as an improved preventive treatment over earlier options.

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### Nutritious options for kids on the go

Convenience World, General News, 01/02/2025, Tracey Cheung, Page 30

Parents today are faced with busier lifestyles and more food choices for children on the market than their parents had. [...] The federal Department of Health and Aged Care recently held a public consultation on improving commercial foods for infants and young children.

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### Millions in taxpayer dollars spent on unapproved charity to help regional GPs

Canberra Times, Other, 26/02/2025, Grace Dudley

A regional government agency spent millions in taxpayers dollars to form a health charity which lasted only six months, provided no services and operated without federal approval. [...] Five months after the foundation was established, on February 7, 2024, the Department of Health and Aged Care sent an email to the health network board ordering them to immediately shut the foundation down.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra](#)

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## **The Health Wrap: remaking America, on housing and mental health, ageing well – and uplifting views from Colarado**

Croakey, Other, 26/02/2025, Melissa Sweet

Is it wishful thinking to declare that President Trump's honeymoon period is over? [...] Elsewhere on the CDC webpages hosted by the Department of Health and Aged Care, I found a commitment of \$22.1 million , made in October 2024, "to strengthen public health preparedness against bird flu, by increasing and diversifying readily deployable pandemic flu vaccines in the National Medical Stockpile".

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## **Demand for health insurance reform as expectant mum's slogged with 'out-of-pocket expenses': 'Isn't working'**

Yahoo! Finance Australia, Other, 26/02/2025, David Koch

David Koch has called for reform in the private healthcare sector as mothers grapple with out-of-pocket expenses. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care's Medical Cost Finder, which looks at the in-hospital costs only, a vaginal delivery with no complications will typically cost \$2,900 in specialist fees Of this, the patient is usually left with \$400 out-of-pocket after Medicare and their insurer typically pays \$1,700.

[Read More](#)

## **The significance of Cosmetique's ASX listing**

FNARena, Other, 26/02/2025, Ed Kennedy

Stormeur Ltd –the parent company of Cosmetique– is set to launch on the ASX in March. [...] As an example, the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care defines cosmetic surgery as "procedures that involve cutting beneath the skin".

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## **Feds give Tasmania \$6m to boost public maternity services**

Health Services Daily, Other, 26/02/2025, Cate Swannell

In the wake of Healthscope's Hobart closure the extra dollars will boost capacity. [...] "This funding will improve both capacity and capability of the local hospitals to provide such services," said the Department of Health and Aged Care announcement.

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## **Tell DoHAC they're dreaming re bulk-billing calculations: estimates**

The Medical Republic, Other, 26/02/2025, Laura Woodrow

David Pocock is skeptical about the Department's modelling for universal bulk-billing clinic numbers under Labor's \$8.5bn Medicare package. [...] Speaking on the pledge in estimates, DoHAC's first assistant secretary for Medicare benefits Daniel McCabe said that modelling suggested that 27 practices would choose to universally bulk bill in the ACT – up from two, currently – under the new arrangement.

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## **Practices pinged for charging administrative fees while bulk billing**

The Medical Republic, Other, 26/02/2025, Holly Payne

The Department of Health and Aged Care currently has 12 open cases relating to healthcare providers who charge additional fees when bulk billing, relying mostly on tip-offs from members of the public. Under Section 20A(1) of the Health Insurance Act 1973, when a practitioner agrees to bulk bill a patient they are accepting the assignment of benefit as their full payment.

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## **'It's going to hurt': Government confirms another round of private health insurance premium increases**

From 1 April, private health insurance premiums will increase by an industry average 3.73%. [...] All health insurers must submit their premium increase proposal to the Department of Health for assessment.

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## VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### How am I going to pay for this?

The Nightly, General News, 26/02/2025, Jackson Hewett, Page 9

The nation's most senior finance official has warned that government spending is creating "long term pressures on the budget", that will require "difficult trade-offs" if the country is to remain resilient in an era of increasing political instability. [...] Government support for the aged care sector is expected to almost double as a percentage of GDP in the coming decades according to the latest Intergenerational Report.

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

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### Baby boon for aged care home

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 27/02/2025, Kyle Rode, Page 3

A new 'ageless play' program is bringing the elderly residents of Bolton Clarke Glendale and babies together to bridge the gap between the generations. The program, overseen by Play Matters' Townsville branch, has been running weekly workshops where aged care residents and new parents meet and spend time together in order to break down the barriers of social isolation which both groups can experience.

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### The benefits of home care vs aged care facilities

The Senior, Other, 26/02/2025

As people age, deciding on the best care option becomes a crucial consideration. While aged care facilities provide comprehensive support, many older Australians are choosing home care services to maintain independence while receiving the assistance they need.

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### FIVEAA, Mornings, 26/02/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Council on the Ageing CEO Miranda Starkey about submissions to the Malinauskas Government ahead of the next state budget. Starkey says thousands of older South Australians over the past month have been concerned about cost of living, health services, and access to health. She is calling for free ambulances for full aged pensioners and making the State Ambulance Service's complicated debt collection and billing processes' more accessible.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

## Killer statistics

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/02/2025, Page 5

Smoking is estimated to kill more than 24,000 Australians every year or more than 66 people a day - more than previously thought - according to new research from The Australian National University. The study followed 178,000 people over time and found that smoking increased the risk of dying from 23 common causes.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

## Tests will save lives and cash

Courier Mail, General News, 27/02/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 11

A groundbreaking blood test that detects dangerous pregnancy complications as early as 11 weeks has been developed by Queensland scientists and is likely to save the state's health system millions each year. [...] Statistics from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show about 30,000 babies born in Australia each year have growth and developmental impairments due to pregnancy complications.

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

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

## SA government targets illicit tobacco stores

Convenience World, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 12

The South Australian government is encouraging locals to report stores to Consumer and Business Services (CBS) for selling illicit tobacco and vapes. According to the government, an estimated 200 tobacco stores are operating illegally throughout SA selling tobacco and vapes without a licence.

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

## Transforming Australia into a food superpower

Retail World, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 4

A food industry taskforce is seeking urgent changes to a food system it says is at a tipping point, calling for action in its maiden report, 'Land of plenty: Transforming Australia into a food superpower'. [...] "A thriving food system has the potential to provide Australia with a stronger economy, help deliver on our net-zero and world leading nature-repair aspirations, and offer food security and affordability, not just for the next 10 years but for generations to come.

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## Shoppers warm to the freezer aisle

Retail World, General News, 01/02/2025, Hailey Settineri, Page 42

Convenience and affordability are steering shoppers towards frozen foods. [...] Last winter, the Heart Foundation called on Australians to add more frozen vegetables to their meals, following the release by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare of dietary information that shows only one in 15 Australians eats the recommended amount of vegetables daily.

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

## Menopause the 'number one target' for exploitation in women's health

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/02/2025, Sarah Berry

Preventative hormone replacement therapy can feel a bit like preventative Botox – it's often based on fear rather than need. [...] For the seven million Australian women aged over 40 who are looking down the barrel of perimenopause and menopause, the list of possible symptoms includes brain fog, weight gain, insomnia, osteoporosis, thinning hair, low sex drive, depression and anxiety.

[Read More](#)

## Study suggests more than half of women aged 30-35 are already 'in menopause'

According to the latest research, women may be experiencing menopause symptoms well before the universally-expected age. A normal part of aging for women, the is marked by a complete stopping of the menstrual cycle, signalling the end of a woman's reproductive capability.

[Read More](#)

## The five foods and drinks to avoid if you've got high blood pressure

Northern Territory News, Other, 26/02/2025, Imogen Bailey

If you've got high blood pressure then there's are some foods to steer clear of. [...] But according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare about three quarters of Aussie adults with high blood pressure don't even realise they have it.

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

[Read More](#)

## Cook Shire Council votes to ditch fluoride in its water supply

Cairns Post, Other, 26/02/2025, Samuel Davis

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.

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

[Read More](#)

## 2CC, Canberra Live, 26/02/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Australian National University Associate Professor Grace Joshy about new research finding the rate of smoking has been reduced in Australia but still kills more than 24,000 Australians annually. Joshy says that in a study, there was an increased risk of death in smokers for 23 out of 28 causes of death. She states that people who smoked around 1 to 14 cigarettes a day have an increased risk of dying from chronic lung disease and lung cancer.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### My \$40m myeloma mission

Herald Sun, General News, 27/02/2025, Jackie Epstein & Nui Te Koha, Page 17

Former Collingwood president Jeff Browne and legendary sports presenter Sandy Roberts have revealed they are both cancer free, as the mission continues to find a cure for myeloma. Browne, the new chairperson of Myeloma Australia, was diagnosed in August 2023 with the aggressive form of blood cancer.

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

### Fish diet helps MS

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 27/02/2025, Page 13

People with multiple sclerosis (MS) who eat more fish are less likely to have worsening disability. After examining the diet of 2719 people when they were first diagnosed with MS, Swedish researchers found the disability was less likely to worsen or progress in those who reported eating more fish compared with those who seldom ate fish.

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

### Beyond BMI, problem of obesity is still a killer

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 27/02/2025, Hayley O'Neill, Page 11

For the past 15 years, I have dedicated my research to understanding obesity. For decades, doctors

and scientists have relied on body mass index (BMI) as a simple screening tool in adults to classify individuals as underweight, normal weight, overweight, or obese.

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

## Brave Liz has incredible will to survive

Newcastle Herald, General News, 27/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Five years ago while 21 weeks pregnant, Liz Eagleton was told she had an extremely rare and aggressive cancer. She had been "harassing doctors" to reconsider a problem in her right breast.

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

## This is not like the dementia you see on TV or the movies: What it's like living with Lewy body

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/02/2025, Ann Pietsch

In 2012, at age 59, I was diagnosed with younger onset dementia, likely to be Alzheimer's disease. Since the onset of other symptoms, it now seems likely that my diagnosis is Lewy body dementia.

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

[Read More](#)

## Get your hearing checked at Canberra Audiology's Open Day Advertising Feature

Canberra Times, Other, 26/02/2025, Nicki Davey

Canberrans are being urged to prioritise their hearing health during March as part of World Hearing Day and Hearing Awareness Week. Canberra Audiology is holding an Open Day on Wednesday, March 19 and is offering a limited number of free consultations with one of their post-graduate trained audiologists to discuss any hearing concerns, have a hearing check or to even try the latest hearing aid technology.

[Read More](#)

## 'Timewasting': More than Medicare bulk-billing is needed to treat people properly

Canberra Times, Other, 26/02/2025, Anthony Caggiano

Victoria University's Professor Rosemary Calder wants to see better funding where GPs, specialists and allied health staff work together for people with chronic and complex medical conditions. [...] "Many chronic health conditions can be much better managed than they are."

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Silence of the ambs

West Australian, General News, 27/02/2025, Jessica Page & Jake Dietsch, Page 1

Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson has refused to comment while on the campaign trail for the State election on the death of a Perth father as he waited for an ambulance. Ms Sanderson was asked on the issue while handing out how-to-vote cards at the early voting booth in Mirrabooka.

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

### WA deserves world-class health system

West Australian, Editorials, 27/02/2025, Page 2

It's difficult to comprehend the agony and terror that must have been experienced by the loved ones of a Perth heart attack patient before help arrived for him earlier this month. Sadly, by the time an ambulance did arrive, 27 minutes after emergency services were called, it was too late for the 39-year-old dad.

## Minns agrees to new 'Joe's rule' changes in hospitals

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 27/02/2025, Angus Thomson & Max Maddison, Page 11

A rapid response program enabling families to speak up about a loved one's treatment will be bolstered and renamed "Joe's rule" after an investigation into the tragic death of a two-year-old boy at a Sydney hospital. Elouise and Danny Massa met Premier Chris Minns yesterday after speaking out last week about the death of their son Joe at Northern Beaches Hospital in September.

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

## Vili should still be alive

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 27/02/2025, Sean Fewster, Page 1

Iconic baker Vili Milisits was denied a potentially lifesaving lung transplant because he was misdiagnosed with cognitive issues while he was hungry, exhausted and struggling to breathe, a court has heard. Vili's wife, Rosemary, has accused SA health authorities, a Victorian hospital and neuropsychologist Andrew Rothwell of negligence and wrongful death.

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

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

## Delirium warning in aged patients

Courier Mail, General News, 27/02/2025, Adella Beaini, Page 16

Older patients are far more likely to experience delirium during a hospital stay than previously thought, with new research uncovering alarmingly high rates of the condition. A global study of 12,000 hospital cases, led by Professor Victoria Traynor, from the University of the Sunshine Coast, found that 24 per cent of older patients in medical wards had delirium, while an additional 14 per cent developed it after admission.

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

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## Any Medicare investment to be welcomed

Daily Advertiser, General News, 27/02/2025, 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.

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## Torquay hospital limbo

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 27/02/2025, Eddie Russell, Page 4

It remains unclear whether a Torquay hospital that was supposed to open last year will ever eventuate, as the state government commences construction of a flagship Geelong facility. At Wednesday's construction launch of Barwon Health's new Women's and Children's centre, Health Infrastructure Minister Melissa Horne said the government continued to examine the needs of the Geelong region.

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## Crandon hospital promise

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 27/02/2025, Paul Weston, Page 7

Coomera's State MP vows a much-awaited Coomera Hospital will be built with no cuts to its beds or its budget despite Labor raising fears it will be among health funding cutbacks. The \$1.3bn Coomera Hospital build is scheduled to be finished in 2027 but meanwhile the State Government faces a \$6bn budget black hole, the Labor Opposition has claimed.

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## A fresh take on hospital convenience

The Children's Hospital at Westmead in western Sydney is home to an impressive new supermarket model, improving access to convenient, fresh food, and great value. Visiting any hospital can be a daunting and distressing experience for many, with this particularly being the case for sick children and their families.

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

## Last plea from a dying woman, too late to help

The Australian, Other, 26/02/2025

My final days with a terminal illness have been in relentless pain while my family watches helplessly. Not because relief is impossible but because I live too far from care. This is the devastating reality for terminally ill patients across rural Australia, where the tyranny of distance transforms palliative care into an endless journey of suffering.

[Read More](#)

## Police charge Sydney nurse over sickening anti-Semitic rant

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/02/2025

Police have charged a nurse who allegedly boasted about a desire to kill Jewish patients at a Sydney hospital, in a sickening filmed rant that sparked global condemnation. Former New South Wales Health employees Ahmad 'Rashad' Nadir and Sarah Abu Lebdeh were in a staffroom at Bankstown Hospital last Tuesday night when they began chatting with Israeli social media creator Max Veifer.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Private hospital sector and health insurance industry trade barbs over crisis in maternity services

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/02/2025, Rob Inglis

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.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Woman's heroic act before ending her life

The Courier Mail, Other, 26/02/2025, Claudia Poposki

Kay Henderson quickly caught Australia — and the world's — attention when she revealed that after decades battling Marfan Syndrome she would turn to voluntary assisted dying to end her life. The NSW woman had been in pain for years.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## This is the fastest-growing cosmetic procedure

The Courier Mail, Other, 26/02/2025, Mia Erickson

Right now, our access to — and knowledge of — cosmetic surgical procedures has never been less inhibited. Without a doubt, improved technologies and techniques have made popular procedures more affordable to the masses, making any kind of nip, tuck or tighten easier than ever to access.

[Read More](#)

## Why going to the doctor won't necessarily be free after the election

Canberra Times, Other, 26/02/2025, Carla Mascarenhas

If you read the headlines, you might be mistaken for thinking going to the GP will be free after the election regardless of who gains power. But it isn't that simple.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).



## Future Victoria: Australian first \$2bn central entertainment hub to be built in Wyndham

The Mercury, Other, 26/02/2025, Peter Rolfe

Australia's first sports, health and entertainment city is set to be built in Melbourne's booming outer south west in a game-changer for the community. [...] It is also in discussion with health providers, with a view to making an allied health building with physiotherapy, radiography and potentially hospital services.

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

[Read More](#)

## Ramping at Geelong hospital delays patient surgery by 24 hours

The Mercury, Other, 26/02/2025, Eddie Russell

A man whose "distressed" elderly mother waited more than 24 hours for emergency surgery has called on the state government to fix the "broken" health system. Helen Mackay was rushed to Colac hospital at 12.30pm on Monday with a twisted bowel.

[Read More](#)

## Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's Medicare policy is a wealth transfer from the well to sick

West Australian, Other, 24/02/2025, Aaron Patrick

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.

[Read More](#)

## Coroner condemns Jehovah's Witness blood transfusion rules after follower's hospital death

ABC Online, Other, 26/02/2025, Giselle Wakatama

A deputy state coroner has recommended Jehovah's Witnesses stop relying on the organisation's "misleading" blood-refusal guidance after a follower bled to death. Heather Winchester, 75, died from complications after hysterectomy surgery at a NSW hospital in September 2019.

[Read More](#)

## Not getting bulk-billed? How old you are and where you live could explain why

ABC Online, Other, 26/02/2025, Elise Worthington & Alison Branley

If you've had trouble accessing a bulk-billing GP, you're not alone. Hundreds of GP clinics have started charging some, or all, patients for consultations in the past few years, leaving patients checking their bank balance before they book an appointment.

[Read More](#)

## Sensitive details of Australian IVF patients posted to dark web after Genea data breach

The Guardian, Other, 26/02/2025, Donna Lu & Josh Taylor

Sensitive patient information has allegedly been leaked on the dark web after Genea, one of Australia's leading IVF and fertility services providers, was hacked a fortnight ago. The attack was allegedly carried out by the Termite ransomware group, prompting Genea to obtain a court injunction on Wednesday that criminalises access to the breached patient data.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Health Minister Tim Nicholls opens North Queensland Persistent Pain Management Service at Townsville University Hospital

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 26/02/2025, Nikita Mcguire

Having struggled with severe pain for a long time, the opening of a new centralised location for pain treatment at the Townsville University Hospital is great news for David Creighton. [...] The \$4.4 million service consists of six consulting rooms, three clinical interview rooms, a procedure room and a three-bed recovery and day infusion bay

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

[Read More](#)

## Doctors and pharmacists unite to improve care transitions

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 26/02/2025

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) and Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) release Transitions of Care resource for doctors, pharmacists and patients. Developed by AdPha and RACGP in collaboration through their respective expert committees, a first-of-its-kind Medication Management at Transitions of Care resource kit is now available to help Australians, and their care teams, through one of the riskiest stages of the patient journey.

[Read More](#)

## Private healthcare calls for maternity care funding for GPs, midwives

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 26/02/2025, Jo Roberts

Could pregnancies and births be managed by GPs and midwives in private hospitals? A proposed new care model raises some questions.

[Read More](#)

## Coroner stresses need for complete discharge summaries

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 26/02/2025, Jolyon Attwooll

A quality care expert says findings around a woman's death from prescription medications are a reminder of the importance of continuity of care. A coroner's report has emphasised the importance of complete and prompt discharge summaries.

[Read More](#)

## ABC, ABC News, 26/02/2025, Jeremy Fernandez

Advocates for Australians with intellectual disabilities say their medical treatments by doctors are often cruel or dehumanising. The Council for Intellectual Disability's Jim Simpson is calling for the Federal Government to mandate disability training in medical degrees and give doctors incentives to hold longer consultations. Labor and the Coalition acknowledge that people with intellectual disability face serious inequities in the health system.

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## Channel 10, 10 News First, 26/02/2025, Sandra Sully

Elouise and Danny Massa, the parents of two-year-old Joe who died when he was triaged at Northern Beaches Hospital, have received assurances from NSW Premier Chris Minns that a parliamentary inquiry and audit into the emergency department will take place. Joe's Rule will bolster parental rights and outlaw private public partnerships in hospitals. Healthscope's boss will be questioned in front of a parliamentary committee tomorrow.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 26/02/2025, Angela Cox & Mark Ferguson

Elouise and Danny Massa, the parents of two-year-old Joe who died when he was denied an IV drip at Northern Beaches Hospital, have received assurances from NSW Premier Chris Minns and Health Minister Ryan Park that an independent inquiry, a coronial inquest, an audit into the emergency department will take place, and the creation of Joe's Rule, which will bolster parental rights and outlaw

private public partnerships in hospitals. Healthscope' will be questioned in front of a parliamentary committee hearing tomorrow.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 26/02/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings

Rosemary Milisits, the wife of South Australian baker Vili Milisits, lodged a medical negligence claim in the Supreme Court against the Central Adelaide Health Network, neuropsychologist Dr Andrew Rothwell, and Melbourne's Alfred Hospital over a misdiagnosis that delayed her husband's lung transplant.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 26/02/2025, Chris Bath

Interview with mother Elouise Massa about her two-year-old son Joe's death at the Northern Beaches Hospital's emergency department. Massa says she spoke with NSW Premier Chris Minns, Health Minister Ryan Park, and NSW Health's Susan Pearce where they assured that the reach protocol, which will become Joe's Rule, would be analysed and implemented in hospitals. She explains that the rule would initiate a rapid response pathway for anyone who enters the hospital system.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Fear of fatal flaws in health

Daily Telegraph, General News, 27/02/2025, Duncan Evans, Page 3

Premier Chris Minns admits "horrific stories" from the front lines of NSW's buckling mental health system have left him fearing for the lives of the state's residents. "Of course I am (worried someone might die)," he told a budget estimates hearing yesterday.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#)

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### Waiting for psychiatrist

Cairns Post, General News, 27/02/2025, Page 5

Wait times to see a psychiatrist in Australia have shot up dramatically since the Covid pandemic Using Medicare data to look at wait times from GP referral to the first psychiatric specialist appointment between 2011 and 2022, The University of Melbourne researchers found a large increase in wait times that began in 2020.

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

### Free Sydney support program for hoarding braces for end of funding

ABC Online, Other, 26/02/2025, Myles Houlbrook

Shane Wilson knows the visceral feeling of being in a home beset by squalor. [...] Cecy Bradley is the program manager of Making Space, which receives about \$500,000 in funding from the federal government through the Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network (CESPHN).

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Hunter targeting Brit GPs

Newcastle Herald, General News, 27/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

A push to attract more overseas GPs promises to ease the Hunter's doctor shortage, amid hopes for an influx of British physicians escaping their crisis-hit health system. The long-running GP shortage prevents people from having a regular doctor and seeing one when needed, but this could change with red tape being cut for overseas doctors to come to Australia.

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### 'Crisis': NSW Nurses and Midwives Association picket for pay rise

The Australian, Other, 26/02/2025, Ria Pandey

Nurses and midwives have slammed the NSW government for exacerbating "unsustainable" conditions in the sector, claiming they are being ignored because of their gender. Members of the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) gathered in front of state parliament on Wednesday to demand the Minns government direct new money into health to ensure nurses and midwives get fair and equal pay with other states.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

### Full medical degree now available for JCU Cairns students

The Courier Mail, Other, 26/02/2025

Hundreds of Far North medical students have celebrated a milestone pathway 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.

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

[Read More](#)

### Channel 10, 10 News First, 26/02/2025, Sandra Sully

Nurses are leaving the public hospital system as NSW courts rule on their pay dispute. NSW Premier Chris Minns told a parliamentary hearing that the NSW Government has tried to work with the NSW Nurses & Midwives Association but Shaye Candish claims there have been no formal negotiations since October.

Report continues on: [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#)

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### Channel 9, Nine News, 26/02/2025, Georgie Gardner

NSW Premier Chris Minns has acknowledged nurses' concerns that someone could die as a result of the mass resignation of psychiatrists in the public health system. Around 200 nurses rallied outside parliament with calls for a pay rise.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Charity raises cash for pro-Palestine activists

The Australian, General News, 27/02/2025, Liam Mendes, Page 7

A not-for-profit charity named Watermelon Defence Fund is crowd-funding money to support medical staff, with the founder representing an obstetrician accused of making "racially motivated" comments to colleagues. [...] She also claimed in a private conversation that was not referred to AHPRA that her family were billionaires connected to the "Jewish mafia" and "dirty dirty money".

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

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### Prominent ACT doctor accused of rape suspended from practising medicine

Canberra Times, General News, 27/02/2025, Tim Piccione, Page 7

A prominent Canberra doctor accused of sexual and physical assaults has been suspended from practising medicine. [...] However, two weeks later, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has suspended the doctor's registration.

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

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### Nurse helped herself to patient's pill script

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 27/02/2025, Alex Treacy, Page 5

A Gold Coast nurse has admitted to stealing the painkiller script of a patient, who had just been operated on, and getting it filled for herself. [...] According to health regulator AHPRA, the defendant has had 10 conditions placed upon her registration, including that she have no patient contact, not work anywhere that prescribes or administers any monitored medicines under the Medicines and Poisons (medicines) regulation 2021 (ie, hospitals), and not possess or administer any monitored medicines herself.

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### Governments 10 years late for enacting rules for unregistered health workers

ABC Online, Other, 26/02/2025, Katri Uibu

Almost 10 years after being directed to regulate unregistered health practitioners to better protect the public, some jurisdictions still haven't got around to it. In 2015, health ministers across the country agreed that each state and territory would be responsible for enacting new — or amending existing — regulations to give effect to the National Code of Conduct for people providing health services.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### SA bans 'junk food' ads on public transport

Convenience World, General News, 01/02/2025, Page 8

The South Australian government is set to tackle obesity by banning "junk food" advertising on public buses, trains and trams. From 1 July 2025, images of unhealthy products such as chocolate, lollies,

confectionery, desserts, ice creams, soft drinks and chips will not be permitted on Adelaide Metro buses, trains and trams.

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

## Sunscreen isn't enough—Deborah Knight's sun-safe hack you need to know

Prevention, Other, 26/02/2025, Christine Diane Almanzor

Like many Australians, Deborah Knight was the quintessential Aussie beach kid—blonde hair, sun-drenched days, and more than a few sunburns that, back then, felt like a rite of passage. [...] Recent research commissioned by Solbari, an Australian brand specialising in UPF 50+ sun-protective clothing, found 64% of Australians actively avoid the sun during peak UV hours.

[Read More](#)

## Despite high screening and diagnosis rates, Kate still found her breast cancer by accident

SBS, Other, 26/02/2025, Gabrielle Katanasho

A new study has found Australia has one of the highest rates of breast cancer diagnoses in the world. [...] In her 40s when she was diagnosed, Ms Browne recalls having a conversation with her G-P two years earlier about whether she needed screening scans.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 26/02/2025, Ross Solly

Interview with Grace Joshy, Australian National University, about the increase of smoking deaths. Joshy states they followed around 180,000 people over time, looking at deaths in people who smoke and those who do not, and what they found is that smoking dramatically increases the risk of dying. She adds it's the first time that local estimates have been used to calculate the figures. Joshy states in terms of tobacco control, Australia has been doing an excellent job over the years and it has led to significant drop in proportions of people who smoke, but there are still 1.8 million people who are currently smoking in Australia.

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## Radio National, Breakfast, 26/02/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Emily Banks, Australian National University, about the increase of smoking deaths. Banks states the figures are slightly higher than previous estimates because it's directly from Australia. She adds they followed 180,000 people forward over time, compared outcomes in people who smoked and people who didn't and found a 36-fold increase in the risk of dying from lung disease and 18 fold increase in the risk of dying from lung cancer, and also 60% increase in the risk of dying from dementia, double the risk of dying from a heart attack or a stroke. Banks notes people underestimate the risks of smoking, and that includes people who smoke, but also the community, and that's partly because the tobacco industry has very successfully framed it as kind of a normal thing, and also has framed it as a matter of personal choice.

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## SPORT

### Live odds TV adverts cut before AFL, NRL seasons

Age, General News, 27/02/2025, Paul Sakkal, Page 6

Live odds updates will be stripped from live AFL and NRL broadcasts after the nation's biggest bookmaker yielded to public frustration with the volume of sports betting promotions. For the first time in years, Sportsbet will not air live odds - a term for gambling on events that happen within a match that can be bet on while a match is ongoing during match breaks or before the match starts and after it ends.

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## The girls are set to put on a show in Vegas

Daily Telegraph, General News, 27/02/2025, Adam Mobbs, Page 1

Jillaroos stars Jessica Sergis and Yasmin Clydsdale could hardly contain their excitement. After months of waiting for the opportunity to be part of the lineup for rugby league's American extravaganza, they finally stepped out in Las Vegas.

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

## Local sport racism rife

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 27/02/2025, Page 4

Community sport continues to be plagued by racism with a new report revealing that over half of Australians surveyed exposed at the grassroots level. The concerning findings into the community sport sector found in a survey lead by Monash University, revealed that 30 per cent of participants had been victims of racial abuse with a further 26 per cent witnessing it on the field.

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

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## Canberra backing for legacy Brisbane Arena

Courier Mail, General News, 27/02/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 6

The federal infrastructure minister has thrown her support behind the Lord Mayor's fight to guarantee a new inner-city Brisbane Arena, labelling it an important legacy project for the city and the nation. Her comments come amid concerns that plans to build the venue could be scrapped if swimming events at the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games were relocated to the Gold Coast.

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## Splash talking mayors

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 27/02/2025, Greg Stolz, Page 1

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate has launched an extraordinary broadside against Brisbane counterpart Adrian Schrinner in a stoush over whose city should host Olympic swimming. Saying plans backed by Mr Schrinner for a temporary pool would see hundreds of millions of dollars wasted, Mayor Tate sniped: "He doesn't understand because he's not an engineer."

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## Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 26/02/2025, Tom Connell

Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner and Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate are battling over which city should host which sports for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Swimming had been slated to be held in a drop-in pool at the new \$2.5b Brisbane Arena at Roma Street Parklands instead of the Brisbane Entertainment Centre in Boondall. Qld Premier David Crisafulli says they are committed to a generational infrastructure plan that benefits the entire state. The Qld Government will announce its final decision on games infrastructure on 25 March.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### MS therapy: Revolutionary brain treatment developed in Qld

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 26/02/2025, Jackie Sinnerton

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

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

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## Melatonin offsets shift work damage

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 26/02/2025

Melatonin supplementation may help offset the DNA damage associated with night shift work by boosting the body's ability to repair it, suggest the findings of a small clinical trial from Canada. Normal night-time production of melatonin is suppressed in night shift workers, which compromises the body's ability to repair oxidative DNA damage, the by-product of normal cellular processes, heightening the risk of certain cancer in these workers, explained the researchers.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 26/02/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

Andy Hurt and his family recall when he underwent a heart attack and was saved by his son's Surf Life Saving training for CPR before Triple Zero arrived. Heart Research Australia is supporting Dr Daniel Brigg's work to use technology to analyse blood samples from hundreds of patients and recognise other risk factors or warning signs for heart attacks.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### 'Medical yarn ups' trial helps Indigenous women tackle type 2 diabetes

ABC Online, Other, 26/02/2025, Romy Gilbert

Lisa Wellington remembers the judgement and helplessness she felt seven years ago, when she was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. [...] But an eight-week trial led by Aboriginal women in her hometown of Nowra, on Yuin Country, has left the Jerrinja Cullunghutti Wandi Wandandian woman in a different state of mind and health.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Bacterial disease claims 12 lives

The Australian, General News, 27/02/2025, Elodie Jakes, Page 3

The deaths of 12 people in north Queensland in a "record breaking" outbreak of a rare bacterial disease has medical authorities scrambling to contain the public health threat, linked to regionwide flooding. Cases of water and soil-borne disease melioidosis have been climbing since the start of the year, with nine deaths in Cairns and three in Townsville.

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

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### This is how much cocaine Canberra consumes in a day

Canberra Times, General News, 27/02/2025, Bageshri Savvasachi, Page 5

An 18-year-old Canberran was the youngest to die of a suspected opioid overdose last year after consuming what he believed to be cocaine - one of the most commonly checked illicit drugs in the ACT. [...] Cocaine continues to be one of the most commonly adulterated drugs tested by the territory's free pill-testing service CanTEST.

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### DR Congo mystery illness kills within hours, leaves 50 dead

Canberra Times, International News, 27/02/2025, Page 13

An unknown illness first discovered in three children who ate a bat has rapidly killed more than 50 people in northwestern Democratic Republic of Congo over the past five weeks, health experts say.



The interval between the onset of symptoms - which include fever, vomiting and internal bleeding - and death has been 48 hours in most cases and "that's what's really worrying", said Serge Ngalebato, medical director of Bikoro Hospital, a regional monitoring centre.

*Also reported by:* [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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## Killer pills discovered in testing

Courier Mail, General News, 27/02/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 11

The cost-of-living crisis is pushing Queenslanders to seek counterfeit prescription drugs online, with pill-testing sites detecting multiple deadly synthetic opioids and benzodiazepines disguised as legitimate pharmaceuticals. Since December, the government's CheQpoint pill testing service has had five detections of highly dangerous benzodiazepine bromazolam and two detections of the deadly synthetic opioid nitazene, responsible for overdose deaths across the country.

*Also reported by:* [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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## Mozzies virus is detected in north

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 27/02/2025, Kyle Rode, Page 5

North West Queensland has recorded its first case of a deadly mosquito-borne virus in years, with the Public Health Unit advising residents to take preventive care. A man from Normanton - a town 900km from Townsville - has been diagnosed with Murray Valley Encephalitis (MVE) which is transmitted by the common bush mosquito.

*Also reported by:* [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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## Another measles alert for Sydney after infected traveller returns from South-East Asia

7news.com.au, Other, 26/02/2025, Demi Huang

Sydney has been hit with another measles alert after a person returned with the highly contagious disease after travelling in South-East Asia, where outbreaks are ongoing. NSW Health said the person recently returned to Western Sydney from the region where countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia are experiencing active measles outbreaks.

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## NSW Health vaccine storage and cold chain audits

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 26/02/2025

Pharmacies participating in the NIPVIP program are being reminded of their obligations relating to vaccine storage.

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## US retreat leaves Australia to weigh Pacific aid gaps

Canberra Times, Other, 26/02/2025, Ben McKay

Australia and other development partners are moving to cover gaps across the Pacific as the United States under Donald Trump retreats from foreign aid. [...] "These programs include helping communities in the Pacific prepare and recover from disasters, providing access to clean water, education programs and access to healthcare services including vaccine delivery," he told AAP.

*Also reported by:* [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## 'It's a horrible thing': Pharmacist urging people to get the shingles jab

Daily Liberal, Other, 26/02/2025, Alise-Mcintosh

"Pretty much everyone would know someone that's had shingles previously." Because of the

prevalence of the infection, the owner of Forbutt's Pharmacy and Moodie's Pharmacy, Sam Forbutt, is encouraging people to get vaccinated this Shingles Awareness Week.

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## Darling Downs Health confirms two new cases of Japanese encephalitis virus near Qld-NSW border

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 26/02/2025

Darling Downs Health has urged residents across our region to consider getting Japanese encephalitis virus vaccines after two cases were detected over the NSW border. One of those cases was detected in Tenterfield, neighbouring the Southern Downs.

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

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### He was banned from social media. So how come chef Pete Evans is back?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/02/2025, Karl Quinn

Four years after being banned from Facebook and Instagram for deliberately spreading misinformation, wellness activist Pete Evans is once again using the platforms to promote his businesses, his recipes, and his sometimes-controversial views on health and medicine. [...] Dismissing the Nazi cartoon as "an innocent meme", Zelic said the way Evans had been treated by the media, politicians, his publishers and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (which had fined him in early 2020 for promoting a \$15,000 "biocharger" as an effective treatment for coronavirus, without any evidence to support the claim) was "disgraceful".

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### 4BC, Afternoons, 26/02/2025, Sofie Formica

Interview with Little Green Pharma medical advisor Dr Joe Kosterich about drug driving laws for medicinal cannabis patients. Kosterich says not all medicinal cannabis formulations have THC and people who use them shouldn't be discriminated against. He states anyone impaired by medications, including ones bought without a prescription, shouldn't be driving or operating machinery.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Safety fears around salmon feed additive

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/02/2025, Sheenagh Neill, Page 31

The federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Julie Collins recently called on the Tasmanian state government to ensure regulatory protections "keep pace with the world's best practice and science" with respect to the salmon industry. Commendably, this sets the height of the bar for the industry in Tasmania and nationally.

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## Free tests could become 'forever chemicals' case study

Canberra Times, Other, 27/02/2025, Luke Costin

Residents potentially exposed to high levels of toxic "forever chemicals" are demanding widespread free testing to shed light on their decades-long impact. Pressure for community-wide blood testing has been building since high levels of PFAS chemicals were discovered in 2024 in the upper Blue Mountains drinking water catchment, supplying more than 30,000 people.

*Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).*

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