



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 28th February 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)
| [Vaccines](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |
[First Nations Health](#) | [Interim Australian CDC](#) | [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#)
| [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#) | [AICIS](#)

LINKS

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports the performance of Australian public hospitals remains below pre-pandemic levels despite an increase in beds and an improvement in emergency department and elective surgery performance, the Australian Medical Association's yearly Public Hospital Report Card has shown.
- The **Canberra Times** (page 1) reports ACT doctors say they are unlikely to bulk-bill patients under multi-billion dollar reforms pledged by the two major parties for Medicare, claiming it will still not be financially viable.
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 1) reports opposition Senator Linda Reynolds has raised concerns about the safety of NDIS healthcare workers after a Senate Estimates committee heard 2,695 criminals, including 410 classified as high risk, are accessing the Scheme. *Also reported by: [Herald Sun](#) and [Adelaide Advertiser](#)*
- The **Northern Territory News** (page 1) reports Darwin Private Hospital owner Healthscope has extended the end of maternity services at the facility until June 6 in response to a public backlash, conditional on its ability to find staff.
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 2) reports the Minns government will rename the expansion of its REACH program for children "Joe's Rule" after two-year-old Joe Massa's death due to a

misdiagnosis.

- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 3) reports world-first clinical trials at Melbourne's Brain Cancer Centre will investigate whether an Australian-developed treatment can fight an aggressive form of brain cancer. *Also reported by: The Age*
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 4) reports so-called forever chemicals have been found in the human brain, new University of Queensland research says. *Also reported by: The Age*
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports advocates are calling on the government to legislate free mental health care for Australians under 25 following the next election.

MINISTER BUTLER

Labor's premium hike will not cover costs: Ramsay

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 28/02/2025, Michael Smith, Page 15

Ramsay Health Care says Labor's private health insurance premium increase is not enough to cover the soaring cost of running its network of 76 private hospitals after reporting a \$100 million loss over six months. The country's largest private hospital op...

Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online).

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

Premium pain is far from healthy

The Australian, General News, 28/02/2025, Jack Quail, Page 7

The 100,000 members of restricted-access insurer Police Health Limited which provides coverage for state, territory and federal police departments, police unions, and their families are set to be hit with the an average premium hike of 9.56 per cent. That increase, which is the largest of any insurer, is set to take effect on April 1 and comes after Health Minister Mark Butler on Monday revealed the 15 million Australians with private health cover will see their premiums rise by an average of 3.73 per cent, the largest rise in seven years.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online).

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

Cancer patent challenge

The Australian, Business News, 28/02/2025, Robert Gottliebsen, Page 25

One of the reasons rare earths brought Presidents Trump and Zelinsky together is the looming boom in nuclear medicine, which is emerging as the best hope to locate and cure a wide variety of cancers. Australia and Australians are in a wonderful position to benefit from the linked rare earths and nuclear medicine booms. [...] But, in the political arena, two of the greatest contributors have been former Prime Minister Robert Menzies and current Health Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online).

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

Cashback a bitter pill

Herald Sun, General News, 28/02/2025, Cameron England, Page 8

Medibank Private has announced it will return another \$160m to customers as part of its Covid pandemic give back program, as health funds prepare to again hike premiums. [...] It comes as health insurance premiums are set to jump from April 1, with the average rise 3.73 per cent after Health Minister Mark Butler intervened to lower proposals put forward by funds.

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

We all lose in profit-driven health system

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/02/2025, Danielle WOOD, Page 18

A valuable piece of maternity care infrastructure has been lost to the forces of enshittification We were lucky. [...] As things stand, with an election on the horizon and Labor's electoral prospects looking

decidedly sketchy, it was only about a week after Healthscope's bombshell that federal Health Minister Mark Butler fronted the media to announce a \$6m rescue package for maternity services in southern Tasmania.

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

Show us the money

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 28/02/2025, Page 32

The closure of the NT's only private maternity ward at Darwin Private Hospital has been extended. Healthscope announced it would close the service on June 6, seven weeks after its initial closure date of April 17. [...] Another hospital in the Hobart region, Calvary, had also announced they'd expand their birthing unit capacity to "pick up the slack really left by Healthscope" said Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

Boost to Medicare

Canowindra News, 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. In a speech on Medicare in Launceston, the prime minister has unveiled Labor's centrepiece announcement to spend \$8.5 billion expanding bulk billing and training for GPs and nurses. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the modelling done on the policy showed there would be 20 million additional free visits to the doctor.

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

How Launceston's newest clinic is changing kids' lives

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/02/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 3

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. Born in 2022, Tiger Jamison went through a routine newborn hearing screening but was referred to undergo further "gruelling" hearing tests. [...] Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler and 10-year-old Madelyn Emmerton officially open the new Shepherd Centre in Launceston.

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

Premium pressure rising

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Hunter pensioners say the increase in private health insurance premiums is another crippling blow in the struggle to afford the cost of living. Newcastle-based NIB announced yesterday it would increase health insurance premiums by an average of 5.79 per cent from April 1. [...] The NIB rise was above the increase federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced on Wednesday.

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

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

Medicare the winner as parties match funding pledges

Port Stephens News of the Area, General News, 27/02/2025, Tess Ikonomidou, Page 2

Billions of dollars will be poured into Medicare no matter who wins government, with the coalition promising to match Labor's landmark spending pledge on health care. [...] 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: [Forbes Advocate \(Forbes\)](#).

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

Promise of bulkbilling, more doctors

Wangaratta Chronicle, General News, 28/02/2025, Steve Kelly, Page 4

Medical advocacy bodies have welcomed the roll-out of bulk-billing to all Australians but a local GP has warned of a critical GP shortage if not addressed as a priority. [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler said

patients and families will save hundreds of dollars a year in out-of-pocket costs, with patient savings of \$859 million a year by 2030.

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

Moderna opens mRNA manufacturing facility in Victoria

Lab+Life Scientist, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 12

The only known mRNA manufacturing facility in the Southern Hemisphere has opened in Victoria, creating hundreds of jobs and ensuring that world-class mRNA vaccines and medicines will be able to be made in Australia. [...] Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and Acting Economic Growth Minister Danny Pearson opened the Moderna Technology Centre Melbourne (MTC-M) at Monash University's Clayton campus, which will have the capacity to produce up to 100 million vaccine doses each year for respiratory diseases including influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19.

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

Pressure for health premium overhaul in election headache for Albanese

Australian Financial Review, Other, 27/02/2025, Michael Smith

The country's influential medical and private hospital lobbies are demanding Labor install an independent umpire to determine how high insurance premiums can rise, igniting a war over costs in the sector that threatens to become a cost-of-living headache ...

[Read More](#)

Health system failure: 'cruel and inhumane' treatment of dying woman

The Australian, Other, 27/02/2025, Stephen Lunn

Leaving a pain-riddled patient to fight for access to health, palliative and aged care services after exiting hospital with a terminal diagnosis is cruel, inhumane and unfortunately a regular occurrence in Australia's fractured health system, a leading voice in community health says. [...] Asked to respond to the woman's account of her end-of-life care, and whether we as a country should be doing better for people in the same situation, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said "Australians should have comfort and security during their final months".

[Read More](#)

Gov't bulk billing projections for SA as doctors say it's 'not enough'

Adelaide Now, Other, 27/02/2025, Brad Crouch

The number of fully bulk billing GP practices in South Australia would be boosted to around 310, the federal government claims under its Medicare plan — but local doctors who charge a gap say "tell them they're dreaming." [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler released data to The Advertiser projecting the \$8.5bn scheme will deliver an extra 1.5 million bulk billed GP visits in SA each year.

[Read More](#)

Labor, LNP announces boost to Medicare, Far North bulk billing

Cairns Post, Other, 27/02/2025, Catherine Duffy

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 later this year.

[Read More](#)

NIB hikes health insurance premiums amid 'higher healthcare costs'

Maitland Mercury, Other, 27/02/2025

NIB says it will increase health insurance premiums by an average of 5.79 per cent from April 1. Ed Close, the company's chief executive, said the rise reflected "higher healthcare costs" and increased

use of services. [...] The NIB rise was higher than the increase federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced on Wednesday.

[Read More](#)

Out-of-pocket costs for specialists 'phenomenal', as minister concedes something must be done

ABC Online, Other, 27/02/2025, Alison Branley

Many patients with complex conditions remain frustrated by out-of-pocket costs for specialist practitioners, where Medicare rebates are often a small fraction of the overall bill. For mother-of-three Kimberley Grima, the costs of specialist fees quickly add up. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler admits a re-elected Labor government has "to do something" about the issue.

[Read More](#)

Kochie issues a warning to millions of Australians about price hike that comes into force within weeks

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/02/2025, Stephen Johnson

Private health insurance premiums rising on April 1 Increase of 3.73 per cent is the biggest since 2018 Finance expert David Koch warns 14million Australians are going to feel the effects of the biggest increase in private health premiums in seven years. [...] ' The Department of Health has approved a 3.73 per cent average increase in premiums to come into effect on April 1 Health Minister Mark Butler said he had asked Australia's 29 private health insurers to resubmit their hike proposals three times to arrive at the 3.73 per cent increase.

[Read More](#)

Private health premiums to rise as hospitals cry poor

The New Daily, Other, 27/02/2025, 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.

[Read More](#)

Health insurance premiums are set to go up. Here's how much it will cost you

SBS, Other, 27/02/2025, Madeleine Wedesweiler

The government has approved an increase in average health insurance premiums — the largest increase since 2018. Key Points Health insurance premiums have been approved to rise 3.73 per cent on average from April. [...] The federal government has signed off on a private health average industry premium increase of 3.73 per cent from April, Health Minister Mark Butler announced this week.

[Read More](#)

Australians to pay more for private health premiums as government approves 'justified' hike

7news.com.au, Other, 27/02/2025, Jack Gramenz

Insurers have been asked repeatedly to submit claims for premium rises to the government but private hospitals say they don't expect to see much of the money. 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.

[Read More](#)

Soaring health insurance premiums leave out 'most vulnerable people in society', expert warns as Labor approves increases

Sky News Australia, Other, 27/02/2025, James Harrison

Soaring health insurance premiums have will cut out the "most vulnerable people in society", an

insurance expert has warned after Labor approved an industry average premium hike. Health Minister Mark Butler on Wednesday night confirmed the 3.73 per cent increase, arguing it was a "justified and proportionate" rise

[Read More](#)

Health Minister Mark Butler under fire as he signs off on average 3.73 per cent rise on private health insurance after negotiations

Sky News Australia, Other, 27/02/2025, David Wu

The opposition has blasted the Albanese government for approving a price hike on private health insurance that will impact close to 15 million Australians. Health Minister Mark Butler on Wednesday night confirmed premiums will increase an industry average of 3.73 per cent, describing it a "justified and proportionate" rise.

[Read More](#)

Swinburne launches five-year investigation into medicinal cannabis backed by \$688k government grant

Cannabiz, Other, 27/02/2025, Martin Lane

A three-pronged, five-year investigation into medicinal cannabis will be led by Swinburne University of Technology's Dr Thomas Arkell thanks to a A\$688,000 grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). [...] Announced by minister for health and aged care, Mark Butler, the project will share in an investment of more than \$422 million under the NHMRC's ?

[Read More](#)

Govt invests \$422 million in 229 researchers

LabOnline, Other, 27/02/2025

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," said Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

Butler stands by bulk-billing models

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/02/2025, Holly Payne

People are beginning to question the math behind DoHAC's prediction that swathes of clinics will return to universal bulk billing in the wake of new investments. Health Minister Mark Butler is maintaining that switching to universal bulk billing will be in the best financial interest of the majority of general practices across the country, as GPs, politicians and reporters alike start to question the numbers.

[Read More](#)

Health insurance premium price hike for 15 million Aussies revealed: 'Caught in crossfire'

Yahoo! Finance Australia, Other, 27/02/2025, Stewart Perrie

Health insurance is set to rise by 3.73 per cent on April 1 and it will squeeze those already struggling to pay for care. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler revealed he asked insurers to resubmit their offers three times until he settled on the industry average hike of 3.73 per cent The change will hit on April 1 for around 15 million Aussies, and they have been urged to shop around if they won't be able to afford the new price .

[Read More](#)

Private health insurance premiums climb: 3.73% hike kicks in this April

Your Life Choices, Other, 27/02/2025, Abigail Abrugar

Navigating the ever-changing landscape of healthcare costs can be a daunting task for Australians, especially for those over 50 who are often on fixed incomes or planning for retirement. [...] The

increase, approved by Health Minister Mark Butler, comes after a period of negotiation in which insurers were asked to resubmit their proposed hikes multiple times.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 27/02/2025, Jeremy Fernandez

Private health insurance premiums will rise by an average of nearly 4% from April, the highest in seven years. Health Minister Mark Butler says he has secured the best possible deal with private health insurers, while Private Healthcare Australia's Dr Rachel David says the sector would not be able to operate without the rise. Chronic Pain Australia and the RACGP argue that people will be forced to cancel policies as out-of-pocket items, like specialist costs. Butler says if re-elected, they will address medical specialist costs, with the opposition matching the pledge. The Greens say their policy includes Medicare rebates for autism and ADHD assessments.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 27/02/2025, Peter Overton

Australians with health insurance are advised to shop around after the federal government approved a 3.7% premium increase from April 1. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he has secured the best possible deal with private health insurers. Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston warns that it will hit Australians struggling under the cost of living crisis.

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

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Business Now, 27/02/2025, Ross Greenwood

Interview with Medibank CEO David Koczka on an increase in private health insurance and its half-year profit result. Health Minister Mark Butler has announced a 3.7% average increase in private health insurance premiums from April 1 to ensure patient care while maintaining a viable private hospital sector. Koczkar defends the price hike, citing rising healthcare costs and the need for sustainable private insurance. He notes the importance of prevention, investment in home care and telehealth, and partnerships with hospitals to adapt to industry changes.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First: Afternoon, 27/02/2025, Narelda Jacobs

Australians will see the largest health insurance premium increase in seven years, averaging 3.7% from April 1. Popular health funds will rise between 2.8% and 5.79%. Health Minister Mark Butler approved the increase after asking insurers to resubmit proposals three times to minimise costs. Butler says his priority was securing the best possible deal for patients while maintaining a viable private hospital sector.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 27/02/2025, Chris Bath

Interview with Dr Sophie Scamps, Member for Mackellar, on Northern Beaches Hospital operator Healthscope dropping 28 health funds from March 4. Bath says the Australian Health Service Alliance health funds will be dropped after failing to reach an agreement over a hospital facility fee. Scamps says it is unacceptable as many patients now face out-of-pocket costs or need to travel to Royal North Shore Hospital for covered treatment. She says she has raised the issue with Health Minister Mark Butler, who is reviewing private hospital funding and organising a CEO forum to address sustainability.

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

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 27/02/2025, Chris Bath

Interview with Professor Pat McGorry, headspace founder, on a meeting with Premier Chris Minns about the resignation of NSW psychiatrists. Leading psychiatrists Gordon Parker, Pat McGorry, Ian Hickie, and Alan Rosen met with Minns to address NSW's struggling public mental health system. McGorry says the crisis stems from decades of underinvestment, with many seriously ill patients being

turned away. He criticises Minister Mark Butler and the federal government for prioritising primary Medicare and NDIS funding over mental health.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, Mornings, 27/02/2025, Chris Mitchell

Private health insurance premiums will rise by an average of nearly 4% from April, following multiple rejections by Health Minister Mark Butler before approval. Rising specialist fees remain a major concern, with bulk billing rates at just 28% and some patients paying up to \$750 per visit. Health Minister Mark Butler concedes a re-elected Labor Government will have to address the rising cost of seeing a medical specialist. The Coalition has matched the government's GP pledge, while the Greens say their policy includes Medicare rebates for autism and ADHD assessments.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, 12:00 News, 27/02/2025

The federal opposition says another hike of 3.73% on private health insurance will add more misery for struggling households. Health Minister Mark Butler previously ordered private insurers to come up with a more reasonable premium increase on three separate occasions. He says the hike is justified while health funds say they're doing everything to ensure insurance is affordable.

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

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Melbourne, Mornings , 27/02/2025, Raf Epstein

Interview with Private Healthcare Australia CEO Dr Rachel David on the rise in private health insurance premiums. Epstein says the rises, approved by Health Minister Mark Butler, will see premiums rise by an average of 3.73%, affecting around 15 million policyholders. David says insurers and regulators worked to keep the premium hike as low as possible. She urges more government transparency on specialist costs and stronger penalties for 'surprise' billing. She also highlighted Medibank's no-gap hospital in Melbourne aims to reduce costs for patients.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 27/02/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who discusses the Federal Government's \$8.5 billion pledge for bulk-billing. Butler says the package they announced was focused on turning around bulk-billing rates and it's the latest in a series of investments on Medicare. He notes they found that when they came to government, bulk-billing was in freefall. Butler says Sunday's announcement was about extending bulk-billing support to all Australians for the first time.

[Play Now](#)

6PR, 10:00 News, 27/02/2025

The Federal Government says the 3.7% increase in private health insurance premiums strikes the right balance. Health Minister Mark Butler has approved the price rise after lengthy negotiations with insurers.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Sunshine State fail: no Labor candidates in a dozen seats

The Australian, General News, 28/02/2025, Sarah Elks, Page 4

As Anthony Albanese prepares to call the federal election, Labor's Queensland branch has so far failed to announce candidates in 12 of the crucial state's 30 electorates, including a Liberal National Party seat the Prime Minister's party classes as "winnable". [...] LNP insiders are increasingly confident of winning back the seats of Brisbane and Ryan from the first-term Greens MPs in those electorates, and

the party is are intensifying efforts in Sport Minister Anika Wells' suburban Brisbane seat of Lilley (10.54 per cent).

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

Region's first aged care home in 16 years opens

Maranoa Today, General News, 28/02/2025, Jeremy Cook, Page 4

Chinchilla's rebuilt Illoura Village became the first new aged care home to open in the Western Downs in 16 years. The \$36 million redevelopment on Zeller Street replaced the aging 40-year-old facility and was given an official opening by community leaders on Tuesday. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said Australians living in regional and rural areas should not have to leave their communities to access the care they needed.

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

Sydney to host 2026 Women's Asian Cup final

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/02/2025

Sydney's Stadium Australia will host the final of the 2026 Women's Asian Cup on March 21 along with a semi-final and two quarter-finals, organisers said on Thursday. [...] "Following the success of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, Australia will once again come together to support and celebrate women's sport as we host the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026," sport minister Anika Wells said in a statement on Thursday.

[Read More](#)

Channel Seven star Mel McLaughlin slams Marty Sheargold over his 'pathetic' Matildas outburst in emotional statement on live TV

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/02/2025, Shayne Bugden

Channel Seven star Mel McLaughlin has torn strips off sacked Triple M host Marty Sheargold after his comments about the Matildas sparked outrage among Aussie sport fans. [...] He was condemned by sports stars, interim Matildas coach Tom Sermanni, Football Australia and Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells before McLaughlin hit him with a stunning broadside on Seven's Wednesday night bulletin.

[Read More](#)

"We only get one brain": CTE funding a welcome boost for dementia awareness

Aged Care Insite, Other, 27/02/2025, Stefanie Schultz

The federal government has made a \$12.5 million commitment to raising awareness for dementia. The funding has been allocated to Dementia Australia, for the development and delivery of "a national pilot program of support services for people impacted by CTE, and a national awareness and education program in schools. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells announced the cash injection on Friday during a press conference at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium.

[Read More](#)

ABC distances itself from Marty Sheargold comments

TV Tonight, Other, 27/02/2025, David Knox

It remains to be seen if radio comments will impact on TV roles for comedian Marty Sheargold. ABC has distanced itself from radio comments by Marty Sheargold, which led to him parting ways with Triple M radio. [...] "His comments drew criticism from all quarters including Football Australia, federal sports minister Anika Wells, minister for women Katy Gallagher and Matildas coach and players.

[Read More](#)

1 July ICT changes linked to aged care reforms now to be staged

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/02/2025, Caroline Egan

The Federal Government appears to have bowed to pressure around the timing of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) changes for the new Aged Care Act, with the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) revealing upgrades to ICT will be pushed back to 2026. [...] Concerns about the tight timeframe to roll out changes to ICT systems were raised by the Aged Care Transition

Taskforce , which was established last November by the Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells to help providers manage implementation of the new Aged Care Act by 1 July 2025.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Walk-in mental health clinic opens on Far South Coast to make sure people get the 'help they need'

About Regional, Other, 27/02/2025, Claire Sams

People across the Eurobodalla can now access a free, walk-in mental health service. The new Medicare Mental Health Centre in Moruya will provide on-the-spot support for people in distress and ongoing care for more complex mental health needs. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride said the rollout of 61 Medicare Mental Health Centres across the country was part of the Albanese Government's plan to strengthen Medicare.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Help is on the way for regional allergy sufferers

The Australian, Other, 27/02/2025, Penny Timms

Imagine feeling constantly exhausted and so nauseated that you have to take regular days off work, all because of allergies. That's a reality of Sharon Harley, who has lived with severe allergic rhinitis for 30 years. [...] "As a nurse I saw just how debilitating and common allergies can be," federal Health and Aged Care Assistant Minister Ged Kearney says.

[Read More](#)

Build a nice healthcare façade and we'll do the rest

Oncology Republic, Other, 27/02/2025, Louise Stone

The government loves to erect handsome expectations without the funding to achieve them, then blame the flimsy reality on us. There is a legend in Russian history that in 1787, Russian field marshal Prince Grigory Aleksandrovich Potemkin decided to impress Catherine the Great as she travelled to the newly conquered Crimea. [...] Ged Kearney, federal assistant minister for health and aged care, recently posted on social media denouncing "medical misogyny".

[Read More](#)

2SM, 19:00 News, 27/02/2025

New data shows organ donors saved hundreds of Australian lives last year. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney urges people to register, noting most families consent when they know a loved one is signed up. Kearney notes Australia's consent rate remains a challenge at 53%, and returning to the pre-COVID 60% could have enabled 175 more transplants in 2024.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ABC Radio Melbourne, Drive, 27/02/2025, Ali Moore

Interview with Sally Tindall, Canstar, on the upcoming 3.73% average increase in private health insurance premiums from April 1, the highest since 2018. Tindall provides advice on checking policies, saying impact will vary widely depending on individual policies. She says the Department of Health and Aged Care website lists average premium increases by provider, but not by policy.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

VACCINES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

'Essential' events for dementia carers

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/02/2025, Gera Kazakov, Page 12

With more than 400,000 people living with dementia in Australia, a free event taking place in the Top End and the Red Centre is aiming to help those caring for someone struggling from the debilitating condition. [...] It is estimated that 411,100 people in Australia had dementia in 2023, with 67 per cent of those living within in the community, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

Medication misadventure the focus of new partnership

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/02/2025

Embedding clinical pharmacists will be key to reducing medication mismanagement, say Churches of Christ Queensland and Choice Aged Care. Medication management is a key focus for home care providers as they prepare for the new 1 July Quality Standards, and to better support clients Churches of Christ Queensland has joined forces with professional services company Choice Aged Care in a first-of-its-kind deal.

[Read More](#)

Pilot project will embed pharmacists at GP clinics

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network has partnered with Pharmaceutical Society of Australia to launch the new Older Persons Medication Management Pilot Project.

[Read More](#)

Home care wait list climbs to over 81,000 with six month delays at all levels

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/02/2025, Caroline Egan

Over a five-month period, the number of older Australians waiting to receive their correct level of Home Care Package has increased by 5,000 according to data released in Senate Estimates on Wednesday. There are currently 81,194 older Australians on the National Priority Waiting List as of 31 January 2025, said Thea Connolly, First Assistant Secretary, Home & Residential with the Department of Health and Aged Care, in response to questioning from Senator Anne Ruston, Shadow Minister for Aged Care.

[Read More](#)

Shalain Singh launches specialist advisory firm Aged Care and Retirement Living Analytics (ACARLA)

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/02/2025, Lauren Broomham

The senior adviser is seeking to leverage data-driven insights for aged care and retirement living operators at a more affordable price with the launch of a new analytics advisory and consulting firm for the sector. As we reported last year, Shalain has established his own healthcare and real estate firm, Arrow Advisory Group, focused on primary care, medical centres, retirement living, residential aged care and hospitals.

[Read More](#)

Always read the fine print: retirement village payments captured under new aged care liquidity ratios

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/02/2025, Caroline Egan

A closer look at the legislation underpinning the Federal Government's proposed minimum liquidity standards has revealed that aged care providers who also operate independent living units (ILUs) and retirement villages will have to retain 10% of ILU and retirement village refundable amounts under the changes.

[Read More](#)

\$160K out of pocket: Govt funding for aged care nurse wages falls short on leave entitlements and workers comp

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/02/2025, Caroline Egan

A Department of Health and Aged Care webinar last week revealed the Government will fund wage rises for 60,000 aged care nurses, awarded the increase by the Fair Work Commission (FWC) from 1 March 2025. But according to providers, Government funding for leave liabilities associated with the FWC's aged care worker wage rises, including the upcoming increase for nurses, are well short of the amounts required, and there are other unfunded additional costs associated with higher wages

[Read More](#)

51% of Dementia Support Australia aged care referrals' involve psychotropic polypharmacy

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/02/2025, Caroline Egan

Of the 421 referrals HammondCare's DSA received between 2016 and 2020 for psychosocial interventions, over 90% been prescribed at least one psychotropic with 50.8% prescribed psychotropic polypharmacy, according to a study led by HammondCare's Dementia Centre Research and Practice Lead Dr Mustafa Atee on the use of psychotropic polypharmacy for people referred to DSA.

[Read More](#)

Increase capital support for staff accommodation: Catholic Health Australia's Pre-Budget Submission

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/02/2025, Caroline Egan

Catholic Health Australia (CHA), which represents 350 aged care homes and about 20% of home care services around the country, is calling on the Federal Government to increase capital assistance for aged care operators in thin markets by almost \$300 million annually.

[Read More](#)

Govt provides \$57M to helping people with dementia out of hospitals into aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/02/2025, Caroline Egan

The Federal Government has allocated \$57 million over four years for the Hospital to Aged Care Dementia Support Program (HACDSP), aimed at improving outcomes for hospital patients with dementia who may have their discharge delayed. Under the HACDSP, HammondCare's Dementia Support Australia will provide practical, in-person dementia behaviour support and advice to hospital and aged care staff, and to the participant and their family or carers during their hospital stay, when transitioning out of hospital, and following hospital discharge for up to three months.

[Read More](#)

Early intervention should be key aged care priority: Southern Cross Care (SA, NT & VIC) CEO David Moran's 'political wishlist'

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/02/2025, Caroline Egan

Health promotion and the early identification and reversal of frailty should be at the heart of Australia's aged care system, says the CEO of the Not For Profit provider which operates 17 aged care homes, 35 retirement villages, and delivers home care services.

[Read More](#)

Who's helping the older people falling through the aged care 'cracks'?

Women's Agenda, Other, 27/02/2025, Sarah Russell

When the Albanese government announced its "once in a generation aged care reforms ", many of us hoped that stories of neglect and poor treatment of older people were behind us. Sadly, that is not to be, with waiting times for home care packages soaring, leaving thousands of older Australians in limbo, many of whom require immediate assistance to maintain their independence at home.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 27/02/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Chris Grice, CEO, National Seniors Australia, on the increase in private health insurance premiums. Grice warns that rising specialist fees and hospital costs are pushing older Australians to consider dropping coverage. He says many retirees are making significant sacrifices to afford private health insurance, including cutting back on social activities and essential purchases. He calls for a higher rebate for low-income earners.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Baby bonus

Age, General News, 28/02/2025, Wendy Tuohy, Page 1

Aimee Welton believed she had plenty of time to consider her journey to potential parenthood, knowing her mother had the last of five daughters at age 43. Welton, then 35, assumed that her fertility was likely to be so reliable that her first contact with a fertility clinic was as the devoted friend of a woman struggling to conceive, to whom Aimee intended to donate eggs.

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

Health cover costs on rise

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/02/2025, Page 14

Australians with private health insurance are being warned that their premiums are about to increase again. From April 1, private health insurance premiums will increase by an industry average of 3.73 per cent. Compare the Market economic director David Koch said it was vital for Australians to understand that this was just an average and the actual amount premiums change would be specific to the health insurer and individual policy.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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

Medibank customers to be handed back another \$160m

The Nightly, General News, 27/02/2025, Daniel Newell, Page 28

Australia's biggest private health insurer will return \$160 million to customers as part of its COVID-19 support package and give-back program, with those eligible to receive between \$50 and \$255. On average, the payout will be \$50 for eligible extras only policies and around \$130 for eligible hospital and extras policies, Medibank said today.

Tobacconist ordered to shut in crackdown

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/02/2025, Greg Stolz and Thomas Chamberlin, Page 9

A Gold Coast smoke shop has been ordered shut by Queensland Health as part of a new crackdown on illegal tobacco and vapes. An "interim closure" sign was posted to the front door of the Burleigh Tobacconist premises in James St at Burleigh Heads this week.

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

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

Women aren't being heard, but is medical misogyny the only thing at play?

The Australian, Other, 27/02/2025, Magdalena Simonis

It sounds like a simple enough request: doctors and other health providers should listen better and not dismiss what women are telling them. But is this "medical misogyny" – literally "medical hatred of women" – or medical mismanagement?

[Read More](#)

The everyday items with 'hidden' gluten: Can they make a person with coeliac disease sick?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/02/2025, Grace Frost

Everyone knows bread and pasta are a coeliac's worst nightmare, but did you know these products are too? When I found out I had coeliac disease two years ago, my whole life changed. My body was attacking my small intestine every time I ate gluten, meaning my only option was to cut the gluten all together.

[Read More](#)

Groundbreaking pregnancy test will revolutionise detection of neonatal complications

The Courier Mail, Other, 27/02/2025, Jackie Sinnerton

A breakthrough blood test that detects dangerous pregnancy complications as early as 11 weeks has been developed by Queensland scientists. [...] 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.

[Read More](#)

NDIS funding reforms leave vulnerable kids in therapy limbo

West Australian, Other, 27/02/2025, Michelle Oliver

For families relying on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Government's promise of reform should have been a beacon of hope. Instead, it has twisted into a source of confusion and financial stress. As the Federal Government presses forward with its disability reform agenda, the transition is proving haphazard and disjointed, leaving both participants and providers grappling with uncertainty.

[Read More](#)

Australia's 45 healthiest communities revealed: Here's what they have in common

7news.com.au, Other, 27/02/2025, Demi Huang

Is your suburb on the list? Imagine living nearly a decade longer than the average Australian — and doing so in good health. That's the reality in Australia's 45 healthiest communities, where people aren't just adding years to their lives but life to their years. But don't worry — you don't have to move to reap the benefits. Here's how they do it, and how you can too.

[Read More](#)

NT Indigenous children in care least likely to be placed with family

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/02/2025, Dechlan Brennan

New data from the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW) has revealed Most Indigenous children removed from their home in the Northern Territory are not placed with an Aboriginal family or community. The AIHW data indicates more than 70 per cent of Indigenous children placed in out-of-home care (OOHC) in the NT in 2022-23 were not placed with an Indigenous family member or person, a non-Indigenous family member, or kin—the lowest in the country.

[Read More](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 27/02/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Dr Brooke Nickel, School of Public Health, University of Sydney, on a study showing social media influencers are promoting misleading medical tests, leading to overdiagnosis and overtreatment. Nickel says they found tests like full-body MRIs and multi-cancer blood tests lack proven benefits for healthy people. She warns many of these tests are sold directly to consumers, bypassing doctors and increasing unnecessary treatments.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

You've inspired me to fight on

Herald Sun, General News, 28/02/2025, Peter Rolfe, Page 1

Australian of the Year Neale Daniher has spoken of his surprise and joy at the 'great honour' and how the public reaction has motivated him in the mission to find an MND cure. Daniher conducted his interview through use of eye gaze technology, which gave the former footy hero a voice, despite the disease robbing him of speech.

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

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

Brains under strain

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/02/2025, Page 9

Two in five Australians experience a brain disorder in their lifetime. Neurological disorders account for 8.4 per cent of Australia's total disease burden, according to the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing. That's a staggering 91.9 per cent increase since 2003.

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

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

Healthy hearing is crucial

Border Watch, General News, 28/02/2025, Page 13

More than one-in-three Australians who have a partner with hearing loss say it makes communication difficult, new research from Hearing Australia has revealed. Principal Audiologist with Hearing Australia Karen Hirschausen said communication is key to a healthy relationship.

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

'My final days have been in relentless pain': Dying woman reveals terrible reality

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/02/2025, Page 8

After recently learning of an advanced cancer diagnosis the Gold Coast-based author of the below piece spent the past few weeks at home with her husband and children. She sadly passed away earlier this week. Her identity is withheld for her family's privacy. This is her account of her final weeks.

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

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

Forming new life, against the odds

The Australian, Other, 28/02/2025, Bianca Farmakis

You're a 20-year-old woman and have one of the rarest forms of cancer in the world. Or you were born with half a uterus. In this case you're perfectly healthy but can never conceive a child with the love of your life. These are not things anyone wants to hear. In the past that was the end of the story, at least for your chances of becoming a mother.

[Read More](#)

As a teen, my hands began to tremble. It took decades to find out why

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/02/2025, Sonya Voumard

When I was young, I remember my father's hands shaking at breakfast as he cut the top off a boiled egg and gave me the white end to scoop out and eat with a spoon. I didn't judge his tremor; I imagined it was a sign of how busy he was, racing against the clock that sat on the wall above the fridge before he kissed us goodbye and drove to work.

[Read More](#)

Why hearing checks are important for babies

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/02/2025

Confident Reggie Randall had the crowd eating out of her hand, and her mum looked ready to burst with pride as she outlined her big plans for the future. The eight-year-old told them she was going to follow in mum Jessica's footsteps and become a hearing screener. That's how her own hearing loss was discovered, and why her mum had a change of career from working in the arts to screening the hearing of newborns.

[Read More](#)

Sydney mum, 35, dies from bowel cancer as Aussie rates spike in young people

NEWS.com.au, Other, 27/02/2025, Rebekah Scanlan

A Sydney mum has died just six months after being diagnosed with a condition that is on the rise in young people. [...] Australians born after 1990 have twice the risk of developing colon cancer compared to people born in 1950 and four times the risk of developing rectal cancer, according to Bowel Cancer Australia.

[Read More](#)

1 in 4 women face this heart issue after menopause—are you at risk?

Prevention, Other, 27/02/2025, Korin Miller

This common post-menopause symptom could be affecting your heart rhythm. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among women in Australia, and research shows that the risk increases after menopause.

[Read More](#)

Aussie stars expose the painful reality of shingles this Shingles Awareness Week

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 27/02/2025

AFL legend Robert 'Dipper' DiPierdomenico and news presenter Deborah Knight share their personal experience of shingles during Shingles Awareness Week (24 February – 2 March 2025). It is estimated that, by the age of 40, more than 97% of Australians carry the inactive virus (varicella zoster virus) that causes shingles from a previous chickenpox infection.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, A Current Affair, 27/02/2025, Deborah Knight

Nim Sundaram, who is battling T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, urgently needs a stem cell transplant. He is urging more donors to sign up, especially those of Sri Lankan heritage. Stem Cell Donors Australia CEO Lisa Smith says that despite 44 million donors globally and 165,000 in Australia, finding matches remains difficult for people from diverse backgrounds.

[Play Now](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Sick state of hospitals revealed in report card

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 28/02/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

The performance of hospitals is in critical long-term decline, with timely elective surgery and emergency department waiting times still having failed to recover following Covid-19. The Australian Medical Association's yearly Public Hospital Report Card shows that despite some improvements nationwide in certain categories of emergency department and elective surgery performance, and an overall increase in hospital beds, the performance of Australian public hospitals is still well below pre-pandemic levels.

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

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

It's time to rethink hospital care, says Medibank Private

The Australian, Business News, 28/02/2025, Cameron England, Page 17

Australia is reaping the fruits of a decade of inaction in the management of its private hospital sector, Medibank Private managing director David Koczkar says, with a greater focus on in-home care and providing services outside of the traditional hospital setting vital. Mr Koczkar, who yesterday delivered a 13.8 per cent increase in underlying first-half net profit to \$298.7m, said that while there had been recent cost pressures for the hospital sector, the real answer was rethinking how services were delivered.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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

I 'forgot' to buy land for hospital

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/02/2025, Elizabeth Pike and James O'Doherty, Page 6

A long-promised hospital in northwestern Sydney is at risk of not being built because the Minns government revealed it still has no idea how much it will cost to buy the land. The government has budgeted \$700m to build Rouse Hill Hospital, including funds to purchase the site, however, a dispute over the land price could cause further cuts to the "full service" facility.

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

A long wait for new ambulance station

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/02/2025, David Killick, Page 6

A new ambulance "super station" at Glenorchy will deliver better and faster services to the people of greater Hobart when they need them the most, Premier Jeremy Rockliff said on Thursday. The station, which has a capacity of 18 ambulances and the paramedics to staff them has finally been opened, four years late and more than double the original budget.

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

LCLHN future

Border Watch, General News, 28/02/2025, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

The future of the Limestone Coast's health network is in the hands of the community as they meet to discuss the clinical services plan. Throughout the week, community members across the region have met with consulting firm Destravis Group to discuss what they would like the future of health services across the region to be.

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

CareFlight spreads its wings to Hunter

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/02/2025, Josh Leeson, Page 6

Pilot Iain Percival said CareFlight's expansion to Newcastle has made the patient transport service more efficient. Yesterday, CareFlight unveiled its expansion to Newcastle Airport. It has doubled its Williamstown-based workforce to more than 20 staff, including pilots, engineers, and specially trained nurses.

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

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

Liberals promise urgent care clinic to up the ante in battleground electorate

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/02/2025, Jamieson Murphy, Page 9

Maitland will get a new urgent care clinic if the Liberal Party is elected in the upcoming federal election, the federal opposition has pledged. Liberal candidate Laurence Antcliff made the promise alongside the party's deputy leader Sussan Ley and the opposition health spokesperson Anne Ruston in Maitland yesterday.

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

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

Maitland Hospital to get 'concierges'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 9

The Minns government will employ three new staff to improve the flow of patients at Maitland Hospital's struggling emergency department. NSW Minister for Regional Health Ryan Park will announce today the hospital will get three "concierge" staff to "reduce delays and co-ordinate escalation and transfer of care".

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

New centre welcome for people in constant pain

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/02/2025, Nikita McGuire, Page 4

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. Mr Creighton initially experienced problems after dislocating his shoulder in 2007, but that quickly developed into complex regional pain syndrome which left him battling severe nerve pain.

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

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

Lack of medical specialists an issue for South West residents seeking health care as State election nears

West Australian, Other, 27/02/2025, Sofia Fimognari and Amber Lilley

A lack of medical specialist and long wait times for treatment are impacting the health of South West residents, with many hoping political promises to improve the healthcare system would be kept following the next week's State election. With ambulance ramping, poor hospital facilities and medical staff retention making headlines across the State in recent years, the South West was not immune to the issues.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 27/02/2025, Natalie Forrest

WA Liberal leader Libby Mettam has criticised the state government over record ambulance ramping outside hospitals. The Liberals promise to open more wards, attract staff, and cut ramping if elected, claiming urgent care clinics will reduce ambulance presentations by 20%. Premier Roger Cook blames a lack of bulk-billing GPs, saying many people visit hospitals because they can't afford a doctor.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 27/02/2025, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says the \$400 million redevelopment of St George Hospital in Kogarah will provide specialised treatment in one location for the region's growing and ageing

population. The nine-storey building will house services for dementia, brain injuries, day surgery, and various outpatient treatments, making care more accessible. Construction is set to finish by late 2025, with the facility opening in early 2026.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

'Make psych care free for the young'

The Australian, General News, 28/02/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 7

Australia's biggest mental health providers and advocates have launched a major pre-election campaign calling on the next government to make mental health care free for all those aged under 25, following an explosion of youth mental illness over the past decade. As leading mental health experts warn neither major party is adequately prioritising mental health and leaving "a whole generation of people on the scrap heap", Mental Health Australia on Thursday unveiled its election pitch aimed at removing barriers to seeking help for the country's young people.

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

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

Are scammers cashing in on psychology?

ABC Online, Other, 27/02/2025, Dave Marchese

Every day people all around Australia access mental health support. It might be in person, over the phone, or, increasingly, online. So who actually runs these online mental health services? And how reliable are they? This is the second part of hack's investigation into psychology fraud - following the "astonishing" case of a woman who had stolen the identity of psychologists and held fake "sessions" online.

[Read More](#)

WA-first mental health kids hub launched in Midland

Echo News, Other, 27/02/2025

Children and Youth Care has officially launched The Kids Hub, WA's first dedicated mental health and wellbeing service for babies and children aged 0-12 in the City of Swan. This free service provides vital support for children experiencing mild to moderate developmental, emotional, behavioural, and mental health challenges.

[Read More](#)

Addressing the mental health crisis: new initiative to boost access to psychologists

PRWire, Other, 27/02/2025

In response to the increasing need for mental health care and the severe shortage of psychologists in Australia, Therapy Pro has announced the launch of its new Supervised Internship for Provisional Psychologists. With the support of grant funding from the Department of Health and Aged Care, this initiative will provide paid internships to 85 provisional psychologists over the next four years.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 27/02/2025, Michael Thomson

WA Labor has pledged to expand its psychiatric service dog program for veterans with PTSD if re-elected, increasing the number from four to eight. The program provides trained dogs to help veterans manage stress and anxiety, ensuring they no longer need to travel interstate or cover the costs themselves. An estimated one in five Defence Force personnel experience PTSD.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 27/02/2025, Liz Trevaskis

Interview with Greens disability spokesperson Senator Jordon Steele-John on the party's push to add ADHD and autism assessments to Medicare. Steele-John says the plan would let GPs and nurse practitioners diagnose patients, easing the specialist shortage and cutting wait times. He says the Greens propose funding it through a billionaire tax.

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

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Patients' medical information published

Canberra Times, General News, 28/02/2025, Steve Evans, Page 6

Clients of a major Canberra fertility clinic have been told that hacked information has been published by the hacker. "Our ongoing investigation has established that on the February 26, data taken from our systems appears to have been published externally by the threat actor," Genea Canberra has told its patients and former patients in an email from the company's national chief executive.

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

Due date delayed

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/02/2025, Camden Smith, Page 1

Darwin Private Hospital owner Healthscope has responded to community outrage and conditionally extended the operation of its maternity services until June 6. Originally expected to end on April 17, the company appears to have responded to criticism that not enough time had been given to expectant mums to prepare alternative arrangements.

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

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park ruled out using federal funding to offer nurses better pay deal

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/02/2025, Clareese Packer

The use of federal funding to put forward a better pay offer for NSW nurses has been ruled out by the state's health minister. NewsWire Using federal funding to come up with a better pay offer for NSW nurses has been ruled out, just one day after union members gathered to demand increased pay in line with other states.

[Read More](#)

Sydney nurse's lawyer slams 'trial by social media' after alleged anti-Semitic rant

NEWS.com.au, Other, 27/02/2025, Brielle Burns

The lawyer of a nurse charged over an alleged anti-Semitic video says her client has been subjected to "viral outrage". A former female nurse has been charged following the circulation of a video in which threats were allegedly made to "kill" Israeli patients.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Caring for creeps

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/02/2025, Julie Cross, Page 1

At least 2695 criminals including sex offenders, violent criminals and possibly terrorists are accessing NDIS services, with 410 classified as high risk, a Senate Estimates committee heard. Convicted criminals are eligible for access to support like anyone else but Senator Linda Reynolds raised

concerns about the safety of NDIS workers, citing the case of rapist Thomas Hofer who advertised on Facebook for young, female support workers.

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

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

Reports not read by NDIS

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 28/02/2025, Julie Cross, Page 9

NDIS staff tasked with making funding decisions about the needs of disabled claimants are not even reading their medical reports, it has been revealed. The admission from National Disability Insurance Agency chief executive Rebecca Falkingham came at senate estimates, where Liberal senator Hollie Hughes raised concerns that participants' medical reports were being ignored during assessment.

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

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

Healthy knowledge boost

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/02/2025, Gera Kazakov, Page 13

Eight remote health workers are eager to get back to their communities and put their new training to use after they upskilled and graduated. At a graduation at the Desert Knowledge Precinct, south of Alice Springs on Thursday, the workers were given their Certificate III training in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care.

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

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

Staff cuts raise wait'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/02/2025, Eddie Russell, Page 1

Ex-employee says patients suffer from cost cutting Medical treatments will be delayed and patients will spend longer in hospital if one laboratory company doesn't hire more local staff, a former employee has said. Medical scientist Kerry Neeson, who quit her job at Australian Clinical Labs (ACL) in October 2024, said the company had manufactured a critical staff shortage by refusing to replace outgoing full-time employees.

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

Townsville University Hospital security officer wins small victory in Queensland Industrial Relations Commission

The Courier Mail, Other, 27/02/2025, Cameron Bates

A Townsville University Hospital security officer suspended from his job for allegedly using "disproportionate force" restraining a patient has won a small court victory. A Townsville University Hospital security officer suspended from his job for allegedly using "unreasonable and disproportionate force" restraining a patient has been handed a minor victory by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission.

[Read More](#)

'We could benefit from the collapse of the NHS': push to ease GP shortage

Newcastle Herald, Other, 27/02/2025, Damon Cronshaw

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.

[Read More](#)

Clinical handover reduces risk

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/02/2025, Megan Haggan

Doctors and pharmacists have teamed up to tackle one of the trickiest times for patient safety

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) have released a Transitions of Care resource for doctors, pharmacists and patients.

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

[Read More](#)

Nova Scotia targets Canadian doctors working in Australia with new recruitment program

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 28/02/2025

Nova Scotia's Health Department has launched a one-year pilot project in the hopes of repatriating doctors currently working in Australia. The government signed an untendered contract with Launch Pad Jobs Inc.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Co-pay cut delivers \$566m in savings

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/02/2025

Patients reaping benefits of PBS general co-payment reduction, senators told Labor's decision to cut the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) general co-payment from 1 January 2023 is delivering significant savings for patients, data presented at a Senate Estimates hearing reveals.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Bill shock for Labor

Canberra Times, General News, 28/02/2025, Dana Daniel, Page 1

Canberra doctors say they are unlikely to bulk-bill all or most patients under the \$8.5 million pre-election pledge that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has declared will mean Australians "only need a Medicare card, not a credit card" to visit the GP. The Albanese government claims its \$8.5 billion plan, which the Coalition has matched, will make nine in 10 GP visits free nationally by 2030, with an extra 210,000 consultations a year to be bulk-billed in the ACT and 25 GP practices forecast to be better off if they bulk-bill all patients.

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

Medicare auction for your votes

Canberra Times, General News, 28/02/2025, Jenna Price, Page 53

As the federal election looms, it's up to you to check out the truth, especially when it comes to health policies I HAVE favourite bits of election campaigns. The bit where the parties are just dissing each other endlessly. Very entertaining if not very productive. The infrastructure parts of the campaign, where we hear a lot about roads in places we never visit. Housing promises.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#).

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

Medicare claims 'rubbish'

Border Mail, General News, 28/02/2025, Ted Howes, Page 1

The bulk-billing incentives package announced this week has been slammed by Border doctors and a prominent health advocate as "rubbish" that would "do nothing for good medicine" for the region. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Sunday unveiled an \$8.5 billion plan to increase access to free GP visits.

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

More free GP visits for Townsville if Labor re-elected

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/02/2025, Page 3

Promising 181,600 more free visits to the GP if re-elected, Townsville's Labor candidate has said people in the city would be better off thanks to the Albanese government's investments in Medicare. If re-elected, Labor will expand bulk-billing incentives to all Australians from November 1, creating a new incentive payment for practices that bulkbill every patient with an additional 12.5 per cent loading payment on their Medicare rebates.

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

Medicare funding boost not an immediate cure, say doctors groups

SBS, Other, 27/02/2025, Deborah Groarke

Doctors' groups have welcomed funding pledges by both Labor and the Coalition to address Medicare bulk billing rates. But others like the Australian Medical Association say the money is not a silver bullet for all GPs, and that it will take time to fix the system.

[Read More](#)

The major parties want nine in 10 GP visits bulk billed by 2030. Here's why we shouldn't aim for 100 per cent

Aged Care Insite, Other, 27/02/2025, Karinna Saxby and Yuting Zhang

Unaffordable gp visits has become a pressing issue amid the increasing cost-of-living crisis. About 30 per cent of Australians delayed or didn't see a GP in 2023–24. To solve this problem, Labor has proposed extending bulk billing incentives to all Australians. It hopes to increase bulk billing from 78 per cent to 90 per cent by 2030.

[Read More](#)

4BC, Drive, 27/02/2025, Gary Hardgrave

Interview with Karyn Walsh, director, Micah Projects, on calls for better access to bulk-billed drug and alcohol treatment. Walsh says GPs avoid longer consultations due to fears of Medicare audits. She argues that the government should invest in salaried doctors who specialise in drug and alcohol treatment and calls for a new funding model with multidisciplinary teams for better care.

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

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Newborn dies in hospital tragedy

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/02/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 9

Health authorities are investigating the death of a newborn baby after an emergency at Northern Beaches Hospital. The tragedy emerged as senior officials from the public hospital's private operator were grilled over the death of another child, two year-old Joe Massa, in September, which an investigation found stemmed from serious systemic and individual failures to identify his rapidly deteriorating condition.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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

Kyran's death was meant to save Joe

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/02/2025, Madeleine Bower, Page 2

A hospital program to help parents escalate concerns over a child's treatment that was renamed "Joe's

Rule" by the Minns government this week following two-year-old Joe Massa's death, had already been in place for a decade after the death of another child. The REACH (Recognise, Engage, Act, Call, Help) program was created in 2013 after the death of six-month-old Kyran Day who had been misdiagnosed at Shoalhaven hospital on the south coast.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

Under-fire Sanderson speaks out ... finally

West Australian, General News, 28/02/2025, Jake Dietsch, Page 8

Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson has finally spoken about the death of a Perth father after he waited almost half an hour for an ambulance. The West Australian revealed on Tuesday the 39-year-old man had a cardiac arrest in Perth's south and died on February 5 after the 27-minute wait for paramedics.

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

Man who hired fake physios barred

Burnie Advocate, General News, 28/02/2025, Matt Maloney, Page 6

A physiotherapist with more than two decades of experience has been barred from working in the healthcare industry after recruiting fake physiotherapists to work in Tasmania. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency started investigating Mr Dempsey's conduct after receiving a complaint from a registered chiropractor employed by his company.

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

The West Australian exclusive Ahpra clears Key Largo Medical Centre doctors of negligence in Sandipan Dhar case

West Australian, Other, 27/02/2025, Hannah Cross

Three doctors who saw toddler Sandipan Dhar in the weeks before his death have been cleared of wrongdoing by the medical watchdog. [...] Sandipan's father Sanjoy said the family is disappointed by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's investigation process, which didn't allow the family to respond to doctors' submissions.

[Read More](#)

Melbourne woman convicted for holding fake 'psychology sessions' for more than a year

ABC Online, Other, 27/02/2025, Alice Angeloni

Nine months after Sophie's psychologist ghosted her, she received an unexpected email. "The email told me that the psychologist I was seeing wasn't actually who I thought she was," Sophie told triple j hack. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) certificate that someone.health had on file was in her name, but the photo supplied wasn't of Ms Bedford-Dyer.

[Read More](#)

Israel/Gaza conflict sparks notifications

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/02/2025

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has received notifications relating to 52 practitioners concerning alleged antisemitic or Islamophobic posts on social media over the last 18 months.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 27/02/2025, Joe O'Brien

Mirna Yassine has been convicted of stealing the identities of two psychologists and holding fake sessions through online telehealth platforms. Magistrate Michael Wighton said it was 'astonishing' that

two separate psychology practises could be duped by a 22-year-old with no qualifications. One affected patient questions the regulation of telehealth, while the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency says it works with authorities to investigate and prosecute impostors.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 27/02/2025, Michael Thomson

WA Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson has addressed the death of a Perth father who waited nearly 30 minutes for an ambulance, stating that St John has assured her the ambulance was dispatched promptly. The issue comes as ambulance ramping in February reached a record 4,500 hours in the state. The WA AMA says the underlying issue is a shortage of hospital beds, which it claims neither Labor nor the Liberals have adequately addressed.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 27/02/2025, Sandra Sully

Another baby has died at Northern Beaches Hospital under tragic circumstances, leading Health Minister Ryan Park to order a high-level investigation. It comes as hospital executives, including the outgoing Healthscope CEO and the chief operating manager, were grilled in state parliament over the failings that led to the death of 22-month-old Joe Massa. The Premier has vowed reforms to strengthen parental rights in hospitals and expand the REACH program, which allows families to escalate care concerns.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Sydney scores Asian Cup final as city venues announced

The Australian, Sport, 28/02/2025, Julian Linden, Page 28

Sydney has pulled off another sporting coup by being awarded the final of the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup. Like the men's 2015 Asian Cup final, won by the Socceroos, next year's women's final on March 21 will take place at Sydney's Olympic stadium.

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

Kuhnemann thanks supporters as tests end well

The Australian, Sport, 28/02/2025, Ben Horne, Page 28

Australian spinner Matt Kuhnemann said he was never in doubt about his bowling action after he was cleared by the ICC to continue his international career. Spin bowling ace Kuhnemann was on Wednesday night cleared by the International Cricket Council of having a suspect action.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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

Swimming cauldron

Courier Mail, General News, 28/02/2025, Hayden Johnson and Jeremy Pierce, Page 1

Gold medallist Duncan Armstrong says Australia will field its "greatest ever" swim team at the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games, and so those champions should be given the greatest stage Suncorp Stadium. Seoul 1988 gold medallist Armstrong said organisers needed to dump plans to host the swimming in the new 17,000-seat Brisbane Arena and instead go bigger and host the event at Suncorp Stadium.

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

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

Brisbane Arena to wait on review

Courier Mail, General News, 28/02/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 13

Brisbane Arena's \$2.5bn funding remains locked in, as the federal Infrastructure Minister has revealed there have been no requests for the money to be repurposed for other 2032 Games projects. Catherine King did not meet with the Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie to discuss the draft 2032 infrastructure review report while in Brisbane on Thursday.

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

Racism rife in Aussie sports

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/02/2025, Page 9

More than half of Australians who play community sport report experiencing or witnessing racism. The startling Monash University report, from a survey canvassing the experiences of Australians playing community sport, found 30 per cent had directly experienced racism, with a further 26 per cent having witnessed it.

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

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

Coast widens bid for more Games sports

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/02/2025, Paul Weston, Page 3

The Gold Coast has widened its wish list for Olympic sports on the back of a planned major upgrade of the Carrara sports precinct, a new submission reveals. The expanded wishlist is revealed in part of a submission by Gold Coast City to the 100day Olympic review which had remained confidential until it was leaked to the Bulletin.

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

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 27/02/2025, Tom Connell

Federal Infrastructure Minister Catherine King supports the proposed Brisbane Arena, calling it an important legacy project. The federal government has committed to funding the \$2.5 billion venue at Roma Street Parkland, pending progress on a joint business case.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Pro-Palestinian scholar's grant suspended

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/02/2025, Julie Hare, Page 8

A controversial pro-Palestinian academic at Macquarie University who has made public anti-Israel statements has had her \$870,000 grant suspended by the Australian Research Council. In 2022, Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah was awarded \$870,269 by the ARC t...

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

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

Breakthrough in fight against cancer

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/02/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 3

World-first clinical trials will investigate whether an experimental immune therapy developed by pioneering Australian melanoma scientists could fight an aggressive form of brain cancer, after researchers discovered an increased abundance and variety of cancer-fighting cells in the targeted tumour. Scientists involved in the project have cautioned the therapy must be rigorously tested in a large cohort of newly diagnosed glioblastoma patients before it can be considered a breakthrough.

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

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

Killer statistics

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/02/2025, Page 15

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: [Daily Mercury \(Mackay\)](#).

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

AI sees early signs of kidney disease in your eyes

West Australian, General News, 28/02/2025, Page 40

Artificial intelligence can predict whether someone with type 2 diabetes will soon develop kidney disease based on changes in their eye scans, according to a study. People with diabetes should be offered eye checks every one to two years where images are taken to the eye to check for any damage to blood vessels or a condition called diabetic retinopathy.

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

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

Collie PhD student awarded scholarship for her research on treating cancer at UWA

West Australian, Other, 27/02/2025, Ezra Kaye

A PhD student from Collie has been awarded a 2025 Westpac Future Leaders scholarship for her research about treating cancer. Hayley Ingram was one of 17 postgraduate students from across the country to receive a portion of more than \$2 million in scholarships to tackle some of Australia's greatest challenges.

[Read More](#)

New tech picks up pregnancy probs early

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/02/2025

University of Queensland researchers have developed a new rapid sensor that can detect pregnancy complications, such as gestational diabetes, preterm birth risks and hypertension, as early as 11 weeks, with a simple blood test. The team hopes to make the device widely available in pharmacies and through GP referrals.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 27/02/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

University of Queensland researchers have developed a blood test that can detect pregnancy complications like gestational diabetes and pre-eclampsia much earlier than current tests, which are limited to the second or third trimester.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Dire need for more First Nations psychologists, sector says

ABC Online, Other, 27/02/2025

Growing up in Central Australia, Eastern Arrernte and Wulli Wulli woman Codie Steen has seen firsthand the impacts of trauma on her family and friends. "There was a lot of domestic violence and substance abuse, and there was such a stigma around mental health," the 30-year-old said.

First Nations aged care framework released

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/02/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The recently released Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged care framework outlines five outcomes for reform and four guiding principles. The Department of Health and Aged Care has published the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged care framework 2025-2035 this week, outlining a range of actions needed to improve aged care access and experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

[Read More](#)

New MoU continues nationwide promotion of culturally-safe healthcare

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/02/2025, Dechlan Brennan

The national body for Indigenous community-controlled health and the body representing Australia's top GP's have signed their third Memorandum of Understanding to advocate for First Nations health. The MoU, signed on Thursday by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP), will see the two continuing their ongoing and shared advocacy and work towards effective, culturally safe, and clinically appropriate healthcare for Indigenous people and communities.

[Read More](#)

Hall & Prior to operate Perth's first purpose-built \$65M Aboriginal aged care home

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/02/2025, Caroline Egan

The 100-bed aged care home has been made possible thanks to a \$25 million Department of Health and Aged Care Aged Care Capital Assistance Program grant, \$10 million secured from the WA Government in 2021, and a recent pledge from the WA Labor Government that if re-elected, it will provide an additional \$5 million capital grant and \$10 million low interest loan for the project.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 27/02/2025, Yvonne Yong

Experts are calling for more First Nations psychologists in remote communities to help address issues like poverty and crime, with only 0.8% of Australia's nearly 50,000 registered psychologists identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Eastern Arrernte and Wullu Wullu woman Codie Steen pursued psychology but faced financial barriers until receiving a scholarship from Dr Tracy Westerman. As part of its recent Closing the Gap announcement, the federal government has pledged 150 scholarships for First Nations psychology students and \$24.7 million to strengthen the Indigenous mental health workforce.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Victorian measles outbreak

Herald Sun, General News, 28/02/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 3

A measles outbreak has infected two Victorians, prompting an urgent warning that the highly infectious disease has spread within the community after likely being acquired in metropolitan Melbourne. Scores of exposure sites include the Royal Melbourne and Greater Bendigo Hospital's emergency departments, a Keilor East radiology clinic, Westfield Airport West Chemist Warehouse and supermarkets in Epsom and Bendigo.

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

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

'Timely reminder to get vaccinated'

Viral infection Pharmacist urging people to get the shingles jab HEALTH "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.

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

Q Fever on the rise

The Farmer, General News, 01/04/2025, Michael Burt, Page 28

Nsw will host the first international symposium on Q Fever in June as cases spike across NSW and Victoria and farmers grapple with a shortage of Q-vax vaccine. Dubbo dairy farmer Erika Chesworth enlisted the help of NSW Farmers after a "hooley dooley" moment in January while organising Q Fever vaccinations for farm employees.

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

Tom Winch bravely shares his mpox story to raise awareness

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/02/2025, Ashleigh Gleeson

Tom Winch's experience with mpox, previously known as monkeypox, started with a single blemish on his nose. He's sharing his story to raise awareness. It started as a single painful spot on his nose. But what started as an innocent blemish quickly turned into a searing wound.

[Read More](#)

Bird flu: Don't panic, do get the flu vax

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/02/2025, Mariella Attard

If it's a pandemic, we're preparing well, says one immunisation expert. Australia does not yet have the strains of bird flu causing problems in the US and Europe. But birds fly, people travel and we're understandably nervous. The virus has spread from wild birds to poultry, cattle, rats, farm cats, indoor cats and, rarely, humans.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Should weight-loss drugs be given to children?

Australian Financial Review, Review, 28/02/2025, Hannah Kuchler, Page 4

A battle over how to treat childhood obesity is brewing between two groups who both believe their approach has kid's best interests at heart.

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

ADHD drugs in short supply until next year

West Australian, General News, 28/02/2025, Page 7

Two of three brands of medication used to treat ADHD will not be available to Australians until 2026 because of major shortages. A drug sold under the brand names Ritalin LA, Concerta and Methylphenidate-Teva XR boosts the central nervous system by raising dopamine and noradrenaline levels in the brain. [...] Last week, Janssen-Cilag advised the Therapeutic Goods Administration the shortage would last all year and affect all strengths.

Also reported by: [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Thenightly.com.au \(Online\)](#)

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

We stand to lose billions in blockbuster drug patent challenge

The Australian, Other, 27/02/2025, Robert Gottlieb

One of the reasons rare earths brought Presidents Trump and Zelinsky together is the looming boom in nuclear medicine, which is emerging as the best hope to locate and cure a wide variety of cancers.

Australia and Australians are in a wonderful position to benefit from the linked rare earths and nuclear medicine booms. [...] The trials succeeded and the research was so successful Butler last December put Australia's PSMA i&t on the TGA list, starting July 1.

[Read More](#)

Are you prepared for a vaccine storage and cold chain audit?

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/02/2025

Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) has reminded NSW members that local Public Health Units may carry out random vaccine storage and cold chain audits on immunisation providers, including pharmacies. The audits, carried out on behalf of NSW Health, are to ensure compliance with the 'National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5' and the NSW Health cold chain mandatory requirements.

[Read More](#)

Next pharmacy trial just for women with concession cards

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/02/2025, Holly Payne

The federal government has pledged to run pharmacist-led prescribing trials that will see some contraceptives essentially become "over-the-counter" for women on low incomes. [...] Related The TGA rejected applications to down-schedule oral contraceptives as recently as December 2021, citing "the adverse effects of oral contraceptive substances, and the potential for evolving risks over time" as being significant enough to require management by a medical practitioner.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

Water supplier sounds alarm on Alcoa mine

The Australian, Business News, 28/02/2025, Brad Thompson, Page 21

West Australian Premier Roger Cook has defended his Labor government's oversight of bauxite mining, after revelations the state-owned utility responsible for drinking water raised red flags about the clearing of native forest on the doorstep of dams used to supply thousands of households. The Water Corporation also asked to withdraw from a committee set up by the government to approve the clearing of native forest by Alcoa, citing the utility's "reputational risk of being party to approving mining activity which ultimately impacts its operations".

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

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

'Forever chemicals' in our brains

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/02/2025, Fleur Connick, Page 4

An Australia-first study has found fat-loving "forever chemicals" in the human brain, raising questions about how they got there and the potential health risks. The study is the first to "definitively

demonstrate" the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a group of more than 14,000 man-made chemicals, in human brain tissue, according to neuroscientist and study coauthor Dr Claire Shepherd.

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

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

Free tests could become case study for 'forever chemicals'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 28/02/2025, Page 9

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: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

